

Rec 24/09/03.

3086 parish

NYE 862

NYC 1368

NYS 8559

**Church Farm  
Middleton  
Pickering  
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

NYCC HER	
SNY	8559
ENY	862
CNY	1368
Parish	3086
Rec'd	24/9/03

**MAP  
May 2003**

**Church Farm  
Middleton  
Pickering  
North Yorkshire  
SE 7825 8546**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

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**Church Farm  
Middleton  
Pickering  
North Yorkshire  
SE 7825 8546**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Introduction**

Middleton is a small village situated c.2km north-west of Pickering and to the north of the A170. Church Farm, Middleton lies within the Parish of Middleton in the County of North Yorkshire (Fig. 1 : SE 7825 8546).

Church Farmhouse is a redundant agricultural building immediately adjacent to, and north-east of St. Andrew's Church (Fig. 2 & Pl. 1).

An Archaeological Watching Brief condition was placed on the proposed development (Application number 99/00408/FUL : and Listed Building Consent Ref. 99/0405/FUL) which was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd between July and November 2002.

The site is located on soils of the Rivington 1 Soil Association and is well drained coarse loamy soils on gentle or moderate slopes on carboniferous and Jurassic sandstone. (Mackney et al 1983).

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**Archaeological Background**

The whole of Middleton village is listed on the Sites and Monument Record because of its inclusion in the Domesday Survey of 1086. St. Andrew's Church has a pre-Conquest foundation date and has had additions in the Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fifteenth and Nineteenth centuries. The church consists of "a chancel, nave, north aisle, south aisle, south porch and western tower" (VCH 1914).

Church Farmhouse is a Grade II Listed Building and is described as “two attached houses, now a barn” dated to the early Seventeenth and later Seventeenth century with Nineteenth century remodelling. It seems unlikely that this building was ever the vicarage. The present vicarage, now a private dwelling, lies to the south of Church Farm, and dates to 1764 but is on the site of an earlier vicarage recorded in a terrier of 1716, in addition the 1730 plan shows a range of buildings on the site of the present vicarage.

### **Work Programme**

The aim of the brief was to enable the recording and recovery of archaeological and structural remains, which may have been affected by the proposed development.

A mini digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision carried out the excavation work.

### **Results**

The removal of a 3m strip of topsoil around the exterior of the building revealed no archaeological features.

Observations undertaken during the works to the interior of the property recorded a deposit of 0.30m – 0.40m of rubble which acted as a compacted floor surface. Removal of this deposit revealed undisturbed natural deposits. Mortar, clay or flagged surfaces along with the absence of any structural elements, such as postholes leads to the conclusion that any earlier floors had been previously removed.

The only structural feature of note was a stone walk in fireplace originally supported by two stone columns, of which only one survived, the second had been replaced in the past by a tree trunk (Pl. 2).

### **Conclusions**

The absence of any archaeological features in or around the building leads to the conclusion that a large amount of disturbance had occurred on the site possibly in the Nineteenth century.

**Bibliography**

Mackney, et al 198

Soils and their uses in Northern England. Soil Survey of  
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VCH 1914

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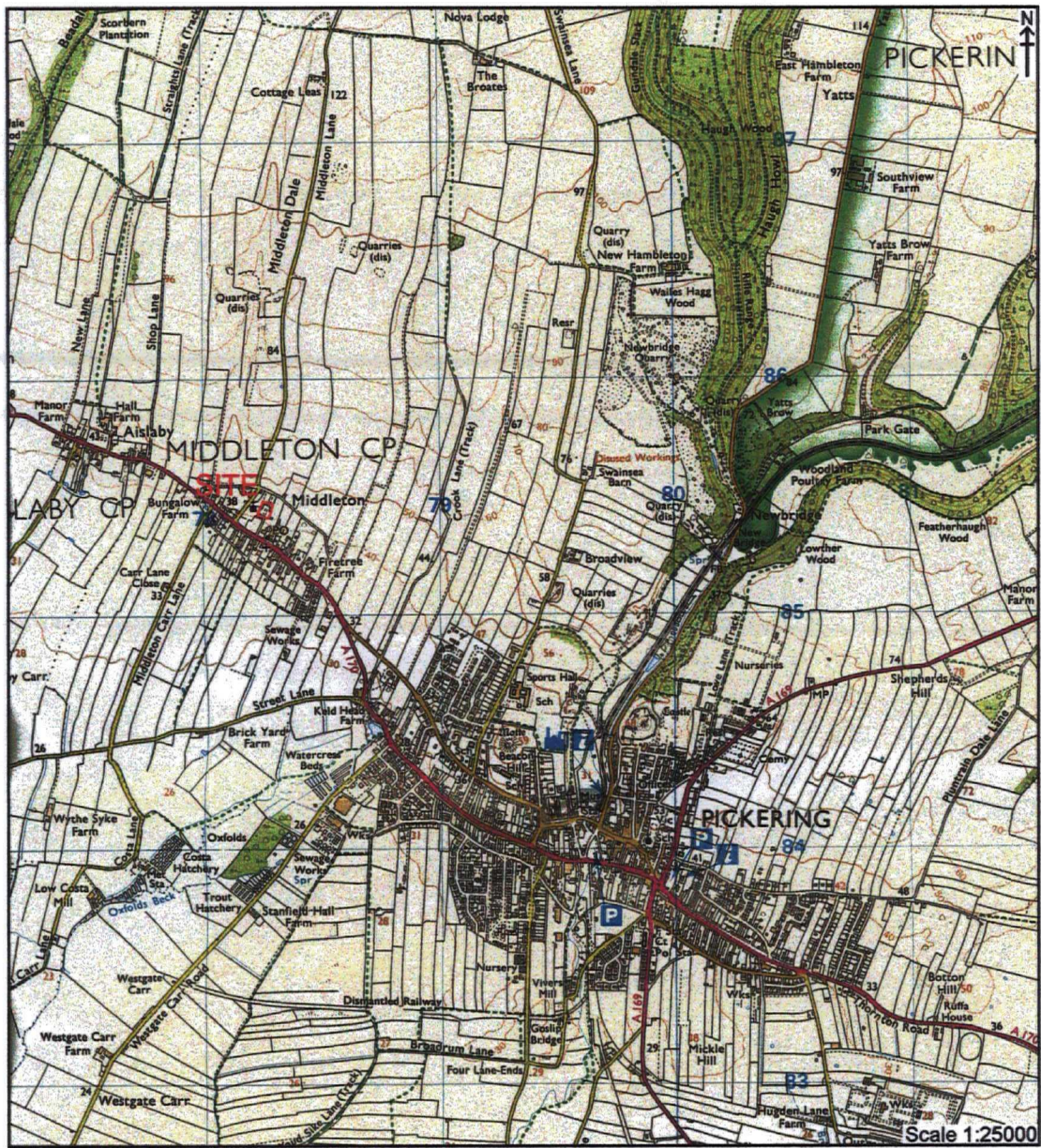


Figure 1. Site Location.

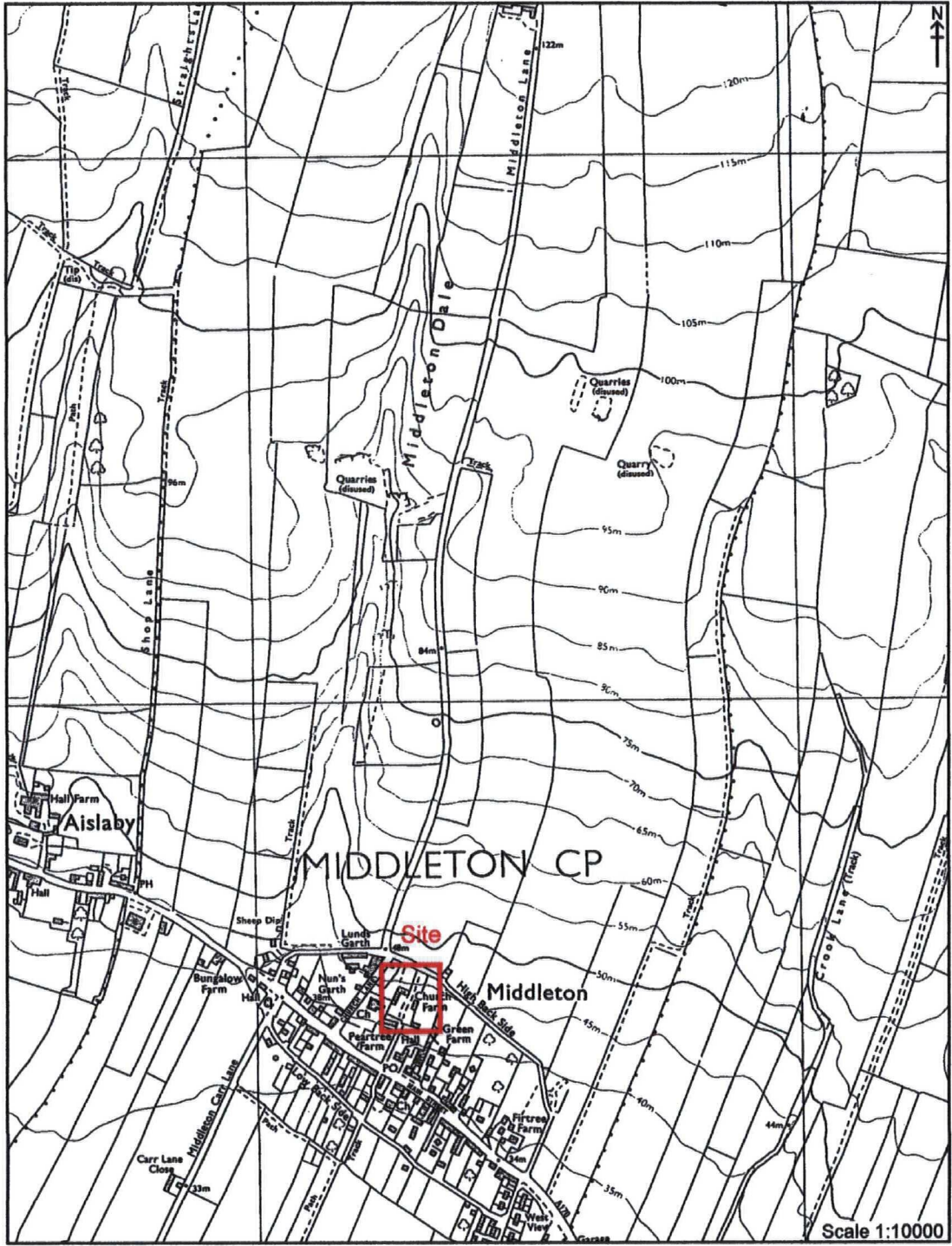


Figure 2. Site Location





Plate 1. Exterior of Church Farm. Facing West



Plate 2. Stone Walk in Fire Place. Facing North