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**Royal Oak Public House  
Norton  
Malton  
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Figure List	2
1. Introduction	3
2. Site Description	3
3. Geology	3
4. Historical and Archaeological Background	3
5. Methods	4
6. Results	4
7. Conclusions	5
8. Bibliography	6
<b>Appendices</b>	
1. Context Listing	7
2. Finds Catalogue	7
3. Archive Listing	7

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**Figure List****Page**

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Site Location.  | 9  |
| 2. Location of Previous Archaeological Sites and Finds.    | 10 |
| 3. First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Malton and Norton. | 11 |
| 4. Plan of Trenches 1 and 2.                               | 12 |
| 5. Trench 2 - East Facing Section.                         | 13 |

**Royal Oak Public House  
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Malton  
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**1. Introduction**

An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on the 11th August 1999, to fulfil a condition attached to the planning consent for external alterations to the Royal Oak Public House, Church Street, Norton (99/00345/FUL).

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**2. Site Description**

The Royal Oak Public House is situated on the south side of Church Street, c. 140m east of Malton Bridge and 75m south of the River Derwent, in the town and parish of Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire (SE 7925 7137 : Fig. 1). The site stands at an approximate height of 20m A.O.D.

The development was to the rear of the present building, on an area of tarmaced car park, and consisted of the excavation of foundations for the building of an extension.

**3. Geology**

The soils on the site are garden soils, derived from permeable calcareous and non-calcareous loamy soils affected by ground water which overlies chalky glaciofluvial drift. The underlying geology is Jurassic clay, till and glaciolacustrine deposits (Jarvis 1984).

**4. Historical and Archaeological Background**

A number of known archaeological sites are located to the west and north of the development site (Robinson 1978 : Fig. 2).

In the nineteenth century, three segments of Roman Road were uncovered to the north and along the alignment of Church Street, during drainage work (*ibid* no 232, 233 and

234). On Wold Street, Roman pottery, animal bone and signs of kilns were also uncovered during the laying of drains in the 1860's (*ibid* no. 268).

To the north of Church Street is the site of St. Nicholas' Church and St. Nicholas' Hospital (*ibid*, no. 382, 383).

In 1814, on the site of Norton Swimming Pool a Roman Inscribed Stone was found during the excavation of foundations for St. Nicholas' Church.

Roman and medieval pottery sherds were found in 1976, during building work at Norton Post Office (*ibid*, no. 387).

A 'rectangular camp' was noted on Hinderwell's map of Malton in 1825 and on the Ordnance Survey First Edition and Robinson has suggested that it could be a medieval moated site (SE 7964 7142 : *ibid* no. 384, p.40 : Figs. 2 & 3), and was located c. 150m west of the Royal Oak Public House.

In September and October 1997, an Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP was conducted to the rear of 32 Church Street (MAP 1998). The site was heavily disturbed, but Roman artefacts and features were uncovered in the foundation trench at approximately 21.60m A.O.D.

## **5. Methods**

A Watching Brief programme was conducted on all ground disturbance associated with the renovation of the Royal Oak Public House. Two small areas, Trenches 1 and 2 (Fig. 4), were excavated immediately to the south of the existing rear wall of the building. The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator (Kobota) with a toothless bucket in the presence of an archaeologist, and in accordance with the Written Scheme of Works (MAP 1999).

## **6. Results**

### **Trench 1**

Trench 1 was an 'L' shaped trench, approximately 6.10m east-west and 4m north south, 0.75m wide and 1.15m deep. This trench was located immediately to the rear of the building and in close proximity to a brick built cellar drop (Fig. 4). The Trench 1 area had been previously disturbed by service trenches, and no archaeological features were noted. Late eighteenth-nineteenth century pottery was recovered from context 2001. Clean sands and gravels were noted in the base of the trench (context 1002).

## **Trench 2**

Trench 2 was another 'L' shaped trench, which measured 2.85m east-west by 2.85m north-south, 0.75m wide and 0.85m deep (Fig. 4).

A deposit of garden soil (context 2001), 0.7m deep and containing late eighteenth and nineteenth century pottery, was cut by a service trench (cut 2004). In the east facing section was the remains of a limestone wall, surviving to one course in height (context 2003 : Fig. 5). Wall 2003, on a north-south alignment, was at a slight angle to the section, and had been truncated to the north by the present building's toilet block, and may also have been truncated by the modern service trench (context 2004). No finds were recovered to date Wall 2003. Clean sands and gravels were uncovered in the base of the trench (context 2002).

## **7. Conclusions**

Wall 2003 was built directly on natural deposits (context 2002), which may suggest an early date. No other deposits or finds of archaeological significance were uncovered.

## 8. Bibliography

- Jarvis, R.A. 1984 Soils and their use in Northern England. Soil Survey of England and Wales.
- Mackney 1983 Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 1: Northern England. Soil Survey of England and Wales.
- MAP 1998 Ryedale Cash Registers, Norton - Archaeological Watching Brief (Unpublished).
- MAP 1999 Royal Oak Public House, Norton, Malton, North Yorkshire - Written Scheme of Works (Unpublished).
- Robinson, J.F. 1978 The Archaeology of Malton and Norton. Yorkshire Archaeological Society

## APPENDIX 1

### Context Listing

#### Trench 1

- 1001 Deposit: mid brown silty clay  
1002 Deposit: mid yellow grey sandy gravel

#### Trench 2

- 2001 Deposit: mid grey brown silty clay  
2002 Deposit: mid yellow grey sandy gravel  
2003 Wall  
2004 Cut for modern drains  
2005 Deposit: mixed yellow sand and concrete (Fill of 2004)  
2006 Deposit: concrete and drainage pipes (Fill of 2004)  
2007 Deposit: rubble and mid brown grey silty clay (Fill of 2004)

## APPENDIX 2

### Finds Catalogue

Context	Type	Description	Weight	Spot Date
1001	Pottery	24 sherds 2 body sherds, Ryedale Ware 2 body sherds, Köln-Freschen Stoneware (different vessels) 2 rim and 1 body sherds, Marbled Slipware 1 body sherd, English Salt Glazed Ware 1 body sherd, English Porcelain Tea Bowl 4 body sherds, Black Ware 3 rim and 2 body sherds, Pearlware (4 sherds same mug) 3 rim, 1 handle and 1 base sherds, Creamware	0.698kg	late 18th-19th
2001	Pottery	21 sherds 1 body sherd, Marbled Slipware 1 rim, 1 base and 4 body sherds, Red Ware 2 body sherds, Pearlware Mug 1 rim sherd, Pearlware 2 rim, 5 base and 5 body sherds, Creamware	0.334kg	late 18th-19th
	Clay Tobacco Pipe	2 stem fragments	0.008kg	
	Animal Bone	4 fragments		

## APPENDIX 3

### Archive Listing

1. Trenches 1 and 2 : Location Plan. Scale 1:50.
2. Trench 2 : East facing section showing Wall 2003. Scale 1:10.

## APPENDIX 4

## Photographic Listing

### Colour Print Film

1. Trench 1: Working Shot of Excavation, Facing North-west.
2. Trench 2 : Working Shot of Excavation, Facing East.
3. Trench 2: View of Wall 2003, Facing West.