



## YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

<b>SITE ADDRESS</b>	Poppleton Junior Football Club, Millfield Lane, Nether Poppleton, York		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	Paul Butler Architects Ltd		
<b>YAT PROJECT #</b>	5463	<b>YAT REPORT #</b>	2010/110
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	n/a	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	SE 5641 5431
<b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b>	09/00474/FUL	<b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b>	n/a

### INTRODUCTION

A watching brief was maintained during groundworks at Poppleton Junior Football Club between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010. These works were to lay the foundations for new pavilion facilities.

The site occupies the western end of the playing fields at Millfield Lane, Nether Poppleton (Figure 1). The area is generally flat and is currently occupied by a large car-park, which is to be retained, and three small temporary structures at the southern end that constitute the current changing and toilet facilities for the club (Figure 2). The development area is to the north of the current car-park, with a 125m<sup>2</sup> area reduced by 0.30m for new disabled car-parking, and 35m x 25m area set aside for the new building. This area was reduced by 0.20-0.25m BGL (below ground level) prior to the digging of 0.60m wide strip footings to a depth of 0.70-0.80m BGL (Figure 3, Plate 1, 2 and 6).

The site lies c.700m SSW of the village church, St Everilda's, which was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century as part of a monastery with Anglian origins (<http://www.poppleton.net/historysoc/index.html> accessed 13/12/2010). Nether Poppleton is also thought to be where Prince Rupert crossed the Ouse on his way to relieve the Siege of York in 1644, although this is conjectural (R Marwood, pers. comm.).

### RESULTS

The initial ground reduction removed up to 0.30m of topsoil, leaving c.0.10m of it *in-situ*. No cut features were observed across the area, although the low-angled light and deep frost made ground conditions difficult for discerning soil changes. The freezing conditions made the remaining topsoil very difficult to machine cleanly (Plate 4), breaking away in slabs from the underlying sub-soil and reducing the potential to securely stratify artefacts from the two deposits.

The soil profile was recorded in five separate locations across the strip-footing area, and proved very consistent across the entire site (Plates 3 and 5). The earliest deposit was a very soft, mottled yellow sand which was observed at 0.70m BGL in the southern part of the new building and at 0.80m BGL in the northern part. This deposit was interpreted as being natural in origin, and no cut features were observed where it was exposed in the base of the foundation trenches. This deposit was overlain by a 0.30-0.40m thick layer of soft, mid grey-yellow silty sand which became progressively thicker towards the northern end. This deposit produced a small amount of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> pottery and was interpreted as an agricultural sub-soil. Overlying it was the topsoil, a soft mid grey-brown silty sand that was 0.40m thick except in the north-western corner, where it was only 0.36m thick. This produced a small amount of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery. No features were observed in any of the foundation trench sections.

### CONCLUSIONS

The area is very flat, and it is presumed that the soil profile is the result of an agricultural regime in place before the area became used for recreation. No evidence for any furrows or other agricultural features were observed and no other archaeological activity was identified.

### REFERENCES

[www.poppleton.net](http://www.poppleton.net)

Accessed 13/12/2010

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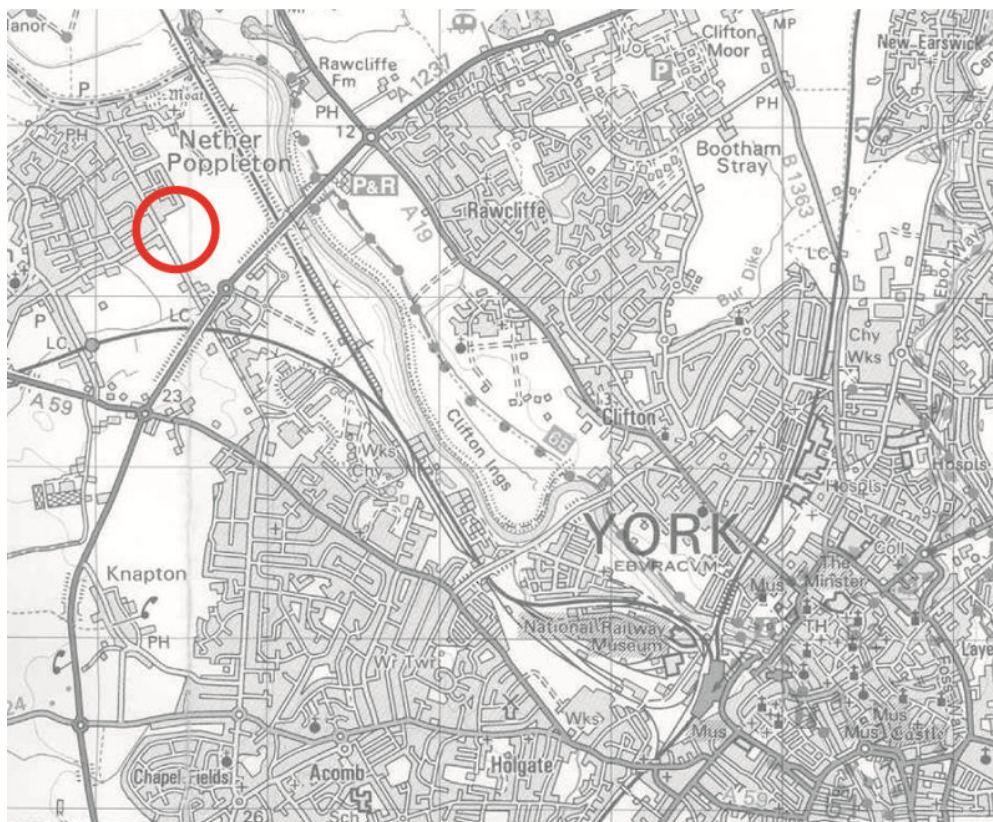


Figure 1 Site location

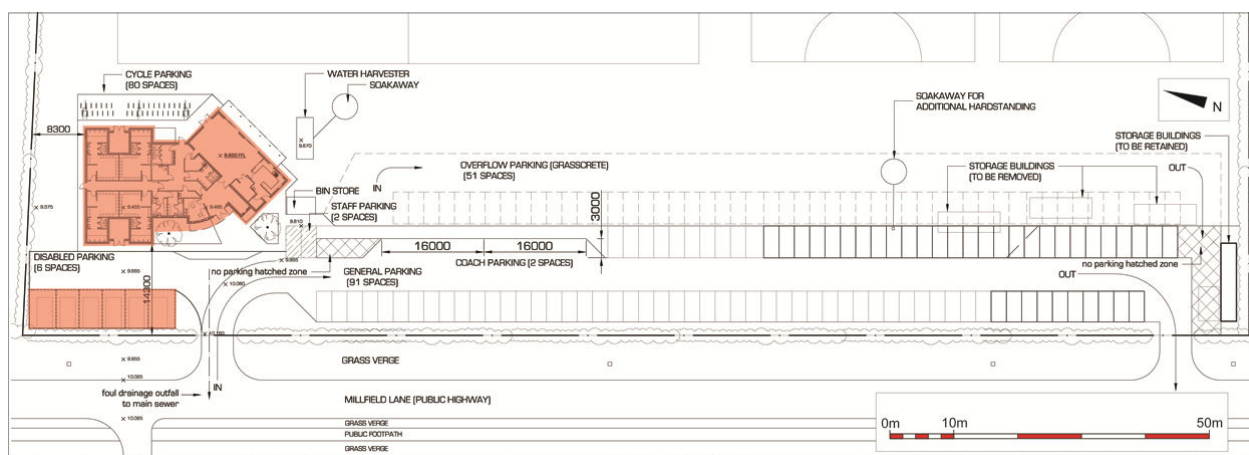


Figure 2 Whole development area showing ground reduction in red  
Derived from developer's plan

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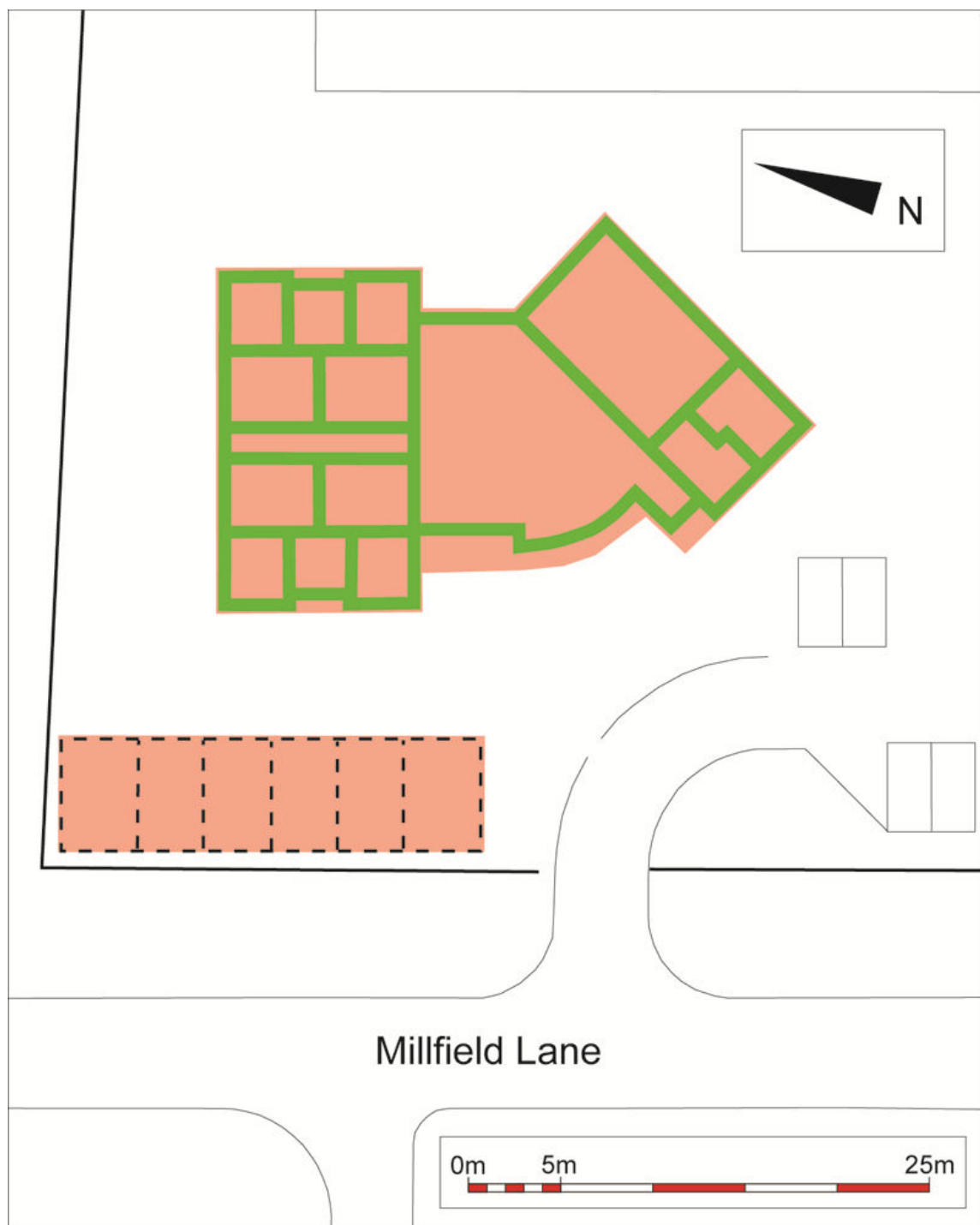


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*Figure 3 Detail showing ground reduction in red and strip footings in green  
Derived from developer's plan*

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*Plate 1 Northern area after ground reduction, looking north-east*



*Plate 2 Southern area after reduction and strip excavation, looking east*

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*Plate 3 Soil profile, northern area, looking north-west*



*Plate 4 Bucket scraping at frozen soil, northern area, looking south-west*

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*Plate 5 North-east part of northern area after strip excavation, looking south-west*



*Plate 6 Northern area after strip excavation, looking north-east*

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