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46 Market Place
Malton
North Yorkshire
SE 7863 7187

Archaeological Watching Brief

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**46 Market Place
Malton
North Yorkshire
SE 7863 718778**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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**46 Market Place
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Archaeological Watching Brief

1. Introduction

An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. during the third and fourth weeks of August 2001 at a development site to the rear (i.e. east) of 46 Market Place, Malton, North Yorkshire (SE 7863 7178 : Fig. 1). The Watching Brief involved archaeological supervision of the groundworks associated with the single-storey extension which formed part of the conversion of the former Mennell's gift shop to a restaurant.

The site formed a level, rectangular plot, c. 9m x 7m in size, lying at an elevation of c. 31.5m A.O.D. It had previously been occupied by the demolished outbuildings of the former shop.

Beneath the urban build-up, the soils were of the Elmton 2 Association, defined as shallow, well-drained brashy calcareous fine loamy soils over limestone (Mackney *et al.* 1983).

The site lies approximately 300m north-east of the Roman fort and settlement lying under what is now The Lodge and Orchard Fields, and is within the area formerly encircled by the walls of the medieval new town of New Malton (see below). As there was clearly the potential for archaeological remains to be adversely affected by the development, the Heritage Unit of NYCC called for a Watching Brief at the site.

The work was funded by the developer, Mr D. Harrison.

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2. Archaeological and Historical Background

Orchard Field has long been recognised as the site of a Roman fort guarding the Derwent crossing, with a civilian settlement stretching southwards from the fort to the river (Corder 1930 and Mitchelson 1964). The remains of the fort are known to extend westwards in to the grounds of The Lodge, and further Roman activity was uncovered in this area during Time Team's visit to Malton in 1996 (MAP 1997).

The Borough of New Malton was founded in the mid-Twelfth century, perhaps under royal patronage (Robinson 1978, 14). There are Twelfth and Thirteenth century references to weavers, goldsmiths, masons and mercers, and in the Fourteenth century, to wool-merchants, showing that the borough achieved a degree of economic success. The market was first mentioned in 1283, and the fair in 1295 (ibid.). The Market Place can be seen as the economic centre of the borough, placing the site in a key location for trade.

The canons of Old Malton priory founded a hospital, dedicated to St. Peter, for the care of the poor on Wheelgate, c. 40m north-east of the site, and its vaulted Fifteenth century undercroft survives as the cellar of the Cross Keys Inn.

Little archaeological work has been carried out within the medieval borough, information related to the Market Place being confined to the observation of foundations, and medieval and Roman finds on the site of the old Angel Inn c. 1791 (ibid., no. 161), and a medieval floor and pottery in the garden of 12 Market Place in 1967 (ibid. no. 165). Further afield, Roman and medieval sherds were recovered during a Watching Brief to the rear of 47 Greengate (MAP 1994). Excavations at Carpenters Yard, on the extension to Safeway's supermarket to the south of Castlegate, recovered a small number of medieval sherds from later dumping deposits (MAP 1999).

An indication of the post-medieval trade activity at the site is provided by Capt. Copperthwaite's survey of land-use in Malton c. 1843 and the accompanying *Plan of the Town of Malton in the North Riding of Yorkshire* by Robert Wise (Fig. 2 - Salmon ed., 1981):

Plot 180	John Wardell	House and shoe shop, kitchen, shoemaker's shop and leather warehouse.
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3. Methods

The groundworks consisted of the excavation of five strip foundations to a maximum depth of c. 1.8m, and a shallower east-west drain across the north of the site. These works were mainly carried out by a tracked mini-excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, or a toothed bucket as ground-conditions dictated; a limited amount of hand-excavation was carried out, notably at the location of Pit 016.

All ground disturbance took place with an archaeologist in attendance, and appropriate records were made, consisting of scaled plans and sections on drawing film, written records on pro forma context sheets, and photographs in colour and monochrome print, and colour slide, in 35 mm format. All finds from stratified deposits were retained and processed in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (EH 1995).

Because of the way in which the individual foundation trenches formed separate excavation areas, deposits were numbered separately in each trench. Individually numbered contexts which clearly relate to each other are brought together in the Results section below.

4. Results

A series of intact archaeological deposits was recorded, generally well-preserved, but in places truncated by modern intrusions. The archaeological deposits ranged from a late medieval pit to recent dumps.

The natural deposits consisted of a coarse gritty sand with limestone fragments (context 025 - Fig. 4, f-g), representing the weathered surface of the limestone bedrock.

The natural was overlain by a deposit of olive brown sandy silt (context 006 - Fig. 4, a-c) in the northern foundation trench.

A pit (context 016 - Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, h-i) was observed cutting into the natural at the south-west corner of the site. Pit 016 was present across the full width of the foundation trench, making it at least 0.80m wide. Cut away to the north by a large modern intrusion (context 009 - Fig. 4, h-i) the pit was at least 0.9m in length and 0.80m in depth. The fill (context 015) was an homogenous clay silt with c. 50% limestone gravel inclusions. Finds consisted of eleven sherds of medieval pottery (Appendix 2), the latest of which (Humber Ware) indicated a Fifteenth century date for the pit.

The pit was overlain by 0.50m deep layer of dark silty clay (context 014 - Fig. 4, h-i), and similar material (contexts 024 and 034) was recorded at the same horizon at the bases of the two eastern foundation trenches (Fig. 4, f-g and d-c). Twenty-four sherds were found in these deposits ranging from a single Roman Grey Ware fragment to Cistercian Ware (Appendix 2), the latter suggesting that this deposit was formed in the Fifteenth or Sixteenth century.

The three central foundation trenches revealed a 0.15m thick uniform layer of compact brownish yellow clay silt (contexts 013, 023 and 033 - Fig. 4, h-i, f-g and e-d) whose upper surface dipped slightly to the south and east. The uniformity of this deposit indicates that it was a deliberately laid surface, the texture suggesting an interior floor as clay silt would be unsuitable for outside use. There were no finds.

Floor 013/023/033 was not observed in the northern foundation trench, and was truncated by a later boundary wall at the southern limit of the site, and by a modern intrusion (context 027 : Fig. 3, e-d) at the east. The structure to which the floor related would therefore appear to have been c. 5.5m wide north-south and at least 8m long east-west.

Directly on top of the floor lay a variable, mixed deposit of dark sandy silt (contexts 005, 012, 022 and 032 - Fig. 4, c-a, h-i, f-g and d-c, e-d) 0.15m - 0.2m thick, extending beyond the floor's northern limit. This material contained frequent charcoal and coal fragments, the charcoal occasionally forming discrete lenses directly on top of the underlying floor. Also present were fragments of fired clay up to 0.20m in length; these were not evenly distributed throughout the layer but densest in the north-west part of it. Pottery was confined to single sherds of Staxton/Potter Brompton Ware and Cistercian Ware from context 012 (Appendix 2), suggesting a Fifteenth or Sixteenth century date.

It is tempting to interpret this layer of burnt material as an 'occupation' deposit which built up during the working life of the structure associated with the floor surface. Although burnt material was common in this deposit it did not occur in sufficient quantity to suggest the presence of a destruction horizon.

The two subsequent deposits were traced across all of the foundation trenches. A c. 0.30m thick compacted layer of dark grey clay silt with frequent limestone and mortar fragments (contexts 004, 011, 021 and 031 - Fig. 4, c-a, h-i, f-g and d-c / e-d respectively) directly overlay the burnt deposit. Pottery from this layer (context 004) ranged from Humber and Hambleton Wares to Cream Ware and Pearl Ware (Appendix 2), suggesting

an Eighteenth century date for its deposition. A looser deposit with larger amounts of limestone rubble (contexts 003, 010, 020 and 030 - Fig. 4, c-a, h-i, f-g and d-c / e-d respectively) overlay the more compact rubble layer.

The rubble deposits were truncated by a number of intrusions of Nineteenth century or later date; contexts 002 and 009 (Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, c-a and h-i) were probably large pits or soakaways, context 018 (Fig. 4, f-g) the foundation trench for the former boundary wall which formed the southern limit of the site, context 027 (Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, e-d) a massive disturbance associated with a former toilet block, and context 029 (Fig. 4, d-c) a drain trench.

The latest activity was shown by a loose layer of rubble (contexts 007, 019 and 025 - Fig. 4, h-i, f-g, d-c and e-d) representing recent demolition at the site.

5. Conclusions

Although disturbed in places by modern walls, pits and drains, areas of well-preserved Fifteenth and Sixteenth century archaeology survived at the site. A pit, presumably a latrine, was identified close to the site's southern boundary. The pit predated what seems to have been a former topsoil containing a range of medieval pottery; a yellowish clay floor surface was laid directly on top.

Unfortunately, the limited scope of the Watching Brief meant that there were no indications of the actual structure of the building associated with the floor. It could be that as no traces of associated walling came to light, the structure was built of timber posts, the position of which need not have coincided with the areas cut through by the foundation trenches. If one accepts that the burnt layer built up over the floor related to the use of the building, the pointers are to some form of industrial or craft activity. Illustrated by the relatively large amounts of charcoal, coal and fired clay fragments within it, as opposed to 'domestic' debris such as bone and pottery fragments.

Subsequent activity was represented by the dumping of two rubble layers, perhaps to prepare the ground for the buildings shown on Nineteenth century maps of the site (e.g. Wise's 1843 map - Fig. 2).

The small Roman Greyware sherd is a tantalising hint of Roman activity, but perhaps this should be expected given the concentrated large-scale Roman settlement and fort lying a

few hundred metres to the south-east. There was a full range of regional medieval pottery types from the Twelfth century onwards: York Glazed Ware, Staxton/Potter Brompton Ware, Brandsby-type Ware, Beverley 1 and 2 Wares, Scarborough Ware, Hambleton Ware, Humber Ware and Cistercian Ware.

The Watching Brief at 46 Market Place yielded interesting and important information on the medieval borough of Malton, giving an indication of what lies buried elsewhere within the town.

6. Bibliography

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APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

Context No.	Description
000	Unstratified finds
001	Deposit; 10 YR 4/2, clay silt with lst. and brick rubble; fill of 002
002	Cut; modern intrusion
003	Deposit; 10 YR 4/2, sandy silt with lst. rubble; dumping
004	Deposit; 10 YR 4/2, clay silt with lst. rubble and mortar frags.; dumping
005	Deposit; 7.5 YR 4/2, sandy silt with charcoal, coal and fired clay incls. ?occupation horizon
006	Deposit; 2.5 Y 4/4, compact sandy silt with lst. gravel; ?dumping
007	Deposit; 10 YR 4/2, sandy silt with lst. rubble; modern dumping/demolition
008	Deposit; 10 YR 4/2, clay silt with lst. and brick rubble; fill of 009
009	Cut; same as 002
010	As 003
011	As 004
012	As 005
013	Deposit, 10 YR 5/6, compact clay silt; floor
014	Deposit, 10 YR 4/2, silty clay; ?old topsoil
015	Deposit, 10 YR 4/2, clay silt with c. 50% lst. gravel; fill of 016
016	Cut; pit
017	Deposit, 10 YR 3/2, clay silt with lst. rubble; fill of 018
018	Cut; foundation trench for southern boundary wall
019	As 007
020	As 003
021	As 004
022	As 005
023	As 013
024	As 006
025	Deposit, 7.5 YR 5/8, coarse gritty sand; natural deposits
026	As 001
027	As 002
028	Fill of 029
029	Cut; modern drainage trench
030	As 003
031	As 004
032	As 005
033	As 013
034	As 006

APPENDIX 2

Finds Catalogue

Context	Type	Description	Wt. (Kg)	Spot date
000	Pottery	1 Cistercian Ware cup base 1 Red Ware handle	0.150	C 17/18th
004	Pottery	1 Scarborough Ware 1 Red Ware rim 1 Creamware 1 Pearlware	0.190	C 18th
006	Pottery	1 Roman Greyware 5 Humber Ware (2 base, 1 rim) 1 Hambleton Ware base 4 Cistercian Ware (2 base)	0.610	C 15/16th
	Tile	1 flat roof-tile frag.	0.015	
011	Pottery	3 Humber Ware	0.070	C 15th
012	Pottery	1 Staxton/Potter Brompton Ware 1 Cistercian Ware	0.015	C 15/16th
014	Pottery	2 Staxton/Potter Brompton Ware (incl. 1 curfew handle frag.) 1 York Glazed Ware 1 Brandsby-type Ware 1 Beverley 2 Ware 1 Humber Ware	0.100	C 14/15th
015	Pottery	4 Staxton/Potter Brompton Ware 5 Beverley 2 Ware 2 Humber Ware	0.095	C 14/15th
034	Pottery	1 Staxton/Potter Brompton Ware 2 York Glazed Ware 1 Beverley 1 Ware 1 ?Beverley 2 Ware 2 Hambleton Ware (1 rim)	0.190	C 15th

APPENDIX 3

Archive Summary

34 Context sheets, completed and checked for consistency.

1 Site Plan on drawing film showing foundation trenches in relation to existing buildings, and location of features and drawn sections. 1:50 scale.

5 Sections on drawing film. 1:10 scale.

18 photographic exposures in 35 mm format.

APPENDIX 4

Photographic Listing

Film 1: Colour Slide

1-2: Contexts 001-006 facing south.

3-4: Contexts 007-016 facing west.

5-6: Contexts 017-025 facing east.

7-8: Contexts 001-2, 007 and 025-34 facing south-west.

Film 2: Monochrome Print

1-2: Contexts 001-006 facing south.

3-4: Contexts 007-016 facing west.

5-6: Contexts 017-025 facing east.

7-8: Contexts 001-2, 007 and 025-034 facing south-west.

Film 3: Colour Print

1-2: Contexts 001-2, 007 and 025-034 facing south-west