



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

SITE	Chilton House, Seaton Ross, YO42 4LT, East Yorkshire		
CLIENT NAME	Shona Underwood		
YAT PROJECT #	5978	YAT REPORT #	2017/84
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 7818 4117
PLANNING REFERENCE #	DC/17/00224	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

Introduction

On the 18th of September 2017 a watching brief took place during the excavation of a strip foundation for an extension to the rear of Chilton House, Seaton Ross (**Figure 1**). Ground works involving the strip of the topsoil in the front garden of the property were also monitored.

The watching brief followed an Archaeological Scheme of Investigation, prepared by York Archaeological Trust linked with the planning application (16/01151/FUL) and advice provided by the Humber Archaeological Partnership.

Methodology

A previous structure and associated hard standing on the site had been demolished prior to commencing these works.

A tracked excavator was first used to undertake the topsoil strip within the front garden. These works were being conducted in advance of laying new hard standing and surface material for the new solid yard surface. The excavations within the front yard did not exceed a maximum depth of 250mm (**Plate 1**).



Plate 1: Depth of the topsoil in the front yard

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The excavator was then used to excavate 0.8m wide strip foundation for the proposed extension to the rear of the property (**Figure 2**). These strip foundations were excavated to a depth of approximately 1.1m below ground level.

The deposits encountered were planned on a sheet of permatrace alongside a representative section drawing (**Figure 2, Plate 2**). Digital photographs were taken at intervals during the watching brief.



Plate 2: Oblique view of the strip foundation trench (Visible area drawn in representative section)

The monitoring of these ground works ceased, after consultation with James Goodyear (the Development Control Archaeologist for the East Riding of Yorkshire Council), once it had become apparent that no significant archaeological deposits were going to be disturbed due to either the shallow depth of the intervention (in the front garden) or the presence of modern structural remains and made-ground down to the formation depth (in the back garden).

Results

The strip within the front yard removed the turf and topsoil down to a maximum depth of 250mm. Modern brick fragments and glass was observed within the subsoil revealed beneath the topsoil. The topsoil was a friable, dark greyish brown sandy silt. The contractors were unable to strip the entire

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garden at the time of writing this report due to the need to maintain an access route to their skip.

The strip foundations to the rear of the property encountered modern deposits associated with the standing house and barns that stood on the plot before the houses construction. None of these deposits were assigned context numbers but they will be briefly described here.

At the top of the sequence was either a coarse sand (make up for an already removed patio) or modern demolition material (associated with the demolished extension to the house) which was between 100mm and 200mm thick. The former house extension demolition material overlay the former concrete foundations which were 300mm thick.

These modern deposits overlay a friable, mid brownish grey, subsoil which contained moderately frequent large brick fragments, concrete fragments, salt glazed pipe fragments and mortar fragments. This subsoil varied between 0.6m (beneath the former house extension foundations) and 0.8m thick. A 0.6m wide brick wall, aligned west to east, was encountered within the strip foundation. This wall seems likely to have formed the outer wall of a former barn (**Plates 3 and 4**). The bricks used measured 230mm by 110mm by 70mm and appeared to be modern.



Plate 3: Remnant of modern barn wall which predates current house and garden

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This subsoil or wall remnant overlay naturally occurring, soft to friable, orangish brown slightly clayey sand. These natural deposits were encountered at 0.8m below ground level.

There was slightly more modern disturbance in the north-western corner of the strip foundation due to the presence of an active sewage pipe and its associated service trench.

See **Figure 2** for the layout of excavations and representative section (below).

Discussion & Conclusions

The ground works at Chilton House, Seaton Ross have revealed that the naturally occurring deposits beneath this plot have been heavily disturbed by the construction and subsequent demolition of a complex of barns (**Plate 4**). All that survives of these barns is one very truncated section of wall and a concrete pad (presumably for a wooden or steel upright).



Plate 4: Framed picture showing complex of barns located immediately to the south (right) of the Grade II listed Mains Farm

The more recent construction and demolition of an extension to the currently standing house did not have deep enough foundations to disturb anything other than this barn demolition material. No significant archaeological deposits were encountered and no residual finds were observed during the

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groundwork for the new extension. No further archaeological work is suggested for this site.



Figure 1: Site location

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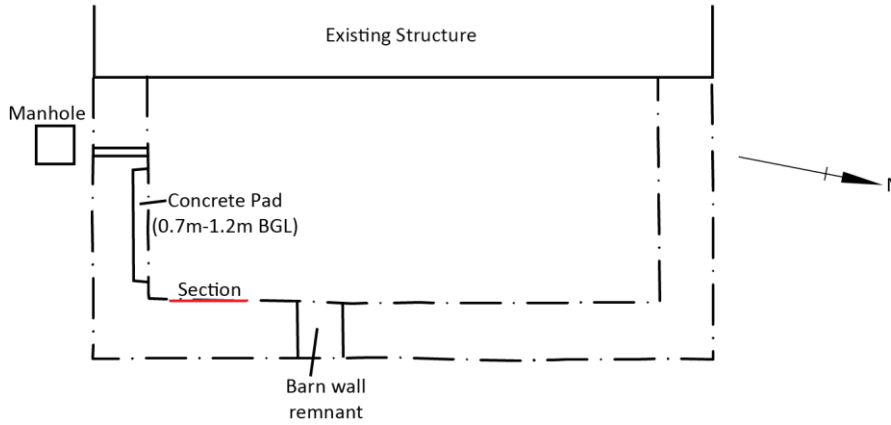
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Strip foundation plan at 1:100 scale



1m long example section, east facing, at 1:10 scale

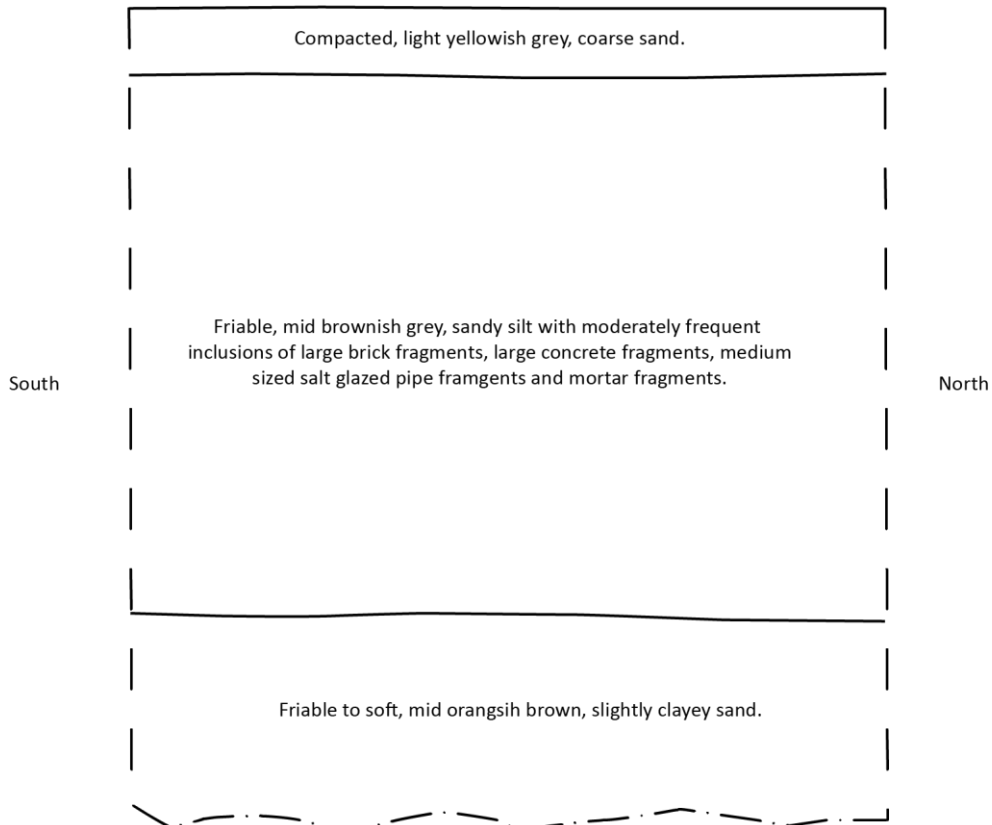


Figure 2: Strip foundation plan and representative section drawing

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