LAND TO THE REAR OF HOWE ROAD, NORTON-ON-DERWENT, NORTH YORKSHIRE.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT. OSA REPORT No: OSA10DT07

June 2010.

OSA

ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY LTD

25A Milton Street • York • North Yorkshire • YO10 3EP telephone • 01904 411673 • fax • 01904 414522 • mobile • 07767 385766 e-mail • onsitearchaeology@gmail.com
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Report Details

REPORT NO: OSA10DT07

SITE NAME: Land to the rear of Howe Road, Norton on Derwent

COUNTY: North Yorkshire

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 7975 7090

ON BEHALF OF: Yorkshire Housing

6 Innovation Close

Heslington

York

YO10 5ZF

RESEARCH AND TEXT: Graham Bruce

GRAPHICS: Graham Bruce

TIMING: Research and Report preparation

June 2010

ENQUIRIES TO: Nick Pearson

On Site Archaeology 25A Milton Street

York

YO10 3EP

tel (01904) 411673

fax (01904) 414522

mobile (07767) 385766

e-mail onsitearchaeology@gmail.com

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1.0 Abstract.

This Desktop Assessment has been prepared at the request of Yorkshire Housing to provide information regarding the archaeological potential of a portion of land to the rear of Howe Road, Norton on Derwent, North Yorkshire. The site is bounded by gardens belonging to properties fronting Howe Road on all sides. The site is currently occupied by garages. The research undertaken in the preparation of this assessment has indicated that the site is unlikely to contain archaeological remains of such significance as to prevent development from taking place. Features of Romano-British date may be present, especially those related to the manufacture of pottery. Due to the likelihood that such features are present on the site some form of archaeological mitigation will be necessary as part of development.

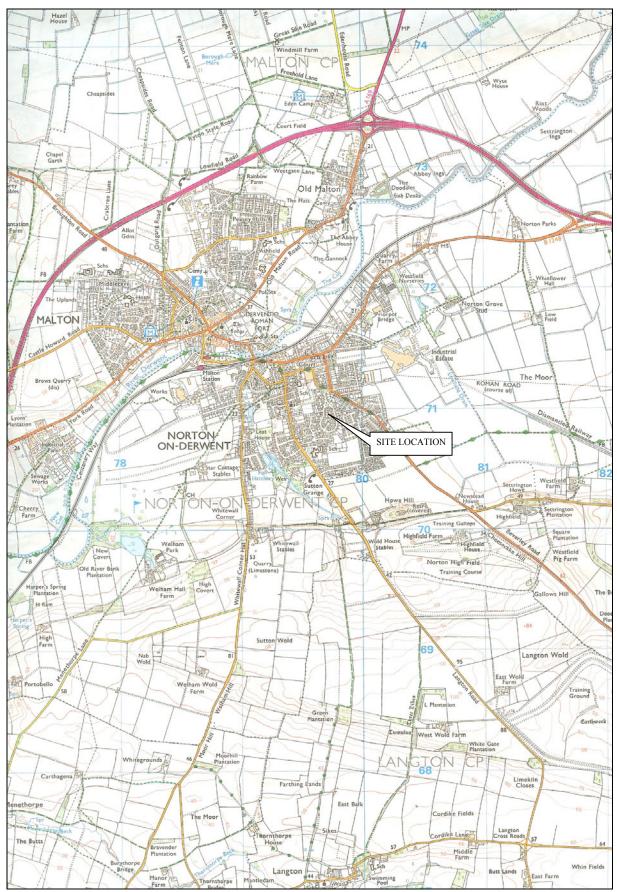


Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 7975 7090)

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2.0 Introduction.

In June 2010 an archaeological desktop study was undertaken by *On-Site Archaeology* on the site of garages to the rear of Howe Road, Norton on Derwent, North Yorkshire. The site is located to the south of Malton on the south side of the River Derwent bounded by residential properties on all sides. It is centred at approximately NGR SE 7975 7090 (Figure 1). The study was undertaken to provide archaeological information in support of a planning application for the demolition of the existing garages and the construction of five new houses.

3.0 Methodology.

The historical and archaeological significance of the site was assessed using a variety of sources. These include cartographic evidence, records held at the North Yorkshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) office, North Yorkshire County Record Office, Malton, Norton and York Libraries, the online archaeological catalogues held by The Archaeological Data Service and the English Heritage National Monument Record, and published archaeological and historical reports. The assistance of the staff at these records offices is greatly appreciated.

Archaeological and historical data has been collected over an area extending for a distance of approximately 500m from the site. The locations of these data points are indicated on Figure.2.

A site visit was undertaken to enhance the understanding of the modern landuse of the site, especially with regards to its effect upon the archaeological record and to identify any potential archaeological remains within the boundaries of the site. A photographic record was made of the site during this site visit, a selection of these photographs are used to illustrate this report (see Plates 1-4).

Site research notes are currently stored with *On-Site Archaeology*.

4.0 Site Location, Landuse, Topography and Geology.

The application area considered by this report lies approximately 1200m southeast of the town centre of Malton and 400m southeast of the town centre of Norton-On-Derwent, and centred at NGR SE 7975 7090 (Figure 1). The site is bounded on all sides by gardens of houses fronting onto Howe Road. The site area is approximately 0.2ha.

The site currently consists of rows of domestic garages, which are predominantly located around the periphery of the site. The open areas of the centre of the site are covered with concrete, with a rough tarmac access road entering the site from the east.

The overlying drift geology comprises warp and lacustrine clay. The solid geology is Oolithic limestone forming the eastern edge of the Howardian Hills, which has been utilised as an important local building material for the last two thousand years (Robinson 1978).

5.0 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. This does not include every single entry found within the 500m search radius, only those that are likely to contribute to the archaeological potential of the site being studied. For example the area contains numerous post-medieval and early modern buildings, which are not listed individually. Where possible the relevant Sites and Monuments Record (North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record), number is given, together with other bibliographic references where used. The locations of the recorded sites are plotted on Figure 2. The gazetteer is presented in approximately geographical order, from west to east.

Map No	Name	NGR	SMR/HER no	Description
1	Building	SE 791 712 approximate location	MNY2848	Welham Road, sometime prior to 1928 Roman buildings were found along with urns, coins and pottery.
2	Moat	SE 7917 7135	MNY2796	This has been described as a Roman camp though a medieval moated site is more likely. Appears on earlier Ordnance Maps as earthworks later completely build over.
3	Cropmarks	SE 7919 7021	MNY3044	Circular and ditched enclosures of a suggested early Bronze Age to Iron Age.
4	Cropmarks, ditch, trackway	Centeroid SE 7931 7074	MNY 2842	Cropmarks of two parallel ditches suggested to probable trackway. Roman to modern?
5	Find spot	SE 7929 7142	MNY2709	Roman inscribed stone is described as being inserted in a building as walling stone and found during the rebuilding of St. Nicholas Church. The inscription reads FELICITER SIT/GENIO LOCI/SERVVLE VTERE/FELIX TABER/AM AVREFI/CINAM.
6	Cremation	SE 7928 7130	ENY2777	Cremation within a cinerary urn that lay next to a lidless stone coffin.
7	Watching brief	SE 79315 71230	ENY3150	Watching brief at 8 Langton Road, Norton. No details available.
8	Watching brief	SE 79282 70912	ENY4335	Watching brief at land to the rear of 68 Langton Road, Norton revealed only a small assemblage of residual Roman pottery. No archaeological features were identified.
9	Mixed cemetery	Centeroid SE 7942 7103	MNY2765	A mixed variety finds of both inhumations and cremations during the 18 th – 20 th centuries indicate an extensive cemetery flanking a road approaching Norton from the south and a road from the east.
10	Building	Centeroid SE 79344 71152	MNY2788, 2789	Substantial 2 nd to 4 th century Roman building with one room that had OPUS SIGNINUM floor with evidence of a smelting kiln. The building overlay earlier foundations.

11	Cropmarks, watching brief	Centeroid SE 7829 6749	MNY2359	Roman road (43AD? – 409 AD?) for much of its length it is represented by a modern road, but can be identified as a ditch at its northern end and two parallel ditches at its southern end where metalling is also suggested. A watching brief on the heavily truncated parallel ditches revealed Romano-British pottery.
12	Find spot	SE 793 704	MNY2998	Roman urn found along with coins, a fragment of amphora within the inscription —Candii- and so called foundation stones.
13	Watching brief	SE 79250 71370	ENY145	Watching brief at Royal Oak Public House, Norton revealed a wall of unknown date.
14	Trial trenching	SE 79446 71326	ENY3955	Two trial trenches at 27 Wood Street revealed well stratified Roman deposits including a road side ditch, two medieval pits and a post-medieval limestone wall was also recorded.
15	Watching brief	SE 79440 71140	ENY3589	Watching brief at Ness House, 57 Langton Road, Norton revealed no archaeology.
16	Cremation	SE 794 710	MNY2769	Discovery of a cremation urn at Langton Road.
17	Watching brief	SE 79311 70900	ENY837	Watching brief at Norton Youth Club, 68 Langton Road. No details available.
18	Watching brief	SE 79142 70762	ENY926	Watching brief at 92 Langton Road. No details available.
19	Cropmarks	Centeroid SE 7932 7071	MNY2980	Cropmarks of a ditch/trackway that runs parallel to medieval road.
20	Cropmarks, earthworks	Centeroid SE 7904 6951	MNY2997	Road of medieval to post-medieval date. Marked on I W Malton's map as old road to York. In part survives as a hollow way and is most pronounced at Sutton village.
21	Watching brief	SE 79429 71119	ENY3172	A watching brief at Suttons Stables, Sutton Street, revealed a single probable Roman pit.
22	Mixed cemetery	SE Centeroid 7942 7103	MNY2765	A mixed variety finds of both inhumations and cremations during the 18 th – 20 th centuries indicate an extensive cemetery flanking a road approaching from the south and another from the east.
23	Watching brief	SE 79429 71125	ENY2160	Watching brief at 4A Sutton Street. No details available.
24	Building floor, inhumation	SE 7934 7093	MNY2773	Described as a Roman pitched foundation and covered with roofing slates. Sealed an infant burial.
25	Watching brief	SE 79457 70803	ENY978	Watching brief at 127 Langton Road. No details available.
26	Watching brief	SE 79611 70643	ENY2883	Watching brief at Norton Collage, Langton Road revealed no archaeological features or finds.
27	Cropmarks	SE 7947 7022	MNY2945	Square barrow cemetery possibly dated to the Iron Age. This includes 18 ditched squares/barrows some of which have central pits between 3m to 6m across.
28	Evaluation	SE 79555 71489	MNY24313	An evaluation at 87 Commercial Street, Norton revealed in-situ Roman remains that included stone structures and pits. Later medieval features were also record that include pits, cess pits and linear features.

29	Norton village	Centeroid SE 792 711	MNY2859,	Norton in Domesday Book. There seems very little doubt that Norton would have become very dependant on new Malton from at least the 13 th century.
30	Watching brief	SE 79560 71310	ENY3957	Watching brief at Bright Steels, Norton revealed Roman road, buildings and ditches. Also recorded was a build up of colluvium and later development of 19 th century cottages.
31	Cremation	SE 7965 7086	MNY2760	Model Farm Estate. Cremations within Norton ware urns, one of which was accompanied by an iron penannular brooch.
32	Cropmarks	SE 7949 7086	MNY2723	Cropmarks believed to be a Roman kiln site.
33	Cemetery	SE 794 707	MNY2831	Roman cemetery with over 30 burials including a number of mid to 4 th century Germanic burials. These may have represented German officers serving in the Malton garrison. It was enclosed by a wall and ditch, bounded by Langton and Norton Road.
34	Grange	SE 7946 7049	MNY2971	Medieval grange (1066 AD – 1299 AD). Listed in the mid-13 th century as belonging to Old Malton Priory. It was sold in 1550 and its assets included a fishery.
35	Cropmarks	SE 7940 7065	MNY2940, 2942, 2944	A number of square ditched enclosures/barrows of possible Iron Age date.
36	Earthworks, deserted settlement	SE 7960 7044	MNY2987	Deserted medieval settlement of Sutton (1066 AD? – 1539 AD?). A number of house plots still visible in 1951 and old foundations noted on first edition OS map. Though shown on 17 th century maps it was omitted by Jeffreys 1771.
37	Cropmarks	SE 796 702	MNY3046, 3045	Ditch/trackway and ditched enclosure of unknown date.
38	Finds spot	SE 7969 7149	MNY2710	Roman inscribed stone reads DEO/RIGAE/SCIRVS DIC/SAC VSLM and described as coming from a building in Norton.
39	Kiln?	SE 7959 7147	MNY2836	Finds of Roman pottery some partly fired along with fired clay mat indicate the presence of kiln/s in this area.
40	Find spot, kiln	SE 7976 7103	MNY2716	Model Farm Estate. A quantity of burnt material with rumble roof slates iron knife and pottery may indicate kiln or associated structure.
41	Pottery kiln	SE 7978 7095	MNY2715	Model Farm Estate. Roman pottery kiln comprised of clay lined furnace pit, two floors, a flue and stone wall.
42	Cropmarks, ditch, road	Centeroid SE 7933 7088	MNY2993	Suggested to be Roman line of outer ditches as Cropmarks near Grove House and as surface irregularities at about SE 7931 7122. Aerial photography show possible quarry pits centred SE 7936 7062.
43	Find spot	SE 79627 70745	MNY24062	William II coronation medal found at The Chase, Norton
44	Mixed cemetery	SE Centeroid 797 713	MNY2797, 2800, 2802, 2805, 2807	A mixed variety finds of both inhumations and cremations during the 18 th – 20 th centuries indicate an extensive cemetery flanking a road from Norton to Setterington.
45	Excavation and salvage recording	SE 79797 71312	ENY168, 2113	Excavation and salvage recording at Parkfield House, Norton, where a Roman road, kiln and other features were recorded.
46	Find spot	SE 7975	MNY2745	Model Farm Estate. During construction of

		7106		foundations, a large amount of Roman occupation was uncovered, including paving and foundation.
47	Pavement	SE 7977 7100	MNY2740	Model Farm Estate. Very uneven Roman pavement constructed from local limestone and imported? Sandstone. Two fragments of quern-stones incorporated in it. A large number of objects was recovered from its surface including coins of TETRICUS II and CONSTANTIUS II. Red tile and sandstone slabs may indicate roofed structure.
48	Pottery kiln	SE 7978 7095	MNY2727	Model Farm Estate. Roman pottery kiln revealed during excavation of a sewer trench. The flue was 0.6m in length and 0.31m in width. It was completely made of clay and filled with a mass of broken kiln wall.
49	Cropmarks	SE 7997 7047	MNY4888	Ditched enclosure and 4 square barrows of presumed Iron Age date.
50	Cropmarks	SE 8006 7115	MNY2885	Two small ditched enclosures of presumed Iron Age date attached to larger ditch enclosures.

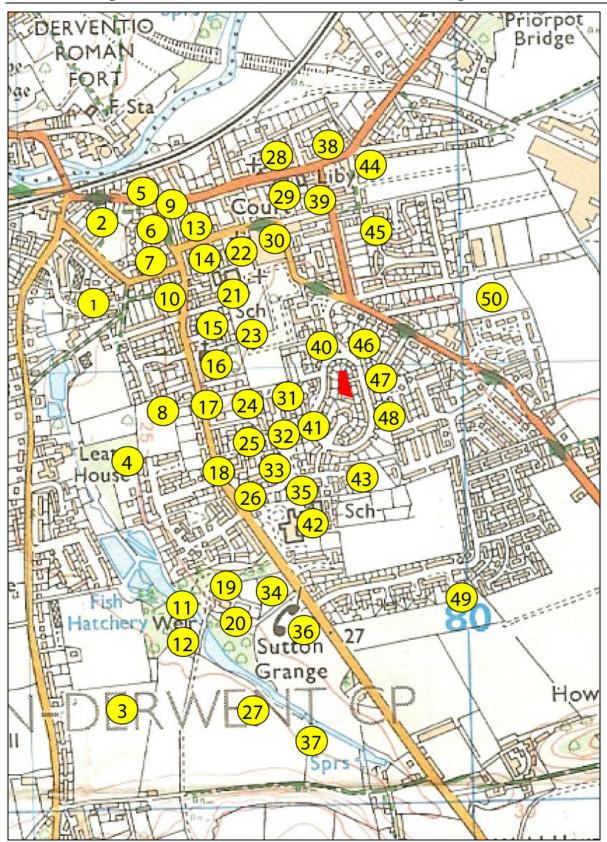


Figure 2. Locations of sites and artefacts mentioned in the gazetteer.

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6.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.

6.1 The Prehistoric Period (to the 1st Century AD).

All of the evidence for the Prehistoric period in the study area is in the form of cropmarks recorded by aerial photography.

The search has found no evidence for the earliest periods of human activity, the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, or Neolithic.

One of the entries in the gazetteer may be of Bronze Age date (5.3 in Section 5).

The Iron Age is much more comprehensively represented in the gazetteer. Cropmarks have been identified to the south and east of Norton (5.3, 5.27, 5.35, 5.49, 5.50) indicating the presence of enclosures and square barrow cemeteries that have been assigned an Iron Age date on typological grounds.

6.2 The Roman Period (1st to the 5th centuries AD).

The archaeological development of Malton and Norton as substantial settlements begins with the foundation of a military presence early in the Roman period (for a detailed discussion of the chronology see Wilson 2006). The Roman fort was located to the north of the River Derwent, on the southeast side of modern day Malton. The first evidence for Roman activity takes the form of a shallow military style ditch, which appears to represent an otherwise unknown camp. The dating of this camp is uncertain, it may be as early as the campaigns of Cerialis as Governor (between 71 and 74 AD), or alternatively be dated more generally to the last quarter of the 1st century.

The first phase of permanent military occupation was a fort constructed of turf and timber erected under Agricola's governorship (78 to 85 AD). During the first two decades of the 2nd century AD the fort defences were rebuilt in stone, and the ditches were recut. An annexe may also have been constructed at this time. Although there are some suggestions that the fort was abandoned during the first half of the 2nd century it was re-occupied in the late 150's. The fort underwent several phases of rebuilding during the 2nd to 4th centuries and, at various times during this period contained buildings of both timber and stone construction. Occupation of the fort is likely to have continued into the 5th century.

In addition to the military fort the sites of Malton and Norton both contained evidence for civilian activity. Immediately to the southeast of the fort there appears to have been a defended civilian settlement (*vicus*). Development of the *vicus* was well underway before the end of the 1st century AD and there is again evidence that this continued through to the 5th century. A variety of buildings have been recorded within this settlement, ranging from those of timber, or wattle and daub on stone sill walls, to more substantial masonry structures with mosaic floors and painted plaster walls. Although civilian occupation on the north side of the River Derwent is concentrated within this defended *vicus* evidence from the surrounding area

suggests that other settlement was also present. This may have taken the form of ribbon development along the main roads leaving the fort.

One substantial area of civilian settlement outside the fort-side *vicus* lay to the south of the river, in Norton. No evidence has been found to date to suggest that the occupation at Norton was defended. Whilst a number of buildings have been found (5.1, 5.10, 5.24, 5.28, 5.30, 5.46, 5.47) much of the Roman archaeology of Norton takes the form of burials (5.6, 5.9, 5.16, 5.22, 5.24, 5.31, 5.33, 5.44) or industrial activity. Industrial activity takes the form of pottery production (5.32, 5.39, 5.40, 5.41, 5.45, 5.48). The excavated evidence indicates that domestic and industrial activities were intermixed, with houses, workshops and kilns all being found in close proximity. Burials in the Norton area include both inhumations and cremations and appear to be concentrated in two main areas; one centred on the junction of the Roman roads to Settrington and North Grimston (around the modern Wold Street, Beverley Road and Commercial Road) and the other along Langton Road, which is also likely to follow the line of a Roman road.

6.3 Early Medieval periods (5th to 11th centuries AD).

This period is, as is often the case, poorly represented in the gazetteer. Anglian artefacts have been discovered within the area of the Roman fort (Robinson, 1978, p. 12) although the nature of any activity of this date is uncertain. A local tradition identifies the "Old Roman Ford" at Malton as the site of early 7th century baptisms, by Paulinus as part of the conversion of the English (Huddleston, 1962, p.31). Malton and Norton are both recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086. At Norton both a church and a mill are mentioned (Robinson, 1978, p.12).

6.4 The Medieval Period (11th to the mid 16th centuries AD).

Although almost certainly of pre-Conquest origins the town of Malton grew in importance from the 12th century following the establishment of the castle. The stone castle was constructed in the early 12th century by Eustace fitz John. It is possible that this replaced an earlier Norman motte and bailey castle, although this is based principally upon the assumption that such a strategically important river crossing is likely to have been defended at an early date. During the 12th century civil wars a strong Scottish garrison was stationed at Malton castle, which led to it being besieged by Thurston, the Archbishop of York, in 1138, at which time the town was burnt.

The settlement was re-established by Eustace fitz John as New Malton in the mid-12th century, possibly with Borough status from the beginning, and certainly by 1163. Eustace also founded the Gilbertine Priory, in approximately 1150 (VCH, 1974, p.253), together with three hospitals. One of these, St. Nicholas, was located on an island in the Derwent, on the Norton side of the river (VCH, 1974, p.315).

A market is first mentioned in Malton in 1283 and a fair in 1295. Weavers, goldsmiths, masons and mercers are all referred to in medieval documents and it is clear that Malton grew to become the local market during this period. The town and castle were of sufficient

importance that in 1322 the castle was seized by Robert de Brus during an incursion into Yorkshire. It was held for several weeks and used as a base for raids into the surrounding countryside (VCH, 1914, p.529). Although the layout of the medieval town is not fully understood it appears to have been at least partially enclosed by a wall.

To the south of the river Norton did not enjoy a similar degree of importance. The settlement is likely to have taken the form of a village, dependant upon Malton for much of its economic livelihood, containing a church, the hospital mentioned above, and a manor. A rectangular earthwork identified on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map as a Roman camp may in fact be the remains of a moat, housing the manor house (5.2). Archaeological investigations on Wood Street and Commercial Street (5.14, 5.28) have encountered pits of medieval date (cut into earlier, Roman, deposits). These would have been typical features of the settlement area of medieval Norton.

The site considered in this report would have been located on the fringes of the medieval village, although the road to Beverley may have attracted some suburban ribbon settlement.

6.5 The Post-Medieval to Modern Periods (mid 16th to 21st centuries).

During the post-medieval period Malton suffered a degree of economic decline, so that by the end of the 17th century Celia Fiennes referred to it as "a pretty large town built of stone, but poor" (Robinson, 1978, p.17). The economic fortunes of the town improved in the 18th century. Much of this improvement was due to the Derwent Navigation Act of 1702. This meant that Malton was situated at the head of a navigable river by 1724, with links to Leeds and Hull. Malton retained its status as the local market centre for a large rural hinterland and industries related to the processing of agricultural produce, such as brewing and milling developed through the post-medieval and early medieval periods. Although the coming of the railway in the mid 19th century affected river trade it did not halt the development of the town.

The agricultural character of the site suggested for the medieval period, as part of fields on the edge of the village, appears to have continued broadly unchanged through the post-medieval period. The earliest available map examined is that produced by Thomas Jeffries in 1772. This clearly shows the Beverley Road heading southeast from the village, towards North Grimston. To the west of the properties fronting this road the land is shown as open and undeveloped. Examination of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map indicates that although the core of Norton village is developed, along Church Street, Commercial Street and Wood Street the surrounding area is almost all laid out as fields. By the early 20th century suburban development of Norton had begun to encroach upon these earlier fields, although the site itself remained undeveloped until after the Second World War.

7.0 Cartographic Evidence.

The earliest map consulted is that produced by Thomas Jeffries in 1772 (Fig. 3). This shows the town of Malton and village of Norton immediately to the north of the site. Beverley Road heading towards North Grimston is clearly marked. The site itself can be approximately located within open land to the south of the edge of the village.

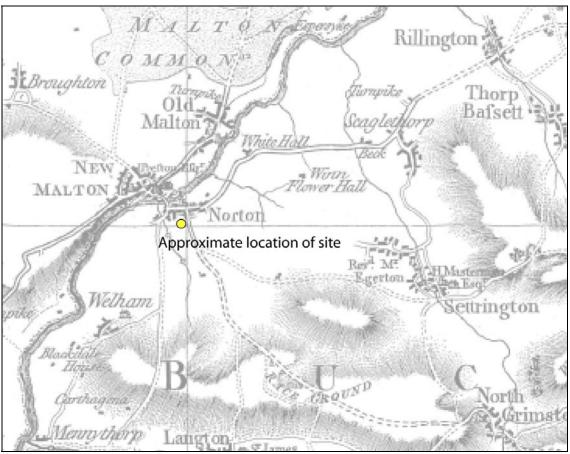


Figure 3. Extract from the map of Yorkshire by Thomas Jeffries 1772 (Approximate site location highlighted in yellow)

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 shows Norton as a village concentrated along Church Street, Commercial Street and Wood Street, with the surrounding area being predominantly occupied by fields. A detailed view of this survey (Figure 4) confirms that no development had taken place on the site itself, which at this date lies within a north south aligned field between Beverley Road and Langton Road.

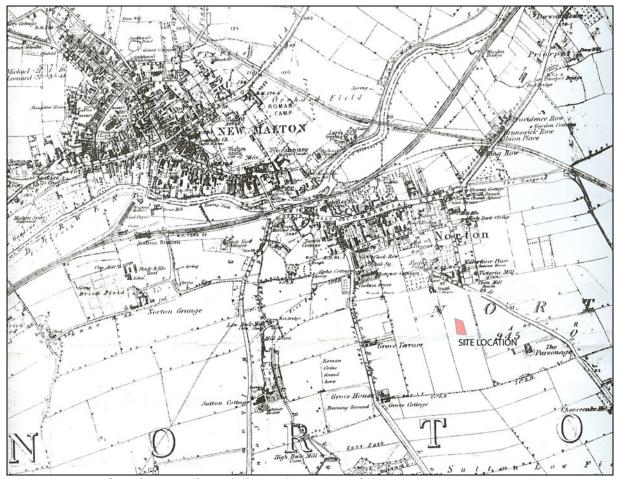


Figure 4. Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854

By the early 20th century a degree of suburban development has taken place along the southern edge of Norton (see Figure 5). The site itself, however, is still undeveloped, lying within the same, easily recognisable, north south rectangular field.

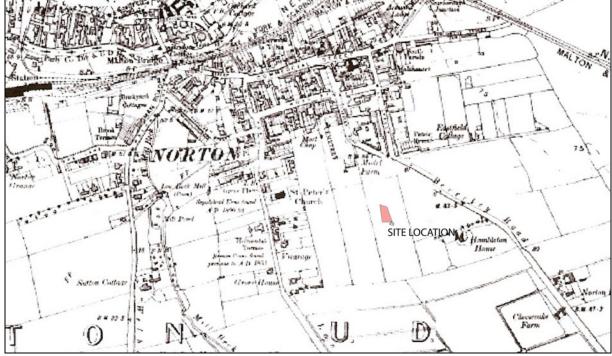


Figure 5. Extract from the 1912 Ordnance Survey map

The increase in suburban development during the first half of the 20th century is evident on the 1938 Ordnance Survey (Figure 6). This development has now extended along Beverley Road and into the fields to the southwest of this, with Jubilee Road clearly visible (although un-named). The site itself is still undeveloped, as the construction of the Howe Road housing, within which the site lies, was a post-war development.



Figure 6. Extract from the 1938 Ordnance Survey map

8.0 Site Visit.

A visit was made to the site on the 18th June 2010 (see Plates 1-4). Currently the site is occupied by approximately 50 domestic garages, mainly arranged in rectangular blocks around the periphery of the site. A single small block is located in the centre of the site. The remaining open areas are covered with concrete surfacing. Several vehicles are parked on the open concrete. The site is accessed via a narrow drive, from the east, which is surfaced with rough tarmac.

9.0 Discussion and Archaeological Implications.

The research undertaken in the preparation of this assessment has indicated that the site is unlikely to contain archaeological remains of such significance as to prevent development from taking place.

Due to the almost complete absence of evidence in the study area for archaeological remains dating to the Bronze Age or earlier, the potential for the site to contain remains of this date is very low. Some evidence for Iron Age activity has been recorded, especially to the south and

east of Norton. However, given the relative lack of Iron Age remains found during previous investigations in Norton, the potential for remains of this period is low.

The Roman period clearly dominates the early history of Malton and Norton. Whilst the fort and defended *vicus* lay to the north of the River Derwent Norton has been recognised for at least half a century to be the location of an extensive civilian settlement. This settlement does not appear to have had physical boundaries and is likely to have had little in the way of formal organisation. The apparent intermingling of domestic, industrial and funerary activity attests to this informal arrangement. Within the immediate vicinity of the site Roman archaeology has been especially represented by the pottery industry, with several kilns having been excavated around Howe Road. The potential for the site to contain remains of Roman date is moderate to high.

During the medieval, post-medieval, and early modern periods the site has been used predominantly for agricultural activity, and it was not built upon until after the Second World War. Medieval features on the site are likely to be limited to agricultural field boundaries, and therefore the potential for archaeological remains of this date to be present is low.

10.0 Archaeological Implications.

Local planning authorities follow national policy in addressing heritage issues with regard to determining planning applications. This national policy is detailed in "Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment", published in March 2010. This Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared as an initial assessment of the potential archaeological implications of development.

The proposed development is for the demolition of the existing garages and construction of five new houses, with associated parking and amenity area. It is likely that any archaeological remains that are present on the site will be disturbed or destroyed by the development. Almost all of the previous archaeological evidence in the immediate vicinity of the site was found in the late 1940's and early 1950's during the construction of the Model Farm Housing Estate. It is unclear if archaeological remains were predominantly removed from the site during this period of construction, or if they were preserved to some degree beneath the garages and associated open spaces.

Initial consultations with North Yorkshire County Council Historic Environment Team have been held. The County Council recommendations are that an archaeological evaluation may need to be carried out on the site (see letter dated 1st June 2010, reference 3096 LH CNY9883). This would determine the presence / absence, date, degree of preservation and significance of any archaeological remains. An appropriate scheme of mitigation would then be drawn up to minimise damage to any archaeological remains if they are shown to be present, or record the remains if damage is unavoidable.

11.0 List of Sources.

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11.0 The Plates.



Plate 1. Garages along the west side of site looking south



Plate 2. Garages in the south part of site looking southeast



Plate 3. The northern part of site looking north



Plate 4. The access drive from Howe Road