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MAP Archaeological Practice



Land at OS Field 5062, Ropery Lane, Weaverthorpe

MAP 10.10.17
Archaeological Watching Brief

Land at OS Field 5062, Ropery Lane,
Weaverthorpe
North Yorkshire

10.10.17

Archaeological Watching brief

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Date: 27.04.17	Date: 27.04.17

Land at OS Field 5062, Roper Lane,

Weaverthorpe

North Yorkshire

14/01320/FUL

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Archaeological Watching brief

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14/01320/FUL

Archaeological Watching brief

Non-Technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd on land at OS field 5062, Ropery Lane, Weaverthorpe, North Yorkshire, in April 2017. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the erection of an extension to an existing general-purpose agricultural building.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the watching brief.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd on land at OS field 5062, Ropery Lane, Weaverthorpe North Yorkshire (figs 1 & 2). The work was undertaken in order to fulfil condition placed on the development by Ryedale Council (planning applicant no 14/01320/FUL) which stated that *'no demolition/development shall take place/commence until a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning*

Authority in writing' as the development had the potential to destroy or compromise Romano British or prehistoric archaeology.

- 1.2 The Watching Brief was designed to allow an appropriate level of recording of archaeological remains or deposits which may be affected by development, in accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012).
- 1.3 MAP adhered to the general principles of both the ClfA (2014) 'Code of Conduct' and 'Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief' throughout the work.
- 1.4 All work was funded by Mr P. Woodall.
- 1.5 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, Licence No. AL50453A.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The site lies on land to the west of Ropery Lane, Weaverthorpe. The land is bounded to the west and south by agricultural land. The extension to the agricultural building attaches to the existing building to the north and east.
- 2.2 The site lies at a height of approximately 75m AOD and sits on well-drained calcareous fine silty soils that overlay chalky drift (Mackney 1984).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 The Great Wold Valley, in which Weaverthorpe is situated, forms a landscape of prehistoric features that are known from aerial photographs, and to a lesser extent represented by earthworks (Stoertz 1997). One of the most notable sites in Weaverthorpe parish is a massive multiple ditch system that is believed to represent Iron Age stock-management (Riley 1990). A 'ladder settlement' of assumed Late Iron Age/Roman date follows the course of the Gypsy Race, north-eastwards from Helperthorpe into the locale of Weaverthorpe village, at which point it becomes obscured by modern development.

3.2 The pre-conquest settlement at Weaverthorpe formed the centre of a large estate held by the Archbishops of York, and had a yearly value of £14. At the time of the Domesday Survey (1086) the holding was described as 'waste'. The Domesday Survey recorded Weaverthorpe as Wifretorp, the name meaning 'Vidfari's village', Vidfari being an Old Scandinavian personal name meaning 'far-traveller' (Smith 1937).

3.3 Weaverthorpe appears to have formed a 'street village' with regular properties aligned along the Gypsy Race. Open-area excavations on a plot of land off Main Street identified five phases of archaeological activity, comprising pits, linear boundary ditches, chalk-built walls and structures and a large dew-pond (MAP 2004). The earliest phase probably related to a 'ladder settlement' with the chalk structures possibly evidence of village expansion in the 12th and early 13th century. An undated chalk wall, interpreted as a boundary revetment, was recorded during the

development of the plot of land immediately east of Blacksmiths Cottage (MAP 2009).

- 3.4 The National Mapping Programme carried out by English Heritage has plotted cropmark evidence in the area. The mapping shows an extensive system of trackways, ditched enclosures, barrows and linear dykes in the area. To the west of the site the National Mapping Programme survey shows a series of rectilinear enclosures aligned along a trackway which extends into the development area.

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aim of the Archaeological Watching Brief was to record and recover any archaeological remains which could be affected by the proposed development and to prepare a report to summarise the results of the work.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 All excavation within the development area was carried out using a tracked 360° mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket under close archaeological supervision.
- 5.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014).
-

- 5.3 A photographic record of groundworks was maintained throughout, using a digital camera.

6. Results

- 6.1 The area was stripped with a tracked 360° mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket, to a maximum depth of 1m, under close archaeological supervision.

- 6.2 Excavation revealed a dark greyish brown topsoil (max. 0.4m depth) consisting of a slightly sandy silt containing frequent chalk gravel and occasional flint. A dark reddish-brown silty subsoil was observed to a maximum depth of 0.6m which also contained frequent chalk gravel and occasional flint.

- 6.3 No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The excavation of the site, in advance of the extension of an agricultural building, did not expose any archaeological deposits, features or artefacts. The excavation did not remove the full depth of subsoil across the site and so it is likely that any archaeological deposits present on there will be preserved beneath the proposed building.
-

8. Bibliography

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MAP 2004. Land at OS Field 0006, Main Road, Weaverthorpe, North Yorkshire. Archaeological Excavation

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Stoertz, C. 1997 Ancient Landscapes of the Yorkshire Wolds

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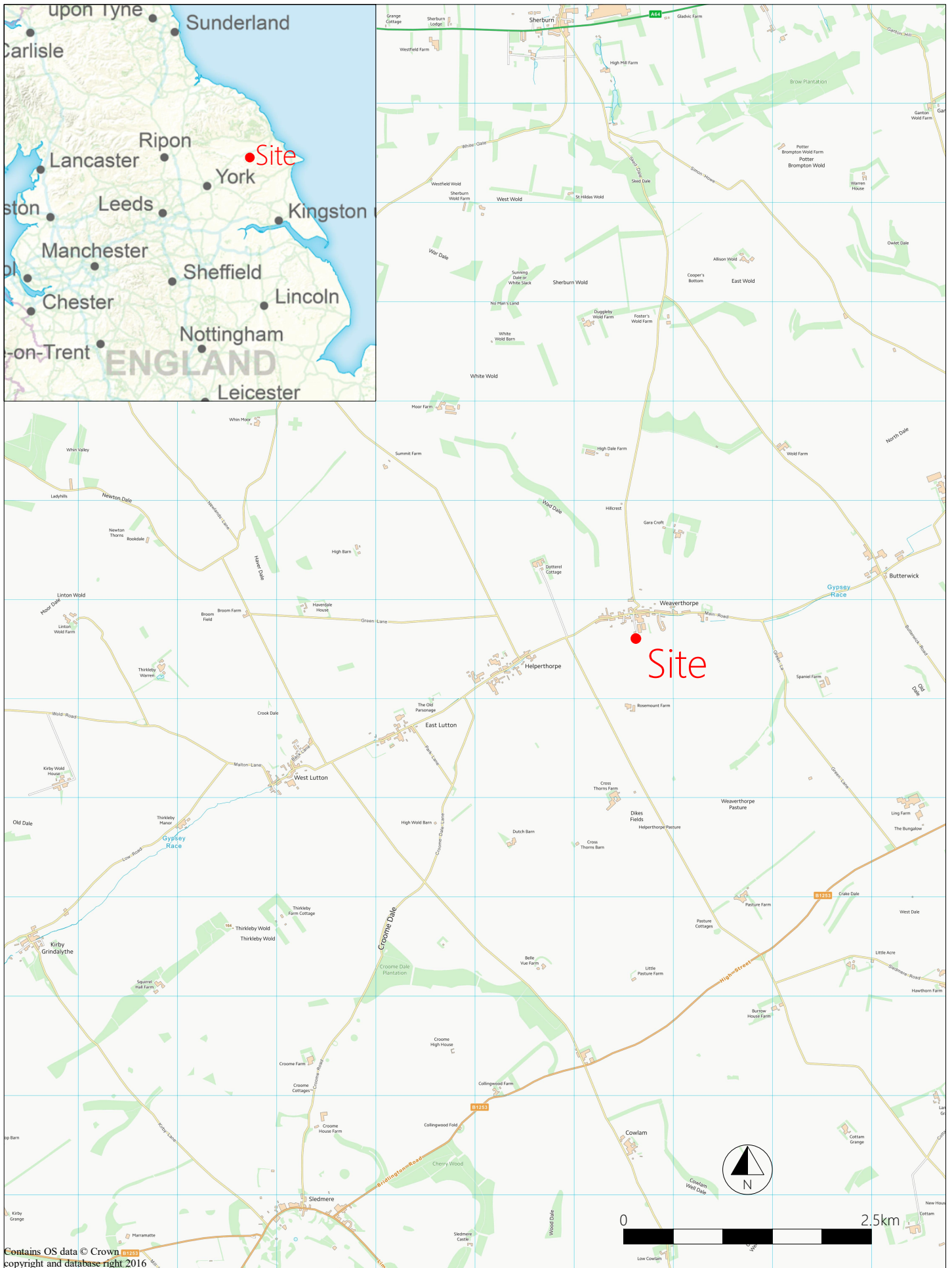
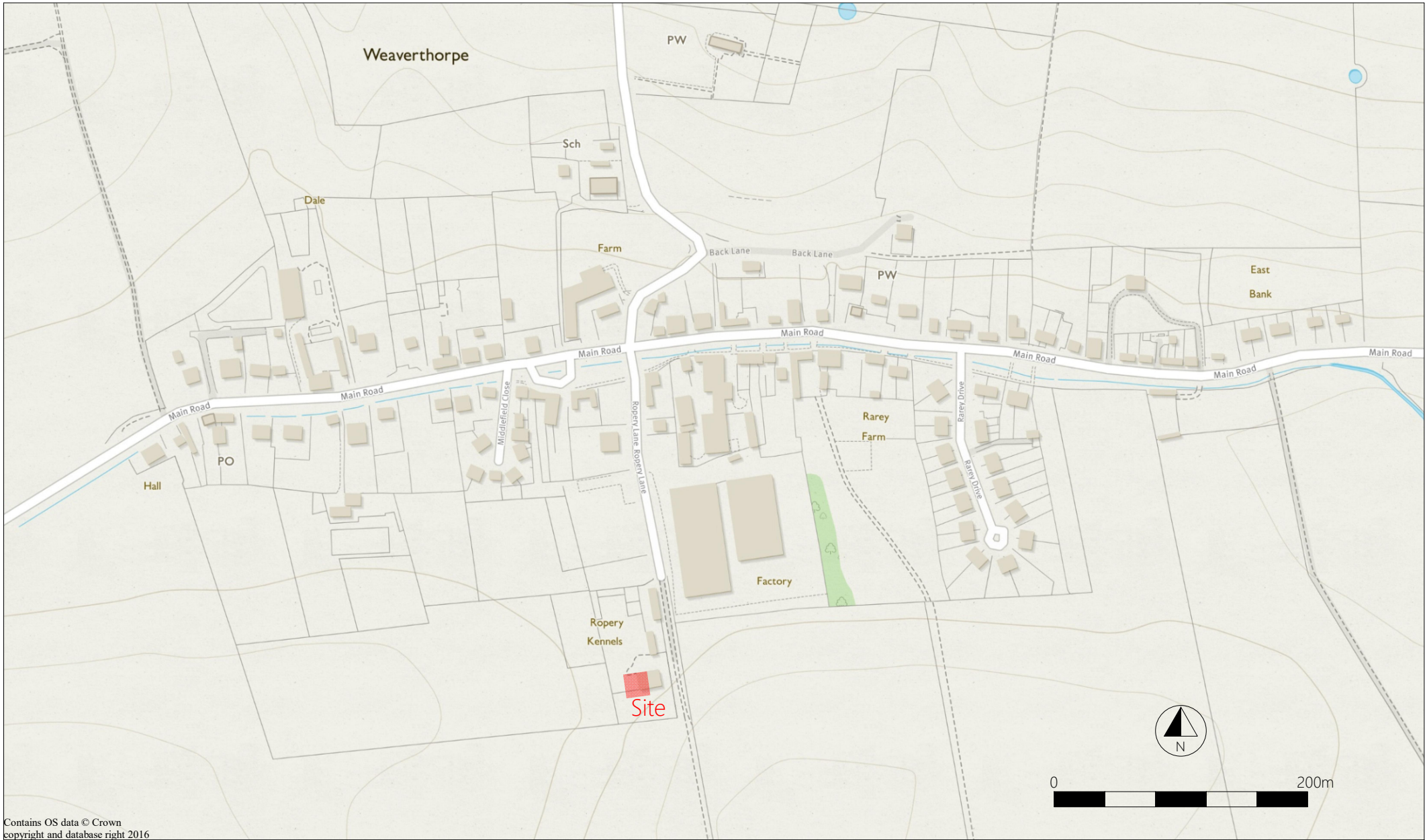


Figure 1: Site Location Plan 1:50,000@A4



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Figure 2: Site Location Plan 1:4000@A4



Plate 1. Development Area Prior to Excavation, Facing East.



Plate 2. Development Area Prior to Excavation, Facing South.



Plate 3. Typical Section in Western Part of the Site, to the West of the Existing Barn.



Plate 4. Typical Section in Southern Part of the Site, to the Rear of Existing Barn.



Plate 5. General View of Site, Facing North West.

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI)
FOR LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING ("WATCHING BRIEF")

Land At OS Field 5062 Ropery Lane, Weaverthorpe, Malton, North Yorkshire
Planning Application 14/01320/FUL

This Written Scheme of Investigation is for an Archaeological Watching Brief to be carried out during groundwork's associated with the erection of extensions to existing general-purpose agricultural building. The groundworks will be undertaken under the supervision of an Archaeologist.

The site lies within an area of archaeological interest.

The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains, which are:

- a) affected by proposed development only to a limited and clearly defined extent,
- b) not available or susceptible to standard area excavation techniques, or of limited importance or potential.

The work should not require any groundworks to be held up while archaeological investigation takes place, although adequate time should be allowed for any archaeological features to be excavated, sampled and recorded.

1. The WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements needed to comply with an archaeological planning condition or obligation. This is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012). The work on site should commence with the implementation of the agreed WSI and Method Statement and subject to the Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct and standards and guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
2. The Archaeologist should notify by letter or e-mail the Historic Environment Team of the County Council at least 10 working days in advance of the start of work on site.
3. The removal of overburden (that is vegetation, turf, loose stones, rubble, made ground, Tarmac, concrete, hardcore, building debris and topsoil) should be supervised by the Archaeologist contracted to carry out the WSI. The Archaeologist should be informed of the correct timing and schedule of overburden removal.
4. Removal of overburden by machine should be undertaken using a back-acting excavator fitted with toothless or ditching bucket only. Where materials are exceptionally difficult to lift, a toothed bucket may be used temporarily. Subsoils (B horizons) or deep, uniform fills of features may also be removed by back-acting excavator but only in areas specified by the Archaeologist on site, and only with archaeological supervision. Bulldozers or wheeled scraper buckets should not be used to remove overburden above archaeological deposits. Where reinstatement is required, topsoil should be kept separate from other soil materials.
5. Metal detecting within the development area, including the scanning of topsoil and spoil heaps, should only be permitted subject to archaeological supervision and recording such that metal

finds are properly located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection should be carried out following the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (DCMS 2008).

6. Where structures, finds, soil features and layers of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed by construction works, the Archaeologist should be provided with the opportunity to observe, clean, assess, excavate by hand where appropriate, sample and record these features and finds. If the contractors or plant operators notice archaeological remains, they should immediately tell the Archaeologist. The sampling of deposits for palaeo-environmental evidence should be a standard consideration, and arrangements should be made to ensure that specialist advice and analysis are available if appropriate. The Historic England Science Advisor will be contacted at Tanner Row, York if appropriate.
7. Heavy plant should not be operated in the near vicinity of archaeological remains until they have been recorded, and the Archaeologist on site has allowed operations to recommence at that location. Sterile subsoils (C horizons) and parent materials below archaeological deposits may be removed without archaeological supervision. Where reinstatement is required, subsoils should be backfilled first and topsoil last.
8. Upon completion of fieldwork, samples should be processed and evaluated, and all finds identified, assessed, spot-dated, properly stored, and subject to investigative conservation as needed. A field archive should be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist should arrange for either the Historic Environment Team of the County Council at the discretion of the District Council or an independent post-excavation specialist to inspect the archive before making arrangements for the transfer of the archive to an appropriate museum or records office.
9. A summary report will be produced following the Council's guidelines on reporting. The report will contain planning or administrative details of the project, a summary of works carried out, a description and interpretation of the findings, an assessment of the importance of the archaeology including its historical context where appropriate, and catalogues of finds, features, and primary records. All excavated areas will be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and field boundaries. All significant features will be illustrated with conventionally-scaled plans, sections, and photographs. Where few or no finds are made, it may be acceptable to provide the report in the form of a letter with plans attached.
10. Copies of the summary report will be provided to the client(s), The Historic Environment Team of the County Council (HER), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage. A licence should be granted to the accepting museum and the County Council to use the documentation arising from the work for its statutory functions and to give to third parties as an incidental to those functions.
11. Upon completion of the work, the Archaeologist will make their work accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>). Submission of data to OASIS does not discharge the planning requirements for the Archaeologist to notify the Historic Environment Team of the County Council of the details of the work and to provide the Historic Environment Record (HER) with a summary report on the work.
12. Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2005 (EIR) information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'. Requests for sensitive

information are subject to a public interest test, and if this is met, then the information has to be disclosed. The Archaeologist should inform the client of EIR requirements, and ensure that any information disclosure issues are resolved before completion of the work. Intellectual property rights are not affected by the EIR.

13. At the discretion of the District Council, the Historic Environment Team of the County Council will be informed as soon as possible of the discovery of any unexpected archaeological remains, or changes in the programme of ground works on site. Any significant changes in the archaeological work should be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority. If there is a need to remove human remains, an exhumation license will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice Exhumation License, or a faculty obtained where the remains are buried in land consecrated according to the rites of the Church of England.

14. References and Guidelines

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