

**Land off Moor Lane,
Moor Lane
Sherburn-in-Elmet,
North Yorkshire**

**SE 50302 33674
Archaeological Recording Brief**

Authorised by

Date:.....

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Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological Recording Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on land to the north and south of Moor Lane, Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire (SE 50302 33674) during April, May, October and November 2007; August 2010 and January 2011. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with a housing development on the site including topsoil stripping of roadways, the excavation of services and the excavation of footings for the new houses. (Planning Ref. 2005/0184/FUL).

No archaeological finds or features were uncovered during the recording brief.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Archaeological Recording Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on an the groundworks associated with the erection of 100 residential dwellings and associated access and landscaping at Land off Moor Lane, Moor Lane, Sherburn-in-Elmet, North Yorkshire (Planning Application 2005/0174/FUL). Access to the site was from Moor Lane.
- 1.2 The Archaeological Recording Brief was undertaken on April and May 2007, October and November 2007, August 2010 and January 2011.
- 1.3 The work was commissioned by and funded by Persimmon Homes.
- 1.4 All maps within this report have been reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence Number AL 5453A.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The site is situated on the eastern side of Sherburn in Elmet on two plots of land to the north and south of Moor Lane. The site is located on flat ground, previously arable fields, with the southerly plot of land prone to flooding with wet and damp areas. The site is bounded by residential properties to the north and west, and agricultural land to the south and east.
- 2.2 The site lies on soils of the Foggathorpe 2 Association described as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged stoneless clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils, overlying a Glaciolacustrine clay (Mackney, 1984, 194).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 Aerial data for the development area does not exist but cover to the south, to the east of Low Street has recorded a series of linears on various alignments and which on occasion appear to form sub-rectangular enclosures. Evaluation of this site (MAP 1997) confirmed the presence of a series of enclosures (with evidence of settlement) of Iron Age/Romano-British date on land adjacent to Low Street. Further evaluation to the east adjacent to the Sherburn Bypass and Cawood Road by Geophysical survey and Trial Trenching recorded little archaeological activity as the solid geology changed from limestone to clays. The finds assemblage recovered by Fieldwalking and excavation also reflected a fall off in archaeological activity.
- 3.2 Spot finds from the village consist of a stone axe (SMR 9475), a Roman coin of Vespasian Dupondius (SMR 9391.0001), an engraved ring with "EATHELWITH REGINA" (SMR 9443), and fragments of a stone cross of Anglian date found close to the church (SMR 9391.023). A barb and tanged arrowhead found during hoeing and a small number of Roman coins found during metal detecting at the Low Field site. This small collection covers a long period of time from the Neolithic through to the Anglo-Saxon period. Roman Burials and an extensive Roman field system have been uncovered in Sherburn.

- 3.3 In the Sherburn Charter a grant of twenty hides at Sherburn was made in 963 by King Edgar to a nobleman described in the charter as the venerable Aeslac. It has been suggested that the Sherburn Estate may have been lost or forfeited in this period and that the grant by Edgar to Aeslac was a move to return the land to the Church. The boundaries of the hides are described as enclosing a compact area, with detached portions of land in a number of surrounding vills. Seven out of the nine identified detached portions named are on the limestone ridge and this area was part of the kingdom of Elmet which developed after the withdrawal of Roman authority.
- 3.4 In the Domesday Survey 'Scireburne' is recorded as three entries, belonging to the Archbishop of York.
- 3.5 In 1223 a charter was granted for a market to be held weekly on a Wednesday and in 1238 a further charter granted an annual fair to be held on the 13th/14th of September.
- 3.6 In 1318 Robert the Bruce attacked Sherburn, and in 1322 Sherburn was raided after the Battle of Myton by the Scots, and the Manor House being destroyed. In September 1321 rebels led by Thomas of Lancaster swore to fight until Hugh de Spencer was removed from power. The rebels met at All Saints Church, Sherburn, but they were defeated and beheaded at Pontefract by Edward II.
- 3.7 Surviving documentary evidence indicates that wool was being produced and sold in the Fourteenth century and that wool and flax were produced in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth centuries.
- 3.8 The Church of All Saints displays architectural work from the Twelfth to the Nineteenth centuries. The church is mentioned in an early 10th century manuscript which records an inventory of goods for the church and additional evidence for an earlier church was provided by the discovery in 1948 of a fragment of an Anglian cross in the Vicarage garden. The plant decoration places the piece in the Ninth - Tenth century.

- 3.9 At the south-east corner of the church was the Chapel of St Mary's and the Holy Angels. This building was mentioned in the early Thirteenth century and was still in existence in 1502.
- 3.10 To the north of the church stands Hall Garth (SMR 9391.03/9391.031), the putative site for King Athelstan's Palace. The earthworks which survive in Hall Garth are characteristic of a Type A4(?) moated site with no moat on the uphill side (Le Patourel 1973). The moat contained service buildings and dovecote. Hall Garth therefore accommodated an ecclesiastical residence well into the Fourteenth century.
- 3.11 On the 6th of February in the 36th year of Henry VIII's reign (1545) the manor of Sherburn passed to the Crown from the authority of Archbishop Holgate. William Hungate, in 1545, he purchased the manor of Sherburn. The Hungate family continued to hold the Estate until 1608 when the land was confiscated and granted to Ralph Baldwin and thence to John Lumby in 1609. The Estates were returned to the Hungates under Charles I.
- 3.12 During the English Civil War, Lord Fairfax seized Sherburn and the Estate was confiscated. The Estate was restored to the family during the Restoration in 1662. Estates continued in the Hungate family until 1749 when Mary Hungate daughter of Sir Francis and sister of Sir Philip and Sir Charles inherited the Estates. She was married to Sir Edward Gascoigne. The Estates then passed to the Gascoigne family. Edward Gascoigne died in 1749 and in the same year the land passed to his son Sir Thomas, on his death the Estates went to Richard Olivier who was married to Thomas Gascoigne's step daughter and he took the name Gascoigne. Land continued with his line until 1938, when parcels of land were sold off.

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Recording Brief was to observe, record and recover any archaeological finds, deposits or remains, which could be affected by the ground works, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The proposed scheme of works involved the monitoring of topsoil stripping, the excavation of access roads, the excavation of service trenches and a large pit for the insertion of a tank and the excavation of house footings for the residential properties for mentioned properties.
- 5.2 All excavations were undertaken by a 360⁰ mechanical excavators Fitted with toothless buckets, operating under archaeological supervision..
- 5.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 2002).
- 5.4 A photographic record was maintained throughout the Archaeological Recording Brief on a digital camera.

6. Results

- 6.1 The topsoil strip and the excavation of the access roads was undertaken in April and May 2007 (Pls. 1-7). The topsoil was between 200mm and 300mm deep. The access roads were excavated by another 200mm. No Archaeological Finds and Features were uncovered during this stage of the recording brief.
- 6.2 In October 2007, the excavation of the main sewers was undertaken (Pls. 8-25). The sewer trenches were c. 1m wide and c. 2m deep. Natural clay deposits were uncovered. No Archaeological Finds and Features were uncovered during this stage of the recording brief.

6.3 In November 2007, a large pit was excavated c. 20m by 30m and 2.5m deep for the insertion of a waste tank (Pls. 26-32). Brown clay deposits were revealed. No Archaeological Finds and Features were uncovered during this stage of the recording brief.

6.4 In August 2010, and January 2011, the excavation of strip foundations for several house plots was undertaken (Pls. 33-46). The strip foundations were 600mm wide and 600mm-800mm deep. Brown clay deposits were observed. No Archaeological Finds and Features were uncovered during this stage of the recording brief.

7. Conclusions

7.1 No archaeological features or finds were observed during the recording brief.



Figure 1. Site Location

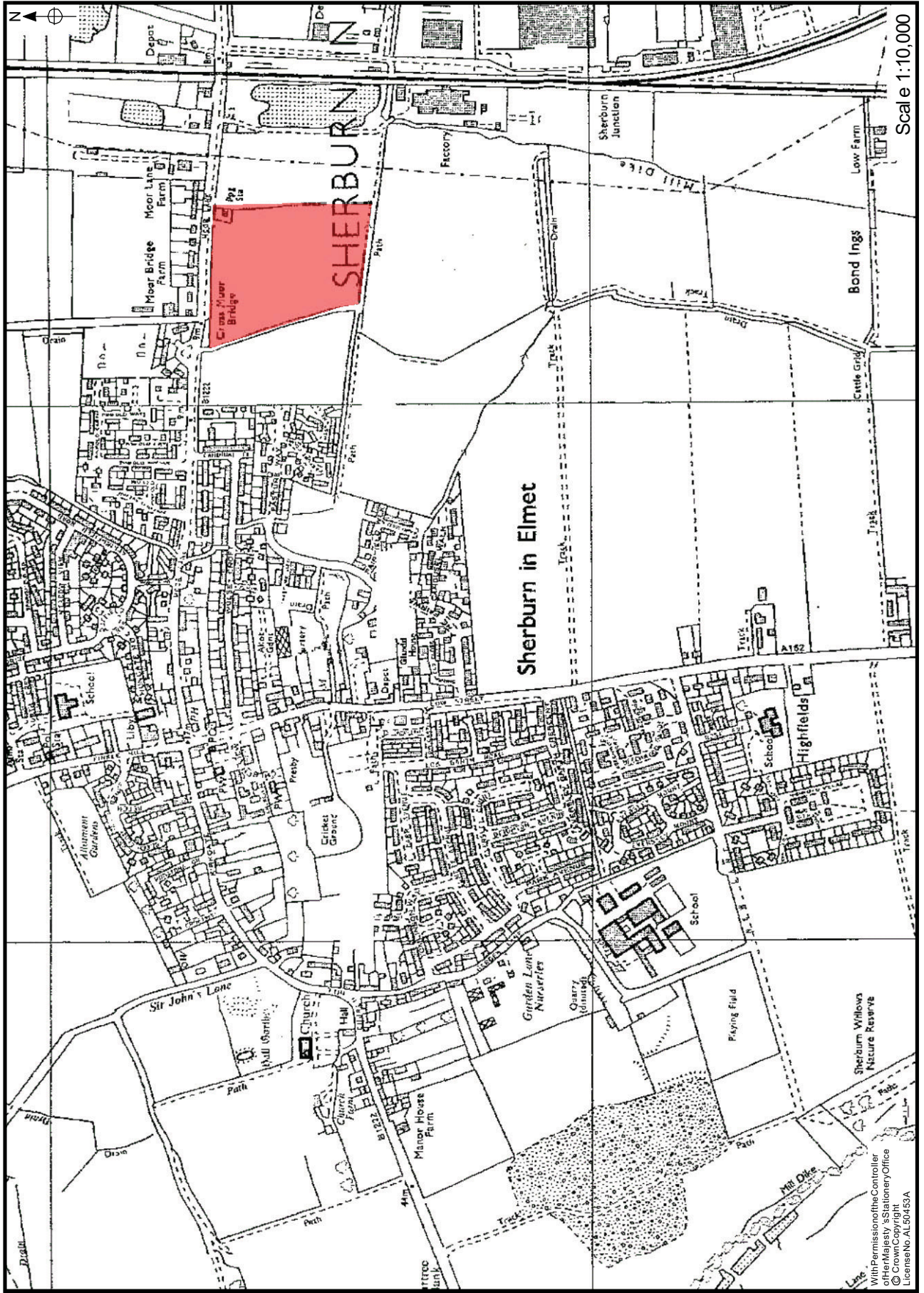


Figure 2. Area of Development



Plate 1. View of the Topsoil Stripping of the Access Road. Facing South.



Plate 2. View of the Topsoil Stripping of the Access Road. Facing South.



Plate 3. View of the Topsoil Stripping of the Access Road. Facing South.

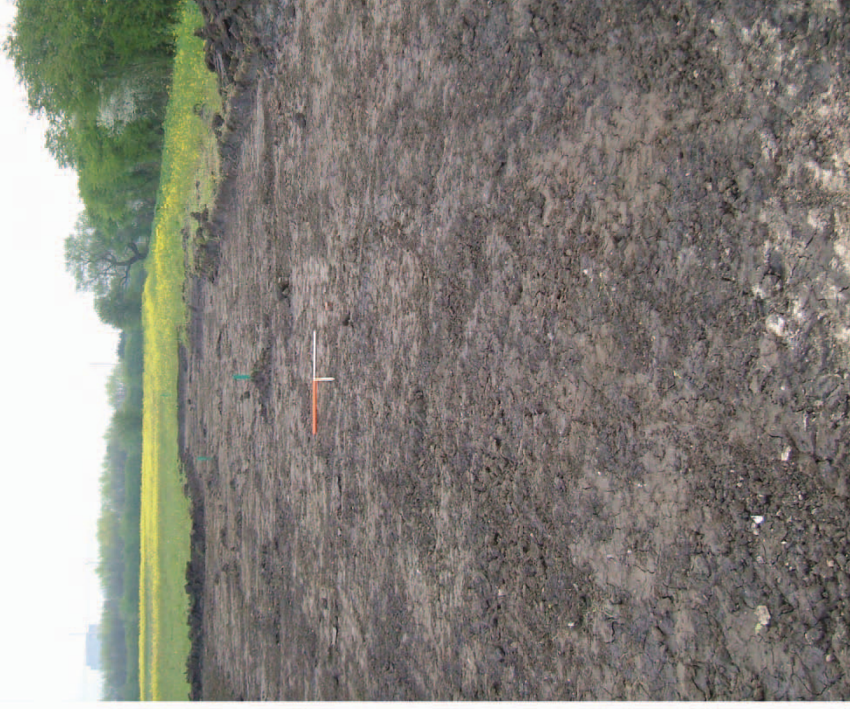


Plate 4. View of the Topsoil Stripping of the Access Road. Facing East.



Plate 6. View of the Topsoil Stripping of the Access Road. Facing North-west.



Plate 5. View of the Topsoil Stripping of the Access Road. Facing North.



Plate 7. View of the Topsoil Stripping of the Access Road. Facing North-west.



Plate 8. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing East.



Plate 9. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing East.



Plate 10. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing East.



Plate 11. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing East.



Plate 12. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing East.



Plate 13. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing North.



Plate 14. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing East.



Plate 15. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing East.



Plate 16. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing East.



Plate 17. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing South-east.



Plate 18. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing South.



Plate 19. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing South.



Plate 20. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing South.



Plate 21. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing South.



Plate 22. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing West.



Plate 23. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing South.



Plate 24. View of the Excavation of Drainage Trenches, Facing South.



Plate 25. View of the Excavation of the Large Tank Pit. Facing South.



Plate 26. View of the Excavation of the Large Tank Pit. Facing South.



Plate 27. View of the Excavation of the Large Tank Pit. Facing South.



Plate 28. View of the Excavation of the Large Tank Pit. Facing South.



Plate 29. View of the Excavation of the Large Tank Pit. Facing South.



Plate 30. View of the Excavation of the Large Tank Pit. Facing South.



Plate 41. View of House Footings. Facing South.



Plate 42. View of House Footings. Facing West.



Plate 33. View of House Footings. Facing West.



Plate 34. View of House Footings. Facing North-west.



Plate 35. View of House Footings. Facing North.



Plate 36. View of House Footings. Facing North.



Plate 37. View of House Footings. Facing West.



Plate 38. View of House Footings. Facing West.



Plate 39. View of House Footings. Facing South.



Plate 40. View of House Footings. Facing South-west.



Plate 41. View of House Footings. Facing South.



Plate 42. View of House Footings. Facing West.



Plate 43. View of House Footings. Facing West.



Plate 44. View of House Footings. Facing North.



Plate 45. View of House Footings. Facing North-west.



Plate 46. View of House Footings. Facing north-west.