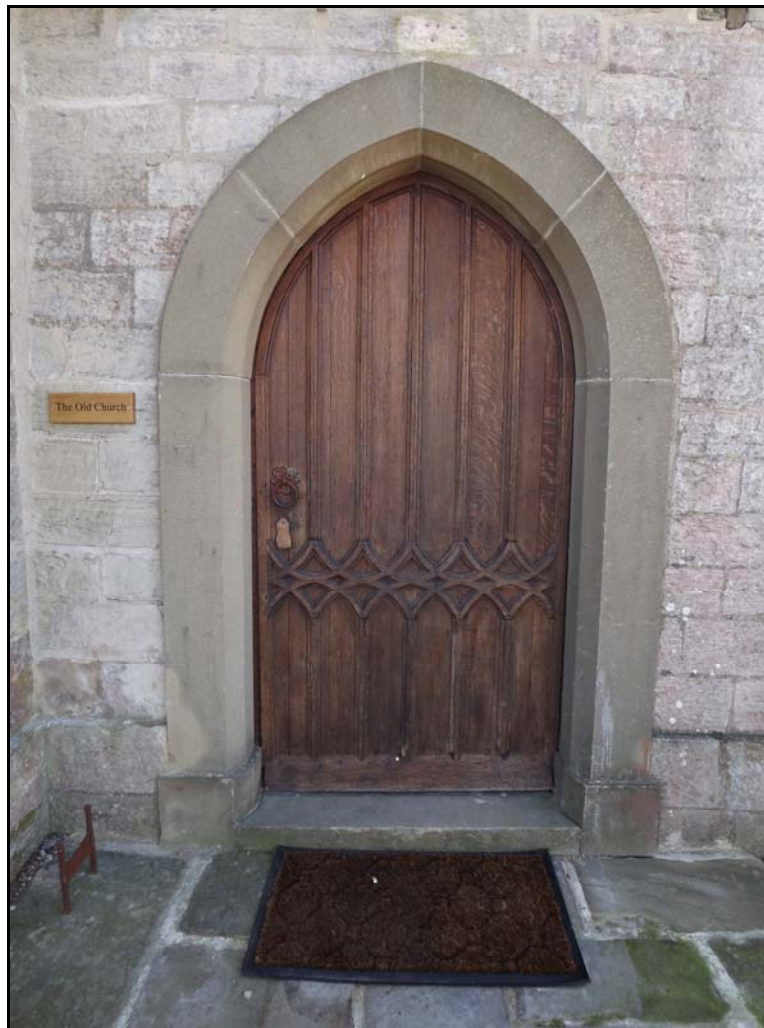


THE OLD CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE

MARTON LE MOOR, NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Planning Application 11/04554/LB



JB Archaeological Services

On behalf of

M More Esq.

March 2012

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**THE OLD CHURCH, CHAPEL LANE
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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the excavation of a new service trench at The Old Church, Chapel Lane, Marton le Moor, North Yorkshire (Planning Application No. 11/04554/LB). The site lies on the southern side of the historic settlement of Marton le Moor (NGR SE 37137 70431).

The watching brief recorded a simple sequence of a deep topsoil which directly overlay the natural geology. The topsoil contained a modest amount of building debris from the construction of the chapel, along with very occasional fragments of 18/19th century domestic pottery and glass sherds.

No other archaeological finds or features were recorded during the ground works.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of a service trench along the southern side of the building for an air source heating system at the Old Church, Chapel Lane, Marton le Moor (Planning Application No.10/02084/FUL). The site lies on the southern side of the historic settlement in Marton le Moor, civil parish of Harrogate District (NGR SE 37137 70431). The village is about five kilometres to the east of Ripon (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological works were undertaken by JB Archaeological Services (JBAS) on behalf of M More Esq. on the 12th March 2012.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Historic Background

- 2.1 Marton is a common place-name and is usually derived from the Old English *mere* and *tun* meaning ‘farmstead by a pool’ (Mills, 1998, 236). In the case of Marton le Moor the addendum ‘le-Moor’ is derived from the Old English *mor* for moor reflecting its situation in the landscape. The place name has gone through several changes. It is first recorded in 1198 as *Marton* and then in 1292 as *Marton on the Moor* (IBID).
- 2.2 The site is at former St Mary’s Church which is a Grade II Listed Building (LB number 331272) built in 1830.

Geology and Soils

- 2.6 The underlying geology of the area is undifferentiated Permian and Triassic sandstones (British Geological Survey, 2001). Overlying this, the quaternary geology is predominantly one of glacial sand and gravel (British Geological Survey, 1977). The soils which have developed from these deposits are of the Escrick 2 association. These are deep, well drained, coarse loamy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

Topography and Land-use

- 2.7 The site is in an area of level ground at a height of c.48mOD (Figures 1 & 2). The surrounding area is a mixture of residential accommodation and agricultural land.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objective of the watching brief was to identify and record any features of archaeological interest revealed or damaged during the ground works for the re-development of the site. The specific aims were to:

- archaeologically record (graphically and photographically) any archaeological features revealed by the ground works
- recover any archaeological artefacts and environmental material exposed by the ground works

4.0 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The service trench was excavated by hand under direct archaeological supervision. The ground works were carried out on the 12th March 2012 (Figures 2 & 3; Plates 1 & 2).
- 4.2 During the ground works, the exposed ground surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and the resulting topsoil stockpiles were monitored for archaeological artefacts.

5.0 RESULTS

- 5.1 The archaeological sequences for these excavations are described in detail below. In the text the context numbers for each archaeological deposit or feature are given in [] brackets.
- 5.2 The watching brief recorded a very simple stratigraphic sequence of a deep topsoil [01] which directly overlay the natural geology [02]. The topsoil contained a modest amount of building debris from the construction of the chapel. This was concentrated towards the south-western and south-eastern corners of the building. Along with the building debris there were very occasional fragments of 18/19th century domestic pottery and glass sherds throughout the topsoil.
- 5.3 No other archaeological finds or features were recorded during the ground works.

6.0 DISCUSSION and CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The results of the watching brief described above show that the area of the works at the Old Church does not appear to contain any significant archaeological remains. Those few remains that were found would appear to relate to the original construction of the building.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Malcolm More for inviting me to undertake the project along with team from Francis Construction for their freely given co-operation in completing the watching brief.

References

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ILLUSTRATIONS

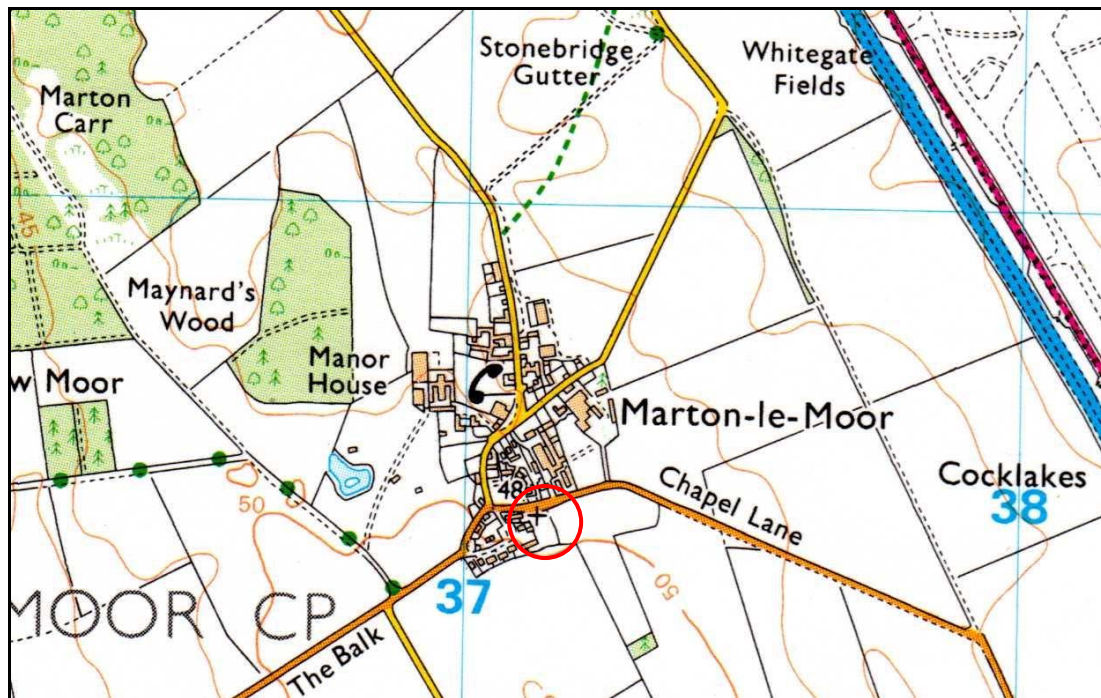


Figure 1. General Site Location.

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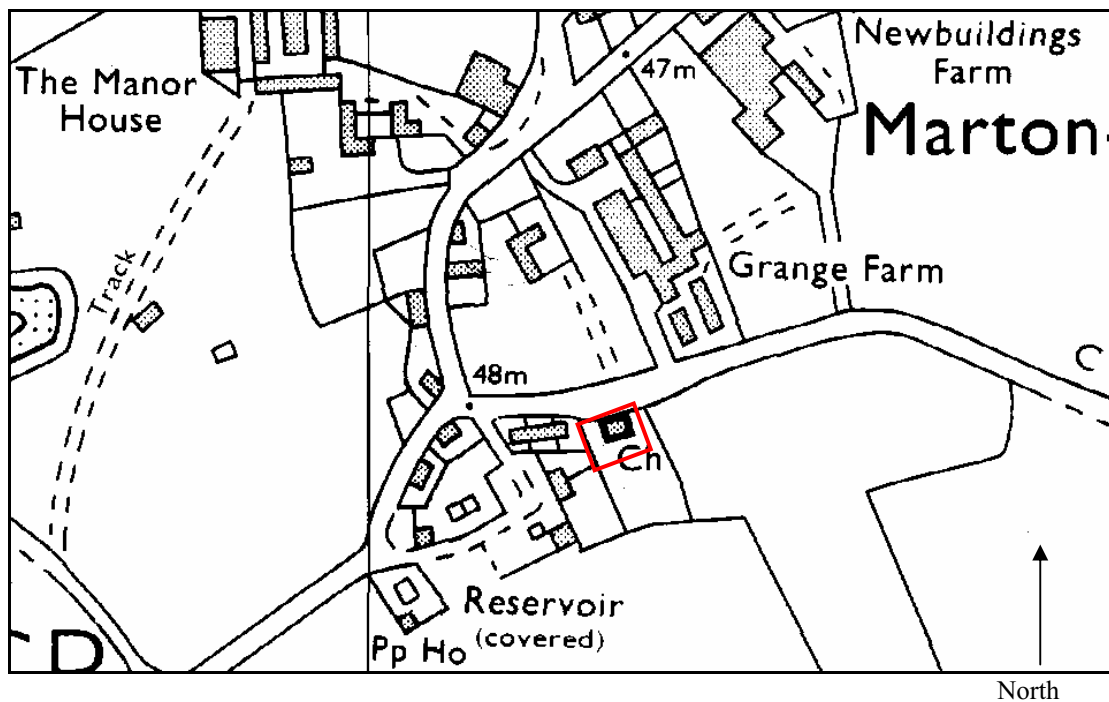


Figure 2. Site Location.

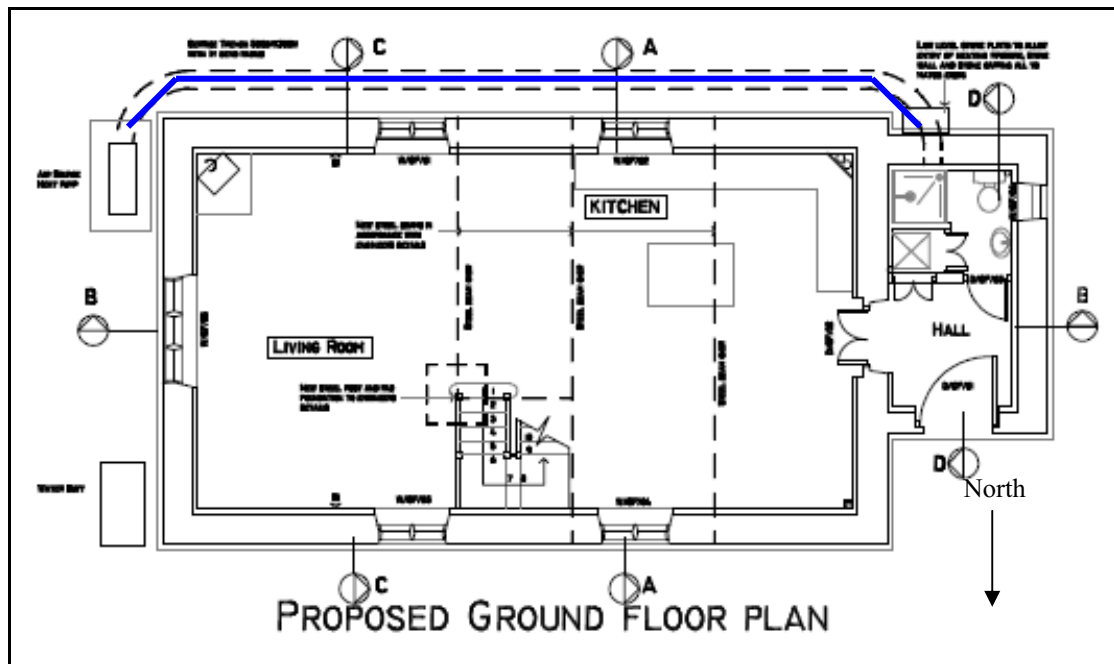


Figure 3. Location of service trench

Plan supplied by Pitchford Design



Plate 1. General shot of service trench, looking east.



Plate 2. General shot of service trench, looking west