

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
Shepherd Homes Limited



Blind Lane
Aiskew
North Yorkshire

archaeological evaluation

report 3316
January 2014

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1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted in advance of a proposed development at Blind Lane, Aiskew, North Yorkshire. The works comprised the excavation of seven trial trenches.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Shepherd Homes Limited and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

Results

- 1.3 Two shallow ditch features of late post-medieval or modern date were identified, together with a small assemblage of finds of similar date.

Recommendations

- 1.4 As no significant archaeological resource was identified, no further scheme of archaeological works is recommended in relation to this development.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located at Blind Lane, Aiskew, North Yorkshire (NGR centre: SE 27350 88527). It covers an area of approximately 2.2ha. To the east is Blind Lane, to the south is a railway and existing properties lie to the north and west.

Development proposal

- 2.2 The proposed work is a residential development with associated roads, sewers and landscaping. The planning application reference number is 11/02543/FUL.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the nature, extent and potential significance of any archaeological resource within the proposed development area, so that an informed decision may be made regarding the nature and scope of any further scheme of archaeological works that may be required in relation to the development.

Specification

- 2.4 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation provided by URS and approved by the planning authority.

Dates

- 2.5 Fieldwork was undertaken from the 17th-19th December 2013. This report was prepared for January 2014.

Personnel

- 2.6 Fieldwork was conducted by Rebekah Watson and Jamie Armstrong (supervisor). Sample processing was undertaken by Alan Rae. This report was prepared by Rebekah Watson, with illustrations by David Graham. Specialist reporting was conducted by Jennifer Jones (ceramics and other artefacts) and Dr Carrie Drew (palaeoenvironmental). The Project Manager was Peter Carne.

Archive/OASIS

- 2.7 The site code is **ABL13**, for **Aiskew Blind Lane 2013**. The archive is currently held by Archaeological Services Durham University and will be transferred to York Museums Trust – Yorkshire Museum in due course. The flots and residues have been scanned in their entirety with all material of palaeoenvironmental or dating value removed, and have therefore been discarded. Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations** project (**OASIS**). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-167241**.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

- 3.1 At the time of this assessment, the proposed development area comprised an area of disused scrub and grassland to the west of Blind Lane. The eastern side of the site was a former plant nursery and at the north end of the western side is a disused tennis court. A fence line with semi-mature trees divides the two parts of the proposed development area.

- 3.2 The land slopes gently to the south-east from 47m OD to 43m OD.

- 3.3 The solid geology is Permian mudstones, overlain by Permian and Triassic sandstones to the east, with drift geology comprising glacial sand and gravel. The soils are recorded as well drained loams of the Wick 1 association, derived from glaciofluvial drift.

4. Historical and archaeological background

- 4.1 A detailed account is given in the Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment undertaken in 2012 (Cooper 2012).

The prehistoric period (up to AD 70)

- 4.2 No prehistoric evidence has been recorded within the site, although Neolithic and Bronze Age axes have been found within the parishes of Aiskew and Bedale. The site is located approximately 10km from the henge complex at Thornborough.

The Roman period (AD 70 to 5th century)

- 4.3 No Roman sites are recorded within the site, but Dere Street is located c.1.6km to the east. A double-ditched enclosure is recorded 600m to the north, where Roman pottery was recovered. The remains of a robbed out villa were identified 1.6km to the north of the site (Archaeological Services 2013).

The medieval period (5th century to 1540)

- 4.4 The villages of Aiskew and Bedale are believed to have Anglo-Saxon origins, and historic mapping indicates that Aiskew developed as a traditional linear settlement consisting of a main street, village green and back lanes. One of these back lanes, now known as Love Lane, ran along the south-eastern boundary of the site prior to the construction of the railway.

The post-medieval period (1541 to 1899)

- 4.5 A 1595 map indicates that the development area was enclosed by that date (an enclosure named Lawnes), but it is unclear if it was an agricultural area or part of the formal landscape of the late medieval Manor House. A map of 1772 suggests that the village kept its medieval layout after the enclosure of the open fields. The western half of the site is labelled as Lawnes and Orchard with the Manor and Garth located to the north-west. This map also shows Brickiln Garth running north-west to south-east through the site, suggesting a brick kiln in the vicinity. By the early 19th century the development area had been split into two strip fields. The Bedale railway was constructed to the south of the site in 1846, and formed part of the Trans-Pennine route linking the east and west coasts.

The modern period (1900 to present)

- 4.6 The railway fell out of commercial use in 1964, but was used as a private branch line to quarries owned by British Steel. Since the closure of the quarries in 2003, the line has been used for tourist excursions. In recent times the eastern side of the development area was used as a plant nursery, the western side as private lawns, with a tennis court at the northern end. Both were abandoned in the last 10 years and left to go overgrown.

5. The evaluation trenches

Introduction

5.1 Seven trial trenches were excavated at the locations shown on Figure 2. The trenches were excavated with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision and subsequently recorded. Trenches 1, 4 and 5 were excavated in the positions intended in the Written Scheme of Investigation. The positions of trenches 2, 3, 6 and 7 were altered due to the extensive undergrowth and modern detritus present on site. The context data is summarised in Table 1.1 (Appendix). Trench plans and sections are shown on Figure 3.

Trench 1 (Figure 4)

5.2 This trench was 30m long and was located in the north-westernmost corner of the site, to the west of the disused tennis court. The trench was oriented north-west to south-east. Natural subsoil, a yellow-orange-brown clay [3], was identified 0.4m below the ground surface. Immediately over this was a light brown clayey-silt subsoil [0.2-0.3m thick], overlain by grey-brown silty clay topsoil [1: 0.4m thick]. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trench 2 (Figures 3, 5 & 6)

5.3 This trench was 30m long and was located at the north end of the eastern side of the site. It was oriented north-east to south-west. Natural subsoil, an orange-brown sandy-clay [3], was identified 0.15m below the ground surface. Cut into this at the south-west end of the trench was a linear ditch [F7: 1.6m by 1.77m, 0.47m deep], oriented south-east to north-west and filled with a grey-brown clay [6: 0.47m thick] (Figure 6). A clay pipe fragment, a shell and a piece of iron were recovered from the fill, indicating the feature is post-medieval or modern in date. Also cut into the natural subsoil was a modern pipe oriented north-west to south-east. Above the natural subsoil and these features was a layer of stone [8: 0.1m thick]. Cut into this was a service, also oriented north-west/south-east. Overlying this and the stone layer was a very thin layer of grey-brown silty-clay topsoil [1: 0.05m thick].

Trench 3 (Figure 7)

5.4 This trench was 30m long and was located in the centre of the eastern half of the site. It was oriented north to south, with the southern end positioned to the east of where it was originally intended to avoid dense undergrowth and modern detritus. Natural subsoil was an orange-brown sandy-clay [3]. This was identified between 0.2m and 0.3m below the ground surface. Cut into this at the north end of the trench was a stone-filled field drain and a modern pipe, both running north-west/south-east. Another modern pipe was located at the southern end of the trench, cut into the natural subsoil and running east to west. Above the natural subsoil and the services at the northern end of the trench was a layer of stone [9: 0.2m deep], which was in turn covered by layer of orange sand [10: 0.05m thick]. At the southern end of the trench a grey-brown silty-clay topsoil [1: 0.2m thick] lay over the natural subsoil and the modern pipe. The topsoil [1] also lay over the layer orange sand [10] at the north end of the trench, but was only 0.05m thick in this area. Cut into this in the centre of the trench was another modern pipe running north-west to south-east. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trench 4 (Figure 8)

- 5.5 Trench 4 was 30m long and was located in the centre of the western side of the proposed development area. It was oriented east to west. Natural subsoil, a light brown clay [3], was identified at 0.4m below the ground surface. Immediately above this was a brown clay-silt subsoil [2: 0.2m thick]. Overlying this was a grey-brown clay-silt topsoil [1: 0.2m thick]. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trench 5 (Figures 3, 9 & 10)

- 5.6 This trench was 30m long and was located to the south of the western side of the development area. It was oriented north-west to south-east. Natural subsoil, a light brown clay [3], was identified between 0.2m and 0.4m below the ground surface. Towards the south-eastern end of the trench, a shallow linear ditch [F5: 1.6m by 0.4m, 0.2m deep] was cut into the natural subsoil, running north-east to south-west (Figure 10). This was filled with a grey silty-clay [4: 0.2m thick], which contained some ceramic building material. This linear feature was also visible on the ground surface, suggesting it was a relatively recent field boundary or similar. At the north-western end of the trench, a brown clay-silt [2: 0.2m thick] lay immediately over the natural subsoil. Over the whole trench was a layer of grey-brown clay-silt topsoil [1: 0.2m thick]. No other archaeological features were identified and a fragment of modern pot was recovered from the topsoil.

Trench 6 (Figure 11)

- 5.7 This trench was 30m long and was located towards the centre of the eastern boundary of the development site. The trench was oriented east-west, with the western end to the south of where it was originally intended to avoid dense undergrowth. Natural subsoil, an orange-grey-brown sandy clay [3], was identified between 0.3m and 0.4m below the ground surface. A field drain and modern service were cut into this at the western end of the trench, both oriented north-south. Towards the eastern end a modern pit was cut into the natural subsoil, filled by a black clay-silt containing plastic and wire. This was unexcavated due to the obvious modernity of the feature. Above the natural subsoil at the eastern end of the trench was a layer of rubble hardcore [11: over 1.6m by 6.0m, 0.4m thick], forming a modern trackway that was still visible on the ground surface. At the western end of the trench a black silty-clay layer [12: 0.2m thick] lay directly above the natural subsoil. Overlying the whole trench apart from the trackway at the east end was a layer of grey-brown silty-clay topsoil [1: 0.3m thick]. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

Trench 7 (Figure 12)

- 5.8 This trench was 30m long and was located in the south-eastern corner of the development area. It was oriented north to south and was moved 4m to the south of its original position to avoid trees. Natural subsoil [3] was identified between 0.35m and 0.55m below the ground surface. At the north end this was an orange-brown clay, which changed to a yellow-brown sandy-clay towards the south end of the trench. At each end of the trench there were slight depressions, probably indicating the presence of plough furrows, running east to west. In the centre of the trench a dark grey sandy-silt [13: 0.2m thick] lay directly above the natural subsoil for approximately 10m. Over the whole trench was a layer of grey-brown silty-clay [1: 0.35m thick]. No archaeological features were identified but two iron fragments were recovered from the topsoil.

6. The artefacts

Pottery & fired clay assessment

Results

- 6.1 Two sherds (20g wt) of 19th or early 20th century glazed banded earthenware were found unstratified. Two further small pot fragments – one a piece of horticultural earthenware – along with two very small flakes of fired clay came from sample <1> context [6]. The sample fragments cannot be dated.

Recommendation

- 6.2 No further work is recommended.

Clay pipe assessment

Results

- 6.3 A part stem and bowl fragment was recovered from context [6]. The object is undecorated and has no maker's stamp, but the shape of the heel suggests a mid-late 18th century date.

Recommendation

- 6.4 No further work is recommended.

Building materials assessment

Results

- 6.5 Two flakes of brick or tile came from context [4]. The hardness and relative homogeneity of the fabric suggests a post-medieval date.

Recommendation

- 6.6 No further work is recommended.

Iron objects assessment

Results

- 6.7 An almost complete, corroded 19th century machine-cut nail was found unstratified. It has a flat top and is 72mm long. A further highly corroded, undateable nail fragment was found in context [6].

Recommendation

- 6.8 No further work is recommended.

Lead objects assessment

Results

- 6.9 An irregularly-shaped run-off of waste lead (240g wt, 156 x 38 x 16mm thick) was found unstratified. This cannot be dated.

Recommendation

- 6.10 No further work is recommended.

7. The palaeoenvironmental evidence

Methods

- 7.1 A palaeoenvironmental assessment was carried out on a bulk sample [context 6], taken from a ditch fill of post-medieval or modern origin. The sample was manually

floated and sieved through a 500µm mesh. The residue was examined for shells, fruitstones, nutshells, charcoal, small bones, pottery, flint, glass and industrial residues, and was scanned using a magnet for ferrous fragments. The flot was examined at up to x60 magnification using a Leica MZ6 stereomicroscope for waterlogged and charred botanical remains. Identification of these was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services Durham University. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (1997). Habitat classifications follow Preston *et al.* (2002).

- 7.2 The works were undertaken in accordance with the palaeoenvironmental research aims and objectives outlined in the regional archaeological research framework and resource agendas (Petts & Gerrard 2006; Hall & Huntley 2007; Huntley 2010).

Results

- 7.3 The sample comprised small fragments of unburnt and burnt bone, clinker/cinder, fired clay and two fragments of pot. No charred botanical remains or charcoal were present. A small assemblage of uncharred seeds and a few insect/beetle remains were noted in the sample, although the well-drained nature of the site and the presence of modern roots suggest these are recent introductions. The results are presented in Table 1.2 (Appendix).

Discussion

- 7.4 The presence of bone, clinker/cinder and fragments of fired clay and pot indicates the remains of domestic waste. The absence of charred remains means little further information can be ascertained. The small snail assemblage present comprised of terrestrial species, including *Pupilla muscorum* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Trochulus hispidus* (Linnaeus, 1758).

Recommendations

- 7.5 No further analysis is required for the plant macrofossils due to the absence of any charred material.

8. The archaeological resource

- 8.1 Two shallow ditch features of late post-medieval or modern date were identified, together with a small assemblage of artefacts of similar date.

9. Impact assessment

- 9.1 The development was the potential to remove or truncate any archaeological resource on the site. As no significant archaeological resource has been identified, no significant development impact has been identified.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 No further scheme of archaeological works is recommended in relation to this development.

11. Sources

- Archaeological Services, 2013 *A684 Bedale, Aiskew and Leeming Bar Bypass North Yorkshire: archaeological evaluation*. Unpublished report **3234**, Archaeological Services Durham University
- Cooper, O, 2012 *Land to the south-west of Blind Lane, Aiskew, North Yorkshire*. Unpublished report **1067**, NAA
- Hall, A R, & Huntley, J P, 2007 *A review of the evidence for macrofossil plant remains from archaeological deposits in northern England*, Research Department Report Series no. **87**. London
- Huntley, J P, 2010 *A review of wood and charcoal recovered from archaeological excavations in Northern England*. Research Department Report Series no. **68**. London
- Petts, D, & Gerrard, C, 2006 *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic environment*. Durham
- Preston, C D, Pearman, D A, & Dines, T D, 2002 *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*. Oxford
- Stace, C, 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge

Appendix 1: Data tables

Table 1.1: Context data

The • symbols in the columns at the right indicate the presence of artefacts of the following types: P pottery, B bone, M metals, F flint, I industrial residues, G glass, C ceramic building material, O other materials.

No	Area	Description	P	B	M	F	I	G	C	O
1	1-7	Topsoil	•		•					
2	4-5	Subsoil								
3	1-7	Natural subsoil								
4	5	Fill of ditch F5							•	
F5	5	Cut of modern ditch								
6	2	Fill of ditch F7			•					•
F7	2	Cut of ditch								
8	2	Stony layer								
9	3	Stony layer								
10	3	Orange sand								
11	6	Rubble hardcore of modern track								
12	6	Black silty-clay layer								
13	7	Grey sandy-silt layer								

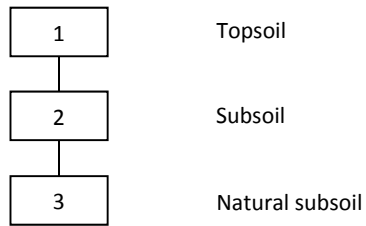
Table 1.2: Data from palaeoenvironmental assessment

Sample	1
Context	6
Feature	ditch
Feature number	7
<i>Material available for radiocarbon dating</i>	-
<i>Volume processed (l)</i>	18
<i>Volume of flot (ml)</i>	120
<i>Residue contents</i>	
Bone (burnt) indet. frags	(+)
Bone (unburnt) indet. frags	(+)
Fired clay / CBM	(+)
Pot (number of fragments)	2
<i>Flot matrix</i>	
Bone (unburnt) indet. frags	(+)
Clinker / cinder	+
Coal / coal shale	+
Earthworm egg case	(+)
Insect / beetle	+
Roots (modern)	+++
Snails (terrestrial)	(+)
Uncharred seeds	++
Vegetative material (uncharred)	++

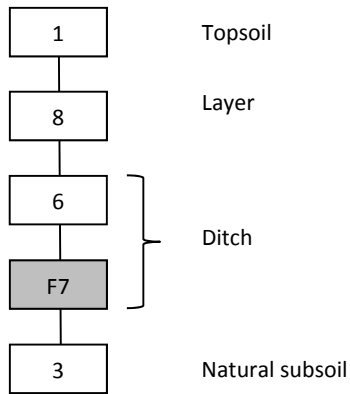
(+): trace; +: rare; ++: occasional; +++: common; ++++: abundant

Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrices

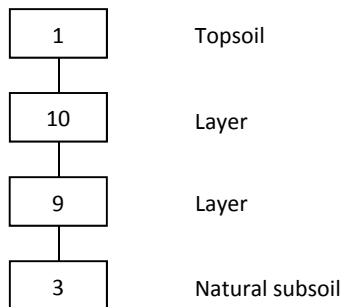
Trench 1



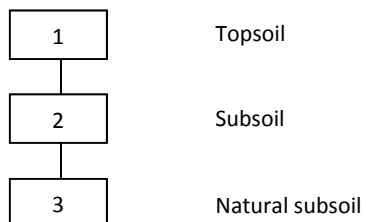
Trench 2



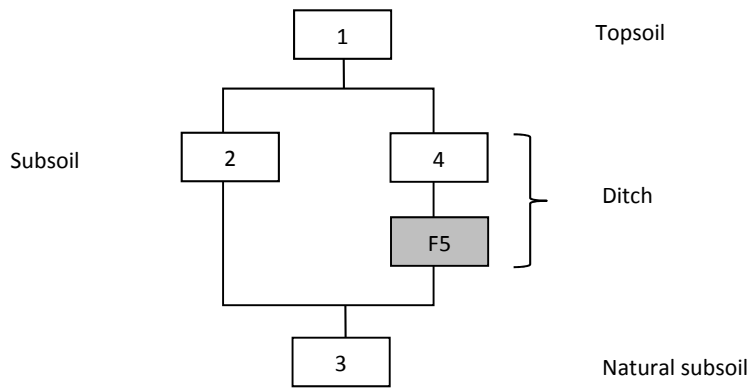
Trench 3



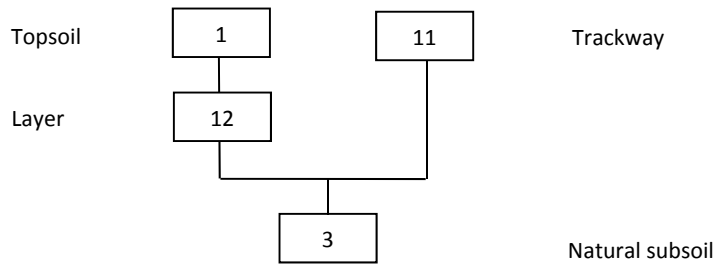
Trench 4



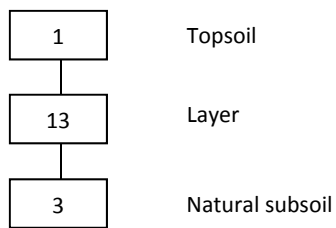
Trench 5




Trench 6



Trench 7



Appendix 3: Project specification




Land to the Rear of
Bedale Road,
Aiskew

Written Scheme of
Investigation for Trial
Trenching

November 2013

Prepared for:
Shepherd Homes Ltd

UNITED
KINGDOM &
IRELAND 



Shepherd Homes Ltd

REVISION SCHEDULE					
Rev	Date	Details	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
1	November 2013	Draft	Charlie Morris Assistant Heritage Consultant	Annie Calder Principal Consultant	
2	December 2013	Final	Charlie Morris Assistant Consultant - Heritage	Annie Calder Principal Consultant - Heritage	Neil Macnab Associate - Heritage

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WRITTEN SCHEME OF
INVESTIGATION
December 2013

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Shepherd Homes Ltd

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The conclusions and recommendations contained in this Report are based upon information provided by others and upon the assumption that all relevant information has been provided by those parties from whom it has been requested and that such information is accurate. Information obtained by URS has not been independently verified by URS, unless otherwise stated in the Report.

The methodology adopted and the sources of information used by URS in providing its services are outlined in this Report. The work described in this Report will be undertaken in December 2013 and is based on the information available at the time of preparation. The scope of this Report and the services are accordingly factually limited by these circumstances.

Where assessments of works or costs identified in this Report are made, such assessments are based upon the information available at the time and where appropriate are subject to further investigations or information which may become available.

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Figure 1 Site Location Plan

Figure 2 Archaeological Trial Trench Locations

Appendix 1

Appendix 1 Archaeological Standards & Guidelines



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Limited (URS) the 'Consultant' in consultation with North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC). This WSI describes the objectives and methodology for a programme of archaeological trial trenching. The work is to be carried out on behalf of Shepherd Homes Ltd who have been granted full planning permission for the construction of 59 dwellings with associated roads sewers and landscaping on the site (Planning Application No: 11/02543/FUL).

Prior to the proposed trial trenching a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) was undertaken By Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA 2012) on behalf of Yuill Homes Ltd. As the site was largely considered unsuitable for geophysical survey a scheme of trial trenching was recommended to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site.

This WSI and accompanying drawings detail the requirements and detailed methodology for trial trenching which will be undertaken by an Archaeological Contractor (the 'Contractor').

The archaeological fieldwork, post-survey assessment, archiving, analysis and preparation of the fieldwork report text will be undertaken by the 'Contractor', unless otherwise specified in this WSI.

1.2 Site Location and Geology

The proposed development area lies to the south-east of Bedale Raod, Aiskew, North Yorkshire at National Grid Reference 427364 488477 (Fig. 1). The site comprises an area of disused scrub and grassland to the south-east of Bedale Road. The eastern side of the site was formerly a plant nursery, and a disused tennis court the western side is disused and former is located at the northern end. The site which is roughly rectangular with an access road at the northern end occupies an area of c.2.2ha. A semi-mature tree belt is located within the centre of the site, and several hedgerows create areas of enclosure within the site.

The site is bounded by the Railway to the south, existing properties to the north and west and Blind Lane to the east. The land slopes gently to the south east from c.50m AOD to c. 42m AOD.

The solid geology is Permian mudstones, overlain to the east by undifferentiated Permian and Triassic sandstones with drift geology comprising of glacial sand and gravel. The soils are recorded as well drained loams of the Wick 1 association, derived from glaciofluvial drift.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The following section provides a summary of the Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessments that was undertaken by NAA in April 2012

There are 18 non-designated heritage assets located within 500m of the site with two other sites locate immediately to the north of the study area. No Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Historic Parks and Gardens are present within the 500m study area. Bedale Conservation Area is located within the study area but will not be affected by the proposed development.

Although no Prehistoric assets are recorded within the site a number lie in close proximity. These include a number of Neolithic and Bronze Age axes that were ploughed up in the



Bedale and Aiskew Parishes held at Bedale Museum. Sites to the north of Askew with field names of White Barrow, Hunger Barrow and Swyne Hows, recorded on historical mapping may indicate the location of Bronze Age burial mounds, within the wider area. The site is located c.10km from the henge complex at Thornborough and accompanying Bronze Age burials and pit alignments.

Although no later Prehistoric or Roman sites are recorded within the study area, Dere Street the principal Roman Road to the north is located c.1.6km to the east. Other heritage assets in close proximity of the site include the remains of a possible robbed out villa that may have been known as Benton Castle in the 19th century 1.6km to the north. A double ditched enclosure is recorded 600m to the north of the site where Roman pottery was recovered during evaluation work.

In a broader context a probable Roman fort is located 6km to the north at Healam and at Well 7km to the south of Aiskew a Roman bath-house, presumed to be part of a villa, was excavated. Both these sites are close to rectilinear enclosures dated as late Iron Age or Roman.

The name Aiskew has Scandanavain origins meaning oak wood and the nearby Bedale is probably of Anglo Saxon origin. Early Medieval heritage assets within close proximity of the site include a findspot of 8th century coins 300m to the south of the development site.

A Manor is recorded at Aiskew in Domesday 1086 and like Bedale belonged to Count Alan having been captured during the 'Harrying of the north' following the uprising of the English lords after the conquest. By the end of the 13th century the manor as Aiskew belonged to Brian Fitz Alan, Lord of the Manor of Bedale whose descent it followed through the medieval period. Fitz Alan supposedly had a motte and Bailey castle situated to the west of Bedale Church apparently destroyed during landscaping at Bedale Hall. There are no early references to a manor at Aiskew and having no male heirs the combined manor was split by marriage and that part Aiskew for much of this period was held by the Stapleton family.

Historic mapping indicates that the medieval village of Aiskew developed as a traditional linear settlement with a main street and village green and back lanes running to the north-east and south-west. One of the back lanes later known as Love Lane ran along the south-eastern boundary of the site before the railway was constructed.

Documentary evidence suggests a three field crop rotation system on fields bounded by the High Street and Dere Street and lay to the north and east of the village. A 1595 map indicates that the development area had been enclosed by that date (an enclosure named Lawnes). The Lawnes may have formed part of the formal landscape of the late medieval Manor House or may have been an early enclosure of part of south field.

A map of 1772 suggests the village kept its medieval layout following enclosure of the open fields. The western half of the site is labelled as Lawnes and Orchard with the Manor and Garth located to the north-west. The same map shows Brick kiln Garth running north-west to south-east through the development site, indicating the presence of a possible brick kiln on the site. By the early 19th century the eastern side of the proposed development site had been split into two narrow strip fields.

The Stapleton family regained the lordship of Aiskew Manor and maintained catholic worship at a small private chapel to the back of the manor house. Documentary evidence suggests this was an unremarkable structure above a coalhouse or stable that was replaced following the Roman Catholic Relief Act in 1829. This more decorative building is recorded on the Ordnance survey Map of 1857 but succeeded by the Church of St Mary and St Joseph opened by the Stapletons in 1878.

The Bedale Railway was constructed in 1846 and a section of the line is located at the southern boundary of the development area. This line formed part of the Trans-Pennine route linking stations from the east coast to the west. The line lost its commercial status in



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1964 but was used as a private branch line to quarries owned by British Steel. Following closure of the quarries in 2003 the line was re-opened for tourist excursions.

In more recent years the eastern side of the development site was used as a plant nursery, the western side as private lawns with a tennis court at the northern end.

3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the archaeological evaluation are:

- to determine (where possible) the nature, depth, extent, significance and date of buried archaeological remains that may be located within the proposed development area.
- to determine the condition or state of preservation of any archaeological deposits or features encountered;
- to determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present;
- to inform the scope of archaeological mitigation works if required.

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4 WORKS SPECIFICATION

4.1 Specific works

All archaeological works will be carried out in accordance with this WSI (and any further instructions from the Consultant). This design takes account of assessment guidance in Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation prepared by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA, 2008), the IfA Code of Conduct (IfA, 2013) and other current and relevant best practice and standards and guidance (refer to Appendix 1).

Trial trench evaluation will comprise a total of 7 trenches (30m x 2m). The indicative location and the size of the trenches are shown on Figure 2. The trenches should be positioned using metric-survey equipment to an accuracy of $\pm 100\text{mm}$ of the specified trench location.

It may be necessary for the 'Contractor' to undertake a preliminary assessment of ground conditions prior to the commencement of the fieldwork. The 'Contractor' will notify URS of any areas that in their opinion are unsuitable for excavation. All trenches are to be the stated dimensions at their base.

Access

Access has been arranged between the client (Shepherd Homes) and URS.

Existing vegetation

The trench layout has been designed to avoid existing hedgerows and tree-lines. There will be no machine excavation within 2m of the base on an existing hedgerow and no machining beneath the canopy of trees.

Trial Trenches

Seven trial trenches will be excavated at the locations shown on Figure 2. The trenches are not targeting known archaeological anomalies and therefore their position can be amended by the archaeological site team. The final trench position should be measured using survey-grade GPS (English Heritage 2003) or equivalent metric-survey equipment.

The 'Contractor' must ensure that any survey stations are tied-in to permanent landscape features recorded on the latest Ordnance Survey edition maps to enable accurate re-location of the trenches.

The arisings from the archaeological works will be stored adjacent to the trench (within a safe working distance but not less than 1m) and will be separated according to material, so that topsoil will be separated from subsoil and made ground separated from topsoil.

The arisings from the trenches shall be subject to a rapid metal detector scan, in order to recover metal artefacts not recovered during mechanical excavation of the trench.

The excavation will proceed under direct archaeological supervision, in level spits, until either the top of the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural deposits are encountered.

Particular attention should be paid to achieving a clean and well-defined horizon with the machine. It is not anticipated that entire trenches will require hand cleaning. Under no circumstances should the machine be used to cut arbitrary sondage trenches down to natural deposits. The surface achieved through machine excavation will be inspected for archaeological remains. The mechanical excavator will not traverse any stripped areas.



If important concentrations of artefacts are uncovered during machining, suggestive of significant activity, these should be left in situ in the first instance.

The machined surface will be cleaned by hand, where required, for the acceptable definition of archaeological remains. Following cleaning, all archaeological remains will be planned, to enable the selection of features and deposits for sample excavation by the 'Contractor'.

The trial trenches will be clearly demarcated with netlon fencing, supplied by the 'Contractor', to ensure that persons or plant cannot inadvertently traverse across the area of investigation whilst archaeological works are in progress. The netlon fencing will be regularly inspected and maintained until works in the area have been completed, inspected and approved by URS and the trenches backfilled.

The trial trenches shall only be backfilled by machine under appropriate conditions and with direct archaeological supervision. Arisings will be returned strictly in the correct order.

Any land drains encountered during the archaeological works will be left in situ and upon completion of the works they will be carefully backfilled and covered over to avoid damage. A buffer of 0.5m will be left either side of a land drain and excavation will proceed either side of it. Any damage to land drains must be rectified immediately and notified to URS.

4.2 Hand Excavation

Sample excavation shall be restricted to that required to meet the key objectives of the evaluation.

Archaeological deposits/ features selected for sample excavation will be hand excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to meet the objectives of the evaluation. Machine-assisted excavation may be permissible if large deposits are encountered but only after consultation with URS and the Local Authority Archaeologist. A sufficient number of deposits/ features will be investigated through sample excavation in each trench to record the horizontal and vertical extent of the stratigraphic sequence down to the level of undisturbed natural deposits. No archaeological deposit should be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable. Excavation must be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any features or deposits which appear to be worthy of preservation in situ.

The following sampling strategies will be employed:

Linear features: A minimum of 10% sample (each length not less than 1m long) where the depositional sequence is consistent along the length. Linear features with complex variations of fill type will be sampled sufficiently in order to understand the sequence of deposition - a minimum of 20% along the length.

Where possible one section will be located and recorded adjacent to a trench edge. If appropriate all intersections will be investigated to determine the relationships between features. All termini will be investigated.

Discrete features: Pits, post-holes and other isolated features will normally be half-sectioned. A minimum requirement to meet the project objectives will be agreed in consultation with URS. It is not anticipated that all of these features will be half-sectioned. If large pits or deposits (over 1.5m diameter) are encountered then the sample excavated should be sufficient to define the extent and maximum depth of the feature and to achieve the objectives of the evaluation, but should not be less than 25%.

Structures: Each structure will be sampled sufficiently to define the extent, form, stratigraphic complexity and depth of the component features and its associated deposits to



achieve the objectives of the evaluation. All intersections will be investigated to determine the relationship(s) between the component features.

4.3 Recording

The perimeter of each trench and all archaeological remains within the trenches will be recorded in plan using metric survey-grade equipment (or its equivalent).

A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of each trench even where no archaeological features are identified. Hand drawn plans and sections of features will be produced at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections). One long section of each trench will be drawn at a scale of not less than 1:50. All plans and sections will include spot heights relative to Ordnance Datum in metres, correct to two decimal places.

Black and white photography using orthodox monochrome chemical development should be used. Film should be no faster than ISO400. Slower films should be used where possible as their smaller grain size yields higher definition images. Technical Pan (ISO 25), Pan-F (ISO50), FP4 (ISO125) and HP5 (ISO400) are recommended. The use of dye-based films such as Ilford XP2 and Kodak T40CN is unacceptable due to poor archiving qualities. Black and white photography should be supplemented by colour photography; this should be in transparency format.

Digital photography: as an alternative for colour slide photography, good quality digital photography may be supplied, using cameras with a minimum resolution of 4 megapixels. Note that conventional black and white print photography is still required and constitutes the permanent record. Digital images will only be acceptable as an alternative to colour slide photography if each image is supplied in three file formats (as a RAW data file, a DNG file and as a JPEG file). The contractor must include metadata embedded in the DNG file. The metadata must include the following: the commonly used name for the site being photographed, the relevant centred OS grid coordinates for the site to at least six figures, the relevant township name, the date of photograph, the subject of the photograph, the direction of shot and the name of the organisation taking the photograph. Any digital images are to be supplied on gold CDs by the archaeological contractor accompanying the hard copy of the report. These will then be sent to North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC).

4.4 Artefact Recovery

All artefacts will be collected, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines (refer to Appendix 1). Except for modern artefacts all finds will be collected and retained. Each 'significant find' will be recorded three dimensionally. Similarly if artefact scatters are encountered these should be also recorded three dimensionally. Bulk finds will be collected and recorded by context.

Where necessary the artefacts will be stabilised, conserved and stored in accordance with the current conservation guidelines and standards (see Appendix 1). Artefacts will be properly conserved after excavation and will be stabilised for storage. If necessary, a conservator will visit the site to undertake 'first aid' conservation treatment.

Artefacts will be stored in appropriate materials and conditions, and monitored to minimise further deterioration.

4.5 Environmental Sampling

The Method Statement will outline an appropriate environmental sampling strategy. The English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science will be notified of the



commencement of the project and will be consulted regarding the sampling strategy proposed by the 'Consultant'. Provision will also be made for the recovery of material suitable for scientific dating.

Any samples taken must come from appropriately cleaned surfaces, be collected with clean tools and be placed in clean containers. They will be adequately recorded and labelled and a register of all samples will be kept. Once the samples have been obtained they should be stored appropriately in a secure location prior to being sent to the appropriate specialist.

4.6 Human Remains

Should human remains be discovered during the course of the trial trenching the remains will be covered and protected and left in situ in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in accordance with a licence obtained from the Ministry of Justice and under the appropriate Environmental Health regulations and the Burial Act 1857. In the event of the discovery of human remains the 'Contractor' will notify URS immediately, who will arrange to contact the Ministry of Justice.

4.7 Treasure Trove

Any artefacts which are recovered that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 2002 will be reported to URS's archaeological representative and to H. M. Coroner by the Contractor. Any finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures as laid down in the 'Code of Practice'. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

4.8 Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

Should there be unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant, in the professional judgment of the archaeologist on site, more detailed recording than is appropriate within the terms of this specification, then the archaeological contractor should contact URS with the relevant information to enable them to resolve the matter with NYCC.

5 REPORTING

A fieldwork report will be submitted in draft within 2 weeks of the completion of fieldwork. The preparation of the site archive will be undertaken in accordance with this Written Scheme of Investigation and will follow relevant archaeological standards and national guidelines (Appendix 1). The report will include the following:

- a QA sheet detailing as a minimum - title, author, version, date, checked by, approved by;
- the dates of the fieldwork;
- a non-technical summary;
- a site location drawing;
- the archaeological and historical background;
- the methodology employed for the evaluation;
- the aims and objectives of the investigations;
- the results of the evaluation (to include full description, assessment of condition, quality and significance of the remains, specialist artefact and environmental reports);
- a stratigraphic matrix for each trench (as appropriate);



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- assessment /conclusion and a statement of potential with recommendations for further work and analysis;
- a statement of the significance of the results in their local, regional and national context cross referenced to the current research agendas;
- publication proposals if warranted;
- the current and proposed arrangements for archive storage (including recipient museum details);
- general and detailed plans showing the location of the survey accurately positioned on an Ordnance Survey base map (at an appropriate and recognised scale);
- detailed plans and sections illustrating archaeological features (at an appropriate and recognised scale);
- colour photographic plates illustrating the site setting, work in progress and archaeological discoveries;
- a cross-referenced index of the project archive.

In order to inform a mitigation strategy for the project, the fieldwork report will include a statement of potential and recommendations for further excavation and assessment in accordance with MAP2.

The fieldwork report will specifically comment on the level of preservation and will comment on the character of the overlying deposits and on the potential for extrapolating the results into adjacent areas.

A digital pdf copy (complete with illustrations and plates) of the completed report will be submitted to URS and NYCC as a draft for comment. In finalising the report the comments of URS and the NYCC will be taken into account.

Two bound copies, one unbound master-copy and a digital version will be submitted to URS within one week of the receipt of comments on the draft report. A hardcopy and PDF will be submitted to NYCC.

A project CD shall be submitted containing image files in JPEG or TIFF format, digital text files shall be submitted in Microsoft Word format, illustrations in AutoCAD format or ArcView shapefile format. A fully collated version of the report shall be included in PDF format.

6 MONITORING, PROGRESS REPORTS & MEETINGS

The fieldwork will be subject to a monitoring visit by URS and NYCC, who will have unrestricted access to the site, site records or any other information. The work will be inspected to ensure that it is being carried out to the required standards and that it will achieve the stated objectives.

Weekly written progress reports will be provided to URS by the 'Contractor' during the fieldwork.

Progress meetings between URS and the 'Contractor' will be held on site during the course of the fieldwork. The Assistant County Archaeologist shall be invited to attend if appropriate. These meetings will be arranged by URS.

The 'Contractor' will only accept instruction from URS.



7 ARCHIVE PREPARATION & DEPOSITION

The archive of records generated during the fieldwork will be kept secure at all stages of the project. All records will be quantified, ordered, indexed and will be internally consistent. The digital archive will be produced to current national standards and guidelines (see Appendix 1).

The 'Contractor' will, prior to the start of fieldwork, liaise with the appropriate Museum to obtain agreement in principle to accept the documentary, digital and photographic archive for long-term storage. The 'Contractor' will be responsible for identifying any specific requirements or policies of the museum in respect of the archive, and for adhering to those requirements.

The 'Contractor' will store the archive in a suitable secure location until it is deposited in the appropriate Museum.

The deposition of the archive forms the final stage of this project. The 'Contractor' shall provide URS with copies of communication with the recipient museum and written confirmation of the deposition of the archive. URS will deal with the transfer of ownership and copyright issues.

Within 3 months of the completion of the report the 'Contractor' will also prepare and submit the online OASIS form (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>). When completing the form the 'Contractor' must make reference to relevant research frameworks. The 'Contractor' is advised to ensure that adequate time and costings are built into their budget to allow sufficient time to complete the form.

8 PUBLICATION

If significant results are obtained and it is likely that further stages of archaeological work will be required, publication shall be deferred until such time as the project works are substantially complete.

The format of any publication shall be commensurate with the importance of the results and be agreed in advance with URS.

9 CONFIDENTIALITY & PUBLICITY

Detailed information regarding the proposed development is not yet in the public domain and the archaeological works may attract interest.

All communication regarding this project is to be directed through URS. The 'Contractor' will refer all inquiries to URS without making any unauthorised statements or comments.

The 'Contractor' will not disseminate information or images associated with the project for publicity or information purposes without the prior written consent of URS.

10 COPYRIGHT

The 'Contractor' shall assign copyright in all reports and documentation/images produced as part of this project to URS. The 'Contractor' shall retain the right to be identified as the author/originator of the material. This applies to all aspects of the project. It is the responsibility of the 'Contractor' to obtain such rights from sub-contracted specialists.

The 'Contractor' may apply in writing to use/disseminate any of the project archive or documentation (including images). Such permission will not be unreasonably withheld.



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The results of the archaeological works shall be submitted to the client, the Local Authority Archaeologist (or their equivalent) and if appropriate to English Heritage by URS and will ultimately be made available for public access.

11 RESOURCES & TIMETABLE

All archaeological personnel involved in the project should be suitably qualified and experienced professionals. The 'Contractor' shall provide URS with staff CVs of the Project Manager, Site Supervisor and any proposed specialists. Site assistants' CVs will not be required, but all site assistants should have an appropriate understanding of excavation procedures.

All staff will be fully briefed and aware of the work required under this specification and will understand the objectives of the investigation and methodologies to be employed.

The fieldwork is programmed to be implemented during December 2013 and is expected to be completed within five working weeks.

The timetable for completion of the reporting is 2 weeks after completion of fieldwork. The 'Contractor' shall give immediate warning to URS should any agreed programme date not be achievable.

12 ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS & SITE INFORMATION

Access to the site(s) will be arranged /organised by URS via the Client's Land Agents. Designated routes into and out of the excavation area(s) will be identified and will be adhered to at all times.

The schedule of trial trench evaluation will be agreed in advance with URS. There will be no separate negotiation concerning the schedule of work with any other parties without the prior agreement of URS.

Should the 'Contractor' require an adjustment to the trial trench location(s) due to unforeseen local conditions, these shall be agreed with URS prior to implementation.

The 'Contractor' will notify URS immediately of any trenches that cannot be opened and will provide a clear explanation for the situation.

The 'Contractor' will record photographically (digital photographs) ground conditions of each trial trench location before excavation begins and after each trench has been reinstated.

13 INSURANCES, HEALTH & SAFETY

The 'Contractor' will provide URS with details of their public and professional indemnity insurance cover.

The 'Contractor' will have their own Health and Safety policies compiled using national guidelines, which conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation. A copy of the 'Contractors' Health and Safety policy will be submitted to URS with their tender.

The 'Contractor' shall prepare Risk Assessments and a project specific Health and Safety Plan and submit these to URS for approval prior to the commencement of the fieldwork. If amendments are required to the Risk Assessment during the works URS and any other interested party must be provided with the revised document at the earliest opportunity.

All site personnel will familiarise themselves with the following:

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- site emergency and evacuation procedures;
- the sites health and safety coordinator;
- the first aider;
- the location of the nearest hospital and doctors surgery.

The supervisor will maintain a record of site attendance for each day that there is a team in the field.

All site personnel will wear appropriate PPE consisting of hardhat, steel toe-capped boots with mid-sole protection and high-visibility vest or jacket. Additional PPE will be issued by the archaeological contractor as required, i.e. goggles, ear defenders, masks, gloves etc. In addition, site personnel will ensure that any visitors to the excavation are equipped with suitable PPE prior to entry to the site.

As photographs taken as part of this project may be utilised for publicity or for publication purposes, it is essential that all personnel photographed within any working shot is wearing the specified PPE.

All equipment must be 'fit for purpose' and be maintained in a sound working condition that complies with all relevant Health and Safety regulations and recommendations.

Works will cease if voids or large areas of unstable ground become apparent during machine excavation. Similarly in this instance no personnel is permitted to enter the trench. If deeper deposits than encountered then it may be necessary to step the trench in line with health and safety guidelines. If this is required URS will be informed prior to this commencing.

14 GENERAL PROVISIONS

The 'Contractor' will undertake the works according to this specification and any subsequent written variations. No variation from or changes to the specification will occur except by prior agreement with URS.

All communications on archaeological matters will be directed through URS.

The 'Contractor' shall make the minimum of disturbance during the fieldwork and will avoid any unnecessary damage. If appropriate, access for temporary parking and the location of site welfare shall be agreed with the 'Contractor' prior to commencement of the survey. The provision of welfare facilities shall be the responsibility of the 'Contractor'.

The 'Contractor' will immediately notify URS of any evidence of or damage to the excavations.

The 'Contractor' will supply and be responsible for all plant, welfare facilities and safety fencing used at the site.

15 REFERENCES

IfA, 2008 Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation. Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)

IfA, 2013 Code of Conduct. Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)

NAA 2012 *Land to the South-West of Blind Lane, Aiskew, North Yorkshire.*



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Appendix 1
Standards & Guidance

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Archaeological Standards and Guidelines

AAF, 2007, Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation. Archaeological Archives Forum

Brickley, M. and McKinley, J.I., 2004, Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains. IFA Paper No 7, Institute of Field Archaeologists (Reading)

Brown, D.H. 2007, Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation. IFA Archaeological Archives Forum (Reading)

EH, 2002, Human Bones from Archaeological Sites. Guidelines for producing assessment documents and analytical reports. English Heritage (London)

EH, 2003, Measured and Drawn – Techniques and practice for the metric survey of historic buildings. English Heritage (Swindon)

EH, 2004, Human Bones from Archaeological Sites: Guidelines for producing assessment documents and analytical report. English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

EH, 2006, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide. English Heritage (Swindon)

EH, 2008, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation

EH, 2008, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. The MoRPHE Project A manager's Guide

EH, 2009, Constructive Conservation in Practice. English Heritage (Swindon)

IfA, 2013, Code of Conduct. Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)

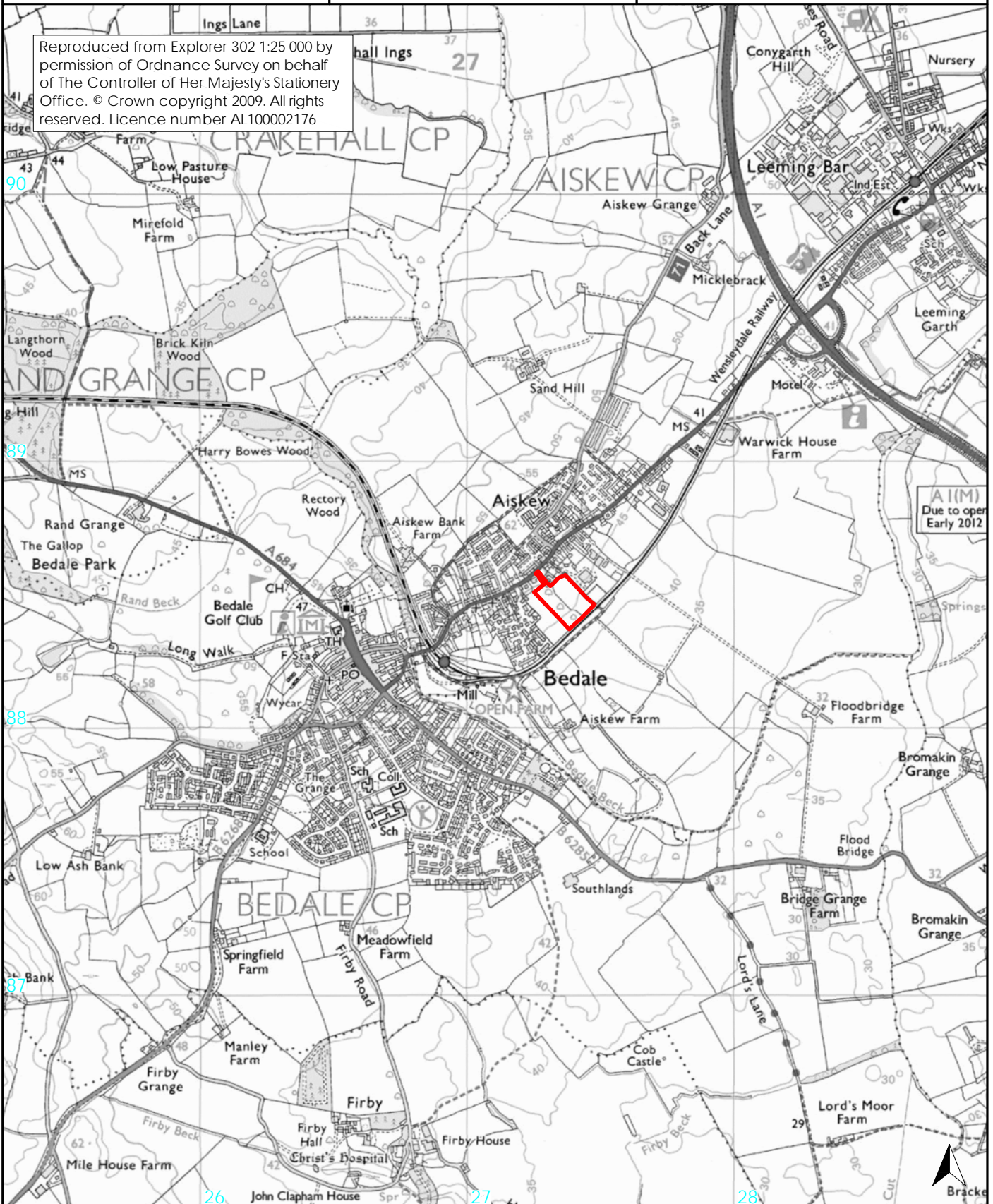
IfA, 2008, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation. Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)

Mays, S., Brickley, M. and Dodwell, N., 2002, Human Bones from Archaeological Sites. Guidelines for Producing Assessment Documents and Analytical Reports. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines, English Heritage (Portsmouth)




Figure 1: Site location

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 site location

0  1km
scale 1:20 000 for A4 plot

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on behalf of





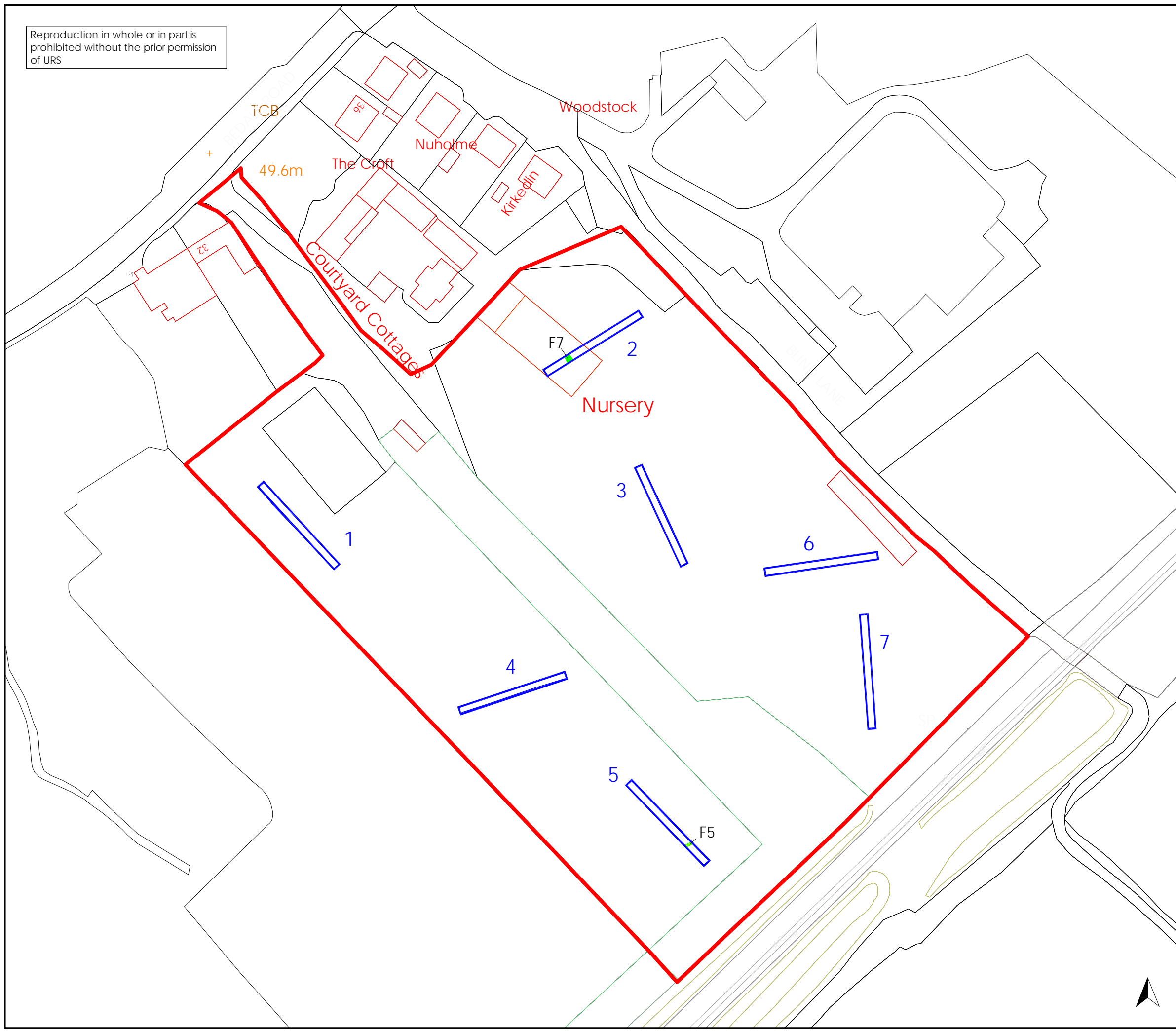
Blind Lane
Aiskew
North Yorkshire

archaeological evaluation
report 3316

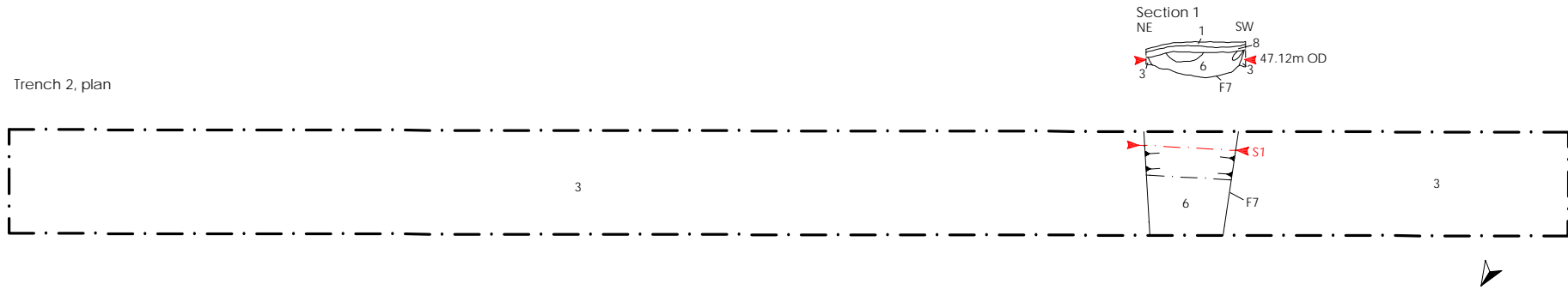
Figure 2: Trench locations



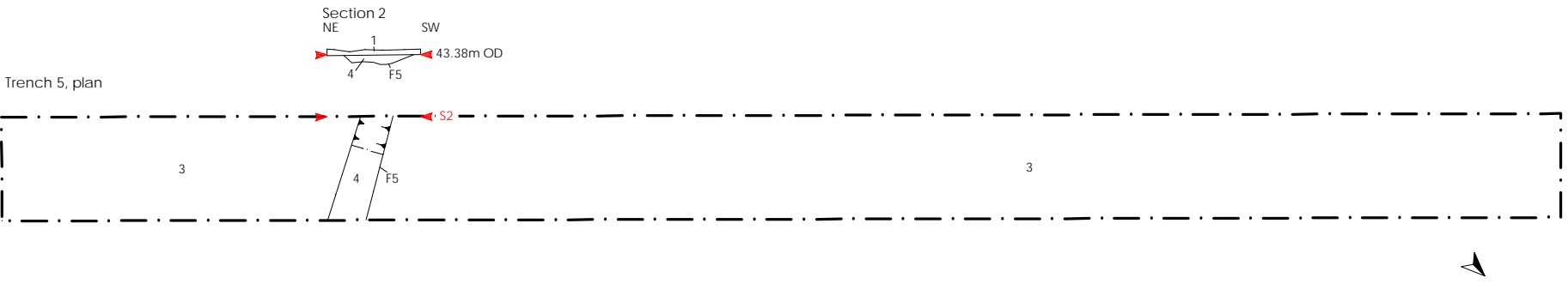
-  trench
-  archaeological feature



Trench 2, plan



Trench 5, plan



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Aiskew
North Yorkshire

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Figure 3: Trench plans and sections

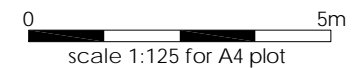
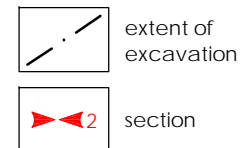




Figure 4 (left): Trench 1, looking north-west



Figure 5 (below): Trench 2, looking north-east



Figure 6: Ditch F7 in Trench 2, looking south-east



Figure 7: Trench 3, looking south



Figure 8: Trench 4, looking east



Figure 9: Trench 5, looking north-west



Figure 10: Trench 5, ditch F5, looking south-west



Figure 11: Trench 6, looking east-south-east



Figure 12: Trench 7, looking south