



**YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**



## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND AT FERRYBRIDGE GOLF COURSE**

By Toby Kendall

*WATCHING BRIEF REPORT*

Report Number 2015/05 January 2014



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**York Archaeological Trust, Cuthbert Morrell House, 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX**

Phone: +44 (0)1904 663000 Fax: +44 (0)1904 663024

Email: [archaeology@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:archaeology@yorkat.co.uk) Website: <http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk>

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### Abbreviations

**m BGL metres Below Ground Level**

## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

On the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during machine stripping for the formation of a haul road onto Ferrybridge Golf Course. The site is located on the eastern periphery of Ferry Fryston, to the north-west of Ferrybridge Power Station (NGR 446662, 425849).

The archaeological observations were part of the Phase 1 (importation of materials) of the project and were to satisfy planning condition 16.

The archaeological remains observed comprised truncated ridge and furrow, which was undated and a field boundary which had been backfilled in the post medieval period.

## KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Ferrybridge Golf Course
YAT Project No.	5831
Report status	Draft for comment
Type of Project	Watching Brief
Client	URS (now AECOM)
NGR	NGR 446662, 425849
Museum Accession No.	Unknown
OASIS Identifier	yorkarch1-201084
Author	Toby Kendall
Illustrations	Toby Kendall
Editor	David Aspden
Report Number and Date	2015/05 27/01/15

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

On the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 an archaeological watching brief took place at Ferrybridge Golf Course (NGR 446662, 425849; Figure 1, site location). The work was undertaken for URS following a specification written by URS in consultation with David Hunter (Senior Archaeological Officer, West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service). The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during Phase 1 (importation of materials) of the project, in compliance with planning condition 16.

The overall area of the development site is 29 hectares, the area covered by the watching brief was approximately 55m x 75m. The results revealed ridge and furrow of unknown date and a backfilled post medieval boundary feature.

A museum accession code is pending and the archive is currently stored by YAT under project code 5831

## 2 METHODOLOGY

The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological features revealed during intrusive groundworks across the site (Figure 2, Works location).

See figure 2 works location.

The principle contractors on site set out the area to be excavated, marking the mid-point of each of the ends of the 'T' shape of the haul road using GPS survey equipment. A 360° wheeled 'rubber duck' excavator fitted with a toothless 6' ditching bucket was used to strip down to the top of natural deposits, or sufficiently firm subsoil.

Whilst the machine stripping was underway, the results were recorded in a site notebook and a series of digital photographs (RAW images) were taken. Recording was in accordance with the methodology described in the York Archaeological Trust Fieldwork Recording Manual (2009).

No finds were retained.

## 3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located to the west of the A1 (M) north-east of Ferrybridge power station (NGR 446662, 425849). The motorway flanks the eastern side of the site whilst the north, west and south are bounded by trees; a little further west are the eastern limits of Castleford.

The development area, 29 hectares in total, is significantly larger than the section observed during the watching brief. A gradual fall from the north and south across the site creates a shallow natural valley or depression.

The geology of the area comprises solid limestone bedrock overlain by glaciofluvial sands and gravels (BGS).

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological and historical background of the site has been covered in detail within the written scheme of investigation (see appendix 2). This indicates archaeological remains from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods, with more recent landscaping from the medieval period onwards.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Stripping

Undisturbed natural deposits were encountered at approximately 0.30m–0.40m BGL. The uppermost 0.25-0.30m was recently ploughed agricultural soil, directly on top of natural bedrock or, in deeper areas, up to 0.15m of subsoil remained. The general trend was for the deposit to be deeper in the north-west, the lower point within the shallow natural valley across the site.

The ploughsoil contained abraded pottery indicative of medieval or later manuring across the site.

### 5.2 Features

#### 5.2.1 *Furrows (plates 1 & 2)*

Ridge and furrow survived as a series of parallel, shallow, linear cuts running approximately east-north-east/west-south-west across the stripped area. These were no deeper than 0.10m as a result of truncation by later ploughing. No finds were recovered. seen.

These features have concordance with linear anomalies detected in the earlier geophysical report and the repeat/close proximity could be explained by the furrow being redefined.

#### 5.2.2 *Backfilled boundary and pit (plate 3)*

A backfilled linear feature, approximately 2m wide, ran north-west/south-east across the eastern extent of the stripped area. This was approximately 2m wide and contained a mixed deposit. The backfill contained post medieval brick.

The location and alignment of this feature also corresponded with a linear anomaly shown on old map data and subsequently interpreted as a backfilled boundary feature in the 2014 geophysical survey report.

#### 5.2.2 *Possible pit (plate 4)*

A possible pit was observed cutting into the backfilled linear (5.2.2 above), where it exited the south side of the haul road. It was in excess of 1.50m on its longest axis and limited excavation suggested relatively steep sides. The backfill contained 19<sup>th</sup> century or later pottery.

## 6 DISCUSSION

The features revealed during the watching brief relate to possibly medieval and later agriculture and landscape alteration, with plough furrows and backfilled boundary feature. These results correlate well with the results of an earlier geophysical survey of the site.

## **LIST OF SOURCES**

British Geological Society. <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

YAT 2009. York Archaeological Trust Fieldwork Recording Manual.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Many thanks to Bryan Haves and the team on site, they were extremely helpful during the process and took time to understand why it was relevant.

## APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE

**Table 1 Index to archive**

Item	Number of items
Context sheets	0
Levels register	0
Photographic register	0
Sample register	0
Drawing register	0
Original drawings	0
B/W photographs (films/contact sheets)	0
Colour slides (films)	0
Digital photographs	20
Written Scheme of Investigation	1
Report	1



## APPENDIX 2 – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

### APPENDIX 3 – PHOTOGRAPHS



**Plate 1 Possible furrows facing west-south-west**



**Plate 2 Possible furrows facing east-north-east**



**Plate 3 Backfilled boundary feature facing north-west. Scale unit 0.1m.**



**Plate 4 Possible pit facing south. Scale unit 0.1m.**

APPENDIX 4 – FIGURES

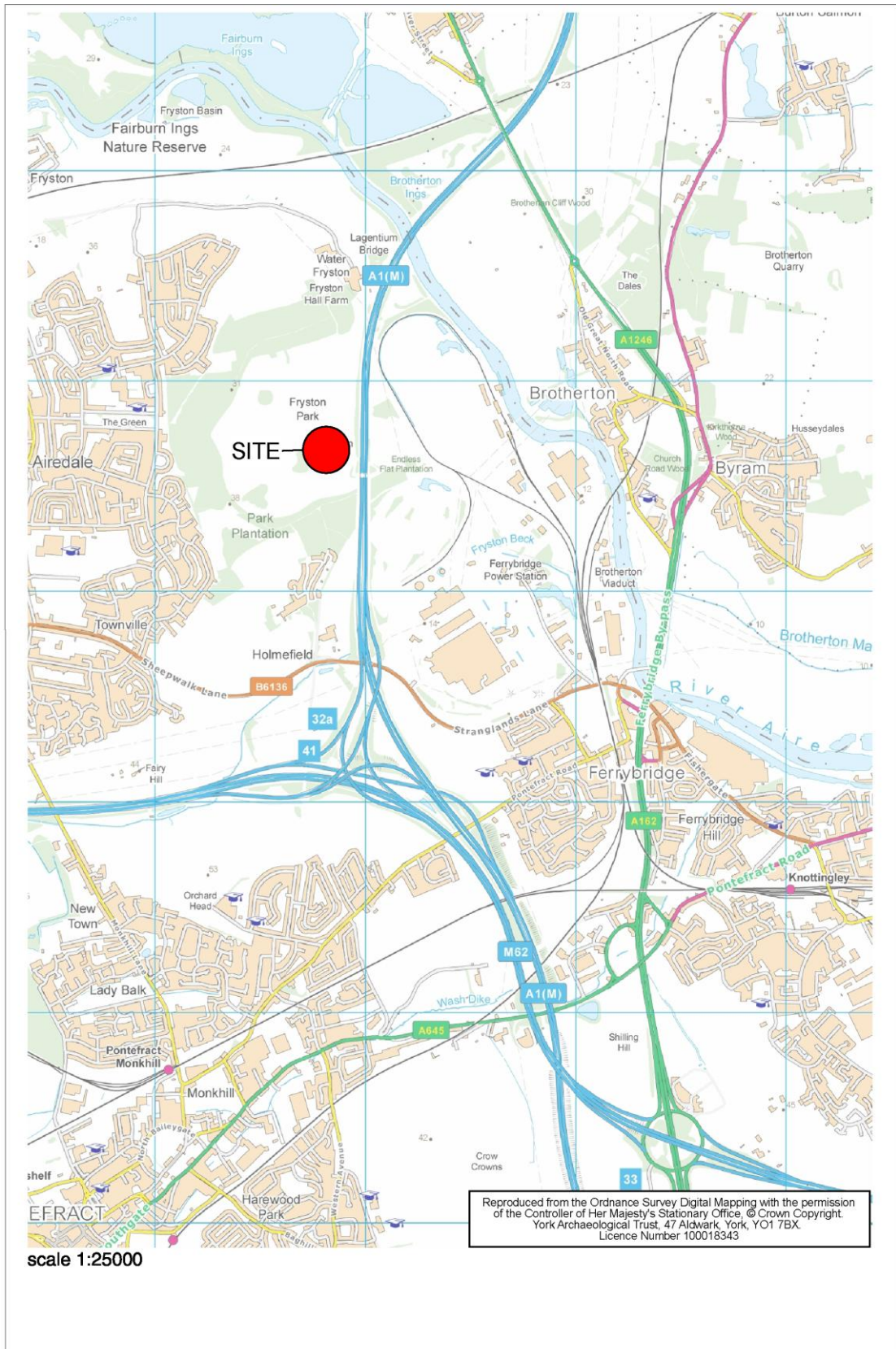


Figure 1: Site Location

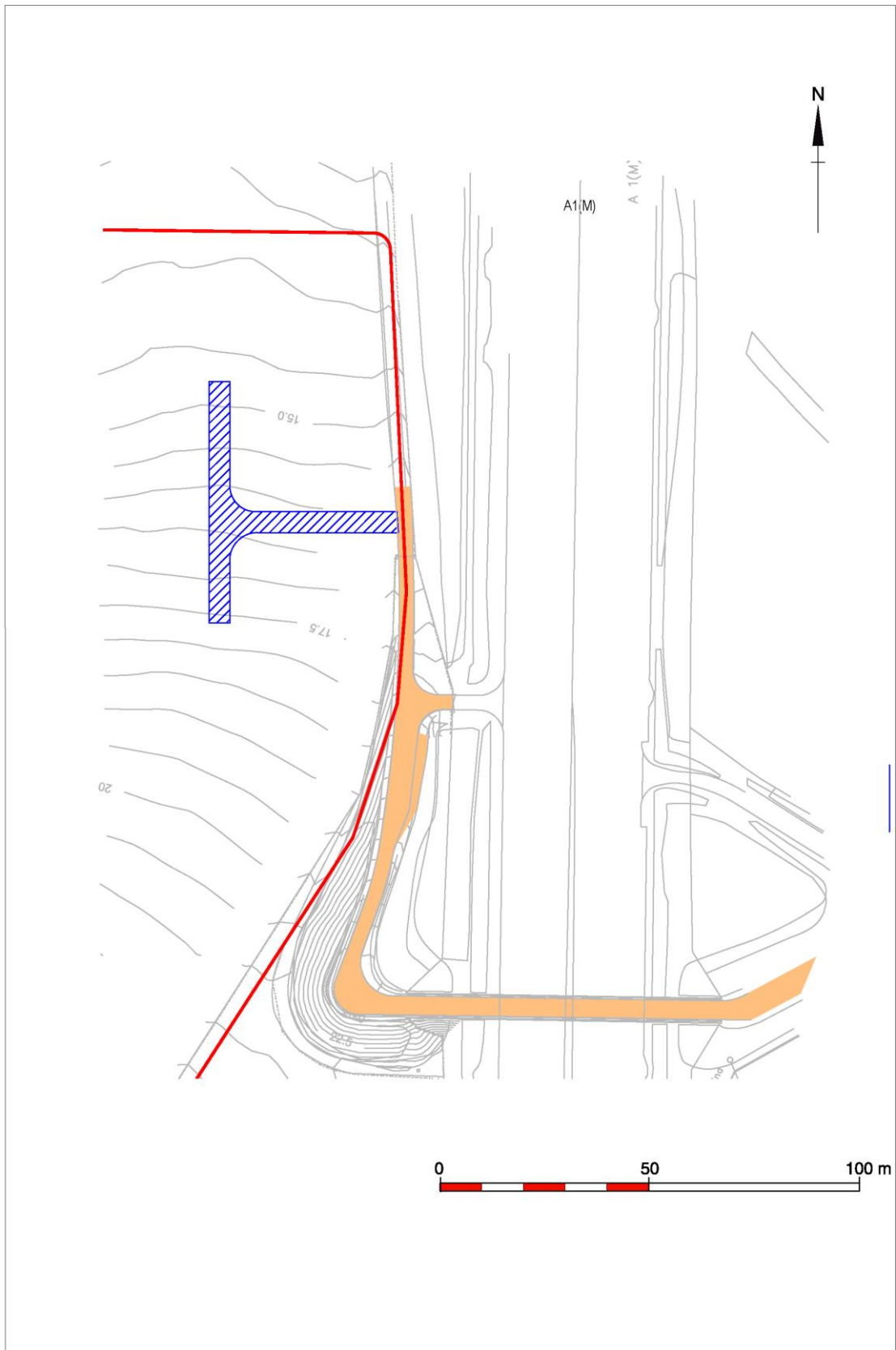


Figure 2: Works Location  
After drawing no.47071255-P-111