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**Bright Steels
Eastfield Road to Beverley Road
Norton
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

December 1997
MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

Bright Steels
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Norton
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Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on a series testholes between the Bright Steels works off Eastfield Road and their offices on Beverley Road, Norton (SE 7967 7117 - SE 8000 7119: Fig. 1). The work observed concerned the construction of a cable duct by mole using the testholes as launch points. The duct was laid by mole at a depth of 0.90m and 1.30m between 29th September and 7th October 1997.

The soils in this area are permeable calcareous and non-calcareous loamy soils with an underlying geology of chalky glaciofluvial and river terrace drift over Jurassic clay, till or glaciolacustrine deposits (Landbeach Soil Association, 512b: SSEW 1983).

Work was carried out to comply with Ryedale District Council Planning Permission and was funded by Bright Steels Ltd.

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Archaeological Background

Along Beverley Road, Mill Street and Eastfield, a wide variety of archaeological discoveries have been uncovered and recorded since 1800. A cropmark of a double enclosure, the Malton to Settrington Roman road, inhumations, cremations, ditches, pits, pottery, walls, coins and other small finds have been found in or near the watching brief area (Robinson 1978, 36-39: Fig. 2).

Excavations at the site of the Eastfield Estate also took place in the late 1940s uncovering remains of Roman walls, paving and the Malton to Settrington Roman Road (Hayes 1988, 66-72).

In 1994, MAP Archaeological Consultancy also conducted a watching brief 100m north-west of the present site, also for Bright Steels. Deposits relating to the Malton-Settrington Roman road, buildings or floors and north-south and east-west aligned boundary ditches and a pit were recorded. These

features all dated to the 1st to 3rd centuries AD (MAP 1994).

In the 19th century a large detached villa with cellar was erected on this site, which has since been demolished. An archaeological watching brief in 1996 on the site of this villa discovered a linear v-shaped ditch truncated by the cellar (MAP 1996).

Methodology

Testholes were excavated by hand by Autobore personnel, all ground works were observed by an archaeologist.

Results

Seven testholes were excavated into the footpaths between Bright Steels' depot on Eastfield Road and their offices on Beverley Road. The testholes measured between 1.10m - 1.40m long by 0.50m - 0.70m wide and 0.90 and 1.30m deep. No in-situ archaeological deposits or artefacts were disturbed by this work.

Conclusions

Although Roman deposits are known from this area, the trenches were excavated into areas already disturbed by other services or revealed only colluvium and undisturbed sand and gravel deposits.

Bibliography

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|-----------------------|---|
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| MAP Ltd. (1994) | Bright Steels, Norton. Archaeological Watching Brief. |
| MAP Ltd. (1996) | Norton Villa, Beverley Road, Norton. Archaeological Watching Brief. |
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Figure 1. Site Location.

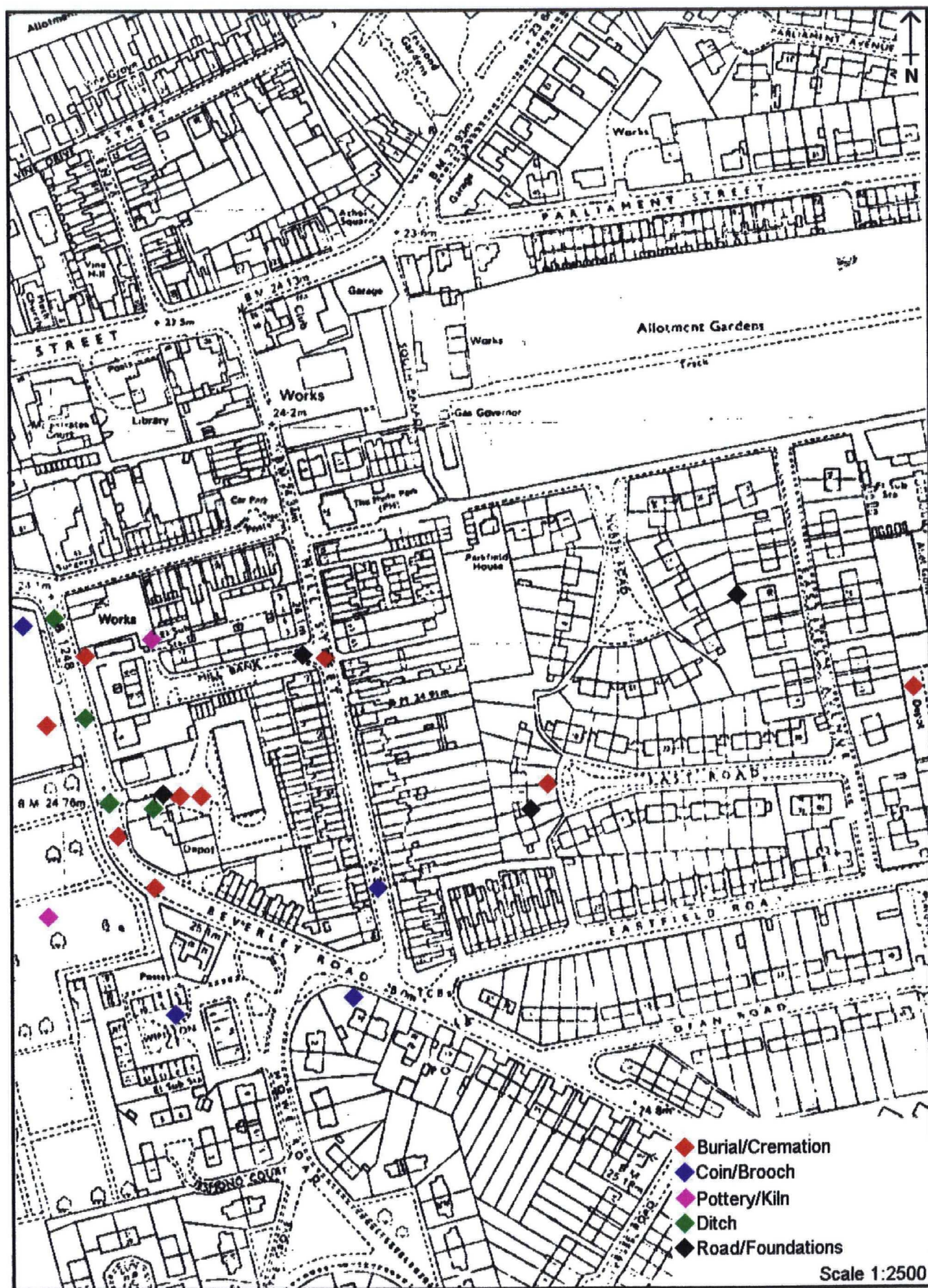


Figure 2. Location of Archaeological Finds.