



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE	1 Hillcrest, Holtby, York		
CLIENT NAME	Mr. G. Millington		
YAT PROJECT #	5862	YAT REPORT #	2015/20
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	NA	GRID REFERENCE	SE 67443 54116
PLANNING REFERENCE #	15/00761/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	NA

A watching brief was undertaken at 1 Hillcrest, Holtby, York, by York Archaeological Trust on 5/8/2015, to observe the excavation of foundation trenches for a house extension.

1 Hillcrest is located on the south-western side of the street, and the house is 120m south-west of the village church (Figure 1). The long-axis of the house is aligned north-west to south-east. The foundation trenches for the extension were located to the south-east, south-west and north-west of the house, i.e. the rear, one side and the front of the property (Figure 2). All the trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a JCB mini-excavator with a 0.7m wide bucket, and all the trenches were approximately 0.7m deep.

At the rear of the house (the area of the proposed sitting room) there was a strip approximately 0.9m wide that had been the site of a concrete path. This path had been removed prior to the watching brief. The remainder of the area to the rear of the house was a garden, mainly lawned, but with the grass removed in places. The area of the proposed study comprised a concrete slab from a former room which was being left *in situ*. This slab will eventually be built over. The area of the proposed utility room formerly comprised a garage. The garage and its associated concrete slab floor had been demolished prior to the watching brief, but the garage wall foundations remained in place below ground level. The area at the front of the house, i.e. the front wall of the proposed utility room, was garden. A man-hole associated with water/sewage drains was present on the south western side of the house, as was a gas supply pipe.

The trenches were excavated in the following order (locations indicated on Figure 2)

- A) a 3m long trench on a north-west/south-east alignment forming the north-western side of the proposed study
- B) a 9m long trench on a north-east to south-west alignment, parallel to and 3m south-east of the rear wall of the present house
- C) a 12m long trench on a north-west/south-east alignment parallel to and 3m south-west of the south-western wall of the present house
- D) a 3.3, long trench on a north-east/south-west alignment forming the front wall of the proposed utility room

The earliest deposit seen in all of the trenches was light orange brown sandy clay (Context 1008) with very occasional small angular stones up to 0.05m in size. This deposit subtly changed over the observed area, having a higher clay content at the front of the house, and being sandier at the rear. The upper surface of the natural was at 0.5-0.7m below the present ground level.

The natural was sealed by a deposit of light orange-brown to mid-brown sandy clay (Context 1007) up to 0.5m thick. There were no artefacts within this, and it was either glacial in origin, or could represent a post-glacial build-up of soil. It was clearly not the result of human occupation.

In Trench C (the area of the proposed study and utility room) Context 1007 was truncated and disturbed by modern features relating to the present house. There was a deposit of clinker (Context 1006) the upper surface of which was 0.45m below ground level, and this was located 0.69m north-west of the southern end of the trench. This was clearly part of a modern construction cut backfill which had just been clipped in the south-western side of the foundation trench.

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FINDS	None	SAMPLES	None	PHOTOS	9
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A brick manhole (Context 1005) 0.83m long and 0.6m deep was located 3m north-west of the southern end of Trench C. Three pipes led into this manhole, two of which were still connected to the present house, but one of which was not. A length of unattached ceramic pipe was removed by the machine close to the man hole. Just to the north of the manhole there was a connection box for a gas supply pipe. The associated yellow plastic pipe (Context 1004) was very shallow being between 0.2-0.4m below ground level. This pipe was moved out of the way to enable excavation of the foundation trench to continue. The brick and concrete footings of the former garage (Context 1003) were partially removed at the northern end of Trench C.

In trenches A and B the uppermost deposit seen was turf and topsoil 0.15m thick (Context 1000). In Trench C the upper surface was a gravel path above a membrane (Context 1001). In trench D the uppermost deposit was garden-soil (Context 1002).

All the deposits seen were either of natural origin, or related to the construction of the present house. Nothing of archaeological interest was present.

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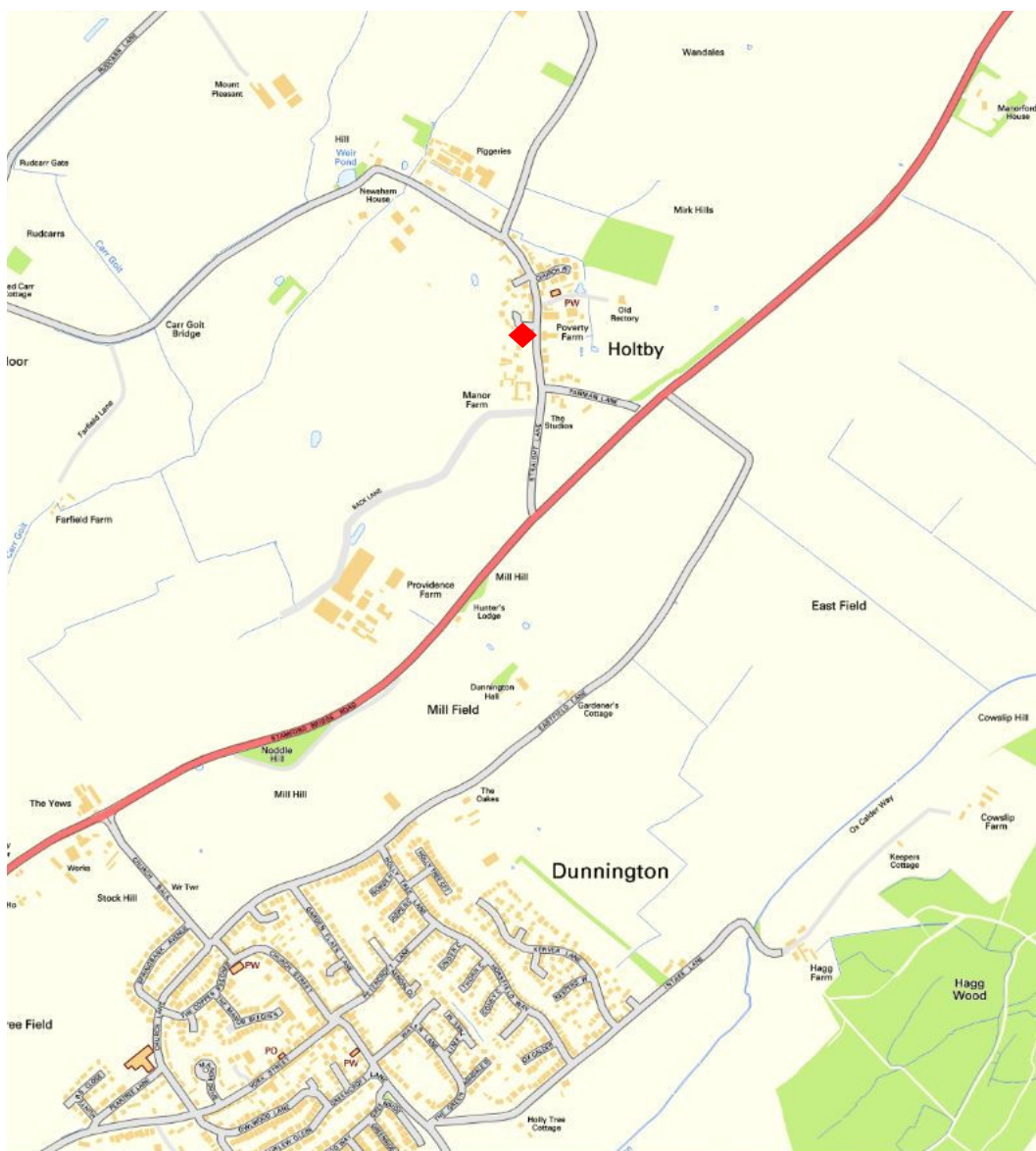


Figure 1 The location of the site (in red)

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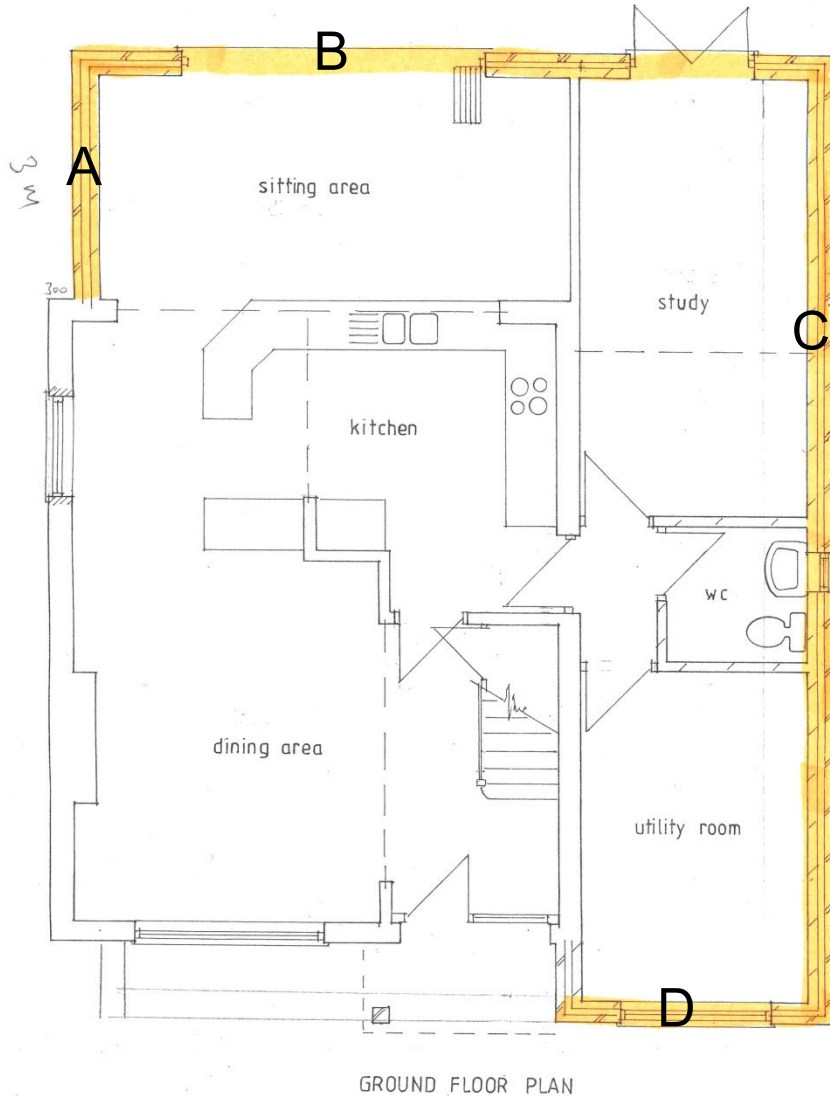


Figure 2 The observed area (highlighted in yellow). Not to scale. Developer supplied plan

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Plate 1 Trench A facing north-west, showing Contexts 1007-8. Scale unit 0.1m



Plate 2 Trench B facing south-west showing Contexts 1000 and 1007-8. Scale unit 0.1m.

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Plate 3 The area of the former garage and concrete slab of the former utility room to the south-west of the present house



Plate 4. Context 1006 facing south-west. Scale unit 0.1m

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Plate 5 Manhole 1006 facing south-east. Scale unit 0.1m



Plate 6. Trench C facing north-west, showing the gas connection box and Context 1001.

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Plate 7 Careful exposure of the gas connection pipe facing north-west



Plate 8 Trench C facing south-east shoeing Context 1003 along the left side of the trench.
Scale unit 0.2m

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Plate 9 Excavation of Trench D facing north-east.

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