

Land off Shackleton Close & Anchorage Way  
Whitby  
North Yorkshire

NZ 8930 1011

MAP 5.03.2018

Planning No: 17/01248/FL

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 off Shackleton Close and Anchorage Way, Whitby (NZ 8930 1011) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2018. The work was undertaken in order to discharge condition 12 attached to planning consent 17/01248/FL. Previous stages in the evaluation took the form of a Desk-Based Assessment.*

*At the time of the evaluation the site comprised of two overgrown areas divided by hawthorn hedging. Eight Trial Trenches, measuring 25m by 2m were excavated to establish the nature, location, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits on the site.*

*Agricultural furrows were present in 3 trenches and some modern disturbance probably connected to part of the site previously being used as allotments was noted. No archaeological deposits, finds or features were observed on the site.*

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching that was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd. on land off Shackleton Close and Anchorage Way, Whitby on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 (NZ 8930 1011; Fig. 1). The work was undertaken as part of a programme of archaeological evaluation in order to discharge condition 12 attached to planning consent 17/01248/FL. Previous stages in the evaluation took the form of a Desk-Based Assessment.
- 1.2 Archaeological, Historical and Architectural remains are protected by means of Statutory Instruments; including the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990); and by World Heritage Status, the National Planning Policy Framework, Chapter 12 (March 2012).
- 1.3 The work was carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) on 'Archaeology and Planning' and according to the Written Scheme of Investigation that was prepared by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd. at the request of Barratt/ David Wilson Homes.
- 1.4 MAP adhered to the general principles of both the ClfA (2014) '*Code of Conduct*' and '*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*' throughout the project.
- 1.5 The site code for the project was MAP 5.03.2018.
- 1.6 All work was funded by Barratt/ David Wilson Homes.

1.7 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.

## **2. Site Description (NZ 8930 1011)**

2.1 The site is situated on land off Shackleton Close and Anchorage Way, Whitby, currently bounded on all sides but north by hedgerow, with a public footpath being present to the north. The site is currently overgrown and is divided by a hawthorn hedgerow. The southern area has previously been used as allotments.

2.2 The site stands on soils derived from Flint Soil association (Mackney et al. 1984; 5721, 13) described as 'reddish fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging, over a geology of reddish till. The site stands at heights of between 40 and 44m AOD.

2.3 The site is c. 2.1ha in size.

## **3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

3.1 Whitby has its origins in the Saxon period with the origins of the town and the foundation of an Abbey. Whitby was noted in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as 'Witebi'. The Place name Whitby is derived from the Old English for 'Hviti's farmstead'.

3.2 Historical Records located at North Yorkshire County Record Office revealed the Land ownership back to the early seventeenth century

(NYCRO Mic 2100). In 1716, a Jane Boulby is described as owning High Close or Upper Bauldbyes. In 1833, Aaron Chapman purchased Boulby Bank West and Prospect Hill Farm. Aaron Chapman was the Member of Parliament for Whitby and one of the parliamentary investors in the Australian Agricultural Company. The Chapman family had extensive holdings and business in the Whitby area and were connected to the convict trade

3.3 The site is bounded by a paved trod footpath. Raymond Hayes in his book "Old Roads and Pannierways in North-east Yorkshire" fails to reference this trod nor is it mentioned on the North Yorkshire HER. Post-medieval records provide useful evidence and descriptions of such trods and in particular the date when they were laid. Many of these trods were merely called foot trods. The archive search revealed memorandum of agreement between John Chapman and the inhabitants of Hawsker cum Stainsacre to maintain footpath laid by John Chapman 1810 (NYCRO PB 3890). The trod appears to be relatively modern in construction and one of the slabs appeared to have a date mark of 1905. The integrity of the trod has already been altered at the entrance to the allotments where brick sets have replaced the original slabs.

3.4 There is no evidence to suggest that the paved trod to the north and west of the site is of medieval origin. Whilst paved trods are thought to be monastic in origin there is no firm evidence for this. When roads are mentioned in local medieval charters they do not mention paving or any other materials (Hayes, 1988 9).

3.5 Further evidence for the late date of the trod is provided by the early maps dated to 1828 and 1841 where the paths north and west of the Proposed Development Area are depicted cutting across extant east-west aligned ridge and furrow (medieval/early post-medieval ploughing earthworks). The construction of the Goathland to Whitby Railway in 1865, diverted the north-eastern end of the footpath north along the boundary of Upper Bauldbyes on Prospect Hill from its original course.

3.6 In 2016 MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd. undertook a Desk-Based Assessment of the site and revealed that the Proposed Development Area contained no Designated or Non-Designated Heritage Assets, concluding that the site would not impact any Cultural Heritage assets. Evaluation by Trial Trenching was recommended as a suitable mitigation strategy to assess the potential for archaeological deposits on the site.

#### **4. Aims and Objectives**

4.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to:

- principally undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation by Trial Trenching in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation in line with the National Planning Policy Framework in order to evaluate the archaeological impact of the development,
- to determine by means of Trial Trenching, 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,

- to assess the archaeological potential and significance of the site and to allow an appropriate mitigation strategy to be formulated prior to commencement of the development,
- to prepare a report summarising the results of the work and the archaeological implications affected by the proposed development, and;
- to prepare and submit a suitable archive to the appropriate museum or other repository.

## 5. Methodology

### 5.1 Excavation

5.1.1 Eight Trial Trenches were excavated measuring 25m x 2m measuring a total of 400m<sup>2</sup> and evenly spread across the full extent of the Proposed Development Area (Fig.2).

The location of the trenches were as follows:

- Evaluation Trench 1 – measured 25m by 2m aligned east to west and aimed to evaluate the most northern part of the site.
- Evaluation Trench 2 – measured 25m by 2m aligned east to west and aimed to evaluate the north-western area of the site, to the north of the dividing hedgerow.
- Evaluation Trench 3 – measured 25m by 2m aligned north to south aiming to evaluate the area eastern area of the site.



- Evaluation Trench 4 – measured 25m by 2m on an east to west alignment and aimed to evaluate the western area of the site, to the south of the dividing hedgerow.
- Evaluation Trench 5- measured 25m by 2m aligned east to west and aimed to evaluate the eastern area of the site, to the south of the dividing hedgerow.
- Evaluation Trench 6- measured 25m by 2m and aimed to evaluate the central area of the site.
- Evaluation Trench 7- measured 25m by 2m and aimed to evaluate the south-western area of the site.
- Evaluation Trench 8- measured 25m by 2m and aimed to evaluate the southern area of the site.

5.1.2 The work was undertaken on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 during generally wet and weather with low cloud cover.

5.1.3 Overburden, topsoil and subsoil were removed by rear-acting JCB, 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 soonest. The exposed surfaces were cleaned by shovel, hoe or trowel as appropriate [Pls. 2-9], and all subsequent excavation carried out by hand and in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 3).

5.1.4 All work was carried out in line with both the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014).

## 5.2 On-site Recording

5.2.1 All deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets which are compatible with the MOLA recording system. A total of 8 separate contexts were recorded (Appendix 1).

## 5.3 Photographic Record

5.3.1 The photographic record comprised 16 digital photographs, taken on site. The photographic record included a film register, shot number, location of shot, direction of shot and brief description (Appendix 2).

## 6. Results

### 6.1 Evaluation Trench 1 (Fig. 2: Plate 2)

6.1.1 Evaluation Trench 1 stood at heights of between 41.57m AOD and 41.32m AOD, with between 0.35m and 0.40m of topsoil (Context 1001). No subsoil was observed in the trench.

6.1.2 Removal of topsoil within Trench 1 revealed no archaeological features. The natural clay occurred at 41.25m AOD at the western end of the trench and 40.80m AOD at the eastern end.

### 6.2 Evaluation Trench 2 (Fig. 2: Plate 3)

6.2.1 Evaluation Trench 2 stood at a height of 41.10m AOD With between 0.30m and 0.50m of topsoil (Context 2001). No subsoil was present within the Evaluation Trench.

6.2.2 Removal of topsoil revealed no archaeological features or finds. The natural clay occurred at around between 40.78m AOD and 40.62m AOD.

### **6.3 Evaluation Trench 3 (Fig. 2: Plate 4)**

6.3.1 Evaluation Trench 3 stood at between 40.27m AOD and 40.86m AOD with 0.35m of dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil (Context 3001).

6.3.2 Removal of topsoil revealed three agricultural furrows but no archaeological features. Natural deposits were present at 40.81m AOD.

### **6.4 Evaluation Trench 4 (Fig. 2: Plate 5)**

6.4.1 Evaluation Trench 4 stood at heights of between 43.28m AOD and 43.73m AOD, with on average 0.25m of topsoil (Context 4001).

6.4.2 Removal of topsoil within the trench revealed no archaeological features, finds or deposits. Natural clay was identified at 42.97m AOD at the eastern end and 43.33m AOD to the west.

### **6.5 Evaluation Trench 5 (Fig 2: Plate 6)**

6.5.1 Evaluation Trench 5 stood at between 41.42m AOD and 41.56m AOD with an average topsoil depth of 0.29m.

6.5.2 Removal of topsoil (context 5001) revealed no archaeological features. Natural deposits were recorded at between 40.23m AOD and 40.73m AOD.

### **6.6 Evaluation Trench 6 (Fig 2: Plate 7)**

6.6.1 Evaluation Trench 6 stood at between 41.41m AOD and 41.91m AOD. A dark greying brown clayey silt topsoil was present to a depth of 0.32m. no subsoil was present.

6.6.2 No archaeological features were present within the trench although 4 agricultural furrows and a pit containing modern refuse was noted. Natural deposits were present at between 41.11m AOD and 41.63m AOD.

### **6.7 Evaluation Trench 7 (Fig 2: Plate 8)**

6.7.1 Evaluation Trench 7 stood at between 41.39m AOD and 41.71m AOD. Topsoil was present to an average depth of 0.35m.

6.7.2 No archaeological deposits were present within the Evaluation Trench. Natural deposits were recorded at 41.86m AOD.

### **6.8 Evaluation Trench 8 (Fig 2: Plates 9)**

6.8.1 Evaluation Trench 8 stood at 40.40m AOD with a dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil, present to a depth of 3.32m.

6.8.2 No archaeological features were present within the Evaluation Trench. A modern pit contained glass and brick, possibly associated with the previous use of the site as allotments. Natural deposits were present at 39.90m AOD.

## **7. Conclusion**

7.1 The archaeological evaluation has illustrated an absence of archaeological finds and features on land off Shackleton Close and Anchorage Way, Whitby. The results confirm an absence of significant archaeological

potential for the site and judging by the negative results of the evaluation, it is unlikely that any work within the development area would encounter or disturb any archaeological features, finds or deposits.

## 8. Bibliography

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## 9. List of Contributors

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