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Wheelgate House
Wrights Yard
Malton
North Yorkshire
SE 7800 7150

Archaeological Evaluation

2004

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MAP

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Wrights Yard,
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Non Technical Summary

During January 2004 MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd undertook the excavation of two evaluation trenches to the rear of Wheelgate House, Wheelgate, Malton, North Yorkshire Trench 1 was within the derelict warehouse, and identified a build up of post-medieval deposits up to 1m deep, which overlay earlier deposits and a feature possibly a pit or ditch from which medieval pottery was recovered Trench 2 was situated in Wrights Yard to the rear of Wheelgate House, and located the cellars of buildings backfilled with demolition material Cartographic evidence indicated that the cellared buildings were of 18th/19th century date

1 Introduction

- 1 1 An Archaeological Evaluation was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, at the request of Bowman Riley Partnership, prior to the redevelopment of Wheelgate House, Wheelgate, Malton, North Yorkshire (SE 7800 7150 Figs 1 & 2) The proposed redevelopment is to comprise of the demolition of a former warehouse and associated out buildings and the erection of a single storey unit (Fig 3)
- 1 2 The site is situated within an area of potential archaeological significance with a strong likelihood of archaeological remains surviving, related to the medieval and Post medieval periods
- 1 3 The aim of the work was to establish the nature, location, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the development area Two evaluation trenches were excavated (Trenches 1 and 2) Trench 1 situated within the area of the new build and Trench 2 over the location of pile cap and new drainage run
- 1 4 The archaeological work was carried out between the 12th and 26th of January 2004 and all work was funded by the Yorkshire Co-operative Society
- 1 5 All maps within this report have been produced from Ordnance Survey with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright Licence No AL 50453A

2. Site Description

- 2 1 The proposed redevelopment area is currently a series of retail units, fronting Wheelgate with service yards to the rear Wrights Yard, which is a concrete hard

standing mns from the rear of Wheelgate House to Greengate (Fig 3 – Wheelgate Square)

- 2 2 At the time of the work the former warehouse, falling within the development area, was derelict and comprised of four rooms including a workshop area, a store room and a former bakery complete with ovens
- 2 3 The site levels are 25 6m AOD on Wheelgate, rising to 30 25m AOD on Greengate with a marked slope within the service yards

3. Historical Background

- 3 1 Malton is built on undulating ground which falls very rapidly towards the River Derwent where it bounds the settlement to the south There are modern extensions to the town on the west and north, and Norton, on the east bank of the Derwent, practically forms a suburb The main road from Whitby enters the New Malton at New Maltongate and Yorkersgate forms the road to York
- 3 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
- 3 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 in 1086) Old English *middel* or Old Norse *medal* and Old English *tun* (Field 1980) 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 camcate, the King had 11 5 camcates, Ulf 1 camcate and Oldfirda 1 5 camcates
- 3 4 The Borough of New Malton was founded in the mid-Twelfth century, perhaps under royal patronage (Robinson 1978, 14) New Malton comprises of the two ecclesiastical parishes of St Michael and St Leonard
- 3 5 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
- 3 6 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 Greengate is first mentioned in the Fourteenth century in 1323 (Rushton 1982) Wheelgate was originally known as Appleton Way in the medieval period

- 3 7 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
- 3 8 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
- 3 9 By the Eighteenth century Malton had become a very prosperous market town and had been acquired by the Honourable Thomas Wentworth
- 3 10 The Trade Directories for the North Riding of Yorkshire provide descriptions of commercial activity in Malton from 1823 to 1933 In 1823, John and George Wright were listed as fromongers on Wheelgate By 1834, only John Wright was listed as an fromonger, and again in 1849, 1848, 1851, 1855, 1858 and 1872 In 1901, Joseph Bell was a taylor and outfitter at No 20 Wheelgate, Alfred Brown was a com and manure dealer at No 22 Wheelgate and George Fentress was an Ironmonger at No 26 Wheelgate By 1913, William Robinson was listed as a pawnbroker at No 20 Wheelgate and in 1925 and 1933, Malton and Norton Cooperative Society are noted at No 22 Wheelgate, Malton

4. Cartographic Background

- 4 1 Maps exist for Malton from the early Eighteenth 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 burghage plots on Wheelgate and a large open area referred to as "Garth" to the rear in the approximate area of the Proposed Development Area A plan of the Parish and Manor Malton, dates to 1795-1800 and shows the street pattern for New Malton but no detail 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 Area
- 4 2 Robert Wise's Survey of Malton dates to 1840 and shows a series of buildings on the same layout as the later First Edition Ordnance Survey Map The First Edition Town Series Ordnance Survey Map shows in detail the area of Wright's Yard with a malkiln, gardens, extensive outbuildings and the present buildings, Nos 22-26 Wheelgate with arch in situ The malkiln is no longer present on the 1911 Second Edition Ordnance Survey map and buildings have been constructed from Wheelgate to Greengate on the north-western side of the Wright's Yard By the 1920's a large building has been constructed on the site of Nos 20-22 Wheelgate covering the entire plot The 1945 Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the same layout By 1970, Wright's Yard had become Wheelgate Square and some buildings have been demolished on the north-western side of the square By the late 1990's, the Ordnance Survey Edition shows the Proposed Development Areas present layout, more buildings have been demolished on the north-west and south-eastern sides of Wheelgate Square

5. Archaeological Background

5.1 Archaeological Sites and Finds

5 1 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 Derventio 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

5 1 2 Remains of three Roman Roads following the alignment of Yorkersgate, Wheelgate/Newbiggin, and Castlegate (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 (ibid, Nos 48, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 56)

5 1 3 A Wall and Ditch are documented as enclosing the town of New Malton in the medieval period (ibid, No 157). There are two medieval Churches in Malton, St Michael's, Market Place Malton within the town's defences and St Leonards, Church Hill, Malton by the castle (ibid, Nos 163, 172)

5 1 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 Eighteenth century, the Market Cross, tile and pottery dating to the Twelfth to Fifteenth centuries, a Fifteenth 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 a medieval pottery (ibid, Nos 159, 161, 162, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 170 and 173)

5 1 5 An undated feature is also listed by Robinson c 125m south of the proposed development area (ibid, Nos 194). This is a 6 m wide ditch located in the vicinity of Carpenters' Yard

5.2 Recent Evaluations and Watching Briefs

5 2 1 Archaeological work undertaken in Malton town centre since 1990 has recovered Roman - Post-medieval deposits. The following information has been recovered

1 St Michael's Church, Market Place Malton, in 2000. Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. Due to the shallow nature of the excavations no archaeological deposits were encountered

2 Market Place, Malton, 1995. Archaeological Watching Brief by York Archaeological Trust. Due to the shallow nature of the excavations no archaeological deposits were encountered

3 St Leonard's Churchyard, Church Hill, Malton, 1991. Archaeological Evaluation by York Archaeological Trust. Roman deposits and extensive human remains of medieval and post-medieval date

4 46, Old Maltongate, Malton, in 1991 and 1998. Archaeological Evaluation and Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. No archaeological deposits were encountered

- 5 Electrical Substation on Savile Street, Malton in 1994 Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd Medieval deposits were recorded at a depth of 0.6m below present ground level
- 6 Friends' Meeting House, Greengate, Malton in 1993 Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd Medieval deposits were recorded
- 7 Fitzwilliam Estate Carparks on Yorkersgate, Wheelgate and Finkle Street, Malton in 1999 Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd Due to the shallow nature of the excavations no archaeological deposits were encountered
- 8 Carpenter's Yard, Malton in 1999/2000 Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd Medieval through to Nineteenth century deposits and structures were recorded
- 9 Malton Methodist Church, Savile Street, Malton in 1999 Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd No archaeological deposits were recorded
- 10 Tuddle Lane/Market Place, Malton in 2000 Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd Extensive medieval and Post-medieval deposits were recorded
- 11 11-13 Wheelgate, Malton in 2002 Archaeological excavations carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 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)
- 12 To the rear of 42 Wheelgate, Malton in 2003 Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd which demonstrated the survival of pits and post holes dating to the 12th or 13th century A wall associated with a stone building, possibly of the same date, was incorporated into the 19th century brick building that stands on the site Further work revealed five phases of medieval activity consisting of a sequence of four phases of stone wall, a large stone-built culvert, fragments of floor surfaces and associated internal features, this sequence of medieval occupation ran from the 12th to the 14th centuries

5.3 Listed Buildings

- 5.3.1 Within 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 Eighteenth century with Nineteenth and Twentieth century additions The two shops were originally a terrace of three or four houses The buildings are two storeys with attic, with a nine windows in the front and Twentieth century shop fronts on the ground floor incorporating a quoined arch to right of centre The buildings have a painted and rendered front elevation and coursed rubble stone construction at the rear All first floor windows are tall single pane vertical sashes and the second floor are tall four pane vertical sashes with painted stone sills There is a plain parapet with sunk panels three gabled dormers, one with a 2 by 6 pane horizontal sliding (Yorkshire) sash and the others with 2-light casements to the attic

6. Methodology

- 6.1 Removal of the overburden was undertaken by a JCB type excavator fitted with both smooth and toothed buckets. Concrete hard standing over both trenches was initially cut with a still saw, broken by a jack-hammer and then the rubble deposits removed with a toothed bucket. All soil overburden deposits were excavated using a smooth ditching bucket.
- 6.2 All deposits and features identified below modern overburden and rubble were hand excavated and a drawn written and photographic record was made. The trenches were located in relation to existing buildings and roadways and tied into the Ordnance Survey Grid.

7. Results

- 7.1 Only a limited quantity of archaeological features and deposits were recorded in Trenches 1 and 2.

7.2 Trench 1

- 7.2.1 Trench 1 was located within the derelict warehouse and positioned to include the area of Test pit 6. Measuring 3m², excavation commenced at 24.9m AOD and continued to 22.56m AOD. Following the removal of concrete and overburden the trench was mechanically reduced to 24m AOD, features and deposits within the top 1m were of a Post-medieval date with the majority of the recovered finds of 17th to 18th century date. The test pit was then excavated a further 1.3m to natural deposits.
- 7.2.2 The earliest feature identified in Trench 1 (Cut 1018) was observed in the north facing section of the test pit (Fig 4). The visible part of Cut 1018 measured 0.55m deep with a rounded base, the feature continued into the south facing section confirming that it was originally over 0.5m in width. The single fill (Context 1017) consisted of a dark grey silty clay loam with few small stone inclusions and charcoal fragments. The only excavated finds consisted of several animal bone fragments and a single sherd of 13th-14th century pottery.
- 7.2.3 Sealing Pit 1018 and present over the entire trench was Deposit 1006, a substantial dump of material over 1m deep consisting of a grey brown sandy loam deposit containing stones and stone fragments, ashy particles and gravel. A variety of finds of late 18th century were recovered including pottery, animal bone, brick and tile, clay pipe, shell and glass (Appendix 2).
- 7.2.4 A number of features and deposits lay above or cut into Deposit 1016 these included Wall foundation 1016, Deposits 1007, 1010 and 1015, Stone Surface 1003, Post hole 1011, and Pit 1013 (Figs 4 & 5).
- 7.2.5 A deposit of degraded limestone fragments and mortar (Context 1016) was observed running on an east west alignment in the northern half of Trench 1 (Fig 4, Pls 2 & 3). Measuring 0.7m in width the general nature of this deposit suggested that it represented the remnants of the foundation of a robbed away wall - **Wall foundation 1016**. The only find associated with the structure was a pan tile fragment dated to the

mid to late 18th century Wall foundation 1016 post-dated Deposit 1006 but pre-dated Drain 1004

- 7 2 6 **Deposits 1007, 1010 and 1015** formed successive surfaces aligned east to west Deposits 1007 and 1015 comprised of sand and cinder respectively appeared to have formed the base for a stone surface (Context 1003) Deposit 1010 was a silty sand with stone inclusions, which overlay Deposit 1007 All three deposits were located on the northern side of the trench and although none had clearly defined edges the dimensions were roughly 3m long by 1 2m wide The only finds were four fragments of pottery and a single clay pipe stem from Deposit 1007 providing a date of mid to late 17th century
- 7 2 7 Deposits 1007, 1010 and 1015 were succeeded by a hard standing of pitched limestone fragments representing a yard or trackway surface (Context 1003) **Stone Surface 1003** had only partly survived and was located on the western side of the trench measuring 1 2m, 0 8m wide and 0 05m deep The surface was constructed from hard pale coloured limestone fragments
- 7 2 8 Features seen to cut into Surface 1003 included a post hole (Cut 1011) and a pit (Cut 1013) which had been partly cut away by Test pit 6 and Drain, 1008
- 7 2 9 **Post hole 1011** measuring 0 32m in diameter and 0 6m deep with vertical sides with a flat base was located towards the northern end of the trench The single fill, (Context 1012) was a silty sand containing stone and limestone fragments The only finds recovered were two small sherds of pottery dated to the late 17th / early 18th century
- 7 2 10 **Pit 1013** was located on the western side of the trench and measured 1 2m long, 0 34m wide, 0 7m deep with a U-shaped profile (Fig 4) The single fill (Context 1014) was a sandy silty loam containing limestone fragments and a single sherd of late 17th to early 18th century pottery
- 7 2 11 **Drain 1008** was located in the south-western corner of the trench and was constructed from brick and concrete (Figs 4 & 5 Pl 2) The drain was dismantled during the reduction of the trench and the only associated finds were two residual sherds of pottery dated as 15th to 16th century
- 7 2 12 The remaining deposits within the trench represented levelling and rubble deposits (Contexts 1019, 1023, 1024, 1025, and 1026) which were cut by modern drain (Drain 1004) and a modern pit (Cut 1020) The final levelling deposits (Context 1002) lay directly below the existing concrete surface (Context 1001)
- 7 2 13 **Drain 1004** was cut from directly below Deposit 1002, spanned the width of the trench and contained two fills (Contexts 1005 and 1028) both silty sandy loam deposits containing no finds
- 7 2 14 **Pit 1020** was filled with a single fill (Context 1021) an ashy silty sand which contained no finds

7.3 Trench 2

- 7 3 1 Trench 2 measured 3m² and was located in Wrights Yard (Fig 3)

- 7 3 2 Following the removal of the concrete yard surface and underlying hardcore (Contexts 2001 & 2002) a demolition deposit (Context 2009) was observed which occupied former cellars represented by three walls (Contexts 2004, 2005 and 2008) and a cellar staircase (Context 2003 Fig 6) The top of the cellar walls lay 0 3m below the concrete yard surface and hardcore make up, at 25 5m AOD The walls were all constructed from dressed limestone blocks and fragments, laid in regular courses and bonded with a pale brown mortar The full depth of the cellars and the walls was recorded immediately prior to backfilling when a slot was excavated between Walls 2004 and 2008 The base of the cellar lay at 23 73m AOD the overall surviving height of the cellar walls was 1 8m
- 7 3 3 *Wall 2005* represented the earliest of the recorded cellar walls, located in the north-west facing section of Trench 2 and aligned north-west to south-east, it survived to a height of 0 75m and was constructed of five regular courses of dressed limestone blocks bonded with a pale brown clean mortar The overall height exceeded the depth of the trench (Pls 4-7) The northern end of the wall showed evidence of light rendering and possible white wash adhering to the stonework
- 7 3 4 *Wall 2004* was aligned north-east to south-west, measured 0 48m wide and butted Wall 2005 with which it formed a right angle Wall 2004 survived to a height of 0 8m and consisted of eleven courses of predominantly long narrow thin limestone blocks up to 0 45m long, with an average of 0 07m depth, a number of smaller shaped stones were also present in the wall make-up The stonework was bonded with a soft clean pale brown mortar
- 7 3 5 *Wall 2008* represented the corner of a wall aligned north south and east west in the south-eastern corner of the trench Its dimensions and construction were identical to that of Wall 2004 These two walls appeared to be contemporary with a break of 0 95m between these two walls forming a doorway A further component of this phase of activity is represented by *Staircase 2003*, which butted Wall 2004 The visible part of the stairs included the top three steps, a slab at the top of the stairs and four courses of dressed limestone measuring a maximum of 0 3m long by 0 17m in height supported by timbers (Fig 6 Pls 4-8) The overall dimensions of the staircase were 1 6m long, 0 9m wide and 0 9m The stair slabs measured 0 9m by 0 3m and 0 06m deep
- 7 3 6 The staircase was supported by a wooden lintel and two vertical timbers indicating the space under the stairs was used as a storage area or cubby-hole Although the full depth of the structure was not seen it seems very likely the base of the stairs was the same as the base of the walls at 23 73m AOD
- 7 3 7 Enclosed by Wall 2008 were a total of six similar silty sandy loam deposits (Contexts 2006, 2007, 2011-2014 Fig 7) It was impossible to discern if these deposits represented cellar backfill or had accumulated outside the building, possibly within a feature such as a pit The lower three fills (Contexts 2013-2014) were similar grey to grey brown silty loams containing few stone inclusions and slumped slightly from east to west The upper deposits (Contexts 2006, 2007 and 2011) also slumping east to west Deposit 2007 contained three late 17th century pottery sherds and a small

amount of animal bone fragments, five tile/brick fragments were recovered from Deposit 2006

8. Summary

8 1 Trench 1 identified 1m of modern and late Post-medieval deposits including successive yard surfaces and redundant drains, which overlay earlier soil deposits and a possible feature identified following the removal of backfill from Test pit 6. The feature may have represented a pit or ditch, the only dating material consisted of a single sherd of medieval pottery. Excavation in Trench 1 identified that archaeologically significant features and deposits lay more than 1m below the existing ground level.

8 2 Trench 2 contained the remnants of backfilled cellars made up of limestone walls and a staircase, the cellars contained the demolition material from the associated building. Soil deposits were also identified in one corner of the trench from which post-medieval pottery was recovered. Cartographic evidence suggests that the cellared buildings were constructed after 1730.

9. Conclusions

9 1 The evaluation trenches identified archaeological activity within the development area including medieval and Post-Medieval deposits and features within Trench 1 and backfilled cellars of a late Post-Medieval date within Trench 2.

9 2 The features and deposits within the upper 1m of Trench 1 between 24.8m AOD and 23.8m AOD, were of a Post-Medieval date and appeared to represent levelling deposits prior to the construction of buildings. At a lower level within Trench 1, 23.25m AOD, a medieval feature was identified in the section.

9 3 The date of the backfilled cellars within Trench 2 was uncertain but buildings are present on the 1838 and 1853 Ordnance Survey Maps. Two parallel rows of buildings are marked on the Plan of Malton from Thomas Hinderwells manuscripts of 1825. The Map of the Burrow of New Malton by Joseph Dickenson of 1730 indicates a row of buildings in Wheelgate with apparent garden plots to the rear in the location of the two evaluation trenches.

9 4 An aerial photograph of Malton by the National Monuments Record (Robinson 1978) shows buildings in the vicinity of Trench 2. As the railway line to the east of the town is redundant it can be assumed that the photograph was taken after 1963.

9 5 Other archaeological features and deposits may be within the development area although the findings from Trench 1 indicate that earlier deposits of medieval date exist at lower levels (c. 23.25m AOD).

9 6 The degree of disturbance to earlier deposits below the cellars is currently unknown but what is known is that the cellars are cut to 23.73m AOD, natural deposits were reached in Test pit 6 at 22.36m AOD suggesting that up to 1.5m of archaeological deposits may survive in the vicinity of Trench 2. However as the proposed re-development of the site does not extend to this depth, the base of the pile caps are at

24m AOD only the upper Post medieval and possibly late medieval deposits will be affected