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Malton
North Yorkshire
SE 7877 7181**

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Archaeological Excavation Report

2004.

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North Yorkshire
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Archaeological Excavation Report

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Archaeological Excavation Report

Non-Technical Summary

An archaeological excavation was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at 42, Wheelgate, Malton, North Yorkshire (SE 7877 7181) during July and August 2003. The excavation was undertaken in order to further investigate a series of medieval features and structures identified in three small evaluation trenches excavated during March 2003.

The excavation consisted of a single 8.0m x 7.0m area situated to the rear of the existing building. The results revealed several phases of medieval activity, dating from the 12th to the 14th centuries.

In the first phase (Phase 1A), two fragments of well-built stone wall were identified that had subsequently been obscured by a build-up of occupation deposits.

In the second phase (Phase 1B), one of the walls had been re-used in the construction of a large stone-built culvert. The occupation deposits had been truncated by a series of small pits and post-holes and a third wall had been constructed.

The third phase (Phase 1C) consisted of three further fragments of wall and an associated floor surface sealing the earlier cut features.

The fourth phase (Phase 1D) consisted of a fragment of wall that partially sealed the Phase 1C floor surface and also utilised part of the Phase 1B culvert as a foundation.

The fifth phase of medieval activity (Phase 1E) was represented by a stone boundary wall and fragments of associated flooring.

The final medieval phase (Phase 1F) consisted of further fragments of flooring and the construction of a large stone-lined soakaway or drain.

Post-medieval activity on the site (Phase 2) was remarkably sparse and consisted of three isolated occupation deposits.

Phase 1 and 2 features had been heavily truncated by a complex series of modern features and service trenches (Phase 3).

1. Introduction

An archaeological excavation was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at 42, Wheelgate, Malton, North Yorkshire (SE 7877 7181, Figs 1& 2) during July and August 2003. The work was undertaken in order to fulfil a Planning Application condition attached to the re-development of the property following a recent fire. An archaeological evaluation carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. during March 2003 had demonstrated the survival of archaeological features dating to the 12th century and so the current phase of work was initiated in order to clarify the nature and extent of these features.

All work was funded by Fitzwilliam Estates (Malton) Ltd.

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2. Site Description

The development area consisted of a façade fronting the east side of Wheelgate with service yards to the rear. At the time of excavation the site was covered in debris following a major fire in October 2002 and the subsequent demolition of sections of the building for safety reasons. The buildings are constructed of stone, brick, concrete and

glass. The present site levels are 28.0m AOD on Wheelgate, falling to 27.90m AOD at the rear of site.

3. Historical Background

Malton lies on undulating ground, which falls rapidly towards the river Derwent, bounding the settlement to the south. In modern times the town has extended to the west and north, with the town of Norton forming a suburb on the east bank of the Derwent. The main road to Whitby enters Malton at Old Maltongate and Yorkersgate forms the main road to York.

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 has recently been uncovered in this area (MAP 1997).

The name Malton derives from the Old English for middle farm (Old English *middle* or Old Norse *medal*, Old English *tun*, Field 1980). Malton is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086, although this is taken to refer to the village of Old Malton. Old Malton itself is thought to have been the main settlement focus during the Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian periods.

Malton Castle was built to control the crossing over the river Derwent and is thought to have been constructed in the early 12th century (Robinson, 1978, 13). References to the destruction of Malton during a siege of the castle by Stephen's supporters in 1138 indicate that an extra-mural settlement serving the castle had been established in the Castlegate area by that time (*ibid.*).

The Borough of New Malton was founded in the mid-12th century, perhaps under royal patronage (*ibid.*). New Malton consists of the ecclesiastical parishes of St. Michael and St. Leonard. The town was once walled, the course of the walls following the parish

boundary. The borough did not include the Castlegate area, which is thought to have been under the control of the castellan, Eustace fitz John. The circuit of the walls probably determined the shape of the market place, which lies between Yorkersgate and Wheelgate.

There are 12th and 13th century references to weavers, goldsmiths, masons and mercers, and 14th century references 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, along with streets such as Wheelgate, placing the site in a key location for trade.

The canons of Old Malton priory founded a hospital on Wheelgate, dedicated to St. Peter. Its vaulted 15th century undercroft still survives as the cellar of the Cross Keys Inn.

During the Civil War (1640-1660) the town suffered depredation and poverty. In 1644 Newcastle's forces were defeated in Malton by Sir William Constable.

By the 18th century Malton had become a prosperous market town and had been acquired by the Honourable Thomas Wentworth.

Trade Directories for the North Riding of Yorkshire provide descriptions of commercial activity in Malton from 1823 to 1937. In 1823 Wheelgate was a thriving commercial centre with businesses including butchers, basket makers, book-sellers, clock and watchmakers, curriers, hatters and a gun-smith (Baines 1823). In the 20th century, Kelly's Directory of Yorkshire records the occupants of 42 Wheelgate as butchers in 1913, 1923 and 1933, and as greengrocers in 1937.

4. Archaeological Background

The current site is located in the centre of the medieval town of Malton, approximately 200m to the north-west of the Roman fort and civilian settlement (*vicus*) of Derventio, and 250m north-west of the site of Malton castle.

Since 1990 a number of Archaeological Watching Briefs and Evaluations have been conducted in Malton town centre, which include the following sites;

At the Friends' Meeting House, Greengate, an Archaeological Watching Brief in 1993 recorded medieval deposits and a section of the town wall (MAP 1993).

Roman and medieval sherds were recovered during a Watching Brief to the rear of 47 Greengate (MAP 1994).

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Saville Street in 1994 revealed medieval deposits at a depth of 0.60m below present ground level (MAP 1994).

Excavations at Carpenters Yard, on the extension to Safeway's supermarket to the south of Castlegate, revealed a sequence of deposits dating from the medieval period to the 19th century (MAP 2000).

An Archaeological Watching Brief conducted in 2000 revealed extensive medieval and post-medieval deposits at Tuddle Lane, Market Place, Malton (MAP 2001).

Archaeological excavations carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd to the rear of 11-13 Wheelgate in 2002 and 2003 revealed an extensive sequence of deposits dating to the medieval period. Several phases of structures and deposits were noted, dating from the 12th century onwards (MAP 2003).

An Archaeological Evaluation, consisting of three small trenches, was undertaken to the rear of 42 Wheelgate during March 2003, which demonstrated the survival of pits and postholes dating to the 12th or 13th 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 19th century brick building that stands on the site.

5. Methodology

The present excavation consisted of a single large area approximately 8.0m x 7.0m in size, located immediately to the rear of the standing building (Fig. 3: Pls.1 & 2).

All excavation was carried out by hand, following a single context recording strategy based on MoLAS guidelines. Archaeological features were recorded using MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. *pro forma* recording sheets.

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

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

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

Finds have been processed in accordance with the English Heritage Standards and Guidance for Finds Work.

6. Results

6.1. Phase 1: Medieval

6.1.1. Phase 1A (Fig. 4)

The earliest structure identified during the excavation was a fragment of stone wall (contexts 4047/4059). Wall 4047/4059 was 0.50m in width and ran in a south-west to north-easterly direction for approximately 2.40m. The wall was constructed with faces of roughly-dressed sub-rectangular stones, with a maximum size of 0.25m x 0.20m x 0.07m, surrounding a stone rubble core. The bonding material was a sandy orange mortar. Twenty courses of stonework survived in the best-preserved section of the wall, which stood to a height of 1.37m, 27.77m AOD (Fig. 12 c-d: Pl. 4).

Part of wall 4047/4059 to the south-west had been utilised in the construction of a later wall, running in a north-west to south-easterly direction (context 4060). Wall 4060 was 0.60m wide and 1.80m in length. It consisted of faces of roughly dressed sub-rectangular stones, 0.20m x 0.25m x 0.07m in size, surrounding a stone rubble core. The bonding material was a light sandy mortar. Twelve courses of stonework were visible, rising to a maximum height of 1.55m, 12.59m AOD (Fig. 12 a-b: Pl. 3).

A sequence of three probable occupation deposits had built up against the southern face of wall 4047/4059 (contexts 4085, 4071 and 4066, Fig. 12 c-d). Deposit 4085 was 0.42m deep and was situated at a maximum height of 26.49m AOD. The deposit consisted of mixed sandy silt with occasional inclusions of small stones. Deposit 4085 was sealed by a 0.68m deep deposit of sandy silt, situated at a maximum height of 27.12m AOD (context 4071). Deposit 4071 contained pottery sherds of 12th to 13th century date (Appendix 2). Context 4071 was sealed by a 0.80m deep deposit of fine sandy silt (context 4066). Deposit 4066 was situated at a maximum height of 27.92m AOD and contained sherds of 12th to 14th century pottery (Appendix 2).

Excavations at the northern end of wall 4047/4059 revealed a sequence of three deposits that had built up against the eastern face of the wall at this point (contexts 5025, 5026 and 5027). Deposit 5025 was a sandy silt layer, situated at a height of 26.89m AOD and containing sherds of 12th to 13th century pottery (Appendix 2). It was sealed by a 0.25m deep deposit of silty sand (context 5026), which in turn had been sealed by a 0.35m deep layer of silt (context 5027). Deposits 5025, 5026 and 5027 were interpreted as continuations of deposits 4085, 4071 and 4066 respectively.

6.1.2. Phase 1B

Wall 4060 had been utilised in the construction of a later structure running on a parallel alignment (context 4061, Pl. 3). Structure 4061 was situated immediately to the north of wall 4060 and consisted of a 1.20m high, 0.30m wide stone wall surmounted by a flat stone arch. The arch was 0.60m wide, and stood to a height of 1.70m. The wall and arch were of one build, with the southern edge of the arch being bonded to the northern face of

Wall 4060, so that the earlier wall acted as the southern upright of the structure (Fig. 12 e, f, & a-b). Structure 4061 was constructed of approximately twenty courses of roughly-dressed sub-rectangular stones, 0.20m x 0.25m x 0.05m in size, and stood to a maximum height of 12.69m AOD. The bonding material was an orange sandy mortar.

No foundation cut could be observed for Structure 4061 during excavation. However, the relatively smooth internal face of the arch, when contrasted with the markedly rougher exterior face, suggests that the structure was constructed tight against an open vertical cut truncating deposits 4085, 4071 and 4066.

The arched stone structure continued to the north-west where a change in construction was noted. Owing to a slight divergence with wall 4060, the arch was built as a free-standing structure (context 4062, Fig.12 g-h, Pl. 4). Structure 4062 consisted of two 0.30m wide upright stone walls, set 0.60m apart and surmounted by a flat arch. The structure was of one build and consisted of approximately twenty courses of roughly-dressed stones, 0.20m x 0.25m x 0.07m in size. Structure 4062 had been constructed upon the upper surface of a truncated section of wall 4059 and stood to a maximum height of 1.50m (27.87m AOD).

No obvious foundation cut could be identified during the excavation and recording of Structure 4062. As with Structure 4061, it seems likely that 4062 had been constructed against the sides of an open vertical cut. To the east, the foundation cut had truncated a sequence of two deposits that had built up against the western face of Wall 4047/4059 (contexts 4069 and 4065, Fig. 12 g-h). Context 4069 consisted of a 1.10m deep deposit of silty sand, situated at a maximum height of 27.57m AOD. Deposit 4069 was sealed by deposit 4065, which consisted of a 0.35m deep deposit of sandy silt, situated at a maximum height of 27.97m AOD.

To the west, a single 1.80m deep deposit of silty sand and gravel had been truncated by the construction of Structure 4062 (context 4067). Deposit 4067 was situated at a maximum height of 28.13m AOD.

Structures 4061 and 4062 appeared to form part of a linear feature running from north-east to south-west across the site. However, the feature was not visible at the surface level of excavation and was only recorded where it had been exposed by later truncations. Interpretation is therefore somewhat difficult, but it is likely that contexts 4061 and 4062 represent parts of a stone-built culvert or drain which incorporated and re-used parts of an earlier wall (context 4060) in its structure. The true length of the feature could not be determined due to being obscured by modern service trenches.

Deposit 5027 had been truncated by a vertical-sided foundation cut running on a north-west to south-east alignment (context 5008, Fig. 12 i-j, k-l). Cut 5008 was 1.50m long and 0.60m deep and was cut from a height of 26.87m AOD. The feature was not fully excavated, but was in excess of 1.20m deep. It was filled by a stone wall (context 5006) and a backfill deposit of silty sand (context 5007). Deposit 5007 contained sherds of 12th to 13th century pottery (Appendix 2).

Wall 5006 was constructed of roughly-dressed sub-rectangular stones, a maximum of 0.25m x 0.20m x 0.10m in size, bonded with a sandy mortar. The wall was 0.34m wide and eight courses of stonework were identified, standing to a maximum height of 0.58m (27.51m AOD). Excavation was abandoned before the bottom of the structure had been reached. Wall 5006 had been truncated to the south-east by foundation cut 4073 for wall 3001 (see below).

The southern face of Wall 4060 was partially sealed by a build-up of mixed silty sand (context 5024=4067; Fig. 12 m-n). Deposit 5024 was situated at a maximum height of 27.80m AOD and sealed natural deposits that dipped from a height of 27.67m AOD at the south to 27.10m AOD at the north. Deposit 5024 was truncated by a series of small cut features, the earliest of which were a series of three small stakeholes (contexts 5052, 5053 and 5054) and one posthole (context 5058).

Cuts 5052, 5053 and 5054 were of similar circular plan and vertical-sided profile. Cut 5052 was 0.08m in diameter and 0.05m deep, being excavated to a height of 27.53m AOD. Cut 5053 was 0.09m in diameter, 0.15m deep and was cut to a height of 27.45m AOD. Cut 5054 was 0.07m in diameter, 0.14m deep and was excavated to a height of 27.51m AOD. All three features were filled by similar deposits of sandy silt (contexts 5044, 5045 and 5046 respectively).

Posthole cut 5058 was of circular plan and vertical-sided, concave bottomed profile (Fig. 12 o-p). The feature was 0.36m in diameter and 0.30m deep, being excavated to a height of 27.46m AOD. Cut 5058 was filled by a single deposit of silty sand (context 5049). It was situated immediately to the west of stakeholes 5052, 5053 and 5054. The four features appeared to form a discrete grouping, although their exact function is unknown.

Fill deposits 5044, 5045, 5046 and 5049 were truncated by a later pit cut (context 5051). Cut 5051 was of sub-oval plan, moderately-sloping profile and concave base (Fig. 12 q-r). The feature measured 1.40m x 0.60m x 0.18m deep and was excavated to a height of 27.57m AOD. It was filled by a deposit of mixed sandy silt (context 5043).

A second group of small stakeholes was located approximately 1.0m to the east of cut 5051 (contexts 5055, 5056, 5057 and 5059). Cut 5055 was of sub-rectangular plan and measured 0.16m x 0.04m x 0.09m. The feature was of vertical-sided flat-bottomed profile and was excavated to a height of 27.68m AOD. It was filled by a deposit of sandy loam (context 5047). Cut 5056 was of circular plan and vertical-sided profile. The feature measured 0.06m in diameter and was 0.10m deep, being excavated to a height of 27.68m AOD. It was filled by a deposit of sandy loam (context 5048). Cut 5057 was of circular plan and vertical-sided profile, being 0.08m in diameter and 0.20m deep. The feature was excavated to a height of 27.56m AOD and was filled by a deposit of sand (context 5050). Cut 5059 was again of circular plan and vertical profile. It measured 0.06m in diameter, 0.10m in depth and was excavated to a height of 27.52m AOD. Cut 5059 was filled by a deposit of sand (context 5060). Cuts 5055, 5056, 5057 and 5059 truncated deposit 5024 and formed a north to south alignment, possibly representing the line of a timber fence.

Two stakeholes were located to the east of cut 5059 (contexts 5062 and 5064). Cut 5062 was of circular plan and vertical profile. The feature measured 0.09m in diameter and 0.07m in depth. It was excavated to a height of 27.52m AOD and was filled by a deposit of sand (context 5061). Cut 5064 was of circular plan and steeply-sloping, flat-bottomed profile. The feature was 0.30m in diameter, 0.14m deep and had been excavated to a height of 27.45m AOD. It was filled by a single deposit of sandy loam (context 5063). Deposit 5063 was truncated to the north by wall foundation cut 5021. Cuts 5062 and 5064 truncated deposit 5024.

A second pit of sub-oval plan was located approximately 0.60m to the north of cut 5051 (context 5066) and measured 0.80m x 0.40m x 0.08m deep. The feature was of gently-sloping concave plan and was excavated to a height of 27.49m AOD. It truncated deposit 5024 and contained a basal fill of silty sand (context 5074), sealed by a silty deposit containing large stones (context 5065). Deposit 5065 contained sherds of 12th to 13th century pottery (Appendix 2).

Deposit 5024 was truncated by a final feature (context 5072), located in the south-western corner of the trench and consisting of a shallow linear gully, running on a north to south alignment for approximately 1.80m. Cut 5072 was of moderately-sloping flat-bottomed profile, and was 0.60m wide, 0.20m deep, excavated to a height of 27.76m AOD (Fig. 12 s-t). Cut 5072 contained a 0.10m deep basal fill of sandy silt (context 5073), sealed by a 0.10m deep silty deposit containing large stones (context 5071). Deposit 5071 was partially sealed to the west by three deposits of similar stony silt, each of which were approximately 0.03m deep (contexts 5070, 5069 and 5068). Deposits 5070, 5069 and 5068 were recorded in section only and probably represent localised discrete dumping episodes during the backfilling of cut 5072.

The shape and dimensions of cut 5072, together with the presence of large stones in fill 5071, suggest that the feature was a robbed-out wall foundation cut.

Cut 4072 and the overlying fill deposits 5070, 5069 and 5068 had been truncated by wall foundation cut 5021 (see below: Phase IE).

6.1.3. Phase 1C

Two further fragments of wall were situated towards the west of the site (contexts 4031 and 4036: Fig. 6).

Wall 4036 was 2.40m long and 0.80m wide. It consisted of roughly-dressed sub-rectangular stones, a maximum of 0.30m x 0.20m x 0.10m in size, bonded with a fine sand and gravel mortar. Twenty-two courses of stonework survived, the upper five of which rose approximately 0.30m above the surface level of excavation to a height of 27.84m AOD. The remainder of the structure was contained within a large deep foundation cut, excavated to a height of 26.54m AOD (context 4083: Fig. 12 u-v). To the east, cut 4083 was of steeply-sloping concave profile, with the edge of the cut being approximately 0.60m to the east of Wall 4036. To the west, cut 4083 was of vertical profile, the edge of the cut being 0.20m from the face of the wall. The void between the western face of Wall 4036 and cut 4083 was filled by a 0.05m wide silty hunic deposit, possibly representing decayed timber shoring (context 5080). To the west of context 5080, the remainder of cut 4083 had been filled by a sequence of four mixed silty dump deposits (contexts 5079, 5078, 5077 and 5076).

On the eastern side of Wall 4036, cut 4083 had been backfilled by two deposits (contexts 4082 and 4081). Deposit 4082 consisted of a 0.30m deep layer of sandy clay. It was sealed by a 0.15m deep deposit of limestone rubble (deposit 4081). Deposit 4082 contained sherds of 12th to 14th century pottery (Appendix 2).

Wall 4036 had been truncated at its northern end by Wall 3001 (see below: Phase IE).

Wall 4031 was situated to the south-west of Wall 4036 and consisted of a single course of sub-rectangular stones, 0.30m x 0.20m x 0.10m in size, bonded with yellow silty mortar. The feature was 1.60m long, 0.70m wide and had been heavily truncated, a single course

surviving only to a height of 0.15m (28.19m AOD). Wall 4031 may have been a continuation of Wall 4036, since both features were on the same alignment. However, no secure relationship between the two features could be established due to truncation by modern services.

To the south of Wall 4031 lay Wall 5039 which consisted of faces of sub-rectangular stones, 0.35m x 0.10m x 0.10m in size, surrounding a stone rubble core. The bonding material was a yellow sandy silt mortar. The structure was 1.0m long, 0.40m wide and 0.25m tall, situated at a maximum height of 28.16m AOD, which dipped sharply to the east, probably as a result of subsidence caused by its close proximity to cut 4072 (Fig. 12 w-x).

Wall 5039 was bedded on a 0.20m deep Deposit of sandy silt (context 5067), which in turn sealed a mixed Deposit (context 5068). The western face of wall 5039 was butted by deposit 5012 (see below). The eastern face was butted by a sequence of three deposits that had built up against the wall (contexts 5042, 5041 and 5040).

Deposit 5042, which measured 1.0m x 0.40m x 0.10m deep and consisted of silty clay containing pebbles and small stones. The deposit was situated at a height of 27.91m AOD and contained sherds of 12th to 13th century pottery (Appendix 2). It was sealed by Deposit 5041.

Deposit 5041 consisted of a 0.80m x 0.40m x 0.15m deep deposit of silt and charcoal. It was situated at a height of 27.96m AOD and was sealed by Deposit 5040.

Deposit 5040 consisted of a 0.80m x 0.40m x 0.20m deep spread of silty clay containing limestone fragments. The deposit was situated at a height of 28.04m AOD.

Deposit 5040 and the upper surface of Wall 5039 were sealed by a later deposit (context 5038), which consisted of a 0.80m x 0.30m spread of sandy silt. It was 0.18m deep and was situated at a height of 28.26m AOD.

Deposit 5038 had been truncated to the east by a large pit cut (context 5035). Pit 5035 was of sub-rectangular plan, with a steeply-sloping profile and concave base. The feature measured 1.0m x 0.60m x 0.40m deep and had been excavated to a height of 27.80m AOD. Cut 5035 contained two fills (contexts 5037 and 5036).

Deposit 5037 was 0.40m deep and consisted of mixed silty clay and cobbles. The deposit contained sherds of 12th to 14th century pottery (Appendix 2). Deposit 5037 was partially sealed to the west by fill deposit 5036, consisting of sandy silt. Fill 5036 was sealed by a 1.80m x 1.0m x 0.20m deep deposit of silty sand (context 5015).

Cuts 5059, 5055, 5056, 5057, 5051 and 5066 were sealed by a 0.10m deep rectangular spread of silty sand containing occasional stones (context 5012). Deposit 5012 was 2.40m long and 1.14m wide and was situated at a height of 27.76m AOD and contained sherds of 12th to 14th century pottery (Appendix 2).

Deposit 5012 formed the bedding layer for an apparent floor surface, situated immediately to the south of Wall 5039 (context 5033). Surface 5033 measured 0.80m x 0.60m and consisted of several large sub-rectangular flag-stones, 0.38m x 0.30m x 0.10m in size. Surface 5033 is probably the floor surface identified during the excavation of Evaluation Trench 3. The feature was situated at a height of 27.85m AOD and had been truncated by foundation cut 5021 (Fig. 12 y-z).

Deposit 5012 was partially obscured to the south by a 2.60m x 1.0m upstanding baulk of stratified deposits (Fig. 12 m-n, s-t). Excavation of this baulk revealed a number of archaeological deposits.

Situated immediately above deposit 5012 was a deposit of sandy silt containing fragments of charcoal and burnt clay (context 5011). Deposit 5011 varied in depth from 0.20m to 0.12m and was situated at a maximum height of 28.10m AOD.

Deposit 5011 was sealed by a layer of stony silt (context 5034) Deposit 5034 was a maximum of 0.50m deep and was situated at a height of 28.40m AOD. The deposit contained quantities of large stones and sherds of 12th to 14th century pottery (Appendix 2).

6.1.4. Phase 1D

Wall 4060 had been partly re-used as a foundation for a later wall running in a north-west to south-easterly direction at the surface level of excavation (context 4050: Pl. 5). Wall 4050 was 2.20m long and 1.0m wide, and consisted of faces of roughly-dressed stones 0.40m x 0.28m x 0.10m in size, surrounding a stone rubble core. The bonding material was yellow silty sand. Three to four courses of stonework survived to a maximum height of 0.35m (28.12m AOD). At its north-western end, Wall 4050 appeared to return to the west for approximately 0.40m before entering the trench baulk (Fig. 7).

In the south-east, Wall 4050 had been laid directly onto the upper surfaces of Wall 4060 and floor surface 5033. To the north-west, traces of a foundation cut were identified running parallel to the northern face of Wall 4050 (context 4076, Fig 12 aa-ab). Cut 4076 was 0.70m long, 0.20m wide and 0.05m deep (27.77m AOD). The cut was of vertical-sided, flat-bottomed profile and contained a backfill deposit of silt (context 4075). Deposit 4075 contained sherds of 12th to 13th century pottery (Appendix 2). Foundation cut 4076 truncated Deposit 4067.

Wall 4036 (Phase K) was truncated by a small cut of sub-rectangular plan (context 4042). Cut 4042 was 0.30m long, 0.30m wide and 0.10m deep. The feature was of vertical-sided, flat-bottomed profile and was excavated to a 27.85m AOD. It was filled by a deposit of sandy loam (context 4041). The feature probably represented a silted-up posthole.

Two small features, recorded in Evaluation Trench 1, were located in the north-eastern corner of the site (contexts 1008 and 1011). Cut 1008 was of sub-oval plan and concave bowl-shaped profile (Fig 12 ac-ad, ae-af). The feature measured 0.43m x 0.23m x 0.20m

deep, (27.47m AOD) and was filled by a single deposit of silty clay (context 1007). Cut 1008 truncated a deposit of silty clay (context 1012), lying immediately above natural silty clay deposits. Deposit 1012 was recorded in Evaluation Trench 1 but was not identified during the Archaeological Excavation. The likelihood is that the deposit was in reality a continuation of the underlying natural material.

Cut 1011 was 0.20m in diameter and 0.25m deep. The feature was of vertical-sided, flat-bottomed profile and was excavated to a 27.30m AOD. It was filled by a deposit of silty sand (context 1010).

6.1.5. Phase 1E

Wall 4050 had been truncated to the south-east by the foundation cut for a later wall (context 4073). Foundation cut 4073 was 0.20m wide, 0.10m deep and was identified running in a north-easterly direction for approximately 2.0m. The cut was of vertical-sided flat-bottomed profile and was filled by a substantial stone wall (context 3001) and a backfill deposit of sandy silt (context 4072).

The relationship between Walls 4050 and 3001 had previously been examined during the Archaeological Evaluation by means of a small sondage trench located at the junction of the two features (Trench 3). Wall 4050 (recorded as Wall 3002) was identified as being contemporary with Wall 3001. The identification of cut 4073 during the present phase of works has proved conclusively that this is not the case. Re-examination of Wall 3001 within Evaluation Trench 1 identified a continuation of cut 4073 (context 4064) truncating Deposit 1012 (Fig. 12 ag-ah).

Wall 3001 consisted of faces of roughly-dressed sub-rectangular stones, a maximum of 0.40m x 0.30m x 0.15m in size, surrounding a stone rubble core. Five to six courses of stonework survived to a maximum height of 28.54m AOD. The bonding material was a cream-coloured lime mortar.

Wall 3001 ran in a northerly direction for 4.0m before returning in a south westerly direction for approximately 4.60m. The exterior face of the corner formed by the return was noticeably rounded, perhaps in order to facilitate the easy passage of human or animal traffic. Wall 3001 truncated Walls 5006 and 4036. The feature probably represented a property boundary.

Bonded to the southern end of Wall 3001 was a wall running from east to west (context 5019, Pl. 6). Wall 5019 was 2.20m long, 0.40m wide and stood to a height of 0.57m (28.13m AOD). The wall was constructed of courses of sub-rectangular stones 0.25m x 0.20m x 0.10m in size, with a later repair or re-facing of the northern face consisting of bricks 0.22m x 0.08m x 0.11m in size.

Wall 5019 had stood to a height of approximately 2.40m until July 2003, when it was demolished during the consolidation of the site. The wall formed the boundary between 42 Wheelgate and Pig Alley and probably represented a fossilised and re-used medieval property boundary.

Wall 5019 was contained within a shallow, vertical-sided foundation cut (context 5021 = 4073). The edge of the cut was situated 0.05m from the face of the wall and was 0.09m deep, (27.43m AOD). Cut 5021 was in excess of 0.40m wide, but the full extent of the feature could not be determined due to truncation by modern concrete foundations.

Wall 4050 was partially sealed by a 0.10m deep deposit of silty clay (context 1001). Deposit 1001 was situated at a height of 28.21m AOD and covered an area measuring approximately 3.0m x 4.0m in size. It contained sherds of 12th to 14th century pottery (Appendix 2). Two further spreads of silty clay, identified as continuations of Deposit 1001, were located to the east of the site. The northern deposit was approximately 2.0m x 2.0m in size, whilst the southern spread of material measured approximately 1.20m x 2.0m.

Deposit 1001 was recorded in section in Evaluation Trench 1, butting against Wall 3001 and sealing Pit cut 1008. The various spreads of the deposit probably represent fragments of floor surface associated with Wall 3001.

The northern spread of Deposit 1001 was truncated by a small pit cut identified in Evaluation Trench 1 (context 1014). Cut 1014 was of sub-oval plan and shallow-sloping concave profile (Fig. 12 ai-aj), measuring 0.50m x 0.40m x 0.13m deep and was excavated to a height of 27.78m AOD. Cut 1014 was filled by a deposit of silty clay (deposit 1013).

6.1.6. Phase 1F

Deposit 1001 had been truncated by a large rectangular cut measuring 1.20m x 1.20m x 0.65m deep (context 4057). Cut 4057 was situated to the west of Wall 4050 and had been excavated to 27.07m AOD and formed the foundation cut for a rectangular stone-built structure (context 4055, Pl. 7). Structure 4055 was constructed of six courses of sub-rectangular stones, 0.25m x 0.20m x 0.10m in size, laid against the edges of the cut to form a hollow rectangular stone Structure. A 0.05m wide void between cut 4057 and the outer surfaces of structure 4055 had been backfilled by a deposit of silty sand (context 4056). The central void was filled by a 0.10m deep basal deposit of sandy silt (context 4054) sealed by a 0.55m deep deposit of sandy clay (context 4053). Structure 4055 was interpreted as a probable drain or soakaway.

Structure 4055 was recorded during the March 2003 Archaeological Evaluation as context 1015 (Trench 1).

A 2.0m x 1.60m spread of compact sandy clay, containing charcoal and limestone gravel, was noted at the north-east corner of the site (context 4048). Deposit 4048 sealed deposit 1001 and butted Wall 3001. The deposit appeared to be a later floor surface and was a probable continuation of Deposit 1006, recorded in Evaluation Trench 1. It was situated at a maximum height of 28.04m AOD and was approximately 0.10m deep. It was not possible to ascertain the true extent of the feature owing to truncation to the west by

modern services and to the south by Drain cut 4035. Deposit 4048 contained sherds of 12th to 13th century pottery (Appendix 2).

Deposit 4041 was sealed by a spread of sand and limestone gravel, probably representing the remains of a floor surface (context 4016). Deposit 4016 was of L-shaped plan and measured 1.60m x 1.60m. The deposit was 0.10m deep, was situated at a height of 28.08m AOD and contained sherds of 12th to 13th century pottery (Appendix 2). Deposit 4016 was a continuation of Deposit 1006 = 4048, recorded in Evaluation Trench 1.

Deposit 4016 was truncated to the south by a small pit of rectangular plan (context 4010). Cut 4010 measured 0.80m x 0.50m x 0.22m deep and was excavated to a height of 27.79m AOD. The feature was of steeply-sloping, flat bottomed profile.

Cut 4010 contained a deposit of limestone fragments and sand (context 4011). Deposit 4011 contained sherds of 12th to 13th century pottery (Appendix 2). It was cut by a 0.18m diameter, 0.22m deep vertical sided Post-pipe (context 4012). Post-pipe cut 4012 contained a deposit of fibrous silt probably representing a rotted timber post (context 4013).

6.1.7. Evaluation Trench 2 (Fig. 10).

Whilst the results from Evaluation Trenches 1 and 3 could be incorporated into the present report, Evaluation Trench 2 was situated outside the area of the Archaeological Excavation. Therefore, it was not possible to relate the results from Evaluation Trench 2 to the stratigraphic sequence established for the rest of the site. Similarly, the finds recovered during the Evaluation and Excavation phases were not sufficiently differentiated enough to establish a relative chronology between Trench 2 and the rest of site. What can be said is that the medieval features uncovered in Trench 2 and described below appear to represent phases of domestic occupation. No evidence of floor surfaces or stone structures was identified, leading to the conclusion the Evaluation trench 2 was situated outside the building or buildings represented by the archaeological remains uncovered on the rest of the site.

The earliest feature encountered within Trench 2 was a deposit of silty clay (context 2013). Deposit 2013 measured 2.30m x 1.0m and was situated at a mean height of 27.45m AOD. The deposit was cut by three features (contexts 2008, 2012 and 2010). Cut 2008 was of sub-oval plan, concave profile and measured 0.80m x 0.50m. The feature was 0.25m deep and was excavated to a height of 27.20m AOD. It was filled by a deposit of sandy clay containing 12th to 13th century pottery (context 2007). Cut 2012 measured 1.60m x 0.40m x 0.8m deep and exhibited an irregular profile, the sides undercutting the upper edges. The southern edge had a sharp break of slope forming a shallow elongated bowl shape. The feature was excavated to a height of 26.74m AOD and was filled by a deposit of sandy silt containing sherds of 12th to 13th century pottery (context 2011). Post-hole cut 2010 was 0.2m in diameter, 0.1m deep and was excavated to a height of 27.31m AOD. The silty sand fill (context 2009) did not produce any finds.

The deposits filling this group of cut features were sealed by a second deposit of mixed sandy silt and sandy clay (context 2006). Deposit 2006 contained finds of 14th century date.

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

6.2. Phase 2: Post-Medieval

Surviving post-medieval activity on the site was limited to three similar deposits, recorded in section only during the excavation of drain 4061/4062 (contexts 4068, 4065 and 4070).

Deposit 4068 was 0.33m deep and was situated at a height of 28.09m AOD. The deposit consisted of silty sand containing limestone fragments and sealed drain structure 4061 to the east. Deposit 4068 contained sherds of 17th century pottery (Appendix 2).

Deposit 4070 was a probable continuation of deposit 4068 to the south. It had silted up against the northern face of wall 4050, sealing deposit 4067 that had silted up against the southern face of wall 4060 (deposit 4067=deposit 5024, see below).

Deposit 4065, a 0.40m deep deposit of sandy silt situated at a height of 28.09m AOD, partially sealed drain structure 4062 to the west.

Deposits 4060, 4065 and 4070 probably represented demolition deposits of post-medieval date.

6.3. Phase 3: Modern Features

Wall 4050 had been truncated by a large drainage feature of Post-Medieval date. The feature consisted of a small, flat-bottomed gully cut, approximately 2.0m long, 0.40m wide and 0.25m deep (context 4028). Gully 4028 ran from north to south, the base dipping from a height of 27.87m AOD at the south to a height of 27.24m AOD at the north. At its northern end, gully 4028 ran into a large deep pit cut of contemporary date (context 4035). Cut 4035 was of sub-oval plan and was aligned north to south. The feature was 1.10m wide, 2.50m long and 0.81m deep, and was excavated to a height of 27.19m AOD. Cut 4035 truncated deposits 4068, 4065 and 4070.

Cut 4035 had evidently been excavated to provide access to drain structure 4061/4062 and had destroyed the drain roof. A deposit of silt (context 4046) partially filled cut 4035 and the underlying drain void. Above deposit 4046, a 2.20m long stone drain had been constructed within cuts 4028 and 4035 (context 4040, Pl: 8). Drain 4040 consisted of a channel formed from a base of flat rectangular stones, 0.25m x 0.20m x 0.05m in size, with walls constructed from roughly-hewn sub-rectangular stones 0.30m x 0.30m x 0.10m in size.

Drain 4040 was sealed by a layer of capping stones, 0.30m x 0.15m x 0.05m in size (context 4034). Drain cap 4034 dipped from a height of 27.78m AOD at the south to a height of 27.17m AOD at the north.

The drain structure (contexts 4040 and 4034) was sealed by a backfill deposit that filled the remainder of cut 4035 (context 4020). Deposit 4020 consisted of mixed silt, sand and ash and was situated at a maximum height of 28.11m AOD. It contained sherds of 19th century pottery (Appendix 2).

Deposit 4020 was partially sealed by a 1.60m x 1.0m spread of sandy silt containing modern brick and glass (context 4015). Deposit 4015 was 0.16m deep and was situated at a height of 28.18m AOD.

Deposit 4015 was partially sealed by a 1.0m x 0.50m spread of ashy silt (context 4003). Deposit 4003 was 0.03m deep and was situated at a height of 28.21m AOD.

Deposit 4003 was truncated by a modern pit cut (context 4006). Cut 4006 was of curvilinear plan and measured 2.20m x 0.70m x 0.44m deep. The feature exhibited a steeply-sloping, flat bottomed profile and had been excavated to a height of 27.72m AOD. It was filled by a deposit of sandy silt containing limestone fragments (context 4005).

The remainder of cut 4028 was backfilled by three shallow mixed deposits of silt and brick rubble (contexts 4025, 4026 and 4027), probably acting as a soakaway leading to drain 4040/4034. Deposits 4025 and 4027 yielded pottery sherds of 18th to 19th century date (Appendix 2). A rectangular worked stone drain cap, 0.40m x 0.40m x 0.10m in size, was situated at the southern end of the cut at a height of 28.24m AOD (context 4019). Drain cap 4019 was pierced by a large rectangular hole that may originally have held a cast-iron drain grille.

A second drain was identified running in a westerly direction from drain cap 4019 (context 4008, Pl 9). The drain was of markedly different construction to drain 4040/4034. However, no obvious disturbance to drain cap 4019 was noted which might have indicated a later addition to the drainage system, and so drains 4040/4034 and 4008 must be interpreted as being contemporary. Drain 4008 consisted of five 0.34m long sections of U-shaped ceramic drain pipe, resting in a 1.80m long, 0.50m wide cut of shallow concave profile (context 4014, Fig. 12 ak-al). Drain cut 4014 was 0.15m deep and had been excavated to a height of 28.03m AOD. It ran into soakaway 4055, truncating the stonework at the south-eastern corner of the structure.

Drain 4008 contained a deposit of silty sand (context 4007). Drain cut 4014 was backfilled with a deposit of sandy silt (context 4009) containing sherds of 19th century pottery (Appendix 2).

Soakaway backfill deposit 4056 and wall 4031 were truncated by a large pit cut situated to the south-west of the site (context 4045). Pit cut 4045 was of sub-rectangular plan and measured 1.20m x 0.74m x 0.75m deep. The feature was of steeply-sloping profile and flat base (Fig. 12 am-an). It had been excavated to a height of 27.15m AOD and was filled by two deposits (contexts 4043 and 4044).

Deposit 4044 consisted of limestone rubble within a silty clay matrix. The deposit was a maximum of 0.55m deep and was sealed by deposit 4043. Deposit 4043 was a maximum of 0.40m deep and consisted of silty clay and limestone fragments. It contained sherds of 19th century pottery (Appendix 2).

A number of modern pit cuts were situated towards the south-east of the site.

Deposit 5015 was truncated by a posthole cut of sub-circular plan and vertical-sided flat-bottomed profile (context 5003, Pl. 10). Cut 5003 was 0.36m in diameter, 0.21m deep and had been excavated to a height of 28.14m AOD. It was filled by a deposit of sandy loam (context 5002).

Deposit 5002 had been truncated to the east by a shallow pit cut of irregular plan (context 5014). Cut 5014 measured 0.60m x 0.40m x 0.12m deep and had been excavated to a height of 28.22m AOD (Fig. 12 ao-ap) The feature was of steeply-sloping profile, with an irregular undulating base, and was filled by a deposit of sandy loam containing limestone fragments (context 5001). Deposit 5001 contained sherds of 19th century pottery (Appendix 2).

To the west of cut 5003, deposit 5015 had been truncated by a shallow cut of rectangular plan (context 5032) Cut 5032 measured 0.40m x 0.20m x 0.09m deep and was excavated to a height of 28.25m AOD. The feature was of steeply-sloping, flat-bottomed profile and was filled by a deposit of stony sand (context 5031).

Deposit 5031 had been truncated to the west by a large pit cut of sub-oval plan (context 5016). Cut 5016 was 0.90m long, 0.80m wide and 0.45m deep. The feature was of steeply-sloping profile and concave base. It had been excavated to a height of 27.89m AOD and was filled by a sequence of three deposits (contexts 5017, 5018 and 5030).

Deposit 5017 consisted of approximately six courses of sub-rectangular stones measuring 0.10m x 0.05m x 0.025m. The stonework formed an apparent stone lining for the cut, and was sealed by a 0.30m deep deposit of silty clay (context 5018). Deposit 5018 was in turn sealed by a deposit of ashy silt (context 5030). No obvious function could be deduced for the stone-lined pit. Deposit 5018 contained two sherds of 14th to 15th century pottery (Appendix 2). However, these may have been redeposited during the disturbance of earlier contexts since fill deposit 5030 contained 14 pottery sherds of 19th century date (Appendix 2). Pit cut 5016 truncated deposit 5034 to the west.

Deposit 5034 had also been truncated by a posthole cut of sub-circular plan (context 5010) Cut 5010 was 0.24m in diameter and 0.28m deep. The feature had been excavated to a height of 27.80m AOD and exhibited a vertical-sided, flat-bottomed profile. It was filled by a deposit of silty sand (context 5005).

Deposit 5005 was sealed by a 0.20m deep spreads of silty sand (context 5013). Deposit 5013 was situated at a height of 28.33m AOD and was truncated by two later features (contexts 5029 and 5009).

Cut 5029 was of circular plan, measuring 0.44m in diameter and 0.44m in depth. The feature was of vertical-sided, flat-bottomed profile and had been excavated to a height of 27.85m AOD. Cut 5029 was filled by a deposit of silty clay (context 5028) containing pottery sherds of late 18th century date (Appendix 2).

Cut 5009 was of sub-oval plan and measured 0.50m x 0.42m x 0.15m deep. The feature was of steeply-sloping profile and concave base. It had been excavated to a height of 28.18m AOD and was filled by a deposit of silty sand (context 5004). Deposit 5004 contained pottery of late 18th century date (Appendix 2).

A sequence of modern features was located immediately to the west of wall 3001. The earliest features identified were a small pit cut of irregular plan (context 5052) and a badly truncated irregular cut (context 4049).

Cut 4052 was 0.60m long, 0.50m wide and 0.34m deep. The feature was of steeply-sloping profile and concave base. It had been excavated to a height of 27.57m AOD, truncating foundation cut fill deposit 4072. Cut 4052 was filled by a deposit of silty sand (context 5051).

Cut 4049 was situated 0.60m to the south of cut 4052. The cut survived as a sub-rectangular feature 1.0m long, 0.80m wide and 0.33m deep. It had been excavated to a height of 27.72m AOD, with walls 4050 and 3001 forming the southern and eastern limits of the feature respectively. Cut 4049 was filled by a deposit of silty sand (context 4039) containing sherds of 18th century pottery (Appendix 2).

Deposit 4039 was truncated to the south by a small posthole of sub-oval plan (context 4038). Cut 4038 measured 0.40m x 0.30m x 0.10m deep and was excavated to a height of 28.05m AOD (Fig. 12 aq-ar). The feature had a steeply-sloping profile with a concave base and was filled by a deposit of sand and stones (context 4037). Deposit 4037 contained pottery of 18th century date (Appendix 2).

Deposits 4051 and 4039 had been truncated by a small pit of sub-rectangular plan, excavated against the western face of wall 3001 (context 4017). Cut 4017 was 0.70m long, 0.46m wide and 0.28m deep (Fig. 12 as-at). It had been excavated to a height of 27.76m AOD and was filled by a deposit of limestone gravel and sand (context 4018) containing sherds of 19th century pottery (Appendix 2).

The latest feature identified on site was an extensive system of service trenches containing modern service pipes (Context 4000). Service trench system 4000 truncated archaeological deposits across the site to a height of approximately 28.00m AOD. The modern services were backfilled by mixed deposits of silty sand (context 4001).

All the archaeological features and deposits were sealed by a layer of modern rubble and debris deposited during the partial demolition of 42 Wheelgate following the 2002 fire (context 4004).

7. Conclusion

The Archaeological Excavation at 42 Wheelgate was notable for the severe disturbance of the site caused by the presence of an extensive series of modern features. The modern intrusions severely truncated the surviving archaeological deposits, with many of the medieval features surviving only in a fragmented form. Consequently, it was not possible to create a full plan showing the true extent of many of the structures identified. Nevertheless, the excavation retrieved important information regarding the medieval development of the town of Malton and a clear sequence of stratified medieval deposits was identified, ranging in date from the 12th to the 14th centuries.

Significant archaeology was encountered at heights ranging from 28.30m AOD to 27.0m AOD, with probable undisturbed natural deposits identified in several locations at a height of approximately 27.0m AOD.

Of particular significance are the various fragments of large stone walls (contexts 4031, 4036, 4060, 5008, 5050, 3001 and 5019) identified during the excavation, along with the stone-built culvert (contexts 4061 and 4062). These stone structures appear to represent several phases of building activity and as such are unlikely to be the remains of a single discrete building. Domestic construction in stone was rare during the medieval period, with most buildings being wholly or partially constructed in timber. The massive load-bearing walls encountered during the excavation therefore represent the remains of one or more substantial stone buildings of an unusually high status. In this context, the extensive use of stone probably reflects the wealth of the medieval Borough of New Malton, generated by its position as an important commercial and market centre within the region. The fact that the earliest features date to the 12th century, presumably shortly after the founding of the borough, suggest that the commercial wealth of the town was already established by this time.

A second explanation for the stone structures is that the walls and culvert might represent the remains of the medieval hospital of St. Peter. The exact extent of the hospital is not known, but its medieval undercroft survives as the cellar of the Cross Keys Inn, Wheelgate, less than 50m to the north-west of the current site. Whilst this hypothesis is plausible, the undercroft lies on the opposite side of Wheelgate and it is uncertain that the hospital precinct should straddle such an important and well-established commercial thoroughfare.

In general terms, the archaeological programme of works undertaken at 42 Wheelgate has provided tantalising evidence of the early development of Malton. It is to be hoped that further development of the historic centre of the town, and Wheelgate in particular, will

allow this information to be amplified and clarified through the opportunities for further archaeological investigation.

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