



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE	Westwood Lane Farm, Askham Bryan, York		
CLIENT NAME	Mr Giles Chaplin, Lister Haigh Ltd for Mr Walker of Westwood Lane Farm		
YAT PROJECT #	5989	YAT REPORT #	2017/??
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	NGR SE 5461 4843
PLANNING REFERENCE #	16/02876/FUL	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

On 10th July 2017, York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at Westwood Farm, Askham Bryan, York. The objective was to record any deposits, features or buried structures exposed during works associated with the opening of 0.9m deep, 0.6m wide trenches for footings required for a new build residential property.

The works involved observation of the excavation of the footing trenches and recording of the sequence and any features exposed in the course of the works as per the Written Scheme of Investigation. The vegetation and pasture topsoil immediately over the footprint of the property had been removed by machine immediately prior to 19th July and the lines of the proposed trenches marked out. The long east footing trench was excavated commencing 8.30am and the return and length of the north wall footing trench (and chimney breast) completed. Excavation of the footing trench at the south end of the building was begun. Continuous observation of the footing trenches was stopped at this point.

Stripping of the turf and excavation of the footing trenches was undertaken with a Doosan DX60R tracked 360° excavator fitted with a 0.6m wide toothed bucket, owing to the composition of the deposit being removed.

Recording was undertaken by means of written notes, measured sketch plans and sections, and colour digital photographs. No accessionable artefacts were recovered and no samples were taken

RESULTS

The earliest deposit recorded on site was (02) the brownish yellow mixed clays, sands, silts, gravels and larger rounded cobbles forming the local subsoil, continuing below the limit of excavation to an unknown depth. This had been cut towards the south end of the footprint by (03) a narrow trench for the laying of a ceramic field drain (04, filled with 05- disturbed and redeposited subsoil) running SE-NW, within living memory. The whole area was covered to a depth of up to 0.25m with (01) the greyish dark yellow brown turf and topsoil forming the current pasture.

A walkover of the exposed area before the start of machining on the 10th July and observation of the spoil heap revealed no cut features and no artefactual material. No features were exposed in the excavated sections apart from the field drain mentioned above. No artefactual material, apart from fragments of the ceramic pipe from the said field drain, was present.

DISCUSSION

No archaeological features or evidence for activity was observed during this watching brief other than the creation of a field drain sometime in the mid-twentieth century. No archaeological deposits or features were disturbed in the course of the works and the deposits exposed have been fully recorded. No samples were required and no significant artefacts were recovered.

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FINDS	0	SAMPLES	0	PHOTOS	5	PAGE	1 of 8

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Plate 1: Stripped site looking north, as seen on arrival



Plate 2. East footing trench, fully excavated, looking south. Scales 1m.

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Plate 3. North wall footings for chimney stack looking south-west. Scales: 1m



Plate 4. Detail of sequence exposed in east footing trench, looking south. Scale: 1m

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Plate 5. Overall view of site at end of monitoring, looking SW. Scale 1m

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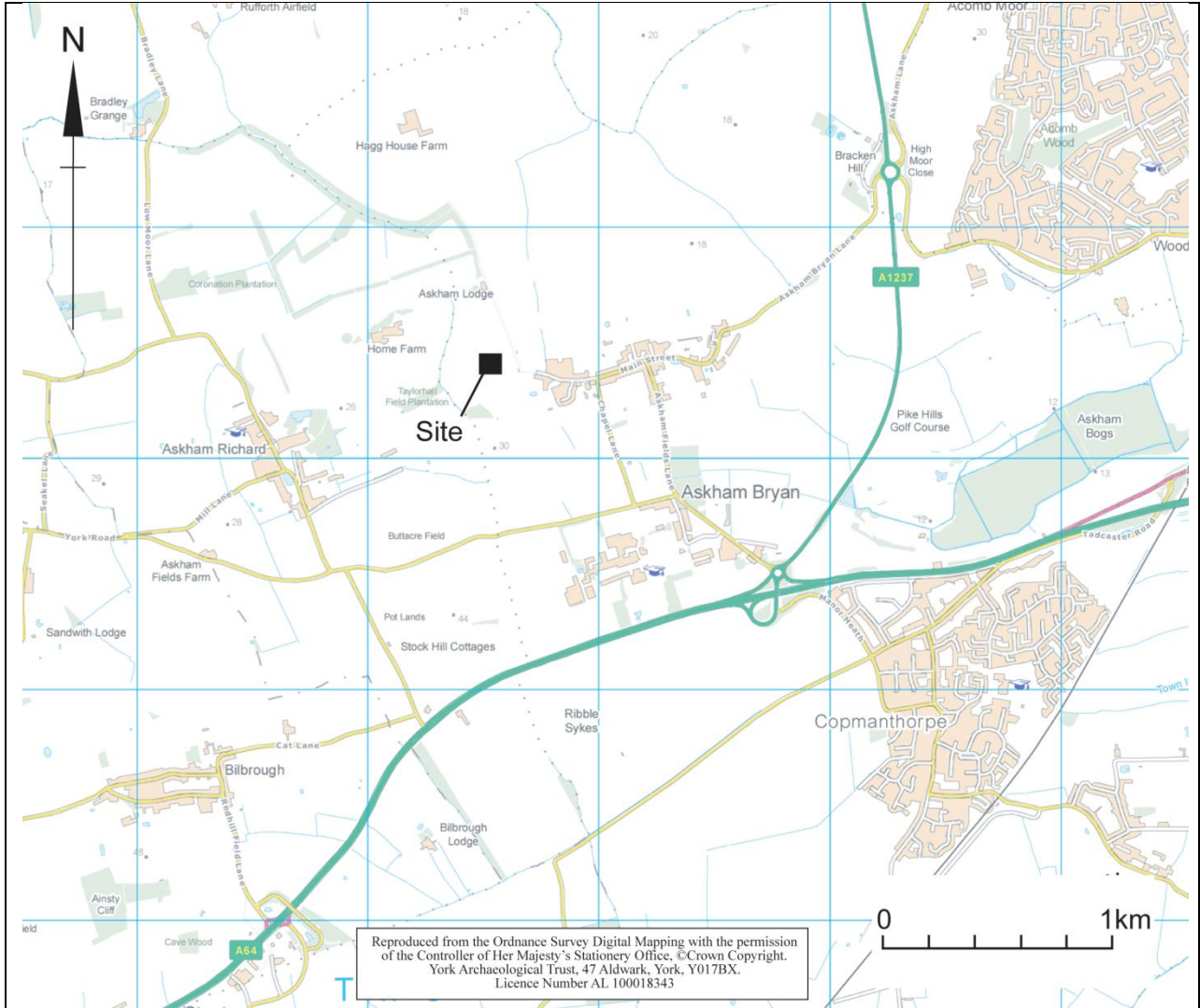


Figure 1. Westwood Farm, Askham Bryan. Site location relative to York.

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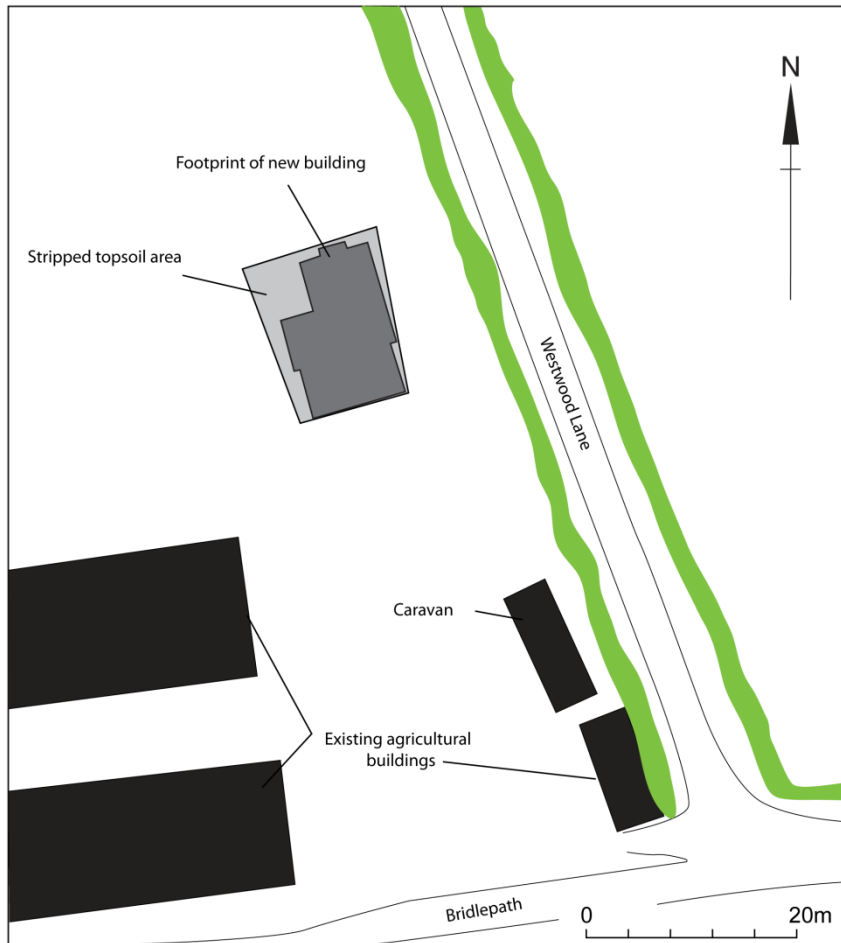


Figure 2. Westwood Farm, Askham Bryan. Site location relative to existing structures.

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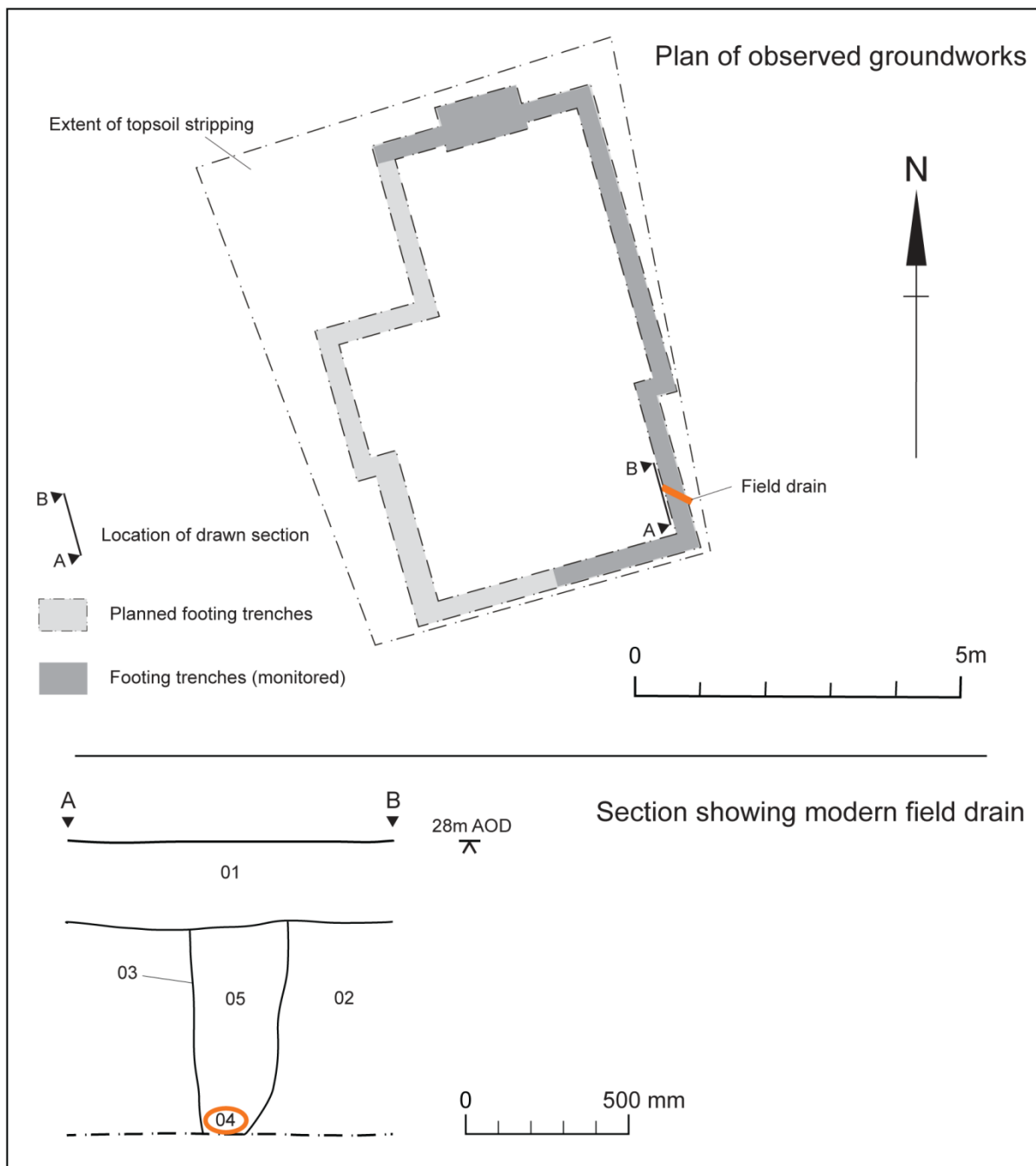


Figure 3. Westwood Farm. Extent of groundworks, observed trenches and sketch section showing field drain.

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