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NORTH STREET CAR PARK, SCARBOROUGH, NORTH
YORKSHIRE.

A DESK TOP ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY
APRIL 2008

OSA

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Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA08DT01
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COUNTY: North Yorkshire.
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: TA 4250 8880
PLANNING APPLICATION No: -
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1.0 Introduction.

1.1 Summary.

This report provides an assessment of the archaeological implications of a proposed commercial development on land between North Street and St. Thomas Street in central Scarborough. There have been various archaeological finds in the immediate vicinity, which have produced evidence for extensive use or occupation from the Anglo Saxon through to the Early Modern period.

This report was compiled by Tim Robinson and Marie-Claire Ferguson of On-Site Archaeology Ltd at the behest of Ian Rowe of Signet Planning Ltd

1.2 Site Location, Brief & Methodology.

The site considered by this report is situated between St Thomas' Street and North Street, Scarborough (See Fig.1). St Thomas' Street lies within the Newborough of medieval Scarborough whilst North Street lies close to the line of the Newborough boundary ditch. Approximately half the site (to the south and east) is within the "Area of Archaeological Constraint" defined by the County Archaeologist. This zoning is a development control tool and whilst only half the site is within its limits the remainder lies within a known area of archaeological significance. The site is centred on TA 04250 88800 and is in use as a car park, it is surrounded by a mixture of commercial and residential properties.

This report has been prepared in support of an outline planning application, on the advice of North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit.

The desk top study was based on enquiries made at archives, collections, and archaeological institutions likely to hold information pertaining to the area; the review of relevant maps, aerial photographs and publications. Archaeological and historical data has been collected over an area extending for a distance of approximately 500m from the application site. A walkover of the site was undertaken to look for any extant indications of archaeological potential, or modern impacts upon this potential, during which a record was made using digital photographs.

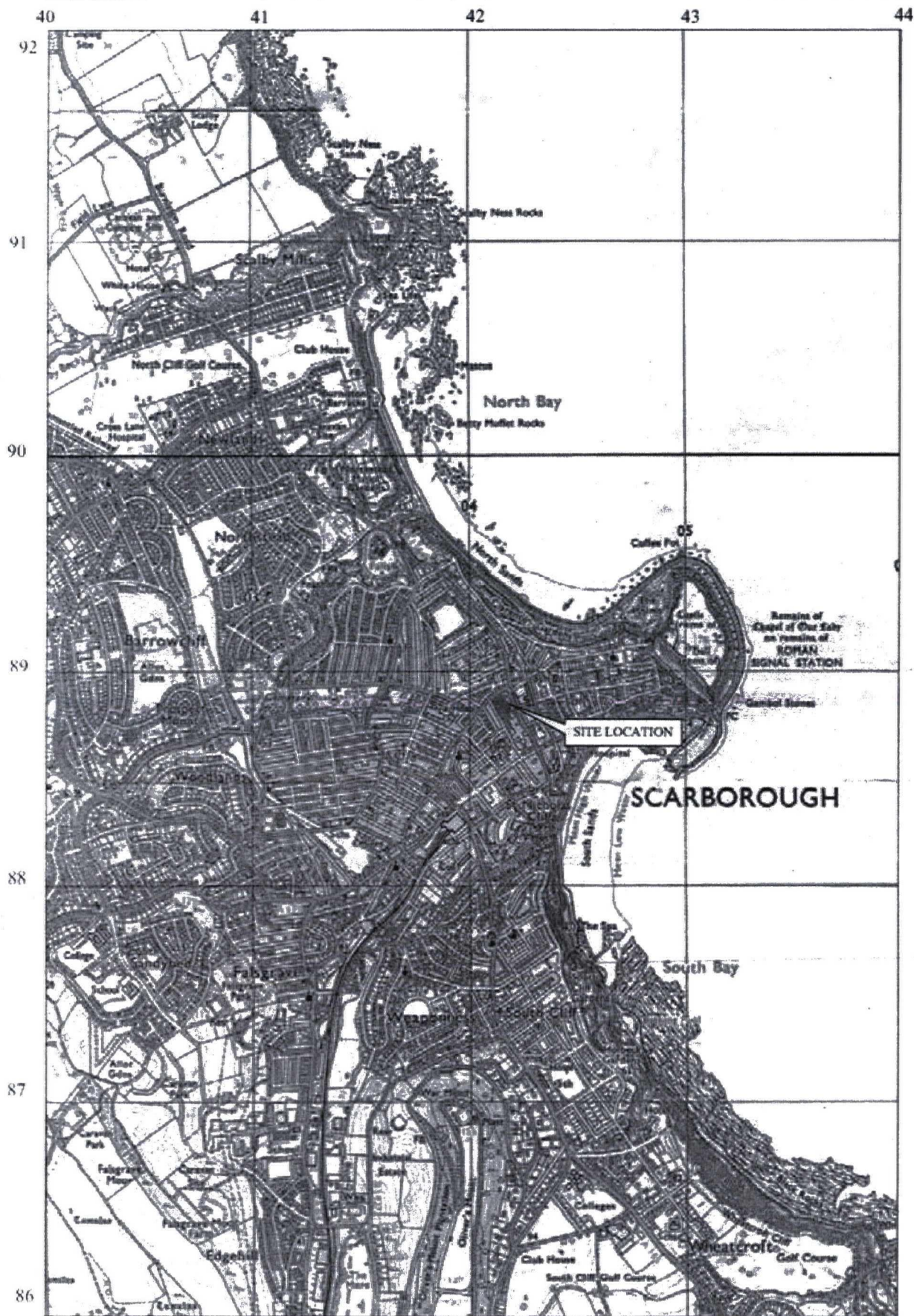


Figure 1. Site Location (NGR TA 4250 8880).

Reproduced from the 2000 Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 maps with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
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1.3 Geology, Topography and Land Use.

The study area is situated on Great and Inferior Oolite, overlain by drift geology in the form of boulder clay and Morainic (North Yorkshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record, hereafter SMR)

The modern ground surface slopes down to the east toward St. Thomas Street and to the south toward Newborough. The northern end of North Street which bounds the western side of site is at 38.64mAOD

The site is currently in use as a car park (See Plate 1).

2.0 Gazetteer of Sites and Artefacts.

The following section lists the sites and artefacts of archaeological or historical potential that are recorded in the various sources consulted. Where possible the relevant Sites and Monuments Record (North Yorkshire SMR) number is stated. The central area of an old town produces a great deal of historical information as can be seen on Figures 2-4 which shows the number of sites within the immediate vicinity of the study area.

2.1 Town defences. SMR Nos. MNY9350, MNY9381, MNY9382, MNY9383, MNY9384 (TA 0444 8890).

The town defences comprise of the south and west walls of the old borough and the later extension to encompass the Newborough which rendered the earlier west wall obsolete. Very little if any of the defences are visible above ground today.

2.2 Oldborough southern wall. SMR No. MNY9351, (TA 0483 8873).

The Oldborough's southern wall probably surmounted or was terraced into the subsoil north of Merchants row. The line of the eastern section suggested by Pearson may be too far north to afford protection to the medieval foreshore dwellings and could have been much further south.

2.3 Wall. SMR No. MNY9353, (TA 04564 88719).

A 2 metre wide section of town wall with a chamfered string was recorded in the basement of a public house.

2.4 Wall. SMR No. MNY9356, (TA 04551 88708).

A fragment of possible town wall with a maximum of five courses known from documentary sources.

2.5 Wall. SMR No. MNY9362, (TA 0448 8865).

The Oldborough western wall may have been part of the defences mentioned as facing inland in the 12th century. By the late 13th century it was rendered at least partially obsolete by the new borough defences and was being robbed or built on. Some portions were still visible in the 14th century. Known from documentary sources.

2.6 Bank and linear feature St Mary's parish house. SMR Nos. MNY9363, MNY9364, MNY9365, MNY9366, MNY9370, TA 04383 88990).

Excavation through a section of the first town ditch c1135 cut into the natural sub soil. The excavated material was thrown up to form a rampart, incorporating foundations of the associated town wall, overlying the old ground surface. The ditch silted up and was partly filled by building debris from the town wall. After abandonment in the late 14th century deliberate levelling took place with a debris mix of clay soil and pottery kiln waste. Also

observed was a partially covered stone built drain that ran from a large rectangular pit associated with clay working under the rampart. It appeared to be contemporary with the rampart.

2.7 Ditch, St Sepulchre Street, SMR no. MNY9367, (04512 8873).

A probable section of the town ditch seen during digging for a new sewer, the lowest levels of which were filled with organic material.

2.8 Wall, Leading Post Street, SMR No. MNY9368, (TA 04532 88759).

A clay bank and the outer face of the town wall (dated 1066? To 1539 AD?)

2.9 Wall, Friargate. SMR No. MNY9369, (TA 04515 88792).

A length of stone wall and clay bank observed during the construction of public toilets. It is thought to have been a section of town wall but may relate to the wall of the Franciscan friary.

2.10 Gate. St Sepulchre Street, SMR No. MNY9372, (TA 0451 8877).

Possible site of gate in old borough wall serving lower part of town as suggested by Pearson.

2.11 Newborough ditch. SMR No. MNY9373, (TA 0430 8873).

The Newborough ditch protected the 13th century expansion of the town and may relate to a 1225 royal grant of 40 oaks. Contemporary sources suggest that there was no wall behind the ditch (confirmed by excavation) except where it flanked the gate. The ditch was maintained until at least the 16th century.

2.12 Newborough gate. SMR No. MNY9374, (TA 0423 8858).

Assumed site of the Newborough gate. It was rebuilt after the civil war and again in 1843, probably on the location of its medieval forebear. It was demolished in 1890. The location stated here is estimated from the known ditch positions either side of the road. This means that the gate would have been situated across Newborough road.

2.13 Auborough gate. SMR No. MNY9375, (TA 04349 89003).

This gate is known on the 18th century maps and on a sketch of 1814. Its bastions found in 1806 lay west of the old borough defence and are parallel to Castle road. It is likely that it was the northern entrance to the Newborough originating possibly as early as the 15th century.

2.14 Ditch, Balmoral. SMR No. MNY9376, MNY9377, (TA 04163 88674).

A partial section through the town ditch. The upcast from its construction was used to form a rampart. A section through this feature revealed some Saxon pottery and many sherds dating from pre 1220. The ditch appeared to have been cleaned regularly until about 1500. Backfilling was completed by 1745 when a new ditch was cut.

2.15 6 North Street, Ditch, SMR No. MNY9378, (TA 04218 88625).

Medieval town ditch observed in basement of a shop.

2.16 North Street, Rampart, SMR No. MNY9379, (TA 0417 8875).

A break of slope along the east side of North St. may indicate the line of the town ditch rampart which may be as close to the surface as just 0.50m below the current level.

2.17 Balmoral. SMR Nos. MNY9385, MNY9386, MNY9387, MNY9390, (TA 01463 88674).

The 1745 ditch was seen to cut through the backfill of the 13th ditch and the upcast was used to form the bastion which had a slot trench and two deep postholes cut into it. The ditch was filled with layers of black soil and building rubble, probably after 1820. These layer underlay a 1m thick deposit of clay. Additionally the remains of Saxon activity were discovered in the form of a sleeper beam and pits.

2.18 Castle Rd/Londesborough Road. SMR Nos. MNY9398, MNY9402 (TA 0407 8843).

Evidence suggests that these roads may fossilise the line of the Roman road from Scarborough to Malton. Material dating to the 4th century has been recovered from either side of Castle road.

2.19 St Sepulchre Church, site of. SMR Nos. MNY9412, MNY9413, MNY9414 (TA 0463 8884).

Little is known of this church. Its origins may lie in the 12th century and it is possible that its remains are well preserved. Excavations in 1973 revealed a circular structure underlying part of the church which may be an antecedent contemporary with pre-Norman settlement nearby.

2.20 Franciscan Friary. SMR Nos. MNY9416, MNY9417, MNY9418, MNY9419, MNY9420, MNY9421, MNY9422, MNY9423, (TA 0453 8885).

The friary's establishment was put off until 1267 due to objections from the Cistercians. It was founded on land granted by Reynold Molindinarus and extended by subsequent grants. It was suppressed in 1539. The land may have been of low value due to the risk of flooding presented by the course of the Damyet flowing through it. Excavations have revealed parts of the boundary wall, an entrance to the friary, along with a number of human inhumations.

2.21 Dominican Friary. SMR No. MNY9424, (TA 0435 8885).

The friars were probably established on another site granted by Sir Adam Sage in 1251. They were refused leave to pull down the old borough wall and erect new buildings and moved to the site at the Burgess' request in 1285. The friary was destroyed in 1539 by the Bishop of Dover.

2.22 Possible site of Friary church and cemetery. SMR Nos. MNY9425, MNY9426, (TA 043 888).

Probable location of the friary church is indicated by various burial finds. The church is referred to in a will of 1447 but its exact location is unknown. The 1538 map shows it to be a single aisled building with a squat tower.

2.23 Well. SMR No. MNY9427 (TA 0442 8879).

Medieval well that appears from Pearson's plan to have been located virtually exactly on the dividing wall between the Dominican and Carmelite friaries. This may have been deliberate to allow for mutual benefit, although there is no other evidence to support this view.

2.24 Carmelite Friary. SMR Nos. MNY9428, MNY9429, MNY9430, MNY9432 (TA 0441 8873).

The friary was founded in 1319 when Edward II granted them houses and licence to acquire land. Other grants of land were made in the 14th century. A boundary was shared with the Dominicans. The dissolution description refers to the presence of a mill and a kiln. The remains of a gate were found at TA 0438 8872 which may be the west gate referred to in the dissolution description. Additionally 20 to 30 human skeletons were recovered from the same coordinates indicating the likely location of the Friary cemetery.

2.25 St Helen's Square, inhumation. SMR No. MNY9433, (TA 044 887).

Medieval skeletons found in St Helens square. The exact location of the remains is not known but it is likely that they were associated with the Market Street cemetery immediately to the west.

2.26 Cistercian cell. SMR Nos. MNY9434, MNY9435 (TA 04448 89005).

Excavated two room house built on two levels with a doorway from the street. It was later rebuilt to comprise a long hall with two storey annexe, external stairway and stone drain. It had leaded windows, glazed tile floor and tile roof. Thought to be Proctor of Citeaux's house.

2.27 Rede Cross, market cross. SMR No. MNY9441, (SE 5764 3755).

The Rede cross was in Longwestgate near the Franciscan priory and is thought to have marked the site of a medieval market. It is known from documentary sources.

2.28 St Thomas' Hospital, site of, SMR Nos. MNY9442, MNY9443, MNY9444 (TA 0418 8866).

St Thomas' hospital was probably founded as early as the late 12th century. (although no documentary evidence exists). It was rebuilt at various times to give the ground plan shown on the 1852 OS plan. It was associated with the church of Thomas. Excavations revealed the existence of a substantial stone building on boulder footings set into the clay. The west, north and south walls were all constructed of well faced sandstone blocks. The internal floor was of

clay. In the 14th century alterations were made including a stairbase/partition wall, raised and re-laid floor and hearth and flue. A later rebuild occurred in 1575. A stone inscribed with that date was discovered at TA 0418 8867.

2.29 *St Thomas' church and cemetery. SMR Nos. MNY9445, MNY9446, (TA 042 886).*

The exact location of the church is not known. Excavations in 1973 failed to locate the structure. It was shown on the 1538 map to consist of a Nave, tower and south aisle. It was demolished in 1649 following damage sustained in the civil war. Its cemetery was bounded on the east by a wall and on the west by the town defences. Its probable location is shown by finds of human burials in 1826 and 1979. It was described in 1416 as near the Newborough gate.

2.30 *Post medieval structures. SMR Nos. MNY9447, MNY9448 (TA 0416 8867).*

Excavation in 1973 revealed the presence of a multi-room stone built building with a brick floor. It was seen to be constructed over the levelled rampart of 1225. Its position on the ditch edge and a lack of pottery suggest an industrial or agricultural use, possibly associated with St Thomas' hospital. It was demolished in about 1700 and rebuilt in bricks. This later structure contained an internal bottle-well with a well-built water collection and feed channel entering from the north. This and two additional associated storage tanks suggest clothes washing, rope manufacture or brewing. The well was capped in 1745.

2.31 *Hospital of St Nicholas. SMR No. MNY9449, (TA 0439 8833).*

Founded by licence of Richard I as a leper hospital its existence is known from documentary sources. A chapel was established in 1280. The location is shown on the town plan of 1725 and its ruins are known from various 18th century drawings. It was destroyed by 1798. Remains from an associated cemetery have been found.

2.32 *Hospital of St James. SMR No. MNY9450, (TA 041 888).*

Mentioned in the will of John Stockdale of 1468 when it formed an almshouse for the poor. Its exact location is not accurately known.

2.33 *Conduit. SMR No. MNY9466 (TA 038 879)*

The Franciscans were granted leave to bring spring water from Guldhuscliffe (in the area of Springhill?) to their house in St. Sepulchre St. To facilitate this a conduit was constructed that survives as an extant structure. Two thirds of the water supplied by the conduit was for the towns use, the rest for the friary. The friars were responsible for any repairs, the bailiffs paying two thirds of the cost.

2.34 Conduit. SMR No. MNY9468, (TA 0448 8877).

A length of stone conduit was reported as having been found 0.60m below the surface running parallel to the north wall of the market.

2.35 Pottery kiln. SMR No. MNY 9471, (TA 04423 88981).

Excavations in the 1960's revealed an almost complete medieval clay-built kiln only slightly below the old ground surface. The kiln included a stoke pit at one end and part of a clay arch between this and the firing hammer was observed. Some of the brickwork superstructure also survived.

2.36 Pottery kiln. SMR No. MNY9472, (TA0439 8899).

The remains of a probable medieval pottery kiln were excavated in the 1960's it was felt that the structure may have been abandoned early within the period of Scarborough's pottery industry. It was oval in plan and constructed of burnt clay but, no traces of the superstructure were found. It was backfilled to ground level with ash and coal. The feature was overlain by dark soil and town wall tumble.

2.37 Pottery kiln. SMR No. MNY9473, (TA 0439 8899)

Excavated in the 1960's this kiln was of a highly sophisticated design and constructed of brick. It was discovered beneath St. Mary's parish house.

2.38 Pottery kiln. SMR Nos. MNY 9475, MNY9476, (TA 0445 8900).

The remains of a badly damaged medieval kiln were excavated in the 1960's. Associated with the structure was a stone built covered drain that ran roughly west from the kiln below Oldborough west wall.

2.39 Ropewalk. SMR No. MNY9478, (TA 04 89).

Ropewalks were a common feature in medieval towns and an essential industry in coastal and riverine towns. Although no traces of Scarborough's ropewalks have been found they are known to exist from 18th maps and are mentioned in 13th century documents. The main locations are North St., Castle Road and Castle Dykes.

2.40 Tenter ground. SMR No. MNY9479 (TA 027 887)

A garden known as the Tentergarth is mentioned in a 15th century document which may have extended westwards to St. Thomas St.

2.41 Oven. SMR No. MNY9482, (TA 0462 8890).

The remains of a brick built oven were discovered in the 1950's. Dated to the period 1540 to 1799 AD due to recovered pottery.

2.42 Damyet watercourse. SMR No. MNY9489, (TA 0444 8880)

Fresh water stream almost certainly supplying the earliest settlements which appear to have grown around its mouth and further upstream. Its course runs directly through the study area.

2.43 Medieval watercourse. SMR No. MNY9490, (TA 04394 88997).

Remains of a late 14th century building built on the site of pottery kilns and the town ditch. Too little had survived to give dimensions.

2.44 Medieval house. SMR No. MNY9492, (TA 04394 88997).

A late 14th century building built on the site of pottery kilns.

2.45 Medieval culvert. SMR No. MNY9494, (TA 04188 88636).

Excavated medieval culvert of rough hewn sandstone blocks. Well built and laid dry it had a stone base and was originally covered by flags. It formed the water supply and drain of the St Thomas' hospital complex. A vault structure replaced the original stone flags when it became necessary to build walls over the line of the culvert. This phase probably dates from c1840.

2.46 Wilson's Mariners Asylum, Iron and lime works, SMR No. MNY9497, (TA 0435 8906).

Excavation in the late 1960's revealed evidence of lime burning and/or iron smelting on the site suggesting the presence of an industrial complex.

2.47 Post medieval field, St. Catherine's Close. SMR No. MNY9498, (TA 041 885).

A deed of March 4th 1844 refers to a close of land and describes it as being bounded on the west by Bull Lane (now Aberdeen Walk) and on the east by the town moat or dyke.

2.48 Almshouse. SMR No. MNY9501, (TA 04 89).

An almshouse or hospital of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Scarborough mentioned in the will of John Stokdale dated 1468.

2.49 Springfield medieval occupation area. SMR No. MNY23525, (TA 04615 88866).

Excavation revealed the presence of two medieval buildings and cobbled surfaces. The buildings were demolished in the late 15th or early 16th centuries.

2.50 Findspot. SMR No. MNY9598, (TA 045 885).

Roman finds consisting of FNY563 Amphora (Roman 43 AD to 409 AD) FNY4598 Coin (Roman 43 AD to 409AD) and FNY4599 Mace (Neolithic 4000 BC to 2201 BC)

The following sites were recorded not in the SMR but on the ADS website.

2.51 Air raid shelter. (TA 0444 8899).

Second World War air raid shelter in fair condition.

2.52 Air raid shelter. (TA 0442 8899).

Second World War air raid shelter in fair condition.

The following list provides an account of archaeological enquiry within the study area and is compiled from the North Yorkshire SMR.

2.53 Former Convent School, Queen Street, Scarborough. SMR No. ENY321, (TA 04620 88900).

Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society (SAAHS) undertook a watching brief on the site of the former school in Queen Street between September and December 1999 during development of the site. The work produced evidence for the medieval defences of the town and uncovered traces of hitherto unknown Romano-British activity preserved beneath the upcast of the medieval town rampart.

2.54 Land off North Street, Scarborough. SMR Nos. ENY290, ENY291, (TA 04223 88674).

Two phases of work were undertaken by Gifford & Partners Ltd. The first phase of work involved the production of a desk based assessment in advance of redevelopment. This led to trial trenching, Phase 2. This trenching revealed the presence of surviving medieval deposits in the form of a shallow ditch overlain by a sealed deposit of late 17th century date. Evidence of post-medieval tanning was also recorded.

2.55 St Thomas' Street, Chapman's Yard, Scarborough. SMR No. ENY833, (TA 04250 88689).

In February 2003 Birmingham Archaeology investigated seven trial trenches on the site of the former Kwik Save supermarket between St Thomas' Street and North Street, Scarborough. The majority of features encountered dated from the 17th century and later. A number of residual medieval sherds were recovered.

2.56 Former Royal Opera House, Scarborough, SMR No. ENY2547, (TA 04206 88765).

In June 2004 SAAHS carried out a watching brief during the demolition of the structure. A number of stone cisterns, interpreted as relating to the late 18th/early 19th century were recorded.

2.57 Marlborough Street, Warehouse, SMR No. ENY3924, (TA 0442 8899).

In January 2007 SAAHS carried out a watching brief at the Warehouse, Marlborough Street, during development. A barrel drop relating to the former site use was recorded.

2.58 King Street, Scarborough. SMR No. ENY3818, (TA 0442 88632).

In April 2007 MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd carried out an evaluation by trial trenching at land adjacent to 3 King Street, Scarborough, in connection with a proposed housing development. Two trenches were excavated. The trench closest to King Street frontage revealed four phases of stone walling associated with properties fronting on to the street, along with remnants of street/yard surfaces. The earliest structural activity is thought to date from the 13th century on the basis of associated pottery, and is likely to have comprised timber buildings supported on low stone walls. The trench at the rear of the site revealed a series of post-medieval dump deposits which presumably relate to raising and consolidation of the natural site levels in this part of site. The earliest feature in this trench was a pit like feature containing 17th century pottery.

2.59 Cross Street, Scarborough. SMR No. ENY2546, (04390 88860).

In December 2003 SAAHS carried out a watching brief during the erection of a small extension to the rear of 46 Cross St. The area was heavily disturbed, but a quantity of medieval pottery was recovered, as well as later finds.

2.60 Friarage CP School, Longwestgate, Scarborough, SMR No. ENY3245, (TA 04518 88900).

In 1997 Field Archaeology Specialists carried out an archaeological evaluation by cartographic regression and trial trenching on behalf of North Yorkshire Count Council in advance of development of a small area at the Friarage School, Scarborough. The school takes its name from the Franciscan Friary founded in AD1297 which once occupied this area of the Oldborough of medieval Scarborough. Four test trenches were investigated following removal of overburden comprising c0.40m of tarmac and hardcore. This sealed a clay layer below, which extended to a depth of at least 1.20m and produced no finds. Whilst the area is believed to have been located within the friary precinct, it is suggested that when the school was constructed in AD1894, the area was terraced and levelled, thus removing any archaeological deposits.

2.61 Cooks Row, Springfield's, Scarborough, SMR No. ENY324, (TA 04630 88860).

Between July and September 1999, the York Archaeological Trust undertook archaeological salvage recording at Cooks Row, Springfield, Scarborough, as remediation in response to the unauthorised excavation of two large holes through areas of known archaeological importance. The site has previously been evaluated by SAAHS. Evidence recorded demonstrated seven phases of activity through the development of the site from the medieval to modern period.