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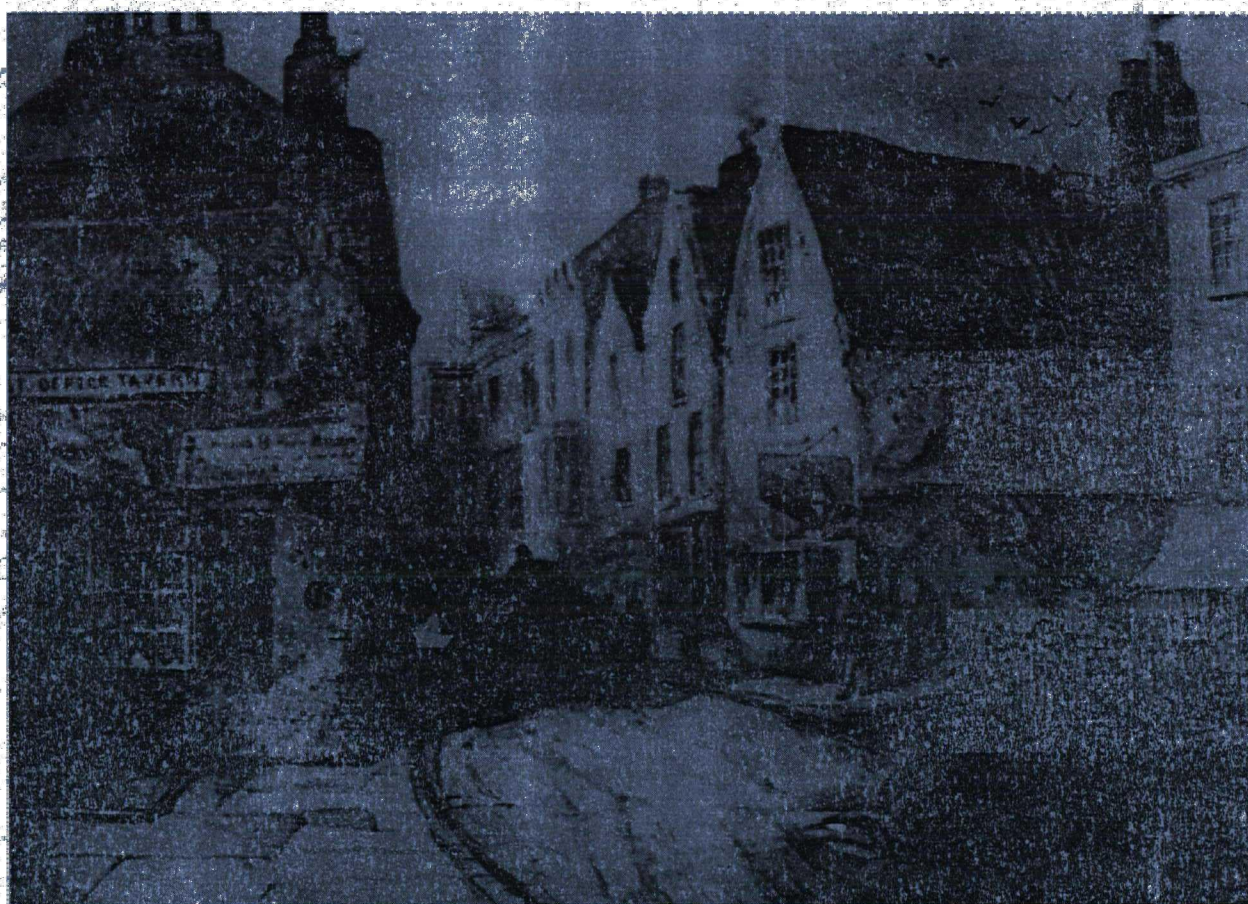
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Parish 4899

Rec'd 1994

# AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF A SITE AT GLOBE STREET AND EASTBOROUGH SCARBOROUGH



SCARBOROUGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
INTERIM REPORT 20

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**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
OF A SITE AT GLOBE STREET  
AND EASTBOROUGH  
SCARBOROUGH**

**BY TREVOR PEARSON**



The illustration above and on the front cover is  
reproduced by kind permission of the Scarborough  
Borough Council Department of Tourism and Amenities  
It shows the junction of Globe Street with  
Merchants Row before Eastborough was built  
in 1863

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# **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF A SITE AT GLOBE STREET AND EASTBOROUGH SCARBOROUGH**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This report describes the results of an archaeological excavation at the junction of Globe St and Eastborough, Scarborough which took place between May 27th and 30th 1994. It was undertaken by the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society at the request of Brian Stringer Ltd in order to assess the survival of archaeological deposits on the site in advance of possible building work.

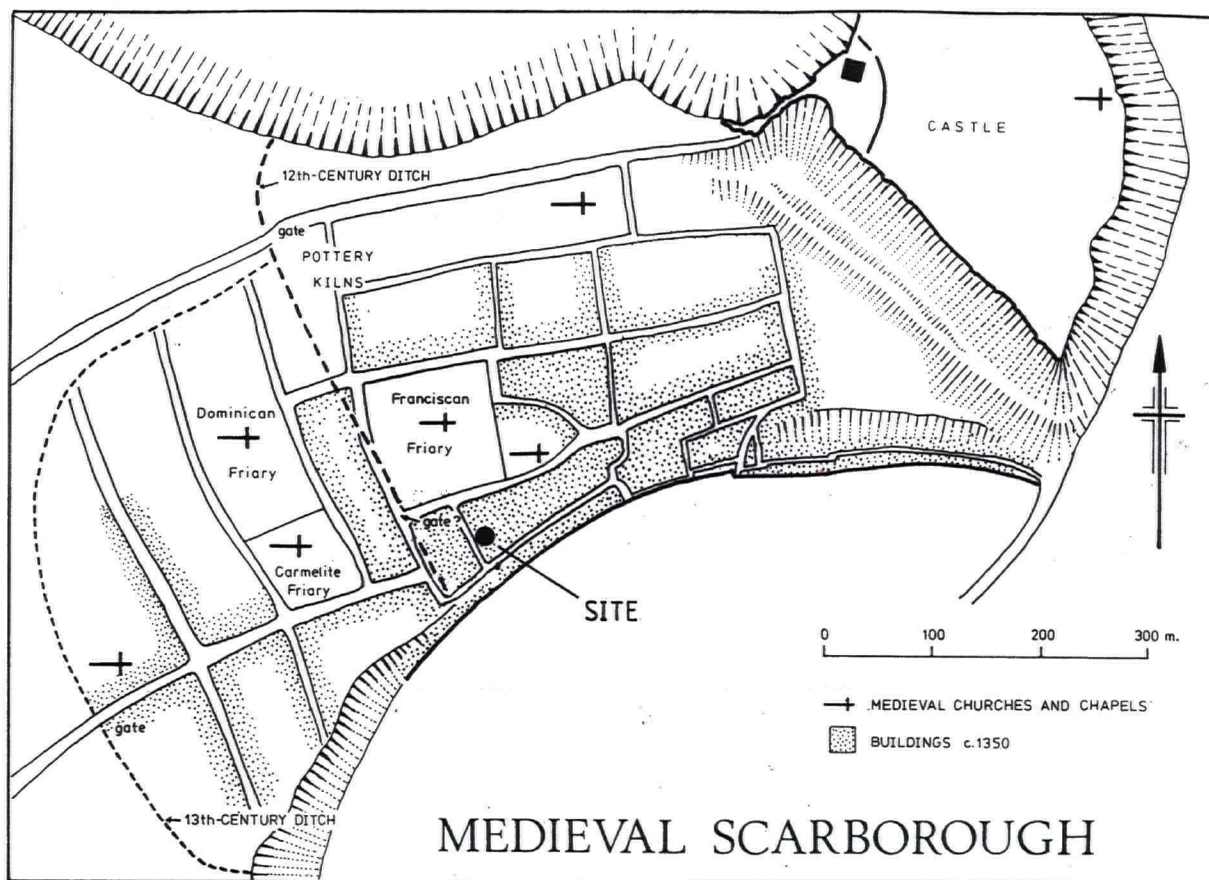
## **THE SITE AND ITS SETTING**

The site is in two levels. The larger and higher portion to the north is grass covered and planted with shrubs and small bushes. There is a low brick retaining wall on the west along the Globe St boundary, whilst on the south there is a massive brick terracing wall retaining a three metre drop to the lower part of the site bordering Eastborough. The lower area is level with Eastborough and is open to the street. It is paved and used as an area of public seating with four wooden seats situated at the base of the terracing wall. There is also a raised flower bed in the lower area at the angle between Globe St and Eastborough. It is believed that buildings occupied both the upper and lower portions of the site at least up until the 1930s. There is local recollection of a fire having destroyed a house on the upper part of the site just prior to the Second World War.

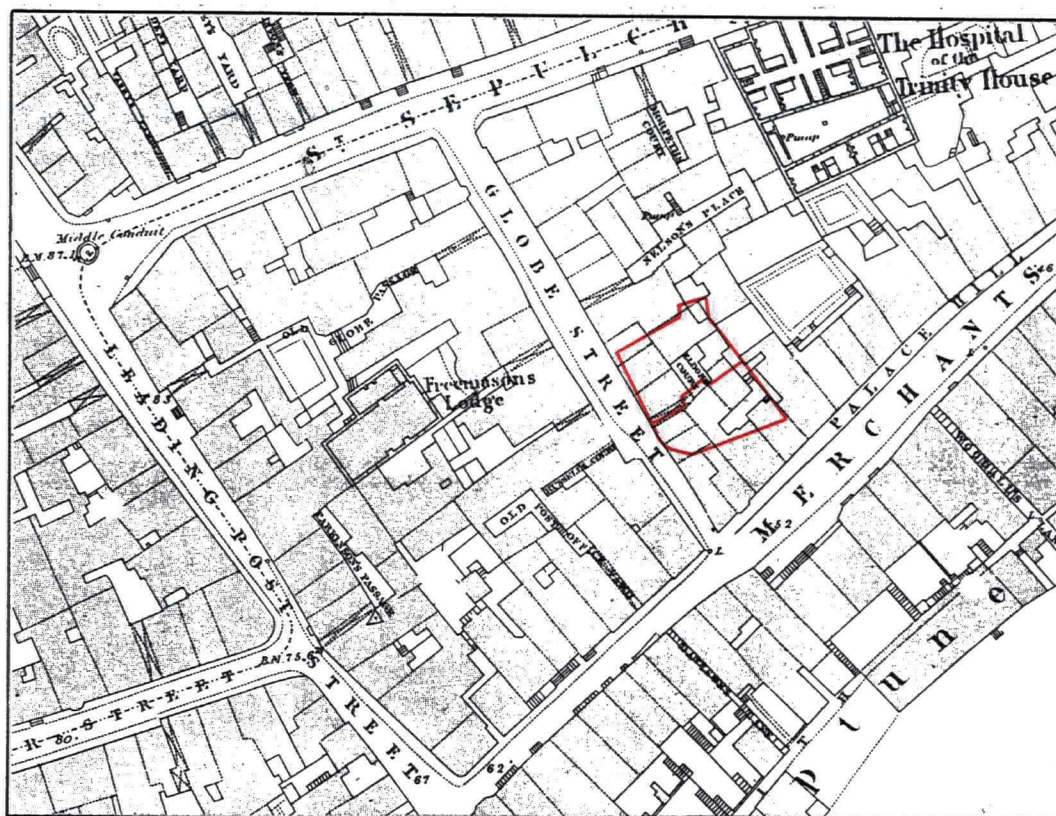
The town of Scarborough can trace its roots back to the reign of King Henry II in the middle of the 12th century. In addition to fortifying the headland with a castle the King is credited with fostering the growth of a town by laying out a grid of streets beyond the castle walls. This came to be known as the Oldborough. The Newborough was a second grid of streets which was added to the town in the late 12th or early 13th century (Figure 1).

The present site lies within the Oldborough and therefore in that part of the town settled in the middle of the 12th century. Nevertheless the two streets which border the site have very different histories. The older of the two is Globe St, named after the Old Globe Inn which stood on the opposite side of the street to the site and for which the licence expired in 1905 (1). Earlier Globe St was known as Fleshergate after the butchers premises which must have formerly occupied the street. It is shown as Fleshergate on the first town plan of 1725; it may have acquired the name in the medieval period.





**Figure 1** Medieval Scarborough showing the location of the excavation



**Figure 2** The site and the vicinity in 1852 (outline of the site shown in red)



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## THE EXCAVATION

The excavation aimed to establish the depth, date and character of archaeological deposits preserved on the site. In addition it was hoped to discover evidence relating to the street's past as the butchers quarter of the town.

Three trenches were excavated to evaluate the archaeology of the site (Figure 3). Trenches one and three measuring 4m x 4m and 1.5m x 1.5m respectively were dug on the upper grassed area and trench two, measuring 2m x 1m on the lower paved area. The deposits encountered in each of the three trenches are described below beginning with Trench One..

### TRENCH ONE (Figures 4 and 5)

The excavation of Trench One was begun with a JCB excavator and completed by hand. The trench was excavated in two portions. The northern half was excavated first and exposed little of archaeological interest apart from a massive stone wall along the southern section of the trench. It was therefore decided to extend the trench southwards to expose the remainder of the stone wall and the deposits to its south whilst at the same time backfilling the northern half of the trench (Plate 1). In total an area 4m x 4m was investigated. A sequence of deposits from the medieval period to the 20th century came to light from which six phases of activity were identified. These six phases are described in chronological order below, beginning with the earliest; phase one.



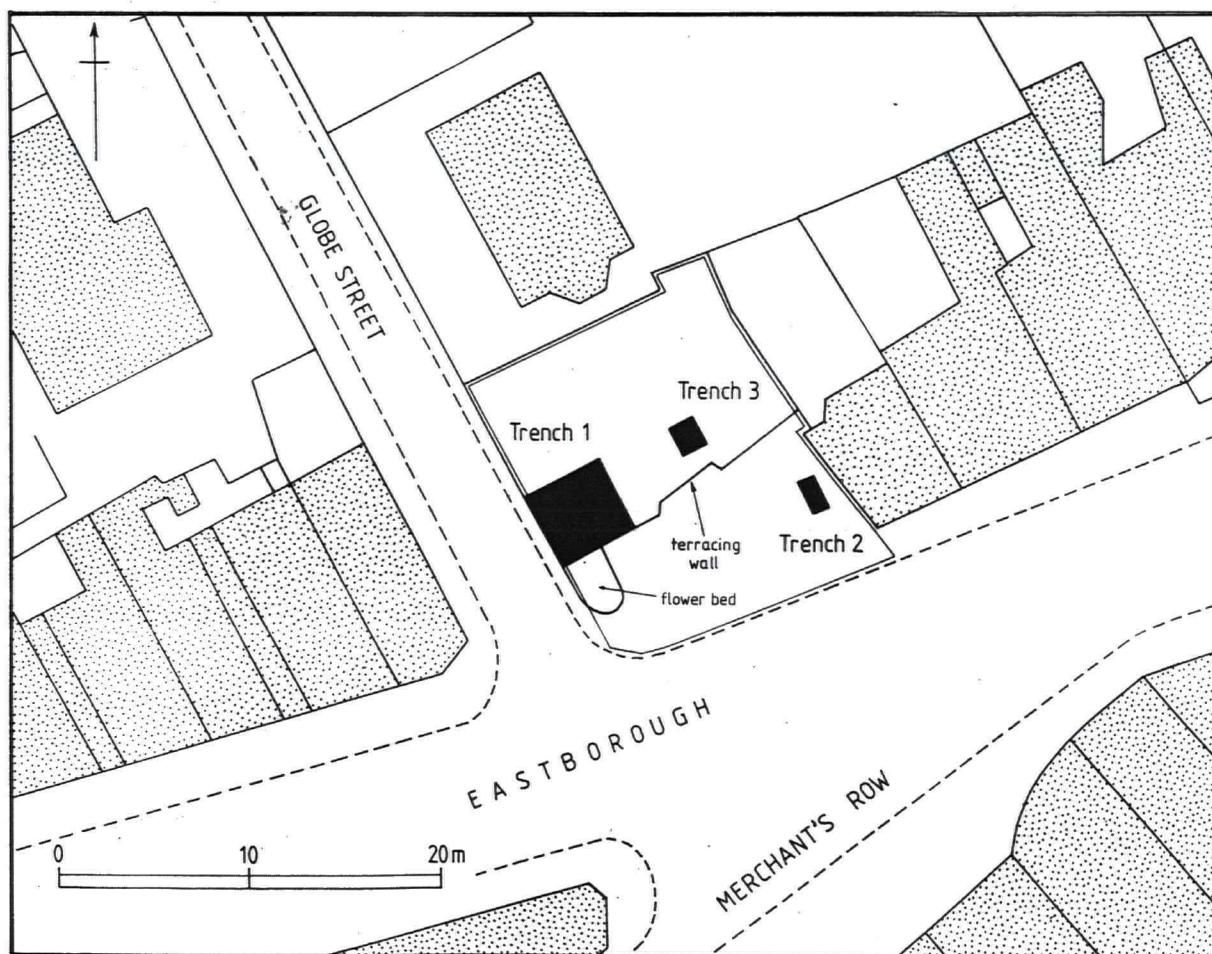
Plate 1 View of Trench One looking south-west



The first reference to a butchers street in Scarborough occurs in a deed of 1252 in the Chartulary of Rievaulx Abbey (2). It is likely that Globe St originated as one of the grid of streets laid out in the middle of the 12th century when the Old Borough was established, linking St Sepulchre St on the north to Merchants Row on the south.

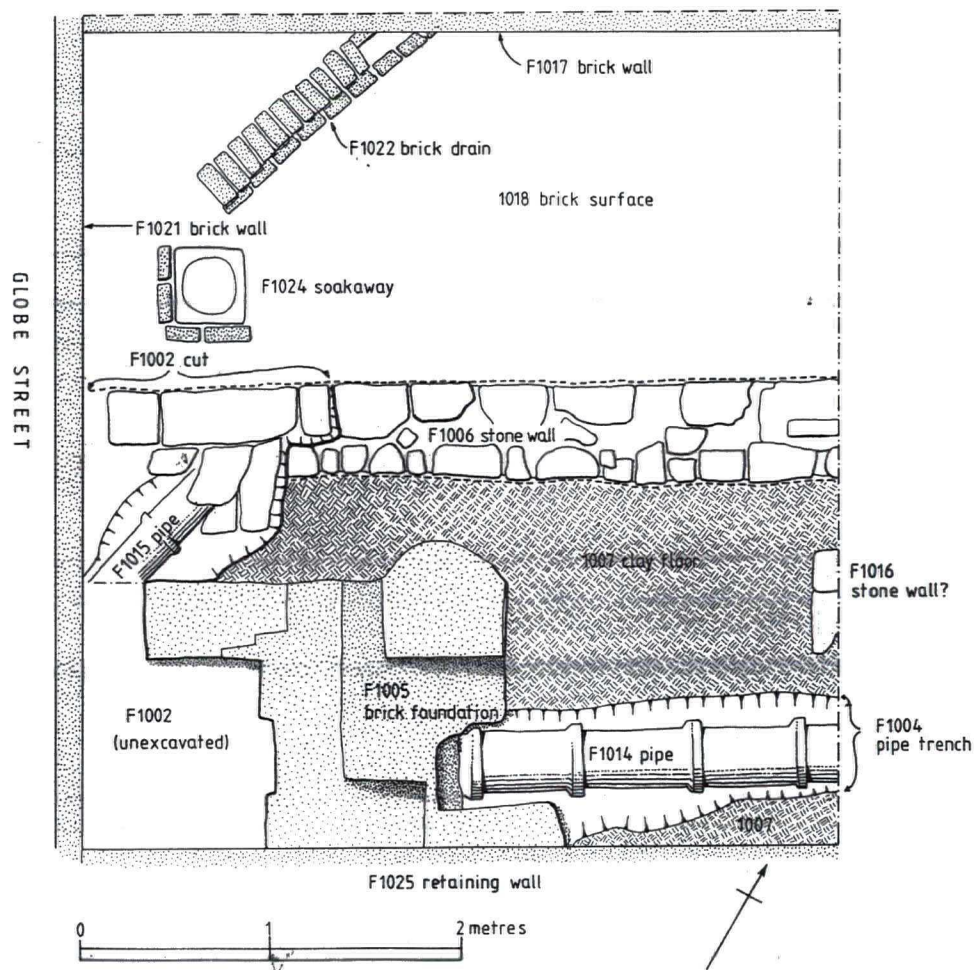
In contrast Eastborough which forms the southern boundary of the site came into being as recently as 1863. It was created by the Corporation to provide a wider and more direct route down to the harbour than the existing route along Leading Post St and Merchants Row. The latter involved negotiating a tight right-angled bend at the junction of the two streets (Figure 2). The construction of the new thoroughfare led to the disappearance of the southern end of Globe St and the demolition of properties adjoining it and their replacement by new buildings facing on to Eastborough.

There is no record of any earlier archaeological excavations having taken place along Globe St although in 1988 (3) and 1989 (4) the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society investigated two sites along Leading Post St some 50 metres to the west of the present site. They revealed part of the defences of the Oldborough which indicates that the current site lies towards the western edge of the settlement planted by King Henry II.

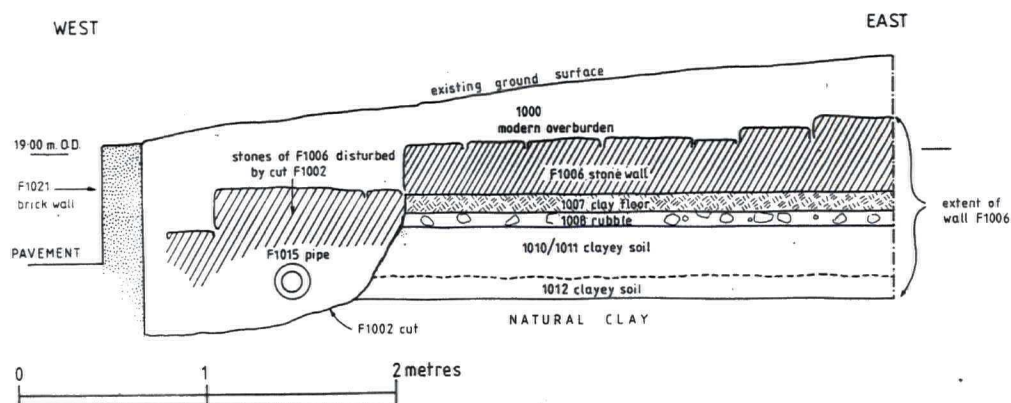


**Figure 3** The site showing the positions of Trenches 1-3





**Figure 4 Plan of Trench One**



**Figure 5 Reconstructed section through medieval deposits in Trench One**



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## PHASE ONE

Natural undisturbed glacial clay came to light at a height of 18.20m OD. A thin burnt deposit (layer 1013) covered the top of the natural clay, sloping southwards with the natural gradient. It presumably indicates the burning of the vegetation cover at some time either through natural or human agency. There was no evidence as to when this might have taken place.

## PHASE TWO

A deposit of featureless clayey soil (layer 1011) was found to have accumulated to a depth of 40cms on top of the natural surface. The same deposit was found elsewhere in Trench One and given the layer number 1010. A lower horizon slightly more clayey in texture (layer 1012) was identified at the base of layer 1011. These layers may represent a deliberate dump of material to level the ground surface prior to the construction of the building discussed in Phase Three below. A date in the 12th century is tentatively suggested for this deposit in view of the types of pottery it contained.

## PHASE THREE (Plate 2)

This phase saw the construction of a building on the site. A 50cm wide stone wall was built at right angles to Globe St (F1006). It survived to a height of one metre and cut through the underlying levelling deposits to allow the bottom course to rest on the natural surface. The northern, exterior face of the wall demonstrated the method of construction most clearly (Plate 3). The upper two courses were constructed of close fitting squared stone blocks and rested on between two and four courses of smaller and more irregularly shaped stones which were presumably the foundation. The wall was clay bonded although traces of mortar adhered to the upper surface of the top course of stones suggesting the overlying courses which have now disappeared may have been bonded with mortar. Associated with the wall and butting up to its southern face was a layer of stone rubble in a matrix of burnt soil and charcoal (layer 1008) overlain by a 10cm thick deposit of compacted clay (layer 1007). The clay layer 1007 is interpreted as a floor within the building and the underlying stony deposit 1008 as the make up layer below the floor.

Fragments of plaster adhering to the inner face of two of the stones indicate the wall was rendered on the inside. Several fragments of green-glazed floor tile were also recovered from within the building suggesting it may have possessed other floors more sophisticated than the beaten clay floor revealed in the excavation. The only indication of an associated wall were two courses of stonework at the eastern edge of the trench (F1016). This stonework might be the end of a wall running eastwards parallel with F1006 or possibly part of a wall at right angles to F1006. Later activity described below had destroyed contemporary deposits to the north of wall F1006.





**Plate 2** Trench One looking west showing stone wall F1006 with clay floor 1007 to its south



**Plate 3** Trench One. Northern face of wall F1006 showing the method of its construction



The building dates to the middle ages since entirely medieval pottery was recovered from the layers associated with the structure. However the quantity of pottery recovered was insufficient to allow a more precise date to be established.

#### PHASE FOUR

The retaining wall which divides the site (F1025) was the principal feature constructed in this phase. It is presumably contemporary with the construction of Eastborough since it formed the rear wall of the buildings which formerly stood on the lower part of the site and which were erected to front on to the new street. A stepped brick foundation at right angles to the retaining wall (F1005) may be an earlier feature because it is in the position of a passageway shown on the 1852 OS map of the town. The passageway connected Globe St with a yard towards the back of the site called Eldon's Court and the brick foundation F1005 may be the damaged remains of steps within the passageway. The brick foundation had destroyed part of the medieval building and it may be presumed that more was lost when the retaining wall was constructed.

To the north of the medieval stone wall F1006 was a brick wall (F1017) running along the northern edge of the trench together with a brick surface (layer 1018), a brick lined drain (F1022) and soakaway (F1024). The brick surface and the drain rested on natural clay and therefore no medieval deposits survived to the north of the stone wall F1006.

#### PHASE FIVE

The brick wall F1017 and the retaining wall F1025 may have been incorporated in the house which is reputed to have burnt down in the 1930s. No trace was found of this building apart from two foul water pipes (F1014 and F1015) which cut into the remains of the medieval building. The cut (F1002) for the pipe F1015 disturbed the western end of the stone wall F1006. A penny dated 1935 was recovered from this disturbance.

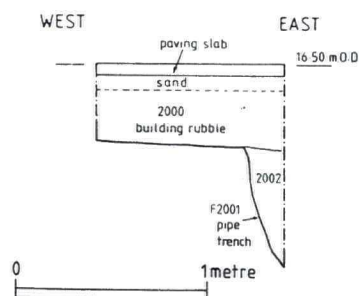
#### PHASE SIX

During the last fifty or so years, the boundary wall along Globe St has been constructed (F1021) and the level of the site raised by the deposition of soil and rubble (layer 1000). The top of this layer forms the current ground surface.

#### TRENCH TWO (Figure 6)

Trench Two measured 2m x 1m and was excavated by machine in the lower paved area between the foot of the terracing wall and Eastborough. The concrete slabs were found to overlie a 10cm thick layer of rubble (layer 2000) which itself rested on natural clay. The natural clay was cut by the trench (F2002) for a foul water pipe (F2003).

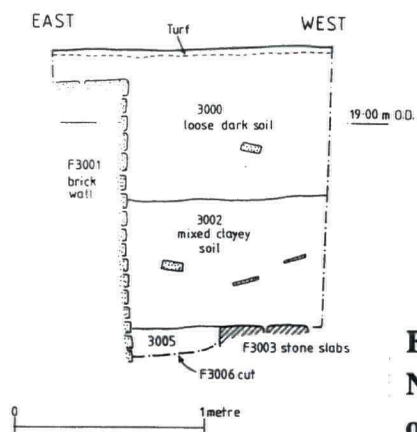




**Figure 6**  
**South facing section**  
**of Trench Two**

### **TRENCH THREE (Figure 7)**

Trench Three was excavated by hand on the upper part of the site to the east of Trench One and measured 1.5m x 1.5m. Medieval deposits comprised an area of flat laid slabs, perhaps part of a pavement (F3003), partially overlain by a layer of fine dark silty soil (layer 3007) containing medieval pottery. Both are presumably contemporary with the phase three building found in Trench One.



**Figure 7**  
**North facing section**  
**of Trench Three**

The medieval deposits were disturbed by two cuts, F3004 and F3006, the latter being the foundation trench for a brick wall F3001. This is perhaps contemporary with some of the brickwork in Trench One and could well be the rear wall of the house reputedly burnt down just before the outbreak of the Second World War.

The layers of soil and rubble which rested against the brick wall (layers 3000 and 3002) have therefore accumulated on the site over the last fifty years.

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## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The excavation of Trench Two revealed that the paved area adjacent to Eastborough is devoid of archaeological interest. Natural glacial clay is 40cms below the current ground level and is overlain by modern building rubble of no archaeological importance. In contrast the upper grassed area presents a more complicated picture. Trench One encountered the remains of part of a medieval building within 20cms of the existing ground surface and some 60cms above the level of the pavement along Globe St. Trench Three also exposed medieval deposits, possibly associated with the structure, but more deeply buried than in Trench One. In Trench Three medieval deposits were found 1.4m below the existing ground surface and 50cms below the level of Globe St. Overlying the medieval deposits in both trenches were layers and features of 19th and 20th century date of little archaeological significance.

In conclusion, the upper part of the site preserves information about the development of Globe St in the middle ages possibly on a scale that is unlikely to be found anywhere else along the street. The rest of Globe Street is occupied by Victorian and modern buildings which are likely to have destroyed medieval remains.

The recommended course of action in response to any development of the upper part of the site is therefore to seek to preserve the medieval remains in situ. Where this is not possible then archaeological excavation should precede any destruction or disturbance of the remains to insure they are preserved by record. A first step would be to remove, under archaeological supervision, the modern and Victorian overburden from those parts of the site likely to be disturbed. This course of action would establish the extent of medieval deposits in these areas so that measures could then be taken to either preserve or excavate the deposits.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavation was sponsored by B. Stringer Ltd with the permission of the site owners, Scarborough Borough Council. The staff of the North Yorkshire County Council Archaeology Section and of the Department of Legal and Valuation Services of Scarborough Borough Council are thanked for their help and advice. The excavation was undertaken by the following members and friends of the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society:- Jan Brooksbank, Ron Davies, Chris Evans, Chris, Frances and William Hall, Dan Normandale, John Petty, and Wally West. Norman Murphy is thanked for help in storage of equipment as are Gibsons Plant Hire for their skilful machining.



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