

NYCC HER	
SNY	6929
ENY	863
CNY	1338, 2127
Parish	319
Rec'd	22/7/02

Heather Grange  
Church End  
Sheriff Hutton  
North Yorkshire

SE 6864 6627

Archaeological Watching Brief

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MAP

Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

NYE 863

NYS 6929

lec 22/07/02

**Heather Grange  
Church End  
Sheriff Hutton  
North Yorkshire**

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**Archaeological Watching Brief**

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**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**1. Introduction**

1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, in late May, 2002 on behalf of Talbot Construction to fulfil a condition (Planning Reference Number 01/00997/FUL) attached to a planning consent for the extension to Heather Grange and associated drainage works.

1.2 Heather Grange is situated at the eastern end of the village of Sheriff Hutton. The boundaries of the site are residential housing and gardens to the west, Church End to the north, St Helen's Church to the east and Sheriff Hutton Castle to the south (Figs 1 & 2)

1.3 All work has been funded by Talbot Construction .

1.4 The maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Licence no AL 50453A

**2. Archaeological Background**

2.1 To the south of Heather Grange is an earthwork representing a rare example of an early medieval fortification ((Scheduled Ancient Monument National Monument No. 30114 : Fig 2) Believed to be of Twelfth century date it is also possible that this feature has its origins in the pre-Conquest settlement of Sheriff Hutton. The earthwork was replaced by the stone castle to the west in the late Fourteenth century.

2.2 To the east of Heather Grange stands the medieval church of St Helen and Holy Cross.

**3. Methodology**

3.1 Observation of the clearing and excavation of the foundations for the new build was undertaken. In addition work in the 'kitchen' of Heather Grange allowed the recording of a well. All external excavation was by machine.

#### 4. Results

- 4.1 Observation of the site was undertaken after the demolition at the western end of Heather Grange had been completed. Reduction in level in the yard area revealed very mixed deposits of clayey brown sand with brick rubble. Previous footings were seen to be up to 0.7m deep into what appeared to be natural deposits (Pis. 1 & 2)
- 4.2 Excavations under the yard area revealed the top of a brick capped cistern (Pl. 2). Ceramic pipework was observed radiating outwards from this feature. In addition a number of ceramic land drains were also noted
- 4.3 Work in the 'kitchen' of Heather Grange revealed a capped well. Removal of the capping (Pis. 3 & 4) revealed a brick constructed shaft which changed to stone construction c. six courses below the water line. The water appeared to be clear and probably drinkable. A break in the stone construction was noted on the western side of the well. Part of the support for the pump was still in situ (Pl. 3).
- 4.4 A plan showing the details of alterations to Heather Grange in 1863 indicated the presence of a well in the yard between the house and outbuildings, this feature probably relates to the capped cistern found in 2002. The well in the house would appear to be an additional water source.
- 4.5 No finds were recovered from any of the excavations and the general nature of the deposits suggested that this area was completely free of archaeological activity.

#### 5. Conclusions

- 5.1 No evidence was forthcoming from the excavations to suggest that the site had been utilised other than in the modern period. However, the degree of disturbance on the site attributable to a series of construction phases and the probable associated levelling may have removed any traces of earlier settlement

#### 6. Bibliography

- NYCC 2002            Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Recording.  
Heather Grange, Church End, Sheriff Hutton, North Yorkshire

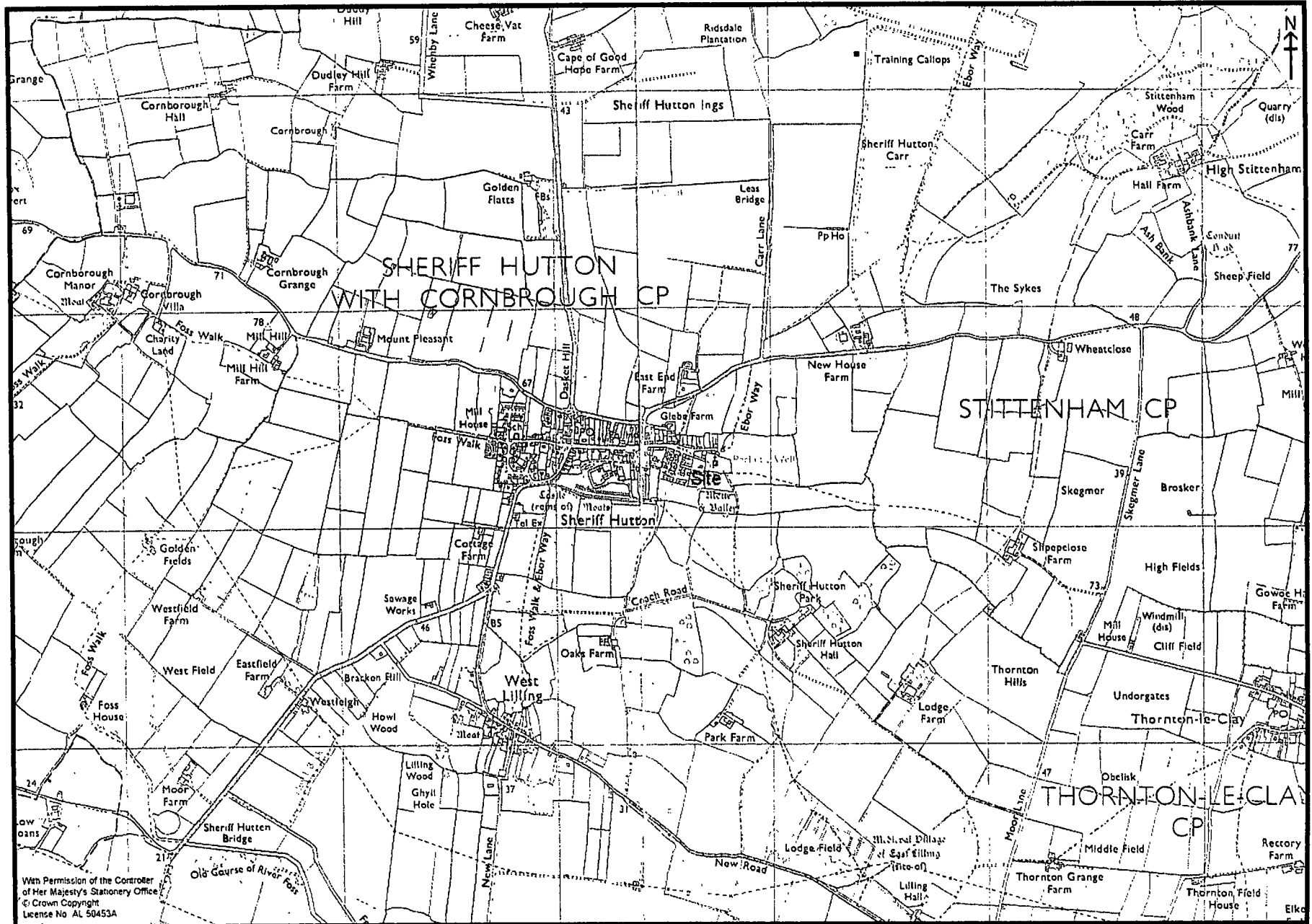


Figure 1. Site Location