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TALBOT HOTEL, YORKERSGATE, MALTON,  
NORTH YORKSHIRE.

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REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

OSA REPORT No: OSA12EV04

January 2012

**OSA**

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**Report Summary.**

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**REPORT NO:** OSA12EV04

**SITE NAME:** Talbot Hotel, Yorkersgate, Malton.

**COUNTY:** North Yorkshire

**PARISH:** Malton

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 7860 7150

**ON BEHALF OF:** Fitzwilliam (Malton) Estates  
Estate Office  
Malton  
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**TIMING:** Fieldwork: January 2012  
Report preparation: January 2012

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**PERIODS REPRESENTED:** Post-medieval and later.

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## Table of Contents.

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1.0 Abstract .....	3
2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use.....	5
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	5
4.0 Methodology.....	6
5.0 Results.....	7
6.0 Discussion.....	11
7.0 Bibliography.....	12
8.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.....	13
9.0 Appendix 2 ~ The Plates.....	14
10.0 Appendix 3 ~ The Finds.....	16

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## List of Figures.

---

Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 7860 7150).....	4
Figure 2. Trench location plan.....	7
Figure 3. Plan of trench 1 .....	8
Figure 4. South facing section of trench 1.....	9
Figure 5. Plan of trench 2 .....	10
Figure 6. South facing section of trench 2.....	10
Figure 7. West facing section of trench 3.....	11

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## List of Plates.

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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking northwest including footpath [102].....	14
Plate 2. Trench 1, earliest, unexcavated features and deposits.....	14
Plate 3. Trench 2, garden soils (206) and (207), cut by footpath [205] and service trench [202].....	15
Plate 4. Trench 3, looking northwest.....	15

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## 1.0 Abstract.

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*An archaeological evaluation was carried out by On-Site Archaeology Ltd on the site of a proposed access route to the rear of The Talbot Hotel, Yorkersgate, Malton, in January 2012. The evaluation comprised of three trenches. This evaluation followed on from a previous archaeological assessment of the gardens by Colin Briden, Historic Buildings Archaeologist, which highlighted the possible presence of significant archaeological features along the proposed access route.*

*Although archaeological remains have been shown to be present on the site they are not considered, by the authors, to be of sufficient significance to prevent the construction of the proposed new access route. The new access route is likely to be constructed with relatively shallow foundations (<500mm) and therefore will have limited impact upon below ground deposits. However, a programme of archaeological mitigation will be required to ensure that any archaeological features that are to be disturbed by the development can be recorded.*

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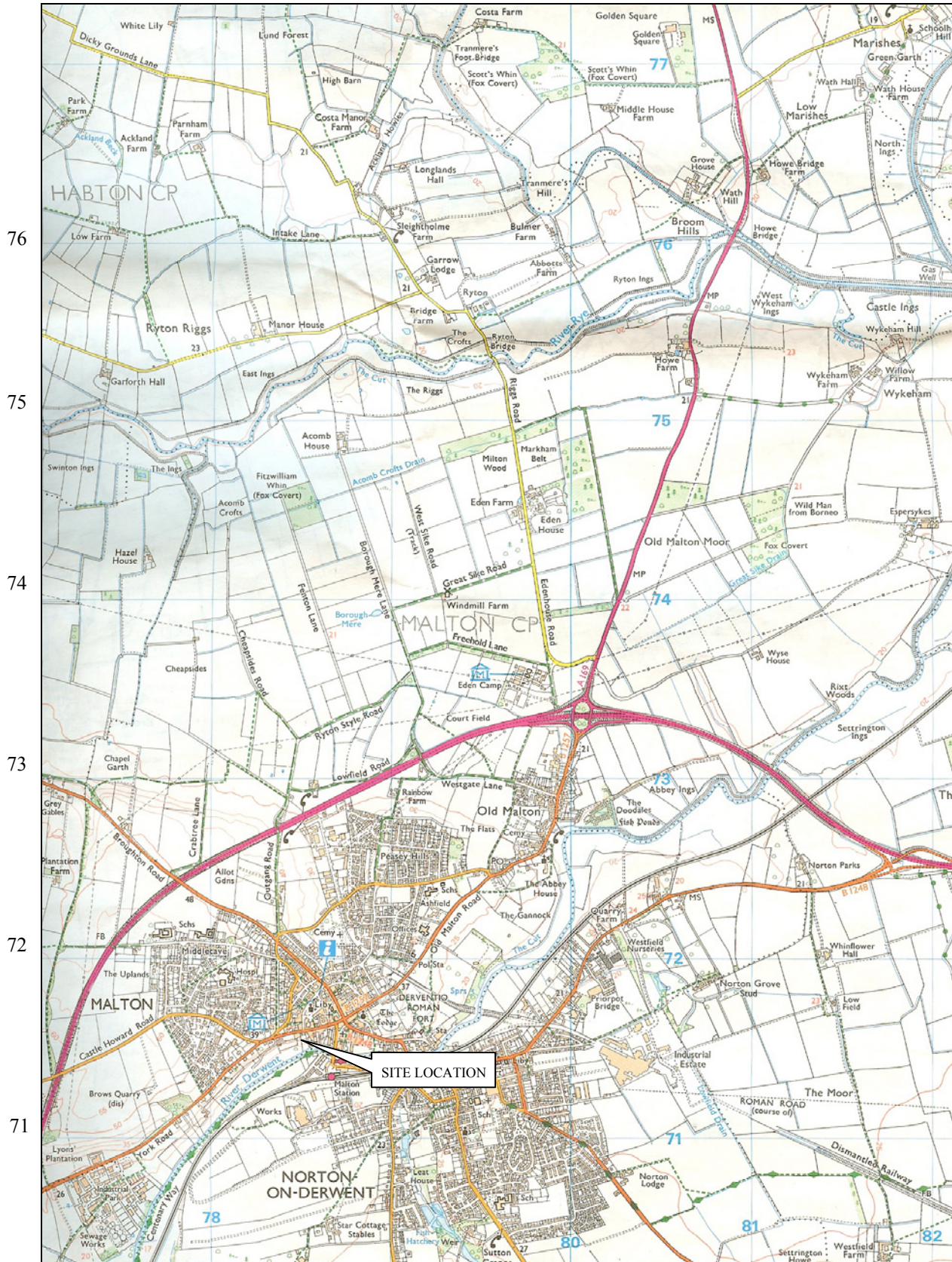


Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 7860 7150)

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## 2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use.

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The application area considered by this report lies within the gardens of the Talbot Hotel and York House, Yorkersgate, Malton, at National Grid reference SE 7860 7150.

The site currently consists of series of interlinked gardens, comprising rough grass and orchards between the houses on the street frontage to the north and the River Derwent to the south. The area of the site drops steeply from the street frontage, which lies at approximately 29m AOD, via a series of terraces and slopes to the riverside at approximately 17m AOD.

The overlying drift geology comprises warp and lacustrine clay. The solid geology is Oolitic 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).

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## 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.

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The houses and gardens complex which makes up the current Talbot Hotel property has a complex history dating back at least to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Detailed assessments of the buildings and gardens of The Talbot Hotel have previously been carried out Colin Briden, (January 2011 and April 2011). The trenches were positioned to examine the potential for archaeological remains relating to a series of specific documented features to survive along the proposed new access route. The most significant potential feature is the line of the medieval borough boundary, which is marked on the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey map and may have been a substantial defensive structure. Trench 2 was placed to straddle this boundary line. Historic maps also indicate the potential presence of garden features.

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## 4.0 Methodology.

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A total of three trenches were excavated (Trenches 1 – 3; Figure 2). In all trenches the turf and modern horizons were removed by a 360° tracked mini-excavator fitted with a toothless bucket down to the level of the first visible archaeological horizon or to the agreed maximum depth of the evaluation (0.45m).

The exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand in order to detect any archaeological features revealed through textural or colour changes in the deposits. Once this had been completed, limited sections were hand excavated through the archaeological features that had been identified. In each trench a sample section of the trench edge was cleaned and recorded in order to document the layers encountered.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the evaluation. This involved the completion of a context sheet for each deposit or cut encountered, along with plans and/or sections drawn to scale. In trenches lacking archaeological features, 1:50 scale plans were drawn showing the location of the sample section. In trenches containing archaeological features, 1:50 scale plans and, where necessary, 1:20 detail plans were drawn. Sections were drawn at 1:10 scale, although long sections were drawn at 1:20 scale when appropriate. Plans were tied in to the National Grid. A photographic record of the deposits and features was also maintained. A full list of detailed context description of all deposits recorded is provided within Appendix 1 and details of the archive are listed in Appendix 2.

All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the methodologies set out in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*, and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* prepared by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), the *IFA Code of Conduct*, as well as with additional methodologies agreed with the county archaeologist.



## 5.0 Results.

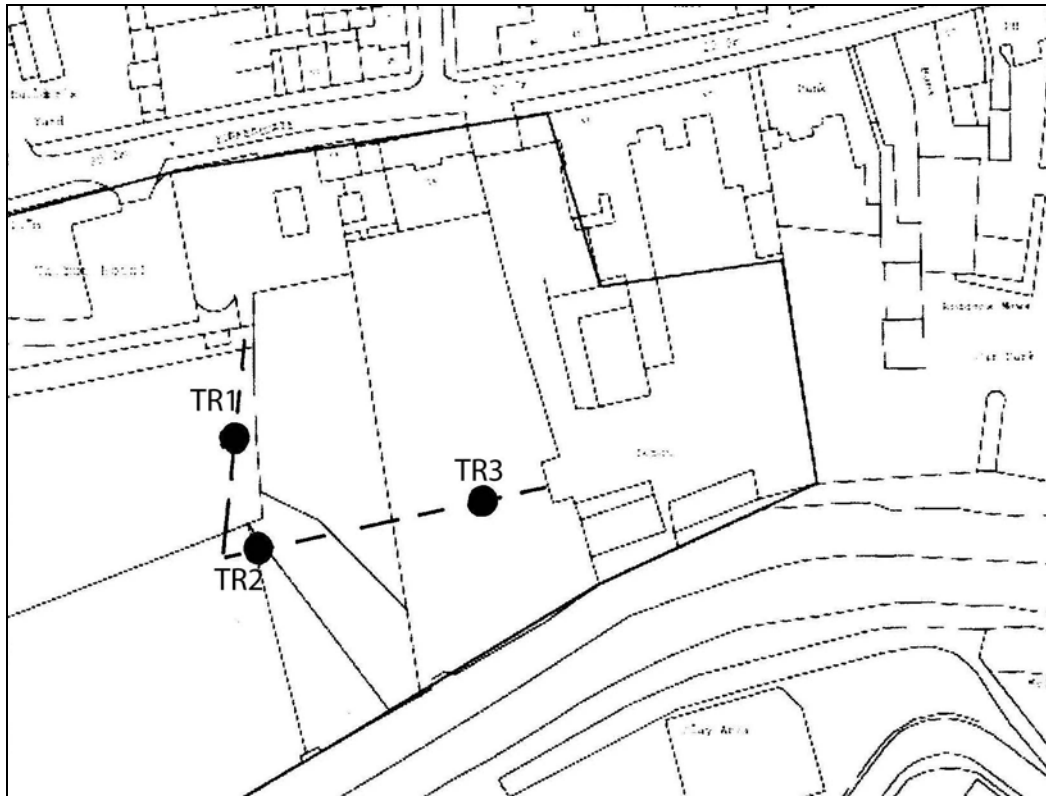


Figure 2. Trench location plan

### 5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located to the west of the standing garden wall within Area C (Talbot Hotel middle garden) and was orientated east-west. It was 3.1m long and 1m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m below the modern ground surface, in a narrow sondage next to the northern edge of the trench. The earliest deposits recorded within this trench were within this sondage but were not excavated.

The earliest recorded deposit (109/110/111) comprised a layer of mid brownish grey silty clay, the surface of which lay at a depth of 0.55-0.65m below the modern ground surface (a maximum height of 20.78m AOD).

The earliest deposit appeared to be cut into by two parallel, linear, north-south aligned features. The westernmost was [108], which was a maximum of 1.05m wide. It contained a fill of dark brownish grey silty sand (107), from which sherds of later 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery were recovered. Although not excavated this is interpreted as a possible ditch. Approximately 0.40m to the east lay the second linear feature [106], which was up to 0.85m wide. The fill of this differed from (107) to the west as it consisted of mid yellow brown sand containing frequent fragments of limestone rubble (105). This fill is more suggestive of a robber trench, or possibly a garden footpath, rather than a ditch fill.

The earliest, unexcavated, features and deposits were sealed by a thin layer of dark brownish grey sandy silty clay (104), which contained sherds of late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and

bottle glass. This was in turn sealed by a thicker deposit (101) of mid brownish grey silty sandy clay. These two layers are both likely to be garden soils.

Deposit (101) was cut into at the eastern end of the trench by another north-south aligned feature [102]. This was a minimum of 1.10m wide, extending beyond the east end of the trench, with a moderately sloped side and a flat base at a depth of 0.40m. The single fill (103) comprised mid brownish yellow sandy silt with frequent limestone and brick rubble, with 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. Although much of this fill was loose it was notably more compact at the surface, suggesting that it had formed a garden footpath, running parallel to the adjacent wall. Such a footpath is visible on the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey maps showing the gardens.

Feature [102] was sealed by the modern dark brownish grey sandy clay silt topsoil (100), which was 0.25m thick.

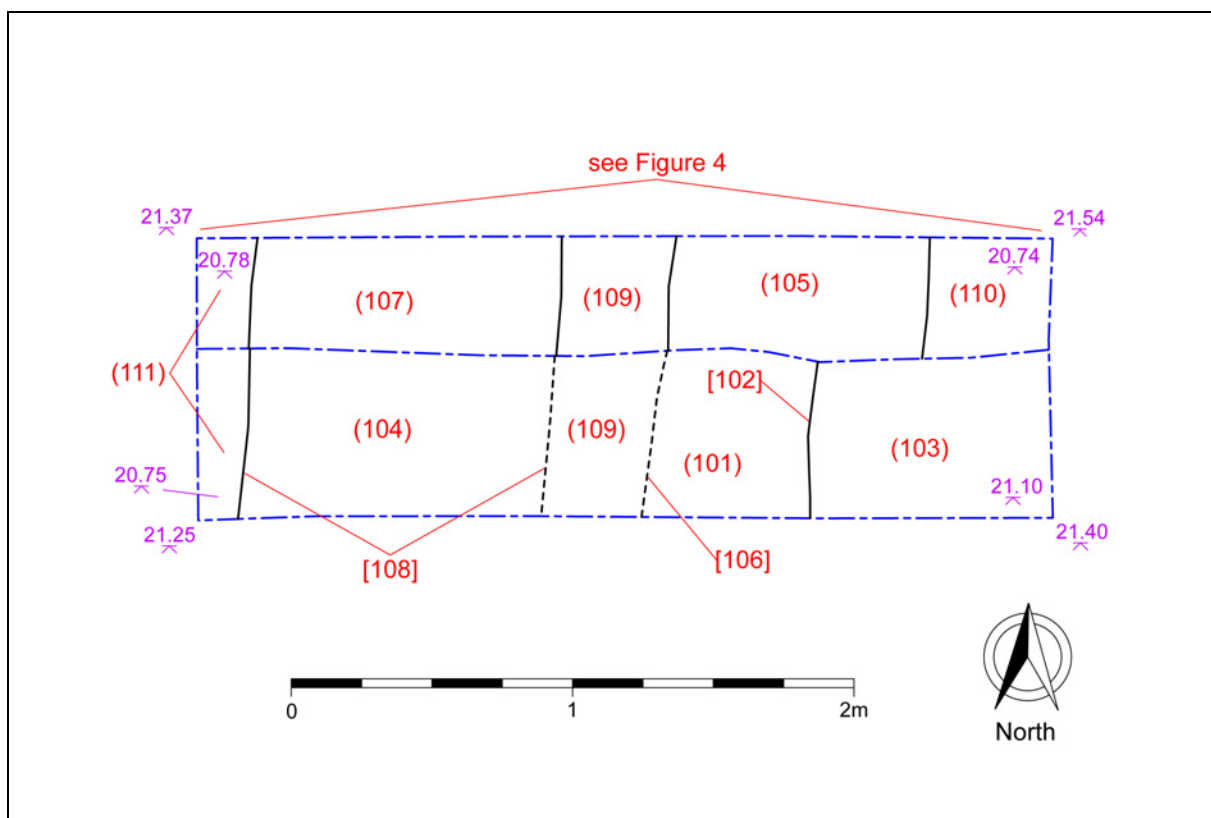


Figure 3. Plan of trench 1

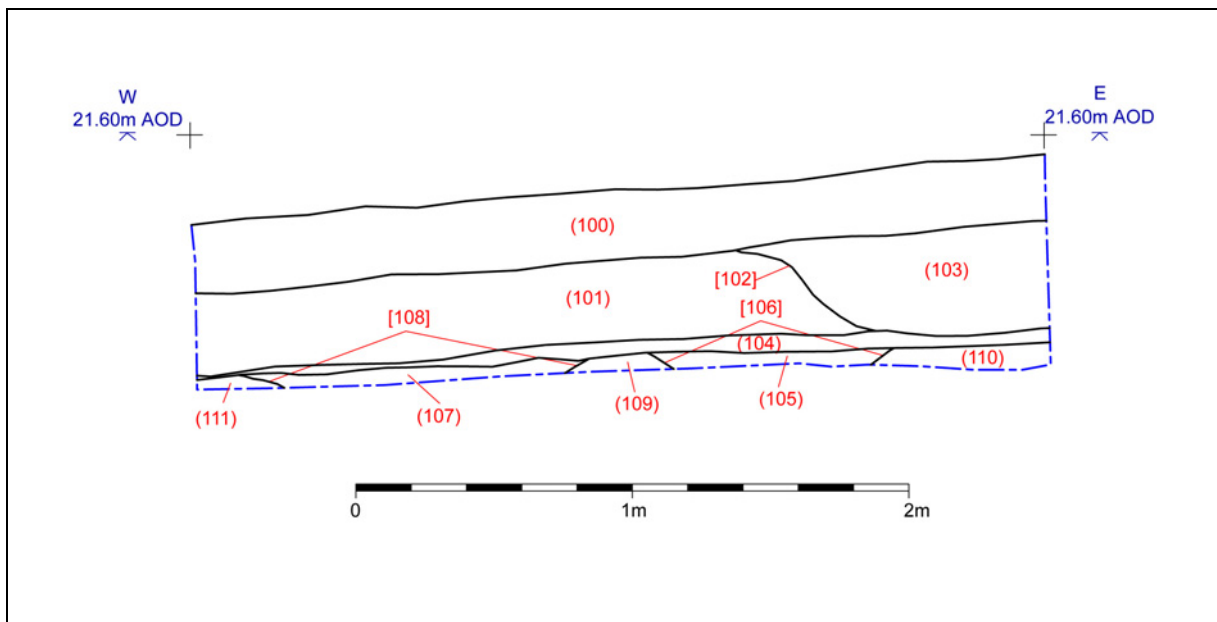


Figure 4. South facing section of trench 1

## 5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located to the south of the standing garden wall, straddling the boundary between Areas D and E (Talbot Hotel lower garden and the west part of York House Garden) and was orientated east-west. It was 4.75m long and 1m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m below the modern ground surface, in a limited sondage next to the northern edge of the trench. The earliest deposit recorded within this trench was only partially excavated, the majority being left in-situ.

The earliest recorded deposit was (207) a mid grey brown clay silt. This was located in the eastern half of the trench, at a maximum level of 19.50m AOD (0.40m below the modern ground surface). It is likely to represent a garden soil and contained fragments of mid 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. A small area of similar deposit (208) was revealed, but not excavated, towards the western end of the trench, at a depth of 0.60m below the modern surface. In the eastern half of the trench (207) was overlain by another garden soil deposit (206), again a grey brown clay silt. The boundary between the two deposits was very diffuse and it is possible that they represent a single soil horizon, containing a subtle change on colour.

Soil deposit (206) (and (208) at the west end of the trench) were truncated by a substantial cut [205]. Only the eastern side of this feature lay within the limits of the trench, but it appeared to be a broad, (3.00m +) shallow (0.37m deep), north south aligned linear feature. Its fill (203/204) comprised loose, light yellow brown sandy silt and mortar with frequent limestone rubble, together with brick and pantile fragments. The quantity of rubble within this fill, and the location of the cut, on the southward continuation of the extant garden wall, initially suggested that this feature may represent a robber trench. However, the width of the cut, and its stratigraphic date, may indicate that it formed another garden footpath, similar to that recorded in Trench 1 (see above).

The centre of feature [205] was truncated by a substantial, steep sided, north-northwest to south-southeast aligned, linear cut [202]. This was 1.05m wide and a minimum of 0.50m deep, although the base was not reached. The fill (201) of dark brownish grey sandy clay silt, contained frequent limestone and brick rubble inclusions, together with occasional roof slate, fragments of glazed drain pipe and plastic. Although this feature was not bottomed it is likely to contain a relatively recent service.

The trench was sealed by a 0.25m thick layer of dark brownish grey sandy clay silt topsoil (200), up to the modern ground level of 20.02m AOD.

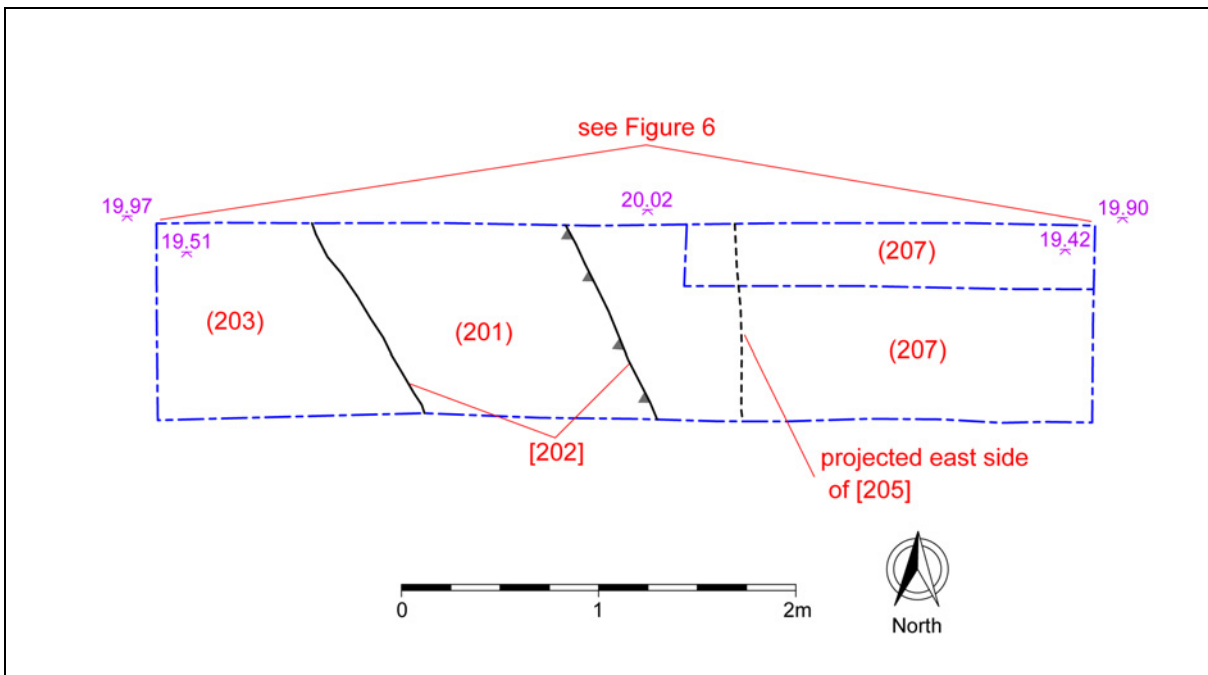


Figure 5. Plan of trench 2

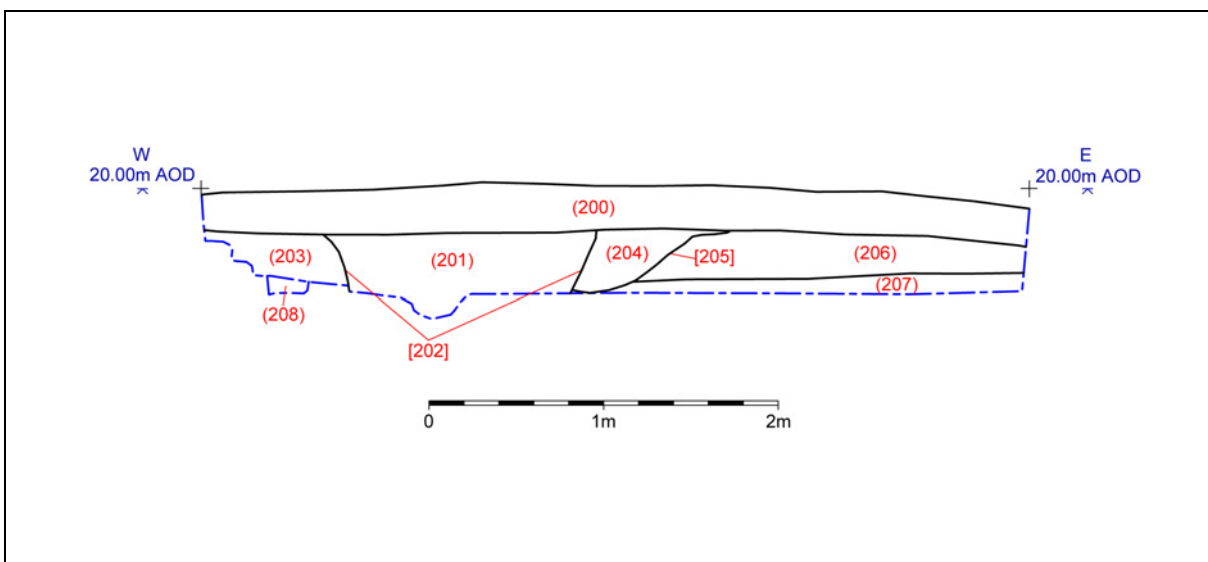


Figure 6. South facing section of trench 2.

### 5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was located within the southern part of Area F (York House western garden) and was orientated north-south. It was 3.3m long and 1m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m below the modern ground surface.

The earliest recorded deposit was a mid grey brown silty clay (303). This was a minimum of 0.12m thick and extended below the basal limit of excavation. Small sherds of abraded, late medieval to early post-medieval pottery were recovered from the upper part of this deposit. Deposit (303) was sealed by a 0.10m thick layer of mid-dark grey clay silt (302), which appears to represent a buried turf horizon. This was in turn overlain by 0.10m of mid grey brown clay silt (301) and the most recent topsoil (300), which was 0.20m to 0.25m thick dark grey brown sandy-clay silt.

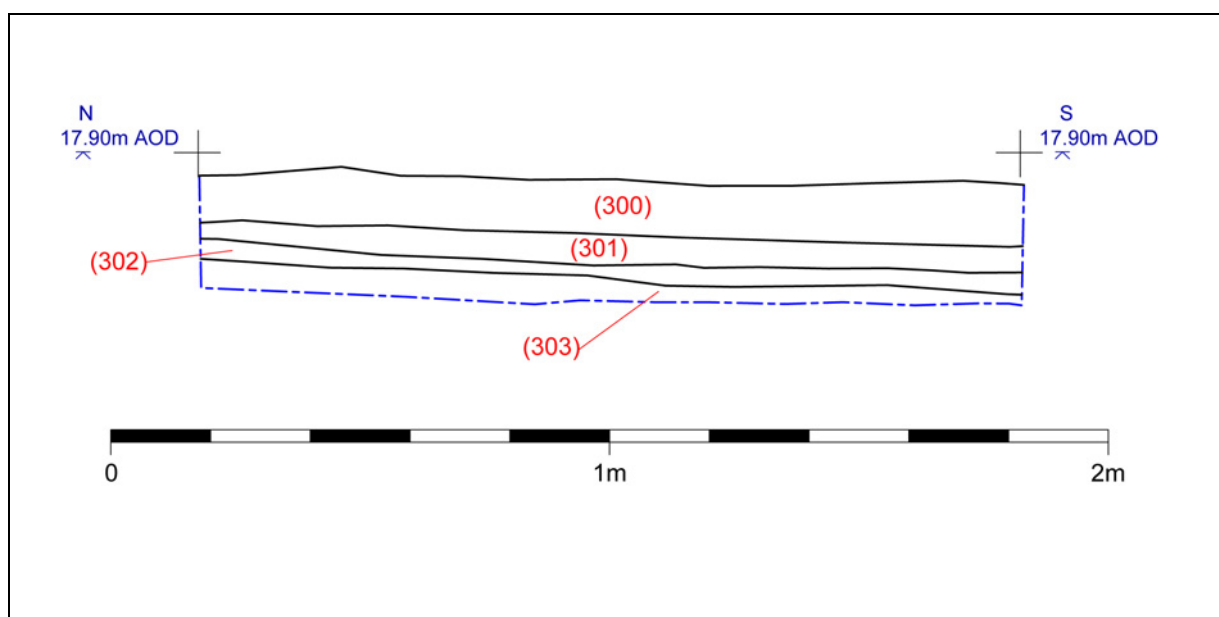


Figure 7. West facing section of trench 3.

## 6.0 Discussion

Archaeological features and deposits were recorded in the three evaluation trenches excavated. In Trenches 1 and 2 all of the deposits within the top 0.50m of the current ground surface appear to date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century or later. The thick garden soil deposits potentially seal features of earlier date, which were possibly revealed at the base of Trench 1. The features excavated in Trenches 1 and 2 are likely to have formed elements of the 19<sup>th</sup> century garden layout. The earliest deposits recorded in Trench 3 contained occasional pottery of late medieval or early post-medieval date, and may represent flood deposits deposited by the River Derwent.

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## 7.0 Bibliography

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Briden, C. 2011. The Talbot Hotel, Malton, North Yorkshire. An Assessment of the Gardens.

Robinson, J.F., 1978, The Archaeology of Malton & Norton, The Yorkshire Archaeological Society.

## 8.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.

Context no.	Description	Thickness	Extent
<i>Trench 1</i>			
100	Dark brownish grey sandy clay silt	0.25m	Tr
101	mid brownish grey silty sandy clay	0.20m	Tr
102	Moderately sided, flat based linear (?) cut	0.40m	1.10m x 1m
103	Loose mid brownish yellow sandy silt with freq limestone and brick rubble. Compacted upper surface.	0.40m	1.10m x 1m
104	Dark brownish grey sandy silty clay	0.10m	Tr
105	mid yellow brown sand with freq limestone rubble	0.10m +	0.85m x 1m
106	Possible linear cut (not excavated)	0.10m +	0.85m x 1m
107	Dark brownish grey silty sand	0.10m +	1m x 1.20m
108	Possible linear cut (not excavated)	0.10m +	1m x 1.20m
109	mid brownish grey silty clay	0.10m +	0.38m x 1m
110	mid brownish grey silty clay	0.10m	1m x 0.70m
111	mid brownish grey silty clay	0.10m	1m x 0.30m
<i>Trench 2</i>			
200	Dark brownish grey sandy clay silt	0.25m	Tr
201	Dark brownish grey sandy clay silt with freq rubble inclusions	0.50m +	1.05m x 1m +
202	Steep sided linear cut (service trench)	0.50m +	1.05m x 1m +
203	Loose light yellow brown sandy silt and mortar with freq limestone rubble	0.35m	1.30m x 1m
204	Loose light yellow brown sandy silt and mortar with freq limestone rubble	0.37m	1m x 0.85m
205	Shallow, possibly linear cut.	0.37m	1m x 0.85m
206	mid grey brown clay silt	0.25m	2.20m x 1m
207	mid grey brown clay silt	0.10m +	2.60m x 1m
208	mid brownish grey clay silt	?	0.30m x 0.20m exposed
<i>Trench 3</i>			
300	Soft dark grey brown sandy-clay silt	0.20-0.25m	Tr
301	Friable mid grey brown clay silt	0.12m	Tr
302	Friable mid-dark grey clay silt	0.10m	Tr
303	Friable mid grey brown silty clay	0.12m +	Tr

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## 9.0 Appendix 2 ~ The Plates.

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*Plate 1. Trench 1, looking northwest including footpath [102].*



*Plate 2. Trench 1, earliest, unexcavated features and deposits.*





*Plate 3. Trench 2, garden soils (206) and (207), cut by footpath [205] and service trench [202]*



*Plate 4. Trench 3, looking northwest.*

## 10.0 Appendix 3 ~ The Finds.

### ***Berny McCluskey***

An assemblage of finds was recovered by *On-Site Archaeology Ltd* during an archaeological evaluation at Talbot Hotel, Malton, North Yorkshire. This report details the provisional identification and assessment of the finds from this investigation. The finds date in range from the post-medieval period to 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### *Description*

The finds comprised of pottery, clay pipe stem, glass and a metal object were identified and a catalogue prepared (Appendix 1).

Table 1

Class	No. sherds/fragments	No. vessels/objects
Pottery	25	18
Clay Pipe	1	1
Iron object	1	1
Glass	5	4
Total	32	24

#### *Pottery*

The pottery assemblage consisted of a total of 25 sherds that represented 18 vessels (Table 1). These included three probable post-medieval sherds, one sherd of 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery and 21 sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

#### *Post-medieval pottery*

Three sherds of probable post-medieval pottery were identified from context (303). These included two small abraded dull green glazed earthenware sherds. A third green glazed earthenware possibly of 16<sup>th</sup> century Ryedale type ware. This sherd also displayed post-deposition abrasions and flaking.

#### *17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery*

The assemblage consisted of one sherd slipware of 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century date and was recovered from context (301). The remainder of the pottery assemblage prominently consisted of 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The pottery from this period included porcelain from context (103), creamware from contexts (104) and (207), and brown salt-glazed stoneware from (107).

#### *Clay pipe*

A fragment of yellow glazed clay pipe stem probably of a 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from context (103)

#### *Metal object*

A probable 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century iron D-shaped belt buckle was recovered from context (107).

#### *Glass*

A total of five glass shards were recovered from contexts (103) and (104). These represented window and bottle glass fragments of 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

*Retention*

The pottery finds from stratified deposits should all be retained for potential future study.

## Bibliography

Jennings, Sarah (1992) *Medieval Pottery in the Yorkshire Museum*. York, The Yorkshire Museum

Monaghan, Jason (1997) *Roman Pottery from York*. The Archaeology of York 16/8 York, Council for British Archaeology

J.R. Perrin, (1990), *Roman Pottery from the Colonia: 2*, The Archaeology of York, The Pottery 16/4

## Appendix 1

Context	Trench	Common name	No. of sherds	No. of vessels	Comments	Date range – centuries/period
103	1	Porcelain	1	1	-	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>
103	1	Glass	4	-	Window glass x2 bottle glass x2	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>
103	1	Clay pipe stem	1	-	6mm diameter yellow glaze	18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>
104	1	Creamware	4	3	Transfer printed	Mid-18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>
104	1	Glass	1	1	Bottle glass	18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>
107	1	Brown salt glazed stoneware	2	2	-	18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>
107	1	Creamware	2	2	Transfer printed	Mid-18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>
107	1	Metal	-	-	D-shaped iron belt buckle	18 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>
207	2	Creamware	12	6	Transfer printed	Mid-18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>
301	3	Slipware	1	1	Dark brown external glaze yellowish-brown internal glaze	17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>
303	3	Green glazed earthenware ?Ryedale ware	3	3	Two small sherds very abraded with dull green glaze. One sherd high mottle green gloss possibly Ryedale ware	Post-medieval, possibly 16 <sup>th</sup>