

CS093 - 05/01254/RUL  
CS876 - 06/00874/RUL  
**Ness House**  
**57 Langton Road**  
**Norton**  
**North Yorkshire**  
**SE 7944 7114**

NYCC HER	
SNY	11384
ENY	3589
CNY	3876
Parish	3096
Rec'd	29/11/06

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report.**

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**Ness House  
57 Langton Road  
Norton  
North Yorkshire  
SE 7944 7114**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

***Non Technical Summary***

*An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Ness House, 57 Langton Road, Norton, Malton, North Yorkshire (SE 7944 7114) on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2006. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the erection of a two-storey extension to the property (Ref 06/00874/FUL).*

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

**1. Introduction**

1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was conducted by MAP Archaeological Ltd at Ness House, 57 Langton Road, Norton, Malton, North Yorkshire, (SE 7944 7114, Figs 1 and 2) on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2006. The work was undertaken in order to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to a Planning Application Consent (Ref 06/00874/FUL) and involved monitoring groundworks associated with a proposed extension to the property.

1.2 The Watching Brief was designed to provide an appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development, following the archaeology policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Guidance 16 'Archaeology and Planning'* (PPG 16), and in accordance with Policy C13 of the Ryedale District Local Plan.

- 1.3 The site code for the project was MAP 02.10.06.
- 1.4 All work was funded by Mrs N E Lawson & Mr P Readman.
- 1.5 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 is situated in the central part of the town of Norton, on the eastern side of Langton Road, approximately 60m to the north of the parish church of St. Peter. The site covers an area of approximately 24m x 18m in size and is bounded by Langton Road to the west, Sutton Street to the south and residential properties to the North and East. The development area was situated in the southern part of the site, immediately to the rear of the existing building.
- 2.2 The site lies on soils of the Landbeach Association, which consist of permeable calcareous and non-calcareous loamy soils, overlying a solid geology of chalky glaciofluvial and river terrace drift (Mackney, 1984, 194).
- 2.3 At the time of the Watching Brief, the development area formed part of a garden.

## **3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 3.1 The Roman fort and vicus (civilian settlement) at Malton lie to the north of the river Derwent, with further settlement located on the southern side of the river, covering 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 in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries to form a large residential and industrial area. Successive

building works associated with the growth of the town uncovered substantial Roman remains.

- 3.3 Roman buildings were identified in 1946 during the construction of the Eastfield estate (Hayes, 1988). The remains of 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 300m south-east of the site in 1990 (ERART, 1990). Major cemeteries are known to exist c. 300m south of the site on the west side of Langton Road in the vicinity of the Ridings and Millside (Robinson, 1978 nos. 354 and 355).
- 3.4 To the south of the site, 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 to the south west of the site 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 Directly relevant to the site are the projected lines of two Roman roads. These roads ran through the Roman settlement at Norton, eventually forming the main Roman road to York (Margary 81a- ibid., no. 237) and 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), with a grid-like pattern of roads or streets c. 200m north of the site.
- 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 site in the garden of Sutton Cottage (ibid., no. 236) and in a former paddock (now occupied by present access to Brooklyn and a modern bungalow), where it survived as a slight ridge (ibid., no. 235 and NMR map BB70/5682). Excavations at Brooklyn Youth Club also confirmed the line of the Roman road and identified other Roman features (MAP 2002).

#### **4. Aims and Objectives**

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Watching Brief were to record and recover archaeological remains that may be affected by proposed extension, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

#### **5. Methodology**

- 5.1 The monitored groundworks consisted of the excavation of a foundation trench that measured approximately 2m x 1m in size.
- 5.2 The foundation trench was hand-excavated under full archaeological supervision.
- 5.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 5.4 All deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets, which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.
- 5.5 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the Recording Brief on a digital camera.

#### **6. Results**

- 6.1 The foundation trench measured approximately 1m x 2m and was excavated to a mean depth of 0.50m below existing ground level (Pls. 1 and 2). Excavations revealed a former topsoil/garden soil (context 1002) that was truncated by a modern sewer pipe (context 1001). Deposit 1002 contained no finds, and was sealed by modern paving slabs (context 1000).

## **7. Conclusions**

- 7.1 The monitored groundworks revealed a modern former garden/topsoil deposit and were not deep enough to expose any subsoil deposits. In consequence, the archaeological impact of the monitored groundworks was minimal, a fact reflected in the complete absence of any archaeological finds.

## 8. Bibliography

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Figure 1. Site Location



Figure 2. Area of Watching Brief

## APPENDIX 1

Ness House, 57 Langton Road, Norton 02.10.06

### Context Listing

Context	Description	
1000	Structure	Modern paving slabs
1001	Structure	Modern sewer pipe
1002	Deposit	10YR 4/2, silty soil, Topsoil

## APPENDIX 2

### Photographic Archive Listing

#### Digital Camera

Frame	Description	Scale	Facing
1	General view of excavations	1x1m	East
2	General view of excavations	1x1m	West

## APPENDIX 3

### Project Team Details

#### Fieldwork

Charles Rickaby

#### Post-excavation

Charles Rickaby *report and appendices*

Nigel Cavanagh *editorial*

Dave Knight *CAD and illustrations*