

YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT



SITE	21 Nethergate, Nafferton, East Riding of Yorkshire		
CLIENT NAME	Gareth Timmins		
YAT PROJECT #	5865	YAT REPORT #	2015/40
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	TA 0599 5894
PLANNING REFERENCE #	DC/14/01214/PLF/EASTNNPP-03315424	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

On 13th August 2015 York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at 21 Nethergate, Nafferton (Figure 1). Observed groundworks included the excavation of two foundation trenches for a two storey extension to the rear of the existing house and the excavation of test pit on the south-east side of the building where a single story extension is to be built (Figure 2). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits, features or buried structures exposed by the groundworks. The site lies within the proposed conservation area for Nafferton and close to an area where recent archaeological monitoring has identified early medieval activity.

A four-ton tracked mechanical excavator was utilised for excavation, undertaken by the site contractors. A 0.4m wide toothed ditching bucket was used for the excavation of the test pit, a 0.6m wide toothed bucket used to excavate the foundation trenches.

Recording was undertaken by means of annotated section drawings and plans. The photographic record includes 35mm format black and white and colour slide supplemented with digital photographs in both jpg and RAF formats. No artefacts were recovered and no samples were taken.

RESULTS

Double storey extension foundation trenches

On the north-east side of the existing house two foundation trenches were excavated with a four-ton tracked mechanical excavator using a 0.6m wide toothed bucket. Top soil had been removed prior to excavation of the trenches. The north-west/south-east aligned trench was 6.2m in length and approximately 1.5m deep, the north-east/south-west aligned trench measured 4.7m long and approximately 2m in depth. Both trenches were 0.6m wide. The trenches converged to form an L shape giving an excavated area of approximately 6.5m² (Plate 1).

The depositional sequence exposed in both trenches was broadly similar. At the top was a 0.23m deep layer of sub soil. This overlay natural deposits of clay and sandy clay containing chalk fragments that ranged to depths of between 0.72m and 1.22m BGL (Below Ground Level). Below this the remaining depth of excavation exposed undisturbed natural clay. No archaeological material was observed during the course of excavation, and no intrusive features were identified following inspection of the exposed trench sides (Plate 2).

Test pit

In a planting border close to the south-east boundary of the property a test pit measuring 1.2m long 0.4m wide and 1.5m deep had been excavated. This revealed a 0.4m depth of top soil containing occasional concrete and brick fragments. Underlying this, to a depth of 0.58m BGL, was a deposit of chalk fragments containing a ceramic land drain. Natural deposits extended below the layer of chalk. The sequence of natural deposits mirrored that seen in the foundation trenches. From 0.53 to 1.04m BGL was a layer of clay and sandy clay containing chalk fragments below which undisturbed natural clay

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FINDS	No	SAMPLES	No	PHOTOS	Yes
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extended for the remaining depth of excavation (Plate 3). No archaeological deposits were observed in the sections of the test pit.

Additional ground works

Additional groundworks included a slight ground reduction on the south-east and north-west sides of the house for a single storey extension and covered walkway respectively. Service trenching took place at the rear of the house extending around part of and lying close to the double storey extension.

After consultation with Ruth Atkinson of Humber Archaeology Partnership, these groundworks were not observed. The depths of excavation to the sides of the house were unlikely to extend beyond 0.3m below the current ground level. The depth of top soil seen in the test pit indicated a minimal impact of the necessary groundwork on the south-east side. In addition service trenching was unlikely to encounter anything other than the continuation of sub soils and undisturbed natural deposits exposed in the foundation trenches.

DISCUSSION

No archaeologically significant deposits were exposed by the groundworks.

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Plate 1: General view of the double storey extensions foundation trenches facing north. Scale unit 0.5m.



Plate 2: North-east facing section of north-west/south-east aligned foundation trench. Scale unit 0.5m.

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Plate 3: South-east facing section of test pit. Scale units 0.5m.

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Fig. 1 Site location

■ Archaeological excavation

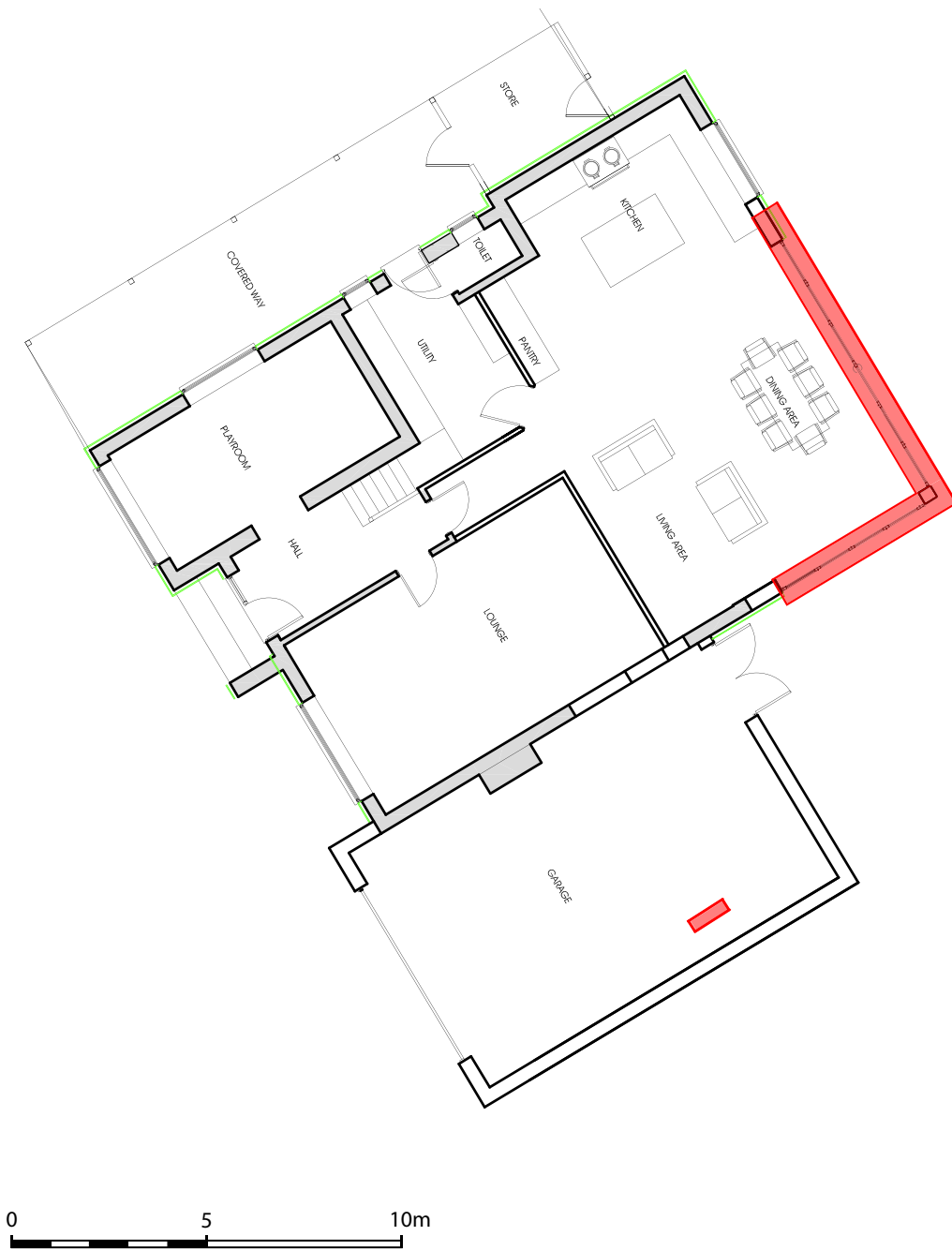


Fig. 2 Excavation areas