

Rec 27/10/3

2/011

NYE 861

NYC 1136

NYS 8564

**Wycar
Bedale
North Yorkshire
SE 2635 8825**

Archaeological Watching Brief

NYCC HER	
SNY	8564
ENY	861
CNY	1136
Parish	2011
Rec'd	27/10/2003

**MAP
May 2003**

**Wycar
Bedale
North Yorkshire
SE 2635 8825**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Contents	Page
<i>Summary</i>	2
1. Introduction	2
2. Geology	2
3. Archaeological and Historical Background	3
4. Methodology	3
5. Results	4
6. Conclusions	4
7. Bibliography	4
Appendices	
1. Context listing	4
2. Drawing Listing	4
 Figure List	
1. Site Location 1:25000	5
2. Site Location 1:1250	6
3. Plan of trench 1:150	7

Wycar
Bedale
North Yorkshire
SE 2635 8825

Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken between June and December 2002, during groundworks associated with the construction of the new joint Police Station and Fire Service Unit at Wycar, Bedale. Observations showed that the site had been extensively disturbed by previous development of the site.

1. Introduction

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Wycar, Bedale, North Yorkshire (Fig. 1 – SE 2635 8825), between June and December 2002, to fulfil a condition attached to the planning consent for the construction of a new building to house both the Police Station and Fire Service (Application No. 2/01/011/0395A.).

The site is located to the east of Bedale Manor on the edge of the main town centre (Fig. 2). It is bounded on three sides by a narrow access road beyond which to the north are open fields, while to the south are properties currently in use. The site previously housed the old fire station and has clearly been the site of several rebuilds.

All archaeological work associated with the project has been funded by North Yorkshire County Council.

All maps within this report have been produced from Ordnance survey with the permission of the controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright. License No. AL50453A.

2. Geology

The site stands on soils of the Nercwys Association (542), deep fine loamy soils (prone to seasonal water logging) over a geology of Till derived from Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sandstone and shale (Mackney *et al.* 1984).

3. Archaeological and Historical background

Bedale is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086), at which time it had a church. By the 13th century, a park for hunting had been established, and in 1251 the Market Charter was granted, the wide Market Place was probably laid out following this charter. The earlier focus of settlement would probably have been around the church and castle, built in the 13th Century of which few traces survive. Although dating from the medieval period, the town's high point must have been in the late 18th century when the Market place, Tollbooth and other buildings were demolished and replaced by superior three storey houses, which give the street and the town its Georgian dignity.

The character of Bedale is provided by a number of different architectural elements and surviving medieval features. The buildings are of brick, stone or cobbles with pan tile or slate roofs, with most buildings being joined together in continuous frontages along the main street. Behind the buildings are Tofts, Crofts and Garths bounded by walls of brick or cobble, which are surviving medieval elements. The church of St Gregory has a surviving remnant of a 9th century Saxon church which survived William the Conqueror's harrying of the North. The 14th century tower is probably the best example of a fortified church tower in the country, built to withstand Scottish raiding parties and a slot for the portcullis may still be seen. Bedale Park began as a medieval deer park but was landscaped in the early 18th century, it is now largely a golf course, however an icehouse still survives within its grounds, as well as a stretch of the former park wall. The area of the proposed development lies within close proximity to the supposed Castle, tofts and parkland; there was therefore the potential that archaeological remains would be encountered during the construction.

4. Methodology

A grid of footing trenches were excavated (Fig 3), to the following dimensions: 0.70m width x 0.60m depth (for ground beams), and 1.50m (for pile caps). All work was observed by a qualified archaeologist. A back-acting toothless bucket was used for all excavation and where appropriate the recording and photographing of all deposits, archaeological or otherwise, was carried out to standard recording conventions and practise as outlined in the I.F.A. handbook.

5. Results

Over the development area no significant archaeological deposits or finds were encountered either in section or plan. Below a tarmac surface and underlying hardcore base were a series of natural deposits (contexts 1004/1005/1006). Several modern service pipes were visible in the trench sections as were remains of the foundations of the previous building (old fire station).

6. Conclusions

Although potentially the site of the proposed development was in an archaeologically sensitive area post medieval development of the site and modern building, has removed traces of any earlier remains.

7. Bibliography

Mackney, *et al.* 1984; Soils Survey of England and Wales

North Yorkshire County Council, Heritage Unit. 2002. Written Scheme of Works for Watching Brief at Bedale Fire Station

APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

Context	Description
1001	modern tarmac
1002	modern hardcore
1003	cut of trench
1004	deposit, dark brown clayey silt
1005	deposit, grey mixed sandy clay
1006	deposit, natural

APPENDIX 2

Drawing List

Number	scale	description
1	1:20	section of deposits

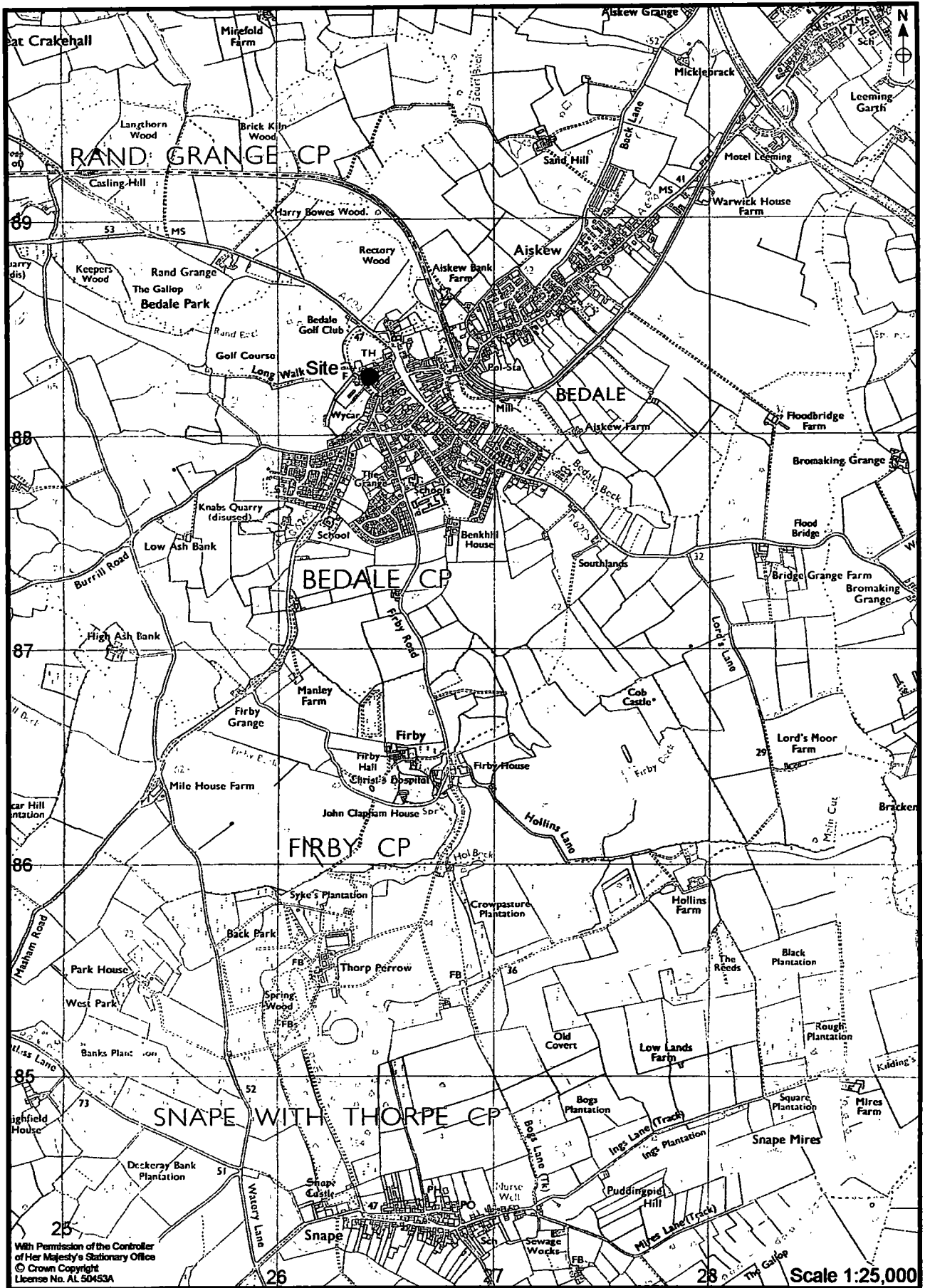


Figure 1. Site Location

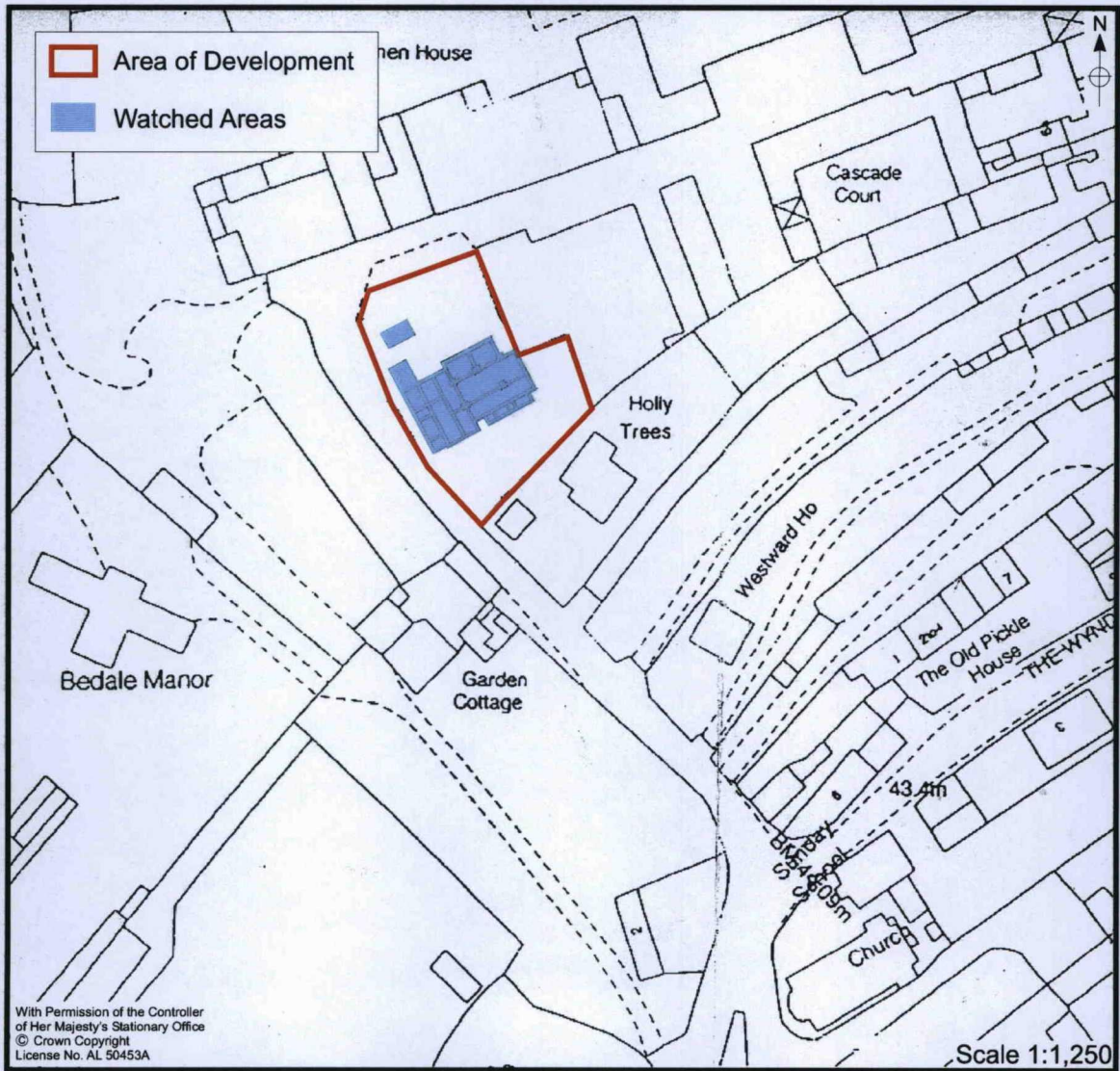


Figure 2. Site Location

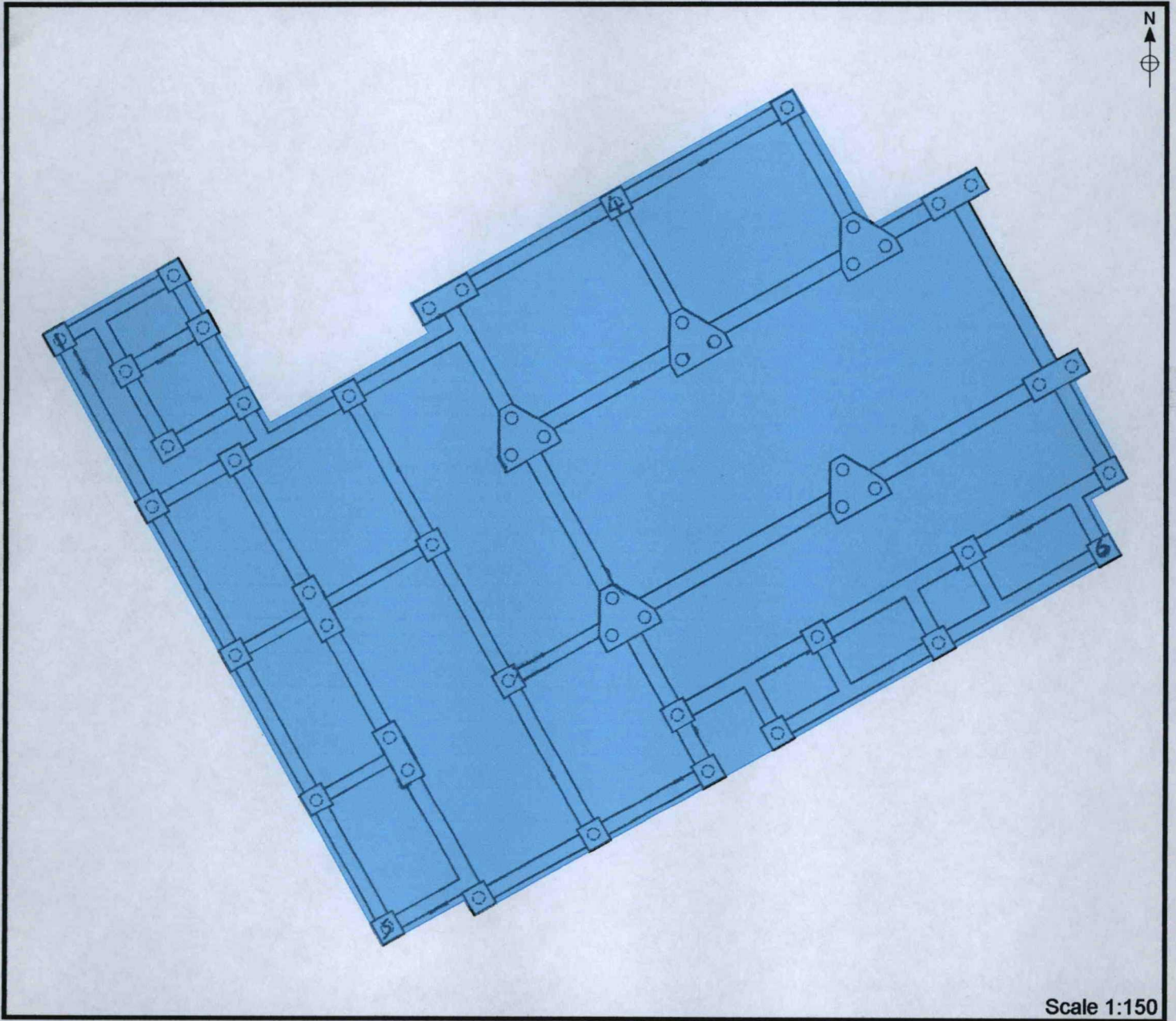


Figure 3. Plan of Trench

Scale 1:150