

**Land at OS Field 4763
York Road
Sheriff Hutton
North Yorkshire
SE 6360 6455**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Authorised by

Date:.....

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Archaeological Recording Brief Report

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Archaeological Recording Brief Report

Non-technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on land to the east of York Road, near Sheriff Hutton, North Yorkshire (SE 630 6455) on the 15th of March 2010. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the construction of an agricultural storage building. No Archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded during the works where only topsoil sealing natural deposits was encountered.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was conducted on the 15th of March 2010 by MAP Archaeological, Consultancy Ltd. on land to the east of York Road, near Sheriff Hutton, North Yorkshire (SE 630 6455). The archaeological work was undertaken in order to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to a Planning Application Consent for the erection of an agricultural storage building (Ref. No.09/00536/FUL).
- 1.2 The Archaeological Watching Brief was designed to provide an appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development, following the archaeology policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Guidance 16 'Archaeology and Planning'* (PPG 16).
- 1.3 The site code for the project was MAP 07.03.10.
- 1.4 All work was funded by Mr. S Clayton.

- 1.5 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 is located approximately 2km to the south west of Sheriff Hutton, 1km to the south west of West Lilling and 2.4km to the east of the deserted medieval village of East Lilling. The site lies on flat farmland in the south-eastern corner of a field where a yard and an agricultural building are located, flanked by the River Foss to the south, Howl Beck to the east and farmland to the north and west (Figs.1 & 2, Pl. 1 - 4).
- 2.2 The site lies on soils of the Everingham Association, deep permeable fine sandy soils, some with bleached subsurface horizon, groundwater controlled by ditches and risk of wind erosion (Mackney 1984).

3. Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The site lies within the parish of Sheriff Hutton, a village with two medieval castles. The earlier timber castle within a ring work at the east end of Sheriff Hutton was established in the early to mid Twelfth century. In 1382 Sir John de Neville of Raby built a second stone castle on a new site at the west end of the village.
- 3.2 The villages of East and West Lilling are located to the north-east and east and were part of the manor of Sheriff Hutton. From the time of Domesday the disputed overlordship of the villages had a complex history passing back and forth from crown to local magnates associated with the Neville family.
- 3.3 The population of East Lilling expanded at first evident from the setting out of extra holdings at both its east and western ends. These increases were difficult to chart in tax lists and other documentary sources because the villages of and East and West Lilling were often not distinguished from one another, or were sometimes assessed jointly with other small neighbouring villages. East Lilling was deliberately demolished between 1471 and 1485 to accommodate the expansion of a deer park that had been attached to Sheriff Hutton Castle since before 1282/83 (Jones et al. 1990).

- 3.4 The 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Map of 1911 records the earthworks of a moat on the east, west and southern sides of Grange Farm located on the western side of the village of West Lilling. The moat is classified by Le Patourel as a type A2(a), a divided moat with two islands of the smaller division of the size (less than 1 acre) and suggests that it might have been a Grange of Marton Priory, although Platt does not list the site as such (Platt 1969). Alternatively the house on the island could have belonged to a free tenant of the Neville family (La Patourel 1973).

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording Brief were to record and recover archaeological remains and finds, which could be affected by proposed development, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The monitored groundworks consisted of the Excavation of footings and stanchion pits for the proposed agricultural storage building. All groundworks were carried out under archaeological supervision.
- 5.2 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the recording brief on digital format.

6. Results

- 6.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified during the groundworks where only topsoil, rubble and natural sands were recorded.

6.2 The new agricultural building measured 27m x 15m and was located immediately to the west of an existing agricultural unit. The foundation trenches for the new unit were 0.7m wide and a maximum of 0.6m deep. The stanchion pits measured 1m square and 0.8m deep (Pl. 2). The only deposits recorded were 0.45m of mixed topsoil, rubble and sand (context 1) that overlay natural sands (context 2 - Pl. 3). It appeared that the southern end of the site closest to the River Foss had been built up recently to form the yard for the agricultural buildings; this was visible in the sections of the foundation trenches and stanchion pits.

7. **Conclusions**

7.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the groundworks, even though the site is in fairly close proximity to the medieval villages of Sherriff Hutton and East and West Lilling. The southern end of the site had been artificially raised to accommodate the new agricultural building and a hard standing yard. Consequently the only deposits encountered were topsoil and rubble forming the levelling deposit that sealed natural sand.

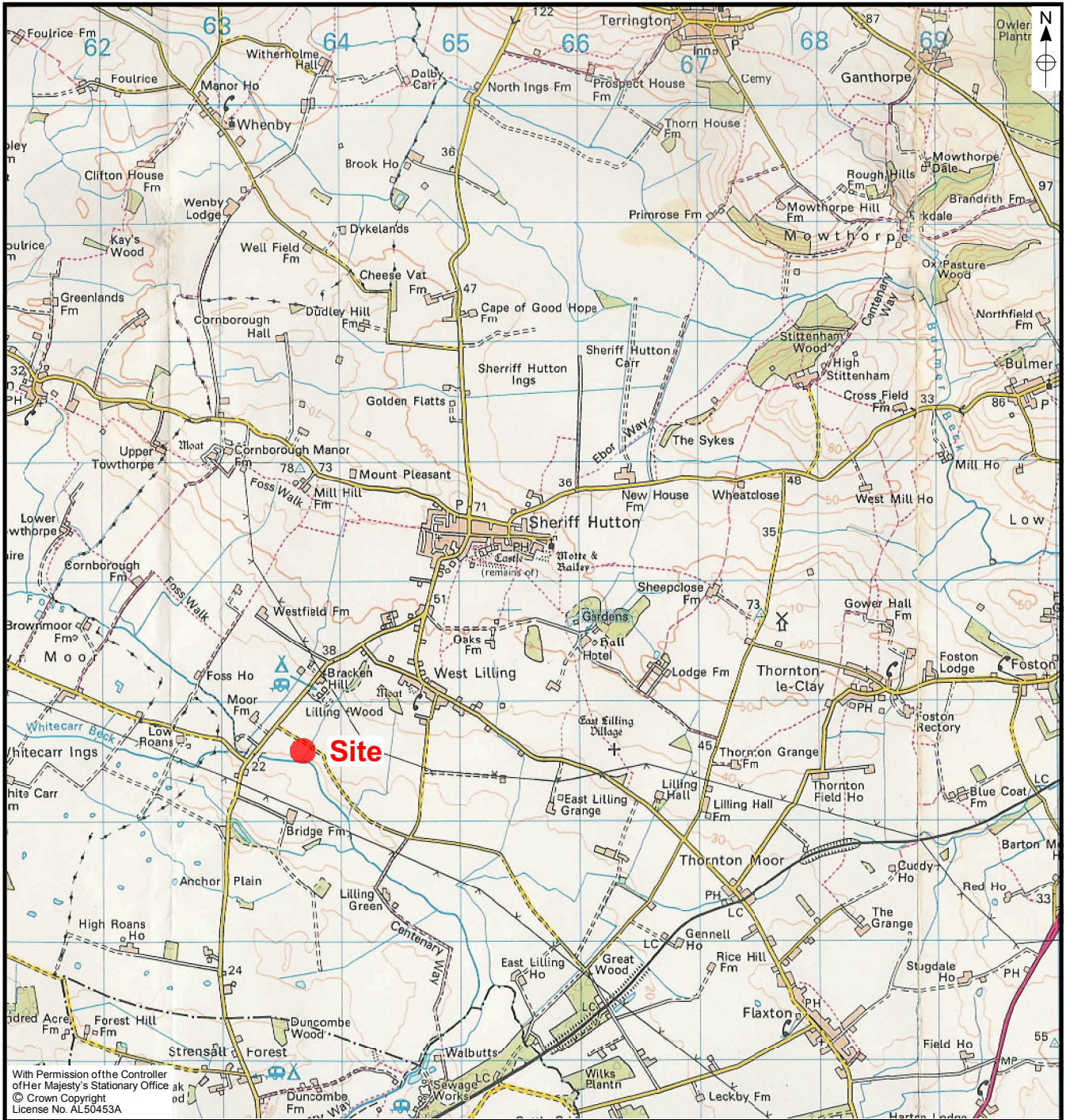
8. References

Mackney, D. 1984 Soils of England and Wales-Sheet 1, Northern England.

Jones E.A.; Mackay D.; Swan V.G East Lilling, North Yorkshire: The deserted medieval village reconsidered, Yorkshire Journal, Vol. 62, 1990

L Patourel H.E.J (1973) The Moated Sites of Yorkshire

Platt C. (1969) The Monastic Grange in Medieval England



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MAP

Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

SITE: Land At OS Field 4763, Sheriff Hutton

CLIENT: Mr S Calyton

TITLE: Site Location

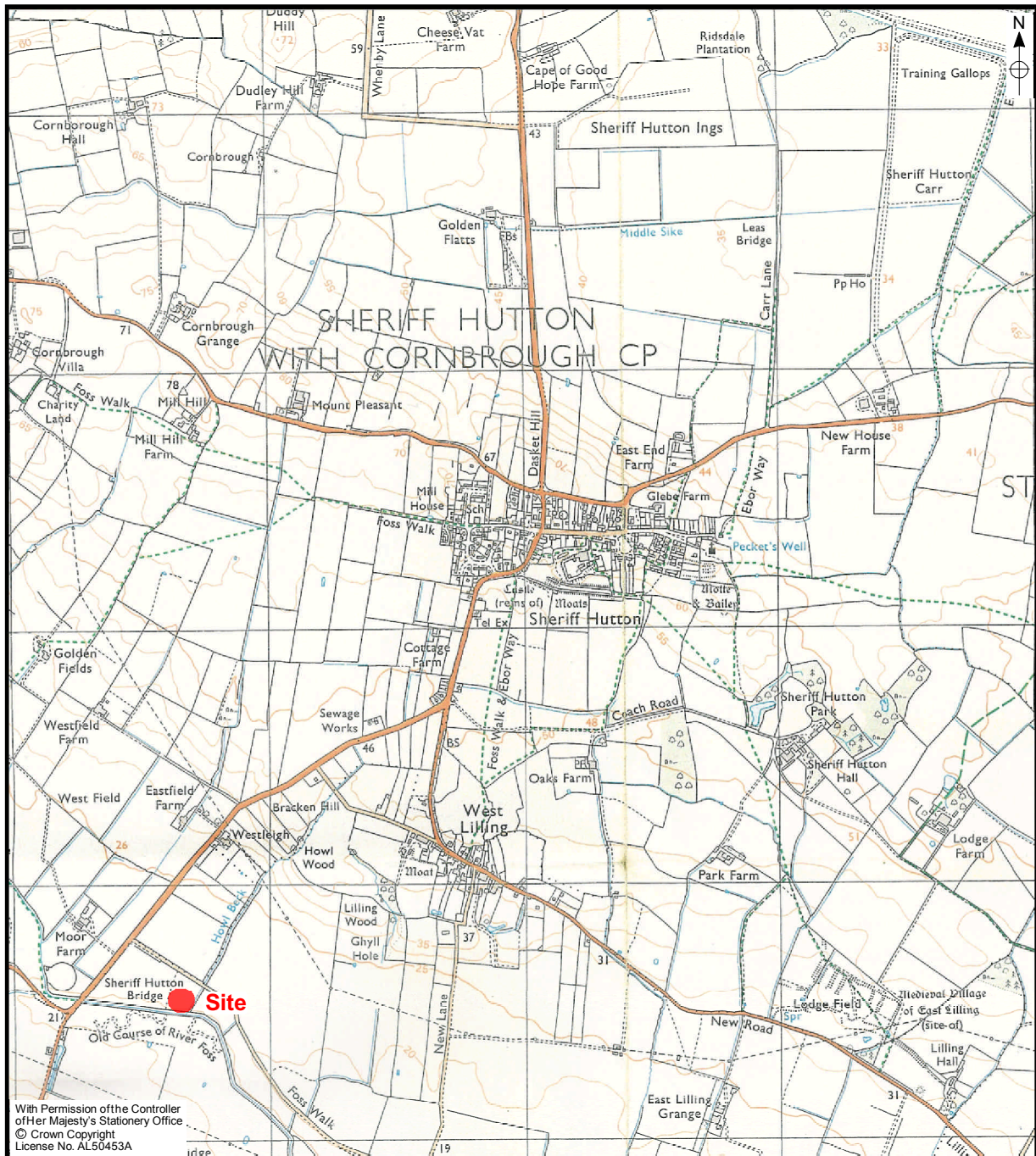
Figure 1.

Scale: 1:50,000

DRAWING REF.:

DRAWN BY: TWS

REVISIONS:



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MAP

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SITE: Land At OS Field 4763, Sheriff Hutton

CLIENT: Mr S Calyton

TITLE: Site Location

Figure 2.

Scale: 1:25,000

DRAWING REF.:

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REVISIONS:



Plate 1. Pre-Excavation Shot. Facing South



Plate 2. Foundation Trench and Stanchion Pits. Facing North-East



Plate 3. Detail of Foundation Trench. Facing North-West



Plate 4. Post-Excavation Shot. Facing South

APPENDIX 1

Land at OS Field 4763 York Road, Sheriff Hutton, North Yorkshire 07.03.010

Context Listing

Context	Description
1	Deposit 10YR 4/3 Mixed sandy loam topsoil and rubble
2	Deposit 10YR 4/2 Natural sand

APPENDIX 2

Photographic Archive Listing

Digital

Frame	Description	Scale	Facing
1	Pre-excavation shot of site	N/A	South
2	Excavation of foundation trenches	N/A	North-west
3	Excavation of foundation trenches	N/A	North-west
4	Excavation of foundation trenches	N/A	North-east
5	Excavation of foundation trenches	N/A	North-east
6	Detail of stanchion pit	1m	North-west
7	Foundation trench and stanchion pit	1m	North-east
8	Foundation trench and stanchion pits	1m	North-east
9	Foundation trench and stanchion pits	1m	North-east
10	Natural sand within stanchion pit	1m	North-east
11	Natural sand within foundation trench	1m	North-east
12	Natural sand within foundation trench	1m	North-east
13	Detail of foundation trench	1m	South-east
14	Detail of foundation trench	1m	South-east
15	Detail of foundation trench	1m	South-east
16	Detail of foundation trench	1m	North-west
17	Detail of foundation trench	1m	North-west
18	Post-excavation shot	N/A	South

Project Team Details

Fieldwork

Charlie Morris

Post-excavation

Charlie Morris *report*

Mark Stephens *editorial*

Tom Silversides *CAD and illustrations*

MAP

Archaeological Consultancy Ltd

Land at OS Field 4763 York Road, Sheriff Hutton 09/00536/FUL

An Archaeological Recording Brief will be undertaken on behalf of Mr S Clayton, during the erection of an agricultural storage building.

The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains, which could be affected by proposed development. The area is to be stripped under archaeological supervision and any features/deposits exposed excavated and recorded to correct archaeological standards

1. 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. The scheme does not comprise a full specification, and the County Council makes no warranty that the works are fully or exactly described. The details of implementation must be specified in a contract between the developer and the selected archaeological contractor.
3. The removal of overburden (that is vegetation, turf, loose stones, rubble, made ground, Tarmac, concrete, hardcore, building debris and topsoil) should 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.
4. Removal of overburden by machine should 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.

7. Heavy plant should 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.

8. Upon completion of fieldwork, samples will be processed and evaluated, and all finds cleaned, identified, assessed, spot-dated, and properly stored. A field archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist will 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.

9. A report will be produced following NYCC guidelines on reporting. The report will 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 will be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and field boundaries. All significant features will be illustrated with conventionally scaled plans, sections, or photographs. Where few or no finds are made, a summary report the form of a letter with plans will be submitted.

10. Copies of the summary report will be provided to the client(s), the County Heritage Unit (SMR), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage.

11. 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 will be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority. If human remains are encountered, they will be exhumed subject to the conditions of a Home Office licence.