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**The Nook
Selby
North Yorkshire
Archaeological Watching Brief**

February 1997
MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

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Selby
North Yorkshire
Archaeological Watching Brief**

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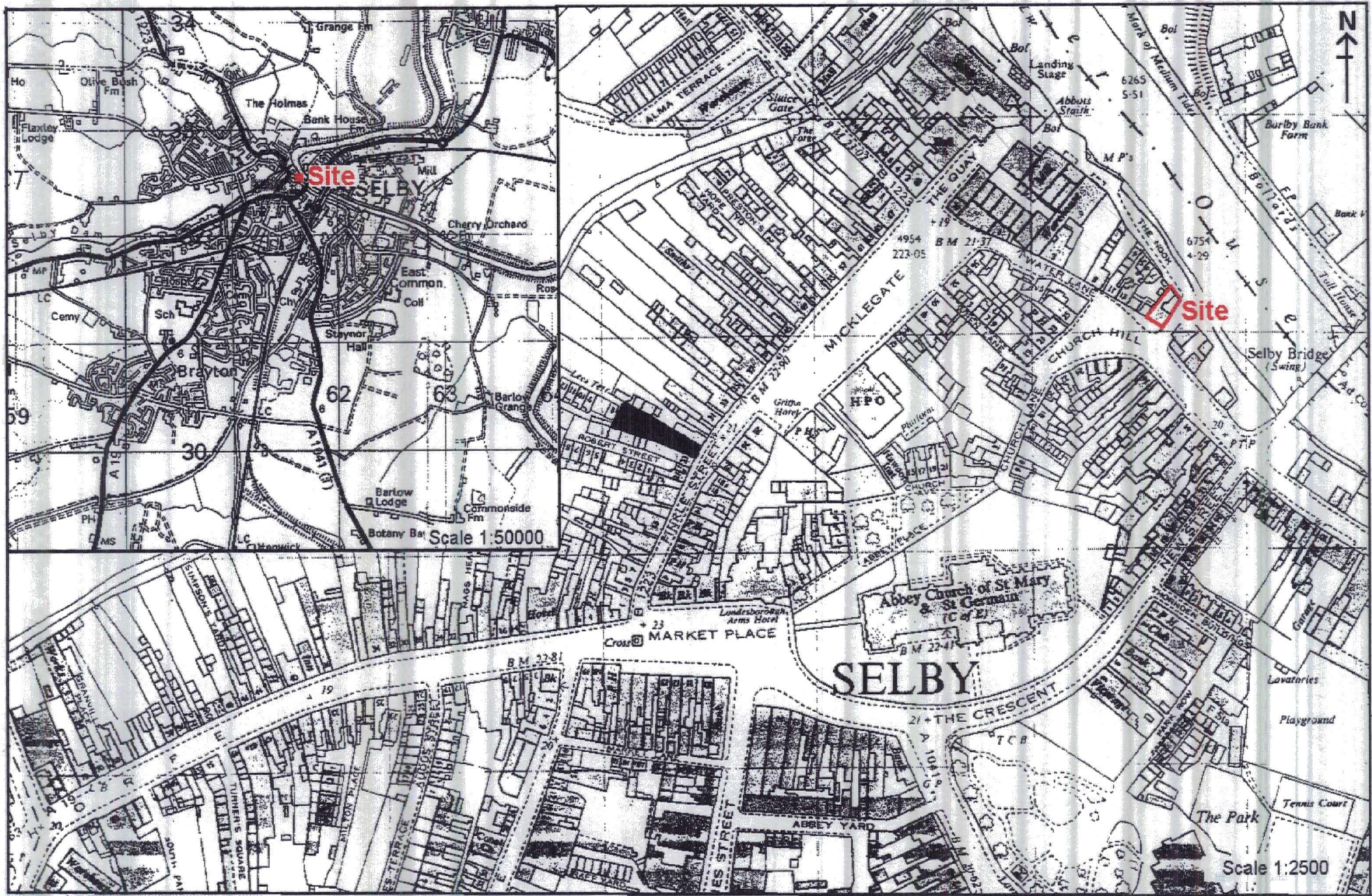


Figure 1. Site Location

**The Nook
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Introduction

On the 22nd January 1997 MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd undertook a Watching Brief at The Nook, Selby, North Yorkshire (SE 6166 3251: Fig. 1) during the machine excavation of a services trench (Fig. 2)

All work has been funded by Christopher George Development.

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Excavation Methods

The modern ground surface was removed by a rear-acting JCB excavator using a toothless bucket, down to the required excavation depth. The trench was then hand cleaned, examined for features and subjected to limited hand excavation. Recording was carried out using the continuous context recording system on standard forms. A section was drawn at a scale of 1:10. A colour and monochrome print and colour slide photographic record was taken.

Excavation Results

The earliest deposit revealed was a laminated silty sandy clay (context 105 : Fig. 3), which may represent undisturbed natural deposits, or, more likely, dumps of redeposited natural used to raise the ground level to prevent flooding in a vulnerable riverside area site. This was truncated by the construction cut (context 113), for a brick wall (context 108), which is most likely to have been the southern wall of a brick lined latrine pit or tank. This appeared to have been associated with the fragmentary, north - south aligned, stepped brick foundation, (context 112), of a demolished dwelling. Abutting both walls (contexts 108 and 112), was a deposit of silty clay (context 109), which was used as the bedding layer for a floor of unglazed quarry tiles and sandstone slabs, which provided an easily clean base to the tank. The dark coloration of the bedding layer (context 109), may have been due to seepage (of whatever was held in the tank), through the base contaminating the underlying deposits. The construction cut (context 114), for a brick wall (context 107), was cut directly into the top of deposit 109 and may represent the rebuild of a timber lining (context 106; which survived as a deposit of decayed wood between walls 107 and 112), originally forming the north side of the tank.

The area then appears to have undergone a dramatic change that involved the demolition of the building (contexts 112, 107 & 108), and the area being leveled (contexts 104 and 103). The new

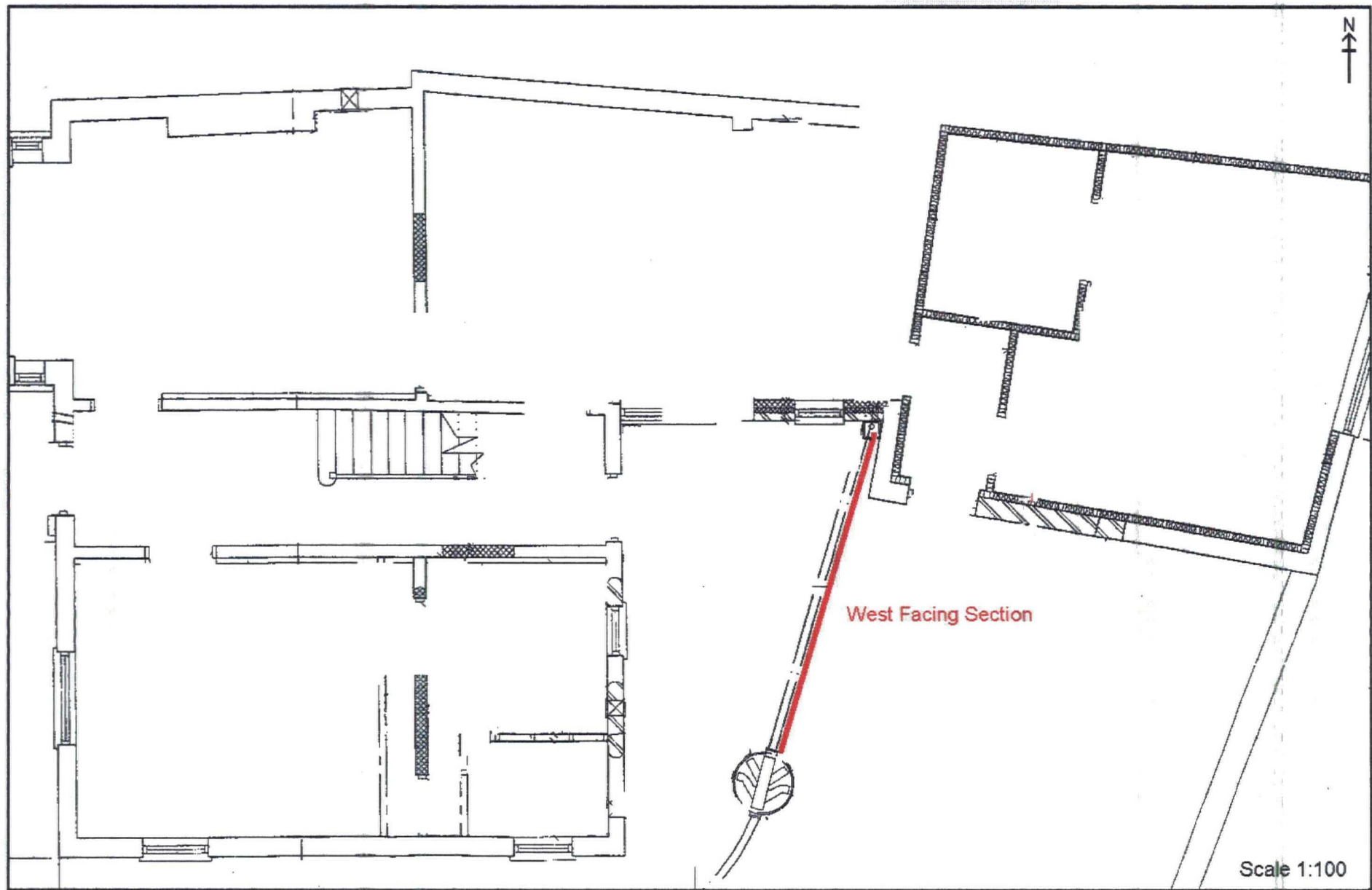


Figure 2. Location of Section.

phase of building involved the construction of a new wall (context 111) and the laying of a concrete floor (context 101). Part of this rebuild may have involved the cutting of a service trench (cut 115, fill 110), prior to the leveling (context 102), of the surface for the laying of the concrete floor. The function that the rebuilt wall performed is uncertain as only a small area was exposed where it had been demolished and incorporated into the garage (context 100), that forms part of the new development. This garage also utilises the concrete floor originally associated with wall 101.

No finds were recovered during the excavation.

Conclusions

Nothing of archaeological importance was disturbed by the excavation of the service trench. All the walls and subsequent leveling deposits relate to the demolition and alteration of the 19th century buildings, shown on the 1856 O.S map of Selby, which occupied the site prior to the construction of the present buildings currently undergoing alteration.

Recommendations

Due to the depth of the ground works it was not possible to ascertain if important archaeological deposits survive in situ in this area of Selby.

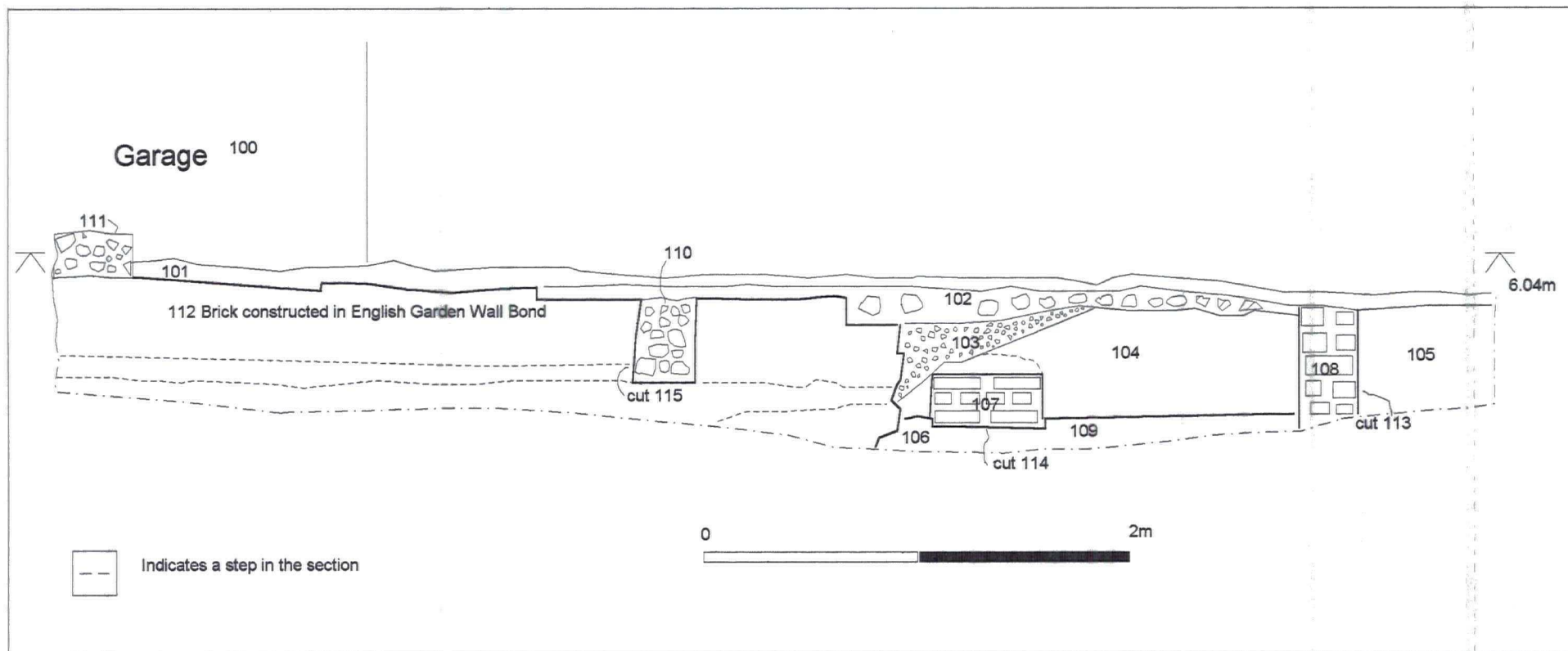


Figure 3. West Facing Section.

APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

- 100 - Brick built garage
- 101 - concrete surface
- 102 - coarse silty clay -hard-core
- 103 - fine silty sand clay - demolition rubble
- 104 - demolition deposit and house clearance dumping
- 105 - silty sandy clay - backfill of Victorian trench
- 106 - silty clay - deposit
- 107 - trace of wall - Victorian?
- 108 - wall footing
- 109 - silty clay - surface of half basement
- 110 - coarse sandy silt - fill of cut 115 - service trench
- 111 - footing for out - house wall
- 112 - wall footings
- 113 - cut for Victorian/modern wall
- 114 - cut for wall 107
- 115 - cut for unknown modern feature

APPENDIX 2

Archive listing

- 1. West facing section - 1:20

APPENDIX 3

Photographic archive

- 1. General view of section looking east
- 2. General view of section looking east
- 3. General view of section looking east
- 4. General view of section looking east