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Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

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**Nos. 20-26 Wheelgate  
Malton  
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Desk Based Assessment  
NGR SE 7800 7150**

**MAP 05-01-02  
January 2002**

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**Archaeological Desk Based Assessment**

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## **Non Technical Summary**

This Deskbased Assessment describes the history and archaeology of the Co-operative Society Properties fronting onto Wheelgate, Malton, North Yorkshire. The site forms an area of land for redevelopment. There is little archaeological evidence as previous development has not considered the archaeology. Historical documents provide a wealth of information from the medieval period through to modern day and possibly indicate the potential for archaeological deposits.

**Nos. 20-26 Wheelgate  
Malton  
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Desk Based Assessment**

**1. Introduction**

The Desk Based Assessment has been commissioned by Bowman Riley on behalf of their client to accompany the planning application for a proposed commercial redevelopment situated at Nos. 20-26, Wheelgate, Malton (NGR SE 7800 7150 : Figs. 1 & 2).

The purpose of desk-based assessments is to determine, from existing records, the nature of the archaeological resource within the proposed development area. All methods and practices utilised comply with the *IFA* Code of Conduct.

This report was funded by Bowman Riley.

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**2. Site Description**

The proposed development area is currently a series of retail units, fronting Wheelgate (Pls. 1 - 2) with service yards to the rear (Pls. 3 - 8). The buildings are constructed of stone, brick, concrete and glass (Pls. 1-8). A concrete hard standing runs from the back of the Wheelgate properties to Greengate.

The present site levels are 25.6m AOD on Wheelgate rising to 30.25m AOD on Greengate. . There is a marked slope within the service yards.

**3. Aims and Purpose of the Assessment**

The site lays within the historic centre of the market town of Malton. Sites of known historical and archaeological significance occur within the town's environs. Ryedale District Councils policy in conjunction with the advise issued by the Secretary of State for the

Environment, contained in Planning Policy Guideline 16 (PPG 16) 'Archaeology and Planning', require that an evaluation and appropriate mitigation strategy will normally be required before an application is taken to Planning Committee.

By assessing the known historical and archaeological records for the site and its immediate environs a projection of the nature and depth at which archaeological deposits may be encountered can be produced. The Assessment and deposit model can then be used to determine the necessity for any further archaeological evaluation and a mitigation strategy.

#### **4. Methods**

The aims of the Assessment are to be achieved by: firstly the evaluation of historical information derived from cartographic and pictorial documents, trade directories, registers and the RCHME surveys and books. Secondly by consideration of previous Archaeological Excavations, Evaluations and Watching Briefs. Both primary and secondary sources will be consulted.

#### **5. Historical Background**

Malton is built on undulating ground which falls very rapidly towards the River Derwent where it bounds the settlement to the south. There are modern extension to the two on the west and north and Norton, on the east bank of the Derwent, practically forms a suburb. The main road from Whitby enters the New Malton at New Maltongate and Yorkersgate forms the road to York.

Malton has long been recognised as the site of the Roman fort of *Derventio*, guarding the Derwent river crossing, with a civilian settlement stretching southwards from the fort to the river (Corder 1930 and Mitchelson 1964). The remains of the fort are known to extend westwards in to the grounds of The Lodge, and further Roman activity has been uncovered in the area in recent years.

The place-name of Malton derives from the Old English meaning middle farm, the Old English name being Scandanivianised as in the more usual Melton (Maltune in 1086). Old English *middel* or Old Norse *meðal* and Old English *tun* (Field 1980).

Prior to the Norman Conquest the manor of Malton belonged to Siward and Torchil. At the time of Domesday in 1086 the Archbishop of York had 1 carucate, the King had 11.5 carucates, Ulf 1 carucate and Oldfrida 1.5 carucates.

The Borough of New Malton was founded in the mid-Twelfth century, perhaps under royal patronage (Robinson 1978, 14). New Malton comprises of the two ecclesiastical parishes of St. Michael and St. Leonard.

The town was once surrounded by walls, the course of which follows the parish boundary. The walls probably determined the shape of the market place. This lies between Yorkersgate and Wheelgate and is connected with Old Maltongate by Greengate.

There are Twelfth and Thirteenth century references to weavers, goldsmiths, masons and mercers, and in the Fourteenth century, to wool-merchants, showing that the borough achieved a degree of economic success. The market was first mentioned in 1283, and the fair in 1295 (*ibid.*). The Market Place can be seen as the economic centre of the borough, placing the site in a key location for trade. Greengate is first mentioned in the Fourteenth century in 1323 (Rushton 1982). Wheelgate was originally known as Appleton Way in the medieval period.

The canons of Old Malton priory founded a hospital, dedicated to St. Peter, for the care of the poor on Wheelgate, c. 40m north-east of the site, and its vaulted Fifteenth century undercroft survives as the cellar of the Cross Keys Inn.

During the Civil War period (1640-1660) there was great unrest in the town and culminating in several years of depredation and poverty. In 1644 Newcastle's forces were defeated in Malton by Sir William Constable.

By the Eighteenth century Malton had become a very prosperous market town and had been acquired by the Honourable Thomas Wentworth.

The Trade Directories for the North Riding of Yorkshire provide descriptions of commercial activity in Malton from 1823 to 1933. In 1823, John and George Wright were listed as Ironmongers on Wheelgate. By 1834, only John Wright was listed as an Ironmonger, and again in 1849, 1848, 1851, 1855, 1858 and 1872. In 1901, Joseph Bell was a taylor and outfitter at No. 20 Wheelgate, Alfred Brown was a corn and manure dealer at No. 22



Wheelgate and George Fentress was an Ironmonger at No. 26 Wheelgate. By 1913, William Robinson was listed as a pawnbroker at No. 20 Wheelgate and in 1925 and 1933, Malton and Norton Cooperative Society are noted at No. 22 Wheelgate, Malton

## **6. Cartographic Background**

Maps exist for Malton from the early Eighteenth century to the present Ordnance Survey edition, all show Wheelgate and Greengate. The earliest map of "the Burrow of New Malton" by Joseph Dickinson dates from 1730 and shows street frontage and burghage plots on Wheelgate and a large open area referred to as "Garth" to the rear in the approximate area of the Proposed Development Area (Fig. 3). A plan of the Parish and Manor Malton, dates to 1795-1800 and shows the street pattern for New Malton but no detail (Fig. 4). The 1825 Plan of Malton from Thomas Hinderwell's manuscripts shows the town wall and built up street frontage on Wheelgate and Greengate and built up back yards in the approximate area of the Proposed Development Area (Fig. 5).

Robert Wise's Survey of Malton dates to 1840 (Fig. 6) and shows a series of buildings on the same layout as the later First Edition Ordnance Survey Map. The First Edition Town Series Ordnance Survey Map shows in detail the area of Wright's Yard with a maltkiln, gardens, extensive outbuildings and the present buildings, Nos 22-26 Wheelgate with arch in situ (Fig. 7). The maltkiln is no longer present on the 1911 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map and buildings have been constructed from Wheelgate to Greengate on the north-western side of the Wright's Yard (Fig. 8). By the 1920's a large building has been constructed on the site of Nos. 20-22 Wheelgate covering the entire plot (Fig. 9). The 1945 Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the same layout (Fig. 10). By 1970, Wright's Yard had become Wheelgate Square and some buildings have been demolished on the north-western side of the square (Fig. 11). By the late 1990's, the Ordnance Survey Edition shows the Proposed Development Areas present layout, more buildings have been demolished on the north-west and south-eastern sides of Wheelgate Square (Fig. 12)

## **7. Archaeological Background**

### **7.1 Archaeological Sites and Finds**

The Proposed Development site is located within the medieval town of Malton and c. 200m north-west of the Roman Fort and civilian settlement (*vicus*) of Derventio and 250m north-west of the site of Malton Castle. All the finds and sites listed below are within 300m of the Proposed Development site.

Remains of three Roman Roads following the alignment of Yorkersgate, Wheelgate/Newbiggin, and Castlegate (Fig. 13, 1-3 : Robinson 1978, Nos. 49-51). Roman Sites and Spot Finds include a coin of the Emperor Hadrian found in 1954; a gold coin dating to the reign of Nero, Roman pottery sherds (Fig. 13, 4-9 : *ibid.*, Nos. 48, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 56).

A Wall and Ditch are documented as enclosing the town of New Malton in the medieval period (Fig. 13. 10 : *ibid.*, No. 157). There are two medieval Churches in Malton, St. Michael's, Market Place Malton within the towns defences and St. Leonards, Church Hill, Malton by the castle (Fig. 13. 11-12 : *ibid.*, Nos. 163, 172).

Medieval sites and Spot Finds include a road on a similar alignment to and overlying the Roman road along Yorkersgate, several coins dating to the time of Edward II, remains of a ruined building uncovered in the Eighteenth century, the Market Cross, tile and pottery dating to the Twelfth to Fifteenth centuries, a Fifteenth crypt underneath the Cross Keys Inn, a stone lined well, a cross pedestal and thirteen coins from the reigns of King John, Edward I and Edward III, and a medieval pottery (Fig. 13. 13-22 : *ibid.*, Nos. 159, 161, 162, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 170 and 173).

An undated feature is also listed by Robinson c.125m south of the proposed development area. (Fig. 13. 23 : *ibid.*, Nos. 194). This is a 6.1m wide ditch located in the vicinity of Carpenters' Yard.

### **7.2 Recent Evaluations and Watching Briefs**

Three evaluations and eight Archaeological Watching Briefs have been undertaken in Malton town centre since 1990. Roman - Post-medieval deposits have been uncovered.

1. St. Michael's Church, Market Place Malton, in 2000 (Fig. 14. 1). Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. Due to the shallow nature of the excavations no archaeological deposits were encountered.
2. Market Place, Malton, 1995 (Fig. 14. 2). Archaeological Watching Brief by York Archaeological Trust. Due to the shallow nature of the excavations no archaeological deposits were encountered.
3. St. Leonard's Churchyard, Church Hill, Malton, 1991 (Fig. 14. 3). Archaeological Evaluation by York Archaeological Trust. Roman deposits and extensive human remains of medieval and post-medieval date.
4. 46, Old Maltongate, Malton, in 1991 and 1998 (Fig. 14. 4). Archaeological Evaluation and Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. No archaeological deposits were encountered.
5. Electrical Substation on Savile Street, Malton in 1994 (Fig. 14. 5). Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. Medieval deposits were recorded at a depth of 0.6m below present ground level.
6. Friends' Meeting House, Greengate, Malton in 1993 (Fig. 14. 6). Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. Medieval deposits were recorded.
7. Fitzwilliam Estate Carparks on Yorkersgate, Wheelgate and Finkle Street, Malton in 1999 (Fig. 14. 7-9). Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. Due to the shallow nature of the excavations no archaeological deposits were encountered.
8. Carpenter's Yard, Malton in 1999/2000 (Fig. 14. 10). Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. Medieval through to Nineteenth century deposits and structures were recorded

9. Malton Methodist Church, Savile Street, Malton in 1999 (Fig. 14. 11). Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. No archaeological deposits were recorded.

10. Tuddle Lane/Market Place, Malton in 2000 (Fig. 14. 12). Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. Extensive medieval and Post-medieval deposits were recorded.

### **7.3 Listed Buildings**

Within the Proposed Development Area are Nos. 22, 24 and 26 Wheelgate, which are Grade II Listed Buildings (801-1/8/148) dating to the late Eighteenth century with Nineteenth and Twentieth century additions. The two shops were originally a terrace of three or four houses. The buildings are two storeys with attic, with a nine windows in the front and Twentieth century shop fronts on the ground floor incorporating a quoined arch to right of centre. The buildings have a painted and rendered front elevation and coursed rubble stone construction at the rear. All first floor windows are tall single pane vertical sashes and the second floor are tall four pane vertical sashes with painted stone sills. There is a plain parapet with sunk panels. three gabled dormers, one with a 2 by 6 pane horizontal sliding (Yorkshire) sash and the others with 2-light casements to the attic.

### **8. Development Impact**

It is not possible to assess the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource from this Desk Based Study. It cannot be stated with any certainty whether any archaeological deposits survive on the site as so little archaeological work has been undertaken in the vicinity and modern development may have removed the evidence. The mitigation strategy for the site will be dependant on the specific construction details of any proposed development.

## 8. Bibliography

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