

**MAP
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE LTD**

**Land South of Meadowside
Ropery Lane
Weaverthorpe
North Yorkshire**

SE 96591 70715

14/01168/FUL

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Contents	Page
Figure List	2
Plate List	2
Summary	3
1. Introduction	3
2. Site Description	4
3. Historical and Archaeological Background	5
4. Aims and Objectives	6
5. Methodology	6
6. Results	7
7. Conclusions	7
8. Bibliography	8

Figure List		Page
1.	Site Location. Scale 1:25000.	9
2.	Area of Archaeological Watching Brief. Scale 1:2500.	10
Plate List		
1.	General View of Site. Facing North-west.	11
2.	Temporary Glamping Unit Base. Facing North-east.	11
3.	Temporary Glamping Unit Base. Facing West.	12
4.	Soakaway. Facing North-east.	12
5.	Water Pipe Trench. Facing North-west.	13
6.	Soakaway & Water Pipe Trench. Facing South-west.	13

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Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd. on land south of Meadowside, Ropery Lane, Weaverthorpe, North Yorkshire (SE 96591 70715) on the 4th March and the 5th May 2015. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the change of use of agricultural land to a glamping site to include part replacement and part conversion of existing outbuildings to form photography studio, workshop/gallery, kitchen, toilet/shower facilities and bike store/drying room together with siting of 9no. units of holiday accommodation consisting of 5no. converted railway wagons and 4no. camping pods, parking area and alteration to existing vehicular access under the supervision of an archaeologist.

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 that was carried out on the 4th March and the 5th May 2015 during the groundworks associated with the change of use of agricultural land to a glamping site to include part replacement and part conversion of existing outbuildings to form photography studio, workshop/gallery, kitchen, toilet/shower facilities and bike store/drying room together with siting of 9no. units of holiday accommodation consisting of 5no.

converted railway wagons and 4no. camping pods, parking area and alteration to existing vehicular access on land south of Meadowside, Ropery Lane, Weaverthorpe, North Yorkshire, (SE 96591 70715; Fig. 1). The Archaeological work was undertaken to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to the Planning Application Consent (Ref: 14/01168/FUL).

- 1.2 The Archaeological Watching Brief was designed to provide the appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development, in accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012).
- 1.3 All work was funded by Miss Tracy Chapman.
- 1.4 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 of the proposed development is located within the centre of Weaverthorpe village, c. 20km east of Malton and 24km south-west of Scarborough (Fig. 1). The site can be accessed via Ropery Lane, which is located south of Main Street.
- 2.2 The proposed development area is 0.48 hectares in size and currently comprises two small holdings occupied by a number of old agricultural buildings/sheds plus five old railway goods wagons previously utilised for housing pigs and farm machinery (Fig. 2: Pl. 1).
- 2.3 The setting of the new glamping site is split between the two small holdings on relatively flat level land (c. 80m AOD) and is bounded by Ropery Lane to the east, Ropery Lane kennels to the south, agricultural land to the west and Meadowside to the north.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The Great Wold Valley, through which the Gypsey Race flows, forms a huge landscape of Prehistoric features, known largely from cropmarks on aerial photographs, but 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 rectangular 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 the Gypsey Race (Stoertz 1997, Map 1).
- 3.4 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 ('Weaverthorpe Manor'), prior to the 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. In 1951 Raymond Hayes, among others, examined the earthworks enclosing the Weaverthorpe Manor site, when Gritty Ware sherds were recovered.
- 3.5 Other archaeological evaluations undertaken within Weaverthorpe include an excavation on Land at OS field 0006 by Map during 2004 as well as 2006. Evaluation trenches revealed pits and boundaries of late Iron Age/Romano-British date along with medieval chalk-built walls which were superseded by a later medieval phase of large pits for gravel extraction. A small assemblage of residual flint along with

pottery of late Iron Age/Romano-British and medieval date were recovered across the site.

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Recording Brief were to record and recover any archaeological remains that were affected by the development, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The installation of the nine temporary glamping units involved the preliminary topsoil strip of five areas measuring 2.52m by 5.34m and four areas measuring 2.50m by 3.67m using a 360^o tracked excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, operating under close archaeological supervision. Machining ceased at the top of archaeological or naturally-formed deposits, depending upon which was located soonest.
- 5.2 The machine subsequently excavated the trench for a water pipe, drainage trench and soakaway using a 0.26m wide toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. The water pipe trench ran on a north-west to south-east alignment alongside the temporary units before turning to a south-west to north-east alignment and running into the soakaway (Pl. 4). The drainage trench was located crossing the access track.
- 5.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 5.4 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the Watching Brief on a high resolution digital camera.

6. Results (Pls. 2-6)

- 6.1 Natural deposits were not encountered in any of the temporary glamping unit bases. Stratigraphy consisted merely of a dark grey-brown loamy clay topsoil deposit (Context 001), which ranged from 0.23m up to a maximum depth of 0.29m (Pls. 2 & 3).
- 6.2 The water pipe trench was excavated to an average depth of 0.60m. Stratigraphy consisted of a dark grey-brown loamy clay topsoil (Context 001) which lay above a deposit of brown slightly silty clay subsoil (Context 002) which in turn sealed the natural chalk and gravel. The soakaway measured 1.84m x 1.80m and was excavated to a depth of 0.61m (Pls. 4-6). The drainage trench was 0.45m wide and 0.80m deep across the access track and went through previously disturbed ground.
- 6.3 No archaeological features, deposit or finds were present in either the temporary glamping unit bases, the water pipe trench or soakaway.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1. Natural deposits were revealed within the soakaway and water pipe trench. However, the depth of the temporary glamping unit bases failed to reach the depths of the natural chalk and gravels. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered within the depth of the excavation areas. The absence of any archaeological deposits may be due to the relative shallowness of the excavation areas, which at best, only grazed the top of the subsoil.

8. Bibliography

- Fenton- Thomas, C 2005 The Forgotten Landscape of the Yorkshire Wolds.
- MAP 2004 Land at OS Field 0006, Main Road, Weaverthorpe, North Yorkshire. Archaeological Evaluation.
- Smith, A H 1937 The Place-Names of the East Riding of Yorkshire and York.
- Stoertz, C 1997 Ancient Landscapes of the Yorkshire Wolds. *Royal Commission on Historical Monuments.*

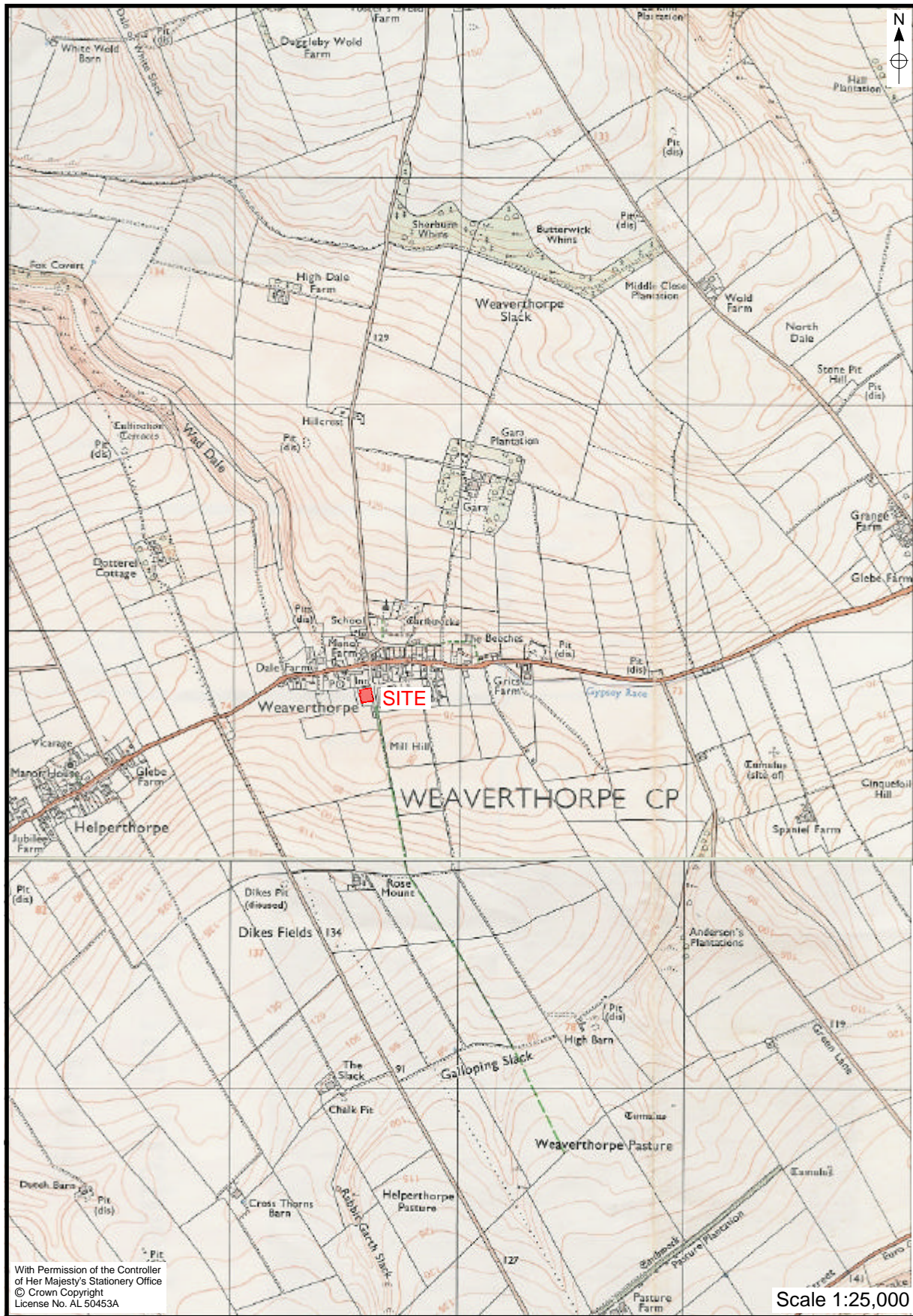


Figure 1. Site Location.

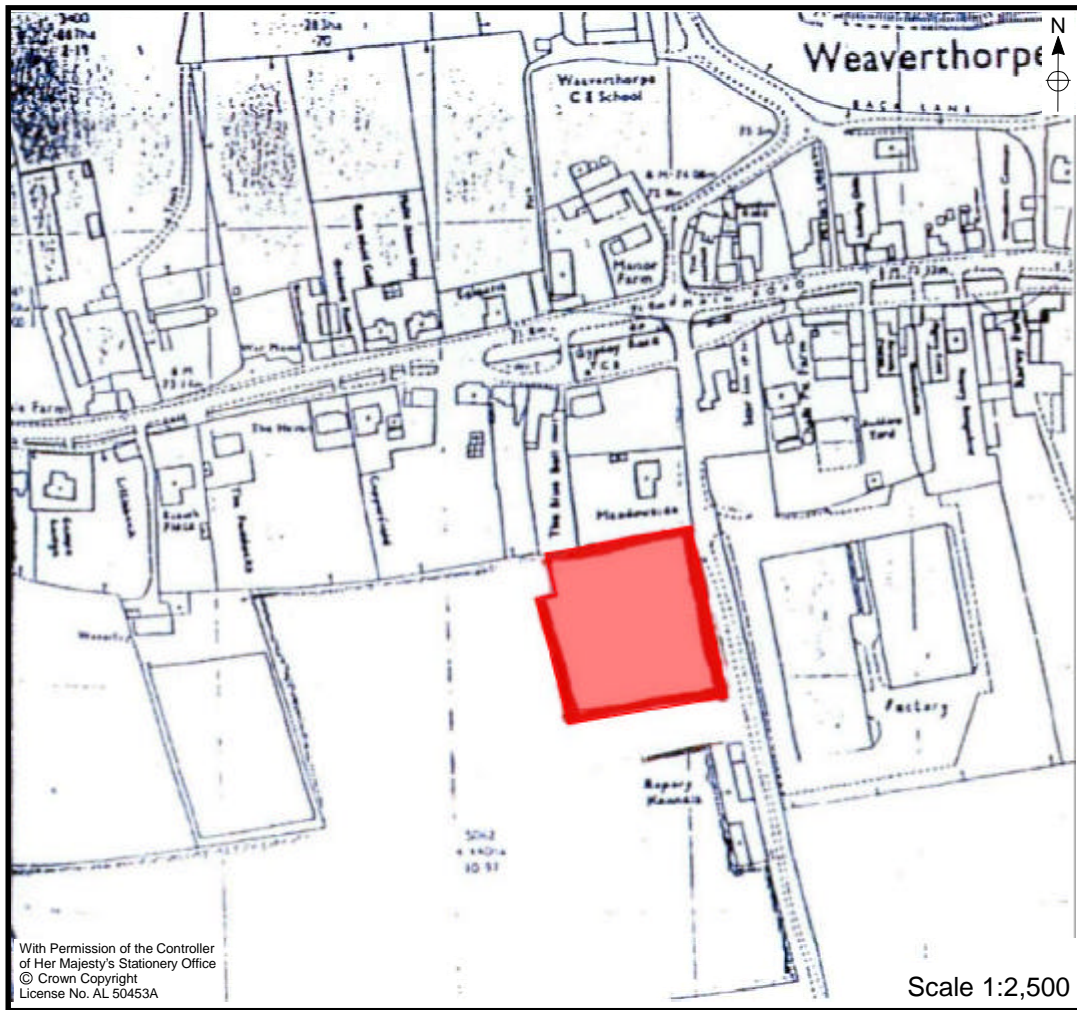


Figure 2. Area of Archaeological Watching Brief.



Plate 1. General View of Site. Facing North-west.



Plate 2. Temporary Glamping Unit Base. Facing North-east.



Plate 3. Temporary Glamping Unit Base. Facing West.



Plate 4. Soakaway. Facing North-east.



Plate 5. Water Pipe Trench. Facing North-west.



Plate 6. Soakaway & Water Pipe Trench. Facing South-west.