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LAND ADJACENT TO MILLFIELD, WETHERBY ROAD,  
RUFFORTH, YORK.

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REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

OSA Report No: OSA17WB12.

April 2017.

**OSA**

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**Report Summary.**

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**REPORT NO:** OSA17WB12

**SITE NAME:** Land adjacent to Millfield, Wetherby Road, Rufforth

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 51860 52130.

**PLANNING REF NO:** 16/02438/FUL

**ON BEHALF OF:** Mr Roger Ginley  
Rufforth Park  
Wetherby Road  
Rufforth  
York. YO23 3QF

**TEXT:** Graham Bruce

**GRAPHICS:** Graham Bruce

**FIELDWORK:** James Stanley

**TIMING:** Fieldwork  
March 2017  
Post excavation & report preparation  
April 2017

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## 1.0 Abstract.

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*An archaeological watching brief was carried during the construction of a stable block and associated hardstanding on land adjacent to Millfield, Wetherby Road, Rufforth. The work was commissioned by Mr Roger Ginley to satisfy a planning condition. Groundworks required for the development were limited to a 200mm deep topsoil strip across an area 20m x 9m. At no point did these excavations penetrate the base of the topsoil so no archaeological features or deposits were either exposed or disturbed during the work.*

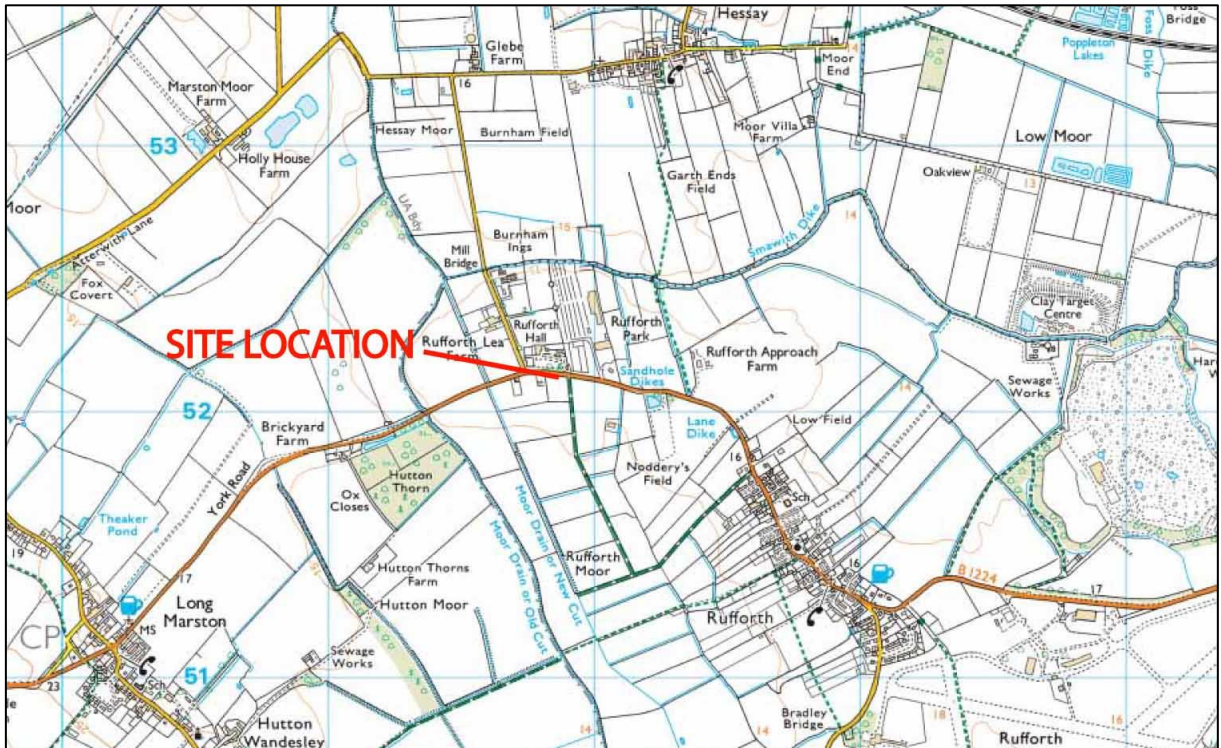


Figure 1. Site location.

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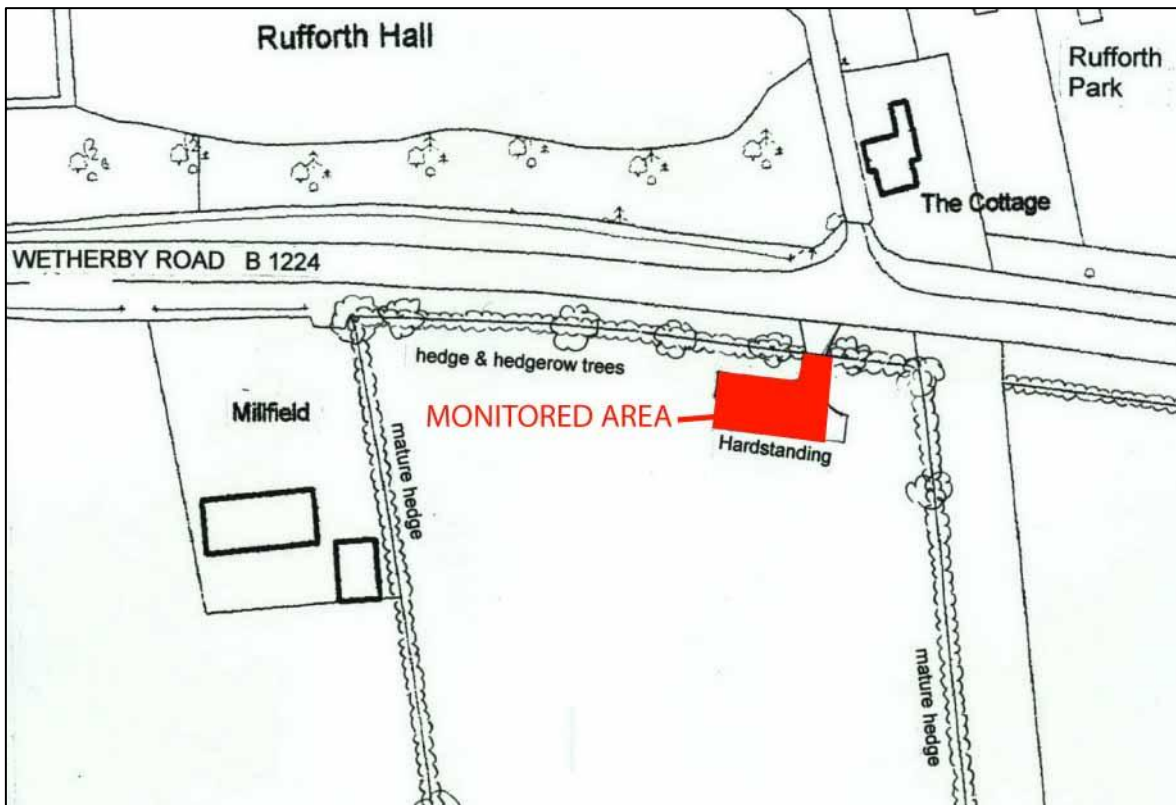


Figure 2. Detailed site location.

## 2.0 Site Location and Land Use.

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The site lies to the west of the village of Rufforth, approximately 8km to the west of the centre of York, centred at National Grid Reference SE 51860 52130. The site is located on the south side of the B1224, Wetherby Road, within an existing paddock to the east of a residential property named Millfield. The proposed new stable block is to be located within the northern part of the field, close to Wetherby Road (see Figures 1 and 2).

## 3.0 Archaeological Background

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The site lies within a wider landscape which contains Iron Age/Romano-British features, recorded from aerial photographs as cropmarks. Cropmarks also indicate extensive remains of medieval ridge and furrow field systems in the vicinity. However, little in the way of archaeological excavation has been carried out in the area of the site. The most extensive archaeological fieldwork conducted in the Rufforth area has taken place to the east of the village, at the Harewood Whin waste recycling site. Evaluation carried out in 2007 comprised the excavation of 18 trenches, which only revealed furrows, field drains, late 18<sup>th</sup> century hedged boundaries and a single undated feature.

## 4.0 Methodology

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The watching brief comprised archaeological monitoring of the removal of 0.20m depth of topsoil over an area 20m x 9m. The excavation work was carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless bucket.

Standard On-Site Archaeology techniques were followed throughout the watching brief. These involved the completion of a context sheet for each deposit, structure or cut encountered, along with plans and/or sections drawn to scale. A photographic and drawing record of the deposits and features was also maintained.

## 5.0 Results.

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The monitored area comprised an east west aligned rectangle a total of 20m long and 9m wide, parallel to Wetherby Road.

The excavation area was a maximum of 0.20m deep. The only deposit encountered comprised the topsoil (100). At no point did the excavations penetrate the base of the topsoil so no archaeological features or deposits were either exposed or disturbed during the work.





*Figure 3. View of completed excavation looking east.*