

**13a Wood Street
Norton
North Yorkshire
SE 7951 7150**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Non-technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at 13a Wood Street, Norton, North Yorkshire, from January to March 2005. No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the Watching Brief.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at 13a, Wood Street, Norton, North Yorkshire, from January to March 2005. The work was undertaken in order to fulfil a condition attached to a Planning Application Consent (Ref 04/01313/FUL) and involved monitoring groundworks associated with the erection of a residential property.
- 1.2 All work was funded by Mr. R.G. Wood.
- 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, Licence No. AL 50453A.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The site lies in the town of Norton, on the south bank of the river Derwent, at SE 7951 7150 (Figs. 1 and 2). It is bounded to the north, east and west by residential properties and to the south by Wood Street.
- 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).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The Roman Fort and vicus (civilian settlement) at Malton lies to the north of the river Derwent, with further Romano-British settlement situated on the southern bank beneath a substantial area of the modern town of Norton.
- 3.2 The present Church Street is believed to follow one of the major Roman roads that ran from the fort. In 1862, drainage work on the riverbank in Norton uncovered part of a metalled road surface interpreted as a ford on the line of the road running south from the southern gate of the Roman fort. On the north bank of the river, a road was found to gradually ascend from the ford towards the present Church Street (Robinson 1978). The road ran through the Roman settlement at Norton and continued on to York (ibid.).
- 3.3 During the rebuilding of Norton Church in 1814 sherds of fourth century pottery were found (Robinson, 1978, p.3). A stone inscribed with a dedication to a goldsmith, the only one of its type found in Britain, was also recovered during the building work (Wenham 1974 p.46)
- 3.4 In 1976 sherds of Romano-British and medieval pottery were recovered from beneath the floor of Norton Post Office during foundation work (Robinson, 1978 p.40). In 2001 MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. recorded and excavated three burials beneath the Post

Office during repairs to flood-damaged floors. The burials were of medieval date and truncated deposits containing Romano-British pottery.

- 3.5 The medieval village of Norton began to grow in the 18th century and expanded greatly from the mid-19th century onwards to form a large residential and commercial centre rivalling Malton.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 The monitored groundworks took place in two phases. In the first phase, trench footings for the new residential property were excavated within the footprint of a demolished outbuilding that was situated in the north-eastern corner of the site (Pl. 1). In the second phase, a service trench was excavated linking the new building with existing services at the frontage with Wood Street.
- 4.2 All the foundation excavations were undertaken by hand. The service trench excavations were undertaken by a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket, operating under close archaeological supervision.
- 4.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 4.4 All archaeological 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.
- 4.6 The full extent of archaeological deposits and features were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:50 on drawing film. Sections of features and individual layers were drawn at a scale of 1:20.

- 4.7 A photographic record was prepared of all the archaeological features encountered during the Watching Brief, comprising 35mm colour print film (Appendix 4).
- 4.8 All artefacts were retained for specialist analysis. Finds were processed in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (EH 1995). All finds were cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (where possible), marked (where appropriate), and properly packed and stored according to national guidelines.

5. Results

- 5.1 The foundation excavations took place within the footprint of a demolished workshop building. The workshop had been floored with planks that had been laid directly onto the underlying soil; these had been removed prior the commencement of the Watching Brief.
- 5.2 The removal of the plank floor had exposed a 0.10m-0.20m deep mixed deposit of modern rubble and hardcore. This deposit was removed over the footprint of the former building to a depth of approximately 0.10m.
- 5.3 Following the general reduction of the area, strip trench footings were excavated to a depth of approximately 0.60m. Each trench was 0.40m wide (Pl. 2).
- 5.4 Excavations revealed a silty loam subsoil that lay directly below the modern rubble. No finds were recovered from the subsoil. No archaeological features were identified during the excavation.
- 5.5 The service trench cut was 0.40m wide, approximately 20.0m in length and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m (Pls. 3 & 4). Excavations revealed a silty loam subsoil deposit that was sealed by a 0.10m deep modern loose chipping drive surface. The

southernmost 10m of the service trench was heavily disturbed by modern services running to the existing cottages. No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered during the excavation.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The only archaeological deposits identified during the Watching Brief were modern deposits associated with the former building and its access driveway. No earlier archaeological deposits or structures were identified. It is therefore likely that the site had formed part of a garden, perhaps associated with a property fronting Commercial Street to the north, prior to being subject to 19th century infill development.

7. Bibliography

- Hudleston, N.A. 1962 History of Malton and Norton.
- Mackney, D. (Ed.) 1984 Soils and their use in Northern England
- Robinson, J.F. 1978 The Archaeology of Malton and Norton

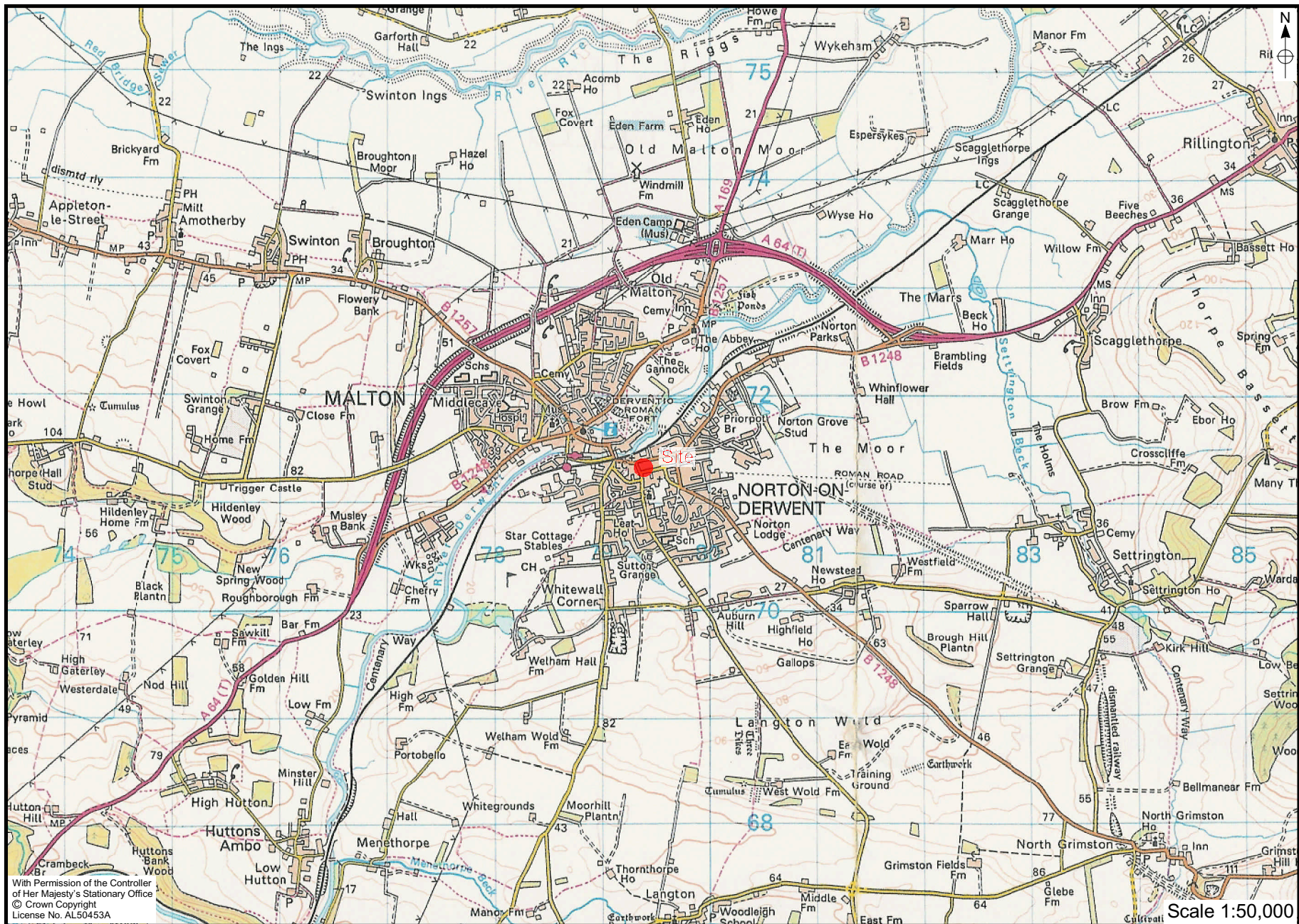


Figure 1. Site Location

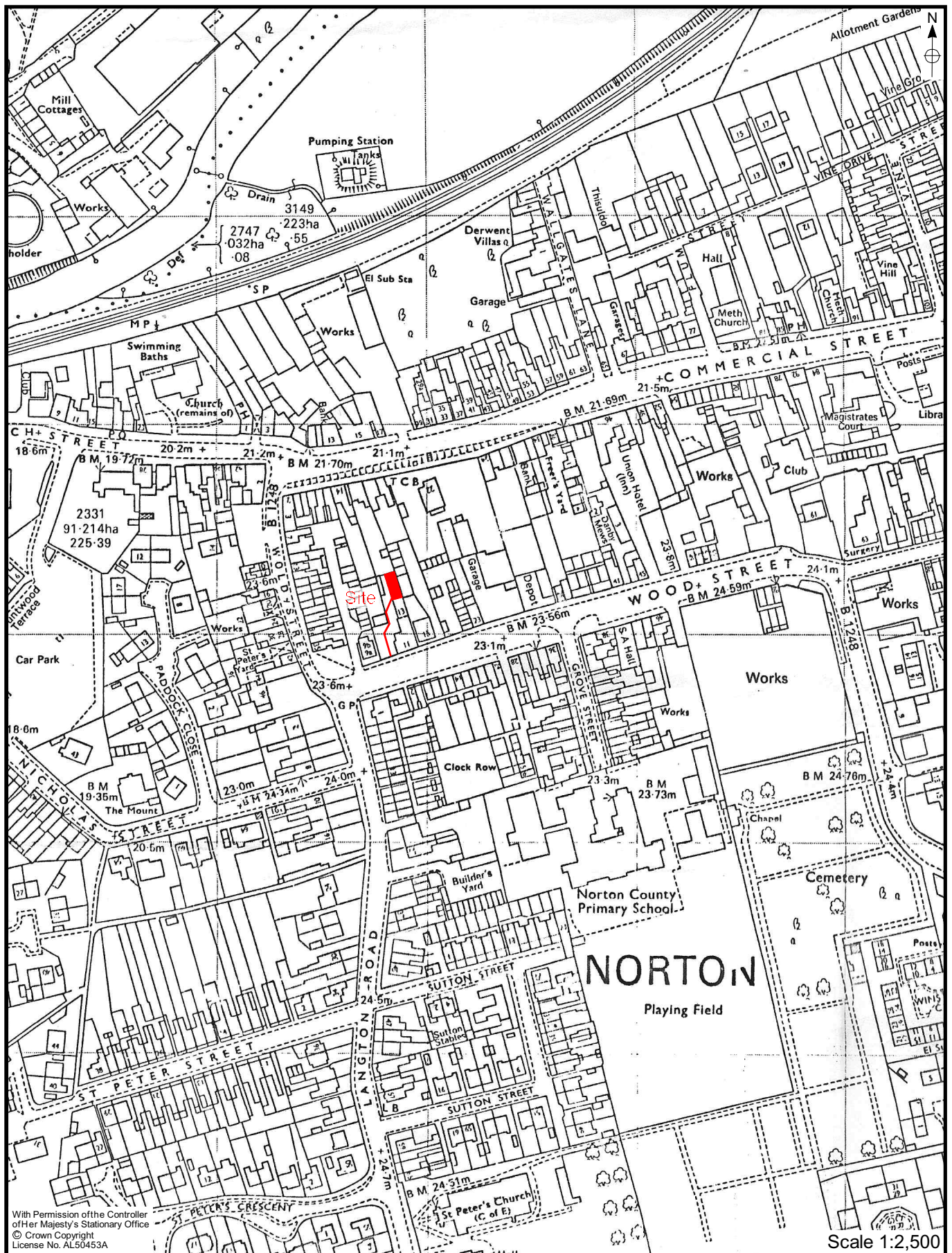


Figure 2. Watching Brief Area



Plate 1. View of Development Area. Facing North East



Plate 2. Foundation Trench. Facing North



Plate 3. View of Service Trench Excavation. Facing South



Plate 4. View of Service Trench. Facing North