

NYE 1866
NYC 2215
NYS 8584

28 Church Street
Norton
North Yorkshire
(SE 7925 7140)

Archaeological Watching Brief

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MAP

28, Church Street
Norton,
North Yorkshire
SE 7925 7140

Archaeological Watching Brief

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**28, Church Street
Norton
North Yorkshire
SE 7925 7140**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Non-technical Summary

The excavation of footing trenches for the conversion of a former shop unit into a residential dwelling, was observed in May 2003. A ditch of medieval date and quantities of medieval and Roman pottery were recorded.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at 28 Church Street, Norton, North Yorkshire (SE 7925 7140) in advance of the development of the site from a former jeweller's shop into a residential dwelling (Figs.1 and 2).
- 1.2 The work was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, from the 9th to the 12th of May 2003, and involved the observation of groundworks to the rear of the standing building (Pl. 1).
- 1.3 All work was funded by Ms. L. Carr and construction work undertaken by Transcore.
- 1.4 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright. Licence No AL 50453A.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The development site lies to the rear of a two storey former town house at 28 Church Street, Norton which has until recently been used as a jeweller's shop. The property is now in a dilapidated state, with the frontage facing onto Church Street, and is flanked on the west side by the Derwent Arms public house and a residential unit on the east side (Pl. 2). The rear of the site comprised of a small

enclosed garden, which had been covered by spoil and other building material (Pl. 1).

3. Archaeological Background

- 3.1 Archaeological evidence associated with the Roman fort and *Vicus* situated across the river in Malton, is well documented and consists of numerous find spots of pottery and fragmentary sections of the various Roman roads that radiated out from the Fort. One of the major roads that runs southwards from the fort appeared to run very close to the site, and therefore the potential not just for this site but for the area as a whole to uncover significant archaeological remains was high. Of particular note is the presence of several pottery kiln sites close to the site of the Watching Brief, which indicates the level of settlement density that clearly developed as the result of the Roman settlement.
- 3.2 During renovation work at 17-21 Church Street burials and material of a medieval date were recorded along with residual Roman pottery (MAP 2002).

4. Methodology

- 4.1 Because of the limited space available within the development area, all trenches were excavated using a small mechanical digger. Where appropriate any archaeological deposits were hand dug, cleaned, photographed and recorded using standard archaeological procedures.

5. Results

- 5.1 The excavation of the footing trenches revealed a series of deposits visible in section (Fig. 3, a-b and c-d). The earliest of these deposits was context 1005 a dark grey, clayey silt which contained a large fragment of a Roman decorated Samian vessel (Dr 37). Deposit 1005 appeared to be the single fill of a cut feature (context 1006), the full extent of which is unknown as it appeared to continue under the standing building.
- 5.2 Cut 1006 was sealed by Context 1004, a dark brown, soft, clayey silty material containing fragments of pottery of Roman and 13th/14th century date. This deposit was also recorded along the southern boundary of the development (Fig.

3 c-d). Cut into Deposit 1004 was a linear feature (Cut 1007) measuring 1.00m across and 0.30m deep. This feature was only visible in the southern half of the footing as excavation did not go deep enough in the central area of the trench to define the full extent of this probable ditch. The fill of this feature (context 1010) was almost identical to Deposit 1004.

- 5.3 Both Deposit 1004 and Feature 1007 were sealed by a substantial deposit of dark greyish brown clayey silt measuring from 0.30m to 0.60m in depth (context 1003), which was recorded over the entire site. Fragments of pottery of 15th century date and a residual sherd of Roman Samian Ware were recovered.
- 5.4 The sequence was completed in the north of the extension area by a hardcore deposit (1002) and a surface of flagstones (1001 : Fig. 3. a-b), to the south topsoil and recent demolition debris were observed (Deposits 1008 & 1009 : Fig. 3 c-d).

Phasing summary

The first phase of activity was represented by a small unidentified feature (context 1006), possibly a pit of Roman date. This feature was sealed by Deposit 1004, a possible agricultural horizon of medieval date (13th/14th), which was also associated with Ditch 1007. Further medieval activity was represented by a substantial build up deposit (1003) with associated pottery of 15th century date. The final phase of activity consisted of relatively recent garden and hard standing deposits.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 The nature of the deposits observed in plan and section across the area of development, suggested activity dating from the Roman through the medieval and Post-medieval periods. The presence of Roman activity on the site was to be expected considering the recognised importance of Norton as a Roman settlement. No structural evidence was found for any period and the depth of deposits recorded suggested that the rear of 28 Church Street remained undeveloped and open ground for much of the medieval, Post-medieval and modern periods.

7. **References**

MAP 2002 The Post Office, 17-21 Church Street, Norton. Archaeological
Excavations

Robinson J F 1978 The Archaeology of Malton and Norton. *YAS Leeds*.

APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

Context	Description
1001	flagstones
1002	deposit, hardcore composed of demolition material
1003	deposit, dark greyish brown 10YR 3/2, soft clayey silt.
1004	deposit, 10YR 3/1, soft clayey silt.
1005	deposit, dark greyish brown 7.5YR 3/1, clayey silt.
1006	cut, of possible Roman ditch.
1007	cut, of medieval ditch
1008	deposit, thin loose topsoil
1009	deposit, mixed demolition levelling surface.
1010	deposit, 10YR 3/1, soft clayey silt

APPENDIX 2

Finds Catalogue

Context	Type	Description	Wt (g)	date
1003	Pottery	1 sherd, Calcite-gritted	10	Roman
		1 sherd, Black-Burnished	125	1 st /2 nd
		3 sherds Staxton Ware	125	15 th
		4 sherds Brandsby type	200	15 th
		3 sherds frags. Beverley 2	75	15 th
		1 sherd Hambleton Ware	27	15 th
1004	Pottery	Samian base	60	1 st /2 nd
		1 sherd Calcite-gritted	90	Roman
		12 sherds York glazed Ware	300	13 th
		3 sherds Beverley 2	90	13 th /14 th
1005	Pottery	Samian 1 frag Dr 37.	27	1 st /2 nd

APPENDIX 3

Drawing Catalogue

Number	Scale	Description
1	1:50	Trench plan with feature location
2	1:20	General deposit profile

3 1:20 Deposit profile above Roman feature.

APPENDIX 4

Photographic Catalogue

Film No	Context	Scale	Facing	Comments
1	-	2.00m	N	general shot
2	-	2.00m	N	general shot
3	-	-	N	building detail
4	1004/1005	1.00m	N	Roman feature
5	1007	1.00m	N	ditch
6	1005	1.00m	N	close up shot

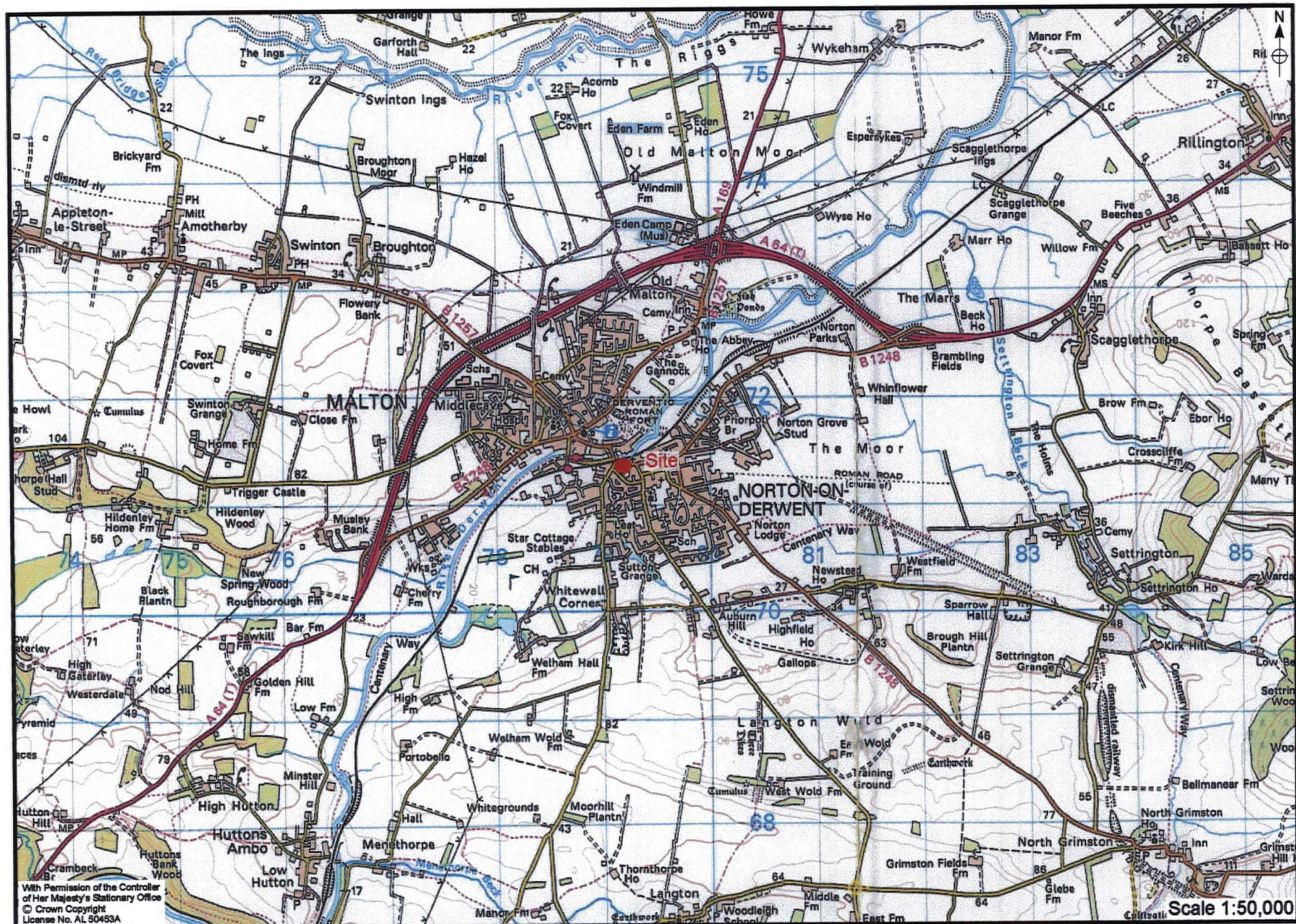


Figure 1. Site Location



Figure 2. Watching Brief Area

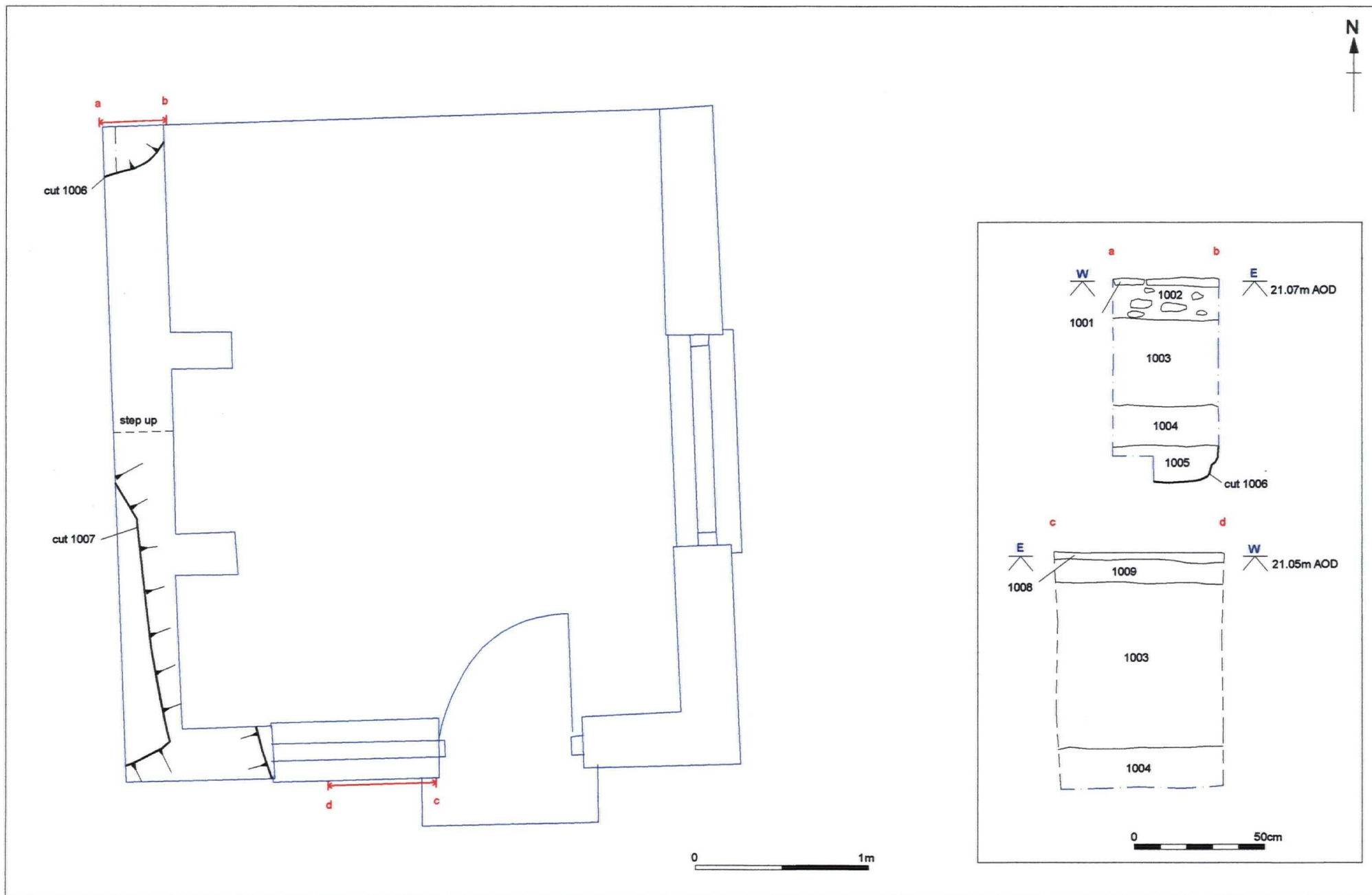


Figure 3. Plan and Sections of Watching Brief Features



Plate 1. General shot of the site. Facing north west.



Plate 2. Detailed shot of adjacent building. Facing north.