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**Norton Primary School
Grove Street
Norton
Malton
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

**MAP 01-01-01
April 2001**

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Norton
Malton
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Introduction

This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief undertaken during topsoil stripping and groundworks associated with the construction of a new classroom block at Norton Primary School, Grove Street, Norton, Malton, North Yorkshire (SE 7952 7118 : Fig. 1) by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd between January and April 2001.

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Site Description

The new classroom development was to be situated on an area of the playground and a lawn south of the present school building and west of two prefabricated classrooms. This area consisted of tarmac hardstanding, grass and three mature lime trees.

The site stands on urban/garden soils derived from the Landbeach Soil Association (512b), permeable calcaereous coarse loamy soils, with a solid geology of glaciofluvial sand and gravel (Jarvis 1984), at an height of approximately 24m AOD.

Methods

A Watching Brief was required at the site for all groundworks. This work included the capping off of the existing services, topsoil stripping, removal of lime tree roots, the removal of the footings of the boundary wall, and the excavation of the foundation and the service trenches.

A back acting JCB mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket was used for the topsoil and trench excavation.

Results

A Watching Brief was carried out during the removal of a prefabricated classroom and disconnection of services to this structure, on the topsoil stripping on the site to a depth of c. 0.50m, the removal of the three mature lime trees and the excavation of the service and foundation trenches to a depth of between 0.90m and 1.10m. Strata revealed included modern playground surface and hardcore, previous service trenches, topsoil, subsoil/colluvium and clean "natural" sand and gravels.

Topsoil Stripping, service and foundation trench excavation revealed no archaeological features. Modern, Post-medieval, Medieval (one sherd) and twenty three sherds of Roman pottery, including Greyware, Calcite Gritted ware, Colour Coated ware and Samian ware, were recovered from the sub-soil (B horizon - soil between topsoil and natural sands and gravels).

Conclusions

The Roman pottery found on site included some large sherds of Calcite Gritted ware. None of the Roman pottery was associated with archaeological features.

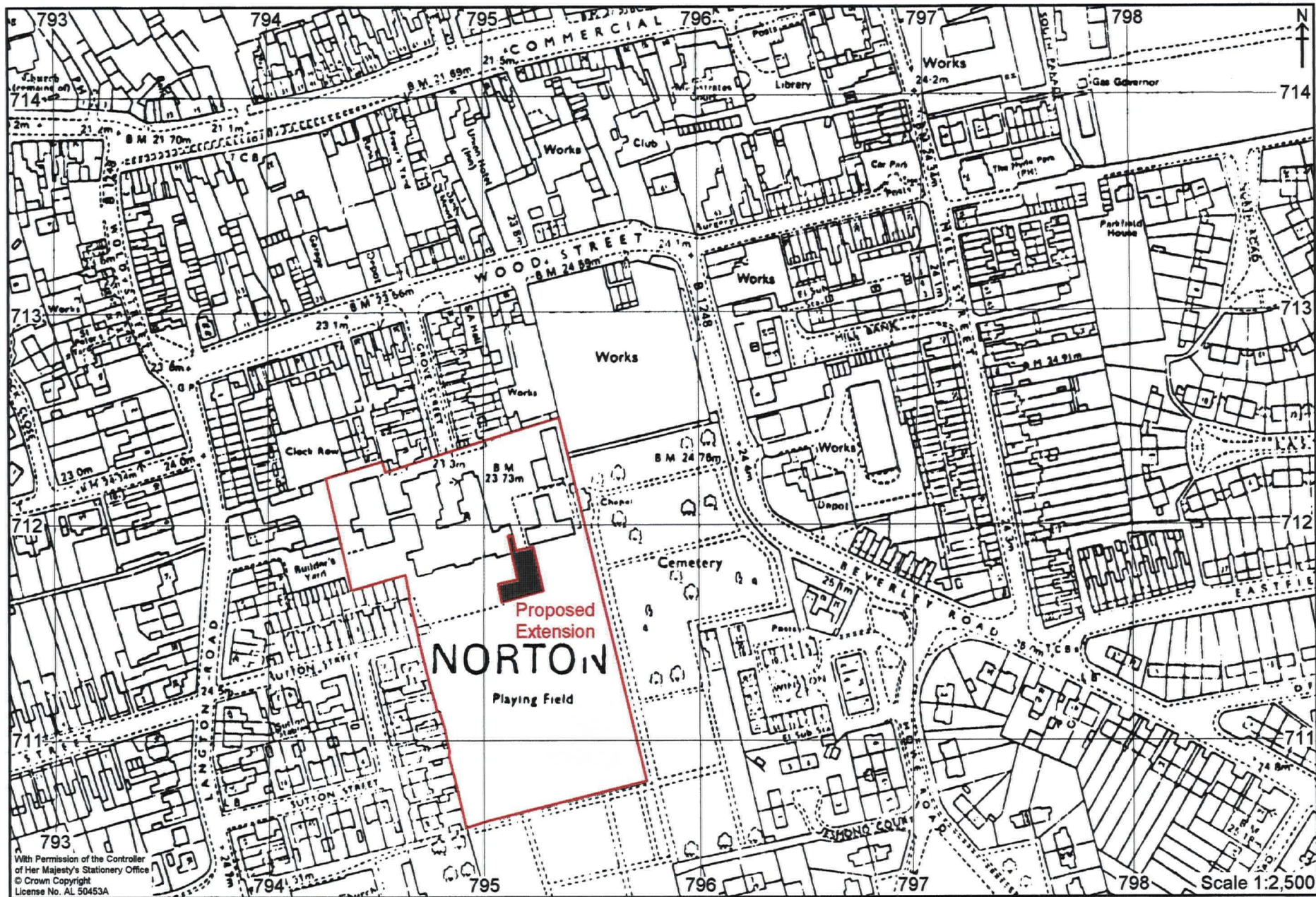


Figure 1. Site Location.