



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| SITE | 131 Long Street, Thirsk | | |
| CLIENT NAME | Newspan Construction Ltd. | | |
| YAT PROJECT # | 6164 | YAT REPORT # | 2019/134 |
| MUSEUM ACCESSION # | N/A | GRID REFERENCE | SE 43047 82527 |
| PLANNING REFERENCE # | 18/01409/FUL | AAI OPS NOTICE # | N/A |

INTRODUCTION

A watching brief was undertaken by York Archaeological Trust on behalf of Newspan Construction Ltd. on September 6th 2019 at 131 Long Street, Thirsk, NGR SE 43047 82527 (Figure 1). The objective of the watching brief was to observe the excavation of a series of machine excavated test pits and to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the ground works.

METHODOLOGY

A total of eight test pits were excavated in two north-east/south-west transects across the proposed development site (Figure 2). The test pits measured 2.00m x 0.60m and were excavated to a maximum depth of 2.00m below ground level by a 3CX backhoe loader equipped with a 0.80m wide toothed bucket. All excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision. Due to the depth of the test pits, the sections were recorded through photography and sketch drawings from the surface. In an amendment to the WSI, three further soakaway test pits were not excavated as it was possible to make use of three of the geotechnical/archaeology test pits for the same purpose.

RESULTS

A similar sequence was observed in all eight of the test pits. The present turf surface overlay a soft, dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil deposit that measured between 0.40m and 0.80m in thickness (Plate 1). In some test pits, a 0.24m to 0.40m subsoil deposit of soft mid-orange brown silty sand was present. Natural geological deposits were reached in all of the test pits, ranging in depth between 1.20m in Test Pits 1 and 2 at the low-lying south-west end of the site to 0.34m to the north-east. The natural was a soft, mid-brownish orange sand, with frequent bands of gravel. The natural deposits in Test Pits 7 and 8 contained no gravels.

No archaeological features were observed in any of the test pits and the topsoil contained no residual artefacts. The upper extents of the topsoil contained numerous modern intrusions of rubble and burnt material relating to recent agricultural use of the field. The section of Test Pit 7 has been illustrated to provide a representative section of the site's deposit model (Figure 3).

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| COMPLETED BY | Arran Johnson | CHECKED BY | Mary-Anne Slater | FINISHED | 09/09/19 |
| FINDS | 0 | SAMPLES | 0 | PHOTOS | Yes |
| | | | | PAGE | 1 of 5 |

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Plate 1. North-west facing view of Test Pit 6 (1.00m scale).

CONCLUSIONS

No evidence was observed for any archaeological features or deposits was observed in any of the test pits. While the test pitting provides only a small sample of the site, the lack of any residual finds in the topsoil indicates that the plot has been in pastoral agricultural use for its entire history.

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Figure 1 Site Location scale 1:10,000

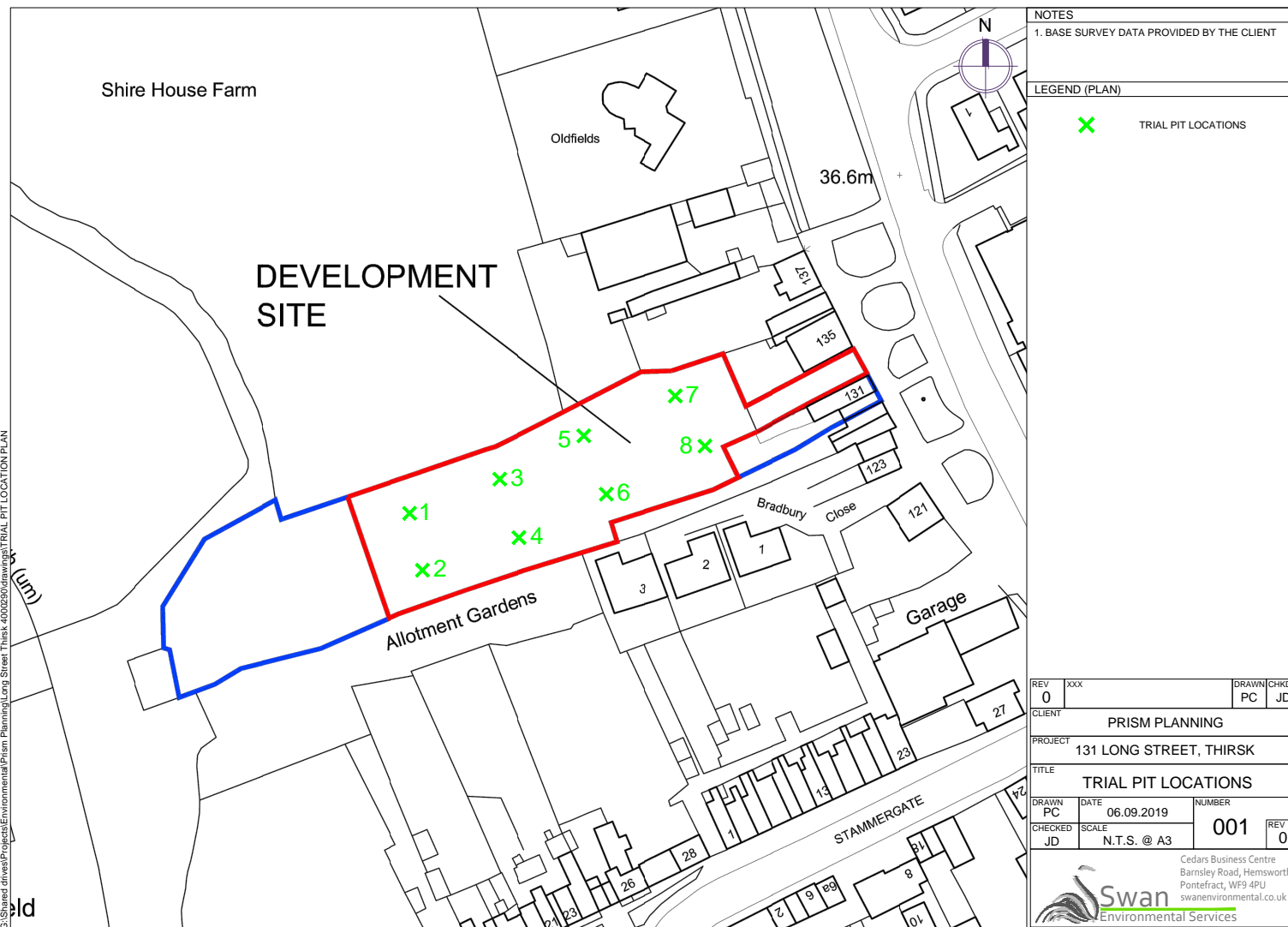


Figure 2 Test pit locations (not to scale).

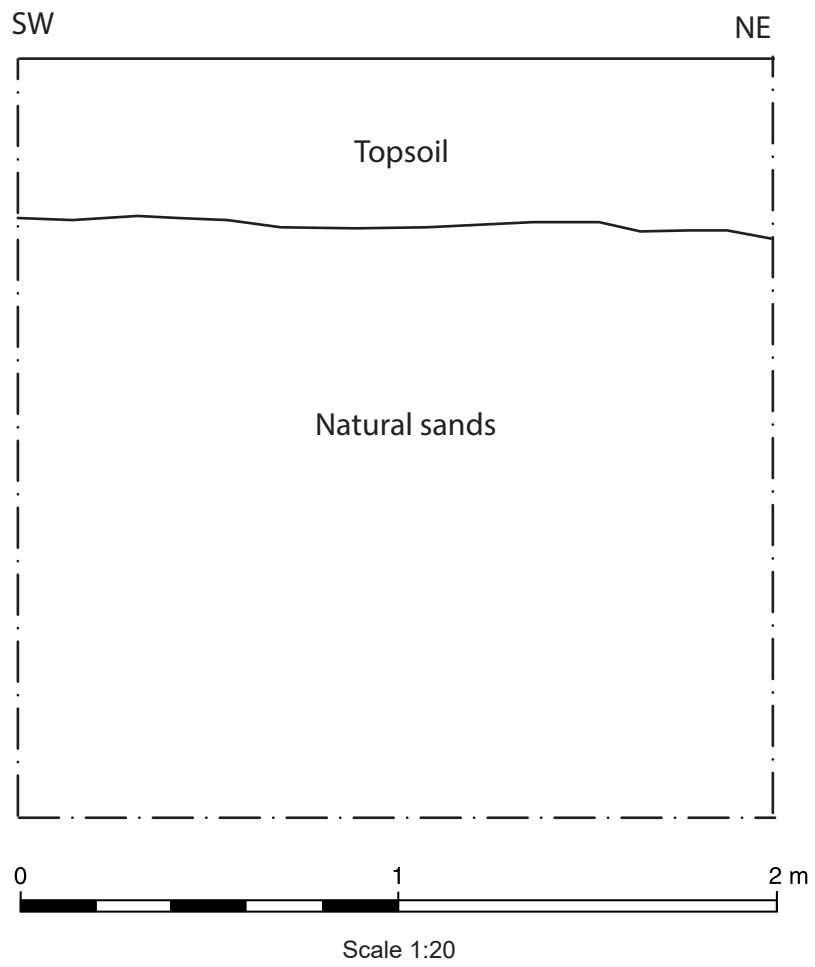


Figure 3 South-east facing section of Test Pit 7.