

NYCC HER

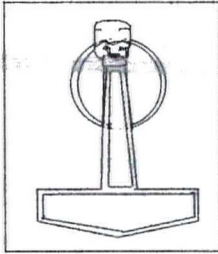
SNY 11981

ENY 4188

CNY

Parish 8019

Rec'd 7/998



Alison Clarke M. A.

Archaeological Consultant

18 Ash Grove, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1RQ

Tel : 01609 776501/0860 506062

Fax: 01609 779968

8/19/1303/PA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

AT

GANT WALK, SELBY

FOR

SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

ALISON CLARKE

APRIL 1998

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT GANT WALK, SELBY, FOR SELBY DISTRICT COUNCIL

INTRODUCTION

The area in question lies behind Church Lane, to the east of sheltered housing and north of the Abbey Church in the centre of Selby (see plan 1). It is a narrow strip of land, bounded by buildings and brick walls, that has been an area of waste ground used for casual parking, covered in weeds with some patches of concrete and hardcore visible. The level of the ground is higher than that to the north, by c.50cm, and west, by between 36cm and 60cm. To the north-east, east and south the ground falls gradually away from the site.

The current works are to provide a formal car parking area, and involve taking off the surface to an all over depth of 45cm, with provision for a drain for surface water runoff.

THE WATCHING BRIEF

The work commenced on Monday 30th March 1998. The first part of the operation involved locating a drain running along the length of the site. A trench was machine dug by JCB near to the south-west end of the site across the supposed path of the drain (H1). A depth of 100cm was reached without encountering the drain and it was subsequently discovered that the drain did not run through the site as supposed. It was therefore decided to tie in the surface water drain for the new car park to an existing drain immediately to the south-west of the site.

Three more trial holes were machine excavated over the site to a depth of 45cm to 60cm, to determine the nature of the deposits (see plan 2).

The south-western part of the site, where H1 and H2 were excavated, contained dumped layers of mixed hardcore and brick rubble with dark brown loam and mid-brown clayey loam, burnt in places. These extended to a depth of 95cm from the surface, where a compacted, damp, dark grey-brown silty loam was encountered. Only the top of this layer was explored in H1, but it appeared to continue below the level of the base of the trench.

The top layers contained modern debris including pottery, brick, iron, plastic etc, all indicating a 20th century date for deposition. The more compacted layer at the base of H1 also contained brick and pottery which was no earlier than 19th century.

At the north-east end of the site H3 was machine excavated to reveal a layer of concrete below a skim of hardcore. The concrete extended to a depth of 30cm, below which was building rubble of brick and cement with a broken and disused drain at the base of the trench at 45cm.

H4 was situated on the north side of the site towards the eastern end. Here hardcore extended to a depth of 30cm, below which was 10cm of brick rubble. Beneath this was a layer of burnt cindery black loam containing 20th century debris including pottery, iron, copper wire and leather. The base of the trench was at 45cm below the surface.

The stripping of the top 45cm of soil from the southern half of the site was then observed, and found to contain the same layers as those already observed in the trial holes.

INTERPRETATION

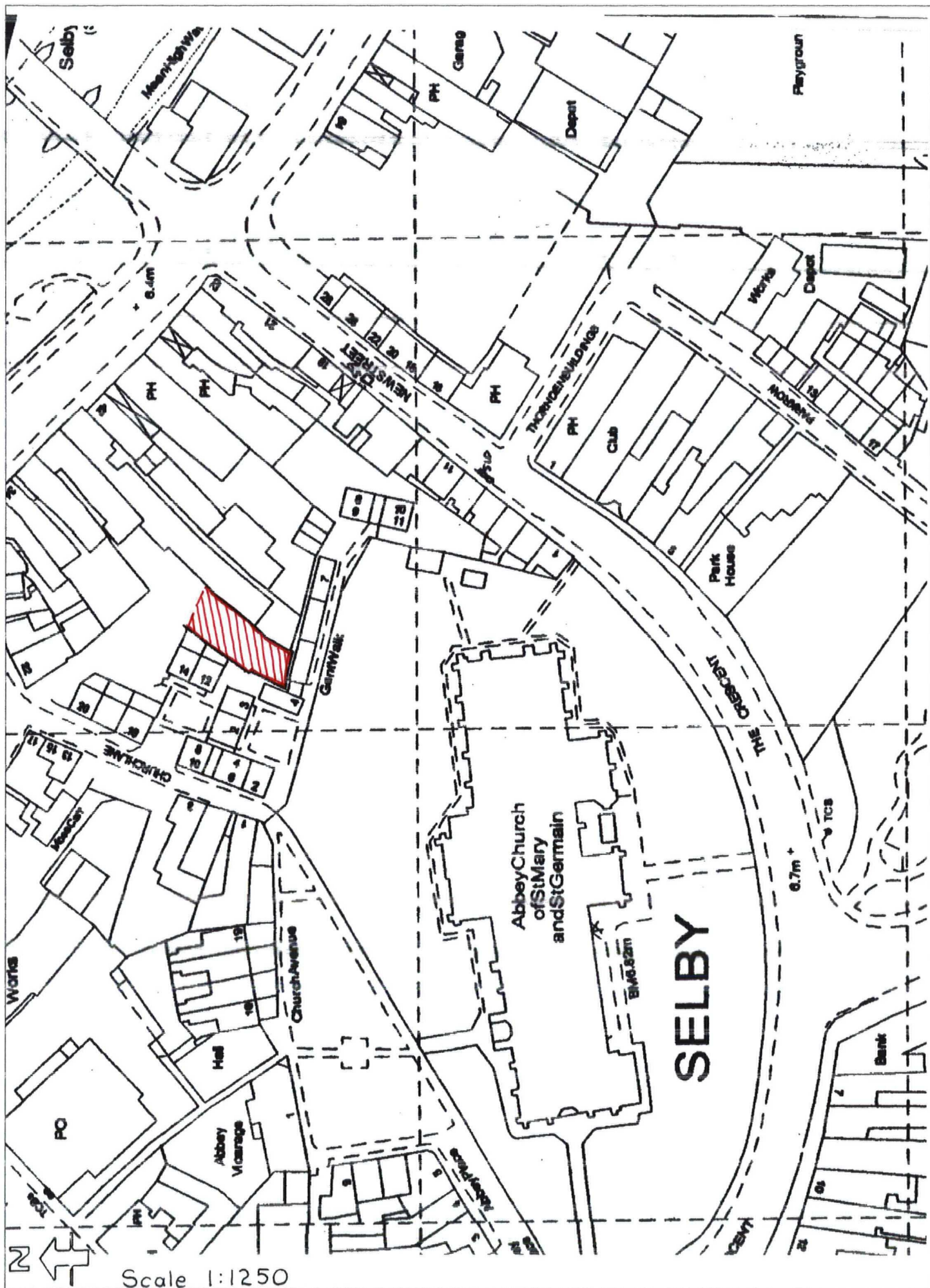
It is probable that the dumped layers throughout the site are associated with the development of the adjoining site to the north-west in the 1970's. This would account for the raised ground relative to that development. The lower levels encountered in the south-west of the site

appear to represent a relatively undisturbed build-up of ground in the 19th century. Only the very top of this was investigated and it may well extend into earlier periods.

CONCLUSIONS

The excavation carried out under the current development did not encounter any archaeological deposits of significance. However, the proximity of the site to the rich medieval deposits known to have existed immediately to the west means that the potential is still good at deeper levels. It is therefore recommended that any further development on the site involving deeper ground disturbance should be archaeologically monitored.

Alison Clarke April 1998



GANT WALK SELBY PLAN 1 LOCATION

GANT WALK SELBY PLAN 2 SITE

