

**Gritts Farm
Main Road
Weaverthorpe
Malton
North Yorkshire
SE 97255 70854**

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd in June 2011, at Gritts Farm, Main Road, Weaverthorpe, Malton, North Yorkshire in order to fulfil a condition attached to Planning Application 11/00232/HOUSE. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the erection of a single storey extension.

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 undertaken in June 2011 by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd at Gritts Farm, Weaverthorpe, North Yorkshire 11/00232/HOUSE. The work was undertaken in accordance with a standard written scheme of investigation approved by North Yorkshire County Council.
- 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 (PPS5)*, and Policy C13 of the Ryedale District Local Plan.
- 1.3 All work was funded by Mr & Mrs T Vasey.

- 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 of the development is located at Gritts Farm, Main Street, Weaverthorpe, North Yorkshire (SE 97255 70854).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The Great Wold Valley, through which the Gypsy Race flows, forms a huge landscape of Prehistoric features, known largely from cropmarks on aerial photographs, but also represented by earthworks (Stoertz 1997).
- 3.2 Some of the most notable cropmark features in Weaverthorpe parish are the massive multiple dykes that are believed to represent an Iron Age stock-management system (Riley 1990).
- 3.3 Other cropmark features plotted by the RCHME show a series of linked rectangular enclosures forming an Iron Age/Romano-British 'ladder settlement' that runs eastwards into Weaverthorpe from the direction of Helperthorpe, parallel to, and on both sides of the Gypsy Race (Stoertz 1997, Map 1). The cropmarks on the north side of the Gypsy Race are obscured by the built-up area of the village, plus the earthworks and pasture to the south of the church. However, it is entirely possible that the ladder settlement continues eastwards to the vicinity of the evaluation area and beyond.
- 3.4 The main archaeological intervention to have taken place at Weaverthorpe was the excavation by Brewster in 1960 of an area enclosed by an earthwork bank and ditch ('Weaverthorpe Manor'), prior to the eastward extension of the churchyard (Brewster 1960). A Romano-British pit was located along with 3rd/4th century pottery. Two rectangular dwellings with chalk walls were interpreted as a hall and ancillary buildings, abandoned in the 14th century. In 1951 Raymond Hayes, among others, examined the earthworks enclosing the Weaverthorpe Manor site, when Gritty Ware sherds were recovered

from beneath the bank, indicating a post-conquest date for its construction.

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 services works, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 All the groundworks associated with the erection of the single storey extension.
- 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 groundworks was maintained throughout the Recording Brief on a digital camera.

6. Results

- 6.1 All groundworks were watched under close archaeological supervision. The work involved monitoring the strip foundation footings associated with the erection of a single storey extension. The area had been previously disturbed by the footings of garden walls and outbuildings. The foundation trenches were dug to a depth of between 0.8 and 0.9m due to the depth of accumulated backfill where natural deposits 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.

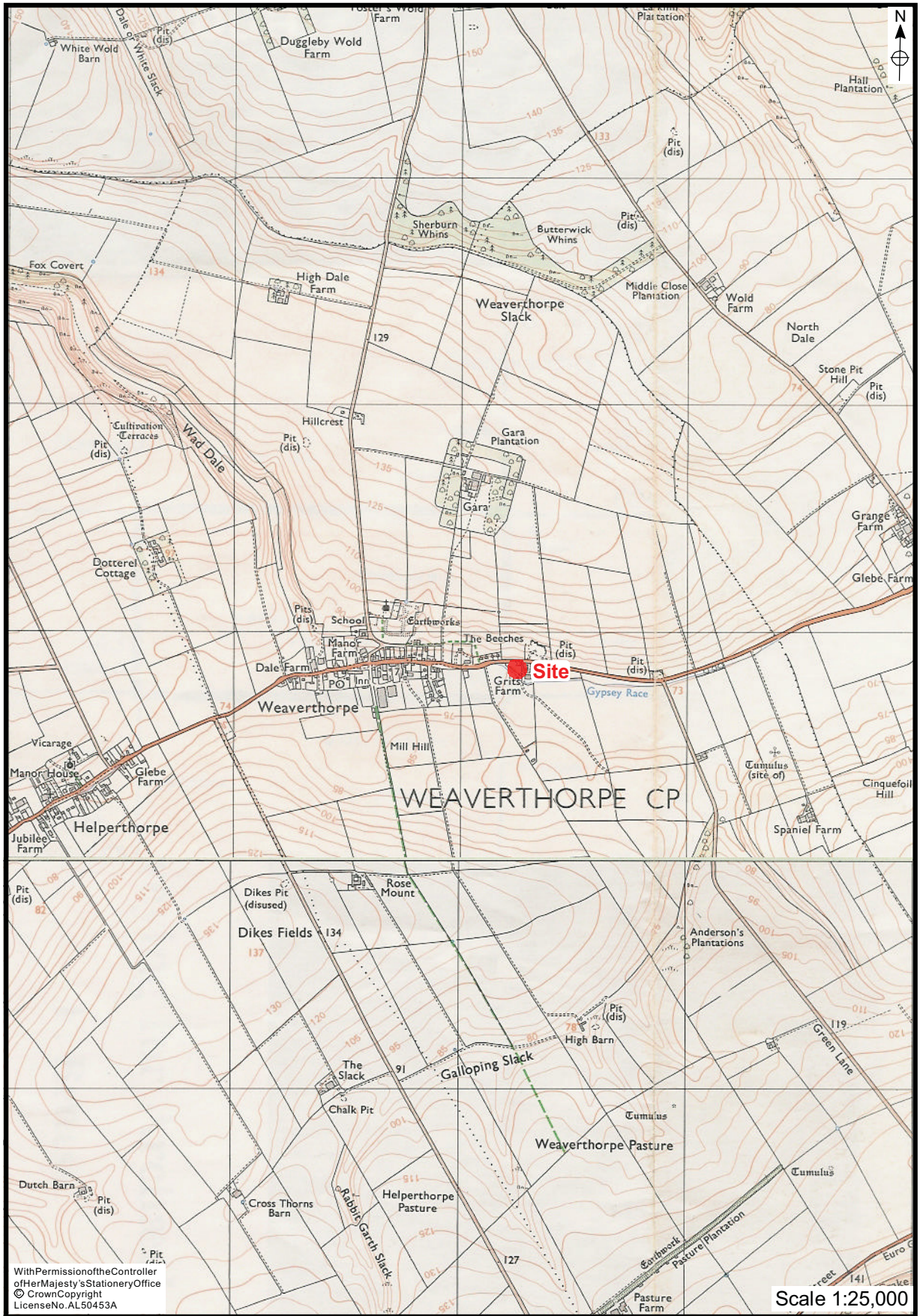


Figure 1. Site Location.

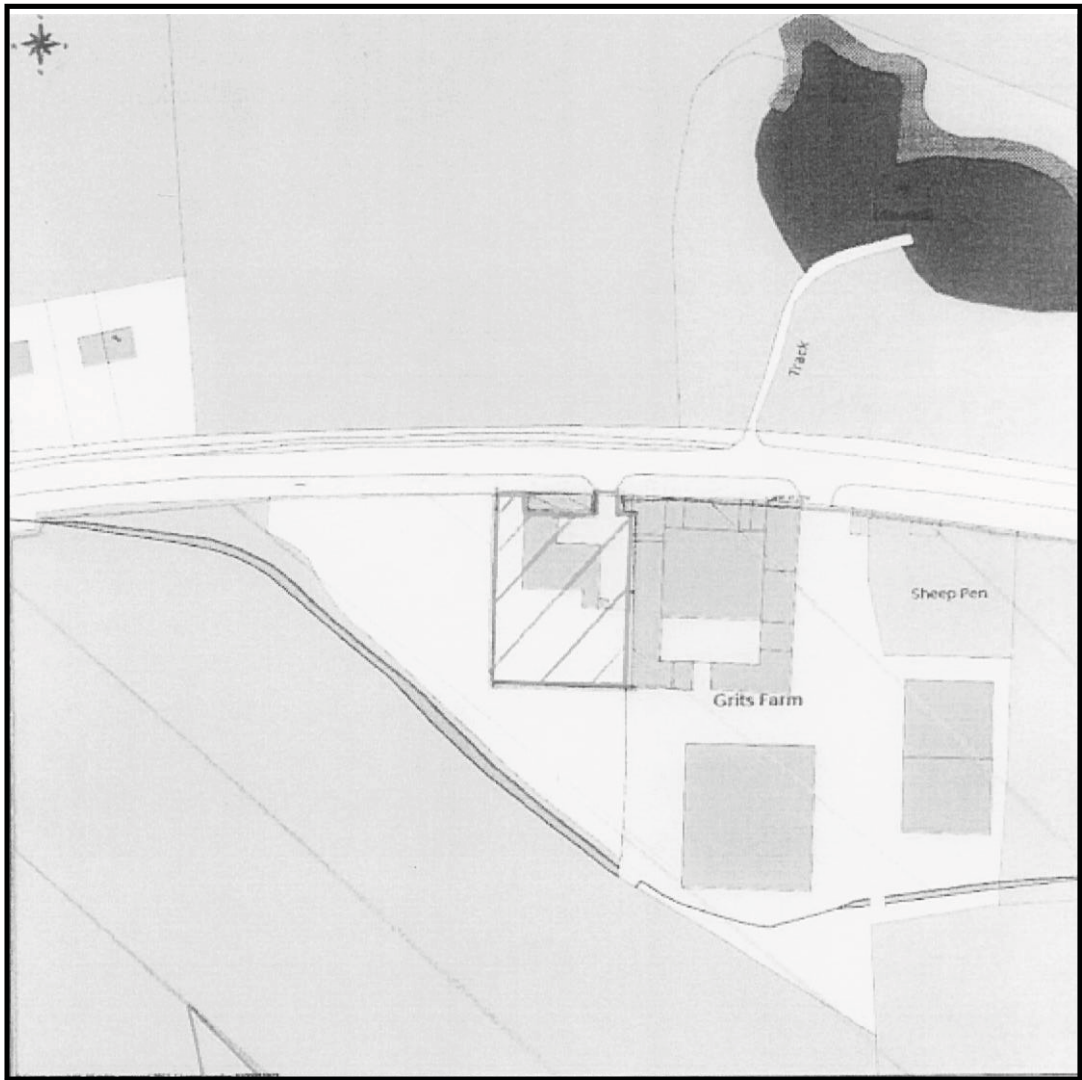


Figure 2. Proposed Development Area.



Plate 1. General View of Site. Facing South-west.



Plate 2. View of Footings.



Plate 3. View of Footings.



Plate 4. View of Footings.



Plate 5. View of Footings.



Plate 6. View of Footings.

MAP

Archaeological Consultancy Ltd

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

Gritts Farm, Main Road, Weaverthorpe, North Yorkshire
11/00232/HOUSE

- 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.