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# Land rear of Rarey Farm, Weaverthorpe Ryedale North Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 88350.02  
January 2013



**LAND REAR OF RAREY FARM, WEAVERTHORPE,  
RYEDALE,  
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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## Quality Assurance

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# LAND REAR OF RAREY FARM, WEAVERTHORPE, RYEDALE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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# **LAND AT REAR OF RAREY FARM, WEAVERTHORPE, RYEDALE, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

### **Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Accent Foundation to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Rarey Farm Weaverthorpe, North Yorkshire (hereafter 'the Site'). The evaluation was requested by Melanie Partlett, North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Historic Environment Team, to inform a planning application (12/00969/MFUL) for proposed residential development of the Site, and follows on from previous geophysical survey of the Site by Wessex Archaeology in 2012.

The programme of works, to assess the level of survival of archaeological remains on the Site, comprised archaeological investigation by machine excavated trial trenches. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were uncovered during the evaluation. The stratigraphy of the site was a thin layer of topsoil overlying made ground (in the western half of site) and natural chalk. The only features identified were probable plough furrows and modern field drains matching the alignment of geophysical anomalies and trends. No artefacts were recovered; 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic and modern CBM was noted in the made ground.

The archive from the evaluation is currently retained in the Wessex Archaeology Sheffield Office and will be deposited with Malton Museum in due course.



**LAND REAR OF RAREY FARM, WEAVERTHORPE  
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**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by Accent Foundation and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Mark Jones of Barton Willmore in this regard.

The fieldwork was carried out by Alex Sotheran and Charles Hay. The report was compiled by Alex Sotheran with illustrations by Chris Swales. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard O'Neill.



# LAND AT REAR OF RAREY FARM, WEAVERTHORPE RYEDALE NORTH YORKSHIRE

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by the Accent Foundation to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of Rarey Farm off Main Road in Weaverthorpe, Ryedale in North Yorkshire (**Figure 1**), hereafter 'the Site' (centred on NGR 496785 470730). The evaluation follows on from a Detailed Gradiometer Survey undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (2012a) as part of a programme of archaeological works to inform a planning application for residential development at the Site.
- 1.1.2 Six 10m x 2m trial trenches were excavated in locations informed by the geophysical survey (**Figure 1**) targeting proposed areas of housing and access.
- 1.1.3 This report details how Wessex Archaeology carried out that archaeological evaluation in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Wessex Archaeology (2012b) and approved by Melanie Partlett, NYCC Historic Environment Team. This report has been prepared in accordance with current industry best practice (IfA 2008) and in accordance with IfA Codes of Conduct (2010).

#### 1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The survey area comprises an overgrown pasture field off to the south of Rarey Farm, Weaverthorpe, North Yorkshire, some 18km east of Malton and some 14km north of Driffield (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The Site occupies the base of the shallow valley of the Gypsy Race, which extends from west to east; the survey area is relatively flat and lies at the base of Dikes Fields hill at c. 75m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). Farm buildings lie to the west and north, with a modern housing estate to the east and arable fields to the south.
- 1.2.3 The geology underlying the Site is Cretaceous chalk of the Burnham and Welton Formations, overlain by superficial deposits of alluvium colluvium (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Summary

- 2.1.1 The area surrounding the Site contains remains dating from the prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval periods. Evidence from aerial photography in the form of crop marks has been plotted as part of the English Heritage National Mapping Programme for the Yorkshire Wolds. This survey shows an extensive system of trackways, ditched enclosures, barrows and linear dykes systems in the surrounding landscape. Nearby to the south and west of the Site, this survey shows a series of rectilinear enclosures aligned



along a trackway, known as a 'ladder settlement'. In addition the Site lies in the area of medieval settlement along the Gypsy Race.

- 2.1.2 Recent geophysical survey of the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2012a) identified several linear and pit-like anomalies interpreted as possible ridge and furrow or other features. However, the survey found a high level of magnetic disturbance across the Site caused by modern dumping and potentially masking other features. Further evaluation work was therefore requested by Melanie Partlett of the North Yorkshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Aims and objectives**

3.1.1 The general aims of the project were:

- to identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits within the Site;
- to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;
- to accurately record any revealed archaeological deposits;
- to recover artefacts disturbed by the Site works;
- to prepare a comprehensive archive, record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the Site works

#### **3.2 Fieldwork methodology**

3.2.1 All trenches were scanned for uncharted services using CAT and Genny cable locators.

3.2.2 Topsoil was removed using a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil was removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the natural geology.

#### **3.3 Recording**

3.3.1 All archaeological trenches excavated were recorded using Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* recording sheet.

3.3.2 All trenches were located in relation to the OS grid using GPS planning software.

3.3.3 A photographic record was created of all archaeological trenches to demonstrate the absence of archaeological features utilising a digital camera (at least 10 megapixels).

### **4 EVALUATION RESULTS**

#### **4.1 Summary**

4.1.1 Six machine trenches were excavated with a width of 2m and a length of 10m (**Figures 1 and 2**).

4.1.2 Of the six trenches excavated four had a depth of between 0.85m and 1m, **Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 6**. The layer below the turf line was identified as rubble made ground and in the





case of **Trench 6** a gravel path. The remaining two trenches, **4** and **5**, were very shallow and the natural geology of chalk was reached very quickly.

- 4.1.3 No archaeological remains were identified, only probable plough furrows (**Trenches 1, 2 and 3**) (**Figure 2; Plate 1**), modern field drains (**Trenches 1 and 2**) (**Figure 2**) and disturbance from natural bioturbation (**Trenches 3, 5 and 6**) (**Figure 2; Plate 2**). Some of the features roughly match the alignment of geophysical anomalies and trends.
- 4.1.4 No artefacts were recovered; 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic and modern CBM was noted in the made ground. No artefacts were recovered during the evaluation.

## **5 DISCUSSION**

### **5.1 Summary**

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were uncovered during the archaeological evaluation. The only features identified were probable plough furrows, modern field drains and disturbance from natural bioturbation. The plough furrows and modern field drains match the alignment of geophysical anomalies and trends. No artefacts were recovered; 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century ceramic and modern CBM was noted in the made ground.

## **6 STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **6.1 Archive**

- 6.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with national guidelines (Brown 2007; UKIC 2001).
- 6.1.2 All work has been carried out under the Wessex site code **88350**. The archive is currently stored in the Wessex Archaeology Sheffield office. A summary of the archive contents will be submitted to NYCC and the archive deposited with Malton Museum in due course.

### **6.2 Copyright**

- 6.2.1 Wessex Archaeology retains full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of the report by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification. Any document produced to meet planning requirements can be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority.
- 6.2.2 Wessex Archaeology will assign copyright to the Client upon written request but retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as defined in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (Chapter IV, s.79).

## **7 REFERENCES**

### **7.1 Bibliography**

- Brown, D. 2007. Archaeological archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.  
Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2008, Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation.  
Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2010, Codes of Conduct.



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Wessex Archaeology 2012a, Land Rear of Rarey Farm, Weaverthorpe, Ryedale, North Yorkshire: Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report unpublished client report, reference: 86690.01

Wessex Archaeology 2012b, Land Rear of Rarey Farm, Weaverthorpe, Ryedale, North Yorkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation, Unpublished Client Report, reference: 86691.01



## APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No. 1		Dimensions: 10 x 2m Max depth: 0.90m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1001	<b>Topsoil:</b> Dark brown loose loam.	0 – 0.45m
1002	<b>Subsoil:</b> Mid brown with white chalk pebbles, silty sandy loam with modern CBM and rubble inclusions.	0.45 – 0.90m
1003	<b>Natural:</b> White gravelly chalk.	0.90m+

Trench No. 2		Dimensions: 10 x 2m Max depth: 0.90m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
2001	<b>Topsoil:</b> Dark brown loose loam.	0 – 0.40m
2002	<b>Subsoil:</b> Mid brown with white chalk pebbles, silty sandy loam with modern CBM and rubble inclusions.	0.40 – 0.90m
2003	<b>Natural:</b> White gravelly chalk.	0.90m+

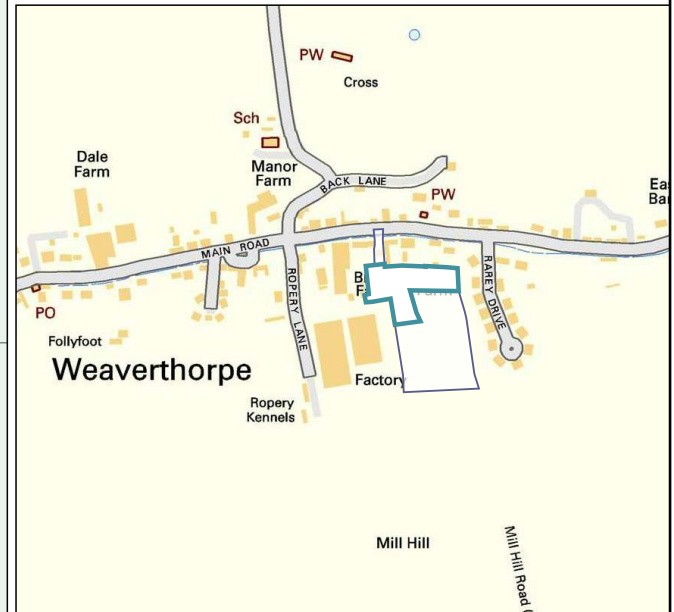
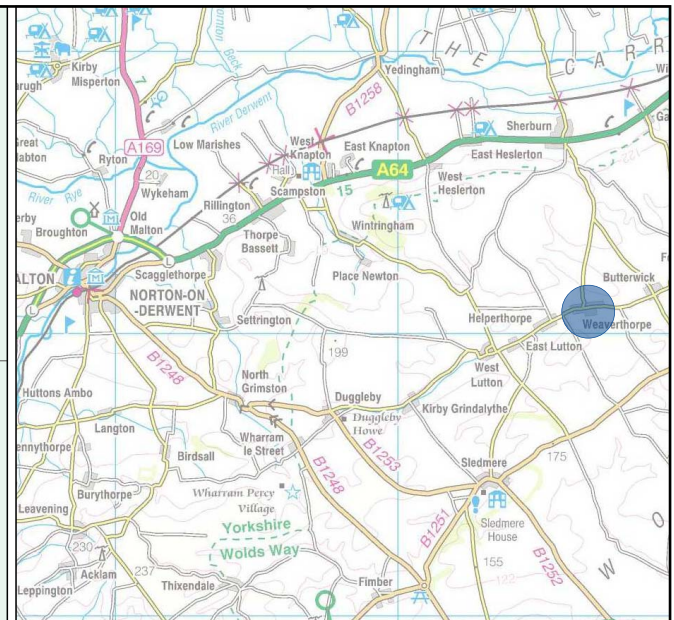
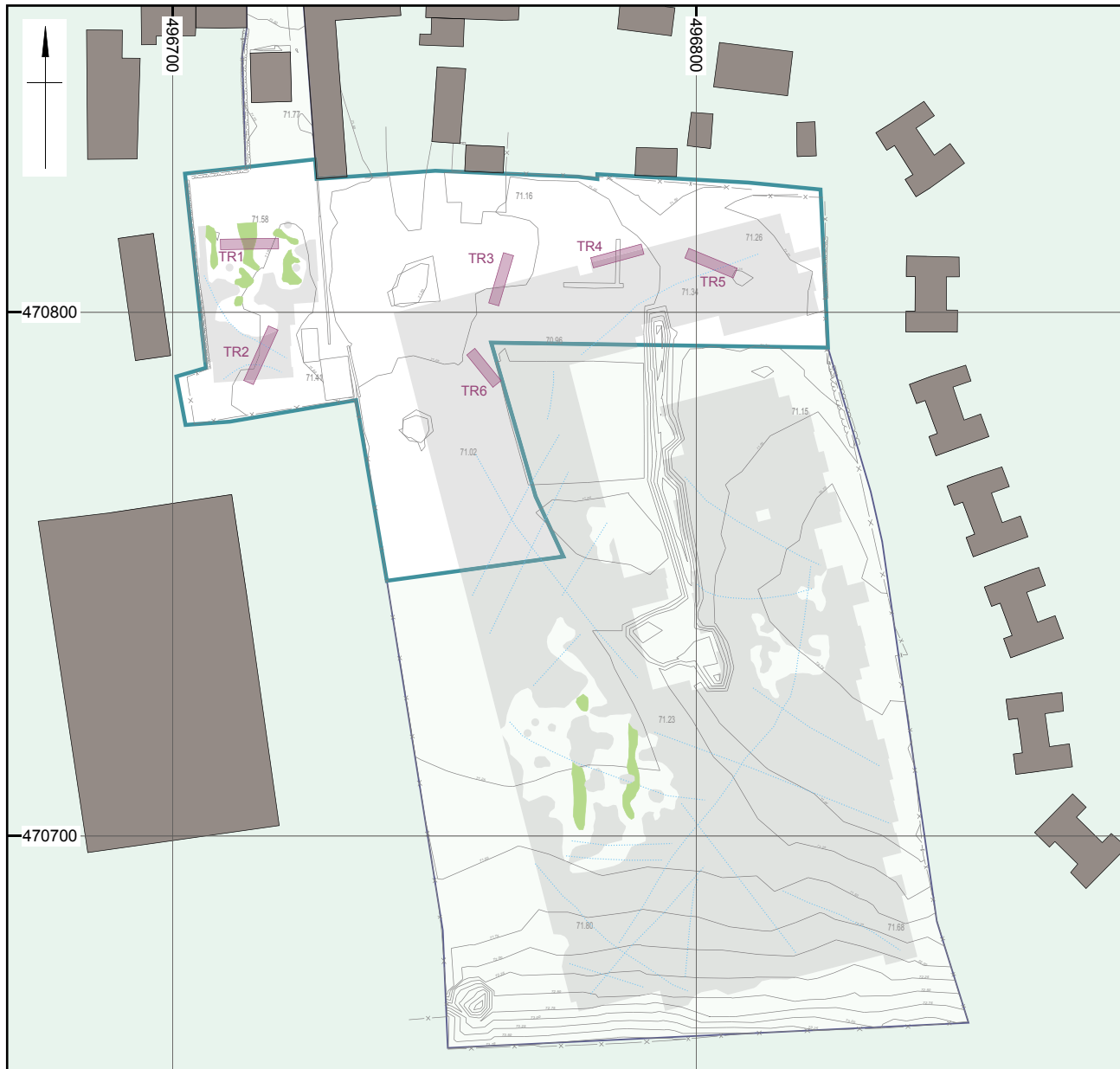
Trench No. 3		Dimensions: 50 x 2m Max depth: 1m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
3001	<b>Topsoil:</b> Dark brown loose loam.	0 – 0.66m
3002	<b>Subsoil:</b> Dark brown sandy silty loam with chalk speckles and modern rubble.	0.66 – 1m
3003	<b>Natural:</b> White gravelly chalk.	1m+

Trench No. 4		Dimensions: 10 x 2m Max depth: 0.40m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
4001	<b>Topsoil:</b> Dark brown loose loam.	0 – 0.20
4002	<b>Subsoil:</b> Mid brown sandy loam with frequent modern rubble.	0.20 – 0.40
4003	<b>Natural:</b> White gravelly chalk.	0.40m+

Trench No. 5		Dimensions: 10 x 2m Max depth: 0.30m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
5001	<b>Topsoil:</b> Dark brown loose loam.	0 – 0.15m
5002	<b>Subsoil:</b> Mid brown sandy humic loam.	0.15 – 0.30m
5003	<b>Natural:</b> White gravelly chalk.	0.30m+



Trench No. 6		Dimensions: 10 x 2m Max depth: 0.85m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
6001	<b>Made Ground:</b> Compacted earth and gravel with brick fragments and modern rubble inclusions, covered by a very thin turf layer.	0 – 0.85
6002	<b>Natural:</b> White gravelly chalk.	0.85m+



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Site location

Figure 1



Plan of Trenches 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6

Figure 2



Plate 1: Trench 1 furrow (foreground), facing east



Plate 2: Bioturbation in Trench 5, facing northwest



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