

27 WATERSIDE
KNARESBOROUGH
NORTH YORKSHIRE
SE 34750 57070

NYCC HER	
SNY	19117
ENY	6356
CNY	
Parish	6100
Rec'd	22.11 93

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
REPORT
JULY 1993

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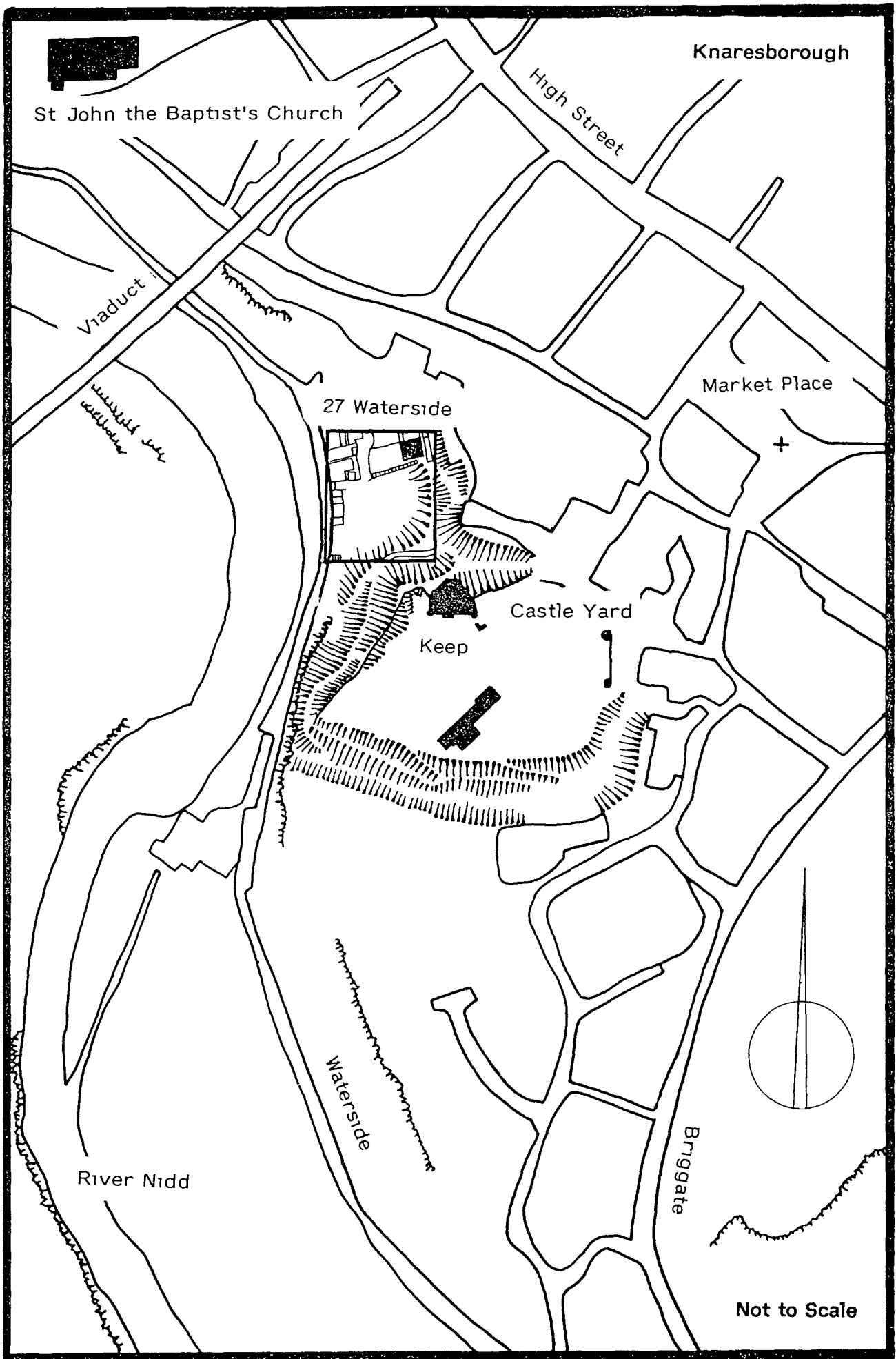
Kevin John Cale

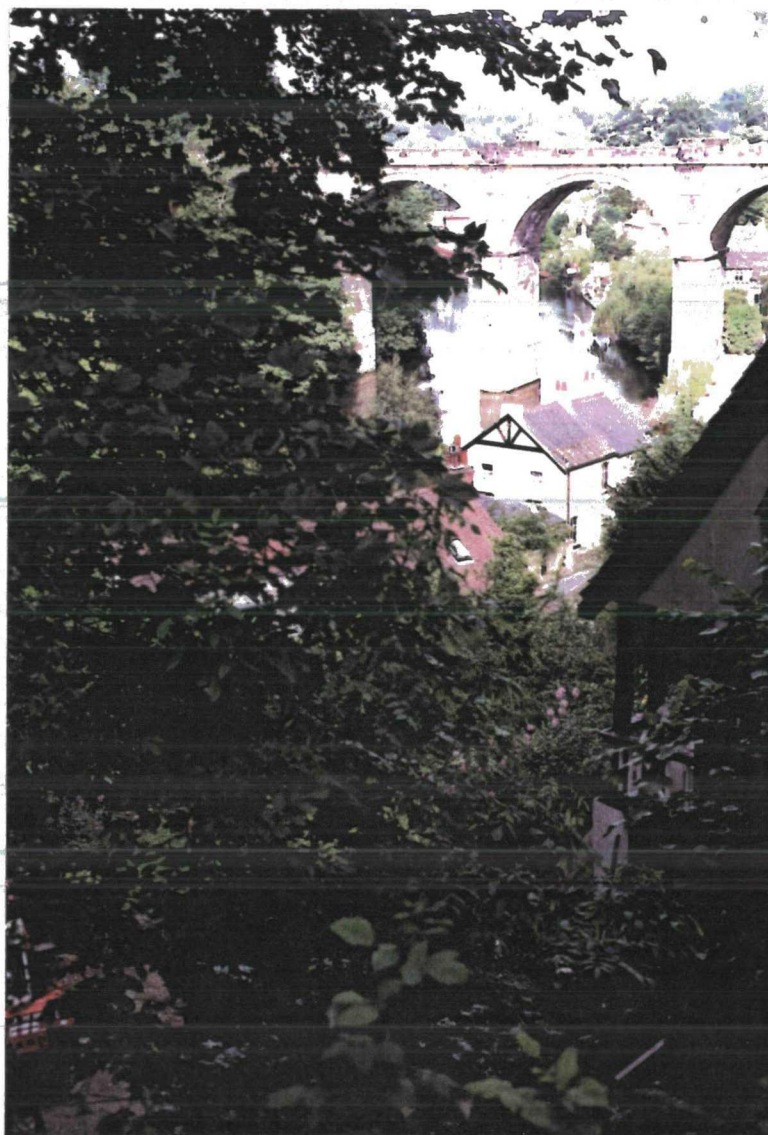
August 1993

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SITE LOCATION PLAN





GENERAL LOCATION SHOT OF 27 WATERSIDE, FACING NORTH WEST.

**27 WATERSIDE, KNARESBOROUGH
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
JULY 1993**

INTRODUCTION

In July 1993 acting on the instruction of Mr David Colhns, Kevin John Cale, Archaeological Consultant was asked to maintain a **Watching Brief** at the above site, on ground disturbance associated with the construction of a driveway

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The origins of the settlement of Knaresborough are relatively obscure. The first reference to the town is in 1086 in the Domesday Book, where it is recorded as Chearesburg, this place name evidence would suggest that the site may have been fortified and may date back to Anglo Saxon period, 'burg' meaning defended enclosure. There is however no physical evidence of the pre-Norman settlement at Knaresborough, and from references within the Domesday book it would appear that the 11th century settlement if not deserted was greatly reduced.

It seems likely that the settlement began to develop during the first half of the 12th century, when it is known that both the Castle and the parish church were in existence, both structures continued to develop well into the late medieval period.

By the 13th century Knaresborough was acting as the centre of an iron-working industry, processing the ironstone mined from the Forest of Knaresborough.

During the 14th century the settlement continued to develop and expand, largely as a result of it being ideally situated as a catchment focus for the trade and exchange of goods between the Pennine economy to the west and that of the Vale of York to the east. The documentary evidence confirms that by 1307 Knaresborough had been granted a weekly market and an annual fair and the inhabitants of the town were made free burgesses. Trade and industry during the later medieval period would appear to have centred around the woollen industry, but also included a wide variety of other trades such as cobblers, brewers, butchers, tanners, metalworkers and blacksmiths.

The post medieval period witnessed a transition from the woollen to the linen industry. This industry continued to grow during the 18th and early 19th centuries and the town benefited from this boom. However during the second half of the 19th century this industry contracted and Knaresborough was eclipsed by the growth of the new, regional administrative centre at Harrogate.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS EXCAVATION

Knaresborough is a historic town of interest and importance, and as there has been only a limited amount of modern development within the town centre, there is a high potential for the survival of historical standing structures and there is a good likelihood for the preservation of below ground archaeological deposits

Archaeological investigation within the town has been largely confined to a number of small research excavations within the castle grounds. These have taken place, intermittently, over the last sixty years, unfortunately the record for these works are incomplete and sketchy. Recently a three year programme of ground investigation has concluded, these excavations, located immediately adjacent to the north and east elevations of the keep were conducted by Harrogate Museums and Art Galleries. These works were undertaken as a support to the ongoing programme of repair to the standing structures

Within the town centre, over the last number of years, a series of watching briefs have been maintained on local authority trench excavations and private developments in an attempt to locate and examine the nature and form of the town defence's. Unfortunately these works have failed to identify any evidence of this defensive structures

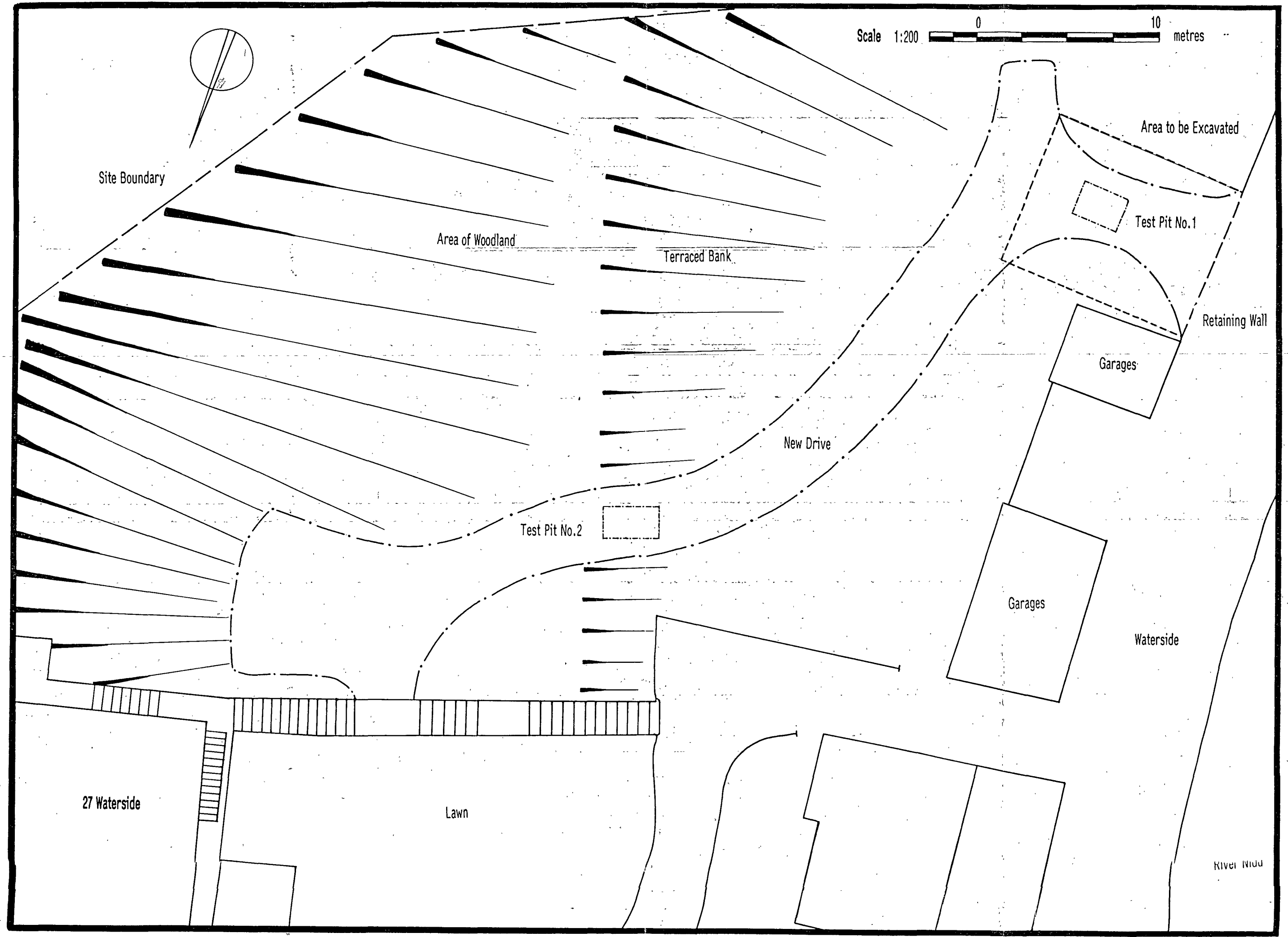
Other entries in the archaeological record are from the declared chance finds, records for this information has been noted since the 18th century. The finds range from a Bronze Age perforated stone axe that was found at Blind Lane Farm, to a Roman urn or cooking pot of Antonine date that was recovered from south of Tentergate Avenue. The greater majority of these finds are isolated coins dating from the Roman period onwards

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed development area is situated on the mid to lower slope of the steep west facing aspect overlooking Knaresborough gorge. The property and adjacent woodland is located within a V shaped recess, with the slope becoming more acute to the immediate north and south of the site, with outcrops and rock faces of Magnesian Limestone

The site is contained to the east by a modern fence line, which occupies a natural break in the upper slope, from this boundary the ground falls away steeply, on what would appear to be a natural fan shaped accumulation of debris and hill wash deposits, this feature has an acute north north west and west facing aspect. These steep slopes have in places been cut away and sinuous, stepped pathways have been constructed, affording access to the upper slopes

Scale 1:200 0 10 metres



To the west the angle of slope is less acute and it would appear that this area of the site has been previously landscaped, with at least one terrace with a relatively well pronounced north north west facing aspect

The site is contained to the west by a substantial stone built retaining wall with an internal ground level elevated above the waterside road by at least two metres. To the north the development area is contained by the stepped footpath affording access to the clients property

The site of the proposed works is presently a small area of un-managed deciduous woodland adjacent and to the south of 27 Waterside. The wood is heavily overgrown with a full and mature upper canopy of Beech and Sycamore trees and a dense ground vegetation cover

The property, itself, I have been reliably informed dates to the early 20th Century, and it is suspected that the terracing and lay out of the adjacent gardens is contemporary with it's construction. The presently overgrown stepped pathways leading from the site to the east rim of the gorge are of a similar date and are associated with access to and from the 19th Century Gothic folly structure

THE BRIEF OF WORKS

Given the sites close proximity to both the Waterside and to the Castle Grounds it was suspected that the site possessed high potential for the survival of archaeological remains. It was considered that there was a need for an archaeological provision on the proposed works

The archaeological investigation of this site was to take the form of a 'watching brief', an archaeologist would be required to be present, to monitor ground disturbance associated with the construction of the proposed driveway

It was agreed that the works would involve three phases each of which would require an archaeological provision

- i The machine excavation of two geological trial pits
- ii The machine excavation of the northern extent of the driveway and turning area
- iii The machine excavation of the southern extent of the driveway and the dismantling of a section of retaining wall

The archaeological provision was designed to establish the presence or absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits which might exist within the area affected by the proposed driveway



DRIVE AS EXCAVATED, FACING SOUTH WEST.