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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS
ALONG THE

**Malton - Rillington
PUMPING MAIN**

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**Report on Archaeological Excavations along the route of the Proposed
Rilhngton to Malton Pumping Main, North Yorkshire**

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Introduction

This report presents the results of archaeological excavations conducted on a number of sites which lie along the route of a proposed Pumping Main between Rillington and Malton, North Yorkshire

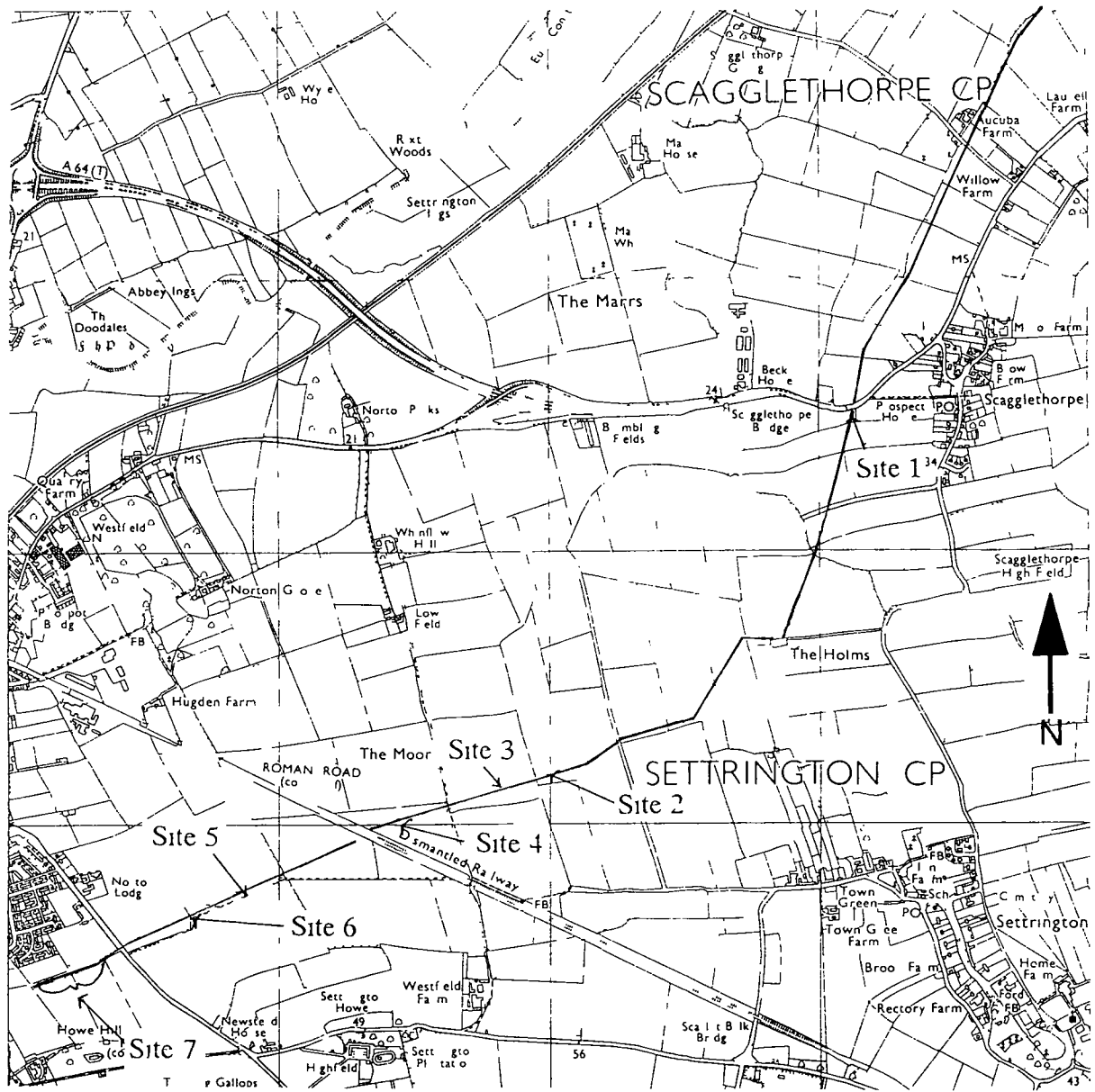
The route of the proposed Pumping Main passes along the southern edge of the Vale of Pickering for a distance of c 8km (fig 1). In geological terms, this means that the route skirts the northern escarpment of the chalk of the Yorkshire Wolds, running over drift of glacio-fluvial sands (OS 1960). The soils are of the Landbeach Association, which are defined as permeable calcareous fine loamy soils affected by ground water, with some deep, in part non-calcareous fine and coarse loamy soils, also affected by ground water (SSEW, 229-31).

As a preliminary stage, MAP was approached by Yorkshire Water to provide an assessment of the impact that operations associated with the Pumping Main would have on archaeological sites within the route corridor. Accordingly, the geology/soils and known archaeological activity in the area was reviewed, and a catalogue of affected sites drawn up (Stephens 1992). Route changes were proposed to avoid a large cropmark complex near Rillington (SMR 3449).

Seven sites were identified as requiring archaeological excavation in advance of the installation of the Pumping Main. These comprised SMR 3400 (Site 1), a double-ditched cropmark, SMR 1862 37 (Site 2), the Roman road from Malton to Settrington, SMR 3407 02 (Site 3), a double-ditched cropmark, SMRs 3401 0 10 and 01 (Site 4), a double-ditched cropmark, with adjacent single ditch, SMR 3000 01 (Site 5), 'Norton Three Dikes', a triple-ditched cropmark, SMR 3409 (Site 6), a double-ditched cropmark, and SMR 3417 (Site 7), an area adjacent to a landscape site indicated by cropmarks of square-ditched barrows and an oval enclosure.

The excavations were carried out in the winter and spring of 1992-3, by the writer with the assistance of K C Grieveson, who also drew figures 3, 4, 6-9, and 11-27.

All work was funded by Yorkshire Water Plc



— Pumping Main

Figure 1 – Location Map of sites in relation to Proposed Route Scale 1:25000

Excavation Methods

The sites to be examined were measured in with reference to the plots of cropmarks from aerial photographs, provided by the National Library of aerial photographs (Swindon) and SMR (Northallerton)

The modern ploughsoil was removed by the rear-actor of a machine, using a ditching bucket. In addition, at Sites 1, 5 and 7, a 'subsoil' deposit was removed to the point at which archaeological deposits were encountered. Subsequently, all excavation was by hand.

Plans were drawn at 1:20 and 1:100 as appropriate, sections were drawn at 1:10. A photographic record was taken in colour transparency and monochrome. A written record was maintained under the continuous context recording system using standard forms.

A series of samples were taken for General Biological Analysis by the Environmental Archaeology Unit, York University.