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**Wharram Percy
Deserted Medieval Village
No. 13302
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

**MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd
July 1998**

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Deserted Medieval Village
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Archaeological Watching Brief

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at the deserted medieval village of Wharram Percy, North Yorkshire, on 15th July 1998 (SE 8585 6448 : Fig. 1). This work was conducted on behalf of English Heritage when a replacement entrance sign and two new interpretative sign boards were erected.

Wharram Percy has been extensively surveyed and excavated between 1948 and 1990, with archaeological features and deposits ranging in date from the prehistoric to modern times. The site is now a scheduled ancient monument (No. 13302).

The underlying geology is of the Andover 1 Soil Association (343h), a shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk.

The work was totally funded by English Heritage.

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Methods

All holes were hand excavated under the supervision of an archaeologist. Any archaeological features are recorded using written records, on proforma recording sheets, plans drawn at a scale of 1:10, sections drawn at a scale of 1:20, and colour print, slide and monochrome photographs taken.

Results

The plan shows the location of the three new signs and the site of the redundant sign post (Fig. 1).

The entrance sign was sited to the south side of the mill pond, on the boundary between the scheduled area and the Wolds Way. This sign was placed in same location as an older sign, and caused no new disturbance.

An interpretative sign board was placed c. 10m to the north-west of the mill pond dam. Observation of the 0.20m² excavation recorded a clayey loamy soil to a depth of 0.40m with frequent chalk fragments. The lower 0.07m of this hole was clean fractured chalk.

The second sign board was located c. 80m to the north of the existing cottages, just south of the main street/hollow way. This was in a slightly raised area, presumably a house platform. The 0.20m² excavation revealed a loamy clay with frequent charcoal inclusions. A notable concentration of angular chalk fragments occurred 0.20m below the surface.

A redundant pole was removed from the hollow way 10m to the north-east of the second sign board. Here there was only 0.26m of clayey-loam which lay above 0.10 m thick layer of white chalk which in turn rested on pink clayey chalk.

The only artefacts recovered from the excavations were a few abraded fragments of medieval tile and two pieces of late 20th century Comish Kitchen Ware.

Conclusions

The limited nature of each excavation area and the shallow depths involved mean that no meaningful interpretation can be made. No significant archaeological deposits were disturbed.

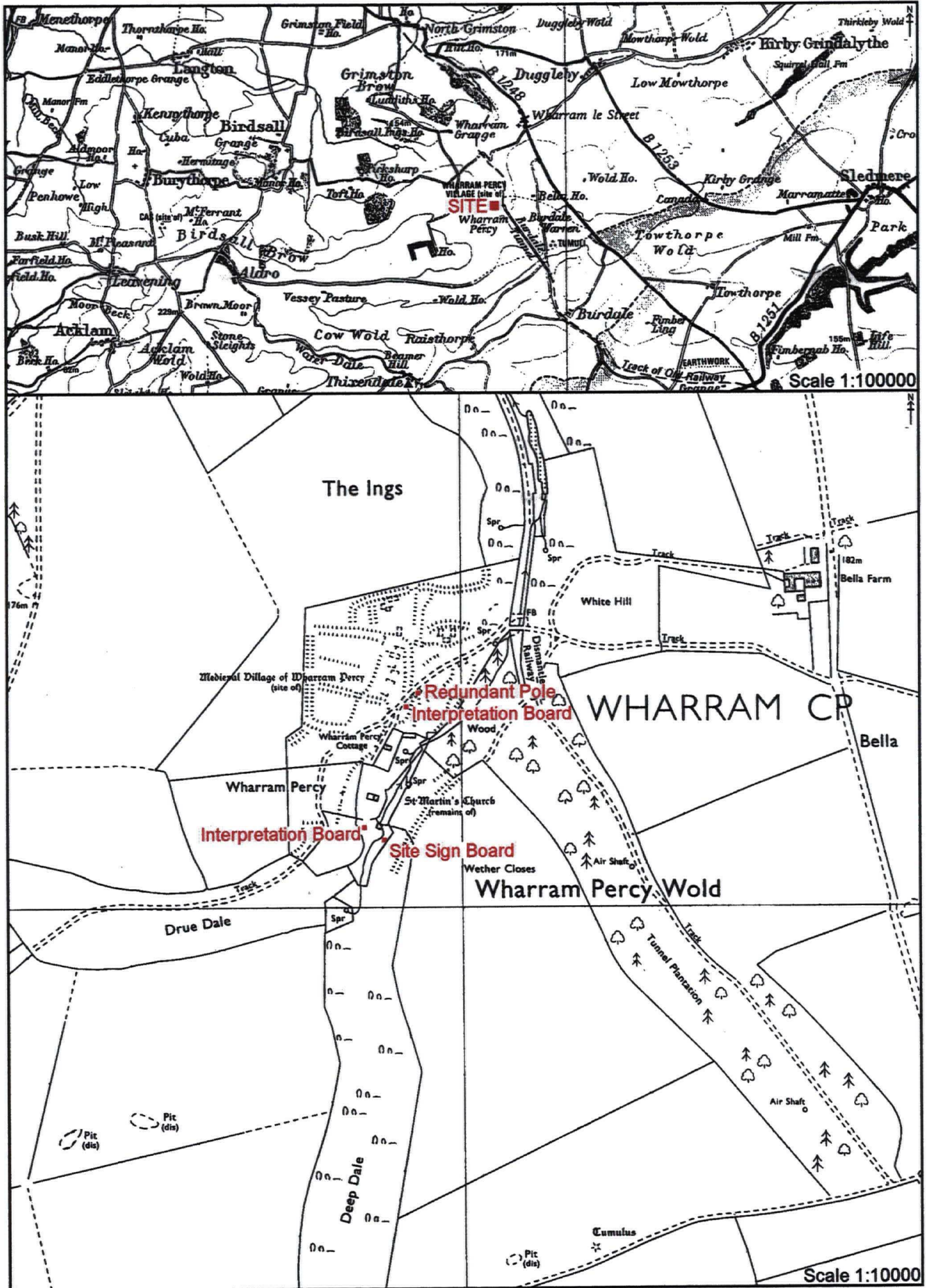


Figure 1. Site Location.