

**ERECTION OF NEW DWELLINGS NORTH OF WHITE HALL
FARM, LAND OFF NORTH BACK LANE, KILHAM,
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE:
Archaeological mitigation strategy (updated addendum to written scheme of
investigation)**



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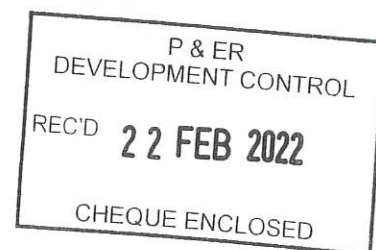
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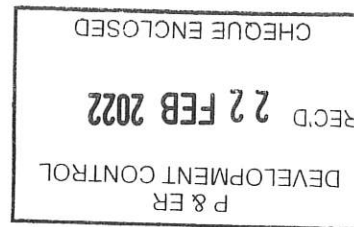
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HFA site code: WB2021.022
National Grid Ref.: TA 0636 6450 (approximate centre)

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David Atkinson
20/09/21





1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The purpose of this document is to update the addendum produced in November 2018 (Steedman 2018c) to an earlier written scheme of investigation (WSI) to propose an archaeological mitigation strategy for recording in advance of and during the construction of six new dwellings, on land north of White Hall Farm, off North Back Lane, East Riding of Yorkshire (centred at National Grid Reference TA 0636 6450; HFA Site code WB2021.022—see Fig. 1), for HAL Builders Ltd. The development site lies in a landscape containing heritage assets dating from the prehistoric, Romano-British and later periods; geophysical survey and trial excavations have previously taken place on this site.

Geophysical survey was carried out in June 2018 as the first stage of archaeological evaluation, following the recommendations of the Humber Historic Environment Record (HHER), archaeological advisors to the East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ERYC), and in line with the requirements of a condition (No. 4) on planning permission granted in January 2018 (planning application no. DC/17/00898/OUT/EASTNN). The survey was followed by trial excavations in September 2018.

The earlier WSI (dated 4th May 2018; Steedman 2018a) had not only provided a methodology for the geophysical survey in accordance with HHER requirements, but also set out the methodologies and approaches which would pertain should HFA carry out any subsequent archaeological evaluation or recording works on the site, such as the trial excavations which did take place. The following paragraph is taken from the WSI methodology section (3.2):

“The results of the geophysical survey will determine the need or otherwise for further archaeological fieldwork, which could take the form of further evaluation by trial excavation, a monitored strip, map and record exercise, or a watching brief, and the recording methodologies described below will apply to any of these scenarios. It is intended that a brief addendum to this WSI would be produced to further define the scope and extent of any further fieldwork.”

A previous WSI addendum (Steedman 2018b), produced in August 2018 following the geophysical survey, set out the possible size and locations of trial trenches, as recommended by HHER, in advance of the trial excavations taking place; all other aspects of the previous WSI pertaining to archaeological excavation and recording still applied.

The September 2018 trial excavations established the presence of archaeological features likely to be affected by development and have led to the formulation of a mitigation strategy to investigate and record any such features in advance of, or during, construction, in order to mitigate their disturbance as a result of development and to achieve their ‘preservation by record.’

1.2 Summary of the geophysical survey results

A fluxgate gradiometer survey was carried out in June 2018 by Pre-Construct Geophysics Ltd (Bunn 2018).

The survey did not record magnetic variation that could be confidently attributed to significant buried archaeological remains, it seeming likely that most, particularly stronger, variation is associated with modern or recent activity, including moderate magnetic responses induced by an existing track and very slight magnetic enhancement resulting from a length of an existing north-south earthwork bank.

Elsewhere, stronger variation (particularly prevalent in the southern and western regions) probably reflects miscellaneous modern debris and boundary fencing. The anomalies were recorded against a backdrop of minimal natural variation.

1.3 Summary of the trial excavations

In September 2018, HFA undertook archaeological evaluation by trial excavation (Jobling 2018). Four trenches were excavated in positions recommended by HHER following the earlier geophysical survey. Of the four trial trenches examined, two contained archaeological features and two did not; see Fig. 3.

The north-easterly trench (Trench 1) cut through an extant medieval bank, itself part of a more extensive earthwork consisting of a longitudinal bank and probable hollow-way, both on a broadly N-S alignment. Within the trench, sealed by the bank, were recorded a small, shallow pit which truncated the edge of a substantial NNE-SSW aligned ditch of a probable prehistoric date. The southernmost trench (Trench 4) also contained evidence for a possible prehistoric ditch, running on a WNW-ESE alignment, sealed below much later, probably post-medieval, soil horizons and later 18th- or 19th-century surfacing and the remains of a brick boundary wall. It is suggested that the ditches in Trenches 1 and 4 are probably associated, if not contemporaneous; extrapolation of their perpendicular alignments suggest that they would likely meet at a junction in the southern part of the development site.

A preliminary survey of the earthworks in the vicinity of Trench 1 survey was undertaken during the course of the excavation to illustrate the general location and form of the extant earthworks; see Fig. 2.

This interim report concluded with recommendations for further archaeological work to satisfy the requirements of the condition on planning permission.



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION STRATEGY

2.1 Introduction

The geophysical survey and subsequent trial excavations make it clear that there are features of archaeological significance surviving within the development area, likely to be affected by the development. Therefore, archaeological fieldwork will be required to investigate and record such features in advance of, or during, construction, to mitigate these development impacts.

The mitigation strategy will comprise a programme of observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during certain elements of the development.

The earlier WSI (Steedman 2018a) set out the various methods and approaches which will pertain to archaeological recording on the site, reporting of the results and the site archive; these will also apply to the mitigation strategy described below.

2.2 Observation, investigation and recording

Development of the site will involve excavation with the potential to impact on buried archaeological remains, the presence of which, in some parts of the site, has been demonstrated by the trial excavations (see Fig. 2).

Topsoil stripping will take place across much of the site. In certain areas – the route of the proposed access road and turning areas, and the footprints of the planned new dwellings in Plots 2 and 6 (see Fig. 3) – it is recommended that the soil strip should be accompanied by archaeological monitoring to see if the possible prehistoric ditches identified during the trial excavations do indeed continue across the site and if there are any other archaeological features present, either contemporaneous with the ditches, or of a different date. Areas stripped for contractor's compounds should also be examined if they lie in parts of the site – such as the south-eastern corner – which were not investigated by trial excavation.

Should archaeological features be encountered during the monitoring of these stripped areas then adequate time and resources should be allowed for them to be investigated and recorded in advance of construction. Monitoring should potentially also accompany the excavation of service trenches and foundation trenches, except in cases where an adequate record has already been made of affected features during the soil strip. Similarly, although the results of the trial excavations do not suggest the presence of significant archaeological features in the north-western part of the site, trenches there having specifically targeted the areas of house Plots 3,4 and 5, should recording along the access road suggest that any archaeological features extend into the footprints of these dwellings, the footing trench excavations should be monitored.



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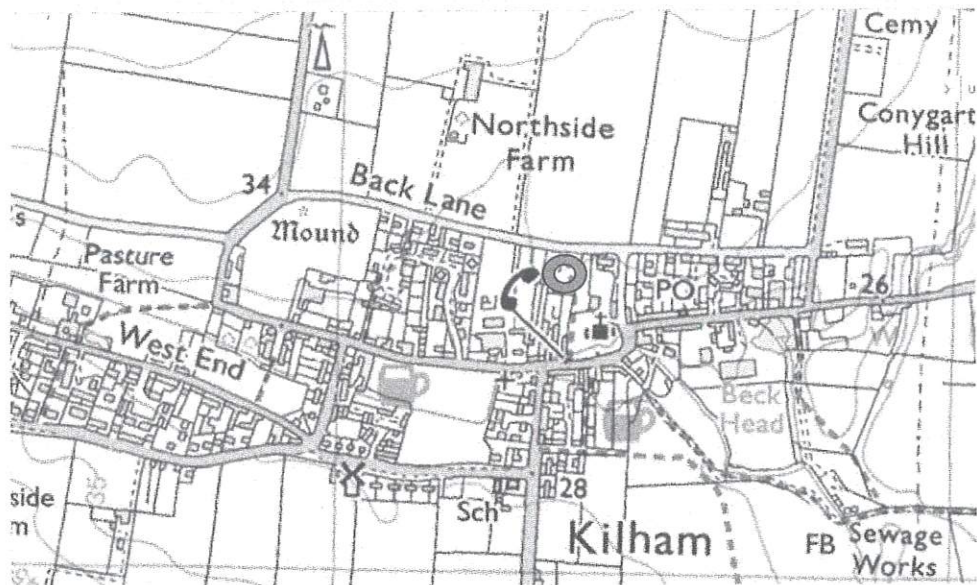


Figure 1: Location of the proposed development marked by red circle (Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright; Licence no. 100034493).



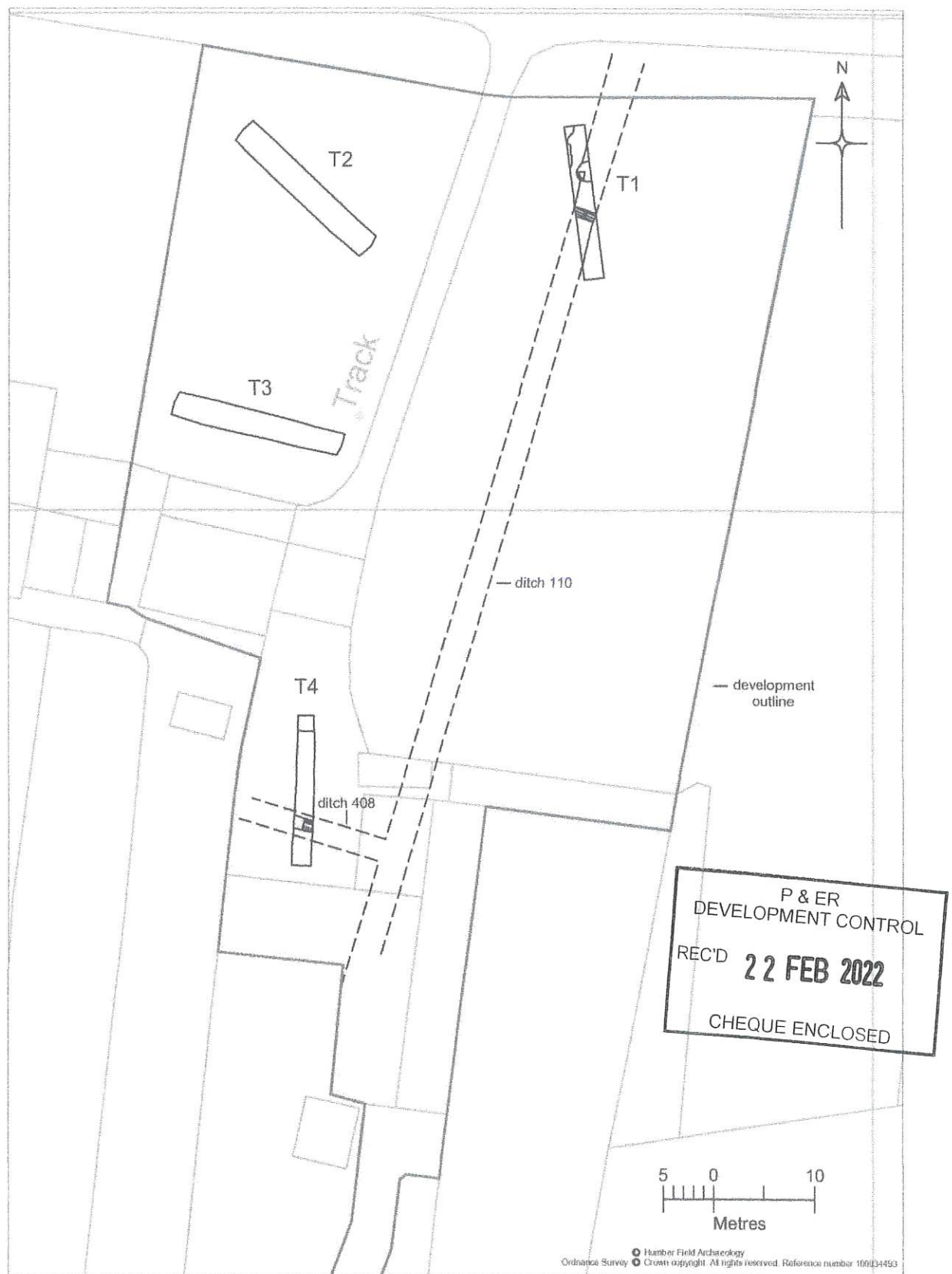


Figure 2: location of the trial trenches with extrapolated buried ditch alignments
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Archaeological mitigation strategy, further addendum to WSI, proposed new dwellings, land off North Back Lane, Kilham, ERY 7

