
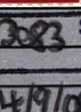


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YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

PARISH 3083 ARCH E4495
512682

SITE ADDRESS	Castle Gardens, Old Maltongate, Malton, North Yorkshire		
CLIENT NAME	Derwent Riverside Project	DATE OF VISIT	06 May – 30 Oct 2008
PROJECT #	5148	YAT REPORT #	2009/12
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	N/A	GRID REFERENCE	SE 7900 7165
PLANNING REFERENCE #	SAM No. 1261 & 285	AAI OPS NOTICE #	N/A

Introduction

York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief during the construction of two steel security fences and limited ground reduction during landscaping works at the above site. The erection of each fence required a line of postholes to be dug to a depth of c.0.75m below ground level (BGL) at intervals of approximately 2.5 metres. The ground reduction amounted to little more than clearance of vegetation and the disturbance of 0.10m of the topsoil during the creation of new footpaths through the wooded area of the site.

Geology and topography

Malton is a small market town just off the A64 Leeds-Scarborough trunk road, approximately 10 miles north-east of York (figure 1). The Castle Gardens, now part of the Old Lodge Hotel, are situated on an outcrop of Oolitic limestone that forms an escarpment above the modern town (Robinson, 1978, 1). The gardens are divided into two areas, the first forms a landscaped lawn around the Old Lodge itself and the second is wooded and was relatively overgrown before the start of the Castle Gardens landscaping project. The wooded area extends to the edge of the escarpment above the B1248 Castlegate road (figures 2, 3). A limestone wall forms the western boundary of the site, and a brick-built wall with a gate in the south-east corner forms the eastern boundary between Castle Gardens and the neighbouring Orchard Field.

Archaeological and historical background

The area of Castle Gardens occupy part of the Roman auxiliary fort usually identified as *Derventio* but thought by some to be *Delgovicia* (Wenham and Heywood, 1997, 1). The fort was founded by AD79 and underwent several phases of occupation before finally being abandoned by AD 400 (Robinson, 1978, 5-10). Earthwork remains of the eastern side of the fort survive in Orchard Field, immediately to the east of Castle Gardens, and successive geophysical surveys (Dean, 2001 and Horsley, 2007) have identified an extensive complex of streets and buildings. The walled garden attached to the Old Lodge (figure 3) overlies further fortress remains (Horsley, 2007, 15); the south-west corner of the walled garden forms the eastern starting point of the northern security fence observed during this watching brief.

Castle Gardens are named for the location of a castle thought to have occupied the site from the 12th century (Rimmer, 2009, 3). The approximate area of this castle was occupied by the Eure family from the mid 16th century, and several large houses are thought to have succeeded one another on the site, culminating with a 17th century mansion. This is known to have been the subject of a disputed inheritance between two nieces of Lord Eure following his death in 1652 (MAP, 2001, 5), the outcome of which was the demolition of the main house. The resulting rubble was then divided between the two claimants, in a judgement of Solomon fashion, with the Old Lodge thought to be the only surviving building (Rimmer, 2009, 3). A formal garden seems to have replaced this mansion, and appears on a map of 1730 by Joseph Dickinson (figure 4) and a 1728 painting of Malton by John Settrington (figure 5). This garden appears to have been terraced from west to east, forming three successively lower platforms which appear to survive in the wooded area now enclosed by security fences (figure 3, plate 3). The area, as part of the manor of New Malton, was acquired by the Fitzwilliam estate in 1713 (Rimmer, 2009, 3).

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Observations: northern fence line

The northern fence line separated the lawn from the wooded area. A total of 56 hand-dug postholes were dug at average intervals of 2.5m to create a fence approximately 140m long (figure 3, plate 1). Each posthole was 0.30m x 0.30m across and up to 0.75m deep.

The earliest observed deposit was a buff coloured sandy silt with occasional limestone fragments. This was mainly observed in the eastern third of the fence line, and became more apparent in the 30m leading eastwards to the corner of the walled garden (figure 3). This was seen at 0.40m - 0.60m BGL and is interpreted as a probable subsoil. Very occasional fragments of brick and tile were observed in this deposit, which also yielded a single sherd of C2nd/3rd grey ware from the penultimate eastern posthole (figure 3).

Above this possible subsoil was a substantial deposit of crushed Oolitic limestone and mortar fragments, which was observed across the majority of the fence line. This deposit was observed at 0.20m - 0.50m BGL, and was between 0.20m and 0.50m thick (plates 4 and 5). Approximately 10kgs of brick and tile were recovered from this deposit, comprising late and post-medieval building rubble. No complete bricks or tiles were found, and the quantity of mortar and crushed material strongly suggests that this is a demolition deposit. Alternatively, it may be a make-up deposit associated with landscaping, derived from a source of demolition rubble. The brick and tile was focussed in the centre of the fence line (figure 3), but smaller fragments were observed along the entire run of postholes.

Lying above this deposit was the topsoil, comprising a soft, friable, dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional fragments of Oolitic limestone. This deposit was between 0.10m – 0.30m thick.

Observations: southern fence line

The southern fence line ran parallel to the top of the escarpment over Castlegate, approximately 5m - 10m back from the break of slope. A total of 74 postholes were dug, identical in dimension to those of the northern fence, creating a fence approximately 180m long (figure 3, plate 2).

The earliest observed deposit in the eastern half of the fence line was a buff coloured sandy silt with moderate limestone fragments and occasional brick and tile fragments. As for the northern line, this was interpreted as a probable subsoil. This deposit was observed up to a point approximately 90m from the eastern start point. It was observed between 0.40-0.70m BGL and was overlain by the topsoil except for a zone between 50m and 90m from the eastern start point where fragments of limestone were observed in the interface between the two deposits.

At 90m from the eastern start point, a marked change was observed, with a firm, mid grey sandy silt forming the earliest observed deposit. This was between 0.10m and 0.30m thick and was overlain by the subsoil described above. This is interpreted as a possible early cultivated soil of uncertain date, overlain by the buff subsoil observed elsewhere.

A deposit of crushed Oolitic limestone was observed in patches between 50 and 90m from the eastern start point, and in much greater quantities from 130m from the eastern start point, where it

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overlay the buff subsoil and was in places fairly mixed with it, probably by root activity (plates 6 and 7). Unlike the northern demolition deposit, this contained much less crushed brick and tile, although there was a background amount of very small fragments. Dateable fragments of medieval brick were only recovered from this deposit in one posthole approximately 130m from the eastern start point, which also yielded a single fragment of residual C2nd/3rd pottery from the same deposit.

This deposit probably represents a demolition or make-up deposit similar to that observed in the northern fence line, and was overlain by 0.10m – 0.30m of the topsoil described above. Observations in the last five westernmost postholes were hampered by the steep slope down which the fence ran to the bottom of the escarpment.

Discussion

Besides two sherds of abraded and residual Roman pottery, no firm evidence for activity relating to the fortress was observed. It is possible that the early cultivated soil or even the sub-soil could be Roman in date, but the lack of finds suggests this is unlikely. It is possible that the backfills of cut features were encountered, but these would be impossible to define or interpret due to the small size of each posthole. Previous work (Wenham and Heywood 1997, Dean 2001, Horsley 2007) has clearly demonstrated the significant amount of Roman archaeological remains in this area but only far more substantial interventions would be able to locate and define it.

It seems quite likely that the demolition/landscaping deposits of crushed building material may derive from the demolition of the 17th century mansion. No unbroken bricks or tiles were found, which would suggest either that all re-usable material was removed elsewhere before deposition, or that the material was crushed before being used as a make-up deposit for the terraced platforms visible in the wooded area (figure 3 and plate 3). These platforms seem to relate to the garden illustrated by both Dickinson and Settrington (figures 4 and 5), and have been largely retained by the current landscaping project.

This interpretation seems more secure than an attempt to suggest exactly where the 17th century mansion may have been, as the concentrations of building material were not particularly intense, and no *in-situ* structures were encountered. The precise location of this house therefore remains a mystery, although the re-modelling of the area apparent by the early 18th century may have obliterated all traces of it. Once again, only a far more extensive intervention could hope to definitively answer this question.

Apart from the post-holes, the rest of the landscaping works disturbed only the uppermost 0.10m of the topsoil, and therefore no further archaeological observations were made. All records and photographs are held by YAT.

The author wishes to acknowledge the extensive assistance received from Ms Trish Leach, Project Director of Castle Gardens Project for the Derwent Riverside Project.

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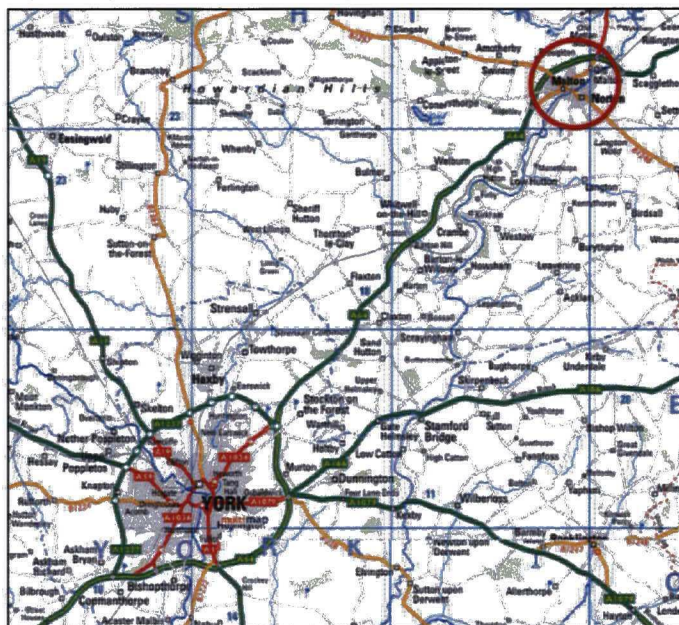


Figure 1 Location map

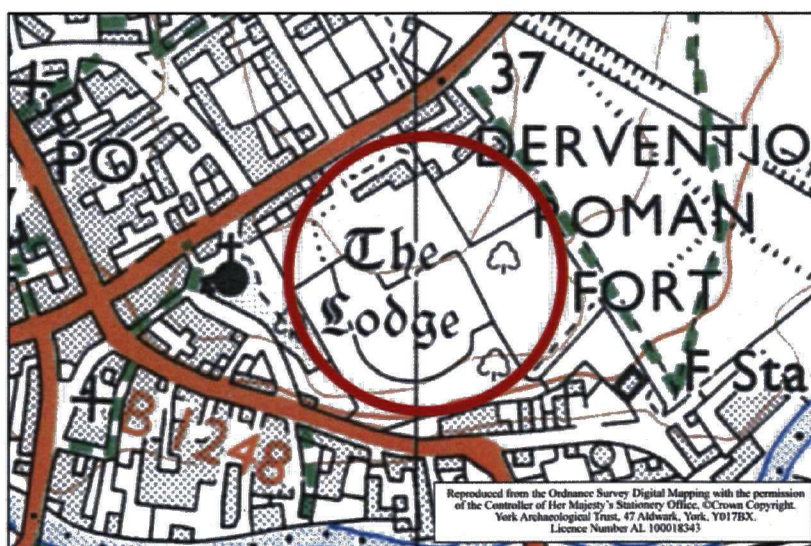


Figure 2 Site location

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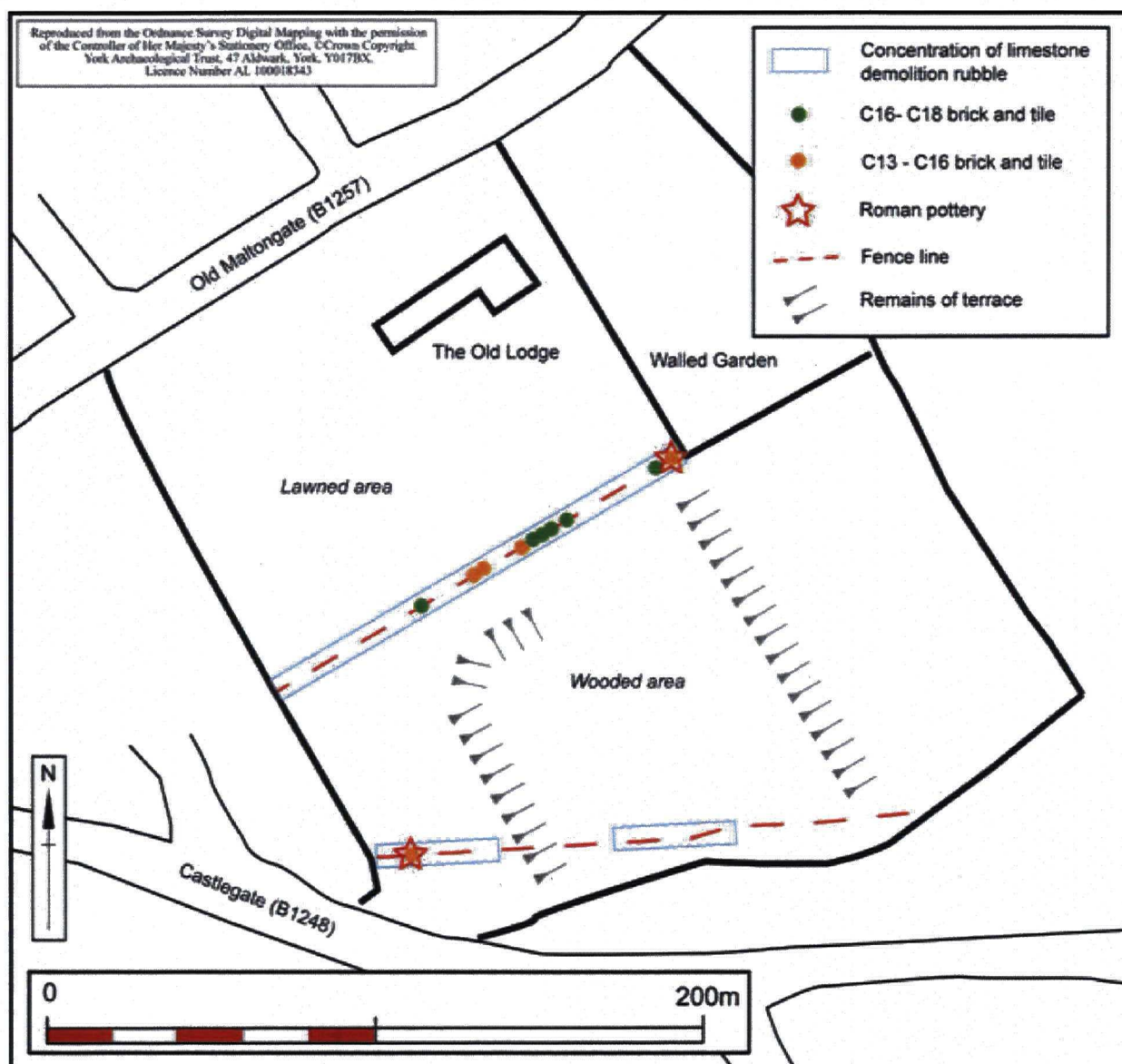


Figure 3 Site plan and observations

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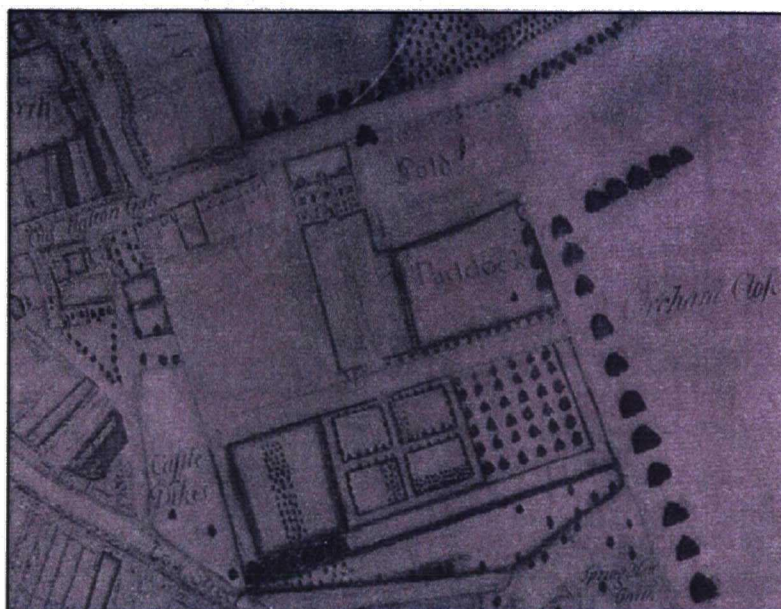


Figure 4 Detail from map of the Burrow of new Malton by Joseph Dickinson, 1730
(Rimmer, 2009, 12)



Figure 5 Painting of Malton by John Settrington, c.1728. The Lodge and grounds are to the right.
(Rimmer, 2009, 11)

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Plates 1 and 2

Views looking west along the northern fence line and east along the southern fence line



Plate 3 *Angled western terrace edge with Old Lodge and lawn behind northern fence*

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Plates 4 and 5 Demolition deposit in two of the northern fence post-holes



Plates 6 and 7 Demolition deposit in two of the southern fence post-holes

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