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**Norton Grove Industrial Estate
North Yorkshire
Link Road**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Map Archaeological Consultancy

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Norton Grove Industrial Estate Link Road

Archaeological Watching Brief

Introduction

The Norton Grove Industrial Estate is situated on the eastern edge of the parish of Norton approximately 1km from the town of Norton (SE 8038 7184). Due to the traffic congestion and noise pollution to Parliament Street, Norton caused by heavy lorries a new road was proposed to link the Grove Road industrial estate with Scarborough Road to the north (Figs 1 and 2).

The location of the proposed link road was assessed for archaeological remains and a geophysical survey was undertaken (see below) to determine if the road corridor contained any archaeological features. Based on the results of the survey a planning constraint was placed on North Yorkshire Highways so that an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the topsoil stripping of the new roadway

The geology of the area is permeable calcareous loam over glaciofluvial sand and gravel Mackney et al 1983).

All work has been funded by North Yorkshire County Council.

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Historical and Archaeological Background

To the east of the site runs the projected alignment of "Norton Three Dikes". An important landscape feature dating to the late prehistoric period it represents a land boundary which in post medieval times forms the boundary of the Lordship of Settrington (1599-1600). Portions of the feature survive as upstanding earthworks or as cropmarks. The alignment of the Dikes are marked by an old hedgeline across Priorpot Beck. In 1993 in advance of the Rillington to Malton Pumping Main development by Yorkshire Water, excavation through a section of the dikes showed them to be approximately 3m in width, but relatively shallow in depth. No associated finds were recovered to provide a date for the features (MAP 1993).

The 13th register of Malton Priory suggests a deer park in the area known as Norton Parks (Neave 1991). Norton Parks is to be found in an area on the Scarborough ^{Road} at the eastern end of the parish of Norton (Robinson 1978).

The main Scarborough Road prior to 1752 and the formation of the turnpike trust, continued from Commercial Street along Parliament Street, and beyond the Outgang (Fig. 3) on a course which would pass directly to the south of the new link road.

Cartographic evidence for the site indicates that it was open land from in the 19th century (Fig. 3) with the only perceptible activity to the east in the form of ponds created by the extraction of clay for the local brickmaking industry.

In advance of the commencement of the project a geophysical survey was undertaken by Geoquest. The results of the survey indicated a incidence of disturbance of a recent date in the form of metal pipe, drains and culverts. In the southern portion of the corridor several archaeological features were suggested (Fig. 4).

Excavation Method and Techniques

The stripping was undertaken by a hymac with a toothless blade. Any features which were regarded as potentially of an archaeological nature were investigated by hand.

Excavation Results

The topsoil, a sandy clay loam (context 1001) varied in depth over the length of the corridor from 0.1m to 0.2m. Below this deposit were as series of sandy loam (context 1002) sands (context 1003) and clay sands (context 1004 - ?brick earths). This sequence was seen along the entire length of the corridor. The only interruption to these deposits occurred at a point immediately to the north of Priorpot Beck where a linear feature was cut through by the road cutting. This feature measured 0.6m in height and was seen to continue to both the east and west of the road corridor., although it did decrease in height to the east. Composed of two distinct deposits (context 1005 - a clay sand and context 1006 sandy clay), this feature is interpreted as a lynchet as opposed to a flood bank for Priorpot Beck.

Anomalies indicated on the geophysical survey were located and assessed, but these were of a geological rather than archaeological origin.

Finds recovered consisted of an assemblage predominantly of post medieval and modern date, although a single sherd of Roman and two medieval sherds were found (Appendix 2).

Conclusions

The only archaeological feature observed during the watching brief was the lynchet. The general nature of the soil recorded, the lack of archaeological features and the finds assemblage suggests that this area has been under agriculture for a considerable period.

Bibliography

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- MAP 1993 Malton-Rillington Pumping Main. Malton. Unpublished.
- Neave S 1991 Medieval Parks of East Yorkshire. Bridlington.
- Robinson, J. F. 1978 The Archaeology of Malton and Norton. The Yorkshire Archaeological Society. Leeds.

APPENDIX 1

Context listing

1001.	10YR 4/1 sandy clay.
1002	10YR 5/6 fine sandy loam.
1003	10YR 5/8 fine powdery sand.
1004	10YR 5/8 compact clayey sand.
1005	10YR 5/6 compact clumpy clayey sand.
1006	10YR 5/6-6/6 friable sandy clay.
1007	10YR 6/6 fine friable sand.

APPENDIX 2

Finds catalogue

North of Priorpot Beck

2 brick fragments

- 1 abraded Humber ware body sherd - medieval
- 1 Nottingham black ware body sherd - post medieval
- 3 white earthenware body sherds - modern

2 glass fragments - modern

South of Priorpot Beck

1 brick fragment

- 1 Grey ware body sherd - Roman
- 1 reduced Humber ware body sherd - medieval
- 2 Nottingham black ware body sherds - post medieval
- 1 blue and white transfer ware cup base and body sherd - modern

1 iron nail - modern

APPENDIX 3

Archive listing

2 sections. Scale 1:20.

APPENDIX 4

Photographic listing

1. West facing section of road ^{5/1}corridor. Facing east.
2. General site work. Facing north.
3. East facing section through lynchet. Facing west.
4. West facing section through lynchet. Facing east.

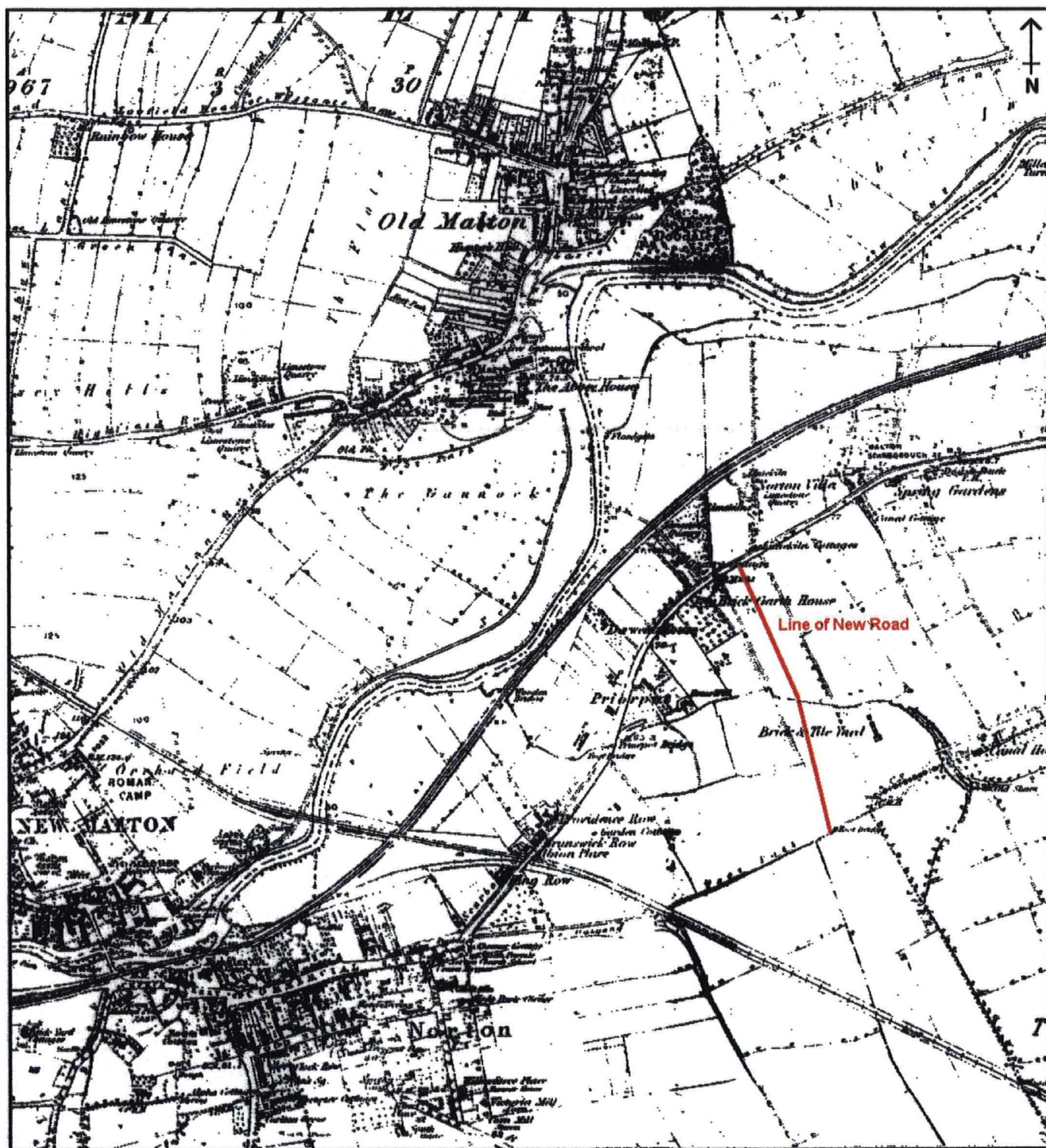


Figure 3. First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Malton and Norton (1854). Scale 6 inch to 1 mile.

