



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| SITE | Millthorpe School, Nunthorpe Avenue, York YO23 1PF | | |
| CLIENT NAME | NetZero Buildings | | |
| YAT PROJECT # | 6154 | YAT REPORT # | 2019/112 |
| MUSEUM ACCESSION # | N/A | GRID REFERENCE | SE 59822 50610 |
| PLANNING REFERENCE # | 18/02168/FUL | AAI OPS NOTICE # | N/A |

INTRODUCTION

A watching brief on ground works for the installation of a two-storey pre-fabricated building was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of NetZero Buildings between 31st July and 5 August 2019 at Millthorpe School, Nunthorpe Avenue, York YO23 1PF, NGR SE 59822 50610 (Figures 1 and 2). The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works.

The site does not lie within an Area of Archaeological Importance or a Conservation Area. Earlier works in the area encountered a small amount of redeposited human bone and field drains (LS Archaeology, 2018).

METHODOLOGY

Prior to archaeological monitoring a temporary classroom building was demolished and removed from the area. The ground works involved excavation in a 300sqm rectangular area in order to install a raft foundation and path. The footprint of the building itself, 20m by 8m approximately, was excavated to a depth of 850mm below the finished floor level. The pathway, a 1.5m boundary around the building, was excavated to 300mm below the finished floor level. Due to the slope on site reducing approximately 1m from north to south, the actual depths reached during excavation varied.

At the northern extent of site, the trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m BGL for the external pathway and 1.6m BGL within the footprint of the building. This reduced to 0.5m BGL towards the southern extent.

The excavation was completed using a 6-tonne tracked excavator with a 1.5m bladed bucket. To remove tree roots a 0.5m bladed bucket was also used.

Recording was completed in the form of notes, sketch sections and digital photographs. No finds were recovered.

RESULTS

A simple stratigraphic sequence was encountered across the site (Plate 1). Natural was encountered at the north extent of site due to height of slope and the depth of the excavations. Natural was not encountered at the southern extent due to relative shallowness of the excavations.

Natural was encountered at 1.1m BGL and consisted of a firm, mid brown sandy silty clay with moderate cobbles (Plate 2). Stratigraphically above natural was a 400mm thick layer of made ground, an orange brown clay with orange sand lenses formed from redeposited natural. The subsoil, 500mm thick, was exposed at 0.2m BGL and comprised a friable, mid greyish brown clayey silt with moderate cobbles and CBM fragments. The sequence was sealed by 200mm of dark brown topsoil with turf (Plate 3).

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The southern half of the excavation area was the location of a previously demolished modern building with rubble remains exposed in the top 150mm of the area. Beneath the rubble the sequence was as in the northern extent of site to a depth of 0.5m BGL (Plate 4). The earliest deposit encountered was the redeposited natural make ground.

There was extensive root disturbance throughout the excavated area.

CONCLUSIONS

No significant archaeology was encountered during the course of the works. The topsoil, subsoil, and built up ground encountered in the northern half of the site were predominantly sterile with a few modern CBM fragments while the southern half was largely rubble demolition material.

Thank you for the assistance of NetZero Buildings and the principal contractor during these works.

REFERENCES

LS Archaeology. 2018. *Millthorpe School: Archaeological Test Pits Report*.

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FIGURES

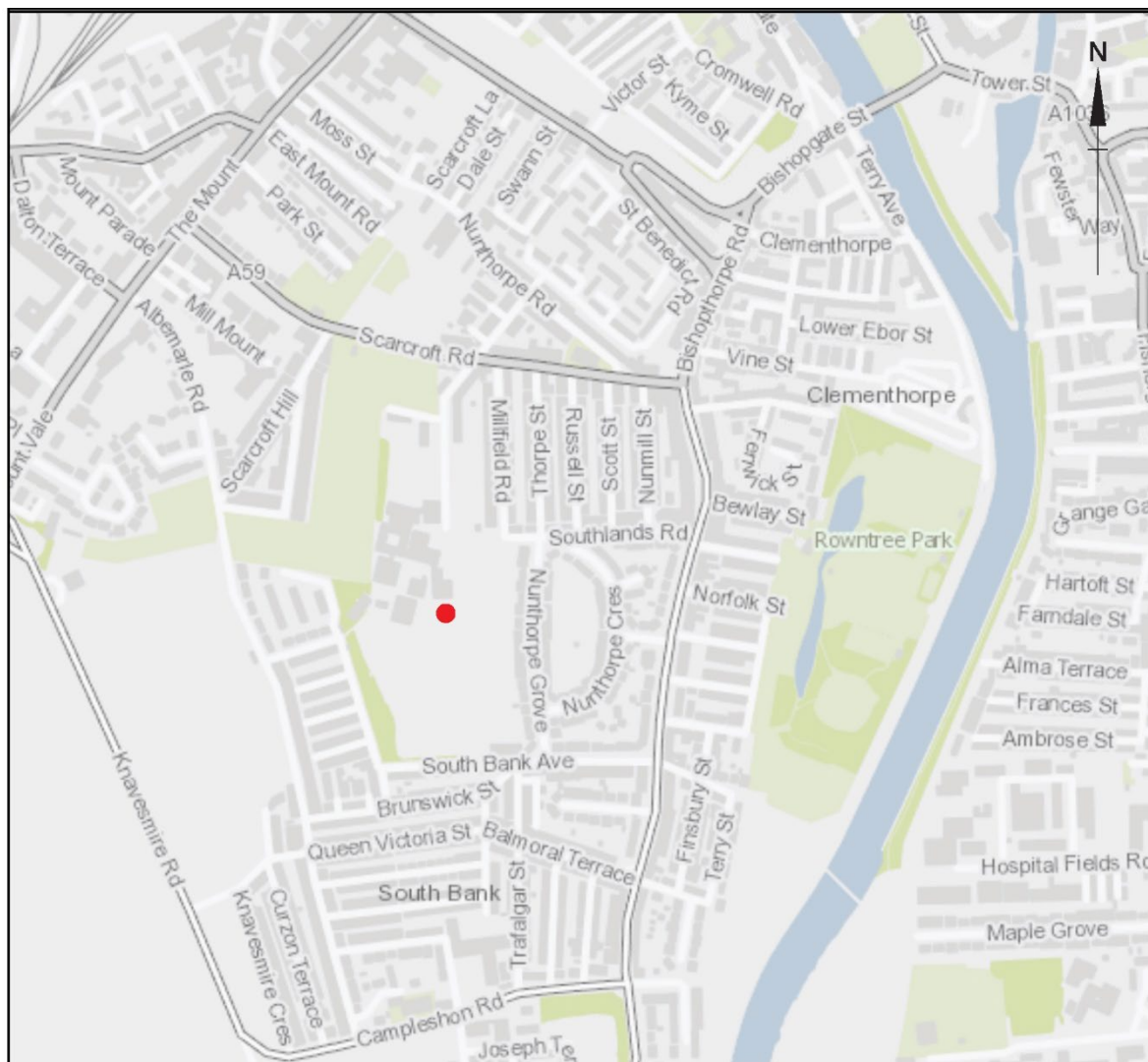


Figure 1 Site Location (1:10,000). Crown copyright reserved. Reproduced with the permission of OS on behalf of HMSO. Licence number 100018343

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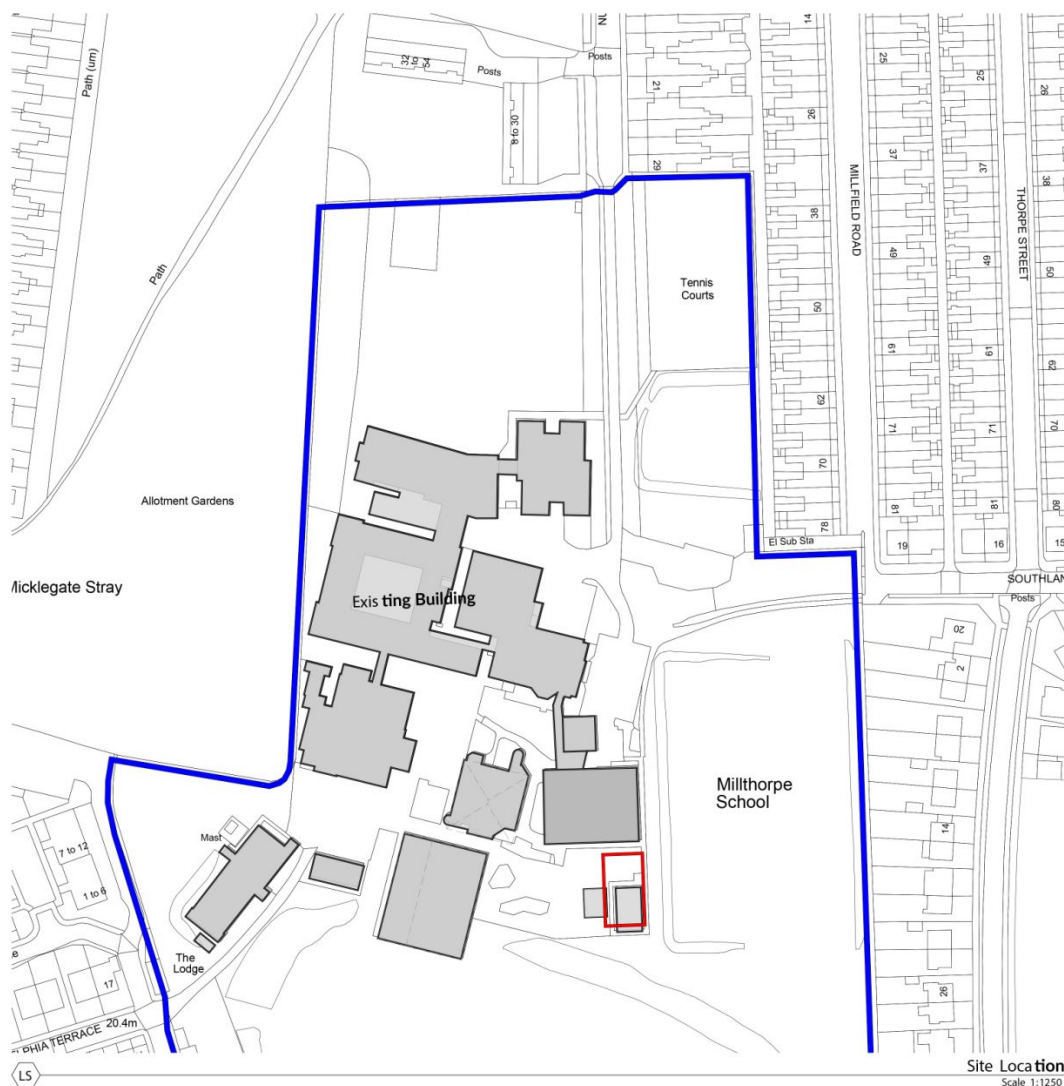


Figure 2 Detailed Site Location. Reproduced from plans provided by the client NetZero with reference to previous demolished building.

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PLATES



Plate 1 General view of site. Looking southeast

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Plate 2 Section within footprint of building. Visible made ground and natural.

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Plate 3 Section illustrating topsoil, subsoil and made ground at the northern extent of site.

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Plate 4 View of the southern extent of site with rubble demolition

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