

Rec 24/09/03

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NYS 8557

NYCC HER	
SNY	8557
ENY	2170
CNY	
Parish	3144
Rec'd	24/9/03

**Church Lane
Weaverthorpe
North Yorkshire**

(SE 9660 7110)

Archaeological Watching Brief

**MAP
July 2003**

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Weaverthorpe
North Yorkshire
SE 9660 7110**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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**Church Lane
Weaverthorpe
North Yorkshire
SE 9660 7110**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken during kerbing works along a section of roadway to the west of St Andrew's Church, Weaverthorpe in July 2003. Excavations revealed no archaeological features.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd in July 2003, on behalf of North Yorkshire County Highways, during the excavation of roadside kerbing on a section of highway to the west and south-west of St Andrew's Church, Weaverthorpe (Figs. 1 & 2)).
- 1.2 All work has been funded by North Yorkshire County Highways, Project No. 373R Weaverthorpe.
- 1.3 All maps within this report have been reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, License No. AL50453A

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The village stands to the north of the Gypsy Race a natural watercourse which has been the focus for settlement from the Prehistoric period through to modern day.
- 2.2 Aerial photographic information (Stoertz 1987) has recorded extensive cropmarks of Romano-British ladder settlement along the Gypsy Race to the south of the site as well as two cropmarks to the north, possibly representing a trackway and old field boundary.

- 2.3 Weaverthorpe village is mentioned in Domesday Book where it is recorded as *Wivetorp* and *Wifretorp*, and, together with Londesborough, made three-and-a-half knights' fees (Bulmer 1892).
- 2.4 The church, which is dedicated to St. Andrew, is built in the Norman style, but also has a few traces of Saxon work – the font is believed to be of this date as well as the tower, which was constructed in two stages. The church comprises of a chancel, nave, south porch, and a western tower. The fabric was thoroughly restored at the sole expense of Sir Tatton Sykes, Bart. of Sledmere, from the designs of the late G. E. Street, R.A., and re-opened in April, 1872, by the Archbishop of York..
- 2.5 The churchyard is surrounded by a good stone wall with a lych gate, and on the south side stands a massive churchyard.
- 2.6 To the south of the church are a series of earthworks representing a number of ditched enclosures (Fig. 2).

3. Methodology

- 3.1 An area measuring approximately 90m in length was observed during the excavation of a slip trench to house new kerbing. This was situated in a section of grass verge immediately to the east of the current road.
- 3.2 The trench was excavated by a mechanical back-acting excavator with toothless bucket, operating under full archaeological supervision. Archaeological deposits were recorded on *pro-forma* context.

4. Results

- 4.1 The mechanical excavation was to a depth of 300mm and deposits revealed consisted of 100mm of a mid grey brown loamy topsoil straight onto the natural chalk subsoil.
- 4.2 No archaeological deposits/features were observed. The area was also free of any finds.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The lack of any archaeological deposits suggested that this area had been previously cleared to facilitate the construction of the present road and kerbing.

6. Bibliography

Bulmer T 1892 History and Directory of East Yorkshire

Stoertz, C. 1987 Ancient Landscapes of the Yorkshire Wolds. RCHME.

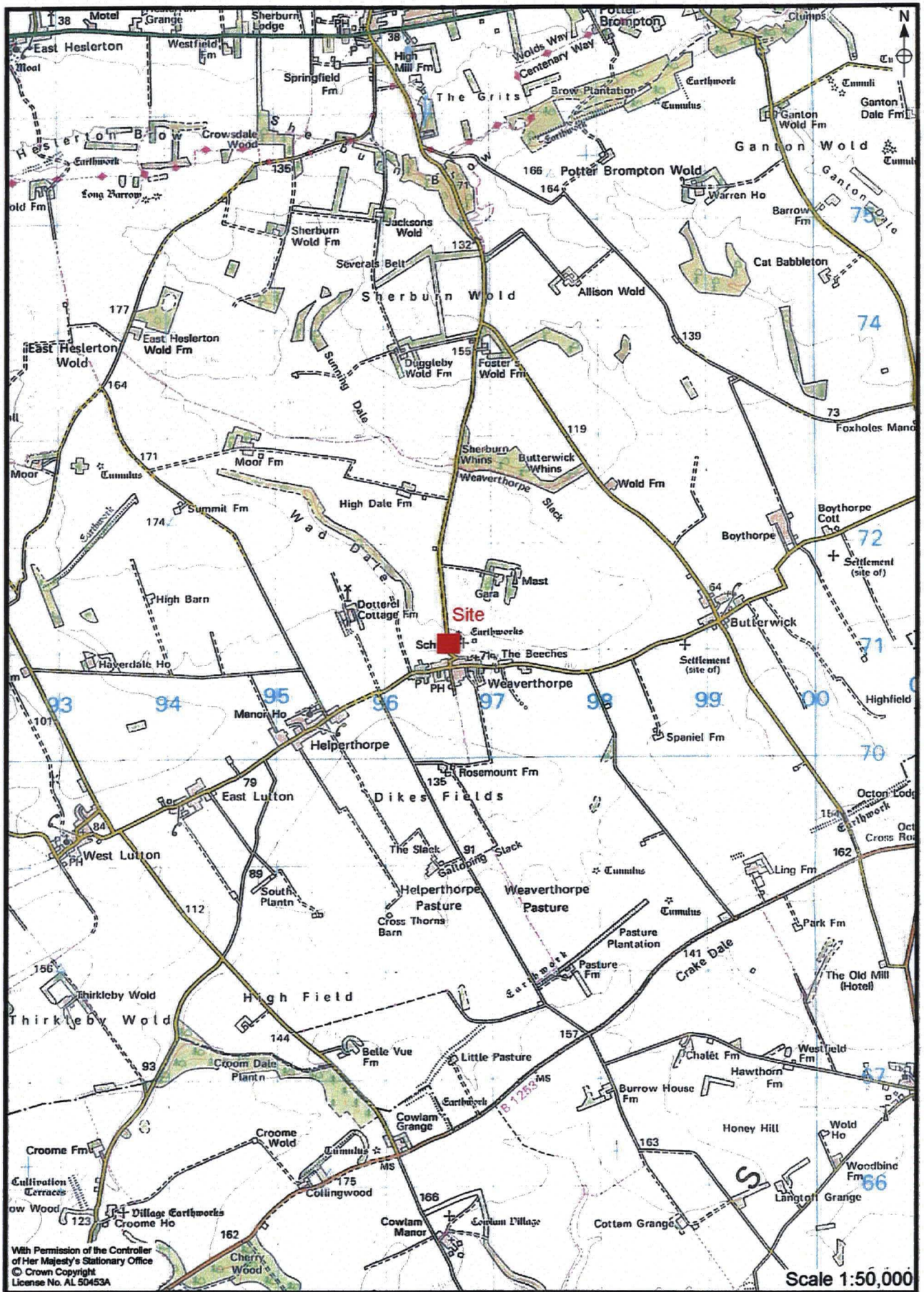


Figure 1. Site Location

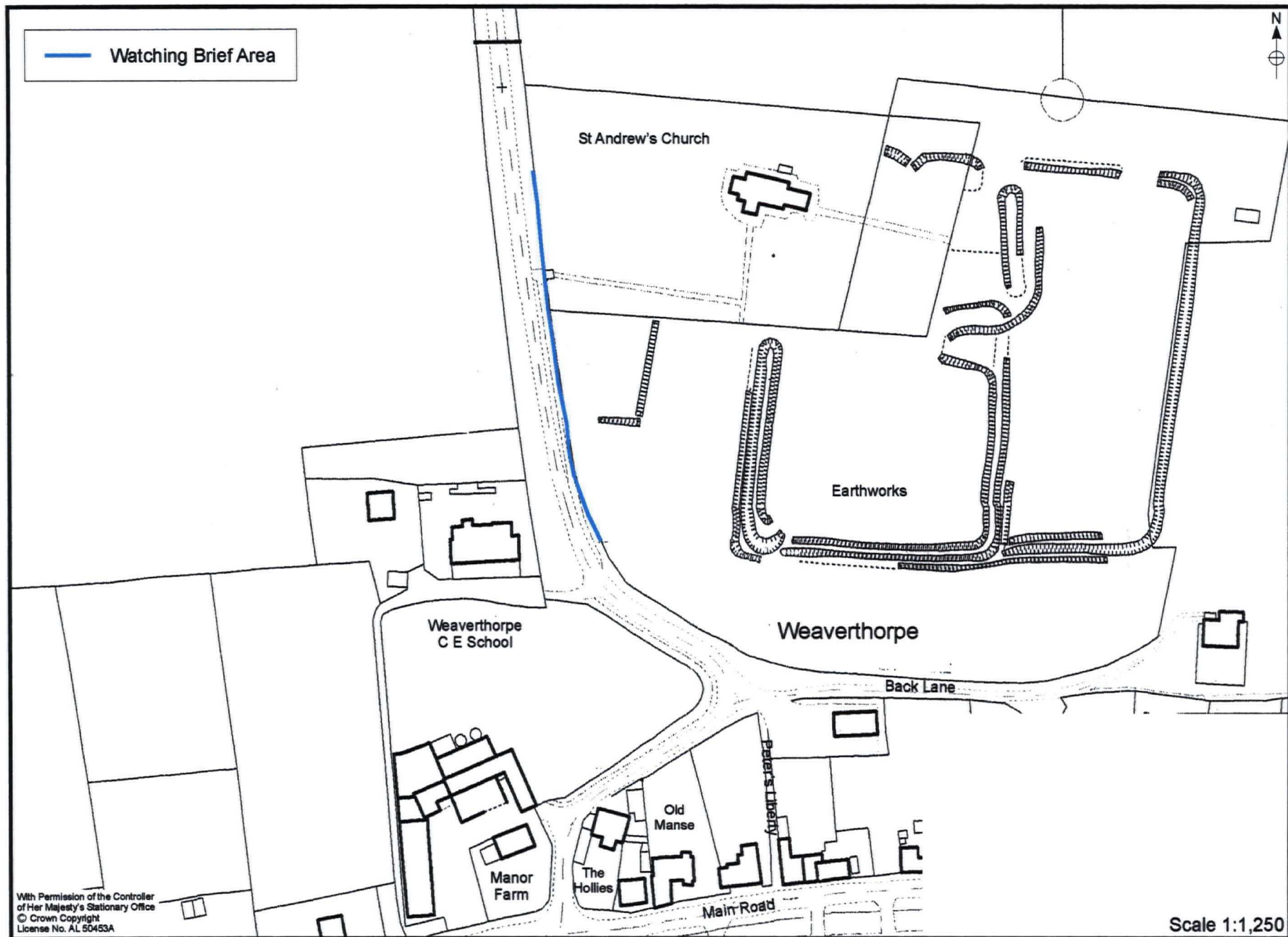


Figure 2. Watching Brief Area