

**1 Garnet Lane
Tadcaster
North Yorkshire
SE 4762 4300
Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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Non-Technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at 1 Garnet Lane Tadcaster, during May 2006. The work involved monitoring groundworks associated with the erection of two dwellings and garages. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the groundworks.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at 1 Garnet Lane, Tadcaster North Yorkshire (Fig. 1) during May 2006. The work was undertaken in order to fulfil a condition attached to a Planning Consent and involved monitoring groundworks associated with the erection of two houses and garages
- 1.2 All work was funded by Richard Burns Design Associates.
- 1.3 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. License No. AL 50453A.
- 1.4 The project was assigned the site code MAP 02-04-06.

2. Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The site is situated at 1 Garnet Way Tadcaster on land previously occupied by a dwelling that was demolished prior to the commencement of the Watching Brief. The site is located c. 1km to the south-west of Tadcaster town centre, at SE 4762 4300 (Fig. 1) and is bounded by Garnet way and the A 659 to the

North, and dwellings to the south, west and east. The site lies on fairly level ground, and also included a garden associated with the former house.

- 2.2 The site stands on soils of the Aberford Association, which are defined as shallow locally brashy well drained calcareous fine loamy soils over limestone, with some deeper calcareous soils in colluvium (Mackney, 1984, 194).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 Tadcaster developed as a town, *Calcaria*, during the Roman period and formed a garrison between the Roman towns of Castleford and York. The Roman Ridge Road ran south-westwards from the town centre, passing immediately to the north of the development plot at 1 Garnet way.
- 3.2 Tadcaster was a well established town by the medieval period and developed into the modern settlement now famous for its breweries.
- 3.3 Previous archaeological excavations and watching briefs carried out within the town centre have identified Roman, medieval and post-medieval sites. These include excavations on Chapel Street, High Street and the Swimming Pool site carried out in the mid 1990s by West Yorkshire Archaeology Service (WYAS 1993 & 1994).

4 Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims and objectives of the Watching Brief were to record and recover archaeological remains affected by the development.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The groundworks undertaken during the Watching Brief included topsoil stripping, the excavation of foundation and service trenches.

- 5.2 A drawn, written and photographic record was made of all groundworks. All drawings were located in relation to existing buildings and roads.
- 5.3 All work was undertaken to the standard laid out in a *Standard Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Limited Archaeological Recording ('Watching Brief')* that was prepared by the Senior Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council (Appendix 5).

6. Results

- 6.1 Two House plots (Plots 1 and 2) and a drain trench were monitored during the Watching Brief. The majority of the foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.9m (Pl. 2 & 4) with one length on the western side of the site excavated to a depth of 2m in order to clear tree roots located on this side of the plot. The stratigraphy appeared to be identical over the whole site. The lowest material identified was the natural limestone bedrock (context 4) excavated to a depth of 0.6m, and continuing below the maximum depth of 2m for the foundation trenches. The natural bedrock was sealed by a 0.4m deep clean silty sand with pink bands and few stone inclusions (context 3) that also appeared to have naturally formed. Deposit 3 was sealed by a 0.7m deep silty clay deposit (context 2) that contained frequent limestone fragments. This deposit may also have naturally formed owing to the sterile nature of the deposit and the fact that no finds were present. The latest deposit consisted of 0.3m of topsoil (context 1) that contained building rubble associated with the demolition of the former dwelling.
- 6.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed following the stripping of the site (Pl. 1) and none were observed in or during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the two properties
- 6.3 An existing drain was encountered during the excavation of the foundation trenches along with a concrete slab that had formed part of the foundations of the former building on the site. The concrete was removed to allow the

excavation of the foundation trenches and the drain was removed and diverted to the south-east of the new dwelling (Pl. 3). No archaeological features or deposits were disturbed and no finds were recovered during the drain diversion.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recovered during the groundworks, the site lying some distance (approximately 1km) from Roman and medieval settlements at Tadcaster itself. The site is within close proximity of Roman Ridge Road but there was no evidence of occupation of the site at that period or later, until the former house occupying the site was constructed in the 1930s. The lack of finds of Roman, medieval or post-medieval date indicated occupation during these periods was some distance away, probably closer to the town centre to the north-east.

8. References

West Yorkshire Archaeology Service (WYAS) 1993 Chapel Street Tadcaster
Archaeological Evaluation

West Yorkshire Archaeology Service (WYAS) 1992 High Street Tadcaster
Archaeological Evaluation

Mackney, D. 1984 Soils of England and Wales-Sheet 1 Northern England

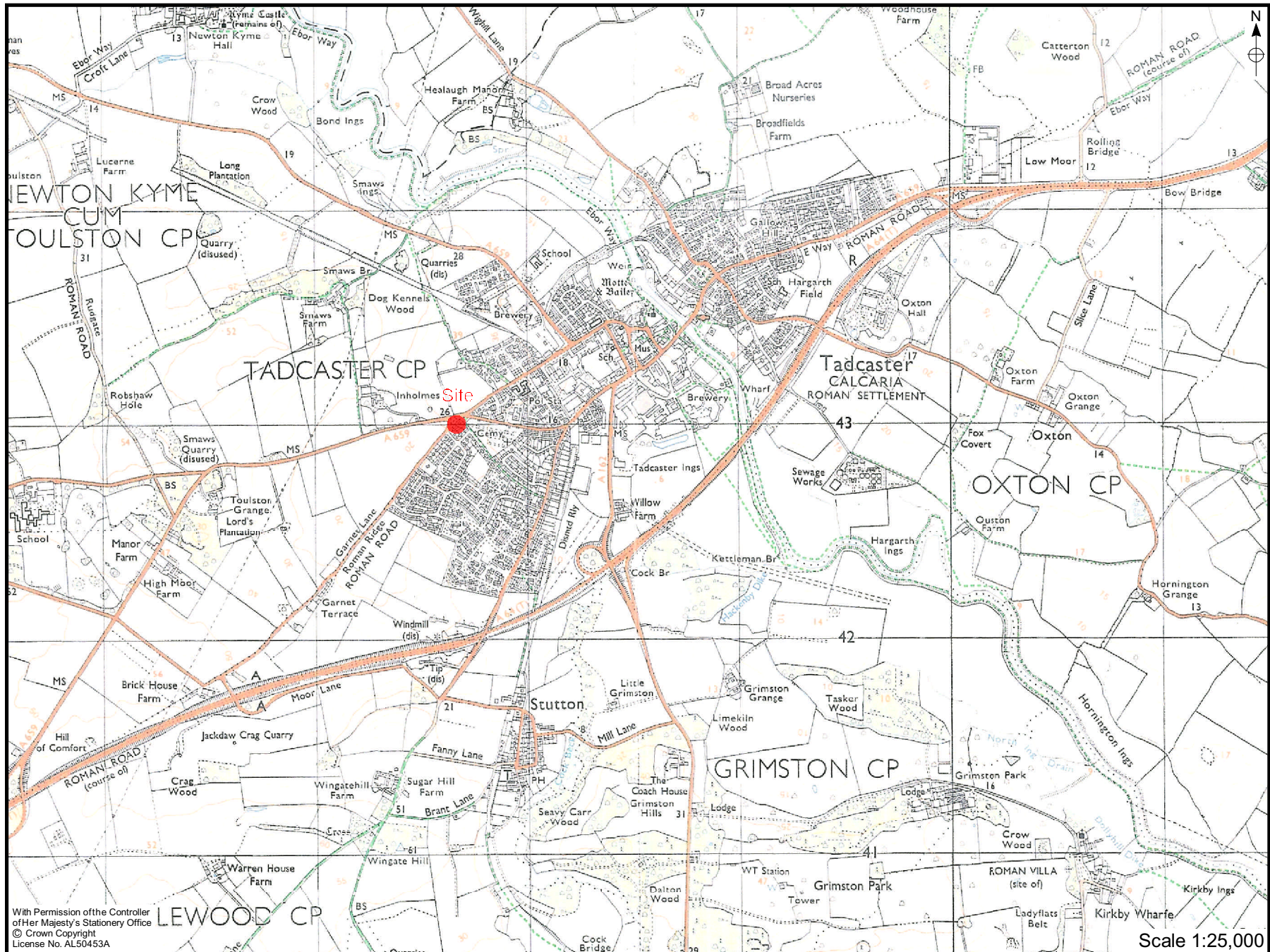


Figure 1. Site Location

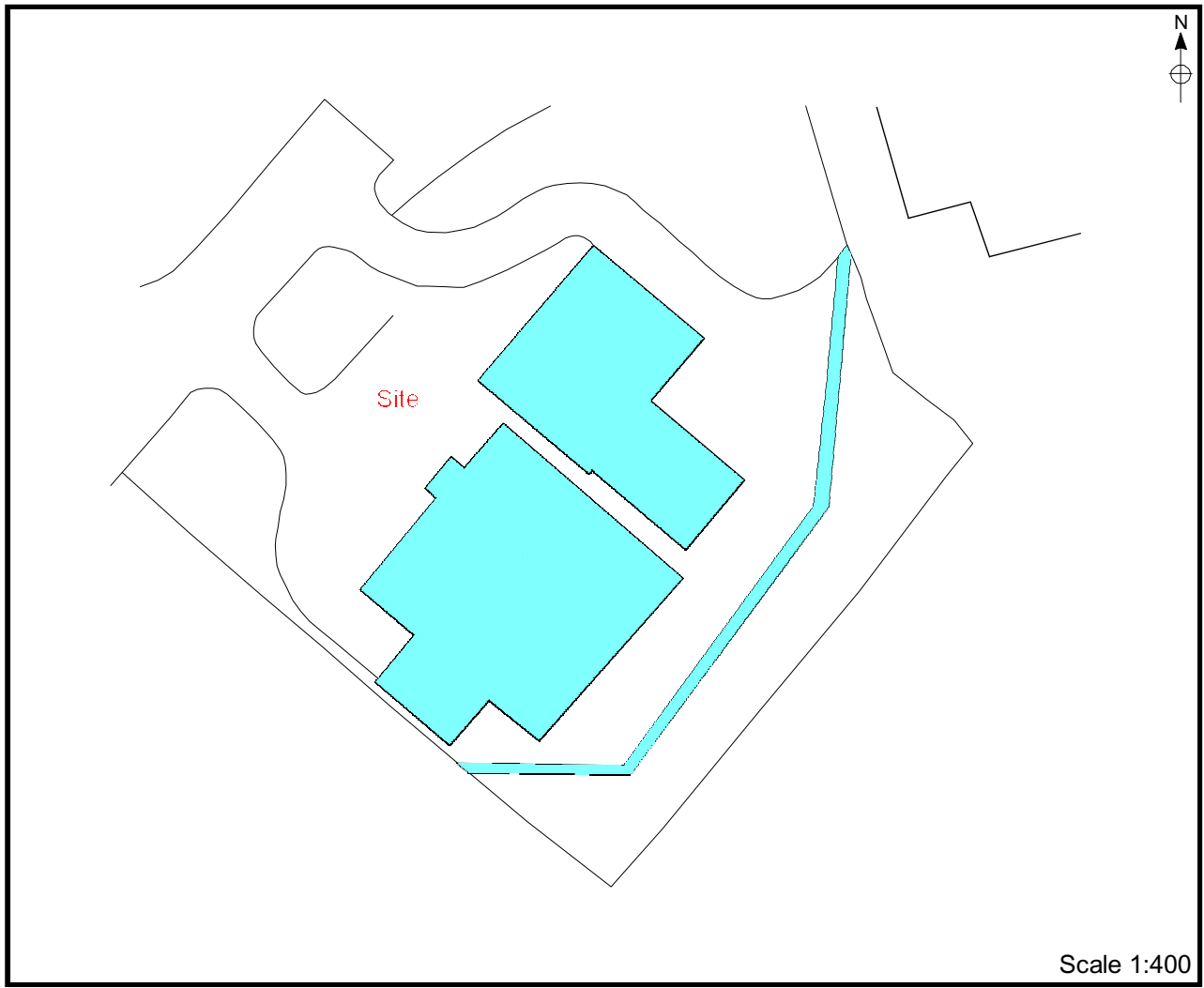


Figure 2. Watching Brief Areas



Plate 1. Development Plot Following Stripping. Facing North West



Plate 2. Foundation Trench. Facing North East



Plate 3. Drain Diversion Trench. Facing South West



Plate 4. Overall Shot Following Excavation of Foundation Trenches. Facing South East

APPENDIX 1

1 Garnet Lane, Tadcaster 02.04.06

Context Listing

Context	Description
1	Deposit 10YR 5/2, silty soil, Topsoil
2	Deposit 5YR 6/4; silty clay
3	Deposit 7.5YR 6/3; silty sand
4	Deposit 10YR 6/4; fragmented bedrock, natural

APPENDIX 2

Drawing Archive Listing

Drawing	Scale	Type
1	1:200	Plan

APPENDIX 3

Photographic Archive Listing

Digital Camera

Frame	Description	Scale	Facing
1	Pre-ex photo of foundation plot		
2	Overall photo of foundations	N/A	North-west
3	Overall photo of service trenches	1x1m	North-east
4	Overall photo of foundations	N/A	North-east
5	Overall photo of foundations	N/A	South
6	Overall photo of foundations	N/A	North
7	General working shot of stripping of plot 2	N/A	North-east
8	General working shot of stripping of plot 2	N/A	North-east
9	Overall photo of foundations	N/A	North-west
10	Overall photo of foundation	N/A	South
11	Overall photo of foundation	1x1m	North-west
12	General working shot of excavation of plot 1	1x1m	North-west
13	General working shot of excavation of plot 1	N/A	North-west
14	Overall photo of foundation	N/A	North-west
15	Overall photo of foundation	1x1m	North-west
16	Overall photo of foundation	1x1m	North
		1x1m	North-west

APPENDIX 4

Project Team Details

Fieldwork

Charlie Morris

Post-excavation

Charlie Morris *report*

Nigel Cavanagh *editorial*

Dave Knight *CAD and illustrations*