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**PROPOSED GAS PIPELINE - MALTON**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS**

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9.7.91.

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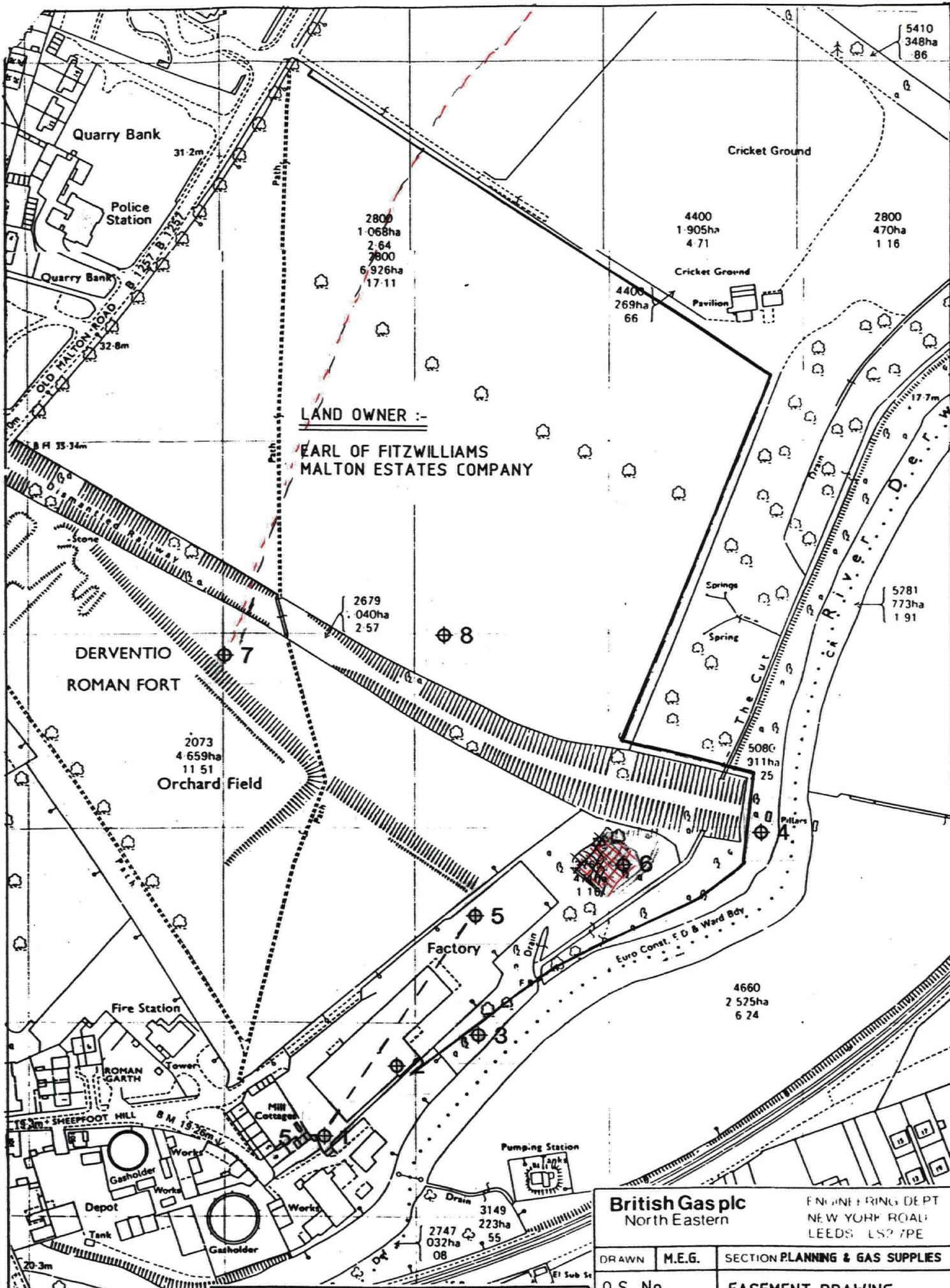
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**MALTON ESTATES COMPANY**

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<b>British Gas plc</b> North Eastern		ENGINEERING DEPT NEW YORK ROAD LEEDS LS2 7PE
DRAWN	M.E.G.	SECTION PLANNING & GAS SUPPLIES
O.S. No 7971/7972		<b>EASEMENT DRAWING</b> M.P. SUPPLY TO MALTON. <b>Fig. 1.</b>
DATE	JUNE 91	
SCALE 1/2500		DRG No 656/91/14/115/5.

## **PROPOSED PIPELINE - MALTON**

### **Archaeological Implications**

#### **1. Introduction**

This report is based on the proposed route map (656/91/14/115/5) for a gas pipeline to the north of the River Derwent and to the south of the scheduled monument of Derwentio which stands in Orchard Fields, Malton.

The report concentrates on the known and probable archaeological deposits which may be encountered during the excavation of the pipe trench.

## 2. Historical Background

Figure 1 illustrates the proposed alignment of the new pipeline in relation to the known archaeological deposits. Appendix 1 provides a key to the find locations marked on the plan.

In addition to the known archaeological deposits a number of further considerations need to be considered.

a. The course of the River Derwent ran some 40m to the south of its present course. The actual course of the river during the Roman period is unknown but based on present information (Robinson 1978) it is likely that its course during the Roman period was further to the south than at present. This factor would have greatly influenced settlement to the south of the fort and it is therefore likely that the civilian settlement (vicus) extended well into the area to the north and south of the proposed pipeline to the south-east of the factory building in Area B.

b. The eastern boundary of the vicus was located during excavations (Wenham 1974) but its full extent to the south is unknown. There is the possibility that the proposed route of the pipeline may locate its southern extent.

c. The location of Lady Spring has been suggested at SE 7940 7177. It has been considered the most probable source of water for the Roman Baths attached to the vicus. Excavation in this area of the vicus has been limited. Whereas it is possible that the extension of the Tate Smith factory in 1989 may have sealed the bath site, there is also the possibility that the bath complex and associated or non associated buildings extended further to the south.

d. A superficial surface survey of Area B located roughly cut limestone blocks which may represent disturbed building material. Other finds located scattered on the surface included modern pottery (i.e. 19th century earthen ware), bricks, slate and broken glass. Much of this deposit is due to the disturbance of a rubbish dump during the cultivation of the area.

Equally the cultivation of the area was sufficiently deep enough to disturb an orangey brown soil layer sealed beneath the topsoil.

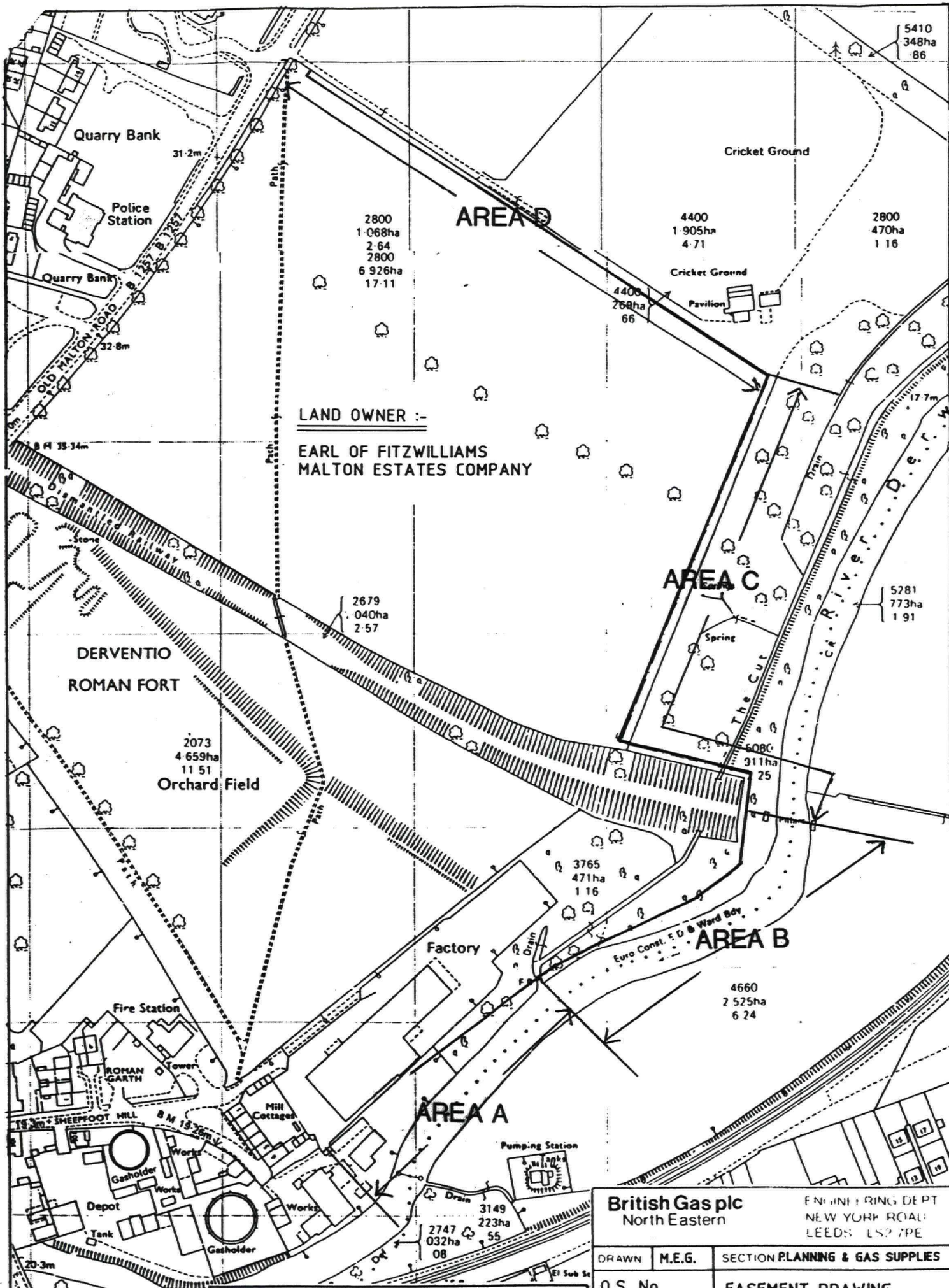
No Roman pottery sherds nor other datable artefacts were seen. All artefacts were left in situ.

e. The proposed depth of the pipe (c. 1.4m) means that any in situ deposits are likely to be disturbed by any excavation to this depth. Whereas a shallow trench may only encounter modern and post-medieval deposits, if Roman deposits remain extent than any excavation to this depth would definitely cause substantial damage.

### **3. Conclusions**

It is clear from the known documentary sources that the proposed alignment of the pipeline will run through an area of potentially high archaeological sensitivity. The exact nature of the deposits is unknown as is the degree of concentration, it is for this reason that the work programme is based on an observation recording level as outlined in section 4.

The possibility that excavation in Areas A and B may disturb in situ burials suggests that British Gas would be advised to apply for a burial license prior to undertaking the project.



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#### **4. Work Programme**

Due to the varied nature of the archaeological deposits along the route of the pipeline, it is suggested that various levels of recording are applied. The proposed route has been divided into areas to simplify the recording standards (Fig. 2 – Areas A–D).

##### **Area A**

Area A covers the area from the start of the pipeline as depicted on plan to the western side of the Cut. Areas A and B are divided by a wooden gate and wooden bridge which provides access across the Cut.

Previous excavation in Area A located Roman coins, cremations, an inhumation burial, and flint and stone artefacts. It is unclear if the human remains represent isolated occurrences or form part of a more extensive cemetery.

Based on the above evidence it is suggested that British Gas are acquainted with the full implications of the excavation/disturbance of such deposits (see Appendix 2).

It is suggested that the excavation of Area A may be by mechanical methods with an archaeological consultant in attendance to supervise, observe and record. It is also suggested that provision is made if required for limited hand excavation and sampling if considered necessary.

##### **Area B**

Area B covers the area from the eastern side of the Cut to the pillars in the dismantled railway cutting.

One can only speculate as to the nature of archaeological deposits within this area of the proposed route. Even so based on the known deposits to the north it is suggested that an archaeological consultant is in attendance to supervise, observe and record the mechanical excavation, as in Area A it is suggested that provision is made for limited hand excavation and sampling where necessary.

##### **Area C**

Area C, from the pillars to the junction with Area D is an unknown area with regard to archaeological deposits. There is the suggestion that buildings stood to the north-west of the route (Appendix 1 – 8, Fig. 1: 8) and that a barrow cemetery of Bronze Age date was also once extent in this area. The location of two natural springs to the east of the proposed route may have acted as the focus for settlement in the Roman or even Prehistoric periods.

Based on the evidence it is suggested that this sector of the pipeline excavation is watched by an archaeologist but depending on the results of the excavation perhaps on a more casual basis than in Areas A and B. If it is clear that there is no archaeological deposits along the route in Area C then there need be no archaeological observation until work commences on Area D.

## **Area D**

Area D covers the route of the pipeline from just to the south-east of the cricket ground pavilion to Old Maltongate.

Aerial photographic reconnaissance of this area substantiated by documentary evidence (Appendix 1 - 7) suggests that a road runs from the north-east gate of the fort out towards Old Malton Priory. Excavation of the pipeline in the immediate vicinity of the road would provide a section through the feature confirming or disproving its existence. The excavation may also provide valuable dating evidence for the construction and life span of the road.

In this area it is suggested that an archaeological consultant is in attendance to supervise, observe and record the excavation of the road. It is envisaged that the archaeological consultant will only be required for the excavation of the road and need not be employed on other sections of Area D.

Every attempt will be made to ensure that the excavation of the pipe trench and the laying of the pipe is not unduly delayed. To prevent delays MAP would advise the use of two or more archaeologists, so that one can observe and record (i.e. retrieve finds data) while excavation is in progress and the back up team may be used to draw the sections thus recording the stratigraphic relationships as and when required.

## **Recording Techniques**

It is suggested that the final report on this project is produced to a level III standard. This would involve the recording of all relevant archaeological sections excavated by the pipe trench which would later be re-produced within the report. The full illustration and description of all structural and stratigraphic relationships. The processing (i.e. the washing, marking and cataloguing) of all finds located during the excavation. With classified finds lists and finds drawings for the report. If samples are taken then these would need to be processed and specialist reports provided for the report. On production of the report the archive would need to be ordered and sent to the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for microfilming (there is no cost to the client for microfilming).

The final report is the property of the client but it is advised that a copy is lodged with the Archaeology Section of North Yorkshire County Council for future reference, MAP can arrange for a copy to be sent to the section at no further cost to the client. It is suggested that if any finds are located during the excavation then they are deposited at Malton Museum for storage and possible display in the future.

Depending on the results of the excavations British Gas may wish to use the archaeology as an exercise in PR. If this is to be the case then MAP can advise once excavations are completed.

## 5. Bibliography

Corder, P. The defences of the Roman fort at Malton. 1930.

Robinson, J.F., The Archaeology of Malton and Norton. 1978.

Wenham, L.P. Derventio. 1974.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1

#### Archaeological Data

1. SE 7925 7154 (approx): During excavation of The Cut several Roman coins and two or three urns containing ashes were uncovered.
2. SE 7929 7157 (approx): In 1867 two skeletons were uncovered accompanied by stone artefacts, a flint scraper, flint flakes and several quartz pebbles.
3. SE 7933 7159 (approx): An urn was discovered in 1836 near the north bank of the Derwent.
4. SE 7947 7170: During the excavation of the NER viaduct over the Derwent in 1866, a skeleton possibly of pre-historic date was uncovered. A later account refers to a skeleton of Roman date accompanied by two bone pins from the Malton side of the river. It is probable that two inhumation burials were found.
5. SE 7934 7167 – 7925 7154: In 1867 a substantial deposit of Roman pottery, coins and several skeletons were found. Closer to the river the Roman occupation became slighter and was confined to a 'foot or two below the surface'.  
During 1866–67 excavations located the remains of red deer, flint implements and unworked bone pins below the Roman levels.
6. SE 7940 7177: Ladys Spring. Roman baths are alleged to have existed close to this natural spring but no building has yet been located. Corder traced a well made road running in the direction of the spring (Corder 1930).
7. SE 7920 7178 – 7970 7245: Aerial reconnaissance and documentary evidence suggest the existence of a road which ran from the fort's north-east gate to Old Malton Priory. Ploughing of the field to the east of the fort located substantial amounts of rubble and the line of the road appeared to curve in a slight arc around the present cricket ground and then follow the slightly higher ground above the 23m contour. At Old Malton the course of the road appears to follow a hollow way.
8. SE 7932 7180 (centre): In 1976 a considerable amount of stone rubble accompanied by Roman pottery and animal bone was visible after ploughing.  
SE 793 718: A grouping of 4 barrows. The dating of which is problematic, but is probably of Bronze Age date. All of the mounds would have appeared to have been levelled sometime in the very early 19th century (c. 1805).

## APPENDIX 2

### Excavation of Human Remains

The removal of remains of unknown persons disturbed during the course of archaeological investigations would require a burial license and the following conditions would need to be observed:

1. The removal shall be effected with due care and attention to decency.
2. The ground in which the remains are interred shall be screened from the public gaze while the work is in progress.
3. The removal shall be to the satisfaction of the proper officer for environmental health for the district of Ryedale and in accordance with any additional conditions he may impose.
4. Those remains which merit it shall be scientifically examined under arrangements to be made by the consultancy.
5. On completion of such examination those remains that merit it shall be retained by the above for archival storage.
6. Those remains not retained for archival storage shall, without undue delay, be conveyed to a burial ground where burials may legally take place and be there re-interred, and in any intervening period they shall be kept safely, privately and decently.