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LAND EAST OF ST WILFRID'S ROAD, RIPON.

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REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.  
OSA REPORT No: OSA09EV15.

June 2009.

**OSA**

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**ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY LTD**

25A Milton Street • York • North Yorkshire • YO10 3EP  
telephone • 01904 411673 • fax • 01904 414522 • mobile • 07767 385766

e-mail • [mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk](mailto:mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk)

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**Report Summary.**

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**REPORT NO:** OSA09WB15

**SITE NAME:** Land East of St. Wilfrid's Road, Ripon

**COUNTY:** North Yorkshire

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 313 717

**ON BEHALF OF:** Joanna Chambers  
Niche Construction  
Mabgate Business Centre  
93-99 Mabgate  
Leeds. LS9 7DR

**TEXT:** James Stanley

**GRAPHICS:** Dave Pinnock

**FIELDWORK:** James Stanley

**TIMING:** Fieldwork: 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009  
Report Preparation: June 2009

**ENQUIRIES TO:** Nick Pearson  
On Site Archaeology  
25A Milton Street  
York  
YO10 3EP  
*tel* (01904) 411673  
*fax* (01904) 414522  
*mobile* 07767385766  
*e-mail* mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk

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## 1.0 Abstract.

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*On-Site Archaeology Ltd undertook an Archaeological watching brief in June 2009 during geotechnical trenching in advance of proposed development at land to the east of St. Wilfrid’s Road, Ripon, North Yorkshire.*

*The watching brief was commissioned by Niche Construction in conjunction with Lindsay Baxter Civil Engineering to satisfy a condition attached to the planning permission for the development. The investigation comprised of the monitoring of the excavation of three small geotechnical test pits by mechanical excavator.*

*No significant archaeological deposits were identified during the investigation, however, as the watching brief was limited to only three small trenches, further archaeological mitigation may be necessary during any future groundworks associated with the proposed development.*



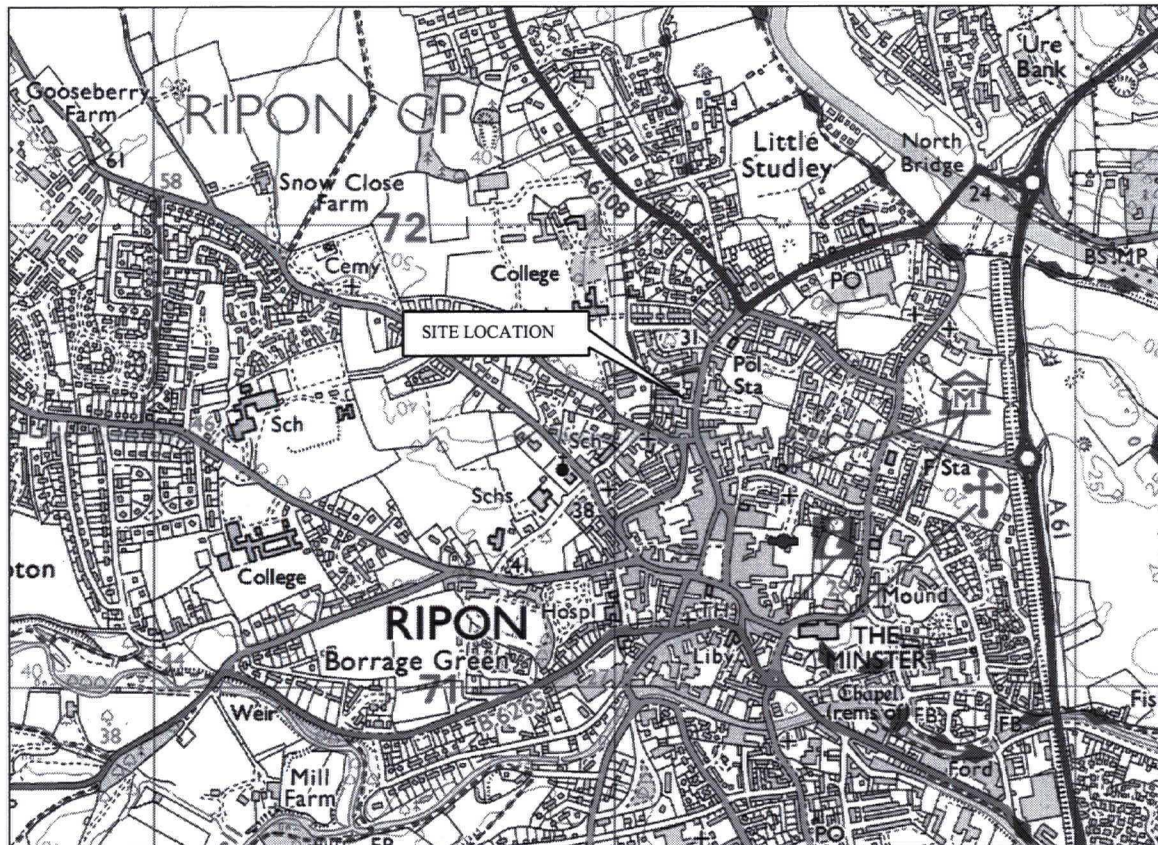


Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 313717).

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## 2.0 Site Location.

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The development site is located within the historic core of Ripon, North Yorkshire, northeast of the historic market place. The proposed development site, currently a plot of waste ground lies to the east of St Wilfrid’s Road and is bordered by residential property to the north. The site is bounded to the east and south by the recently constructed road between Blossomgate and Coltsgate Hills. A residential property is thought to have occupied the development site prior to its demolition due to the construction of the road.

### 3.0 Methodology.

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The watching brief comprised of the monitoring of geotechnical trenching in advance of the proposed development in order to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to ensure that any archaeological deposits encountered could be recorded.

The excavation of three geotechnical trenches by a mechanical excavator was conducted under direct archaeological supervision. The archaeologist was given the opportunity to inspect the surfaces and sides of the excavated areas in order to assess any potential archaeology.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the investigation and a photographic record was maintained. A full list of context descriptions recorded is provided in Appendix 1.

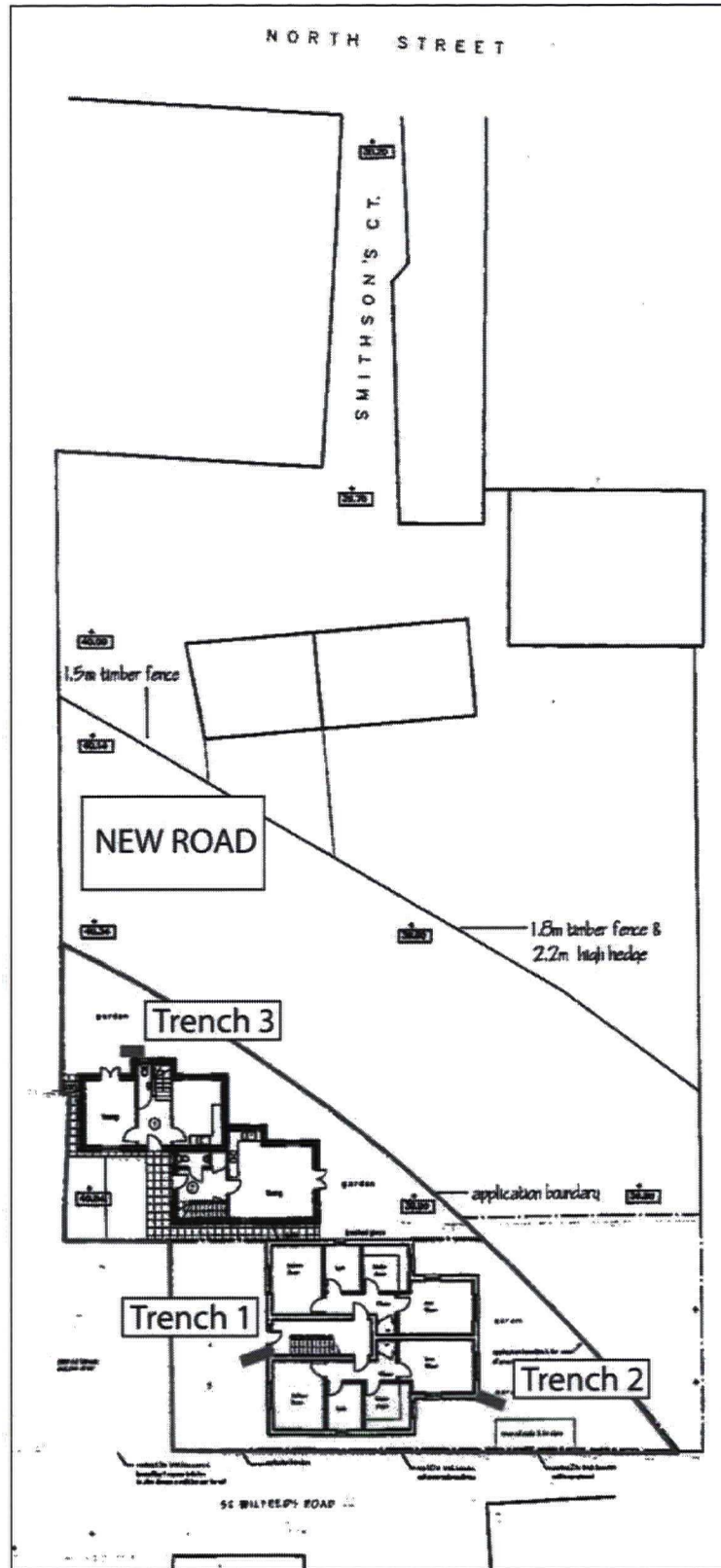


Figure 2. Plan showing site location (blue) and trenches (red)



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## 4.0 Results.

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Three geotechnical trenches, measuring approximately 2.5 metres by 0.7 metres and to a depth of 3 metres, were excavated within the area of the proposed development.

**Trench 1**, orientated northwest-southeast was located towards the northwest corner of the development site. Excavation revealed a sequence of deposits only consisting of approximately 0.8 metres of a greyish brown sandy silt deposit (100) containing frequent inclusions of small stone fragments and gravel with occasional fragments of modern brick and CBM, which sealed the brownish orange sand natural (101). No archaeological deposits were identified within the trench. (plate 2)

Deposit (101) is possibly a recent 'made' ground deposit associated with recent demolition, sealing the truncated sand natural, probably indicating the location of a former building thought to have existed until relatively recently.

**Trench 2**, orientated roughly north-south was located towards the southern corner of the development site. Excavation revealed a sequence of deposits consisting of approximately 0.15 metres of a gravel surface (200), sealing the buried topsoil (201), measuring 0.15 metres thick and the brown sandy silt subsoil containing occasional small stone fragments (202), measuring 0.4 metres thick.

Deposit (200) appears to indicate the location of a driveway associated with recently demolished buildings sealing probable garden deposits. No archaeological deposits were identified within the trench.

**Trench 3**, orientated roughly north-south was located towards the northern corner of the proposed development site. Excavation revealed approximately 0.4 metres of topsoil (300) sealing the brown sandy silt subsoil (301) measuring approximately 0.3 metres thick and the sand natural (302). These deposits possibly indicate the location of previous gardens within the development site. No archaeological deposits were identified within the trench.

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## 5.0 Discussion and Conclusions.

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Geotechnical trenching undertaken at the proposed development site failed to reveal any significant archaeological deposits. Excavation only encountered recent 'made' ground thought to relate to the demolition of domestic buildings, which existed until recently within the development site and probable associated garden deposits.

There is no evidence to indicate any surviving archaeology of sufficient importance to hinder development, however as the Watching Brief was limited to only three small trenches, further archaeological mitigation may be necessary during any future groundworks associated with the proposed development.

## 6.0 Appendix

### 6.1 List of contexts

Context	Description	Extent	Thickness (metres)
<b>Trench 1</b>			
100	Greyish brown sandy silt, frequent stone and gravel, occasional brick CBM.	Trench	0.8
101	Brownish orange sand. Natural	Trench	-
<b>Trench 2</b>			
200	Gravel surface.	Trench	0.15
201	Greyish brown/black sandy silt. Topsoil	Trench	0.15
202	Brown sandy silt, occasional stone fragments. Subsoil	Trench	0.4
203	Brownish orange sand. Natural	Trench	-
<b>Trench 3</b>			
300	Greyish brown/black sandy silt. Topsoil	Trench	0.4
301	Brown sandy silt, occasional stone fragments. Subsoil	Trench	0.3
302	Brownish orange sand. Natural	Trench	-

### 6.2 Drawing Register.

Drawing No	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
1	Trench Location Plan	.....	2 6 09	JS

### 6.3 Photographic Register.

Frame no.	Description	View	Inits and date
1	Site photograph	E	JS 2 6 09
2-3	Trench 1, southwest facing section	E	JS 2 6 09
4-5	Trench 1, southwest facing section	NE	JS 2 6 09
6-7	Trench 2, west facing section	E	JS 2 6 09
8	Trench 2, west facing section	SE	JS 2 6 09
9 - 10	Trench 3, west facing section	E	JS 2 6 09
11-12	Trench 3, west facing section	SE	JS 2 6 09
13	Site photograph	N	JS 2 6 09
14	Site photograph	S	JS 2 6 09



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## 7.0 The Plates.

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*Plate 1. General view of the site.*



*Plate 2. General shot of trench 1*