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**Springfield,  
Scarborough,  
North Yorkshire  
TA 0463 8886**

**Archaeological Excavation  
&  
Watching Brief**

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**MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.  
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**Springfield,  
Scarborough,  
North Yorkshire  
TA 0463 8886**

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**Non-technical Summary**

*MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. carried out an Archaeological Excavation at Springfield, Scarborough, North Yorkshire in August and September 2002. An evaluation had been undertaken by Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society between December 1996 and January 1998, which established the survival on the site of well-preserved deposits of 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date. Further work was carried out by York Archaeological Trust to record an area damaged by the excavation of two large, deep holes dug for the disposal of debris from demolished greenhouses and an air-raid shelter, in 1999. Following a change of ownership at the site, MAP were engaged in November 2001 to carry out a Watching Brief on the initial site clearance, leading to the excavation of an area c. 8m x 10m in size which was directly threatened by the construction of low-level garages for the proposed dwellings.*

*The 2002 excavation recorded a well-built, stone-walled, rectangular building of medieval date (Building 1), floored with stone slabs, along with two successive exterior cobbled surfaces, and traces of another stone-walled building (Building 2). Both buildings were demolished in the late 15<sup>th</sup> or early 16<sup>th</sup> century, this period being contemporary with rubbish disposal represented by a cluster of pits in the north-west of the site. Subsequent deposits indicated the dumping of large quantities of soil and rubble in the post-medieval period, followed by the construction of the Quaker's Meeting Hall and a later school in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

*The site yielded a moderate assemblage of medieval pottery, which, alongside local fabrics such as Scarborough and Staxton Wares, contained imported German Stonewares and Low Countries Redware.*

*A modest amount of animal bone was recovered, a group of sheep metapodials recovered from a 16<sup>th</sup> century pit suggesting that tanning had been carried out nearby.*

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**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Excavation carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on a development site located to the north-west of the former Quaker Meeting House situated between Springfield and Cooks Row, Scarborough, North Yorkshire (Figs. 1 & 2 : TA 0463 8886), in August and September 2002.
- 1.2 The excavation was carried out on behalf of, and funded by, Datona Properties Ltd to satisfy an archaeological condition attached to a planning consent for housing development at the site (Decision 4/10/1063L).
- 1.3 An evaluation was carried out at the site by Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society (SAHS) between September 1996 and January 1998, which showed the presence of well preserved, deeply stratified deposits (Fig. 3). In 1998, York Archaeological Trust (YAT) recorded additional deposits, including structures, revealed by the illicit excavation of trenches dug to dispose of rubble from the demolished greenhouses and an air raid shelter (Fig. 3). MAP's involvement began in November 2001 with a Watching Brief on the demolition of a post-medieval boundary wall, construction works within the old Quaker Meeting House and general site clearance. It was at this point that structural deposits were revealed at the north-west of the site, and as these were directly threatened by the construction of two low-level garages for the proposed houses, an excavation followed to record the deposits to formation level (18.00m AOD).
- 1.4 The work was funded by the developer, Datona Properties Ltd.
- 1.5 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 50453A.

**2. Site Description**

- 2.1 The site at Springfield covers an area of c. 0.25 hectares, formerly occupied by a brick-built school of 1871 at the north-west, greenhouses to the north and centre, and an air raid shelter to the north-east. The Quaker Meeting House of 1801 at the south-east of the site is in the process of being converted to

dwellings. Originally there was a difference in level between the area adjoining Springfield at the west of the site, which was formerly occupied by a terrace of 19<sup>th</sup> century houses, with the grounds of the Meeting House. The change in level was retained by a stone wall, capped with brick, which has since been demolished. Ground level at the start of the excavation was c. 19.00m AOD, dipping downwards to the south to c. 18.25m AOD.

- 2.2 The former course of the Damyot stream runs on an east-west alignment through the central part of the site immediately to the north of the Meeting House.

### **3. Geology**

- 3.1 The solid geology at the site consists of Jurassic limestone, which is overlain by a mantle, some metres thick, of glacial boulder clay (Pearson 1987).

### **4. Historical and Archaeological Background**

- 4.1 The site lies within the core of the medieval borough of Scarborough, 400m west of the castle and 120m north of the harbour. The archaeological and historical background has been widely discussed in previous works (Pearson 1987 and 1998), so it only necessary to provide a summary in this report. Prior to the work by SAHS, no excavations had taken place at the site, although its significance was identified by Pearson in 1987 (Pearson 1987, J12). The earliest surviving documentary reference for the site is Cossin's map of 1725, with its subsequent development being shown on later maps of the town, e.g. Vincent (1747), Wood (1828), and the First Edition Ordnance Survey (1852).
- 4.2 The Damyot stream is the earliest known topographical feature at the site. This natural stream rose c. 500m west of the site, flowing eastwards through the medieval borough, before curving south-eastwards to the sea. The town expanded across the valley of the Damyot in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, which seems to have led to the stream's canalisation into an artificial channel, the dam element in its name echoing this process. Excavations at 46 St Sepulchre Street and at the junction of Eastborough and West Sandgate encountered stone culverts suggesting the manner in which the stream was managed in medieval times (Farmer 1976).
- 4.3 The manner in which St Sepulchre Street and Cooks Row cut across the otherwise rectilinear arrangement of streets relating to the 12<sup>th</sup> century town planning of Scarborough has led to the suggestion by some sources (e.g. Farmer, 1976) of the existence of an earlier settlement in this area. The implication was that a pre-conquest settlement was incorporated into the later medieval borough, this leading to the possibility of a Viking-era settlement at this location. However the supposition of a Viking foundation for settlement at Scarborough is a contentious issue. References to the Viking conquest by Skarði of Scarborough in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century Icelandic sagas can be seen as deliberate eulogising of the deeds of individuals' supposed ancestors, and the drawing together of folk traditions rather than statements of fact (Arnold

2001). Arnold has also pointed out that the origin of the first element in 'Scarborough' comes from the Old English word *sceard*, meaning gap or notch, as opposed to a Viking warrior named Skarthi.

- 4.4 Topographical considerations in the form of the course of the Damyot give a likely explanation for the disruption to the rectilinear street pattern around Cooks Row and St Sepulchre Street. In addition, Pearson suggests that the establishment of either the Franciscan Friary or St Sepulchre's church could have caused the change in alignment of Cooks Row (Pearson 2001, 89).
- 4.4 As mentioned above, the form of the medieval town still traceable in Scarborough's streets dates back to the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century when Henry II planted a medieval town to the west of Scarborough castle, extending as far as Friargate and Leading Post Street, 120m west of the site. With the expansion of the town into Newborough in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the original western defensive wall became disused and new defences were established further to the west. The expansion of Scarborough is a testament to its success, so much so that it was among the top thirty wealthiest towns in England.
- 4.5 Cooks Row was first mentioned in 1429, in the will of William Semer (Daniell and Bould 2001), originally applying to the upper (western) part of the street. The implication is of the existence of a row of properties belonging to people involved in food preparation. The lower (eastern) part of the street was known as *Burghwellgate* in medieval times. An undated medieval deed refers to Reginald le Milner (Miller), Stephen le Taverner and John de Melton living on the south side of Burghwellgate. Reginald's surname suggests that there may have been a mill in the vicinity in medieval times.
- 4.6 St Sepulchre's church stood in the immediate vicinity of the site, with Cossin's map of 1725 suggesting that the churchyard lay immediately to the west. The 1996-8 excavations at the site identified a major stone-walled building in the south-west of the site, interpreted as the church itself, and further massive walls, perhaps relating to the church were revealed during the construction of the Meeting House. A chapel dependant on St Mary's parish church, St Sepulchre's was in existence by 1267 when it is mentioned in a grant of land establishing the Franciscan Friary. The church stood until 1562 when lead was stripped from its roof to repair the pier.
- 4.7 The Franciscan Friary at Scarborough occupied a large area bounded by St Sepulchre Street to the south and Longwestgate to the north. The eastern limit of the precinct is uncertain but Cossin's map (not necessarily the most accurate of records : Fig. 5) labelled as 'Fryeridge' an area of land extending as far east as Cooks Row, which coincides with the northern part of the site. The original friary was established in 1240, but the friars were forced to leave town by the Proctor of Citeaux, moving to the village of Hatterboard. The friars returned in 1267 following the grant of land by Reginald Molindarius (Miller), and there were successive land grants to them over the next thirty years. If Reginald le Milner was the same person as Reginald Molindarius a definite link is established between the Friary and land on the south side of Cooks

Row. Very little is known of the Friary buildings, but a view of Scarborough in 1538 showed a fine church with a four-storied tower, either the Friary church or St Sepulchre's (Pearson 1998, Fig. 5).

- 4.8 The Friary was dissolved in 1539, but cartographic evidence suggests that the land thus made available seems to have remained relatively undeveloped. Pearson has suggested that this area of town was unpopular due to the presence of the Damyt, which may have been little more than an open sewer.
- 4.9 A map of Scarborough drawn during the reign of Elizabeth I (c.1540 : Fig. 4) is at too small a scale to accurately pick out the site but the site's environs are clearly built up and perhaps of most importance is the clear positioning of the church of St Sepulchre which was demolished in 1562.
- 4.10 Cossin's map shows the site to be an open area of land covered by a regular arrangement of trees, perhaps an orchard (Fig. 5).
- 4.11 Wood's map of 1828 shows that the site was occupied by the Friends Meeting House and areas of cultivated land akin to a laid out garden (map not illustrated).
- 4.12 The 1852 Ordnance Survey map of Scarborough (Fig. 6) provides interesting information on the site and its environs. In 1852, the northern boundary of the site is a row houses depicted 'Taylor's Free dwellings' and the 'School of Industry' fronting Cook's Row. To the east is an area of open land with three different sets of what appears to be steps, and to the west is open land. The southern boundary is a number of individual plots and open land fronting St Sepulchre Street. On the site is the 'Quaker Meeting House' (a rectangular building with a much smaller rectangular building attached on the northern side – possibly a porch) and laid out gardens subdivided by pathways. This layout is identical to that depicted on Wood's map of 1828. Bisecting the site on an east-west alignment is the 'watercourse called Damgal formerly the Damyt'. At the south-east end of the site (on the north-eastern corner of the Quaker Meeting House) the watercourse changes alignment to a north-west-south-east direction and continues on this course until it reaches the harbour.
- 4.13 The 1852 map (Fig. 6) also shows the site of the Franciscan Convent (1210) immediately to the north-west of the site, the site of St Sepulchre church located to the south and on the southern side of St Sepulchre Street are the sites of the Court of Pleas and the Abbot's Palace. The nature of the medieval buildings/institutions clearly indicates that this area of Scarborough was an important religious if not an administrative centre in the medieval period.
- 4.14 The 1892 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 7) depicts Taylor's Free Dwellings to the north of the site, but the School of Industry is no longer shown – the building appears to have been demolished. On the eastern boundary is 'Tissiman's Yard and to the west are a number of properties with backyards fronting on to Springfield Place. The land to the south of the Friends Meeting House is shown as 'Burial Ground'. It is not clear if this relates to the Meeting



House or the site St Sepulchre's church to the south. Between 1852 and 1892 changes had been made to the garden area to the north of the Meeting House, a small rectangular building is shown as well as a feature titled P which depicts the location of a water pump. The major change in this period is the construction of a rectangular building on a north south alignment in the north-western corner of the site. This building is entitled 'Adult Sunday School'. The close proximity of this building to the meeting house suggests close links between Quaker meeting rooms and schools. The 1892 map shows that the Meeting House accommodated seating for 450 people – quite a considerably sized congregation.

- 4.15 The 1958 Ordnance survey map (Fig. 8) is unfortunately at too small a scale to identify any minor changes to the site's layout. However it is clear that structural development has increased significantly on the eastern boundary of the site and the Talor's Free Dwellings have been demolished.
- 4.16 The 1966 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 9) provides the detail lacking from the 1958 Ordnance Survey. Access to the site was from St Sepulchre Street but the actual interior of the site and the buildings had been modified. The Meeting House is shown as having a remodelled north facing elevation, and a structure appears to have been added to the east facing elevation. Two rectangular buildings are shown in the north of the site of different sizes and alignments it is unclear as to their purpose. A small addition is shown on the eastern side of the school building which appears to have ceased as a school and become 'St Peter's Dining Centre'.
- 4.17 The arrangement of space shown on the 1966 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 9) is identical to that depicted on the 1982 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 10).
- 4.18 The 1986 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 11) although at a smaller scale (1:10000) appears to mirror the information on the 1982 map.
- 4.19 The modern arrangement of the site has its roots in the construction of the Quakers Meeting House in 1801, and the establishment of the present site boundaries around it. Taylor's Free Dwellings were built in 1810 as a row of almshouses on the strip of land between the northern boundary of the site and Cooks Row. A terrace of thirteen houses was constructed along the east side of the newly created Springfield in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Work was begun on the Adult's School at the north-west of the site in 1871.
- 4.20 In the 20<sup>th</sup> century the school became an infant school, and later a youth centre. A surface shelter was built within the grounds in 1939. Taylor's Free Dwellings were demolished after the Second World War, along with the terrace on the east side of Springfield. The area immediately surrounding the site was redeveloped for both public and private housing. Following the disuse of the Meeting House and the dereliction of the school, planning permission was granted for the residential development of the site, and the conversion of the Meeting House.

## 5. Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The basic objective of the excavation was to record any archaeological remains affected by the development, to provide an historical understanding of the site before the majority of the deposits became inaccessible due to the new development.
- 5.2 The results of the fieldwork were to be presented in a report synthesising previous and new work at the site.

## 6. Methodology

### 6.1 *Excavation*

- 6.1.1 The area subject to initial site clearance at the north-west of the site was hand-cleaned and planned to clarify the position and extent of the deposits. Because of the way in which deposits dipped southwards into the Danyot it became clear that only an area c. 10m x 8m at the north-west of the site would be affected by the construction of the houses and garages (Fig. 3).
- 6.1.2 It was established that the limit of disturbance of the ground beams was 18.10m AOD, and accordingly deposits were excavated to a depth of 18.00m AOD to provide a buffer of blinding material of at least 0.10m in depth between the deposits left *in situ* and on site construction works.
- 6.1.3 A system of single context planning was used to record all deposits subject to excavation.
- 6.1.4 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1999).
- 6.1.5 All artefacts were retained for specialist analysis (Appendix 2).
- 6.1.6 Bulk samples were recovered from suitable contexts to ensure the recovery of environmental information (Appendix 5).

### 6.2 *On-site Recording*

- 6.2.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.

### 6.3 *Plans and Sections*

- 6.3.1 The full extent of archaeological deposits were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 on drawing film. The sections of the baulks of the excavation, and elevations of structures were drawn at a scale of 1:10, also on drawing film, and included an OD height.

### 6.4 *Photographic Record*

- 6.4.1 The photographic record comprised monochrome and colour prints, and colour transparencies, to record all archaeological features encountered.

## 6.5 *Finds*

6.5.1 The finds were processed in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (EH 1995). All finds were cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (where possible), marked (where appropriate), and properly packed and stored according to national guidelines.

## 7. **Results**

This section of the report consists of a description of the findings of the 2002 MAP excavation laid out in eight phases in chronological order, with a section at the end giving a summary description by phase, synthesising the work conducted across the site by SAHS, YAT and MAP. The phases of deposits revealed by MAP's work are numbered in Roman numerals, the synthesised phasing in Arabic numerals.

### 7.1.1 *Phase I – Pre-Stone Buildings and Cobbled Alleyway (13<sup>th</sup> century - Figs. 12 and 18)*

7.1.1 Observation of the cores from three boreholes drilled at the site, showed an interesting variation in the depth of natural boulder clay from 3.8m below the machined surface (c. 14.16m AOD) in the central part of the site (Borehole 2 – context 2002) rising to 3.0m deep (c. 14.89m AOD) in Borehole 1 to the south, clear evidence of the Damyot Stream as it crosses the site. All three boreholes contained deposits of loose organic silt immediately above the natural (contexts 1003 and 2002), this being 2m in depth in Borehole 2. The loose organic silt represents the 'natural' fill of the Damyot.

7.1.2 A number of deposits were observed in Borehole 3, dug immediately south of the excavated area. Natural boulder clay (context 3008) occurred at a depth of 1.70m (c. 17.33m AOD) from the machined surface. From earliest to latest, subsequent deposits consisted of a 0.10m deep layer of fine dark organic silt (context 3007), a 0.10m deep layer of decayed vegetation (context 3006), and a 0.16m deep layer of peaty silt (context 3005), which contained three 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century Scarborough Wares sherds (Appendix 2). The uppermost three layers (contexts 3001, 3002 and 3003) were silty clays of different colouring.

7.1.3 The earliest archaeological deposits located in 2002 were represented by an homogenous dump (context 153) along with an adjacent oval deposit (context 147) identified at the limit of excavation. Dump 153 was excavated in a small area in the northern part of the site to achieve the level required for the development, and consisted of dark brown silty clay with frequent coal and charcoal fragments. Context 147 was a very mixed silty clay with frequent charcoal inclusions, its texture and oval shape indicating that it was the fill of a pit.

- 7.2 *Phase II - Stone Buildings and Cobbled Alleyway (13/14<sup>th</sup> century - Figs. 13 and 18 : Pls. 2 - 5)*
- 7.2.1 The excavation revealed evidence for two separate buildings, laid out parallel to each other and separated by a cobbled alleyway. Building 1 was situated in the central and eastern parts of the excavated area, Building 2 to the west.
- 7.2.2 Building 1 had an internal width of 3.7m, and was at least 7m long from north-east to south-west (Pl. 2). The western wall (context 094) was heavily robbed leaving a single course to show that it was formed by roughly squared blocks of sandstone (average size 0.40m x 0.22m x 0.12m) bonded with brown silty clay. Wall 094 was not bonded to the southern wall of the building (context 28), but rather butted it. Wall 028, also heavily robbed, survived to one course in height of roughly squared sandstone blocks (average size 0.30m x 0.18m x 0.15m) bonded with brown clay. Wall 028 butted the eastern wall (context 117), which was traced for 3m northwards, surviving to a single course in height and being similar in build to Walls 094 and 028. The roughness of the finish on the stones and the fact that only a single course survived suggests that these walls represented foundations.
- 7.2.3 The inside of the Building 1 was floored with a surface of slabs (context 119 in the south, context 135 at the north-east : Pl. 3) that dipped slightly to the east. The slabs were laid in rows approximately 0.40m wide, all had rounded edges (but many of them were broken), and were bedded on a layer of compact yellowish red clay (context 151).
- 7.2.4 Two drains (contexts 133 and 134) were integral to Building 1. Drain 133 cut across the south-east corner of the building on a south-west to north-east axis and was approximately 0.20m wide internally. Drain 134 ran immediately inside Wall 094 at the north-west corner of the building before returning south-eastwards and running across the building at right angles to the wall. This drain also had an internal width of 0.20m and was capped by a line of flat slabs (context 127). The drains were filled with silty material (contexts 136 and 150 respectively).
- 7.2.5 The line of Wall 094 was continued south-westwards by another wall (context 27), which butted Wall 028. Wall 027 survived to at least seven courses in height (>1.05m), and was formed by two outer faces of dressed sandstone blocks with a rubble core (Pl. 4). The outer faces were dressed to a high standard but the inside faces of the stones were irregular. The block sizes were regular in both height and length; the upper two courses were both 0.17m in height, the subsequent two courses were each 0.11m high. Two broader courses followed, with the lowest exposed course being offset by 0.05m, probably indicating that it was a foundation. The coursing dipped downwards to the south, suggesting subsidence.
- 7.2.6 Building 2 was represented by a short stretch of wall (context 154) running on a parallel alignment some 2m to the west of Building 1. Only a short stretch of Wall 154 survived (the north end being cut away by a later pit), and it consisted of three un-bonded, roughly rounded quartzitic blocks, whose

roughness suggested that they were a foundation course. The proximity of Wall 154 to the edge of the excavated area and truncation of the deposits to the north and west by later pits means that little can be said concerning any contemporary floors.

7.2.7 The zone between the Wall 094 and Wall 154 was occupied by a cobbled surface (context 146 : Pl. 5), 2m in width. The stones making up this surface were a single layer in thickness, and generally of rounded quartzitic rock but with occasional flat sandstones, edge-set, i.e. with their greatest length laid vertically. Associated finds consisted of fourteen sherds of 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The cobbles were laid flush up against Wall 154, and both were founded on a 0.40m thick deposit of reddish brown clay (context 152) containing 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century sherds. This clay deposit was presumably a dump laid to provide a solid base for both the wall and the cobbles.

7.2.8 Two linear features (contexts 143 and 145) cut into cobbled surface 146. Cut 143 was excavated in a narrow segment only, the limit of excavation having been reached. This feature formed a 0.35m deep and 0.30m wide stone-lined cut on the west side of Wall 027, and was filled with dark plastic silty clay (context 142) at the base, the upper part being filled by a layer of fine limestone gravel (context 141). Cut 145 continued the line of Cut 143 northwards for a distance of 2.5m along the west side of Wall 094, before butting out at its northern end. The fill (context 144) consisted of brown clay containing 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century Scarborough Ware sherds. It is likely that Cuts 143 and 145 were drains carrying surface water away from the cobbled surface.

### 7.3 *Phase III – Occupation of Building 1, Reconstruction of Building 2 (13/14<sup>th</sup> century - Figs. 14 and 18 : Pl. 6)*

7.3.1 An internal wall (Wall 122) was constructed within Building 1. Running at 90° to Wall 094, Wall 122 was 0.65m wide, with two surviving courses 0.13m in height. Facing stones survived on the wall's southern side, where the clay-bonded stones were approximately 0.20m wide; the core consisted of small rubble packed with clay.

7.3.2 Relating to Building 2, Wall 154 was largely demolished and a thick dump of reddish brown compact clay containing 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century Scarborough and Staxton Ware sherds (context 128) was laid over Cobbled Surface 146. A stretch of south-west to north-east aligned walling in two elements (contexts 120 and 121) was then built along on a similar alignment to the earlier wall, but positioned c. 0.40m further west, though still parallel to Phase II Wall 094.

7.3.3 Wall 121 consisted of variably sized, reasonably well-squared clay-bonded sandstone blocks (average size 0.30m x 0.18m x 0.15m) surviving to three courses (0.65m) in height, and two blocks in width. The courses were uneven, with flat stone wedges between, and the jointing was poorly offset from one course to the next. The lowest course was offset c. 0.10m eastwards to act as a foundation course.

- 7.3.4 Wall 120 butted up to the northern end of Wall 121, and was cut away by a later pit (context 046) at its northern end. Its surviving remains consisted of two blocks laid end to end, 0.70m x 0.30m x 0.30m and 0.25m x 0.20m x 0.20m in size. This probably represented a blocked doorway.
- 7.3.5 Deposit 111 formed a thin, narrow band of yellowish coarse sand, lapping directly up to Walls 120 and 121, and seems to have been formed during the construction of the walls.
- 7.3.6 Two small patches of rounded cobbles (contexts 130 and 132) were contemporary with Walls 120 and 121, and presumably represented traces of rough surfacing.
- 7.3.7 Subsequently, a number of clay deposits (contexts 100, 107 and 110) accumulated or were dumped to the east of Walls 120 and 121. Cut into these dumps on the west side of Wall 94, two narrow and shallow linear features (contexts 105 and 123) with clay fills (contexts 101 and 112 respectively) may have represented repairs to the wall face, or short-lived drains.
- 7.4 *Phase IV - Upper Cobbled Alleyway (14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> century - Figs. 15 and 18 : Pl. 7)*
- 7.4.1 The surface of the original cobbled alleyway was raised in Phase IV by laying a new set of cobbles (context 69 : Pl. 7), which was subsequently cut by features 64, 68 and 91.
- 7.4.2 Prior to the laying of the new cobbles an extensive deposit of brownish mottled clay (context 97) accumulated or was dumped over the area occupied by the original alleyway, and another more minor clay dump (context 96) placed over the top. Deposit 97 butted up to Wall 120. These deposits contained predominately Scarborough and Staxton Ware sherds, along with a single sherd of Humber Ware, indicating a late 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 7.4.3 Cobbled Surface 69 consisted of randomly set rounded stones ranging in size from 0.08m in diameter to sub-angular blocks 0.30m x 0.20m x 0.15m, the average diameter being 0.15m. The stones were predominately quartzitic sandstone but with rare brick/tile and igneous stone inclusions, and the surface had a maximum width of 2.5m, and extended for at least 9m southwards from the point where they were truncated at their northern end by later pits. The surface dipped south-westwards along the axis of the alleyway. Finds from this surface consisted of Scarborough and Staxton Ware sherds, suggesting a 14<sup>th</sup> century date for their deposition.
- 7.4.4 Cut 91 was a 4m long, 0.5m wide, 0.3m deep, 'L'-shaped linear feature which cut into the cobbled surface, running south-eastwards from Wall 120, before returning to the south-west. The dark silty clay fill (context 84) contained no finds. Cut 64 was cut into the southern part of Cut 91, and was filled by dark clay (context 63) containing Scarborough and Humber Ware sherds indicating

a late 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century date. Cut 91 is interpreted as a drain, with Cut 64 representing the scouring out of the southern part of the drain.

- 7.4.5 Cut 68 was identified as a sub-rectangular pit, 2m in length, cutting into the cobbles on the west side of Wall 027. This pit was flat-based and 0.3m deep, and filled with dark clay (context 67) containing no finds.
- 7.5 *Phase V – Demolition of Buildings 1 and 2; Pit-digging (15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century - Figs. 16 and 18)*
- 7.5.1 In Phase V Buildings 1 and 2 were both demolished, and a group of pits were dug into the northern end of the cobbled alleyway signalling its disuse.
- 7.5.2 The demolition of Building 1 left traces in the form of a great number of deposits of rubble and waste building material along with a number of cuts showing where its elements were removed for reuse elsewhere.
- 7.5.3 Three separate robber trenches (contexts 77, 80 and 125) were recognised during this phase for the demolition of Building 1. The interior face of Wall 028 was removed by a narrow robbing slot (context 77, filled by a mortary deposit, context 78). The internal wall, Wall 122, was robbed out by an uneven linear cut (context 125), filled by two deposits of silty sand (contexts 126 and 140); context 140 contained Scarborough and Low Countries Red Ware sherds suggesting a 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century date. Cut 80 was a narrow intrusion into the east side of Wall 027 whose size showed that at least four blocks had been removed from the wall's upper course. The fill was a loose silty clay with many angular stone and mortar fragments (context 76).
- 7.5.4 Cut 95 was situated at the northern end of Wall 120, and was a small sub-rectangular feature filled with loose stoney, silty clay (context 88). Cut 95 is likely to have represented the robbing of Wall 120.
- 7.5.5 During this phase of demolition, flagstones were removed from Surface 119, the internal floor of Building 1, in a number of locations. Two cuts (contexts 113 and 114) were recognised as part of this process. Cut 113 was situated in the south-west corner of Building 1, Cut 114 more centrally. The fills (contexts 129 and 115 respectively) were clays with large amounts of limestone and roof tile fragments. The deposits immediately overlying these contained Staxton, Scarborough, Humber and Low Countries Red Ware sherds indicating a 15<sup>th</sup> century or later date.
- 7.5.6 Two possible post holes (contexts 73 and 109) were recognised during this phase. The fill of the former (context 74) contained German Stoneware and Low Countries Red Ware sherds, suggesting a 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 7.5.7 The other feature recognised for the demolition phase (Cut 86) was a rectangular pit with three fills composed of limestone rubble (contexts 72, 82 and 81). Context 72 contained Humber Ware, German Stoneware and Low Countries Red Ware sherds of 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century date.

- 7.5.8 A large number of other deposits were identified for Phase V (contexts 39, 40, 42, 43, 49, 51, 65, 83, 85, 89, 90, 98, 99, 102, 103, 106, 116, 122, 124, 137 and 138). It is not intended to individually describe them here, other than to say that they were layers or patches of rubble of differing consistency. Contexts 43, 49, 102, 124 and 137 contained late 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery, the most notable of which was Hambleton Ware from context 43 and Purple Glazed Ware from context 49. These deposits are best seen as representing individual episodes of shifting and sorting through the materials of the demolished building.
- 7.5.9 The excavation of a group of three intercutting pits (contexts 46, 57 and 62) through the northern end of the cobbled alleyway signalled the fact that it became redundant in Phase V.
- 7.5.10 The earliest of these pits (Cut 62) was situated in the extreme north-west corner of the site, extending outside the excavated area. There were four fills, of which three (contexts 58, 60 and 70) were silty clays of varying hue. The remaining fill (context 59), which occupied most of the pit's base was a very dark organic clay silt with a cassy texture, containing much charcoal and marine shell. All of these fills contained Scarborough Ware sherds, with contexts 58, 59 and 60 also containing Humber Ware, suggesting a 15<sup>th</sup> century date.
- 7.5.11 Pit 57 cut into the fills of Pit 62, and was sub-rectangular in form with steep edges and a flat base. The basal fill (context 58) was a brown silty clay, perhaps representing rapid slumping into the newly dug pit. The subsequent fill (context 55) consisted of a very dark clay silt, clearly organic rubbish or cess. The upper layers in the pit (contexts 48 and 50) were brown silty clays, no doubt thrown in to seal the unpleasant contents of the pit. The upper three fills (Contexts 48, 54 and 55) all contained Scarborough Ware sherds, along with 15<sup>th</sup> century Humber Ware, German Stoneware and Low Countries Red Ware.
- 7.5.12 The latest pit in the group (Pit 46) was a sub-rectangular feature with a single fill consisting of dark silty clay (context 44). Fill 44 was remarkable in that it contained a very large number of sheep metapodial bones, which would appear to represent tanning waste. This fill also yielded the ubiquitous Scarborough Ware sherds, along with German Stoneware to indicate a 15<sup>th</sup> century date.

## 7.6 *Phase VI - Robbing of Wall 94 (17<sup>th</sup> century - Figs. 17 and 18 : Pl. 8)*

- 7.6.1 The robbing of Wall 94 was represented by a well-defined steep-sided, flat-based robber trench (context 26), which terminated to the south at the intersection with Wall 27, and continued north-eastwards out of the excavated area. The fill was a distinct deposit of sub-angular limestone, mortar and ceramic building material fragments in a brown silty clay matrix (context 25). Crucially, the fill contained a sherd of Westerwald Stoneware and Red Ware sherds, giving an early 17<sup>th</sup> century date for this feature.



7.6.2 A sub-rectangular pit (Cut 41) was present on the eastern side of Robber Trench 26. Pit 29 had a similar fill to the robber trench, consisting of a loose jumble of sandstone, cobble, mortar and ceramic building material fragments (context 29), suggesting that an internal structural element of Building 1 was robbed out at this location. This fill also contained Red Ware sherds, showing that it was contemporary with the same episode of robbing as Robber Trench 41.

#### **7.7 *Phase VII - Post-medieval Boundary Wall and Horticulture***

7.7.1 The excavated area was crossed by a mortared limestone wall (context 009), which was demolished and largely removed during the preliminary site clearance. Part of the foundation of Wall 009 was recorded during the Watching Brief stage of the fieldwork. The wall's foundation (context 008) comprised two roughly squared courses of sandstone, within a shallow construction trench (context 010). The east face was constructed from fairly regular stones 0.35m x 0.26m x 0.16m in size, as opposed to the less regular, smaller stones of the west face. A 0.02m thick pad of mortar on top of Foundation 008 formed a level surface for Wall 009, which was constructed of roughly squared and faced mortared stone blocks, typically 0.25m x 0.20m x 0.15m in size. Wall 009 had mortared into it several fragments of decorated masonry. A loose deposit of dark clay silt (context 007) had been deposited within the west side of the construction trench.

7.7.2 Shortly after the construction of Wall 009, large quantities of rubble (context 002) and soil (context 003) were dumped over the site, the greatest depth being laid east of the wall. Context 002 was a loose deposit of stone, ceramic building material and mortar fragments. Five pieces of carved ashlar window tracery were recovered from context 002, along with clay tobacco pipe fragments of the early-mid 17<sup>th</sup> century.

7.7.3 During the Watching Brief on the preparation of the floors within the Meeting Hall, a dump of homogenous loamy material, in excess of 1m deep was seen to contain pottery and clay tobacco pipe fragments of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century date.

7.7.4 In the north-west of the site, following the dumping of rubble and soil, a number of rounded rectangular pits (represented by contexts 13, 14, 19) were dug into the area to the east of the wall. Contexts 13, 14 and 19 were recorded in plan during the Watching Brief, and lay outside the excavated area. They existed as parallel linear deposits of loamy silt, and are likely to represent the remains of cultivation beds.

#### **7.8 *Phase VIII - The Meeting Hall, Victorian School and Cottages (19<sup>th</sup> century)***

7.8.1 This phase concerned a number of brick walls relating to the School and the cottages fronting Springfield.

- 7.8.2 The walls of the School (Context 004) penetrated the modern ground surface to a depth of at least 0.30m, and consisted of a double skin of mortared pale bricks in English Garden Wall bond.
- 7.8.3 The walls of the cottages fronting onto Springfield were also of mortared brick. The cottages had brick-walled cellars which were accessed by steps with stone slab treaders which led downwards to the west.

## 8. Conclusions

- 8.1 Observation of the boreholes gave an approximate illustration of the profile of the Damyot stream, the bed of which was shown by the deep layers of organic silt. The SAHS excavations showed that a timber structure was built into the north side of the Damyot to rationalise the course of the stream, so enabling the construction of surfaces and stone buildings in the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century. The 2002 excavation did not reach the horizon where timber structures were recognised, but did show the construction of stone buildings in the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century, the alignment of which – approximately at 90<sup>o</sup> to Cooks Row – tallied with the buildings revealed by SAHS and YAT's excavations to the east.
- 8.2 The walls of Building 1 were badly robbed but enough survived to show that this was an impressive structure, with a well-paved floor and integral drains. Wall 027 continued the line of Building 1 to the south, and this was a well-built structure with outer and inner faces of carefully shaped and coursed sandstone. If Wall 027 was a reflection of the quality of the rest of Building 1 (whose heavily robbed walls survived to foundation course only), then this was a structure of high status (of which more later).
- 8.3 It was only possible to examine the foundations of Wall 027 in a limited area, but it was clear that the foundation level of this wall lay c. 0.5m lower than those of Wall 094, suggesting that the area was terraced in medieval times to take account of the slope into the Damyot valley. The relatively small difference in height between the slab floor and the foundation of Wall 027, makes it unlikely that it represented part of a cellar or undercroft. As Wall 027 was later than the other walls of Building 1 it may have represented an extension into the lower lying central part of the site.
- 8.4 Building 2 survived fragmentarily, but this was another stone building sharing the alignment of Building 1, and separated from the latter by a cobbled alleyway. Little can be said about the form of Building 2 due to the scant remains surviving, but the fact that the two buildings shared the same alignment suggests that they were part of the same planned building phase.
- 8.5 In Phase III, Building 1 had the addition of an internal wall (context 122), and there were signs of repair to its western wall.
- 8.6 The most significant event in Phase III was the reconstruction of Building 2, shown by the raising of Walls 120 and 121. Wall 121 was unevenly coursed

with poorly offset jointing, quite unlike Wall 27. Wall 120 was interpreted as the threshold for a doorway opening into the cobbled alleyway between Buildings 1 and 2. The thin layer of coarse sand (context 111) lapping up to the threshold may have been an attempt to provide a dry surface at the entrance. The rebuilt wall was offset to the west, having the effect of making the alleyway 0.5m wider, to give a width of 2.5m.

- 8.7 The original, lower cobbled surface was covered over by a series of clay deposits, and it was hard to discern whether these represented deposits accumulating during the use of the alleyway, or deliberate raising of the ground surface to prepare a bed for the later cobbles. The general lack of finds within these deposits supports the latter hypothesis, as this suggests relatively 'clean' material brought in from elsewhere rather than refuse dumping in the alleyway. It has been suggested that rubbish in medieval Scarborough was the subject of organised collection and disposal at the waterfront to aid land reclamation (Pearson, 2001, 91). It appears therefore that the level of the cobbled alleyway was deliberately raised, possibly to aid drainage.
- 8.8 Buildings 1 and 2 were eventually demolished in the late 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century. All the walls of Building 1 were demolished down to foundation level and the materials removed elsewhere for reuse. The robbing extended to the removal of some of the flagstones from the floor. The large number of deposits associated with the demolition phase suggests that the materials gained were cleaned and sorted on site. The two postholes may have represented scaffolding or shoring used in the demolition process.
- 8.9 The digging of the intercutting pits identified at the north-west of the excavated area, through Building 2 and the alleyway underlines the redundancy of the structures at the site. The fills of these pits contained pottery of 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century date, although the absence of Cistercian Ware perhaps implies that they date to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of the pits therefore suggests that demolition occurred in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century.
- 8.10 However, the demolition process did not take place in a single episode, it being clear from the pottery found in robber trench fill 25 (and the adjacent pit, context 041) that Wall 94 was demolished in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. (It may be relevant that SAHS recorded a probable post 16<sup>th</sup> century robbing episode on St Sepulchre's church). Perhaps Wall 94, and its southward continuation Wall 27, was retained as a boundary feature, accounting for the differential survival.
- 8.11 To judge from finds found in the demolition debris, Building 1 was roofed with stone and ceramic (some glazed) roofing tiles. This is to be expected for an urban building as thatch would be an obvious fire hazard. The mixture of stone and ceramic tiles is a reflection of the geographic location of Scarborough, which had access to both easily split oolitic limestone from the Forge Valley, and suitable clays for making ceramic tiles within the town itself.

- 8.12 The function of Building 1 remains obscure, not least because only part of a single room was excavated. The hearth that would be expected for such a dwelling, was not present within the excavated part of the building, but a hearth could still lie outside the examined area. However, the presence of drains within the building gives a hint at the function of the excavated room; drains are often associated with areas used for food preparation, and also those used in craft or industrial activities.
- 8.13 To place the structures revealed during the 2002 excavations in context it is necessary to consider the range of buildings revealed during earlier excavation work (SAHS and YAT – Pearson 1998 and Johnson 1999 respectively) at the site, and other known examples from the town.
- 8.14 The earlier excavations at the site revealed a range of well-built structures associated with cobbled and paved surfaces, on the same alignment as Buildings 1 and 2. An earlier stone-walled building was robbed out in the 15<sup>th</sup> century to be replaced by a structure with broad well-built stone walls. One of the walls was associated with a possible external stair support hinting that the building had more than one storey, an idea supported by the width of the walls. Whether this range of buildings was of stone or timber-framed, or perhaps with a stone-built ground floor and a timber-framed upper floor, is uncertain. The building was demolished in the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, equating to the demolition of Buildings 1 and 2.
- 8.15 Within Scarborough town itself, as with most other medieval towns, construction using a timber-frame was the norm (Hall 2001, 95). Examples of timber-framed buildings survive in Quay Street and Sandside. Timber was readily obtainable from the forests of Scalby and Pickering, and the use of stone for other than a dwarf wall for a timber frame is rare and implies a high-status building.
- 8.16 Excavations in Tollergate uncovered a well-constructed multi-roomed building with a glazed tile floor, tiled roof, and windows that were both leaded and had carved stone tracery (*ibid.*). The absence of a detailed report makes discussion of this building difficult, and in any case it can be seen as anomalous as it was interpreted as the house of the proctor of Citeaux.
- 8.17 Another high-status, although undated, stone building was excavated at the Paradise Estate (*ibid.*); this building had mortared stone walls which were coursed and well-faced, and also had a glazed tile floor. It was unclear whether these walls represented a below-ground structure (cellar or undercroft) or the walls of a masonry or timber-framed building.
- 8.18 Elsewhere at the Paradise Estate a low-status building was uncovered (*ibid.*). This was a single-roomed dwelling of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, 2.5m x 3.4m in size internally, with walls surviving up to four courses high in clay-bonded, squared stones. Regular squared depressions in the top of the wall showed that they were dwarf walls for a timber superstructure based on an interrupted sill beam. On either side a 2.5m wide cobbled pavement ran at 90° to the street frontage.

This building is believed to have been one of three cottages linked to the chantry chapels of the parish church, so need not have necessarily resembled the average medieval buildings in the town.

- 8.19 Walls with high-quality squared masonry were recorded in a cellar survey at the western end of St Sepulchre Street (c. 150m south-east of the site); presumably these were evidence for below-ground structures (*ibid.*).
- 8.20 The consideration of how Building 1 lies within the range of structures evidenced in medieval Scarborough is hampered by the systematic way in which much of it was demolished. The foundation of Wall 94 was a broad feature, quite capable of supporting a stone wall to first floor height. If one accepts that Wall 27, the continuation of Wall 94, is indicative of the nature of all the walls of Building 1, the conclusion is that this was a high-status structure, and judging by available evidence, quite different to the average medieval building in Scarborough. The absence of post-settings within the top of Wall 27, and its surviving height, argue that it was a completely built in stone.
- 8.21 Taken with the range of buildings located elsewhere on the site, a suite of well-built, high status structures, was apparently laid out at the same time, and demolished simultaneously. This amount of planning on a broad scale must represent an individual or organisation with great authority. Given the fact that the Franciscan Friary existed in the immediate vicinity, and that that there was a apparent grant of land at Cooks Row to the Friary in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the temptation is to relate the building activity at the site to the Franciscan Friars. The demise of the structures in the late 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century appears to coincide with the dissolution of the Friary in 1539 providing a further clue to the organisation behind the control of the site in the medieval period.

## 9. Stratigraphic Synthesis

### 9.1 *Phase 1 (Natural course of the Damyot stream)*

Encountered by SAHS across the central and middle parts of the site, and by MAP during the observation of the boreholes. Represented by a layer of fine dark organic silt with a subsequent layers of decayed vegetation.

### 9.2 *Phase 2 (Timber Structure – 12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> century)*

This phase represents the earliest traces of settlement uncovered at the site, consisting of two gullies cut into the natural surface, and a possible wooden fence, both found by SAHS on the north side of the Damyot.

### 9.3 *Phase 3 (Refuse Dumping and Consolidation of Damyot – 13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> century)*

The SAHS excavation showed that the low-lying area through which the Damyot flowed was apparently used for the dumping of rubbish, covering over the Phase 2 timber fence. MAP and YAT excavations recorded water-lain deposits relating to the Damyot in this phase.

- 9.4 ***Phase 4 (Stone Buildings and Yards -13<sup>th</sup> / 14<sup>th</sup> century)***  
This phase followed directly on from Phase 3. MAP, SAHS and YAT recorded stone buildings in this period. MAP Buildings 1 and 2 flanked a cobbled alleyway. SAHS's and YAT's building contemporary to this consisted of a major south-west to north-east oriented wall with another wall perpendicular to it, associated with a cobbled surface. It is possible that St Sepulchre's church, identified by SAHS at the extreme south-west corner of the site was constructed at this time.
- 9.5 ***Phase 5 (Second Period of Stone Buildings – 14<sup>th</sup> century)***  
In this phase MAP Building 2 was reconstructed on a line slightly further west to its original position. Contemporary to this MAP Building 1 and the building recorded by SAHS and YAT continued in use.
- 9.6 ***Phase 6 (Demolition and Resurfacing – 14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> century)***  
MAP showed that the cobbled alleyway was rebuilt at a higher level above the original surfacing. Contemporary to this the earliest stone building found by SAHS/YAT was partly remodelled.
- 9.7 ***Phase 7 (Damyot Embanked and Culverted – 15<sup>th</sup> century)***  
It is possible that this phase coincided with Phase 6, but with the absence of a direct stratigraphic link a separate phase has been assigned. The course of the Damyot was rationalised as a stone-walled channel of high-quality, neatly coursed masonry. The culvert was reinforced on the south side by a clay bank, and rubble dumped into the former stream course.
- 9.8 ***Phase 8 (Building Range Remodelled – 15<sup>th</sup> century)***  
The structure revealed by SAHS and YAT was remodelled into an L-shaped range that incorporated elements of the earlier building. This building may have had a stone-built ground storey and an external staircase. No works can be confidently assigned to MAP Building 1 during this phase.
- 9.9 ***Phase 9 (Demolition of Stone Buildings and Culvert (15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> century)***  
The stone buildings on the site were comprehensively demolished and at the same time the culvert was filled in and partly robbed. The dating evidence is not close enough to prove that this demolition took place in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century (it could equally suggest a late 15<sup>th</sup> century date), but the temptation is to link the large-scale clearance of the site to the dissolution of the Franciscan Friary. Cess pits were dug into the north-west part of the site at this time. The demolition of St Sepulchre's church is believed to have begun in the later 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- 9.10 ***Phase 10 (Demolition, Revetment and Boundary Wall – late 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> century)***  
Pottery evidence clearly illustrated that the western wall (Wall 94) of MAP Building 1 was robbed out in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, and so it must have remained standing for a while after the 15<sup>th</sup> /16<sup>th</sup> century demolition. SAHS' excavation on the remains of St Sepulchre's church suggested a second phase

of robbing on the church, which may have been associated with the demolition of Wall 94. At around this time it seems that the bank of the Damyot was crudely reveted on its south side, and a relatively insubstantial structure built over it. A Boundary Wall was then laid across the Damyot revetment, constructed of mortar-bonded, faced, coursed stone blocks. The blocks included re-used architectural fragments, believed to have originated from the by-now demolished St Sepulchre's church. This boundary dictated the western limit of the site into recent times.

9.11 ***Phase 11 (Rubble and Refuse Dumping – 17<sup>th</sup> century)***

Immediately following the construction of the Boundary Wall, the site was covered over with substantial deposits of rubble and refuse. It seems that this process levelled the site off, filling in any traces of the course of the Damyot, which must have been channelled into a new culvert.

9.12 ***Phase 12 (Gardens – 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> centuries)***

The levelled-off site was used as gardens during this period. Cossins' map of 1725 depicted stylised trees at the site suggesting the presence of orchards. MAP identified several features cutting into the archaeological deposits, which were interpreted as planting beds linked with this usage of the site.

9.13 ***Phase 13 (Quakers Meeting Hall – early 19<sup>th</sup> century)***

The Meeting Hall was built in the southern part of the site in 1801, and it seems that the western boundary wall was raised in height by around fifteen courses of more regular stonework (c. 2.5m).

9.14 ***Phase 14 (Victorian School and 20<sup>th</sup> century Structures)***

A two-storey building was erected in 1871 as a school for adults. This was a brick-built structure under a slate roof, with a sub-basement. In its later days the school was used for the instruction of children. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century a brick-built, concrete-roofed surface air-raid shelter, and several greenhouses were built in the school grounds.

## 10. Bibliography

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