

Land at Cornucopia
87 Commercial Street
Norton
North Yorkshire
SE 7957 7145

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND WATCHING BRIEF

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87 Commercial Street
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Non-technical Summary

An Archaeological Excavation was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on the site of the former Cornucopia Public House Car-park and adjacent land at 87 Commercial Street, Norton, North Yorkshire; between the 25th July to the 7th August 2006. The work was undertaken in the area of new build for the proposed residential re-development of the site (Planning Application Ref: 05/00117/FUL).

The excavation was the third phase of archaeological work that had been undertaken at the site. Previously, the Evaluation Trenches and the Watching Brief on the Engineering Testholes took place in July 2005 and December 2005 respectively. Four phases of archaeological features were uncovered Modern and 19th century features and deposits, medieval features, Roman features and undated features. Deposits, linear features and pits were excavated.

The Modern/19th century features included the backfilled Evaluation Trenches, a service trench, a Modern pit and subsoil. The subsoil contained several large sherds of medieval and Roman pottery as well as modern pottery, clay tobacco pipe and ceramic building material. Medieval Features included two Pits whose fills contained sherds of medieval pottery. Roman Features included three linear features, aligned east to west; whose fills contained Roman Pottery. Three deposits and three pits contained no dating material.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Archaeological Excavation was commissioned by Transcore on the car-park and land to the east of the former Cornucopia Public House at 87, Commercial Street, Norton, North Yorkshire, on behalf of the site owner Yorkshire Housing. Work commenced on the 25th July 2006, and was completed on the 7th August 2006 (Fig. 1).

The work was undertaken in advance of the refurbishment of the existing building and the erection of four new dwellings (Planning Application Refs: 05/00117/FUL).

- 1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation was prepared for Transcore by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd and approved by Gail Falkingham, Senior Archaeologist at the Heritage Section, Countryside Services, North Yorkshire County Council (MAP 2006)
- 1.3 All work was funded by Yorkshire Housing.
- 1.4 The project was assigned the MAP site code 01-07-05.
- 1.5 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright. License No. AL 50453A.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The site covers an area of 0.08 hectares and lies on the northern side of Commercial Street, incorporating the former Public House and its car park to rear with access from Plum Street, and a small grassed area to the east (Fig. 2).
- 2.2 The town of Norton lies on the south of the River Derwent and the town of Malton approximately 20 miles between York and Scarborough within the District of Ryedale. The proposed Development Area was part of the expansion of Norton in the second half of the nineteenth century. The site is bounded to the south by Commercial Street, and to the north by Plum Street; with the Primitive Methodist chapel to the east on Commercial Street and by residential properties to the rear, east and west on Plum Street and west on Commercial Street.
- 2.3 When excavation work commenced the extensions to the rear of the Cornucopia had been demolished; the footpath to the east of the Cornucopia had been closed and the topsoil removed from the grassed area with the hedges removed and walls demolished.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 Norton is a settlement in the Buckrose Wapentake of the East Riding of Yorkshire, and it is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Norton(e) and Nortun(a), and Yorkshire Charters in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Norton meaning 'North farm' (Smith 1937, p. 140).
- 3.2 Malton and Norton are important centres of Roman activity including the *vicus* and fort in Malton and Roman Roads, industrial activity including pottery production, settlement and burials in Norton.
- 3.3 The expansion in Norton eastward along Commercial Street in the late nineteenth century uncovered segments of the Roman Road on an approximate north-east to south-west alignment during excavations for sewers (Robinson, 1978: 239), and a possible Roman kiln (pottery, partly burnt clay and ashes) during the construction of the Primitive Methodist Chapel in 1862 (*ibid*, 245).
- 3.4 In the medieval period, the proposed development area was outside (east of) the settlement in Norton.
- 3.5 A mid nineteenth century map of the proposed Railway routes through Malton and Norton shows a series of strip plots from the Commercial Street Frontage to the west with buildings on the frontage and a large field behind (Field 153: Fig. 3).
- 3.6 The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map Town Series Edition dates to the late nineteenth century and shows the development along Commercial Street including Plum Street, Piccadilly behind the public house and the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel to the west and the Primitive Methodist Chapel to the east (Fig. 4).
- 3.7 An Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on the site in July 2005. The work was undertaken in advance of a proposed residential re-development of the site. The Evaluation consisted of four trial trenches that were excavated in order to establish the nature, location, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits in the proposed development area.

- 3.8 The earliest archaeological evidence encountered during the Evaluation consisted of pits, stones and linear features containing sherds of abraded Roman pottery that were located to the rear of the Cornucopia. Medieval pit features were recorded in the trenches to the east of the Cornucopia. These features were sealed by subsoil and truncated by 19th century features.

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The proposed development would impact upon the archaeological resource. The objectives of the archaeological work are:-

- to determine by means of targeted archaeological excavation the character, extent and nature of any archaeological deposits present within the development area,
- to locate, recover, identify and assess and conserve (as appropriate) any archaeological artefacts exposed during the course of the excavation,
- where appropriate to undertake post-excavation assessment after completion of the fieldwork and site archive to assess the potential for further analysis and publication as appropriate, and
- to prepare and submit a suitable archive to the appropriate museum.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 An L-shaped area was excavated, 20.5m by 7.6m-11.3m, which covered a total of 184m² in the area of new build to the rear (north) and side (east) of the Cornucopia, as stipulated in the Written Scheme of Works issued by the Heritage Section, North Yorkshire County Council, with the location agreed by the Senior Archaeologist, Gail Falkingham (Fig. 5). Excavation took place between the 25th July and the 4th August 2006.
- 5.2 The extensions to the rear of the Cornucopia were demolished and the topsoil on the land to the east was removed prior to excavation starting. All subsequent overburden (including hardcore and subsoil) was removed using a back-acting mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision.
- 5.3 After removal of overburden, the excavation areas were hand-cleaned. Each archaeological feature or deposit was recorded on *pro-forma* Context Record Sheets

- (Appendix 1), according to guidelines laid down in the MAP Excavation Manual (Contexts 1000 to 1039).
- 5.4 A total of 93 artefacts were collected, including 66 artefacts from subsoil and 27 artefacts from the excavated deposits and features (Appendix 2). Finds recovered included 64 sherds of pottery, 1 fragment of ceramic building material and 1 stem fragment of clay tobacco pipe in Context 1004. Also recovered were 24 sherds of pottery from Deposits 1005 (2 sherds), 1009 (3 sherds), 1011 (5 sherds), 1012 (3 sherds), 1024 (7 sherds) and 1032 (4 sherds).
- 5.5 Modern deposits that were removed as part of the overburden were recorded in section and by record only. All other archaeological deposits and features were recorded in plan on permatrace drafting film at a scale of 1:50 for the pre-excavation plan and 1:20 for all other plans. Sections of features and individual layers were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20, and included an Ordnance Survey Datum height (Appendix 3). In total 25 drawings were archived.
- 5.6 A full photographic record, comprising digital, colour print, monochrome print and colour transparencies, was made. Seven films were used. The film record comprised of 53 digital shots, three colour print films (88 exposures), two colour slide films (70 exposures) and two monochrome print films (69 exposures). The Photographic Record of features and general trench shots included a film register noting film number, shot number, location of shot, direction of the shot, and a brief description of the subject (Appendix 4).
- 5.7 Three Environmental Samples were taken from three deposits, ranging in size from 10 litres (1 tub) from context 1025, to 20 litres (2 tubs) from contexts 1005 and 1011 (Appendix 5).

6. Results

- 6.1 Three phases of archaeological work have been undertaken at the site to the rear of the Cornucopia Public House and land adjacent to the east of 87 Commercial Street Norton. The evaluation trenches and the watching brief on engineering testholes commenced before construction took place in July 2005 and December 2005

respectively. The area of the new build was subject to full excavation, which took place in July/August 2006. Four phases of archaeological features were uncovered modern and 19th century features and deposits, medieval features, Roman features and undated features. Deposits, linear features and pits were excavated.

6.2 Work commenced on site after the footpath next to the Cornucopia had been closed, the rear extension had been demolished and topsoil and subsoil from site had been stripped under archaeological supervision.

6.3 Features excavated included Deposits, Pits and Linear Features (Pls. 1 & 2).

6.4 Modern/19th century features (Figs. 4 & 5)

6.4.1 Backfilled features in Evaluation Trenches 2 (cuts 1027; 1028 and 1029), Topsoil (1000), service trench (cut 1013), Modern pit (cut 1015) and subsoil (context 1004). The service trench measured 23m by 2.4m and was aligned north south running down the site of the former footpath. A section was excavated through the service trench and pit. No finds were recovered from their fills (deposits 1001 & 1014).

6.4.2 The subsoil (context 1004) contained several large sherds of medieval and Roman pottery as well as modern pottery, clay tobacco pipe and ceramic building material. One sherd of Norton Greyware head pot showing part of the eye and eyebrow was recovered from this context.

6.5 Medieval Features (Figs. 4 & 5; Pl. 3).

6.5.1 Two Pits (fill 1009/cut 1016 and fill 1032/cut 1033) could be dated to the medieval period.

6.5.2 Pit 1016 measured 2.60m by 1.80m and was 0.20m deep. The east side of Pit 1016 was truncated by modern services (cut 1013), and continued to the south, a 1m wide segment was excavated. The excavated segment had an oval shape and a u-shaped profile. The Pit was filled by sand (deposit 1009).

6.5.3 Pit 1033 measured 2.40m by 1.80m and 0.87m deep. The Pit was oval in plan and was half sectioned with the western half excavated, c. 1m wide. The cut had a u-shaped profile. Pit 1033 was filled by sandy silt (deposit 1032).

6.5.4 Pit fills 1009 and 1032 contained sherds of medieval pottery (Brandsby type ware and Staxton-Potter Brompton ware) as well as residual sherds of Roman Greyware. Deposit 1032 also contained a fragment of animal bone.

6.6 Roman Features (Figs. 4 & 5; Pls. 4, 5, 6 & 7)

6.6.1 Three Linear features were recorded aligned east to west. Feature 1017 was continuing into the southern boundary of the excavation area. Linear feature 1018/1020 continued to the west of the excavated area and terminated at its east end. The third Linear Feature 1022/1025 continued north of the excavated area.

6.6.2 Linear feature 1017 measured 1.42m by 0.95m and 0.48m deep, and continues to the south and east. A 1m wide segment was excavated revealing a u-shaped profile and was filled by silty sand (deposit 1005).

6.6.3 Linear feature 1018/1020 measured 6m by 0.70m. Two segments were excavated in the second linear feature cuts 1018 and 1020. Segment cut 1018 was located at the terminal end and measured 1m by 0.70m wide and 0.32m deep. The terminal had a rounded end and was u-shaped in plan and was filled by a sand deposit (Fill 1011) The second segment (cut 1020) was located at the western edge of the excavation area, and measured 1m by 0.70m and 0.30m. Segment cut 1020 was filled by sandy clay (fill 1023) and sand deposit (fill 1019).

6.6.4 Linear feature 1022/1025 measured 4.50m by 0.52m. Two segments were excavated, cuts 1022 and 1025. Segment cut 1022 was located at the east end as the features butts the northern baulk, and measured 1m by 0.46m and 0.15m deep, with a u-shaped profile. The segment was filled by sand deposit (fill 1012) and had been truncated to the east by modern service trench 1013. Segment cut 1025 was located at the western baulk, and measured 1m by 0.52m wide and 0.23m deep, with a u-shaped profile. Segment 1025 was filled by silty clay (fill 1023) and silty sand (fill 1024).

6.6.5 Fills 1005, 1011, 1012 and 1024 contained sherds of Roman Pottery, including Calcite Gritted ware, Greyware and Samian ware. Context 1005 also contained one fragment of animal bone.

6.7 Undated Features (Figs 4 & 5; Pl. 8)

6.7.1 Three deposits and three pits contained no dating material.

6.7.2 Deposits 1006; 1008; 1035 were shallow spreads of material with no refined edges, roughly 0.02m deep, and were remnants of subsoil or truncated later features.

6.7.3 The Three Pits were between 0.70m and 0.90m in diameter and 0.34 and 0.40m deep, with u-shaped profiles (Cuts 1021, 1037 and 1039). The pits were filled by silty sand (fill 1007 in cut 1021, fill 1036 in cut 1037 and fill 1038 in cut 1039).

7. Conclusions

7.1 The Evaluation report had shown this area of Norton, including the Malt Shovel Public House, the Methodist Chapel and the insertion of Plum Street and Piccadilly represent the expansion of Norton eastwards in the 1860's. During their construction, Roman features including a possible kiln and the Roman Road, were found along Commercial Street.

7.2 The evaluation had proven archaeological features and deposits in all four trenches dating from the Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval periods. In the area of the four new dwellings the features excavated included Deposits, Pits and Linear Features.

7.3 The majority of the finds were recovered during the mechanical excavation of the subsoil. The excavated features provided a few small sherds of pottery and fragments of animal bone. The linear features and pits probably relate to near by industrial/domestic activity in the Roman and Medieval periods.

8. Bibliography

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Figure 1. Site Location

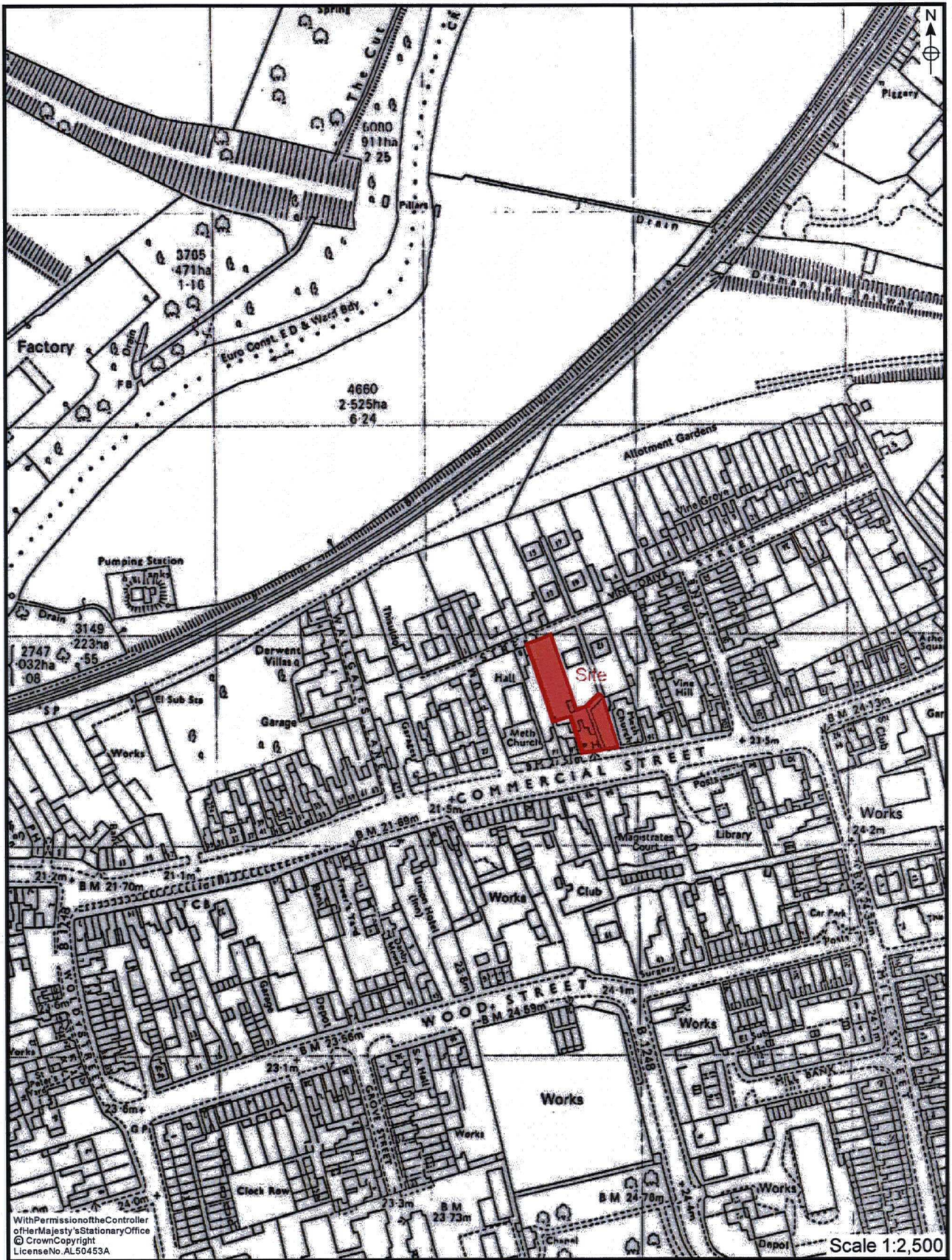


Figure 2. Area of Development

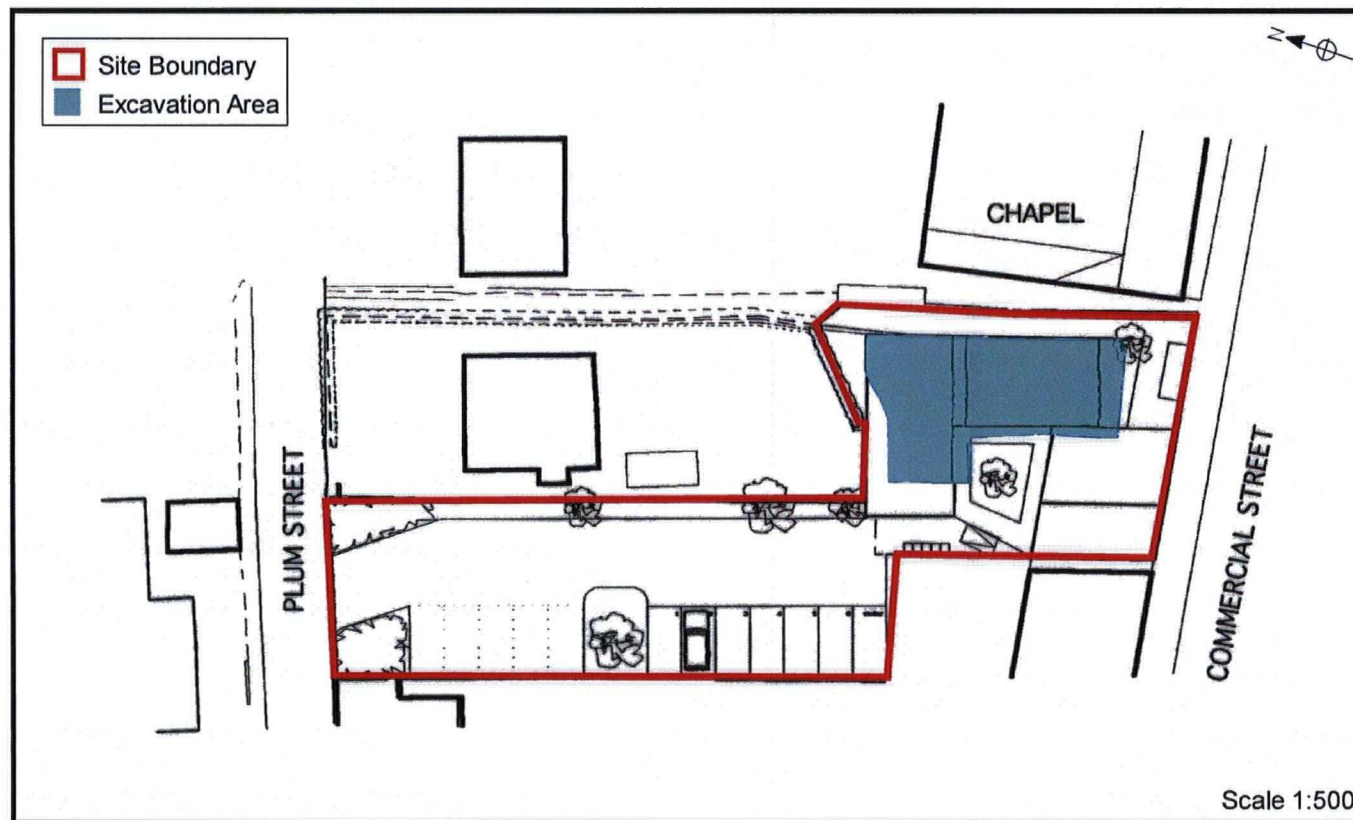


Figure 3. Area of Excavation

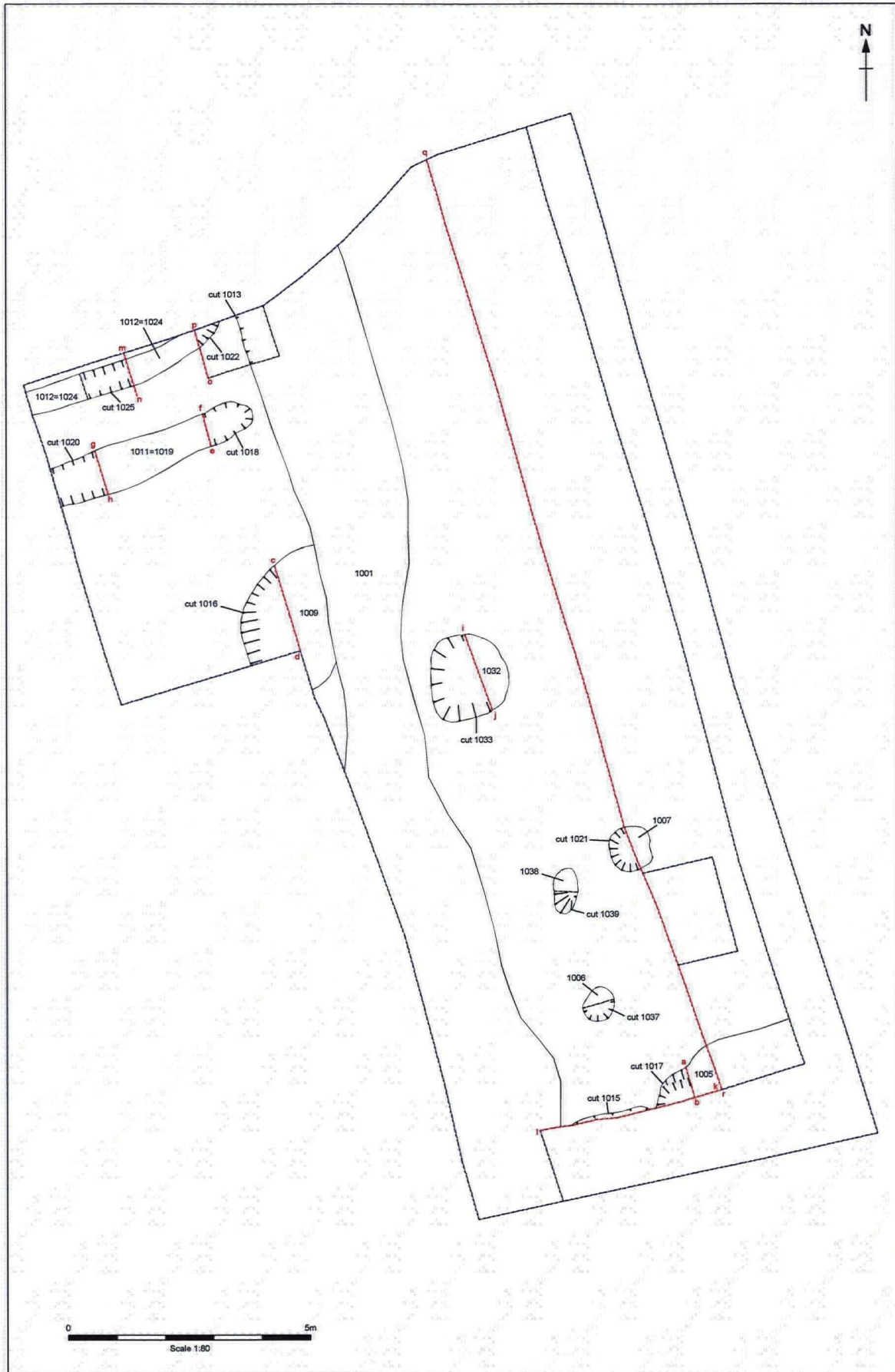


Figure 4. Plan of Features

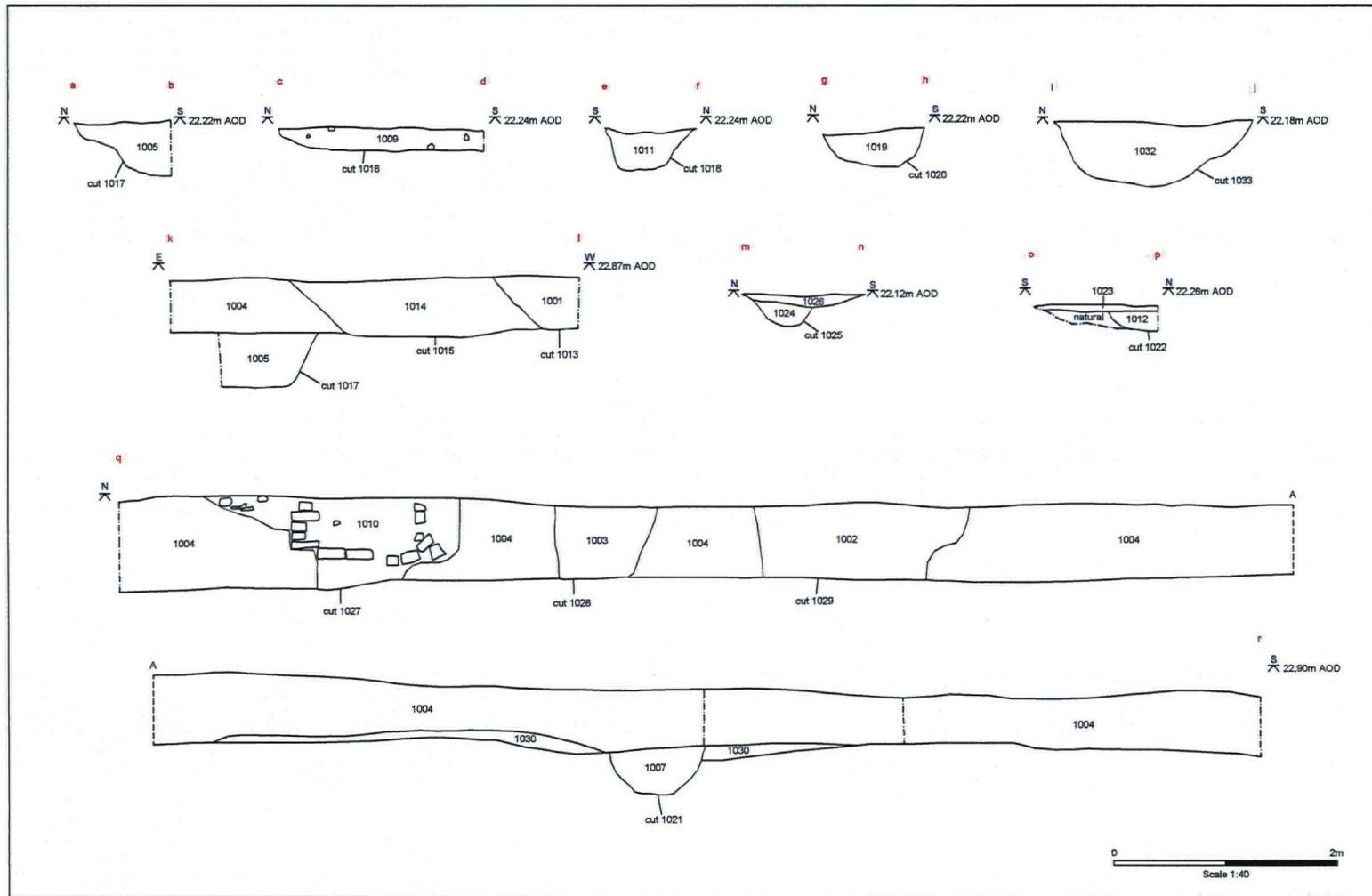


Figure 5. Sections



Plate 1. Overall View of Excavation Area. Facing West



Plate 2. Overall View of Excavation Area. Facing South

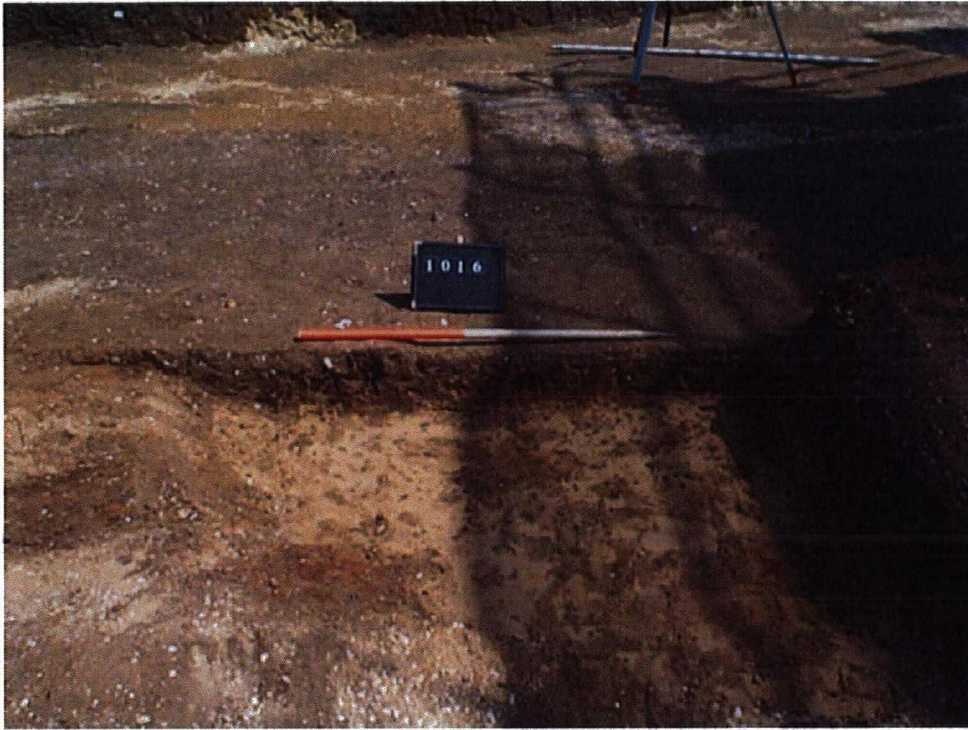


Plate 3. Pit 1016. Facing West



Plate 4. Linear Feature 1017. Facing East



Plate 5. Linear Feature 1025. Facing West



Plate 6. Linear Features 1020 and 1018. Facing East



Plate 7. Linear Features 1022/1025 and 1018/1020. Facing East

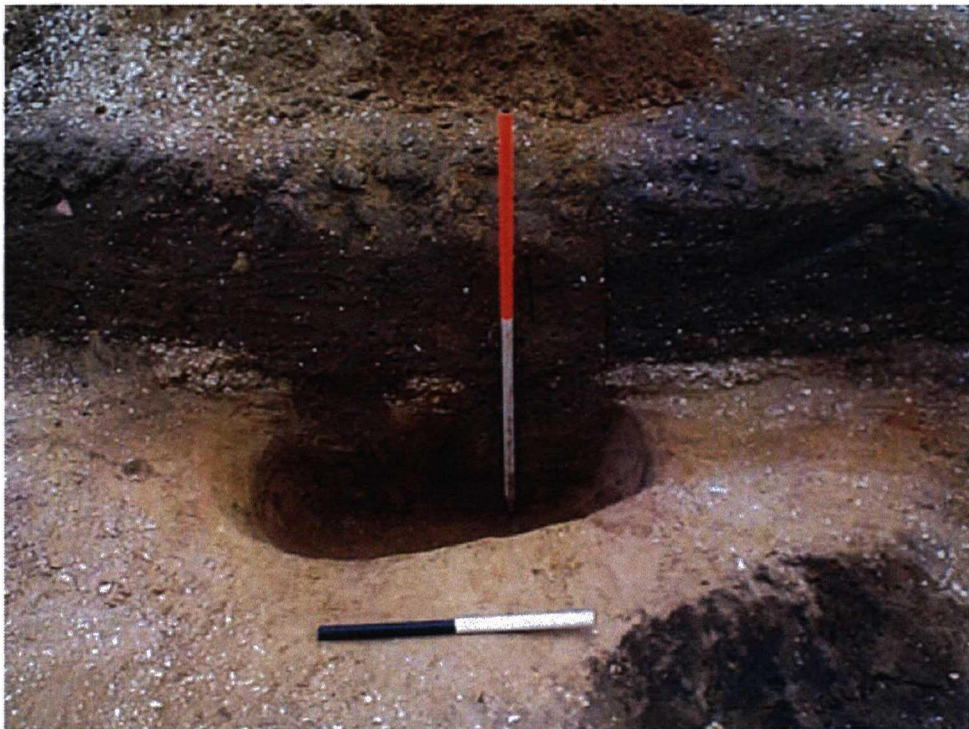


Plate 8. Pit 1021. Facing East

APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

Land at Cornucopia, 87 Commercial Street, Norton (MAP 01-07-05 Phase 2)

Context	Type	Description
1000	Deposit	Topsoil: dark grey brown silty loam.
1001	Deposit	Brown sandy silt with small stones, modern services.
1002	Deposit	Light greyish brown sandy silt, backfill
1003	Deposit	Light greyish brown sandy silt, backfill
1004	Deposit	Subsoil: grey brown silt
1005	Deposit	Fill of Cut 1017: Dark brown silty sand
1006	Deposit	Orangey brown silty sand with small stones
1007	Deposit	Fill of Cut 1021: Mid brown silty sand
1008	Deposit	Mid brown silty sand with gravel
1009	Deposit	Fill of Cut 1016: Greyish brown sand, with gravel
1010	Deposit	Fill of Cut 1027: Dark grey sand, with small stones.
1011	Deposit	Fill of Cut 1018: Brown sand, with small stones.
1012	Deposit	Fill of Cut 1022: Brown sand, with small stones.
1013	Cut	Modern Service Trench
1014	Deposit	Fill of Cut 1015: Dark brown silty sand, with small stones.
1015	Cut	Modern Services
1016	Cut	Pit
1017	Cut	Modern feature
1018	Cut	Linear feature
1019	Deposit	Fill of Cut 1020: Brown sand, with small stones.
1020	Cut	Linear feature
1021	Cut	Pit
1022	Cut	Linear feature
1023	Deposit	Brown sandy clay with small stones and gravels
1024	Deposit	Fill of Cut 1022: Mid brown silty sand, with small stones.
1025	Cut	Linear feature
1026	Deposit	Brown sandy clay with small stones and gravels
1027	Cut	Modern feature
1028	Cut	Cut of feature excavated in elevation phase
1029	Cut	Cut of feature excavated in elevation phase
1030	Deposit	Yellowish brown sandy clay with small stones (natural)
1031	Deposit	Brown sand with small stones and gravels
1032	Deposit	Fill of Cut 1033: Dark brown sandy silt, with small stones.
1033	Cut	Pit
1034	Deposit	Brown sandy silt with small stones and gravels
1035	Deposit	Brown sandy silt with small stones and gravels
1036	Deposit	Fill of Cut 1037: Mid brown silty sand, with small stones.
1037	Cut	Pit
1038	Deposit	Fill of Cut 1039: Mid brown silty sand, with small stones.
1039	Cut	Pit