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**South Parade
Norton
North Yorkshire
SE 7978 7138**

Archaeological Watching Brief

**November 2000
MAP 07-09-00**

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Contents	Page
Figure List	2
1. Introduction	3
2. Archaeological and Historical Background	4
3. Methods	4
4. Results	4
5. Conclusions	5
6. Bibliography	5
Appendices	
1. Context Listing	6

Figure List

Page

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Site Location Map (Scale 1:2500) | 7 |
| 2. Plan of Sewer Trench and New Development | 8 |

**South Parade
Norton
North Yorkshire**

SE 7978 71138

Archaeological Watching Brief

1. Introduction

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. during the first two weeks of September 2000 at a development site at South Parade, Norton, North Yorkshire (SE 7978 7138 : Fig. 1). This work was undertaken in line with a Standard Written Scheme of Investigation produced by the Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council to fulfill a condition attached to the planning consent for the development (Application Nos. 99/00288 & 00/00281/FUL).

This location is immediately east of the Hyde Park public house, and lies between Little Wood Street to the south and Commercial Street to the north.

The site formed a level, rectangular plot, c. 35m x 15m in size, lying at an elevation of c. 24.5m AOD. It had previously been occupied by a single-storey brick structure, which was cleared to make way for the proposed dwelling. The soils here were of the Landbeach Association, defined as permeable, calcareous coarse loams, over glaciofluvial gravel (Mackney et al.).

The site lies within the Roman settlement of Norton (see below), and it was this factor that led to the implementation of a Watching Brief.

The work was funded by Yorkshire Housing.

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2. Archaeological and Historical Background

The Roman road from Malton to Settrington runs on a west to east alignment c. 85m south of the site. To the north of this road, only 30m to the south of South Parade, a possible metal-working site was recorded in 1998; this was superseded by a Fourth century paved surface (Lawton, 1999). Immediately west of South Parade a Roman urned cremation was recovered in 1865 (Robinson, 1978, no. 251). Three years later four cremation burials and two inhumations were discovered during the construction of Russell & Sons maltkilns, c. 30m north-west of the site (ibid. no. 250), further burials being found later in the Nineteenth century at a location 10-20m to the north. Finally, c. 100m south-east of the site, a late Fourth century cobbled floor was revealed during the construction of the Eastfields housing estate (Hayes, 1988).

3. Methods

The groundworks associated with the development consisted of the re-routing of a deep sewer main, the excavation of drains, and the formation of a slab foundation for the dwelling (Fig. 2). These works were mainly carried out by a rear-acting excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, a 360-degree machine being employed for the deeper sewer runs.

All ground disturbance took place with an archaeologist in attendance, and appropriate records were made.

4. Results

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the Watching Brief. The natural glaciofluvial sands and gravels were overlain by a 0.70m deep deposit of brown silty sand (context 1002), possibly partly aeolian in origin. This subsoil was covered by a layer of dark loamy soil mixed with recent brick rubble (context 1001) representing the recent demolition / clearance horizon.

The sewer penetrated 2m into the natural deposits, the shallower domestic drains also reaching the natural horizon. However, the formation of the slab took place within context 1002, and consequently did not achieve the depth where archaeological remains might be anticipated.

5. Conclusions

Despite extensive ground disturbance in a location close to known archaeological sites, the development did not reveal any remains of archaeological interest. This absence is perhaps due to Roman activity in the area being relatively sparse, the development apparently taking place within a lightly occupied area.

6. Bibliography

- | | |
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| Hayes, R. H. (1988) | North-East Yorkshire Studies: Archaeological Papers. |
| Lawton, I. P. (1999) | Excavations at Norton near Malton - Interim Report. The Annual Newsletter of CBA Yorkshire. |
| Mackney et al. (1983) | Soil Survey of England and Wales. Sheet 1: Northern England. |
| Robinson, J. F. (1978) | The Archaeology of Malton and Norton. |

APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

Context No.	Description
1001	Deposit; 10 YR 3/2, sandy loam with brick rubble; demolition layer
1002	Deposit; 10 YR 4/3, silty sand with occasional chalk gravel; subsoil deposit



Figure 1. Site Location.



Figure 2. Plan of Sewer Trench and New Development.