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Malton  
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Archaeological Evaluation

MAP  
Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

March 2003

Nos. 42-46 Wheelgate  
Malton  
North Yorkshire

SE 7877 7181

Archaeological Evaluation

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**42 Wheelgate  
Malton  
North Yorkshire  
SE 7877 7181**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Non Technical Summary**

*This report consists of the results of an archaeological evaluation. The Desk-based Assessment describes the history and archaeology of 42 Wheelgate, Malton, North Yorkshire. The site forms an area of land for redevelopment as a consequence of a fire in the property in November 2002. Historical documents provide a wealth of information from the medieval period through to modern day and indicated the potential for archaeological deposits.*

*Evaluation trenches to the rear of 42 Wheelgate, Malton demonstrated the survival of pits and post holes dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century. A wall exposed in Trench 1 and traced in plan at the southern side showed that a stone building, possibly of the same date, was incorporated into the 19<sup>th</sup> century brick building that stands on the site.*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In March 2003 MAP Archaeological Consultancy were commissioned by Lightly and Lightly on behalf of Fitzwilliam Estates (Malton) Ltd. to carry out an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Archaeological Evaluation on land to the rear of 42 Wheelgate, Malton, North Yorkshire (SE 7877 7181: Figs. 1 & 2).
- 1.2 The property had recently been badly damaged in a major fire that also affected the adjacent property. Fitzwilliam Estates have applied for planning permission to refurbish 42 Wheelgate. As part of the refurbishment proposal outbuildings at the rear

of the property would be demolished and the floor level of the shop at the street front would be brought through to a new extension at the back of the property.

- 1.3 The evaluation consists of a Desk-based Assessment and Trial Trenching with the objective of determining, from existing records and excavation, the nature of the archaeological resource within the proposed development area. All methods and practices utilised comply with the *IFA* Code of Conduct.
- 1.4 All work was funded by Fitzwilliam Estates (Malton) 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. License No. AL 50453A.

## 2. **Site Description**

- 2.1 The proposed development area currently consists of a facade fronting Wheelgate (Pis. 1 - 2) with service yards to the rear (Pis. 3 - 6). The current state of the site is due to a fire in November 2002 and subsequent demolition of sections of the building for reasons of safety. The buildings are constructed of stone, brick, concrete and glass (Pis. 1-4).
- 2.2 The present site levels are 28m AOD on Wheelgate falling to 27.90m AOD at the rear of the site.

## **Desk-based Assessment**

### 3. **Aims and Purpose of the Assessment**

- 3.1 The site lies within the historic centre of the market town of Malton. Sites of known historical and archaeological significance occur within the town's environs. Ryedale District Council's policy in conjunction with the advice issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment, contained in Planning Policy Guideline 16 (PPG 16) 'Archaeology and Planning', require that an evaluation and appropriate mitigation

strategy will normally be required before an application is taken to Planning Committee.

- 3.2 By assessing the known historical and archaeological records for the site and its immediate environs a projection of the nature and depth at which archaeological deposits may be encountered can be produced. The Assessment and deposit model can then be used to determine the necessity for any further archaeological evaluation and a mitigation strategy.

#### 4. **Methods**

- 4.1 The aims of the Assessment are to be achieved by: firstly the evaluation of historical information derived from cartographic and pictorial documents, trade directories, registers and the RCHME surveys and books. Secondly, by consideration of previous Archaeological Excavations, Evaluations and Watching Briefs. Both primary and secondary sources will be consulted.

#### 5. **Historical Background**

- 5.1 Malton is built on undulating ground, which falls very rapidly towards the River Derwent which bounds the settlement to the south. There are modern extensions to the town to the west and north, and Norton, on the east bank of the Derwent, practically forms a suburb. The main road from Whitby enters Malton at Old Maltongate, and Yorkersgate forms the main road to York.
- 5.2 Malton has long been recognised as the site of the Roman fort of *Derventio*, guarding the Derwent river 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 has been uncovered in the area in recent years.
- 5.3 The place-name of Malton derives from the Old English meaning middle farm, the Old English name being Scandinavianised as in the more usual Melton (Maltune m 1086), Old English *middel* or Old Norse *meðal* and Old English *tun* (Field 1980).

- 5.4 Prior to the Norman Conquest the manor of Malton belonged to Siward and Torchil. At the time of Domesday in 1086 the Archbishop of York had 1 carucate, the King had 11.5 carucates, Ulf 1 carucate and Oldfrida 1.5 carucates.
- 5.5 The Borough of New Malton was founded in the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps under royal patronage (Robinson 1978, 14). New Malton comprises of the two ecclesiastical parishes of St. Michael and St. Leonard.
- 5.6 The town was once surrounded by walls, the course of which follows the parish boundary. The walls probably determined the shape of the market place. This lies between Yorkersgate and Wheelgate and is connected with Old Maltongate by Greengate.
- 5.7 There are 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century references to weavers, goldsmiths, masons and mercers, and in the 14<sup>th</sup> 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, along with the main thoroughfares such as Wheelgate, can be seen as the economic centre of the borough, placing the site in a key location for trade. Greengate is first mentioned in the 14<sup>th</sup> century in 1323 (Rushton 1982). Wheelgate was originally known as Appleton Way in the medieval period.
- 5.8 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 15<sup>th</sup> century undercroft survives as the cellar of the Cross Keys Inn.
- 5.9 During the Civil War period (1640-1660) there was great unrest in the town and culminating in several years of depredation and poverty. In 1644 Newcastle's forces were defeated in Malton by Sir William Constable.
- 5.10 By the 18<sup>th</sup> century Malton had become a very prosperous market town and had been acquired by the Honourable Thomas Wentworth.
- 5.11 Trade Directories for the North Riding of Yorkshire provide descriptions of commercial activity in Malton from 1823 to 1937. In 1823 Wheelgate was very much a thriving commercial center with shops including butchers, basket makers, book



sellers, clock and watchmakers, curriers, grocers, hatters and a gun smith (Baines 1823)

5.12 Kelly's Directory of Yorkshire records the following occupiers and businesses operating from 42 – 46 Wheelgate :

Date of Directory	Plot Number	Occupier	Business
1901	42 Wheelgate	Charles Heyne	Pork Butcher
	44 Wheelgate	No information	
	46 Wheelgate	No information	
1913	42 Wheelgate	Charles Heyne	Pork Butcher
	44 Wheelgate	Richard Cross Horsley	Cycle Maker
	46 Wheelgate	Eastman Ltd	Butchers
1925	42 Wheelgate	Charles Wray	Butcher
	44 Wheelgate	Richard Cross Horsley	Cycle Maker
	46 Wheelgate	Eastman Ltd	Butchers
1933	42 Wheelgate	Charles Wray	Butcher
	44 Wheelgate	Arthur Rowsley	Green Grocer
	46 Wheelgate	Bowdens Ltd	Confectioners
1937	42 Wheelgate	Arthur Rowsley	Green Grocer
	44 Wheelgate	Charles Wray	Butcher
	46 Wheelgate	Bowdens Ltd	Confectioners

5.13 The above table illustrates the usage of the buildings over four generations. Butcher's shops occur frequently in the listings with more unusual occupations such as cycle making. It is also interesting to note the interchanging of occupiers between the three properties.

## 6. Cartographic Background

6.1 Maps exist for Malton from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to the present Ordnance Survey edition, and all show Wheelgate and Greengate. The earliest map of "the Burrow of New Malton" by Joseph Dickinson dates from 1730 and shows street frontage and

burgage plots on Wheelgate, and a large open area referred to as "Garth" to the rear in the approximate area of the Proposed Development Area (Fig. 3). A plan of the Parish and Manor Malton, dates to 1795-1800 and shows the street pattern for New Malton but no detail (Fig. 4). The 1825 Plan of Malton from Thomas Hinderwell's manuscripts shows the town wall and built-up street frontage on Wheelgate and Greengate and built-up back yards in the approximate area of the Proposed Development (Fig. 5).

- 6.2 Robert Wise's Survey of Malton dates to 1840 (Fig. 6) and shows a series of buildings at variance to those shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1853. The properties which now constitute 42 – 46 Wheelgate are numbered as 259. The survey records for plot number 259 four properties detailed as :

House and Tailors shop occupied by Robert Arundell

House occupied by Thomas North

House and Hairdressers Shop occupied by Elizabeth & Joshua Skelton

Cottage occupied by James Sheilds

- 6.3 The map accompanying the survey (Fig. 6) records a Unitarian chapel (262) to the north and a house, grocers shop, kitchen and warehouse (258) to the south.

- 6.4 Robert Wise's survey also records that there were eighty houses on Wheelgate, twenty five shops, four public houses, and one beer shop with a total of 325 inhabitants. The condition of the street was tolerable being paved but not in good repair, the drainage being by open sewers.

- 6.5 The First Edition Ordnance Survey Town Series Map of 1853 shows a series of rectangular buildings fronting Wheelgate (Fig 7), boarded to the south by an alleyway, with Masterman's row continuing the line of the alley to the east and a second alleyway forming the boundary to 46 Wheelgate to the north.

- 6.6 The Second Edition County Series Ordnance Survey Map of 1911, illustrates alterations to the layouts of 42 – 46, these properties now extend further to the east than shown on the 1983 map and are more linear in form (Fig 8).
- 6.7 The 1924 Ordnance Survey Map depicts 42 Wheelgate as a small rectangular unit with 42-46 as a single unit which is over twice the length of No 42 and which extends into the back yard of the earlier properties (Fig. 9).
- 6.8 The arrangement shown on the 1924 map remains current on the 1945 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig 10), the only addition being a very small structure attached to the southern side of 44 Wheelgate.
- 6.9 By 1970 although 44 - 46 Wheelgate remains unchanged, No 42 has been extended to the east and is now almost 2/3 the length of 44-46. This arrangement is depicted on the 1999 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 12). The larger scale of this map also shows the sub division of 44-46, which has not been apparent on earlier maps.

## 7. Archaeological Background

### 7.1 Archaeological Sites and Finds

- 7.1 The Proposed Development site is located within the medieval town of Malton and c. 200m north-west of the Roman Fort and civilian settlement (*vicus*) of Derwentio and 250m north-west of the site of Malton Castle. All the finds and sites listed below are within 300m of the Proposed Development site.
- 7.2 Remains of three Roman Roads following the alignment of Yorkersgate, Wheelgate/ Newbiggin, and Castlegate (Fig. 13, 1-3 : Robinson 1978, Nos. 49-51). Roman Sites and Spot Finds include a coin of the Emperor Hadrian found in 1954; a gold coin dating to the reign of Nero, Roman pottery sherds (Fig. 13, 4-9 : *ibid.*, Nos. 48, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 56).
- 7.3 A Wall and Ditch are documented as enclosing the town of New Malton in the medieval period (Fig. 13. 10 : *ibid.*, No. 157). There are two medieval Churches in

Malton, St. Michael's, Market Place Malton within the towns defences and St. Leonards, Church Hill, Malton by the castle (Fig. 13. 11-12 : *ibid.*, Nos. 163, 172).

7.4 Medieval sites and Spot Finds include a road on a similar alignment to and overlying the Roman road along Yorkersgate, several coins dating to the time of Edward II, remains of a ruined building uncovered in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Market Cross, tile and pottery dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, a 15<sup>th</sup> crypt underneath the Cross Keys Inn, a stone lined well, a cross pedestal and thirteen coins from the reigns of King John, Edward I and Edward III, and medieval pottery (Fig. 13. 13-22 : *ibid.*, Nos. 159, 161, 162, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 170 and 173).

7.5 An undated feature is also listed by Robinson c.125m south of the proposed development area. (Fig. 13. 23 : *ibid.*, Nos. 194). This is a 6.1m wide ditch located in the vicinity of Carpenters' Yard.

## 7.2 Recent Evaluations and Watching Briefs

7.2 Three evaluations and eight Archaeological Watching Briefs have been undertaken in Malton town centre since 1990, and deposits of Roman through to Post-medieval date have been uncovered. In 2002-2003 excavations to the rear of 11-13 Wheelgate produced exciting new information on Malton's medieval past.

1. St. Michael's Church, Market Place Malton, in 2000 (Fig. 14. 1). Due to the shallow nature of the excavations no archaeological deposits were encountered during a Watching Brief (MAP 2000).
2. Market Place, Malton, 1995 (Fig. 14. 2). An Archaeological Watching Brief, by York Archaeological Trust. encountered no archaeological deposits due to the shallow nature of the excavations.
3. St. Leonard's Churchyard, Church Hill, Malton, 1991 (Fig. 14. 3). Archaeological Evaluation by York Archaeological Trust recorded Roman deposits and extensive human remains of medieval and post-medieval date.

4. 46, Old Maltongate, Malton. (Fig. 14. 4) In 1991 and 1998 Archaeological Evaluation and a Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. encountered no archaeological deposits (MAP 1991 & 1998).
5. Electrical Substation on Saville Street, Malton (Fig. 14. 5). An Archaeological Watching Brief in 1994 revealed medieval deposits recorded at a depth of 0.6m below present ground level (MAP 1994).
6. Friends' Meeting House, Greengate, Malton (Fig. 14. 6). An Archaeological Watching Brief in 1993 recorded medieval deposits and a section of the Town wall (MAP 1993).
7. Fitzwilliam Estate Carparks on Yorkersgate, Wheelgate and Finkle Street, Malton (Fig. 14. 7-9). Archaeological Watching Briefs in 1999 encountered no archaeological deposits due to the shallow nature of the excavations (MAP 1999).
8. Carpenter's Yard, Malton (Fig. 14. 10). An Excavation followed by an Archaeological Watching Brief in 1999/2000 recorded medieval through to 19<sup>th</sup> century deposits and structures (MAP 2000).
9. Malton Methodist Church, Saville Street, Malton (Fig. 14. 11). An Archaeological Watching Brief in 1999 recorded no archaeological deposits (MAP 1999).
10. Tuddle Lane/Market Place, Malton (Fig. 14. 12). An Archaeological Watching Brief in 2000 revealed extensive medieval and post-medieval deposits (MAP 2001).
11. 11-13 Wheelgate (Fig. 14. 13). Excavation in 2002/2003 recorded extensive medieval deposits and structures dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards (MAP forthcoming).

### **7.3 Listed Buildings**

- 7.3.1 No. 42 Wheelgate is a Grade II listed building (Ref : 801/8/155). The property is listed as an 18<sup>th</sup> century house and shop.

7.3.2 Within the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development Area are Nos. 22, 24 and 26 Wheelgate, which are Grade II Listed Buildings (801-1/8/148) dating to the late 18th century with 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century additions.

7.3.2 Further Listed Buildings are situated at No. 19 Newbiggin, No. 14 Newbiggin (The Blue Ball Public House and the Friends Meeting House on Greengate ([www.imagesofengland.co.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.co.uk)))

## Excavation

### 8. Introduction

8.1 Two trenches were excavated (Fig. 17), one in the remains of outbuildings attached to the building (Trench 1) and a second in the yard to the rear of the property (Trench 2). Trench 3 was excavated to investigate the relationship between stone walls exposed in Trench 1 and standing walls incorporated into an out-building. These walls appear to be the remains of a structure recorded on the Ordnance Survey map of the area from 1853 (Fig. 18).

### 9. Methodology

#### 9.1 *Excavation and Recording*

9.1.1 All excavation was carried out by hand. Archaeological deposits were recorded using a single context recording system compatible with the MoLAS recording system. Contexts were recorded on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets.

9.1.2 Planning and surveying were based on a site grid that was tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

9.1.3 Sections were drawn at 1:10. Plans were drawn at 1:20. A general site survey carried out using a Total Station EDM.

9.1.4 A full photographic record was kept comprising monochrome print, transparencies and colour print film.

9.1.5 Finds have been processed in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeology Standards and Guidance for Finds Work.

## 10. Results

10.1 The deposits encountered in both trenches had been heavily truncated by service trenches and demolition at various times.

### 10.2 Trench 1

10.2.1 The earliest feature in Trench 1 was a small post hole dug into natural sand and gravel (cut 1011). Three sherds of 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery were found in the silty clay fill of the post hole (1010), was overlaid by a substantial stone wall (1002: Fig. 19 : Pl. 7).

10.2.2 Wall 1002 was shown to be part of a structure incorporated into the outbuildings at the back of the property. The plan of this structure was traced over the site and elements were shown to stand to some height. Three courses of rounded sandstone remained, standing to a height of 0.5m and 0.65m wide with the lowest course offset by 0.05m on the eastern side (Fig. 19; Pis. 8 & 9). Part of the structure had been standing in the area of the evaluation trench until it was demolished in clearance work after the fire. The stratigraphic position of the wall was difficult to establish clearly in this area as no obvious foundation cut could be seen.

10.2.3 A primary deposit (1012) of silty clay with frequent inclusions of gravel and limestone fragments abutted the west face of Wall 1002. Finds from this deposit also dated from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century. Part of a second sub-circular post hole (cut 1008) in the south western corner of the trench contained four sherds of pottery of the same date within its fill (1007). Three limestone packing-stones were still in place within the silty clay fill.

10.2.4 A silty clay deposit (1001 and 1009 equivalent deposits) with frequent well-sorted limestone inclusions overlay the fill of the post hole. These deposits also abutted the face of Wall 1002.

- 10.2.5 A small pit had been dug into 1001 at the south west corner of the trench (cut 1014). The fill was a greenish brown silty clay (1013) with frequent limestone inclusions, no finds were recovered from this deposit.
- 10.2.6 On the eastern side of Wall 1002 deposits had been heavily truncated, probably obliterating any original construction cut. A thin band of silty clay (1005) overlay natural. Above this a brick built yard surface (1003) had been laid overlapping the lowest offset course of 1002.
- 10.2.7 Trench 1 was extended west to the highest part of the site immediately behind the property. A live water main and two drains prevented further excavation in the central area of the trench. A square well head constructed of coursed limestone slabs was exposed at the western end of the trench (Fig. 19: Pl. 10). The structure had been damaged by a modern intrusion and a drain cut through the backfill. Removal of some of the backfill material produced many finds of 19<sup>th</sup> century blue and white china but at the maximum extent of the excavation a stone roof tile was recovered from among a deposit of stone debris.
- 10.2.8 A sondage (Trench 3) against the stone structure in the south western corner of the site demonstrated a build up of material below the existing remains of paving in the yard, suggesting that the square structure of well head may have been built at this time to raise the level of an earlier well.

### 10.3. Trench 2

- 10.3.1 Within Trench 2 the earliest deposit encountered was a reworked soil directly overlying natural deposits (2013). Two pits (cuts 2008 and 2012) and a small post hole (cut 2010) were cut into this material. Cut 2008 was heavily truncated with only 0.25m surviving. Cut 2012 survived to a greater depth (0.8m), with an irregular profile, the sides undercutting the upper edges (Fig. 19 : Pl. 11). The southern edge had a sharp break of slope forming a shallow elongated bowl shape. Pottery from the fill of cut 2008 (2007) and cut 2012 (2011) was of a similar range of fabrics dating to



the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The post hole cut 2010 had a diameter of 0.2m and was 0.1m deep. The silty sand fill (2009) did not produce any finds.

10.3.2 The deposits filling this group of cut features were sealed by another worked soil deposit (2006) of mixed sandy silt and sandy clay. Finds from this deposit gave a slightly later, 14<sup>th</sup> century, date.

10.3.3 The remnants of medieval occupation described above were cut by service trenches for the live drainage system (2005) for the building and a branch associated with the remains of a former storage shed (2003). A small wooden post 2002 in a square post hole (cut 2004) were cut into the upper fill of the service trench. A short stub of edge set bricks (2001) may have been associated with the service trench.

#### 10.4 Trench 3

10.4.1 Trench 3 was excavated at the intersection of the wall continuous with 1002 and a standing stone wall incorporated into a small shed or outbuilding accessible from the alley between 40 and 42 Wheelgate. Below a stone slab yard surface there was a very dark silty clay deposit with frequent finds of Blue and White china. Within this small sondage the angle of intersection of Wall 3001 (continuous with 1002) and the standing wall was exposed showing them to be part of the same structure. A possible deposit of demolition material or wall tumble was observed slightly to the west of the angle (3003). At the base of the sondage a possible floor surface of irregular limestone blocks was exposed, this might be an original floor within the stone building.

### 11. Conclusions

11.1 The excavations at 42 Wheelgate have demonstrated that the building has a more complex history of structural development than might have been imagined from the brick building that stands on the site today. Within the yard Trench 2 revealed truncated features of the medieval period attesting to the earliest use of the site. The remains of a substantial building, almost certainly dating to the medieval period and possibly to foundation of New Malton is incorporated into the back of the property.

Trench 1 was essentially excavated into the interior of this building and Trench 3 demonstrated that internal floor surfaces might remain intact. The evidence of the 1853 Ordnance Survey map of the area, where the structure is more fully depicted, suggests that if it survives the western part of this building extends into the back of the adjacent property 44 Wheelgate and that the division between the two properties is a fairly recent establishment, a feature it shares with similar boundaries excavated at 11 – 13 Wheelgate.

- 11.2 Observation of the stone walls incorporated into surrounding buildings such as 40 Wheelgate and the nearby Elim Church, which is actually a substantial stone building with a brick façade on its southern side, suggest a regular layout of rectangular stone buildings might be reconstructed (Pl. 12). It is possible that these and the stone undercroft in the Cross Keys public house immediately opposite the site might be the remains of a building complex that formed the medieval hospital established by the Canons of Old Malton Priory.

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