

MAP
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE Ltd.

**Dale Farm
Main Road
Weaverthorpe
North Yorkshire**

SE 9600 7085

MAP 10.81.2012

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

**MAP
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE LTD**

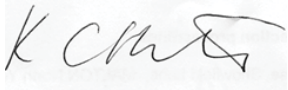
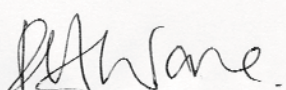
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Archaeological Watching Brief

Report Prepared By 	Report Authorised By 
Date: 09/07/2012	Date: 09/07/2012

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Non-technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd. on land to the east of Dale Farm, Main Road, Weaverthorpe, North Yorkshire (SE 9600 7085) on the 9th, 10th and 18th May 2012. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the erection of a dwelling and associated garage and service trench. The natural surface of fractured chalk was sealed by topsoil and subsoil. Three modern features were recorded, base for a barn in the house plot and a modern tree bowl and an electricity cable in the service trench. No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was conducted on the 9th, 10th and 18th May 2012 by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd. on land to the east of Dale Farm, Main Road, Weaverthorpe, North Yorkshire (SE 9600 7085: Fig. 1). The archaeological work was undertaken in order to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to a Planning Application Consent for the erection of a dwelling and associated garage (Ref. No. 10/01117/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.
- 1.3 The site code for the project was MAP 10.81.2012.
- 1.4 All work was funded by Mr G. Perry.
- 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 in the village of Weaverthorpe on land east of Dale Farm, in an area formerly occupied by the Pasture, to the north side of the Main Road. The site is flanked by properties to the east and west, agricultural land to the north. The Gypsey Race is located along the south side of the main road (Figs.1 & 2).
- 2.2 The site lies on soils of the Coombe 1 association, described as "well drained calcareous fine silty soils, deep in valley bottoms. Shallow to chalk on valley sides in places. Slight risk of water erosion" (Mackney 1984).

3. Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The Yorkshire Wolds, through which the Gypsey Race flows, forms a huge landscape of prehistoric features. These archaeological sites have been largely identified as cropmarks on aerial photographs, but many are 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 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 Gypsey Race (Stoertz 1997, Map 1). The cropmarks on the north side of Gypsey Race are obscured by the built up area of the village, plus the earthworks and pasture to the south of the church.
- 3.4 An 'umbonate' bronze brooch with enamelled decoration of the 2nd century AD date was recently found in a field (metal-detecting find by Mr Ken Umpleby).
- 3.5 The Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Scandinavian periods are poorly documented at Weaverthorpe, but the fact that the village was mentioned in the Domesday Survey (1086) along with the origins of the place-name, point to the fact that there was an Anglo-Scandinavian settlement there. Weaverthorpe was recorded as *Wifretop* in 1086, the name meaning *Vidfari's* village, *Vidfari* being an old Scandinavian name meaning far traveller (Smith 1937).
- 3.6 Physical evidence of pre-conquest activity is provided by a stycca from the second reign of Aethelred II (AD 844-49 – another metal detecting find from the site by Mr Umpleby, identification by Craig Barclay (formerly Yorkshire museums).
- 3.7 The Domesday Survey shows Weaverthorpe to have been the pre-conquest centre of a broad estate of the Archbishop of York, worth £14 in the time of King Edward (1066). However, the village was waste in 1086, perhaps as a result of William of Normandy's harrying of the north in 1069.
- 3.8 Herbert of Winchester obtained Weaverthorpe manor during the incumbency of the Archbishop Thomas II (1108-1114). An inscription

on the sundial over the south door of St Andrew's church records the construction of the church by Herbert. It is believed that the earthworks immediately south of the church relate to his manorial centre.

- 3.9 Weaverthorpe appears to have the form of a street village with fairly regular north-south rows of properties separated by a central street and the Gypsy Race. The development area is situated towards the western end of the northern block of rows, but is not clear if it formed part of the medieval village.
- 3.10 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, prior to and 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. The enclosing earthworks were examined by Raymond Hayes and others in 1951, when Gritty ware sherds were recovered from beneath the bank, indicating a post-conquest date for its construction.
- 3.11 No archaeological deposits were revealed during a watching brief on roadworks to the south-west of the church (MAP 2003).
- 3.12 A pre-determination archaeological evaluation was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd during September 2004 at OS Field 0006, Main Road, Weaverthorpe. A Geophysical Survey of the site by GeoQuest Associates, carried out in February 2004, identified a large number of anomalies suggestive of foundation trenches, ditches and gullies. The results of the geophysical survey formed the basis of four evaluation trenches that identified pits and boundaries of Late Iron Age/Romano-British date, along with medieval chalk buildings which were superseded by a later medieval phase that saw the digging of large pits, presumably for gravel extraction. An assemblage of residual

flint objects was recovered, along with pottery of Late Iron Age/Romano-British date (MAP 2004). An open area excavation followed the evaluation where a continuation of medieval walls, late medieval buildings, medieval pits and Iron Age/Romano-British features were recorded. Further pottery finds of a Romano-British date were recovered as well as an assemblage of metal small finds of a medieval date (MAP 2006).

- 3.13 An Archaeological Watching Brief on a Building Plot to the East (Land west of Broadholme, Main Road, Weaverthorpe) was undertaken with negative results in 2010.

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Watching 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 involved the excavation of foundation trenches for the house and garage plots, 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 a digital camera.

6. Results

- 6.1 Strip foundations were excavated initially for the house plot and later for the garage plot. The strip foundations were 600mm wide and c. 1m to 1.5m deep. In both the house and the garage plot, topsoil, subsoil and natural were recorded.
- 6.2 During the excavation of the house plot and the garage plot (Pls. 1-3), topsoil was c. 400mm deep with 500mm of subsoil beneath the topsoil, overlying natural chalky till.
- 6.3 The chalk rubble foundation/hardcore for a modern agricultural building was noted in the house plot (Pl. 1).
- 6.4 During the excavation of a service trench (Pls. 4-6), c. 1m deep from the street frontage to the house plot, a tree bowl (Pl. 5) and a modern electricity cable were noted.
- 6.5 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Although the development area is located within a major archaeological landscape, which dated to the prehistoric to medieval periods, the results of the watching brief were negative encountering nothing linked to these dates. A chalk foundation, a tree bowl and an electricity cable were the only features noted during the Archaeological Watching Brief.

8. References

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9. List of Contributors

On Site and Report Kelly Hunter and Mark Stephens

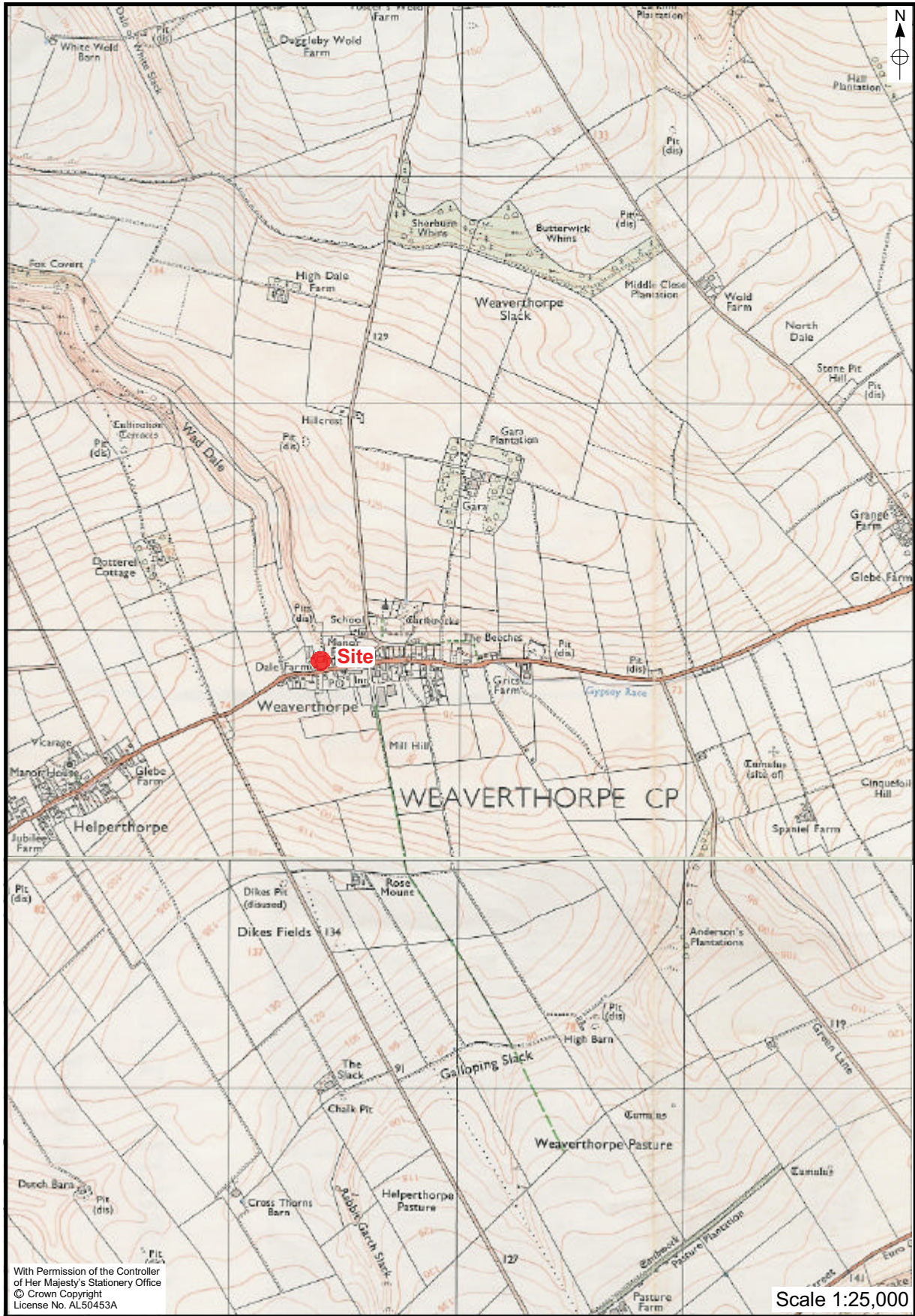


Figure 1. Site Location.



Figure 2. Proposed Development Area.



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



Plate 2. View of House Plot. Facing South-west.



Plate 3. View of Garage Plot, Facing North.



Plate 4. View of Garage Plot, Facing South-east.



Plate 5. View of Tree Bowl in Service Trench. Facing South.



Plate 6. View of Service Trench. Facing South.

