ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
Taylor Wimpey North Yorkshire

Yarm Back Lane
Stockton on Tees
Teesside

archaeological evaluation

report 4187
June 2016

Durham University

Contents

Figures

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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 on land adjacent to Yarm Back Lane, Stockton on Tees, Teesside. The works comprised the excavation of a single evaluation trench.

1.2 The works were commissioned by Taylor Wimpey North Yorkshire and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

Results

1.3 The single archaeological trench excavated exposed part of a modern field drain network.

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 to the east of Yarm Back Lane, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland (NGR centre NZ 41069 18260). It covers an area of approximately 26.4 ha. Domestic housing and the centre of Stockton on Tees lies to the east, with the route of the A66 to the south. The course of Yarm Back Lane forms the western boundary of the site, with open fields to the west and north.

Development proposal

2.2 A residential development is proposed for the site.

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.

2.4 The regional research framework (Petts & Gerrard 2006) contains an agenda for archaeological research in the region, which is incorporated into regional planning policy implementation with respect to archaeology. In this instance, the scheme of works was designed to address agenda items Iii: Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Settlement, Ri: The Roman to Iron Age transition, and Riv: Roman Native and Civillian Life.

Specification

2.5 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation provided by Archaeological Services Durham University (reference DS16.1282) and approved by the planning authority.

Dates

2.6 Fieldwork was undertaken on the 8th of June 2016. This report was prepared for June 2016.

Personnel

2.7 Fieldwork was conducted and this report prepared by Mark Randerson, with illustrations by David Graham. The Project Manager was Daniel Still.

Archive/OASIS

2.8 The site code is **YBL16**, for **Y**arm **B**ack **L**ane 20**16**. The archive is currently held by Archaeological Services Durham University and will be transferred to Tees Archaeology in due course. Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **O**nline **A**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of archaeological investigation**S** project (**OASIS**). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-524502**.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

3.1 At the time of this assessment, the proposed development area comprised a series of arable and fallow fields.

3.2 The study area occupies a gentle, south-facing slope, with the mean elevation falling from approximately 32m OD in the north to 25m OD to the south.

3.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises sedimentary rock of the Sherwood Sandstone Formation, overlain by Devensian till.

4. Historical and archaeological background

Previous archaeological works

4.1 The study area forms the southern half of a larger site, extending along the length of the western side of Yarm Back Lane. This larger area has been the subject of both a detailed archaeological desk-based assessment (Archaeological Services 2014) and a programme of geomagnetic survey (Archaeological Services 2016): a brief summary of the results for the southern area are given below.

The prehistoric period and Roman periods (up to 5th century AD)

4.2 There is no direct evidence for either prehistoric or Romano-British activity within the study area, although there is evidence for activity from the wider surrounding landscape.

The medieval and post-medieval periods (5th century to 1899)

4.3 The study site lies at the periphery of several medieval settlements and falls within a series of medieval field systems. Earthwork remains of former ridge and furrow ploughing survive in several areas of the site, with other, now-destroyed, areas visible or noted elsewhere on aerial photographs. Traces of this former cultivation, the remains of either medieval or post-medieval ploughing, were also identified in the areas covered by the geophysical survey, in addition to the line of a former field boundary, shown on historic Ordnance Survey editions.

The modern period (1900 to present)

4.4 In the southern part of the study area, the geomagnetic survey identified demolition debris associated with the former structure of Hartburn Grange: however, this is of 20th-century date and is therefore not regarded as archaeologically significant. Modern services were also identified by the survey, with a complex system of field drains revealed in the area to the north.

5. The evaluation trench

Trench 1 (Figure 3)

5.1 Trench 1 was located in Area 14, and was positioned to investigate a single, sub-linear geomagnetic anomaly which crossed the south-eastern side of this field on a roughly north-east/south-west orientation. The trench was 20m long and was aligned north-west/south-east.

5.2 Natural glacial subsoil, a heavily compact orange/yellow-brown stiff silty clay [4] was exposed across the base of the trench at a depth of between 0.25m and 0.3m (Figure 4). This deposit contained occasional medium rounded stones, and became slightly sandy toward the north. In the centre of the trench, it was cut through by two interlinked field drains [F3] (Figure 5). These drains clearly formed part of a system which extended across this section of Area 14, with the surrounding ground

displaying evidence of being boggy and often waterlogged. One main drain crossed the trench on a north-east/south-west orientation. This drain was linear, and composed of large segmented ceramic pipes 0.2m in diameter, laid in a cut 0.3m wide. On the north-eastern side of the trench, a secondary drain extended south-westwards along the eastern limit of excavation. This drain was curvilinear, arcing slightly to the east. It was composed of narrower pipes, 0.15m in diameter, laid in a 0.2m wide cut. This section of the drain was roughly jointed onto the larger pipes and was clearly a later addition. Both drains were obviously functional and so were not excavated.

5.3 Both these drains were backfilled by a deposit of mixed natural glacial clay and brown sandy silt, with occasional medium stones and angular fragments of ceramic drain pipe [3: 0.1m thick]. They were overlain by a layer of friable dark brown sandy clayey silt topsoil [1: 0.25m – 0.3m thick] which sealed the trench. No further features were exposed, and no artefacts recovered. The line of the main field drain [F3] was clearly the cause of the sub-linear geomagnetic anomaly recorded in this area, with no archaeologically significant remains identified.

6. The archaeological resource

6.1 No significant archaeological deposits were recorded.

7. Impact assessment

7.1 Development of this southern part of the site is unlikely to impact on any archaeological deposits.

8. Recommendations

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

9. Sources

Petts, D, & Gerrard, C, 2006 *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham

Archaeological Services 2014 *West Stockton sites, Stockton on Tees, Teesside: archaeological and heritage assessment*. Unpublished report **3577**, Archaeological Services Durham University

Archaeological Services 2016 *Yarm Back Lane, Stockton on Tees, Teesside: geophysical survey*. Unpublished report 4113, Archaeological Services Durham University

Appendix 1: Data table

Table 1.1: Context data

No	Area	Description
1	Tr. 1	Topsoil
2	Tr. 1	Drain fill
F3	Tr. 1	Cut for field drain
4	Tr. 1	Natural glacial subsoil

Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrix

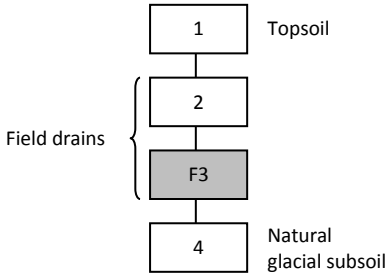

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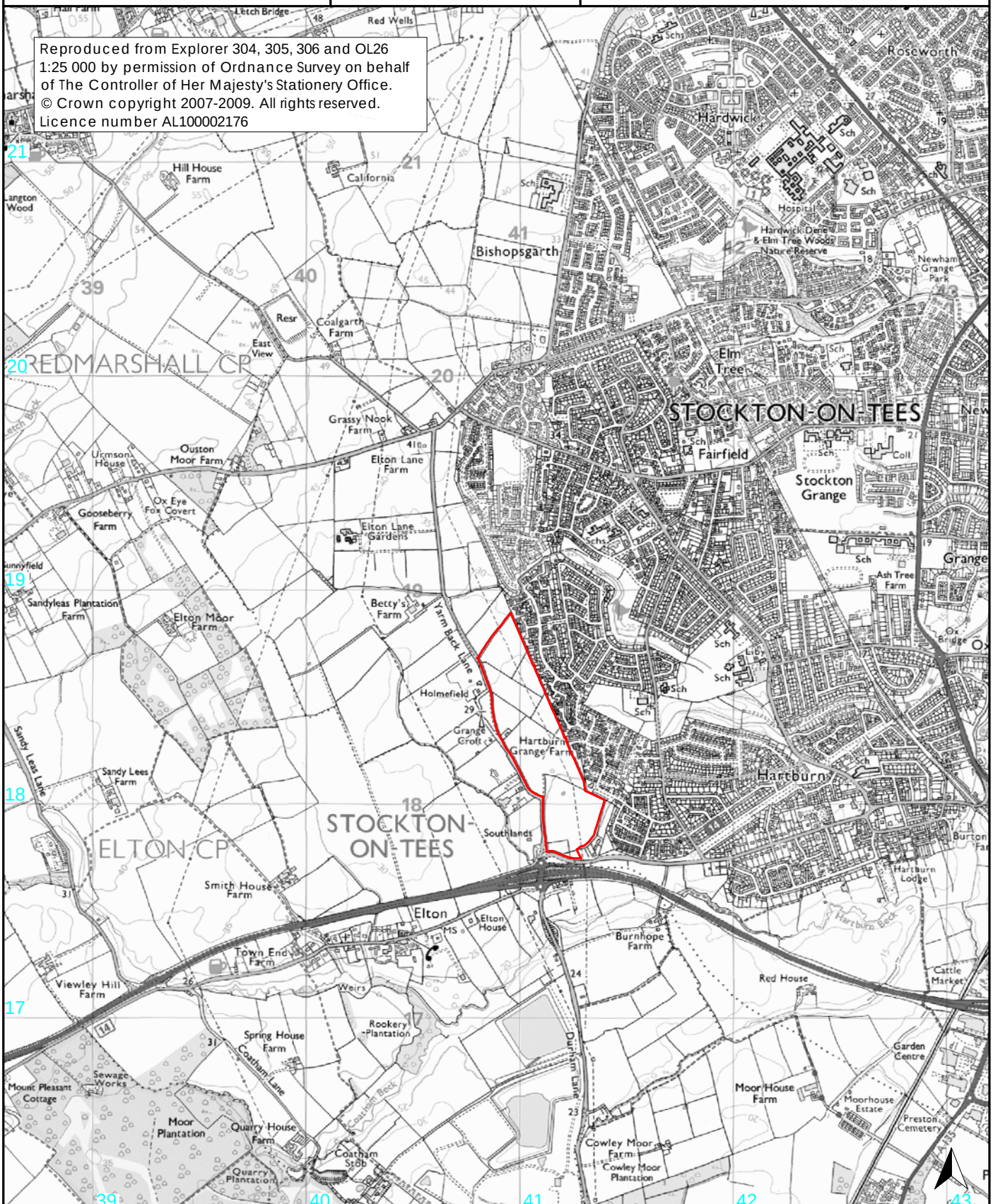
Figure 1: Site location



proposed development area

0 1km
scale 1:25 000 for A4 plot

site boundary

magnetic survey

trench

-6 nT 8

Area 4

Area 5

Area 6

Area 7

Area 8

Area 9

Area 10

Area 11

Area 12

Area 13

Area 14

Area 15

Area 16

soil-filled feature

disturbed area

service

ridge and furrow

former ploughing

land drain

former field boundary

former pylon base

telegraph pole

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0 250m
scale 1:5000 for A3 plot

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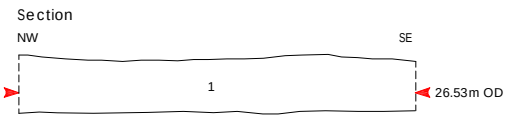
Figure 2: Trench location



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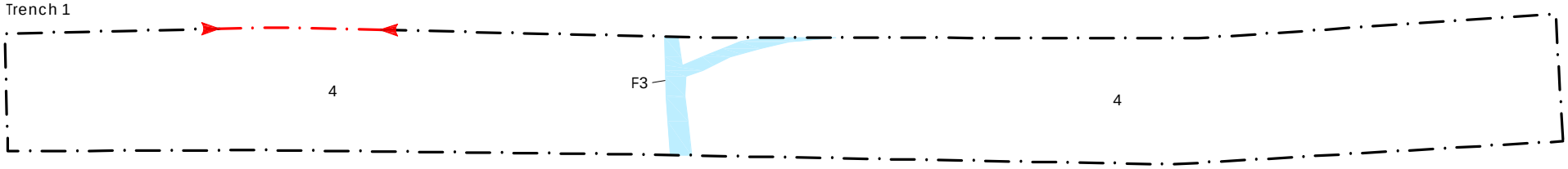

scale 1:80 for A4 plot

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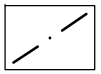
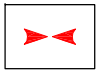
Figure 3: Trench plan and section



extent of excavation



section

pipe/drain

Figure 4: Trench 1, facing north-west

Figure 5: Field drain system F3, facing north-east