

**MAP
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE LTD**



**Hill View Cottage
West Heslerton
North Yorkshire**

SE 91835 77217

Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief

11/00364/FUL

MAP 10.44.2011

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**Hill View Cottage
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Report on the Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd on land at Hill View Cottage, West Heslerton, North Yorkshire (SE 91835 77217) in November 2011. The work involved monitoring the foundations for the erection of 2 no. two-bedroom holiday chalets with parking/turning area, access paths, landscaping and resurfacing of access track (Application No. 11/00364/FUL).

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the Watching Brief.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was carried out on the in October 2011, at Hill View Cottage, West Heslerton, North Yorkshire, (SE 91835 77217: Fig. 1) which involved monitoring the foundations for the erection of 2no. two-bedroom holiday chalets with parking/turning area, access paths, landscaping and resurfacing of access track.
- 1.2 The Watching Brief was designed to provide an appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the ground works, following the archaeology policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Statement 5 – Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5)*.
- 1.3 All work was funded by Mr Roberts.

- 1.4 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, Licence No. AL 50453A.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The site lies between the villages of West and East Heslerton, to the north of the Hill View Cottage on the A64 Malton to Scarborough Road (Figs. 1 and 2). The site is accessed by a private drive.
- 2.2 At the time of the Watching Brief, the development area was covered by a surfacing vegetation surrounded by trees.
- 2.3 The site stands on soils of the Newport 1 Association, which are described as deep, well-drained, sandy and coarse loamy soils, occurring over solid geology of glaciofluvial drift (Mackney *et al.* 1983).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 Heslerton is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1085. The name derives from the Old English for "hazel enclosure" (Ekwall 1974, 237).
- 3.2 The villages of East and West Heslerton lie within a multi-period landscape that ranges from Neolithic to Anglian in date. This landscape is known from aerial photographic cropmarks shown on aerial photographs (Stoertz 1997) and approximately 1km to the west it has been the subject of large-scale excavations (Powlesland *et al.* 1986). The core of the medieval village lies around the church, Manor House and moated site.

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Watching Brief were to record and recover archaeological remains, which could be affected by the works, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 To observe all the groundwork's associated with the foundations for the erection of the 2no. two-bedroom holiday chalets with parking/turning area, access paths, landscaping and resurfacing of access track.
- 5.2 All excavations were undertaken using a back acting mechanical excavator using a toothed and a toothless bucket, under close archaeological supervision.
- 5.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 5.4 All deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets, which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.
- 5.5 A photographic record of the monitored groundwork's was maintained throughout the Recording Brief on a digital camera.

6. Results

- 6.1 The work involved the archaeological monitoring of all groundwork's associated with the erection of the 2no. two-bedroom holiday chalets with parking/turning area, access paths, landscaping and resurfacing of access track.
- 6.2 The excavations went through topsoil some 0.3m in depth down onto alluvial sand deposits for a further 10cms to the required formation depth. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Whilst all groundworks taking place on the site were watched under archaeological supervision, no finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

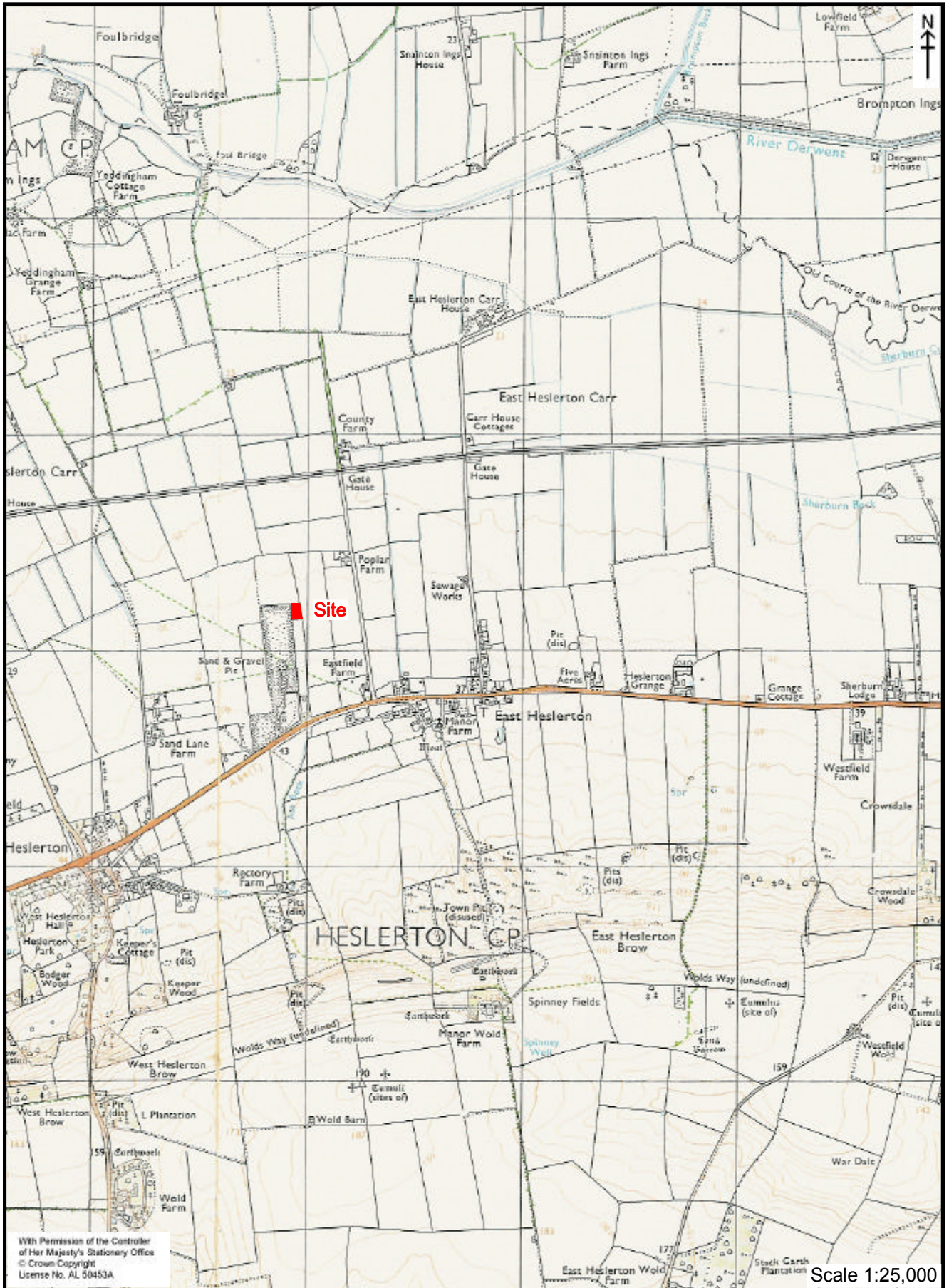


Figure 1. Site Location



Figure 2. Area of Archaeological Watching Brief.



Plate 1. Area after removal of vegetation. Facing North.



Plate 2. Area after removal of vegetation. Facing North.



Plate 3. Area after removal of vegetation. Facing North-east.



Plate 4. Area after Stripping. Facing North.

MAP

Archaeological Consultancy Ltd

STANDARD WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING (“WATCHING BRIEF”)

Hill View Cottage, West Heslerton
11/00364/FUL

Change of use of woodland for the erection of 2no. two-bedroom holiday chalets with parking/turning area, access paths, landscaping and resurfacing of access track

- 1 The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains which are:
 - a) affected by proposed development only to a limited and clearly defined extent,
 - b) not available or susceptible to standard area excavation techniques, or
 - c) of limited importance or potential.The work should not require the construction programme or development to be held up while archaeological investigation takes place, although some developers may give such a facility.
- 2 The WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements needed to comply with an archaeological planning condition or obligation. The scheme does **not** comprise a full specification or Bill of Quantities, and the County Council makes no warranty that the works are fully or exactly described. No work on site should commence until the implementation of the scheme is the subject of a standard ICE Conditions of Contract for Archaeological Investigation or similar agreement between the Developer and the Archaeologist.
- 3 The Archaeologist should notify by letter or e-mail the County Archaeology Service (archaeology@northyorks.gov.uk) at least 10 working days in advance of the start of work on site.
- 4 The removal of overburden (that is vegetation, turf, loose stones, rubble, made ground, Tarmac, concrete, hardcore, building debris and topsoil) will be supervised by the Archaeologist contracted to carry out the WSI. The Archaeologist should be informed of the correct timing and schedule of overburden removal.
- 5 Removal of overburden by machine will be undertaken using a back-acting excavator fitted with toothless or ditching bucket only. Where materials are exceptionally difficult to lift, a toothed bucket may be used temporarily. Subsoils (B horizons) or deep, uniform fills of features may also be removed by back-acting excavator but only in areas specified by the Archaeologist on site, and only with archaeological supervision. Bulldozers or wheeled scraper buckets should not be used to remove overburden above archaeological deposits. Where reinstatement is required, topsoil should be kept separate from other soil materials.
- 6 Metal detecting within the development area, including the scanning of topsoil and spoil heaps, should only be permitted subject to archaeological supervision and recording such that metal finds are properly located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection should be carried out following the Treasure Act 1996 Code of

Practice.

- 7 Where structures, finds, soil features and layers of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed by construction works, the Archaeologist should be provided with the opportunity to observe, clean, assess, excavate by hand where appropriate, sample and record these features and finds. If the contractors or plant operators notice archaeological remains, they should immediately tell the Archaeologist. The sampling of deposits for palaeo-environmental evidence should be a standard consideration, and arrangements should be made to ensure that specialist advice and analysis are available if appropriate.
- 8 Heavy plant will not be operated in the near vicinity of archaeological remains until they have been recorded, and the Archaeologist on site has allowed operations to recommence at that location. Sterile subsoils (C horizons) and parent materials below archaeological deposits may be removed without archaeological supervision. Where reinstatement is required, subsoils should be backfilled first and topsoil last.
- 9 Upon completion of fieldwork, samples will be processed and evaluated, and all finds identified, assessed, spot-dated, properly stored, and subject to investigative conservation as needed. A field archive should be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist should arrange for either the County Archaeologist or an independent post-excavation specialist to inspect the archive before making arrangements for the transfer of the archive to an appropriate museum or records office.
- 10 A summary report will be produced following NYCC guidelines on reporting. The report should contain planning or administrative details of the project, a summary of works carried out, a description and interpretation of the findings, an assessment of the importance of the archaeology including its historical context where appropriate, and catalogues of finds, features, and primary records. All excavated areas should be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and field boundaries. All significant features should be illustrated with conventionally-scaled plans, sections, and photographs. Where few or no finds are made, it may be acceptable to provide the report in the form of a letter with plans attached.
- 11 Copies of the summary report will be provided to the client(s), the County Heritage Section (HER), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage. A licence should be granted to the accepting museum and the County Council to use the documentation arising from the work for its statutory functions and to give to third parties as an incidental to those functions.
- 12 Upon completion of the work, the Archaeologist will make their work accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>). Submission of data to OASIS does not discharge the planning requirements for the Archaeologist to notify the County Archaeology Service of the details of the work and to provide the Historic Environment Record (HER) with a summary report on the work.
- 13 Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2005 (EIR) information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'. Requests for sensitive information are subject to a public interest test, and if this is met, then the information has to be disclosed. The Archaeologist should inform the client of EIR requirements, and ensure that any information disclosure issues are resolved before completion of the work. Intellectual property rights are not affected by the EIR.
- 14 The County Archaeologist will be informed as soon as possible of the discovery of any

unexpected archaeological remains, or changes in the programme of ground works on site. Any significant changes in the archaeological work should be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority. If there is a need to remove human remains, an exhumation licence should be obtained from the Department for Constitutional Affairs (coroners@dca.gsi.gov.uk), or a faculty obtained where the remains are buried in land consecrated according to the rites of the Church of England.