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MAP Archaeological Practice

Land at Carr House
Snainton
North Yorkshire

MAP 05-03-2019

Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching

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Summary

An Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd., on land to the west and east of Carr House, Snainton, North Yorkshire, to support an application for the erection of a residential development.

The Evaluation by Trial Trenching, which followed a Desk Based Assessment, Geophysical Survey and Auger Survey, identified a linear feature in three trenches. The feature has been interpreted as a moat of probable Medieval date, which is recorded by the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record. Due to ground conditions full excavation of the moat, which measured up to 7m wide and 1.25m deep, was not possible although small assemblage of animal bone, glass and a single sherd of 12th or 13th century pottery was recovered.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching, carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd. on land to the east and west of Carr House, Snainton, North Yorkshire in June 2021.

1.2 In accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019) on 'Archaeology and Planning' a staged scheme of archaeological work is proposed. The results of the Trial Trenching, which follows a Desk Based Assessment, Geophysical Survey and Auger Survey will be summarised and an appropriate mitigation strategy will be formulated if necessary.

1.3 The work was carried out in accordance a Written Scheme of Investigation which was prepared by MAP Archaeological Practice (appendix 1).

1.4 MAP adhered to the general principles of both the CIfA (2019) '*Code of Conduct*' and '*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*' (2020) throughout the project.

1.5 The site code for the project was MAP 05.03.2019.

1.6 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

1.7 All work was funded by Iris Wilkinson and Caroline Simpson.

2. Site Description

2.1 The Proposed Development Area is located in the immediate vicinity of Carr House to the south of the village of Snainton, approximately 13 kilometres south-west of Scarborough Town Centre

Figure 1. Site Location

2.2 The site currently consists of two areas of overgrown pastureland, Carr House and its associated outbuildings and areas of grassland on either side of Green Lane.

2.3 The site lies on deposits of the Ampthill Clay formation below Lacustrine Deposits of clay and sand (BGS 2021).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Evidence of prehistoric activity in the area is well represented both by the recovery of prehistoric finds and the presence of prehistoric features. Several prehistoric finds have been recovered the area including a Neolithic stone axe (MNY12286), a fragment of early Bronze-Age axe (MNY2285) and 4 Neolithic Arrowheads (NRHE65512).

3.2 Cropmarks of enclosures and field systems which are likely to date to the prehistoric or Romano-British period are common in the area. One such set of cropmarks (MNY5545) is represented by an east to west aligned trackway with an associated trackway. A pit alignment and several ring ditches have been identified to the north and south of the trackway which suggest the features have prehistoric origins.

3.3 Although not recorded in the HER there are records of Anglo-Saxon finds being recovered during the construction of The Orchard housing development to the north of Carr House, in 1991 (Scarborough Borough Council. 2009), possibly suggesting a pre-conquest origin to the village.

3.4 Carr House is a modern farm, (the land associated with which is the subject of this report) which incorporates some 17th century features. The farm is speculated to be the site of a moated manor house Carr House is also recorded on the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (MNY4472) as a possible moated site. Patoirel (1973) states that the site is '*unclassified and destroyed. Some excavation* [has taken place] *by R.H Haynes. Wykeham Abby held considerable lands, with which* [the] *moat may be connected.*

3.5 In January 2019 a Desk Based Assessment was written in respect to the proposed development of the site (MAP 2019). The report concluded that records of a possible moated site within the Proposed Development Area indicate that it is possible that archaeological features and deposits may be present on the site.

3.6 An Archaeological Geophysical Survey was carried out in February 2019. The results of the survey indicated that 'no anomalies suggestive of features relating to the possible moated site have been identified by the survey. However, there are significant areas where very strong responses or magnetic disturbance from modern features / material dominate the surrounding data and it should be recognised that the strength of these responses could mask anomalies from other sub-surface features in the area' (Phase Site Investigations. 2019).

3.7 An Auger Survey was also carried out in 2019 (MAP 2019). The survey identified a single north-west to south-east aligned linear which had also been identified as an earthwork during the Desk Based Assessment. The feature contained at least two deposits of high organic waterlogged material which had been formed within a much deeper water baring channel. This feature may have formed part of the moat recorded by the HER although it is unlikely that the feature was consistently filled with water.

4. Aims and Objectives

4.1 The aim of the Archaeological Trial Trenching was to determine the presence/absence, nature, date, quality of survival and importance of

archaeological deposits to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the archaeology to be made.

5. Methodology

5.1 Excavation

5.1.1 Nine trial trenches were excavated, three measures 15m x 2m, four measured 25m x 2m. At the request of the client trench 5 was extended to measure 45m x 2m and an additional trench (trench 9) measured? 15m x 2m The trenches were positioned across the site to investigate geophysical anomalies but also areas which appear void of archaeology in the results of the survey.

5.1.2 Topsoil was removed by a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, operating under close archaeological supervision. Machining ceased at the top of either archaeological or naturally formed deposits, depending upon which was located first.

5.1.3 All work was carried out in line with both the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (2019) and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2020).

5.2 On-site Recording

5.2.1 All nine trenches were recorded on MAP's *pro forma* trench sheets. A total of six contexts (appendix 1) were recorded on the site which were also recorded using MAP's *Pro forma* context sheets.

5.3 Photographic Record

5.3.1 The photographic record comprised of sixteen digital photographs, taken on site. The photographic record included a, shot number, location of shot, direction of shot and brief description

6. Results.

6.1 The total depths and elevations of all nine trial trenches are displayed in the below table.

Trench	*Elevation*	*Depth of Excavation*	*Depth of Topsoil*
Tr.1	West- 23.49m AOD East - 23.59m AOD	0.1m- 0.18m	0.1m- 0.14m
Tr.2	North-23.50m AOD South-23.09m AOD	0.35m- 0.41m	0.30m- 0.38m
Tr.3	North-East- 24.01m AOD South-West- 24.06m AOD	0.83m- 0.75m	0.83m- 0.75m
Tr.4	East- 24.06m AOD West- 23.91m AOD	0.25m- 0.56m	0.25m- 0.56m
Tr. 5	North-East- 23.73m AOD South-West- 23.51m AOD	0.35m- 0.37m	0.35m- 0.37m
Tr. 6	North-West- 24.02m AOD South-East- 23.89m AOD	0.32m- 0.35m	0.32m- 0.35m
Tr. 7	South-West- 23.74m AOD North-East- 23.84m AOD	0.45m- 0.43m	0.45m- 0.43m
Tr. 8	East- 23.46m AOD West- 23.63m AOD	0.36m- 0.4m	0.36m- 0.4m
Tr. 9	North- 24.00m AOD South- 23.78m AOD	0.79m- 0.76m	0.79m- 0.76m

6.2 Four of the Trial Trenches (1, 2, 5, 6,7 and 8) contained no archaeological finds, features or deposits. Potential anomalies in the results of the Geophysical Survey were found to have been caused by natural geological variations with pockets of clay and sand found within the sands and gravel which dominated the eastern portion of the site. Sandy clay deposits were noted to the west.

6.3 Trenches 3, 4 and 9 contained a wide, linear ditch, which was identified twice within Trench 9 (Fig. 2). The ditch measured between 4m and 7m wide and 1.25m deep. Due to ground conditions hand excavation of the feature was not possible although a small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from the upper fill of the ditch within Trench 4. A small amount of glass and a single sherd of 12th or 13th century pottery was recovered from the southern most ditch within Trench 9. Environmental samples were taken from the upper fills of the ditch although no environmental data was recovered.

Figure 2. Trench Location & Organic Deposits.

7. Conclusion

7.1 The Archaeological Evaluation was successful in confirming the presence of archaeological features which corollate to organic deposits noted in the results of the Auger Survey which are likely to represent a moat which is recorded as being present on the site. Due to the nature of the feature and the ground conditions, it was not possible to extract environmental data from the basal fill(s) of the potential moat, samples taken from the upper fill were sterile.

7.2 A single sherd of a York Glazed Ware jug dating to the 12th or 13th century was recovered from the upper fill of the moat feature within Trench 9. This

pottery was the only datable material recovered during the evaluation and suggests a Medieval date for the moat.

7.3 Fragmented linear anomalies in the Geophysical Data were found to have been caused by natural changes in the underlying geology.

7.4 The evaluation has allowed the nature, potential date and quality of survival of archaeological features and material to be assessed. This will allow a reasoned decision to be made by the Principal Archaeologist regarding the archaeological potential of the site, and the nature and extent of any required mitigation.

8. Bibliography

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9. List of Contributors

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Plate 1. Trench 1 Facing East.

Plate 2. Trench 2 Facing South.

Plate 3. Trench 3 Facing North-East.

Plate 5. Trench 4 Facing North-East.

Plate 5. Possible Moat Within Trench 4. Facing South.

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Plate 11. General View of Site Facing West.

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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION:
Archaeological Trial Trenching

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Land at Carr House
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Written Scheme of Investigation
Archaeological Trial Trenching

1 Summary

1.1 This document sets out the details for the archaeological work required at land at Carr House, Snainton, North Yorkshire in order to inform the Principal Archaeologist at North Yorkshire County Council of the archaeological potential of the site, prior to the commencement of a residential development with associated infrastructure. The Written Scheme of Works has been commissioned by Mr G Wright.

1.2 In accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019) on 'Archaeology and Planning' a staged scheme of archaeological work is proposed. The results of the Trial Trenching, which follows a Geophysical Survey, Desk Based Assessment and Auger Survey, will be summarised in a report and an appropriate mitigation strategy will be formulated if necessary.

2 Site Description and Planning Background

2.1 The Proposed Development Area is located in the immediate vicinity of Carr House to the south of the village of Snainton, approximately 13 kilometres south-west of Scarborough Town Centre

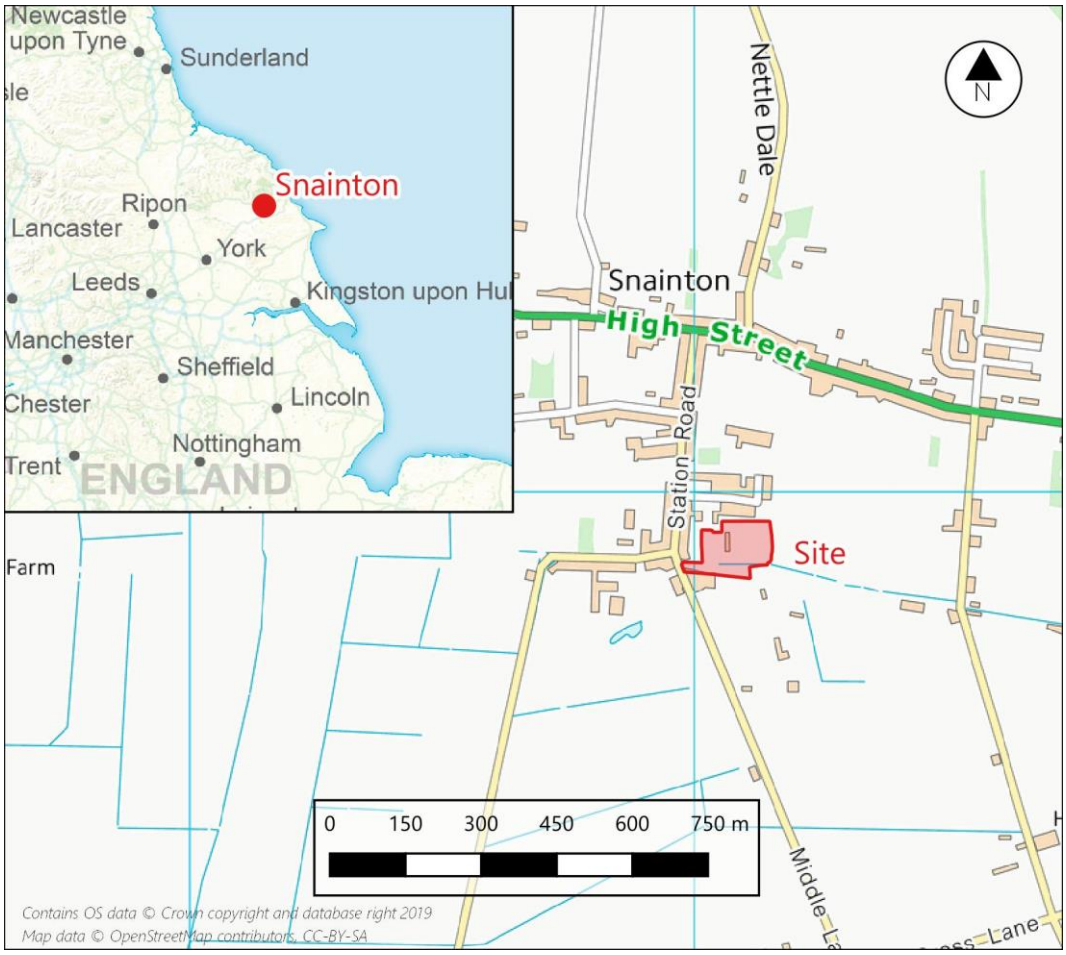

Figure 1. Site Location.

2.2 The site currently consists of two areas of pastureland, Carr House and its associated outbuildings and areas of grassland on either side of Green Lane.

2.3 The Proposed Development Area is, for the most part, fairly flat with a very slight linear curvilinear depression in the north west corner of the land to the east of Carr House.

2.4 The site lies on deposits of the Ampthill Clay formation below Lacustrine Deposits of clay and sand (BGS 2021).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Evidence of prehistoric activity in the area is well represented both by the recovery of prehistoric finds and the presence of prehistoric features. Several prehistoric finds have been recovered the area including a Neolithic stone axe (MNY12286), a fragment of early Bronze-Age axe (MNY2285) and 4 Neolithic Arrowheads (NRHE65512).

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4. Aims and Objectives

4.1 The aim of the Archaeological Trial Trenching is to determine the presence/absence, nature, date, quality of survival and importance of archaeological deposits to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the archaeology to be made.

5 Compliance

5.1 MAP will adhere to the general principles of the CIfA Code of Conduct (CIfA 2019) throughout the project and to the CIfA 'Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations' (CIFA 2014).

5.2 All work will be carried out in accordance with chapter 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (February 2019) on 'Archaeology and Planning'.

5.3 The work will be monitored under the auspices of the Principal Archaeologist at North Yorkshire County Council who should be consulted before the commencement of site works.

5.4 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright. License No. AL 50453A and also data derived from Open Street Map (https://www.opennstreetmap.org/copyright).

5.5 If human remains are encountered during the course of this evaluation it is considered best practice to not remove the remains at this stage, however, this should be considered at a site-specific level. If it is deemed necessary to remove human remains, this will be carried out under the conditions of

licences for the removal of human remains (issued by the Ministry of Justice) and in accordance with the Burial Act (1857) and 'Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains' (Brickley & McKinley. 2004) to ensure that they are treated with due dignity.

5.6 MAP Archaeological Practice is an ISO 9001 accredited organisation (certificate number GB2005425). The award of the ISO 9001 certificate, independently audited by the British Standards Institution (BSI), demonstrates MAP's commitment to providing a quality service to our clients. ISO (the International Organisation for Standardisation) is the most recognised standards body in the world, helping to drive excellence and continuous improvement within businesses.

6 Fieldwork Methodology

6.1 Excavation and Recording

6.1.1 Eight Trial Trenches are proposed, positioned across the site to investigate geophysical anomalies but also areas which appear void of archaeology in the results of the surveys (Fig. 2). Three trenches measure 2m x 15m and five measure 2m x 25m.

61.2 All overburden will be carefully removed by mechanical excavator using a wide toothless blade, under archaeological supervision, to the top of archaeological features or layers. Excavated topsoil will be redeposited in bunds around the edge of the site, or at an alternative location, to be determined in agreement with the client. Topsoil and subsoils will be stored separately, and all spoil will be stored and managed in line with the

standards of the Construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (DEFRA 2009).

Figure 2. Trench Location Plan

6.1.3 All excavation of archaeological features and deposits carried out will be by hand. Areas of intensive modern disturbance will be given a low priority in excavation. Where practicable, the fills of these features will be removed by mechanical excavator.

6.1.4 Context recording methodologies and systems will be used. All archaeological deposits will be recorded according to principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* sheets, which are compatible

with the MoLAS recording system. The MoLAS recording manual will be used on site where necessary. The stratigraphy of trenches will be recorded even if no archaeology is found.

6.1.5 The excavation sampling policy is :

a. A 100% sample of stakeholes

b. An initial 50% sample should be taken of all postholes, but where they are part of a building these should be 100% excavated

c. A 50% sample of pits with a diameter up to 1.5m (where justified, these should be 100% excavated,

d. A minimum 25% sample of all pits over 1.5m in diameter, but this should include a complete section across the pit to record a full profile (where justified, these should be 100% excavated)

e. All junctions/intersections and corners of linear features will be investigated and their stratigraphic relationships determined – if necessary, using box sections and all ditch terminals will be examined,

f. All funerary contexts, all buildings and all industrial features will be subject to 100% excavation. As noted above, postholes and the enclosing ditches around barrows and roundhouses would be first subject to sample excavation, sectioning and recording, but then should be fully excavated

6.1.6 In certain cases, the use of mechanical excavation equipment may also be appropriate for removing deep intrusions (e.g modern brick and concrete floors or footings), or for putting sections through major features after partial excavation (e.g ditches), or through deposits to check that they are of natural origin

6.1.7 A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of all material revealed during the course of the Trial Trenching. Plans and section drawings will be drawn to a scale appropriate to the excavated feature. High resolution digital photographs should form the basis of the photographic archive.

6.1.8 A sampling strategy for the recovery for environmental remains has been formulated in accordance with an Environmental Strategy written by an Environmental Consultant (Diane Aldritt, appendix 1) and also follows the guidance of the Association for Environmental Archaeology (1995) and Historic England (2011).

6.1.9 Samples will be collected from primary and secondary contexts, where applicable, from a range of representative features, including pit and ditch fills, postholes, floor deposits, ring gullies and other negative features. Where features allow between 40 and 60 litres will be taken although entire contexts will be sampled if the volume is low, and specialist samples, such as for General Biological Analysis (GBA) or column samples, will be of the order of 20 litres. Positive features will also be sampled; retention of structural material such as bricks will be implemented where necessary. Sampling will also be considered for those features where dating by other methods (for example pottery and artefacts) is uncertain. Animal bones will be hand collected, and bulk samples collected from contexts containing a high density of bones. Spot finds of other material will be recovered where applicable. Flotation samples and samples taken for coarse-mesh sieving from dry deposits will be processed at the time of the fieldwork wherever possible, partly to permit variation of sampling strategies if necessary, but also because processing at a later stage could cause delays.

6.1.10 If human remains are encountered during the course of this evaluation and it is deemed necessary to remove the remains, this will take place under the conditions of licences for the removal of human remains (issued by the Ministry of Justice, to ensure that they are treated with due dignity). The preferred option would be for them to be adequately recorded before lifting, and then carefully removed for scientific study, and long-term storage with an appropriate museum; however, the burial licence may specify reburial or cremation as a requirement.

6.1.11 A finds recovery and conservation strategy will be discussed with the Archaeology Manager and recipient museum in advance of the project commencing, and a policy for finds recording should be agreed and submitted to the Archaeology Manager, before commencement of site works. Any recording, marking and storage, materials will be of archive quality, and recording forms and manuals will be submitted to the Archaeology Manager, prior to the commencement of on-site works, if these have not been supplied previously. Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and stabilisation of all objects and an assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs We have made an allowance for a minimum four boxes in calculating estimates for museums storage grant.

6.1.12 All finds (artefacts and ecofacts) visible during excavation will be collected and processed, unless variations in this principle are agreed with the Local Authority. Finds will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication First Aid for Finds. In accordance with the procedures outlined in MoRPHE, all iron objects, a

selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins), and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy will be X-radiographed before assessment.

6.1.13 We will make provision within our excavation strategies, where necessary, for use of shoring, pumps or artificial lighting. Such strategies will also follow for sampling for radiocarbon, archaeomagnetic and/or dendrochronological determinations, as appropriate: where in situ timbers are found to survive in good condition, samples should be taken for dendrochronological assay.

6.1.14 Arrangements for site access and reinstatement are to be agreed with the commissioning body.

6.1.15 Health and safety will take priority over archaeological matters. All archaeologists undertaking fieldwork must comply with all Health and Safety Legislation, this includes the preparation of a Risk Assessment.

6.1.16 All archaeological staff and visitors to the site will comply with current government guidance regarding COVID-19. All precautions, including those concerning social distancing will be outlined in MAP's risk and method statement. A remote site visit by the Principal Archaeologist may be required.

6.1.17 Necessary precautions should be taken over underground services and overhead lines.

6.1.18 All on site staff hold valid CSCS cards. All Project Officers and Project Managers hold a valid First Aid at Work Certificate and Site Supervisor Safety Training qualifications.

6.1.19 MAP will provide evidence of all necessary insurances, including Employer's Liability, Professional Liability and Public Liability Cover.

7. Post Excavation Analysis and reporting

7.1 Upon completion of the evaluation, the artefacts, soil samples and stratigraphic information will be assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis.

7.2 A report will be prepared to include the following:

a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work, Introduction and aims and objectives.

b) An introduction which should include

- the site code/project number
- planning reference number and HER Casework number
- dates when fieldwork took place
- grid reference

c) An account of the methods and results of the evaluation, describing structural data and associated finds and/or environmental data recovered.

d) Interpretation, including phasing of the site sequence and spot-dating of ceramics (Descriptive material should be clearly separated from interpretive statements). This shall be supported by the use of photographs and drawings, to include an overall plan of the site accurately identifying the location of trenches; individual trench plans as excavated indicating the

location of archaeological features, with at least one section detailing the stratigraphic sequence of deposits within each trench.

e) A specialist assessment of the artefacts recovered with a view to their potential for further study. Allowance should be made for preliminary conservation and stabilisation of all objects and an assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs.

Assessment of artefacts must include inspection of X-radiographs of all iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including coins), and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy. A rapid scan of all excavated material should be undertaken by conservators and finds researchers in collaboration. Material considered vulnerable will be selected for stabilisation after specialist recording. Where intervention is necessary, consideration will be given to possible investigative procedures (e.g glass composition studies, residues in or on pottery, and mineral preserved organic material). Once assessed, all material will be packed and stored in optimum conditions, as described in First Aid For Finds. Waterlogged organic materials should be dealt with, following Historic England documents, Guidelines for the care of waterlogged archaeological leather, and guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood.

f) A specialist assessment of environmental samples taken, with a view to their potential for subsequent study.

Processing of all samples collected for biological assessment, or sub-samples of them, will be completed. Bulk and site-riddled samples from dry deposits should have been processed during excavation, where possible. The preservation state, density and significance of material retrieved must be assessed, following methods presented in Environmental Archaeology and archaeological evaluations, or existing local guidelines, until national

guidelines are available. Unprocessed sub-samples must be stored in conditions specified by the appropriate specialists.

Assessments for any technological residues will be undertaken. Samples for dating must be submitted to laboratories promptly, so as to ensure that results are available to aid development of specifications for subsequent mitigation strategies.

g) The results from investigations in archaeological sciences will be included in the Site Archive and presented in the Evaluation Report. Reports must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential analysis. They will include tabulation of data in relation to site phasing and contexts, and must include non-technical summaries. The objective presentation of data must be clearly separated from interpretation. Recommendation for further investigation (both on samples already collected, and at future excavations) must be clearly separated from the results and interpretation.

h) An assessment of the archaeological significance of the deposits identified, in relation to other sites in the region.

i) A conclusion with recommendations for further post-excavation work, if required.

j) Detailed archive location and destination.

k) Appendices and figures, as appropriate, including a copy of the specification and/or project design.

l) References and bibliography of all sources used

7.3 Copies of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body, the Local Planning Authority and the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record within an agreed timetable and subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality (see 8.1 below).

7.4 We will provide a digital copy of the report in PDF format to the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record Office.

7.5 A Brief, interim report may be required shortly after the completion of fieldwork.

7.6 The following Specialists have been contacted as are available to work on the project:

Pottery - T G Manby (Prehistoric),

M R Stephens (medieval and Post-medieval)

P A Ware (Roman)

Flint - P Makey

Animal Bone – Jane Richardson

Environmental Sampling – Diane Alldritt

Conservation – York Archaeological Trust

Human Remains – York Osteology

Ceramic Building Material – Dr Phil Mills

Clay Tobacco Pipe - M R Stephens

8. Copyright, Confidentiality and Publicity

8.1 Unless the individual/organisation commissioning the project wishes to state otherwise, the copyright of any written, graphic or photographic records and reports rests with MAP.

9. Archive Preparation and Dissemination

9.1 The requirements for archive preparation and deposition must be addressed and undertaken in a manner agreed with the recipient museum: in this instance, the Yorkshire Museum is recommended. The recipient

museum will be contacted at an early stage, before submission of the project design and before commencement of fieldwork.

9.2 A site archive should be prepared in accordance with the specification outlined in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MoRPHE (Lee, E, 2006). See also *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, the Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Museums: Guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales* Society of Museum Archaeologists 1995.

9.3 The site archive, including finds and environmental material, subject to the permission of the relevant landowners, will be labelled, conserved and stored according to the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC)'s. Provision will be made for the stable storage of paper records and their long term storage on a suitable medium, such as microfilm, a copy of which should be deposited with the NMR (Historic England). An index to the contents of the archive together with details of its date and place of deposition should be lodged with the SMR.

9.4 Archive deposition must be arranged in consultation with the recipient museum and the Principle Archaeologist at North Yorkshire County Council and must take account of the requirements of the recipient museum and the relevant guidelines (see above) relating to the preparation and transfer of archives. The timetable for deposition shall be agreed on completion of the site archive and narrative.

10. Bibliography

British Geological Society. Geology of Britain Viewer. Available at; http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html [accessed 19.04.2021]

MAP. 2019. Land at Carr House, Snainton, Archaeology and Heritage Desk Based Assessment

MAP. 2019. Land at Carr House, Snainton, Auger Survey

Phase Site Investigations. 2019. Land at Carr House, Snainton, North Yorkshire. Archaeological Geophysical Survey

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11. Best Practice and Guidelines

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APPENDIX 1

Conservation Strategy By Ian Panter of York Archaeological Trust

Artefacts from all categories and all periods will be recovered as a matter of routine during the excavation. When retrieved from the ground finds will be kept in a finds tray or appropriate bags in accordance with First Aid for Finds. Where necessary, a conservator may be required to recover fragile finds from the ground depending upon circumstances.

If waterlogged conditions are encountered a wide range of organic materials may be recovered, including wood, leather and textiles. Advice will be sought from a conservator to discuss optimum storage requirements before any attempt is made to retrieve organic finds and structural timbers from the ground.

After the completion of the fieldwork stage, a conservation assessment will be undertaken which will include the X-radiography of all the ironwork (after initial screening to separate obviously modern debris), and a selection of the non-ferrous finds (including all coins). A sample of slag may also be X-rayed to assist with identification and interpretation. Wet-packed material, including glass, bone and leather will be stabilised and consolidated to ensure their long-term preservation. All finds will be stored in optimum conditions in accordance with First Aid for Finds and Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage (Walker, 1990).

Waterlogged wood, including structural elements will be assessed following the English Heritage guidelines, Waterlogged wood: sampling, conservation and

curation of structural wood (Brunning 1996). The assessment will include species identification, technological examination and potential for dating.

The conservation assessment report will include statements on condition, stability and potential for further investigation (with conservation costs) for all material groups. The conservation report will be included in the updated project design prepared for the analysis stage of the project.

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APPENDIX 2

Environmental Strategy By Diane Alldrit

The on-site environmental sampling strategy will systematically seek to recover a representative sample of botanical, molluscan (both terrestrial and aquatic), avian and mammalian evidence from the full range of contexts encountered during the excavation. This will enable, at the assessment stage, the possibility for radiocarbon dating material to be obtained, and for an initial analysis of the economic and environmental potential of the site. In order to achieve this, a bulk sample (BS, Dobney *et al* 1992) comprising an optimum size of 40litre of sediment (where possible) should be taken from every stratigraphically secure and archaeologically significant context. In practice it may not always be possible to obtain 28l of sediment from certain features during the assessment stage, for instance from partially excavated pits or post-holes, in which case a single bucket sample, c.10 to 14litre should be taken at the site supervisors discretion. Deposits of mixed origin, for instance topsoil, wall fills and obvious areas of modern contamination, should be avoided where possible, as these will contain intrusive material and not provide secure radiocarbon dates.

All buckets and other sampling equipment must be clean and free of adherent soil in order to prevent cross-contamination between samples. If dry soil is to be stored for any length of time it should be kept in cool, dry conditions, and away from strong light sources. However, it is preferable to process samples as soon as possible after excavation.

Bulk soil samples shall be processed using an Ankara-type water flotation machine (French 1971) for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and charcoal. The

flotation tank should contain a >1mm mesh for collection of the retent or 'residue' portion of the sample (which may contain pottery, lithics and animal / bird bone, in addition to the heavier fragments of charcoal which do not float). The 'flot' portion of the sample, which may include carbonised seeds, cereal grain, charcoal and sometimes mollusc shell, should be captured using a nest of >1mm and >300micron Endicot sieves. Flotation equipment, including sieves, meshes, brushes and so forth must be meticulously cleaned between samples in order to prevent contamination of potential radiocarbon dating material. All material resulting from flotation will be dried prior to microscopic examination. Flotation is not suitable for the recovery of pollen or for processing waterlogged samples, which shall be discussed below.

Where there is potential for waterlogged preservation, shown for instance by the presence of wood and other organic or wet material, then a 5 to 10litre size sample should be taken (GBA sample, Dobney *et al* 1992). This material is to be retained for later processing using laboratory methods to enable the recovery of waterlogged plant material and insects. For assessment purposes a 1litre sub-sample of the organic sediment from each potential waterlogged sample shall be processed using laboratory wash-over methods, and once processed kept wet. All waterlogged samples awaiting processing should be kept damp, preferably stored in plastic sealable tubs, and in cool conditions. Where large waterlogged timbers are recovered these should be stored under refrigerated conditions and an appropriate conservator consulted.

There is the possibility that the waterlogged deposits may require parasite egg analysis. It is proposed that the 'squash' technique is adapted, this would require small lumps of raw sediment approximately 3mm in diameter taken from three separate points from within the sample and homogenised in a little water by

shaking. After allowing coarse particles to settle for a few moments, a drop of the supernatant was removed. This work would be undertaken by either John Carrott or Harry Kenwood if necessary.

If sediment suitable for pollen analysis is encountered, for instance rich organic peaty deposits, or deep ditch sections with organic preservation, the archaeobotanical specialist is to be consulted prior to any sampling taking place. These deposits would require sampling with large kubiena tins and require the specialist to be on-site. Pollen analysis, even at assessment level, would subsequently impose a considerable cost implication should it be carried out.

The specialist is available to provide consultation and advice on the environmental sampling strategy throughout the course of the excavation and during post-excavation processing if required.

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