



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



## Archaeological Monitoring at Glebe Farm, Main Street, Hessay

By Katie Smith

YAT Watching Brief Report 2019/143 September 2019



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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 York Archaeological Trust conducted an archaeological watching brief at Glebe Farm, Main Street, Hessay YO26 8JP (SE 5156 5329).

The work was undertaken for Lister Haigh to fulfil a planning condition from the City of York Council (16/02202/FUL). The work was based on a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by YAT. The works involved the monitoring of a 20m by 35m area machine strip.

The only archaeological remains at the site were several shallow and heavily disturbed furrows. No finds were recovered from these features and nothing else of archaeological interest was present at the site.

## KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Glebe Farm, Main Street, Hessay YO26 8JP
YAT Project No.	5964
Document Number	2019/143
Type of Project	Watching Brief
Client	Lister Haigh
Planning Application No.	16/02202/FUL
NGR	SE 5156 5329
Museum Accession No.	N/A
OASIS Identifier	yorkarch1-368508

## REPORT INFORMATION

Version	Produced by		Edited by		Approved by	
	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date
1	KS	25/09/19	IDM	30/09/19	IDM	30/09/19

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 YAT carried out a watching brief at Glebe Farm, Main Street Hessay YO26 8JP (SE 5156 5329) (Figure 1 Site Location).

The work was undertaken for Lister Haigh to fulfil a planning condition from CYC (16/02202/FUL).

## 2 METHODOLOGY

The methodology followed the WSI (Appendix 2). An area approximately 20m by 35m was excavated using a 21 tonne tracked machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The area was stripped of 300mm-400mm of topsoil to expose the natural geological deposits. An archaeologist was present for all ground works, and took notes and digital photographs throughout.

## 3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located at Glebe Farm, Hessay, 750m west of the centre of the village on Main Street. The development site is in a field immediately west of the farm buildings, bounded to the north and west by fields, and by Main Street to the south.

The geology of the site comprises underlying bedrock of the Sherwood Sandstone Group – Sandstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 232 to 237 million years ago in the Triassic and Permian Periods when the local environment was dominated by rivers. Above this the superficial deposits across the site vary between the Alne Glaciolacustrine Formation of clays and silts, and the Brighton Sand Formation of sands, silts and gravels. Both are superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by ice age conditions (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed: 25/09/19). Due to the clayey nature of the natural encountered in the 20m by 35m excavation area, it is clear that these works were located in the superficial deposits of the Alne Glaciolacustrine Formation only (clays and silts).

The site is generally flat, with some ridge and furrow visible in the field directly west of the works area. The site sits at approximately 15m above sea level, and slopes slightly downwards to the north and south.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological background is taken from section four of the WSI (Appendix 2)

**4.1** Roman: The Roman road from York (*Eboracum*) to Aldborough (*Isurium Brigantum*), designated Road 9 by the Royal Commission (RCHME, 2) passes the site 1.2km to the north-west. There is some limited potential for Roman archaeology to be present associated with a settlement or farmstead beside the road.

**4.2** Medieval: The village is recorded in Domesday and may have earlier origins. The area contains a substantial quantity of broad ridge and furrow cultivation, indicative of medieval agriculture, although much of it will have been truncated by modern agriculture. There is potential for this

to survive on the development site, along with evidence for the early history of Glebe Farm itself.

- 4.3** Historical Background: On the Ordnance Survey 1885-1900 one inch map a 'Smithy' is present on the site of the current farmhouse. The land around the 'Smithy' appears to be open farmland. There may be material pertaining to this land use uncovered in the area of works (<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=5&lat=56.0000&lon=-4.0000&layers=1&right=BingHyb> Accessed: 26/09/19).

## **5 RESULTS**

### **5.1 Modern**

- 5.1.1 Three modern gravel topped field drains ran NW – SE across the works area (Plate 1). There was also a modern test pit (landowner pers. com.) roughly central to the works area.

### **5.2 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

- 5.2.1 Several circular ceramic field drains were found running E – W across the site. In most cases they had been dug through the old medieval furrows that ran on the same alignment (Plates 2 and 3).

### **5.3 Undated Features (Possibly Medieval to Post Medieval)**

- 5.3.1 A total of five E – W aligned shallow furrows were uncovered during the works. They ranged in width from 0.72m to 1.40m and in depth from 0.60m to 0.11m. Two of the five furrows were excavated and the profiles showed they were very shallow with ephemeral edges. The fill consisted of a friable mid greyish brown silty sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small stones. In the two excavated furrows (Plates 2 and 3) more recent ceramic field drains ran through them on the same alignment. No pottery was recovered from any of the furrows, so it is unclear what period they are from.

## **6 SUMMARY**

The only archaeological remains encountered during the works were the five furrows. They were shallow, with heavy root disturbance and plough damage. No finds were recovered from these features and so their date of origin is unknown. The irregular spacing limits the opportunity for morphological dating; it is possible that this field contains a medieval, broad-spaced system, overlain by a later system, but given the level of agricultural truncation, this cannot be proven. Nothing thought to be associated with the 'Smithy' mentioned on the 1885 map was encountered during the works. The site works removed all material down to the natural geological deposits and no other archaeological remains were present.

## **REFERENCES**

British Geological Survey. Available at: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>

Ordnance Survey 1885 One-Inch Map. Available at: <http://www.maps.nls.uk>

RCHME, 1962. 'Eboracum: Volume 1 of the Inventory of the Historical Monuments in the City of York'.

**APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE**

Item	Number of items
Context sheets	N/A
Levels register	N/A
Photographic register	N/A
Sample register	N/A
Drawing register	N/A
Original drawings	N/A
B/W photographs (films/contact sheets)	N/A
Colour slides (films)	N/A
Digital photographs	25
Written Scheme of Investigation	1
Report	1

**Table 1 Index to archive**

## PLATES

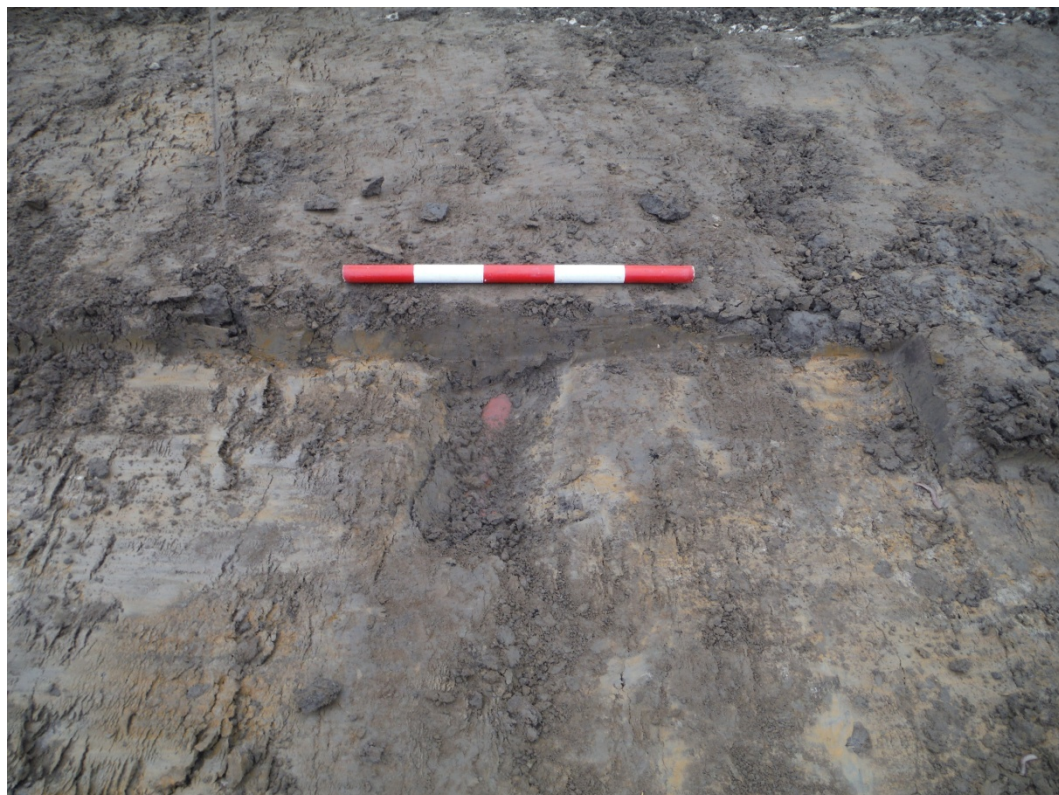


**Plate 5 View looking West showing furrows running top to bottom of plate, and modern gravel drains running diagonally across plate.**





**Plate 6 Section 1 through a furrow, looking East. A ceramic field drain is visible to the left of the slot. Scale 50cm.**



**Plate 7 Section to through a furrow, looking West. A ceramic field drain is visible in the centre of the slot. Scale 50cm.**



**Plate 8 General area shot looking South West showing final stripped area.**

FIGURES

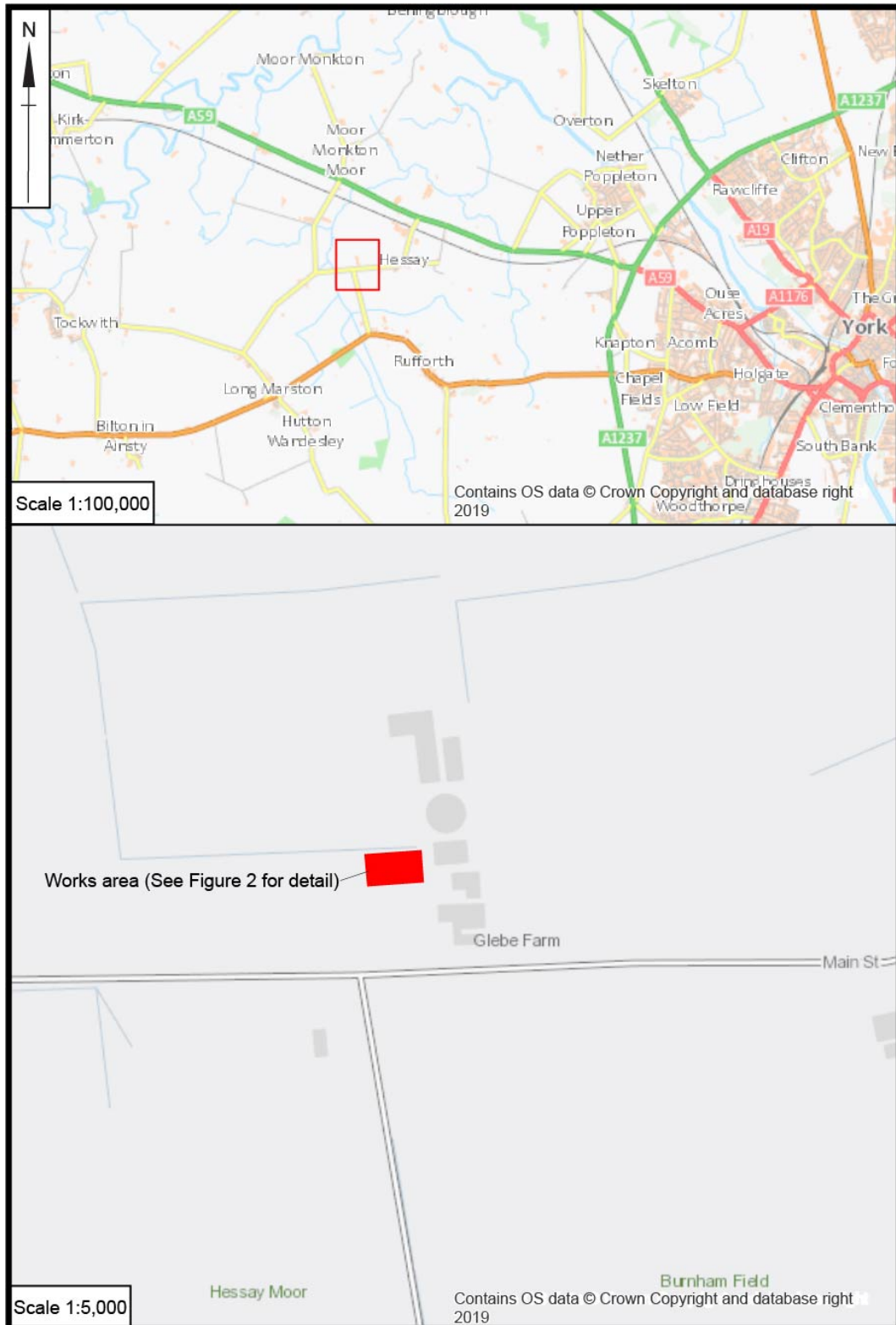


Figure 2 Site Location plan at 1:100,000 and 1:5,000.

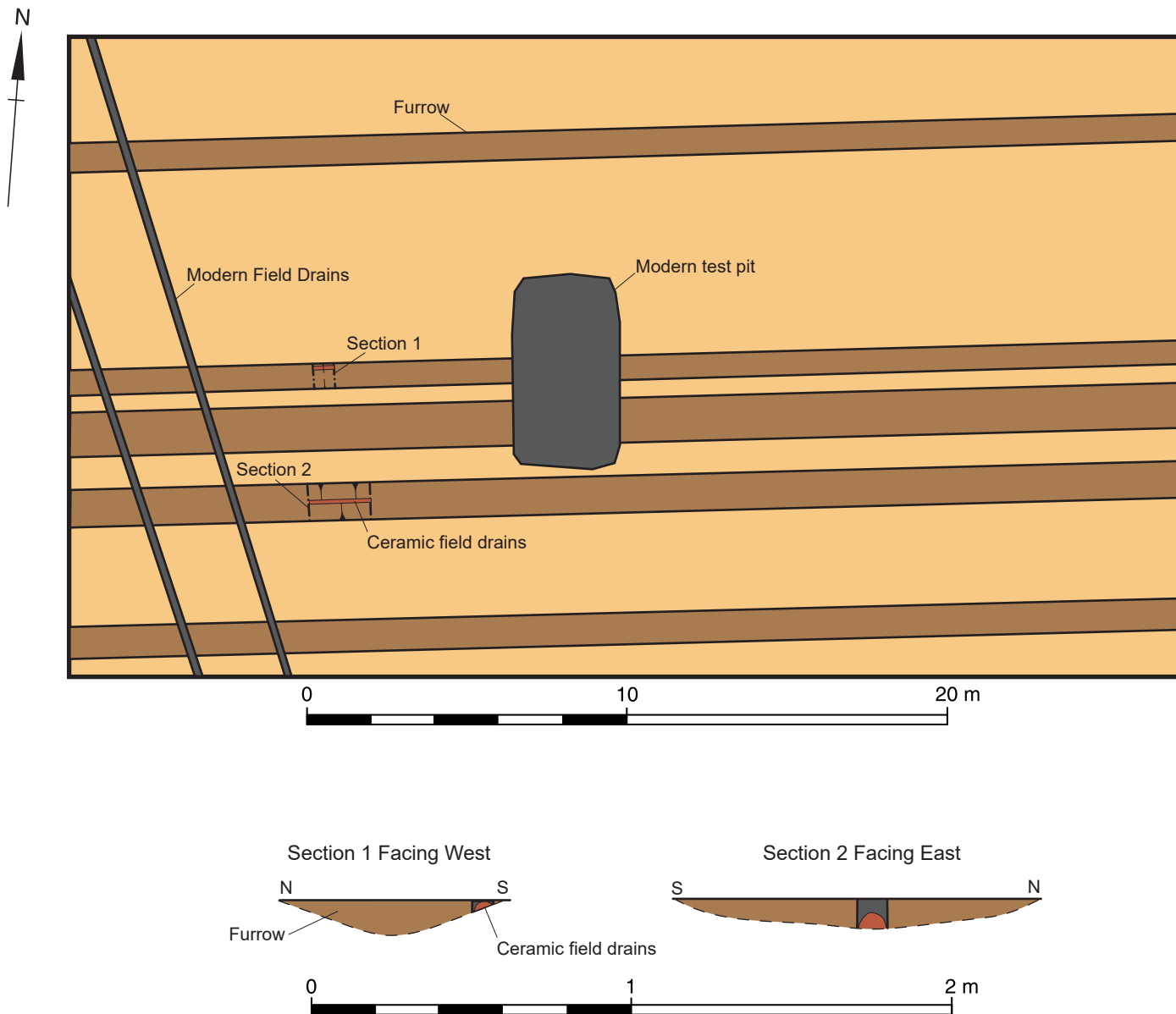


Figure 2. Trench Plan at 1:200 scale (Top) and Section Drawings at 1:20 scale (Bottom).

## WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

## WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

**Site Location:** Glebe Farm, Main Street, Hessay  
**NGR:** SE 5156 5329  
**Proposal:** 2no new dwellings  
**Planning ref:** 16/02202/FUL  
**Prepared for:** Lister Haigh by York Archaeological Trust, 06/03/17

Version	Produced by		Edited by		Approved by	
	Initials	Date	Initials	Date	Initials	Date
1	IDM	06/03/17	BR	07/03/17	IDM	06/03/17

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted for the erection of 2 agricultural workers' dwellings  
 1.2 The following archaeological condition has been imposed:

*No work shall commence until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (a watching brief on all ground works by an approved archaeological unit) in accordance with a specification supplied by the Local Planning Authority. This programme and the archaeological unit shall be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before development commences.*

*Reason: The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Importance and the development will affect important archaeological deposits which must be recorded during the construction programme.*

- 1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared in response to a Brief supplied by The Planning Authority, The work will be carried out in accordance with the Brief and this WSI.

## **2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION**

- 2.1 The proposal site is located at Glebe Farm, Hessay, 750m west of the centre of the village, on Main Street (Illustration 1).
- 2.2 The development site is in a field currently forming part of the farm immediately west of the farm complex.

## **3 DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS**

- 3.1 There are no scheduled monuments or listed buildings within the development area. The village of Hessay, 750m east of Glebe Farm, contains three listed buildings which are unaffected by the proposed development.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST**

- 4.1 **Roman:** The Roman road from York (*Eboracum*) to Aldborough (*Isurium Brigantum*), designated Road 9 by the Royal Commission (RCHME, 2) passes the site 1.2km to the north-west. There is some limited potential for Roman archaeology to present associated with a settlement or farmstead associated with the road.
- 4.2 **Medieval:** The village is recorded in Domesday and may have earlier origins. The area contains a substantial quantity of broad ridge and furrow cultivation, indicative of medieval agriculture, although much of it will have been truncated by modern agriculture. There is potential for this to survive on the development site, along with evidence for the early history of Glebe Farm itself.

## **5. GROUNDWORKS TO BE MONITORED**

- 5.1 This work will comprise a **continuous** watching brief, on the excavation of all foundations, trenches services and any subsequent groundworks involving excavation. The watching brief may be stepped down to **intermittent monitoring**, depending on the results, and following agreement from the City of York Archaeologist.

## **6 DELAYS TO THE DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE**

- 6.1 All earth-moving machinery must be operated at an appropriate speed to allow the archaeologist to recognise, record and retrieve any archaeological deposits and material.
- 6.2 It is not intended that the archaeological monitoring should unduly delay site works. However, the archaeologist on site should be given the opportunity to observe, clean, assess and, where appropriate hand excavate, sample and record any exposed features and finds. In order to fulfil the requirements of this WSI, it may be necessary to halt the earth-moving activity to enable the archaeology to be recorded properly.
- 6.3 Plant or excavators shall not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded and the archaeologist on site has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.

## **7 RECORDING METHODOLOGY**

- 7.1 If a base plan of intervention areas is available, the areas being monitored will be determined using this information. If a plan is not available, or the watching brief work

involves monitoring of long linear works, interventions which are not mapped, or large open areas, the location of the monitoring will be determined using a hand-held GPS, which will provide accuracy to c.2m.

- 7.2 Unique context numbers will only be assigned if artefacts are retrieved, or stratigraphic relationships between archaeological deposits are discernable. In archaeologically 'sterile' areas, soil layers will be described, but no context numbers will be assigned. Where assigned, each context will be described in full on a pro forma context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions.
- 7.3 Archaeological deposits will be planned at a basic scale of 1:50, with individual features requiring greater detail being planned at a scale of 1:20. Larger scales will be utilised as appropriate. Cross-sections of features will be drawn to a basic scale of 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. All drawings will be related to Ordnance Datum. Where it aids interpretation, structural remains will also be recorded in elevation. All drawings will be drawn on inert materials. All drawings will adhere to accepted drawing conventions
- 7.4 Photographs of archaeological deposits and features will be taken. This will include general views of entire features and of details such as sections as considered necessary. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.
- 7.5 Areas which are inaccessible (e.g. for health and safety reasons) will be recorded as thoroughly as possible within the site constraints. In these instances, recording may be entirely photographic, with sketch drawings only.
- 7.6 All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the CfA guidance for archaeological materials. Unstratified material will not be kept unless it is of exceptional intrinsic interest. Material discarded as a consequence of this policy will be described and quantified in the field. Finds of particular interest or fragility will be retrieved as Small Finds, and located on plans. Other finds, finds within the topsoil, and dense/discrete deposits of finds will be collected as Bulk Finds, from discrete contexts, bagged by material type. Any dense/discrete deposits will have their limits defined on the appropriate plan.
- 7.7 All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication *First Aid for Finds*, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. All finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act, after discussion with the client and the local authority.
- 7.8 A soil sampling programme will be undertaken for the recovery and identification of charred and waterlogged remains where suitable deposits are identified. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England guidelines (Campbell, Moffatt and Straker 2011). Environmental and soil specialists will be consulted during the course of the evaluation with regard to the implementation of this sampling programme. Soil samples of approximately 30 litres for flotation (or 100% of the features if less than this volume) will be removed from selected contexts, using a combination of the judgement and systematic methodologies.
  - **Judgement sampling** will involve the removal of samples from secure contexts which appear to present either good conditions for preservation (e.g. burning or waterlogging) or which are significant in terms of archaeological interpretation or stratigraphy. (Given the nature of an archaeological watching brief, it is anticipated that the implementation of a systematic sampling methodology will not be possible).



- 7.9 Industrial activity is not anticipated at this site. However, if industrial activity of any scale is detected, industrial samples and process residues will also be collected. Separate samples (c. 10ml) will be collected for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets) (Historic England 2015).
- 7.10 Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with YAT specialists and the Historic England Regional Science Advisor, as appropriate (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc.). Samples will be taken for scientific dating where necessary for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies. Material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments.
- 7.11 In the event of human remains being discovered during the evaluation these will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of, the Ministry of Justice. If human remains are identified, the Ministry of Justice and curator will be informed immediately. An osteoarchaeologist will be available to give advice on site.
- If **disarticulated** remains are encountered, these will be identified and quantified on site. If trenches are being immediately backfilled, the remains will be left in the ground. If the excavations will remain open for any length of time, disarticulated remains will be removed and boxed, for immediate reburial by the Church.
  - If **articulated** remains are encountered, these will be excavated in accordance with recognised guidelines (see 7.12) and retained for assessment.
  - Any grave goods or coffin furniture will be retained for further assessment.
- 7.12 Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains must be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. Where a licence is not issued, the treatment of human remains will be in accordance with the requirements of Civil Law, ClfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and Historic England guidance (2005).

## 8 REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

- 8.1 Upon completion of the groundworks, a report will be prepared to include the following:
- a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
  - b) An introduction which will include the planning reference number, grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.
  - c) An account of the methodology and results of the operation, describing structural data, associated finds and environmental data.
  - d) A selection of photographs and drawings, including an overall plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored.
  - e) Specialist artefact and environmental reports as necessary.
  - f) Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a catalogue of what is contained in that archive.
  - g) A copy of the key OASIS form details
  - h) Copies of the Brief and WSI
  - i) Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report

- 8.2 Copies of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body and the HER/SMR (also in PDF format).
- 8.3 The requirements for archive preparation and deposition will be addressed and undertaken in a manner agreed with the recipient museum. In this instance the Yorkshire Museum is recommended and an agreed allowance should be made for the curation and storage of this material.
- 8.4 Provision for the publication of results, as outlined in the Brief, will be made.
- 8.5 The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the County Council and the museum accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), such documentation is required to be made available to enquirers if it meets the test of public interest. Any information disclosure issues would be resolved between the client and the archaeological contractor before completion of the work. EIR requirements do not affect IPR.

## **9 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 9.1 Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.
- 9.2 A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

## **10 TIMETABLE & STAFFING**

- 10.1 The timetable shall be agreed with the client
- 10.2 Specialist staff available for this work are as follows:
- Human Remains - Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology Ltd)
  - Palaeoenvironmental remains – Dr Jennifer Miller
  - Head of Curatorial Services - Christine McDonnell
  - Finds Researcher - Nicky Rogers
  - Medieval Pottery Researcher - Anne Jenner
  - Finds Officers – Nienke Van Doorne
  - Archaeometallurgy & Industrial Residues – Dr Rod Mackenzie & Dr Roger Doonan
  - Conservation – Ian Panter

## **11 MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK**

- 11.1 As a minimum requirement, the City of York Archaeologist will be given a minimum of one week's notice of work commencing on site, and will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site during and prior to completion of the on-site works so that the general stratigraphy of the site can be assessed. York Archaeological Trust will notify the City of York Archaeologist of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary. Any changes to this agreed WSI will only be made in consultation with the City of York Archaeologist.

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## 13 KEY REFERENCES

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For the latest Historic England guidance documents see:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/latest-guidance/>



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### Illustration 1: Location of site



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