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Norton College
Langton Road
Norton
North Yorkshire
SE 7946 7080

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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June 2005

**Norton College
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Norton
North Yorkshire
SE 7946 7080**

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Non-technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Norton College, Langton Road, Norton, North Yorkshire, during July 2005. The work was undertaken in order to fulfil a condition attached to a Planning Application Consent and involved monitoring groundworks associated with the construction of a WC and storage extension to the college building (Ref. No. 05/00309/CPO).

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the Watching Brief.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Norton College, Langton Road, Norton (SE 7946 7080, Fig. 1) during July 2005. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the erection of a WC and storage extension to the college building (Ref. No. 05/00309/CPO).
- 1.2 All work was undertaken in accordance with a *Standard Written Scheme of Investigation for Limited Archaeological Recording* which was prepared by the Senior Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council.
- 1.3 The site was allocated the MAP site code 08-06-05.

- 1.4 All work was funded by Scothern Construction Ltd.
- 1.5 All maps within this report have been produced from The Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 50453A.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The site lies in the town of Norton, on the eastern side of Langton Road, at SE 7946 7080 9(Figs. 1 and 2). The site is bounded to the west by Langton Road, to the north by gardens and paddocks, and to the east and south by residential properties.
- 2.2 The site lies on soils of the Landbeach Series, consisting of coarse loam over a geology of chalky gravel (Mackney *et al.* 1984).
- 2.3 The development area was situated on the western (entrance) frontage of the main block of the college, immediately to the west of an existing doorway. At the time of the Watching Brief, the development area consisted of a grassed lawn and a flagstone path leading from the doorway.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The Roman Fort and *vicus* (civilian settlement) at Malton lies north of the river Derwent, with further settlement spreading southwards across the river to cover a substantial area of what is now the modern town of Norton.
- 3.2 From its origins as a medieval village, modern Norton greatly expanded from the mid-19th century onwards to form a large residential and industrial area, successive building works leading to the uncovering of substantial Roman remains.
- 3.3 Roman buildings were identified in 1946 during the construction of the Eastfield estate (Hayes, 1988). The remains of 3rd century pottery kilns and associated buildings

were recorded in 1948 at the Howe Road estate (Hayes and Whitley, 1950), with further kilns being observed during the building of The Chase, c. 200m south-east of the site in 1990 (ERART, 1990). Major cemeteries are known to exist on the west side of Langton Road in the vicinity of The Ridings and Millside (Robinson, 1978, nos. 354 and 355).

- 3.4 Roman inhumation and cremation burials were found during the building of St Peters church in 1891, and the Church Hall in 1937 (*ibid.* nos. 306-309).
- 3.5 A scatter of Roman and medieval sherds were found during the construction of Brooklyn Youth Club in 1967. A sewer trench which cut across the club's car park revealed an infant burial beneath a pitched surface of stone roofing tiles (*ibid.*, no. 312).
- 3.6 Two Roman roads ran through the Roman settlement at Norton, eventually forming the main Roman road to York (Margary 81a – *ibid.*, no. 237) and to Brough on Humber. However, Wenham postulated a single route on the west side of Langton Road coinciding with the westernmost of Robinson's roads (Wenham 1974, Fig. 13), with a grid-like pattern of roads or streets to the north.
- 3.7 The projected line of the western of the two roads was backed up by solid evidence, having been traced to the south of the evaluation in the garden of Sutton Cottage (*ibid.*, no. 236) and in a former paddock (now occupied by the present access to Brooklyn and a modern bungalow), where it survived as a slight ridge (*ibid.*, no. 235 and NMR map BB70/5682).

4. Aims and Objectives

4. The aim of the Watching Brief was to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits threatened by the proposed development, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The monitored groundworks consisted of the removal of topsoil and the subsequent reduction of a rectangular area measuring 14.5m x 8m, followed by the excavation of strip foundation trenches along three sides of the excavated area.
- 5.2 All excavations were undertaken by a back-acting mechanical excavator, operating under full archaeological supervision.
- 5.3 A written and photographic record was made of all deposits encountered during the groundworks.

6. Results (Pls. 1 and 2)

- 6.1 Topsoil and subsoil stripping was conducted to a maximum depth of 0.30m below existing ground level over a rectangular area of 14.5m x 8.0m. A series of 0.50m wide foundation trenches were then excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m below existing ground level along the northern, western and southern sides of the development area.
- 6.2 Excavations revealed deposits of naturally formed sand in the base of the foundation trenches. This was sealed by a 0.30m-0.40m deep deposit of silty sandy subsoil, which in turn was sealed by a 0.20m deep deposit of loamy topsoil and turf.
- 6.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recovered during the Watching Brief.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Although the area of the Watching Brief lay within the vicinity of Roman Norton and known areas of archaeology, no features or artefacts were observed during the works. This suggests that the site may be situated beyond the limits of the Romano-British settlement.

8. Bibliography

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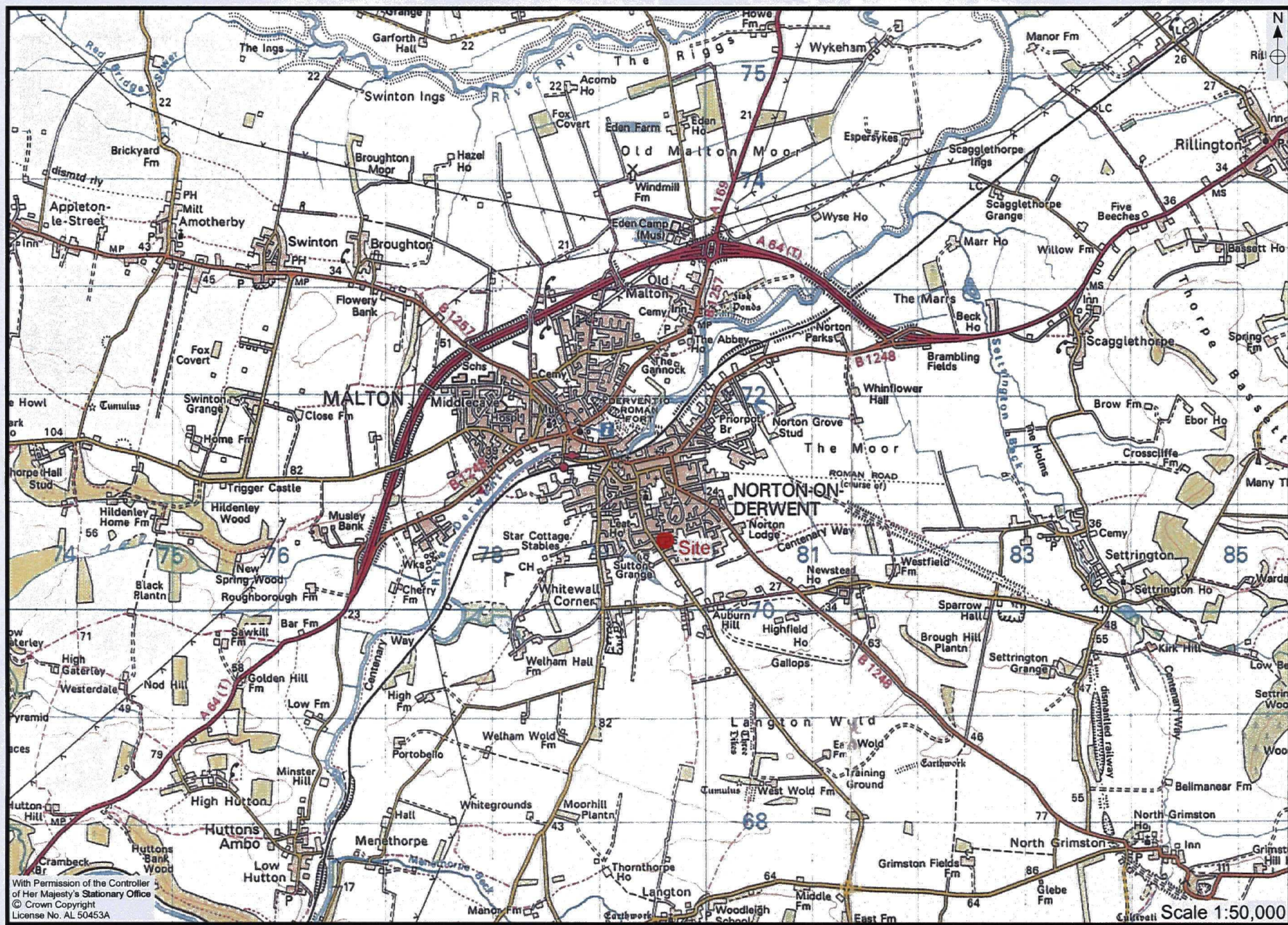


Figure 1. Site Location

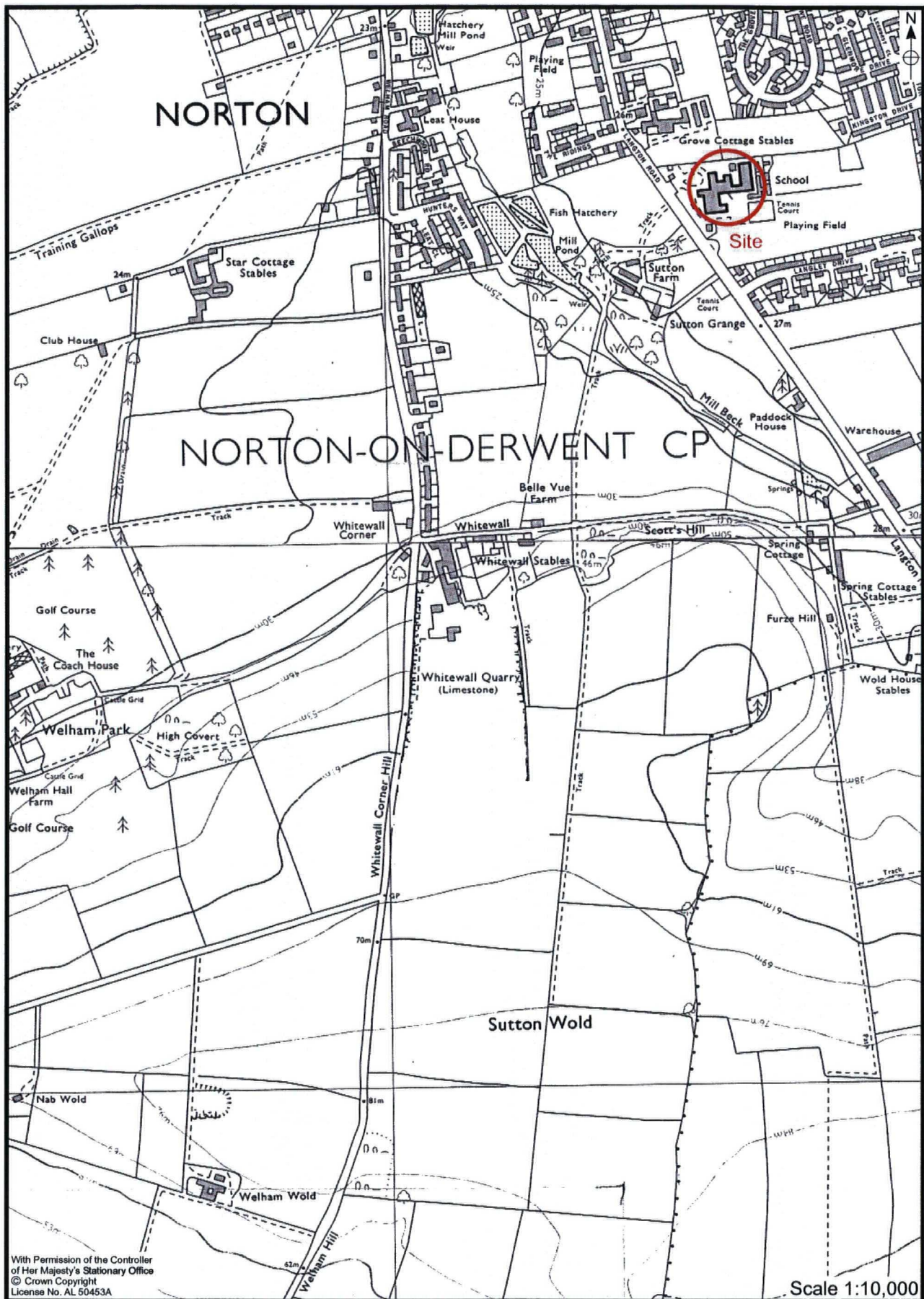


Figure 2. Area of Watching Brief



Plate 1. View of Excavation Area. Facing South



Plate 2. West-Facing Section of Foundation Trench. Facing East