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The Former Derwent Saw Mill
To the Rear of George Cartwright Close
Norton
North Yorkshire
~~SE 8062 7223~~ X
 SE 7977 7171
Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Authorised by

Date:.....

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Norton
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SE 8062 7223**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on the site of the former Derwent Saw Mill, to the rear of George Cartwright Close, Norton, Malton, North Yorkshire (SE 8062 7223) during September and October 2006. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with excavation of new services and foundations for a proposed residential development. (Ref 05/00922/FUL).

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was conducted during September and October 2006 by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on land at the former Derwent Saw Mills, to the rear of George Cartwright Close, Norton, Malton, North Yorkshire, (SE 8062 7223, Figs.1). The Watching Brief was undertaken in order to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to a Planning Application Consent (Ref: 05/00922/FUL).

- 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 04 09 06.

- 1.4 All work was funded by C and N Homes.
- 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 covers an area of approximately 50m x 44m and is situated within the District of Ryedale, to the east of the town of Norton, on the southern side of the River Derwent, approximately 32km from York and Scarborough. The site is bounded to the south by commercial properties, to the north by the York to Scarborough railway line, and by residential properties to the west.
- 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 area to be watched consisted of open waste ground bounded by a timber fence (Pis.1 and 2)

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 Norton is situated in the Buckrose Wapentake of the East Riding of Yorkshire and it is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Norton(e) and Norton(a). The name has the meaning "*North Farm*" (Smith 1937, p. 140).
- 3.2 Malton and Norton were important settlement centres during the Romano-British period, with Malton being the site of the Roman fort of Derventio and its associated vicus, whilst Norton was the site of further civilian settlement along the line of the roads emanating from the fort. Romano-British occupation in Norton included industrial activity, such as pottery production, and extensive cemeteries.

- 3.3 During the medieval period the settlement of Norton survived as a village, whilst Malton became a prosperous market town. Norton began to grow in importance from the 18th century onwards and expanded greatly during mid-19th century to form a large residential and commercial centre rivalling Malton.
- 3.4 The site lies some distance to the east of the focus of Romano-British occupation in Norton at Church Street. Nevertheless, evidence for Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the current site is attested by the chance find of an amber bracelet, beads, an iron ring and part of a Roman bell at “Pyepat (Priorpot) Bridge” in circa 1856 (Robinson 1978 No. 364, p. 39).
- 3.5 Of relevance to the site was the construction of the York to Scarborough railway, which was opened in 1845 .The advent of the railway led to the decline in the canal trade on the River Derwent and the surrounding area. A directory of 1890 attributes a great reduction in trade to the construction of the railway.(Snowden 1990, p 34).
- 3.6 The 1890 Ordnance Survey map records a series of buildings on the site, including a “*Bobbin Mill*”, surrounding a walled timber yard (Fig. 3). The map also shows the location of a well, close to the north-east entrance of the site. To the north-west lies the Malton to Scarborough railway, and immediately to the south of the site lies the Thirsk-Malton-Driffield branch of the York, Newcastle and Berwick Railway. To the north east, the site is bounded by enclosed fields that appear to be associated with Providence Row and Brunswick Row, properties situated on the northern side of the Malton to Scarborough road.
- 3.7 The Bulmers’ Directory of East Riding 1890 list the occupants of the site as “*Dacre Twist Co. (Rylands and sons, Limited) timber merchants, Scarborough road* ” (Bulmers 1890, p. 251).

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Watching Brief were to record and recover archaeological remains that might be affected by proposed development, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work (Appendix 6).

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The monitored groundworks consisted of the excavation of a main sewer pipe trench and connecting branch pipe trenches, the excavation of house foundations, the excavation of two soakaway drain pits, three large manholes and connecting pipe trenches.
- 5.2 All excavations were undertaken by a 360⁰ mini mechanical excavator, operating under close 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 (Fig. 4)

6.1 Main and Branch Sewer Trenches

- 6.1.1 The main sewer pipe trench was connected to existing services to the east of the site and was 20m in length. The sewer trench was 0.90m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.80m below existing ground level (Pl. 3).

- 6.1.2 The four branch trenches of the sewer system ran from the proposed new properties to the main sewer drain. Each drain trench was 0.70m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.50m.
- 6.1.3 Excavation of the main and branch sewer trenches revealed naturally-formed subsoil deposits (context 1003). A 1.70m diameter brick-built well (context 1002) was exposed in one of the drain trenches, this being the only feature of any interest uncovered during this phase of the groundworks (Pl. 4). Well 1002 truncated Deposit 1003 and was filled by a deposit of silt (context 1001). Deposit 1001 was sealed by a deposit of silty topsoil (context 1000).
- 6.1.4 Well 1002 appeared to be the well marked on the 1890 Ordnance Survey map. No other archaeological features or finds were recovered during the excavation of the sewer system.

6.2 Foundations and Soakaways (Figs 4,5 and 6)

- 6.2.1 The foundation groundworks consisted of a series of strip trenches for each of seven house units (Plots 1 to 7). Plots 1 to 5 measured 9m x 4.5m, whilst Plots 6 and 7 measured 14m x 9m. All the foundation trenches were excavated to a mean depth of 1.10m (Pis. 4, to 9).
- 6.2.3 Two soakaway drains were excavated in the north-western part of the site. Each measured 2.50m x 2.50m and was excavated to a mean depth of 2.40m (Pl.10).
- 6.2.4 Undisturbed deposits of naturally-formed clay (context 1004) were seen in the base of both soakaways at a depth of 2.40m below existing ground level. Situated immediately above Deposit 1004 was a deposit of natural sand (context 1005) that was sealed by Subsoil Deposit 1003. Deposit 3003 was truncated by deep modern brickwork that was partially exposed in the eastern corner of soakaway no.1 and the southern corner of soakaway no.2 (context 1006). Structure 1006 probably represented the remains of modern cellarage and was sealed by a layer of modern concrete (context 1007).

6.2.5 Three manholes and connecting pipe trenches were excavated in the south-west part of the site. The manholes each measured 2.50m x 2.50m and was excavated to a mean depth of 2.40m while the connecting pipe trenches measured roughly 2.45m in length and where also excavated to a depth of 2.40m.

6.2.6 Undisturbed deposits of naturally-formed clay (context 1004) were seen in the base of all three manholes and the connecting pipe trenches at a depth of 2.40m below existing ground level. Situated immediately above Deposit 1004 was a deposit of natural sand (context 1005) Deposit 1005 was sealed by Subsoil Deposit 1003.

7. Conclusions

7.1. No archaeological finds, deposits or features were encountered during the Watching brief The site is known to have been prone to flooding and, as the lack of archaeological evidence suggests, was probably marginal agricultural land that lay outside the main focus of Romano-British and medieval activity in Norton.

8. Bibliography

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Figure 1. Site Location



Figure 2. Area of Development

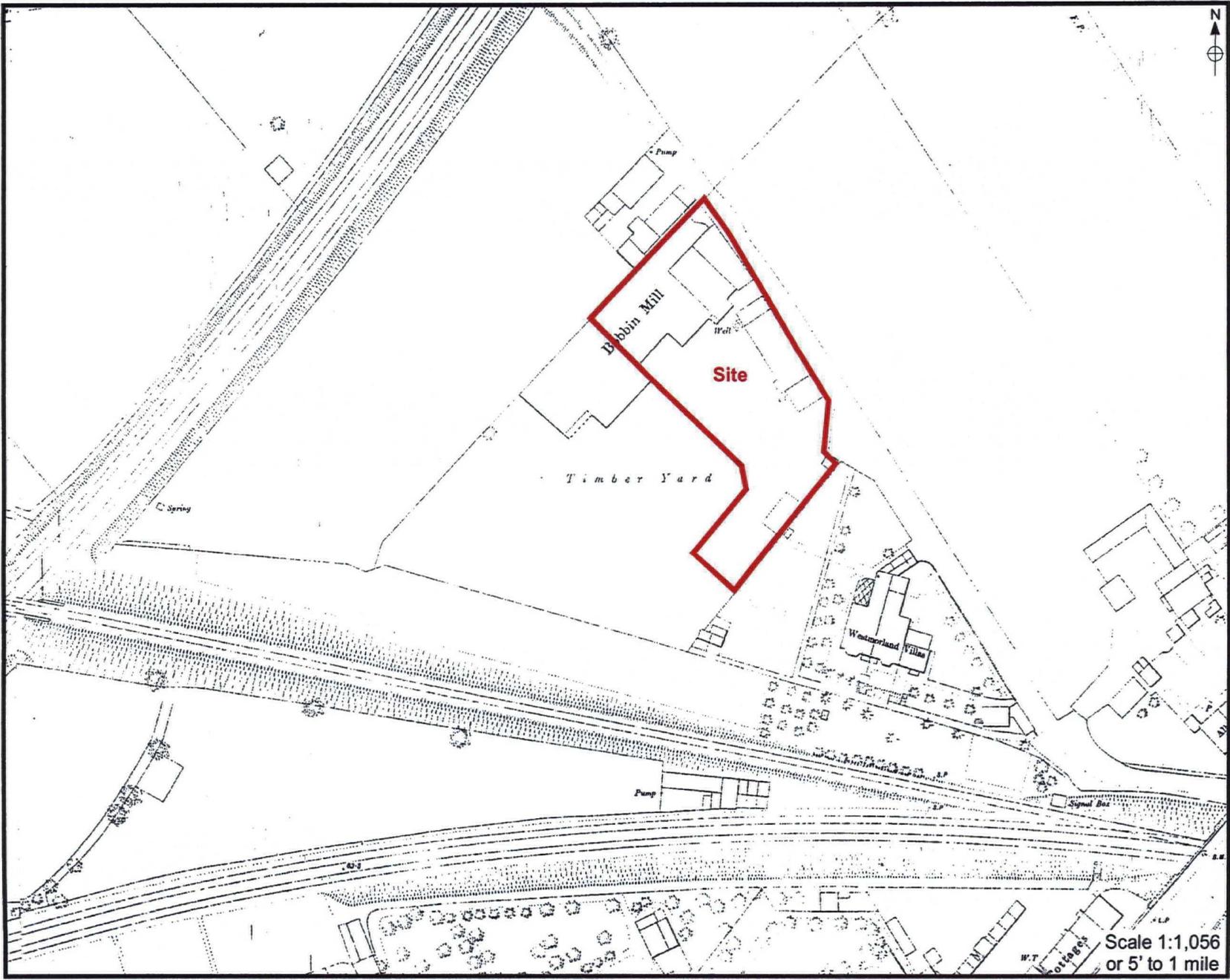


Figure 3. Extract from the 1890 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

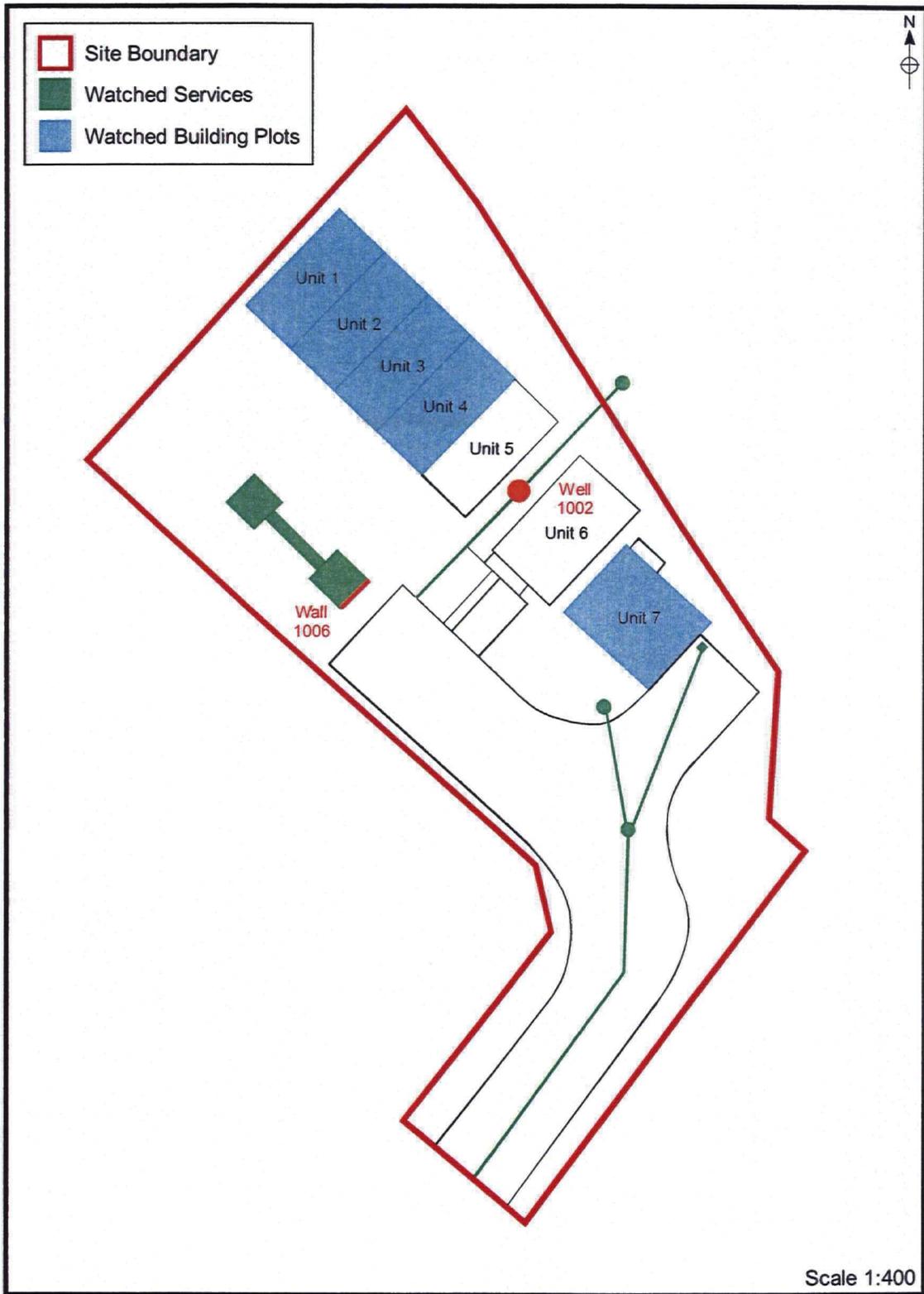


Figure 4. Development Plan and Watched Areas