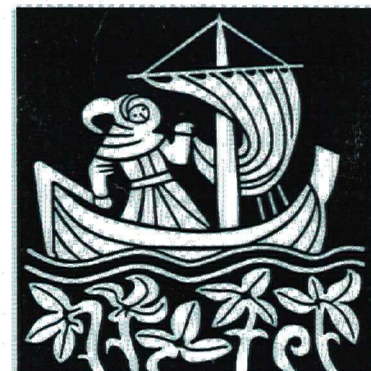


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SNY	8045
ENY	841
CNY	2292
Parish	386
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Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

The Former New Tavern, Middleton, North Yorkshire.

Planning Application Number: 02/00505/FUL

National Grid Reference: SE 7852 8542

Site Code: MAM2002

for

Mr and Mrs Wells

Watching Brief Report

December 2002

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NYC 2292.

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with the construction of an extension to the rear of the former New Tavern, Church Lane, Middleton, North Yorkshire.

No significant archaeological finds or deposits were found during the course of the watching brief, apart from a single course of late 19th century or 20th century bricks and several sherds of unstratified pottery of a similar date.

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology, on behalf of Mr and Mrs. Wells, during groundwork associated with the construction of an extension at the rear of the former New Tavern, Middleton, Pickering, North Yorkshire (*Figure 1a*).
- 1.2 Site Code: MAM2002
National Grid Reference: SE 7852 8542
Planning Application No: 02/00505/FUL
- 1.3 The development site is located on the west side of Church Street. To the south and east the site is bounded by residential land, while to the north it is bounded by agricultural land (*Figure 1b*).

2. Archaeological Background

- 2.1 This area of the village of Middleton lies to the west of the church within an area known as Nuns Garth. The Ordnance Survey recorded the site of old foundations in this area, which were believed to relate to a former monastic site; a property holding of the Priory of Rosedale.

3. Methodology

- 3.1 The on-site work associated with this watching brief was carried out by staff from Humber Field Archaeology, in accordance with the archaeological specification produced by the North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit, Date: 19/07/02.
- 3.2 The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of any stripped topsoil, and the digging of foundations and service trenches. A single visit was made to the site on 16th August 2002, in which time it was possible to monitor the excavation of the foundations for the building. Any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits.
- 3.3 The excavated dimensions of the foundations were noted, as were the depth sequences of the exposed stratigraphy. If archaeological features were detected, they would be recorded by appropriate means: plans/sections and a photographic record, where conditions permitted.
- 3.4.1 Any archaeological artefacts found during the watching brief were bagged according to their context, and returned to Humber Field Archaeology for further specialist analysis.

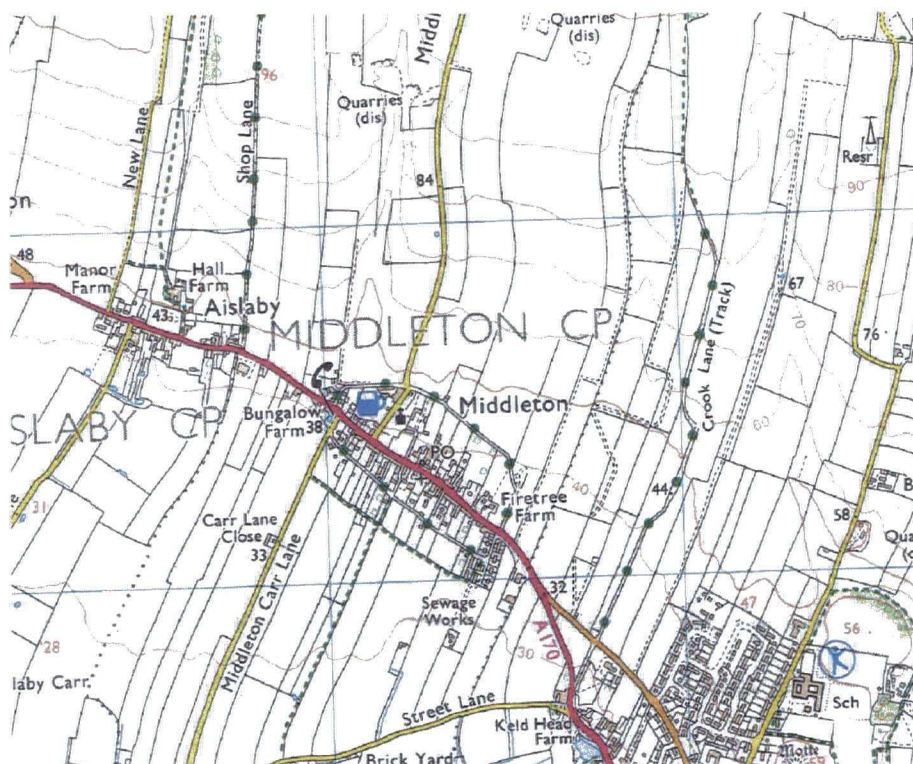


Figure 1a and b. Site location plans. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100034493



4. Results

- 4.1 Prior to the excavation of the of the foundation trenches the area of the building footprint was reduced by 0.5m. The foundation trenches were then machine excavated to a depth of a further 0.6m and were 0.6m wide. The lowest deposit encountered was natural carboniferous and Jurassic sandstone. This was fragmented and was contained within an orange-yellow sandy matrix and was 0.3m deep. Within the upper part of the foundation trenches yellowish-brown silt subsoil had been exposed, this too was 0.3m deep.
- 4.2 Within the edges of the area reduction was a fairly deep layer of very clean, dark-brown silt, 0.3m deep. This deposit represented the buried topsoil. Sealing this layer on the NE side of the area and extending for 3.8m from the existing building was a 0.1m thick layer of dark-brown silt, with frequent inclusions of small brick and tile fragments, as well as fragments of mortar, less than 20mm in size. Several sherds of late 19th or early 20th century pottery were recovered from this context. This deposit was used as a bedding layer for a single course of bricks. The bricks – which were machine made - were laid on bed, without the aid of mortar. The individual dimensions of the bricks were 225mm by 110mm by 75mm and the whole course was 3.8m in length and aligned NW-SE. The bricks are assumed to relate to a now demolished ancillary building of some description.
- 4.3 Finally the uppermost layer encountered was the gravel carpark surface, which was 80mm thick.

5. The Finds

- 5.1 Several sherds of pottery and a single brick from the wall were retained for further analysis. The pottery, which was recovered from the layer directly below the bricks, dated from the very late 19th century or earlier 20th. The brick - the dimensions of which were 225mm by 110mm by 75mm – was machine made, which would suggest a date later than the middle of the 19th century.

6. Discussion & Recommendations

- 6.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at the former New Inn, Middleton, Pickering, North Yorkshire. No significant archaeological remains were encountered within the footings. The single course of bricks located during the monitoring were thought to date from the late 19th century or early 20th century.
- 6.2 Due to the completion of the groundworks no further works is deemed necessary.

7. Contributors

Fieldwork, report and Illustration

J. Bradley

9. Bibliography

North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit, 2002. Standard Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Limited Archaeological Recording ("Watching Brief").

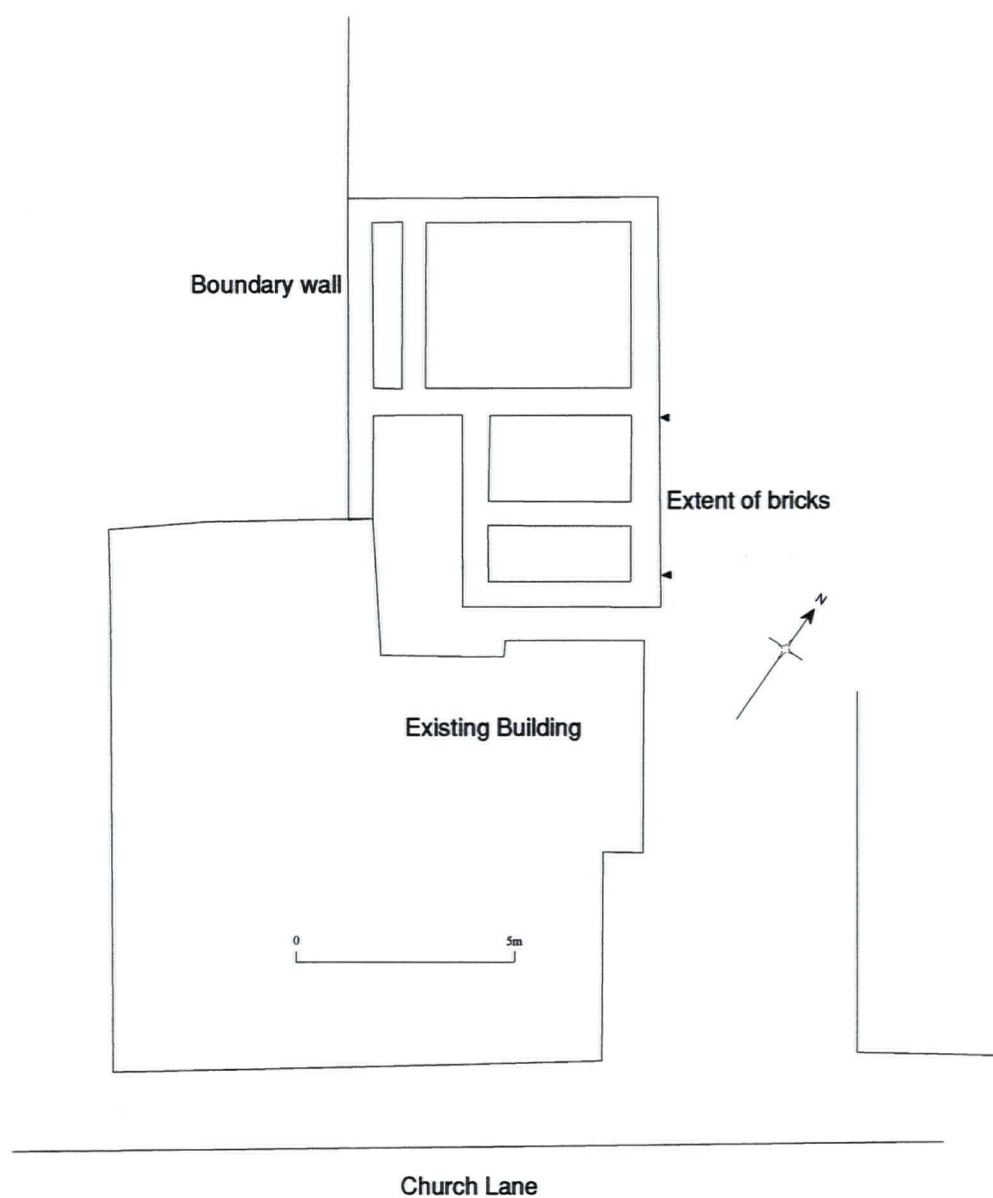


Figure 2. Plan of area monitored.

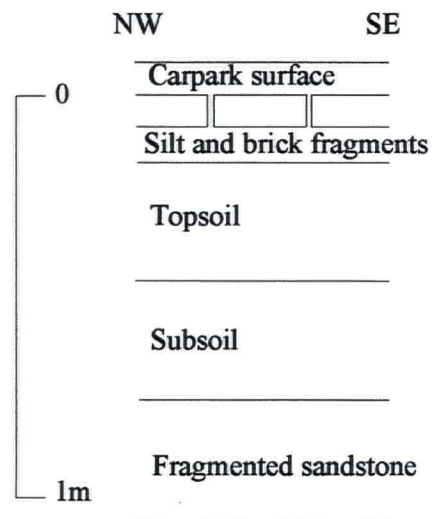


Figure 3. Typical stratigraphy recorded in section showing location of the brickwork.



Plate 1. The foundation trenches during excavation, viewed from the north.