



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE	The Old Barn Earswick		
CLIENT NAME	Mr R Haigh		
YAT PROJECT #	5889	YAT REPORT #	2016/9
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	NGR SE 6253, 5801
PLANNING REFERENCE #	15/01652/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

On 4th February 2016, York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at The Old Barn, Earswick, York. The objective was to record any deposits, features or buried structures exposed during works associated with the opening of a trench for the concrete raft foundation of a single storey extension to a barn conversion on the site. The site lies within the City of York Area of Archaeological Importance.

The works involved the observation of the turf stripping and topsoil removal over the footprint of the extension and the digging of a deeper section along the north edge of the footprint excavated for building inspection purposes. The stripping was begun by the contractor on site at 10.00am and the works were completed by 11.15am

These works were monitored by an inspection visit starting when groundworks commenced. Such recording as required was undertaken by means of written notes and colour digital photographs. No artefacts were recovered and no samples were taken.

RESULTS

The turf and topsoil across the footprint of the extension was removed by a JCB tracked mini excavator fitted with a 0.75m toothless bucket for removing topsoil, turf and loose, with a 0.3m toothed bucket for breaking up the hardcore. The exposed area was 6m long, 3.5m wide and the topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.25m. The inspection sondage was cut to a depth of 0.4m along the north edge of the trench. The spoil was inspected during removal and following completion of the excavation, a walk over of the trench took place.

The topsoil immediately below the turf was a yellow-brown silty clay with occasional flecks of burnt organic material, crushed CBM flecks and small rounded pebbles. This deposit overlay c.0.15m of mixed clays and brick/tile rubble with occasional fragments of plastic sheet. This in turn overlay a hardcore foundation of rubble. concrete, brick and aggregate within a lime based matrix. Increasing amounts of brick rubble and clay were observed towards the base of this deposit which coincided with the depth of the sondage dug for building inspection purposes. Apart from the brick/tile fragments, no artefactual material was observed. No features were observed in plan or section and the exposed sequence was uniform across the whole of the trench. No archaeological deposits were present or disturbed either by the current groundworks or those created in advance of the agricultural building occupying the area of the footprint and demolished in the late 20th century.

DISCUSSION

The sequence is characteristic of yard foundations associated with agricultural outbuildings. It is understood that until relatively recently an outbuilding with a concrete floor occupied the area within and beyond the footprint of the proposed extension and the hardcore exposed is consistent with that used for the foundations for such a structure. No walls, drains or other features were observed. The upcast contained no finds or artefactual material to indicate occupation in the area, other than that derived from the demolished outbuilding. Though it remains a possibility that archaeological deposits may be present at a greater depth, the current development does not affect their survival.

COMPLETED BY	SJ Allen	CHECKED BY	ID Milsted	FINISHED	08/02/16
FINDS	0	SAMPLES	0	PHOTOS	Yes
				PAGE	1 of 4

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Plate 1: Excavated trench looking SW.



Plate 2. Sondage for Building Inspection looking NW. Scale Bars 1m in 0.5m divisions

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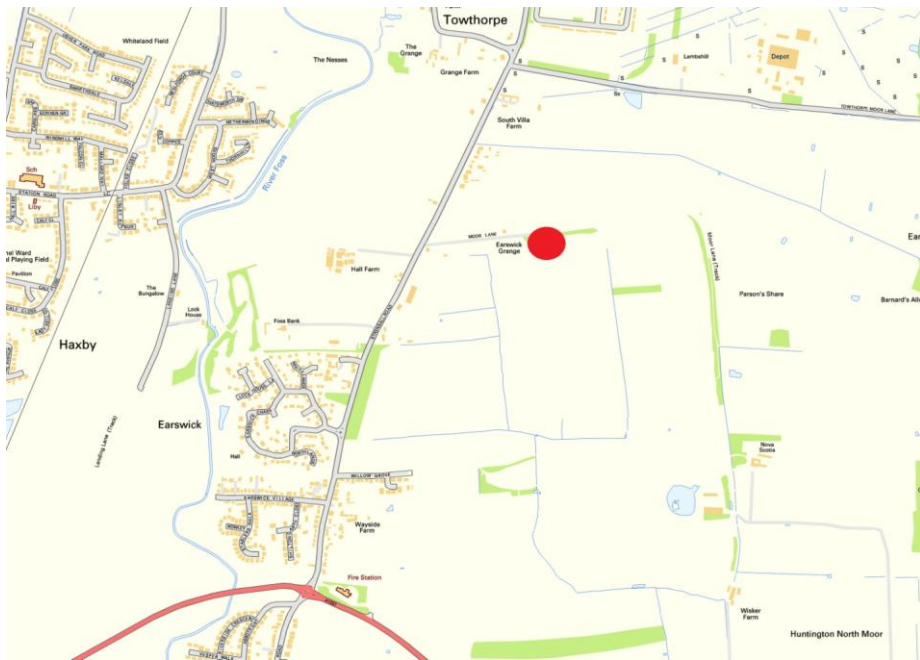


Figure 1. Location of The Old Barn, Earswick, Project 5889 (Not to scale)

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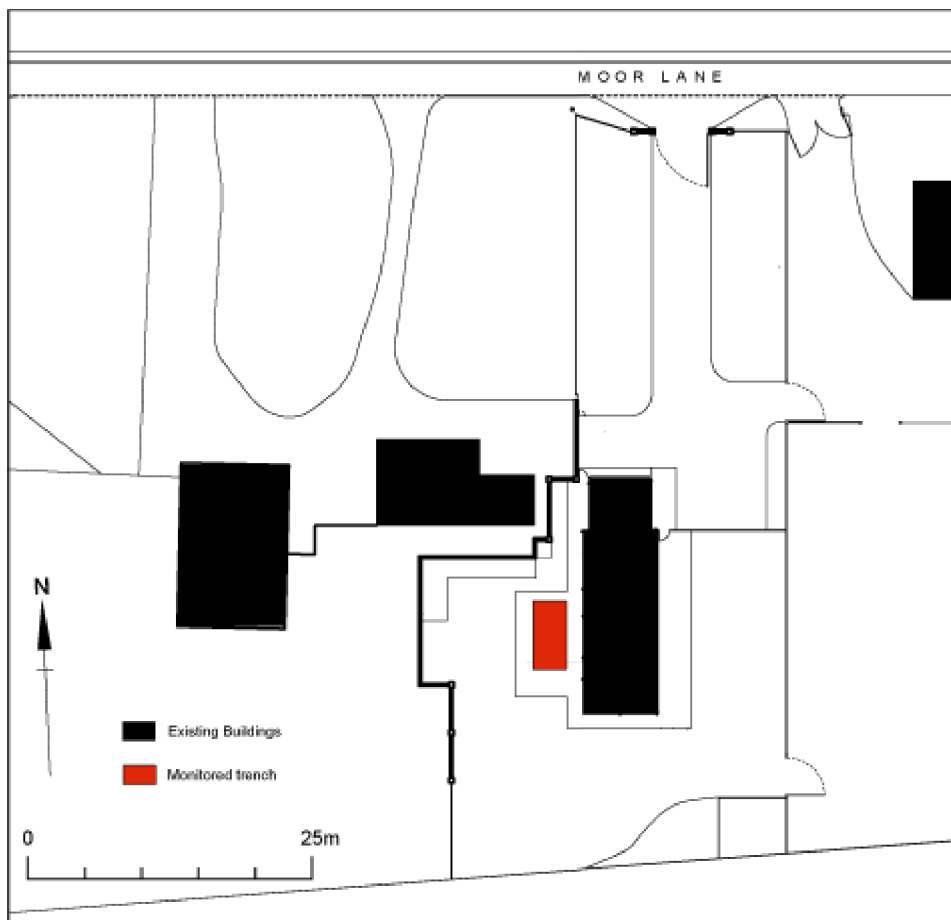


Figure 2. Location of Monitored works. Base from plan supplied by client originated by JSP Planning and Design,

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