



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	Millington Heights, Millington, East Riding of Yorkshire		
CLIENT NAME	Mr and Mrs A Garside		
YAT PROJECT #	5798	YAT REPORT #	2014/40
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 8354 5424
PLANNING REFERENCE #	DC/10/05160/PLF/WESTWW	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

INTRODUCTION

On 18th July 2014 York Archaeological Trust carried out a watching brief at Millington Heights, Millington, East Yorkshire on behalf of Mr and Mrs A Garside. The site is located about 2.5km north of Millington village, towards the western edge of the Yorkshire Wolds (Figure 1).

The site lies within a rich archaeological landscape. To the north-west lie a group of round barrows and two linear dykes and to the east are five oblong mounds that have been interpreted as hut sites. Furthermore the Roman road from Malton to Brough lies immediately to the west of the development.

Although the land in the vicinity sloped down steadily to the south towards Millington Dale, the site itself was flat. Immediately to the north of the site the ground surface was about 1m higher.

METHODOLOGY

The groundworks monitored were the foundation trenches for the external walls of a dwelling, which was replacing an existing house (Figure 2). The trenches were dug by a 4.5 ton 360 tracked mini digger and were generally 0.75m deep by 0.8m wide. The excavations were monitored throughout by an archaeologist. The deposits encountered were recorded using written notes, sketch drawings and photography.

RESULTS

The earliest deposit encountered was solid white chalk, which was observed towards the base of the trenches in the eastern and southern parts of the excavation. The top of this deposit sloped down at around 30 degrees to the north-west at A and B (Figure 2), and so continued below the limit of excavation at these points. Overlying this layer was a band of yellow chalk some 0.3m thick and which also sloped down to the north-west. This in turn was overlain by dark brown clayey silt with occasional chalk gravel. This deposit extended the full depth of the foundation trenches and continued to the east at B and to the north at A for up to 4m, gradually merging into white gravelly chalk. This gravelly chalk became more solid and blocky in the northern part of the site, with occasional flint nodules up to 0.3m in diameter. These deposits are all regarded as undisturbed natural deposits.

About 1m to the north of the north foundation trench (Fig 2, C), the ground level rose steeply (Fig 2, C). In this area the top of the chalk was about 0.2m higher than at the north end of the site, and it was overlain by a mixture of dark brown silt and chalk gravel some 0.25m thick. Above that was dark brown clay silt with occasional gravel, about 0.5m thick, which formed the uppermost deposit in this area.

CONCLUSIONS

The deposits observed are all considered to be natural. The variations in the chalk bedrock are almost certainly periglacial in origin.

It is likely that the topsoil and part of the bedrock was removed, by almost 1m in the northern part of

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the site but progressively less to the south, when the area was truncated to form a level surface for the construction of the original house. This activity would have removed any archaeological deposits and all but the deepest archaeological features, should any have been present on the site.

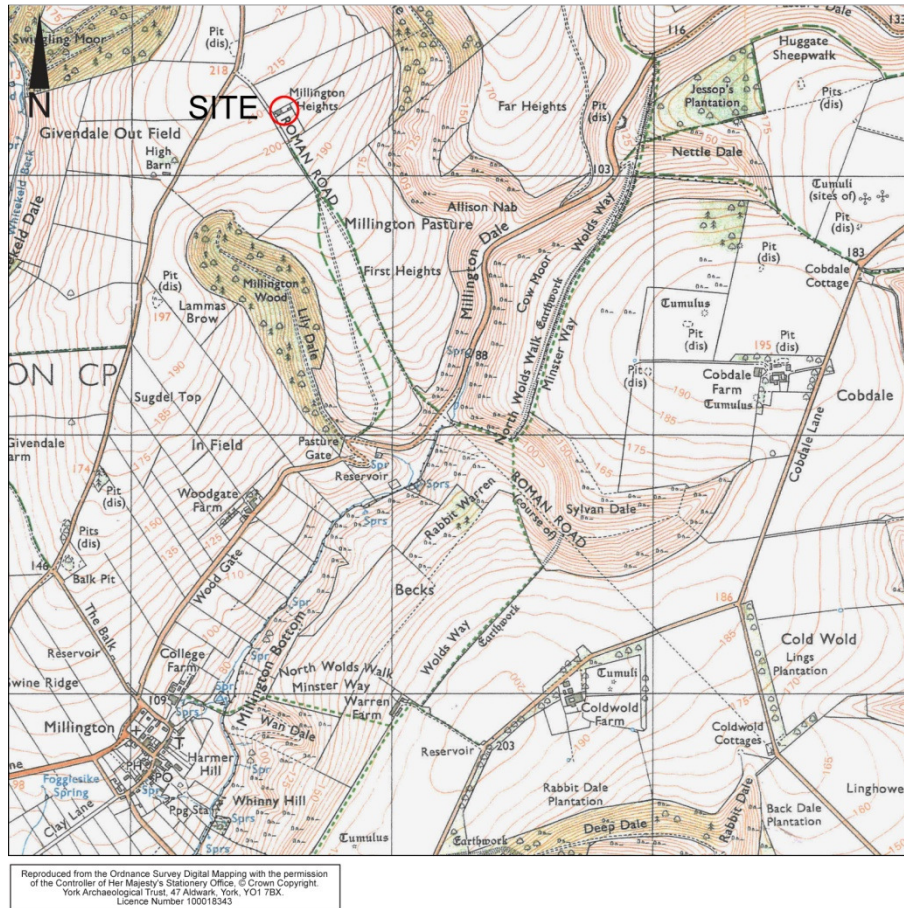


Figure 1 Site location

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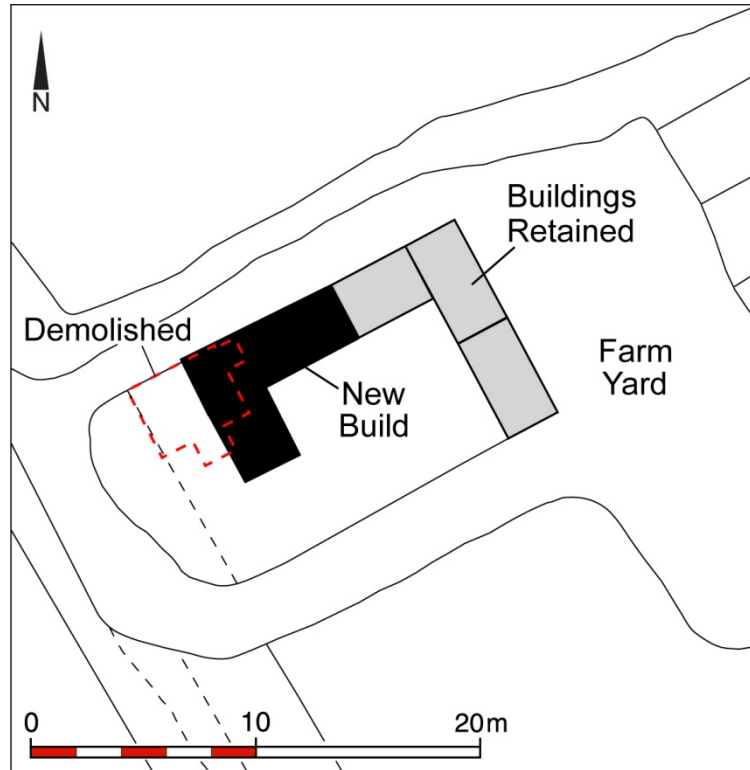


Figure 2 location of watching brief

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Plate 1 View of site looking north-east



Plate 2 View of foundation trenches looking south-west

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Plate 3 north foundation trench looking east, showing the reduced ground level of the site to south

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Plate 4 south foundation trench (east end) looks south, showing silty clay deposit beyond the chalk

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Plate 5 south leg, south-east corner looks south, showing slabby chalk

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