

**Sycamore Farm
Main Street
West Lutton
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief
SE 93098 69304**

Authorised by

Date:.....

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May 2011

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Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd during the excavation of a drainage trench along the Main Street frontage at Sycamore Farm, West Lutton, North Yorkshire (Ref 08/00049/REM). A single sherd of Roman pottery was uncovered from the subsoil during the excavation of the drainage trench.

The excavation of all house footings is still to be undertaken

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken during the excavation of a drainage trench at 1 Sycamore Farm, Main Street, West Lutton, North Yorkshire (SE 93098 69304 - Fig. 1).
- 1.2 As the development had the potential to disturb archaeological remains the Heritage Section of NYCC advised that an Archaeological Watching Brief be attached to the planning permission (08/00049/REM). MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd was engaged to carry out the archaeological work, which took place on 27th May 2011.
- 1.4 All works were funded by Bruce Forbes of Rubrick Homes Ltd.

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2. Site Description

- 2.1 The site is situated immediately south of the Main Street (the West Lutton to Weaverthorpe Road (Pls. 1-2). This location is on the eastern edge of the village of West Lutton, on a south-facing slope that overlooks the Great Wold Valley. The site's elevation is c. 87m AOD.
- 2.2 The soils are of the Coombe 1 Association, described as being well-drained calcareous and fine silty over chalky drift and chalk (Mackney *et al.* 1983).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The village of West Lutton is situated approximately 7km to the south-west of Weaverthorpe, and 16km to the south-east of Malton. The Domesday Survey recorded a single settlement at *Ludton*, which means `Luda's Farm` (Smith 1937, 122). West Lutton was first mentioned specifically as *Westlutton* in a document of 1285, although the reference to *duabus Luttunis* in 1108-14 shows that East and West Lutton existed as separate settlements by the early twelfth century.
- 3.2 West Lutton was formerly located within the parish of Weaverthorpe and the Wapentake of Buckrose. In 1875, East and West Lutton joined together to form the parish of Luttons Ambo (Bulmer 1892).
- 3.3 Aerial photographic survey of the Wolds has illustrated the degree of ancient settlement and land use locally (Stoertz 1997). The village of West Lutton is flanked to the north and south-east by a series of cropmark

features that probably represent a Late Iron Age / Romano-British 'ladder settlement'.

- 3.4 An Archaeological Watching Brief carried out in 2006 during the construction of a new property c. 25m to the south of the site recorded an Anglo-Saxon *grubenhous* and a nineteenth century cobbler's workshop (Fern Archaeology 2006).
- 3.5 Analysis of the 1853 First Edition Ordnance Survey map suggests that the main focus of medieval settlement at West Luton was situated c. 100m to the south-east of the site, with properties aligned east to west on both sides of the Gypsy Race.

4. Methods

- 4.1 The foundations for the new extension were excavated by a 360° tracked mini-excavator using a 0.45m wide toothed bucket. A service trench, c. 15m in length, was dug along the Main Street frontage. This trench was c. 0.90m deep
- 4.2 A number of record shots were taken on a digital camera set on high resolution with 6 million pixels.

5. Results

- 5.1 The drainage trench was excavated by mechanical excavator using a 0.45m toothed bucket. The natural chalk gravel was overlain by a 0.35m thick layer of greyish silty clay subsoil, which in turn was masked by a similar depth of topsoil.
- 5.2 No archaeological deposits existed within the Watching Brief area. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the subsoil (rim sherd of a Calcite gritted war jar).

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 This report is based on the excavation of a single service trench. All the house plots are still to be undertaken. Although no archaeological deposits existed at the location of the Watching Brief, this may be a reflection of the relatively small area involved. The majority of the site at Sycamore Farm is still undeveloped.

7. Bibliography

- Bulmer 1892 Directory of Yorkshire: East Riding and Hull.
- Fern Archaeology 2006 Report on the archaeological watching brief at Malton Lane, West Lutton, North Yorkshire.
- Mackney, D. *et al.* 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 1: Northern England.*
- Smith, A. H. (ed.) 1937 The Place-Names of the East Riding of Yorkshire and York.
- Stoertz, C. 1997 Ancient Landscapes of the Yorkshire Wolds.

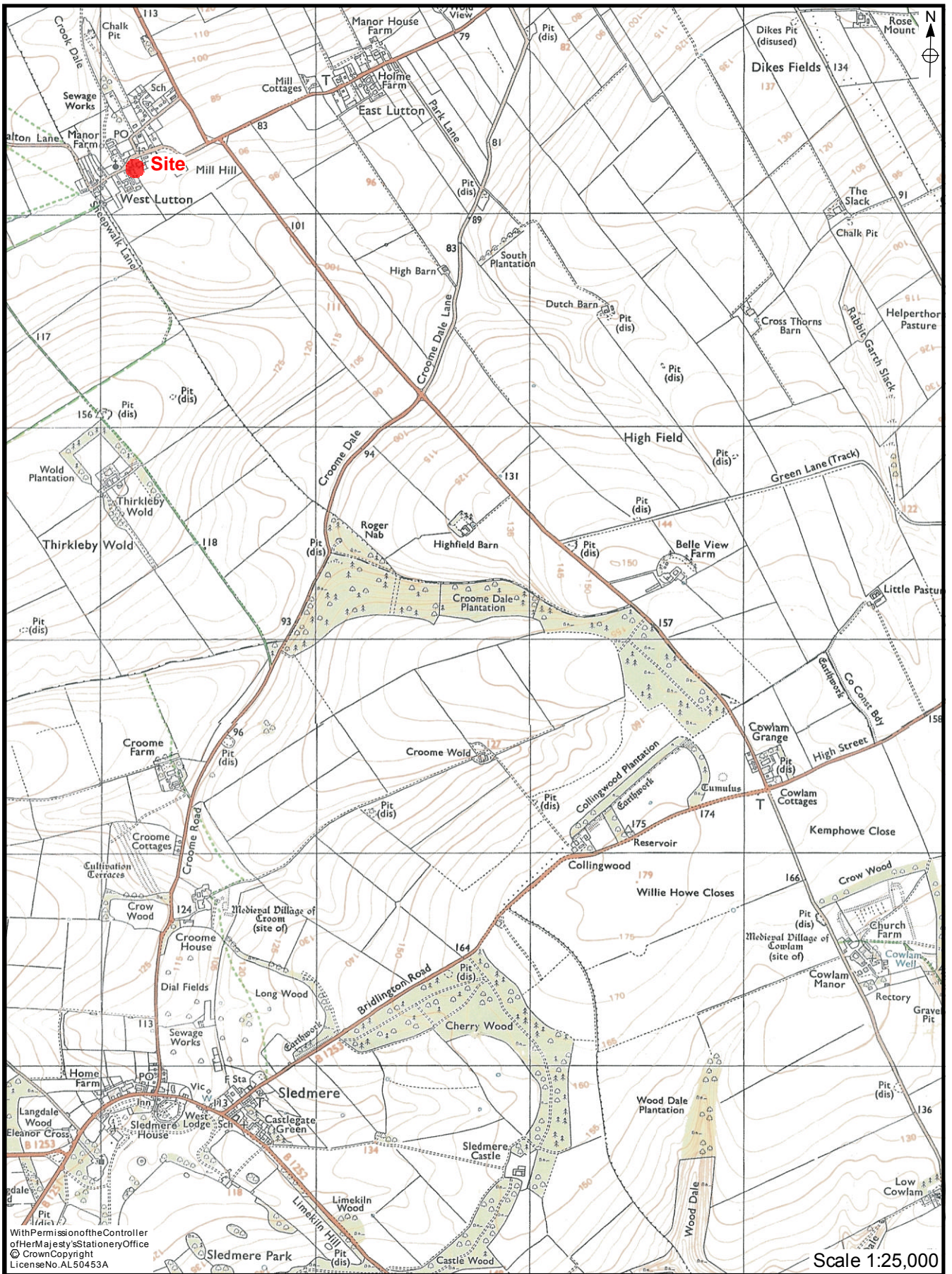


Figure 1. Site Location

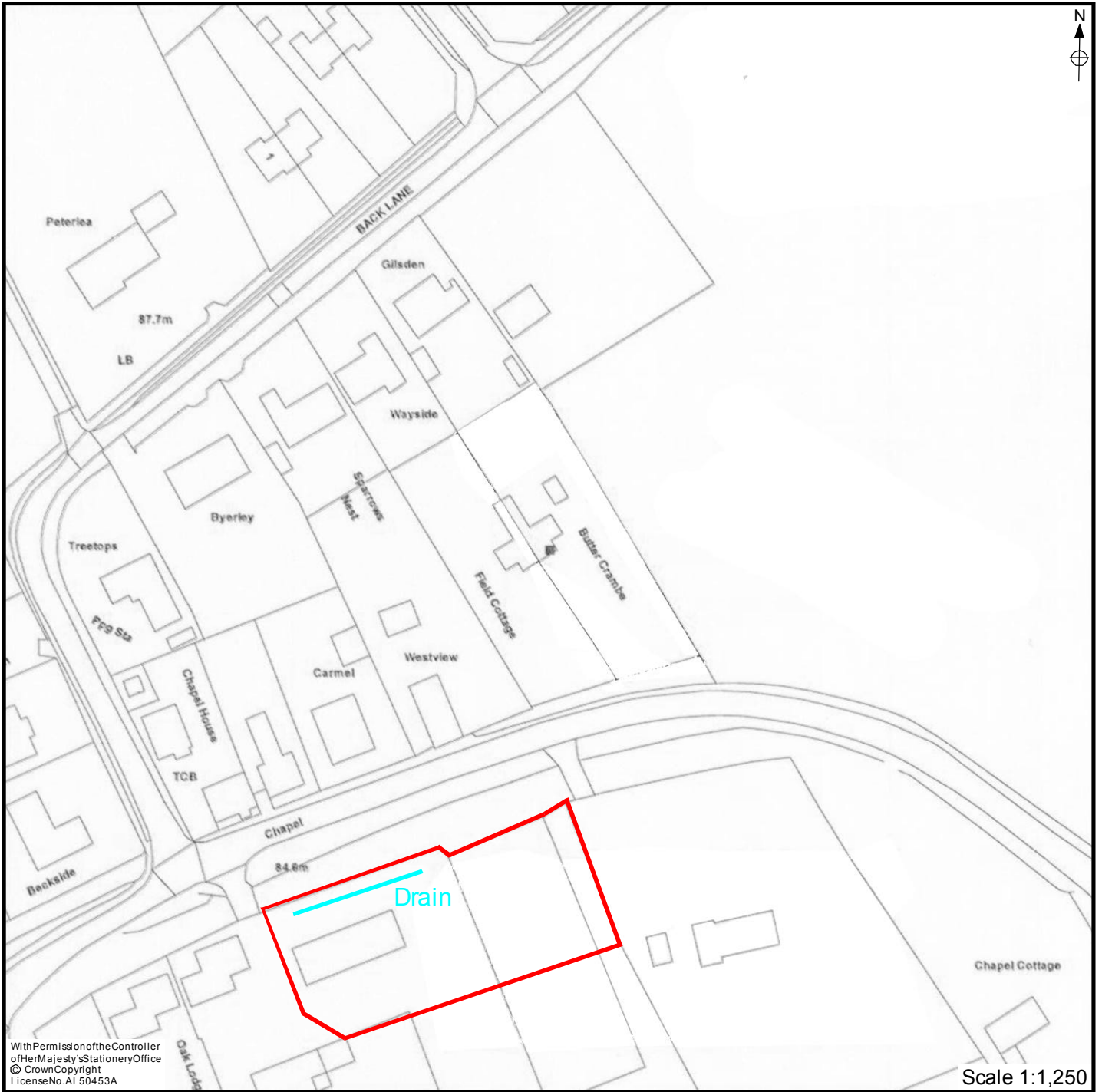


Figure 2. Area of Development



Plate 1. Proposed Development Area. Facing North-east.



Plate 2. Proposed Development Area. Facing South-west.



Plate 3. Drainage Trench. Facing South-west.



Plate 4. Drainage Trench. Facing North-west.