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5 Church Street
Norton
North Yorkshire
SE 7920 7145

Archaeological Evaluation

**N.Y.C.C.
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Recd. 14 MAY 2004

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MAP
Feb 2004

5 Church Street
Norton
North Yorkshire
SE 7920 7145

Archaeological Evaluation

Contents	Page
Figure List	2
Plate List	2
Non-Technical Summary	3
1. Introduction	3
a. Site Description	4
b. Historical and Archaeological Background	4
4. Aims and Objectives	6
5. Methodology	6
6. Results	7
7. Conclusions	10
8. Bibliography	12
 Appendices	
1. Context Listing	
2. Finds Catalogue	
3. Drawing Archive Listing	
4. Photographic Archive Listing	

Figure List

1. Site Location. Scale 1:50,000.
- a. Area of Development. Scale 1:2500.
- b. Robert Wise's Plan of the Town of Malton. 1843.
- c. Extract from the proposed Railway Line Map, c. 1845.
- d. Extract from the First Edition Town Series Ordnance Survey Map, 1853.
- e. Extract from the Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1924.
- f. Evaluation Trench Location
- g. Plan and Section of Trench 1.
- h. Plan and Sections of Trench 2 Features.
- i. Plan and Sections of Trench 3 Features.

Plate List

1. View of Site. Facing north
2. View of Site. Facing west
3. West facing section of Trench 1, showing flooding.
4. View of Walls 2014 and 2030. Facing south-west.
5. View of Wall 3006. Facing west
6. View of Cobbled Surface 3007. Facing north-east.
7. View of Modern Wall 3005. Facing east.
8. Overall view of Trench 3. Facing south-east.

**5 Church Street
Norton
North Yorkshire
SE 7920 7145**

Archaeological Evaluation

Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological Evaluation consisting of three trenches was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at 5 Church Street, Norton, North Yorkshire (SE 7920 7145) during the 2nd to the 9th of February 2004.

Excavations were undertaken to a maximum depth of 16.78m AOD (1.40m below existing ground level). Undisturbed natural deposits were not encountered at this depth and no evidence was recovered for Romano-British or medieval deposits.

Two fragments of undated stone wall were recorded in Trenches 2 sealed below a series of 18th century surfaces, dumps and tipping layers, which were also identified in Trench 1. Later activity consisted of a 19th century stone wall, brick walls and levelling deposits as recorded in Trench 3.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on a plot of land at 5 Church Street, Norton, North Yorkshire, (SE 7920 7145) during the 2nd to the 9th of February 2004 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by the Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 The evaluation was designed to provide information to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be formulated, following the archaeology policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Guidance 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG 16)*.

- 1.3 A total of 22 square metres were examined, at locations agreed with the Heritage Unit as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Fig. 2).
- 1.4 The site code for the project was MAP 01-11-03.
- 1.5 All work was funded by Mr C. Brack.
- 1.6 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

2. Site Description

- a. The proposed development site lies on the north side of Church Street, Norton, to the east of Malton Bridge, and south of the river Derwent and the railway line between Malton and Seamer (Figs. 1 & 2). The site covers an area of approximately 583.5m² and at the time of the excavation accommodated a garage showroom with tarmac parking areas to the east and rear. The land stands at a height of c. 18m AOD.
- 2.2 The site lies on soils of the Fladbury 3 Association, which consist of clayey alluvial soils, found on the floodplains of major rivers. These overlie a geology of chalky glaciofluvial drift (Mackney, 1984, 194).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The Roman Fort and *vicus* (civilian settlement) at Malton lies north of the river Derwent, with further settlement spreading southwards across the river to cover a substantial area of what is now the modern town of Norton.
- 3.2 From its origins as a medieval village, modern Norton greatly expanded from the mid-19th century onwards to form a large residential and industrial area, successive building works leading to the uncovering of substantial Roman remains.
- 3.3 The application site lies within an area of archaeological interest, with the potential for the survival of Roman, Medieval, and later remains.

- 3.4 The present Church Street is believed to follow one of the major Roman roads that run from the fort. In 1862, drainage work on the riverbank in Norton uncovered, at a depth of 2.5m below alluvium, part of a metalled road surface, along with finds of Roman date. These were interpreted as being a ford heading for the southern gate of the fort on the north bank of the river Derwent. On the north bank of the river, a road was found to gradually ascend from this ford towards the present Church Street, where it was 1.52m below the surface (Robinson 1978). This road ran through the Roman settlement at Norton, eventually forming the main Roman road to York (Margary 81a – *ibid.*, no. 237)
- 3.5 The 1862 drainage work also uncovered part of a clustered shaft of a Norman column, between the river and Church Street, which was thought to belong to the site of the hospital of St. Nicholas. Founded by William de Flamvill in Henry II's reign, and administered by Old Malton Priory the 1862 the drainage works suggest that the hospital was on an island close by in the river Derwent. The report states that drainage engineers in 1862 found footings from the hospital on a rockery facing north end of the County Bridge. Early maps of Norton and Malton show the location of a number of islands within the river Derwent in the 19th century (Figs. 3 & 4).
- 3.6 Excavations for the York-Scarborough railway in the 19th century uncovered a quantity of sculptured stones, which were ascribed to the hospital, but the exact find spot is unknown. "The sculptured stones are said to have been placed in the garden rockery of a Ms. S. King, who lived at Orchard Cottage" (Robinson, 1978, .40)
- a. Cartographic evidence for the site illustrates the progressive development of the site from the mid 19th century onwards. Robert Wise's plan of Malton dated 1843 does not record any detail south of the River Derwent (Fig. 3). A copy of the survey undertaken prior to the construction of the York to Scarborough Railway Line shows the site as an area of a possible building and wall (Fig. 4). The 1852 First Edition Town Series plan of Malton and Norton records open land with trees and notes it as the site of St. Nicholas' Hospital (Fig. 5).

b. By 1924, the Ordnance Survey records a series of buildings, outbuildings and boundary walls on the site (Fig. 6).

4.4 Modern day development of the site shows the location of the current garage showroom, which was constructed in the 1970's and is still in use at the time of the evaluation.

4. Aims and Objectives

a. The aims of the evaluation were:

to determine by means of trial trenching the nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site,

to prepare a report summarising the results of the work, to assess the significance of the archaeological implications of any development,

to prepare and submit an archive to the appropriate museum.

a. The particular topic to be addressed was to determine any surviving evidence for Roman activity on the site and the Hospital of St Nicholas.

5. Methodology

a. Three areas were subjected to evaluation, Trench 1 measuring 2.6m x 2m, Trench 2 5m x 2m and Trench 3 3.5m x 2m (Trenches 1 - 3 : Fig. 7).

5.2 The evaluation areas were stripped of topsoil and recent overburden in shallow spits by a rear-acting excavator using a toothless blade, under close archaeological supervision. Machining ceased at the top of archaeological deposits, the underlying natural not being reached during this procedure.

5.3 All subsequent deposits were excavated by hand in stratigraphic sequence.

5.4 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).

- 5.5 All archaeological deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.
- 5.6 The full extent of archaeological deposits were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 on drawing film. Sections of features and individual layers were drawn at 1:10, also on drawing film, and included an OD height.
- 5.7 The photographic record comprised monochrome and colour prints, and colour transparencies, in 35mm format, recording all archaeological features encountered.
- 5.8 All artefacts were retained for specialist analysis. Finds were processed in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (EH 1995). All finds were cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (where possible), marked (where appropriate), and properly packed and stored according to national guidelines.

6. Results

6.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 8)

- 6.1.1 Trench 1 was situated at the western side of the garage building, measuring 2.6m by 2m, and was excavated to a depth of 1.14m (17.29m AOD). Excavation was abandoned at this depth due to problems with an exceptionally high water table due to seasonal flooding (Pl. 3). A series of tipping layers was identified, lying directly under deposits of modern hardcore (Fig. 8).
- 6.1.2 At the base of the excavations Deposit 1006, a silty sand was sealed by a 0.50m deep silty clay tipping layer (Context 1005). Deposit 1005 was in turn sealed by Deposits 1003 and 1004, both silt deposits (Appendix 1), also representing episodes of dumping/levelling. The sequence in Trench 1 was completed by a thick deposit of (Deposit 1002) sealed by hardcore (Context 1001) and a tarmac car park surface (Context 1000).
- 6.1.3 No finds were recovered from any of the excavated deposits in Trench 1.

6.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 9)

- 6.2.1 Trench 2 measured 5m x 2m and was located to the north (rear) of the present garage building (Fig. 7). The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.20m below existing ground level (18.42m AOD). Excavations were effected by the unusually high ground water table. Undisturbed natural/geological deposits were not reached.
- 6.2.2 Excavations revealed two stone walls (Contexts 2014/2013 and 2023: Pl. 4), against which a number of deposits containing 18th century pottery had built up. A later brick wall (Context 2013) had been constructed on the upper surface of Wall 2014. Wall 2013 was located directly under layers of modern hardcore.
- 6.2.3 The earliest feature identified feature in Trench 2 was a stone wall aligned east to west (Context 2014), which was 2m long x 0.60m wide x 0.70m in height. The wall was located on the western side of the trench and was poorly constructed of six courses of roughly-dressed limestone blocks, bonded by a grey friable silty mortar. The base and foundations for Wall 2014 were not located due to water level. The wall was traced for 2m running in an easterly direction. Beyond this point, the wall had been truncated by modern activity, and the demolition rubble was removed by machine as apart of the modern overburden. A continuation of Wall 2014 was eastern trench baulk (context 2010). A secondary wall at the same level was identified in section (Context 2023). Aligned roughly north to south, it may have butted up to 2014 or have been a return of 2014.
- 6.2.4 A sequence of deposits were identified built up against the northern face of Wall 2014, these have been heavily truncated by modern ground works. A clayey silt (2022) was seen in the base of Trench 2 at a depth of 17.27m AOD. Situated immediately above Deposit 2022 was a 0.29m crushed limestone tipping layer (Context 2019). Deposit 2019 was in turn sealed by a 0.18m deep silty clay material, which contained 18th century pottery (Context 2018/2028). It was in turn sealed by a 0.15m deep clayey silt deposit (Context 2026/2027), which was in turn sealed by Context 2002. Deposit 2002 was a coarse sand deposit measuring 0.14m deep. Deposit 2027 was truncated by Cut 2017, a 0.65m wide and 0.24m deep service pipe. Cut 2017 was filled by a single deposit of silt (Context 2016).

6.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 10)

- 6.3.1 Trench 3 measured 3.5m x 2m and was located to the north (rear) of the present garage building. The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.20m below the existing ground level of 17.55m AOD. Excavations revealed a limestone wall (Context 3006) and its foundation (Context 3048), and a number of deposits containing 18th century pottery which had built up against this wall. A later brick wall (Context 3005) was sealed by the tarmac car park surface.
- 6.3.2 The earliest structure identified in Trench 3 was a wall foundation of crumbly yellowish mortar bonded with small stones, aligned north to south Wall Foundation 3048 measured approximately 1m wide and 0.6m deep. Built on to this foundation was Wall 3006.
- 6.3.3 Wall 3006 (Pl. 5) constructed of well-dressed limestone blocks bonded by a grey friable silty mortar, stood two courses of in height (0.60m high) and measured 2.12m long by 0.60m wide.
- 6.3.4 A sequence of deposits were recorded butting up against the east and west faces of Wall 3006.
- 6.3.5 On the eastern side a clay loam material (Context 3047) was seen in a sondage in the south-east corner of the trench located at a height of 16.78 AOD. Above this deposit was a number of build up silty sand deposits (Contexts 3046, 3043, 3041 and 3031). Set into Deposit 3031 was an area of densely packed sub-angular cobbles (Context 3007: Pl. 6). This surface may have represented a yard or path surface extending out from the wall. A further small area of cobbling was seen butting up to Wall 3006 along the northern boundary of the trench. Further less substantial build up material not shown in section consisted of Deposit 3033, a 0.06m deep sandy mortar tipping layer which contained a 18th century livery badge (Appendix 2), and which was sealed by further sandy mortar tipping layer which contained a layer of rough stones (Deposit 3037), which was in turn sealed the cobbled surface 3007.

- 6.3.6 A substantial deposit of sandy silt (Context 3021) sealed both cobbled areas and Deposits 3031, 3033, 3037, 3041 and 3043. Deposit 3041, a silty clay was a small amount of material butting up to Wall 3006. Deposits 3029 and 3004 represented the latest phases of individual build up against the wall in the east of Trench 3.
- 6.3.7 Deposits 3004 and 3029 had been disturbed by the construction of a well constructed brick wall (Wall 3005) which ran on an identical alignment to Wall 3006 and 1.10m to the east. A service pipe trench (Cut 3020) also followed the alignment of Walls 3005 and 3006.
- 6.3.8 Deposits to the west of Wall 3006 consisted of further build up deposits consisting of thick bands of silt (Contexts 3045 and 3040) and Deposits 3036 and 3039 which represented dumped demolition material. A silty deposit (Context 3045), which contained 18th century pottery (Appendix 2), was seen in the base of Trench 3 at a depth of 17.14m AOD. A 0.05m deep silty sand layer (Context 3044) was situated immediately above Deposit 3045. Deposit 3044 was in turn sealed by a 0.6m deep silt deposit (Context 3040), which contained 19th Century pottery (Appendix 2). A sequence of demolition layers was identified butting against the western face of Wall 3006. The earliest of these was a 0.07m deep silt layer (Context 3038), which was sealed by a 0.09m deep gritty sandy silt deposit, containing large broken tile fragments (Context 3036). Deposit 3036 was sealed by Context 3027/3039, which was a 0.25m deep gritty ash silt deposit. Deposit 3027/3039 was truncated by a post-hole (Context 3025). Cut 3025 consisted of a 0.15m wide, 0.70m deep cut of vertical-sided, flat-bottomed profile. Cut 3025 was filled by a single deposit of silt (Context 3024).
- 6.3.9 Deposit 3022 represents a number of separate tipping layers within a single dump deposit (Contexts 3002/3028/3022/3023). This material was sealed by hardcore and a tarmac car park surface (Contexts 3001 to 3000).

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Two limestone walls were identified in Trenches 2 and 3, following different alignments. Wall 2014 was seen running in an east to west direction, whilst Wall 3006

ran in a north to west direction. A projection of the lines of the walls suggests that they may correspond to buildings and walls noted on earlier maps (Figs. 3, 4, 5 & 6).

- 7.2 A true date for the walls could not be obtained, because no dating material was found. The walls were sealed by a number of deposits containing 18th century pottery suggesting an earlier date of construction. These structures may be part of St. Nicholas Hospital, but this is unlikely as written accounts support the idea that the hospital was on an island close by in the River Derwent.
- 7.3 Later activity was confined to a number of deposits containing 18th century pottery. These deposits sealed the walls and consisted of a number of tipping layers. In Trench 3, a sequence of demolition layers was identified butting against the western face of Wall 3006.
- a. The apparent absence of Roman and medieval deposits and any associated finds is surprising, especially given the high incidence of Roman artefacts so far recovered from Norton. The lack of pre 18th century material evidence may be explained by the following:
- b. excavation did not encounter medieval and Roman deposits because excavation depths were too shallow.
 - c. the site was situated on marginal land, prone to flooding and therefore unsuitable for earlier settlement
 - d. post 18th century development of the site has removed any evidence of earlier activity.
- 7.5 The Evaluation did demonstrate the survival of archaeological features on site with walls and deposits dating to the 18th century being uncovered, however the earlier history of the site remains unclear.

8. Bibliography

- Hudleston, N.A. 1962 History of Malton and Norton.
- Macney, D. (Ed.) 1984 Soils and their use in Northern England
- Robinson, J.F. 1978 The Archaeology of Malton and Norton

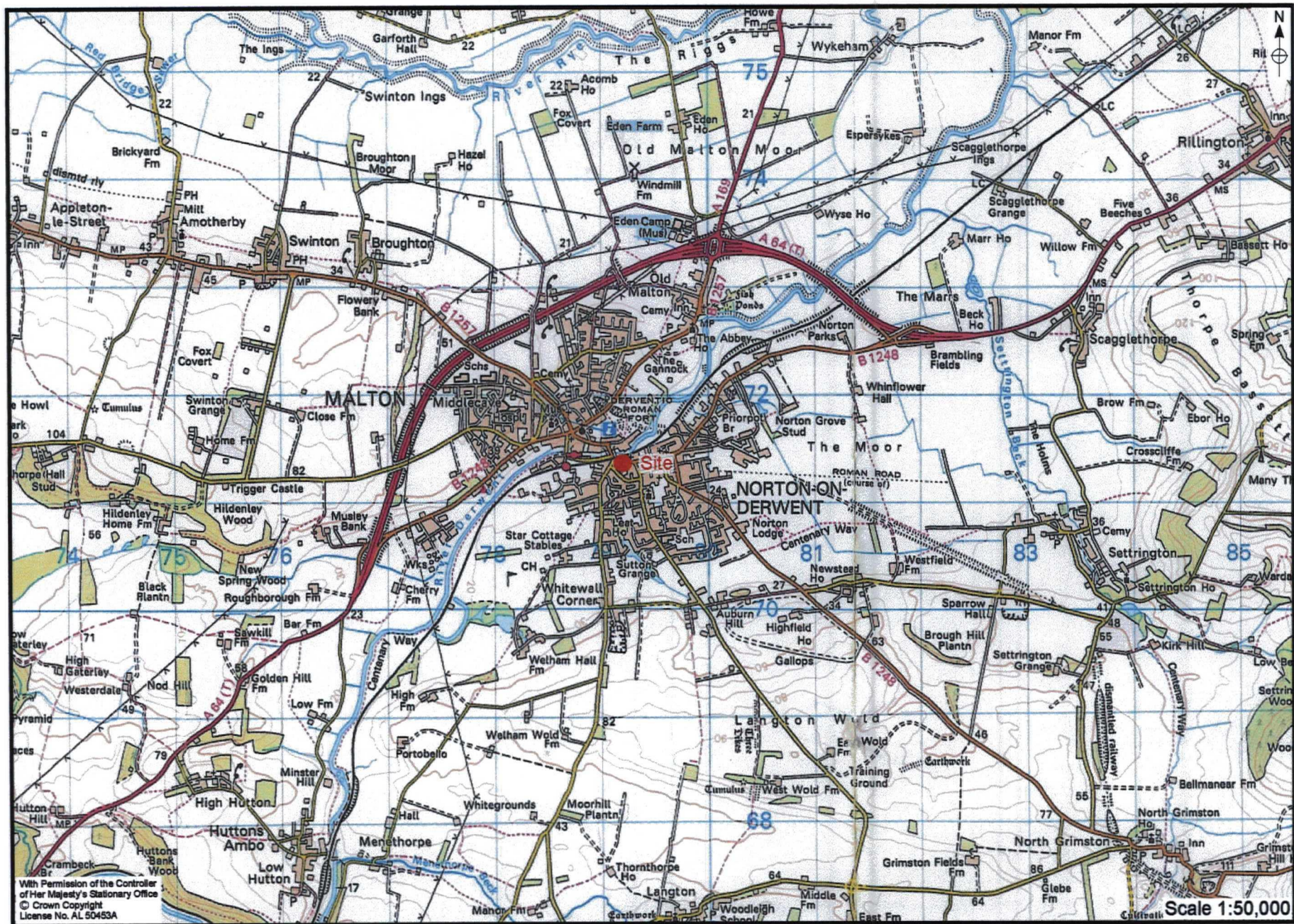


Figure 1. Site Location

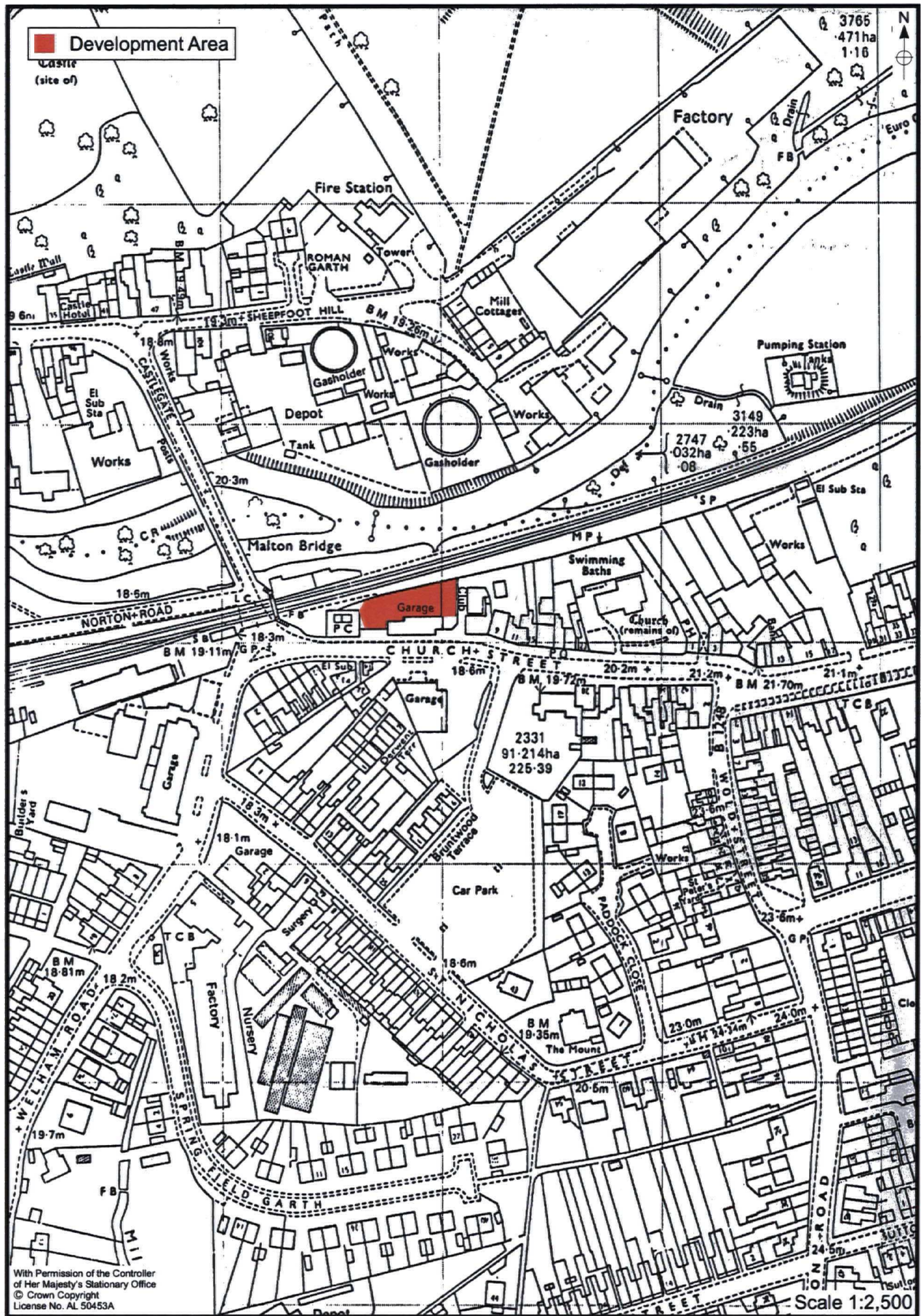


Figure 2. Area of Development

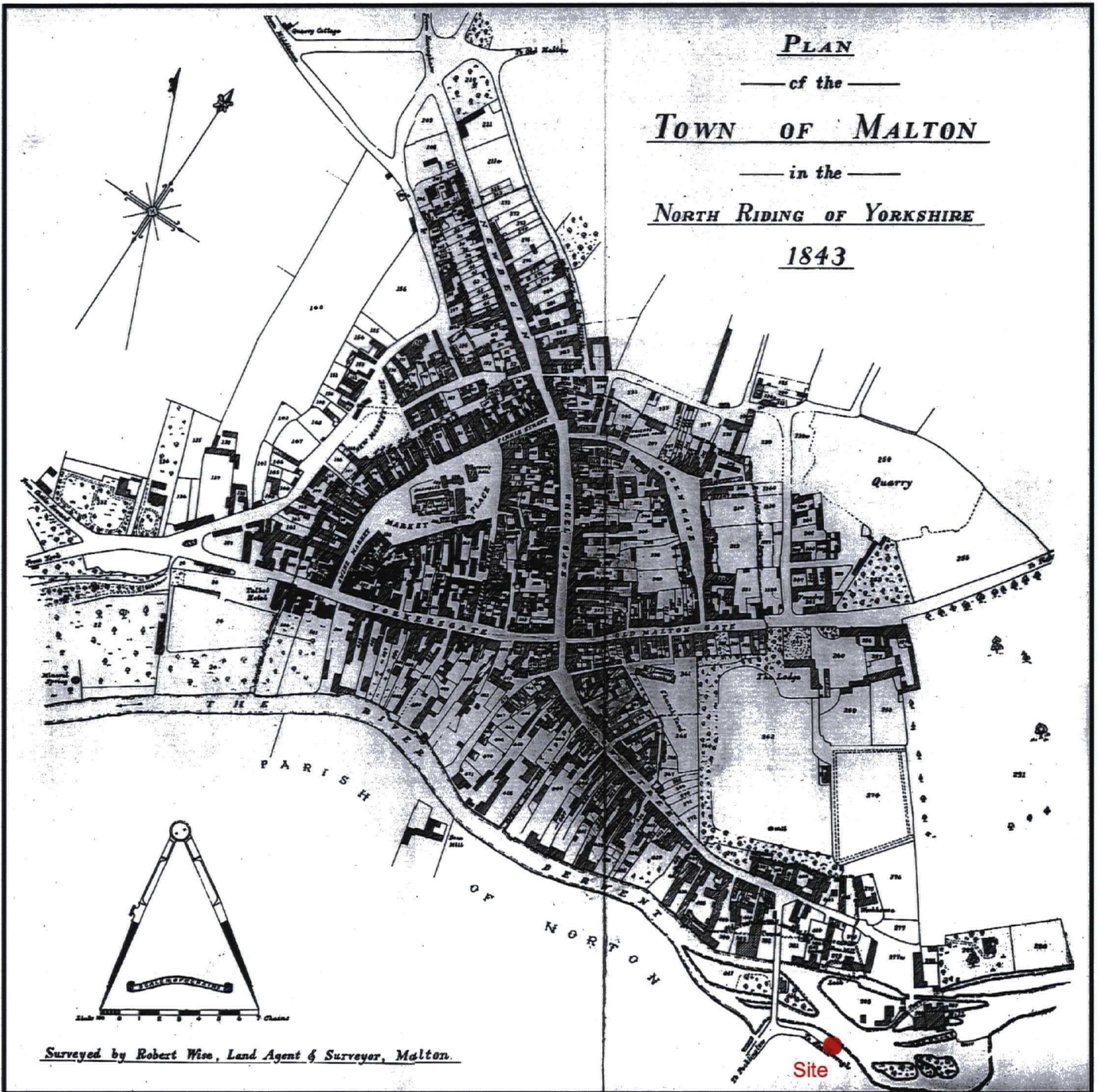


Figure 3. Robert Wise's 'Plan of the Town of Malton', 1843

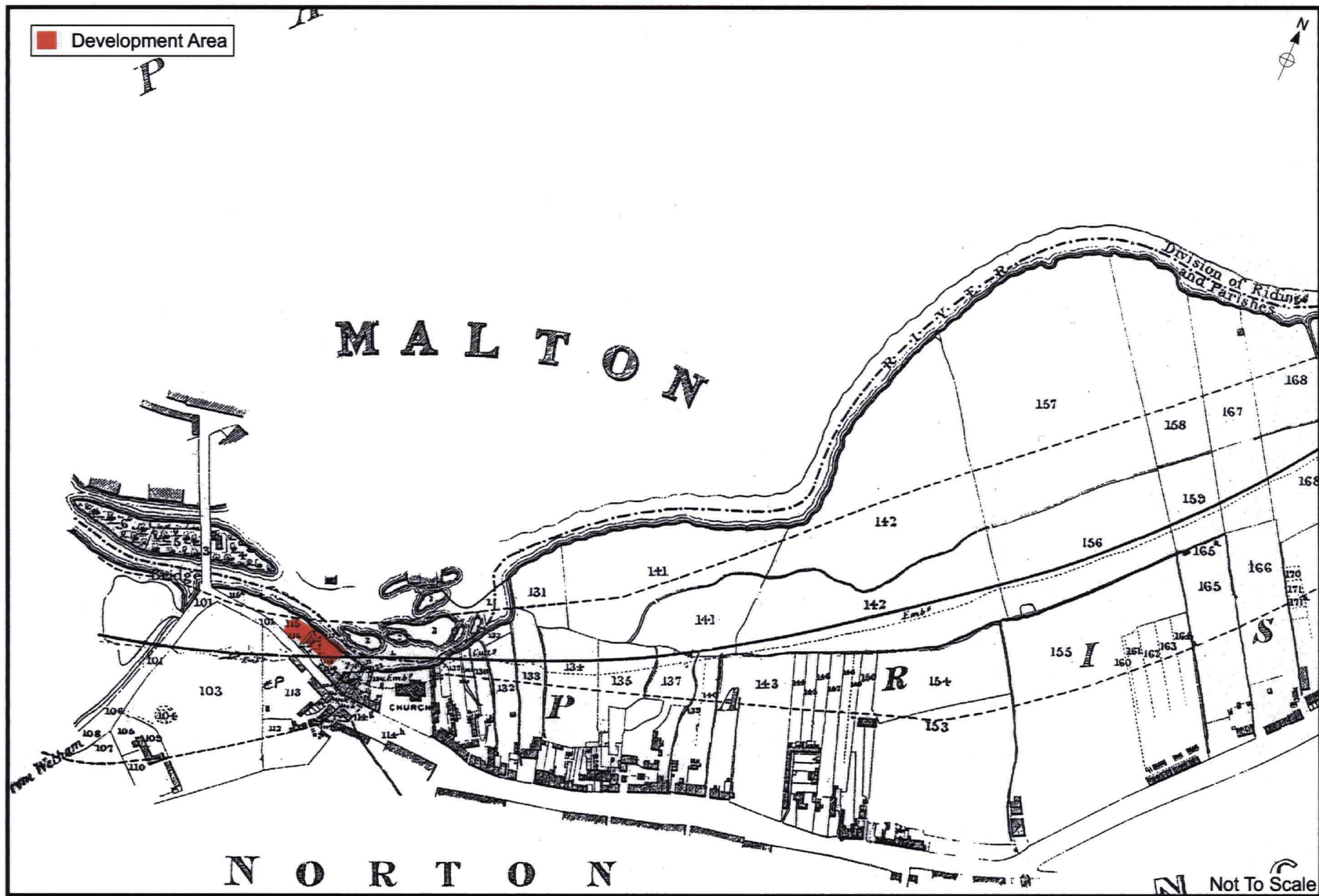


Figure 4. Extract from Proposed Railway Line Map, c.1845

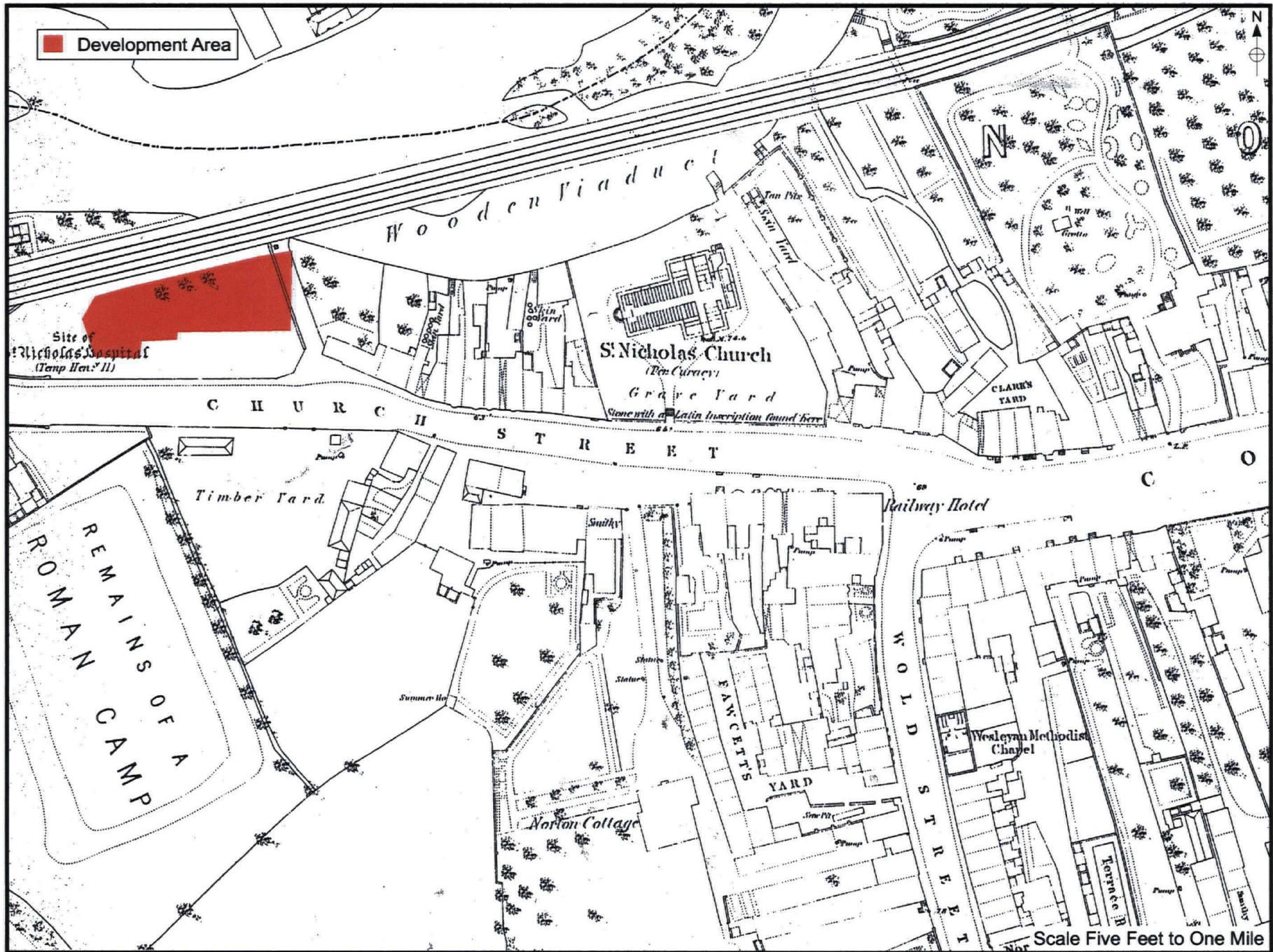


Figure 5. Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1853

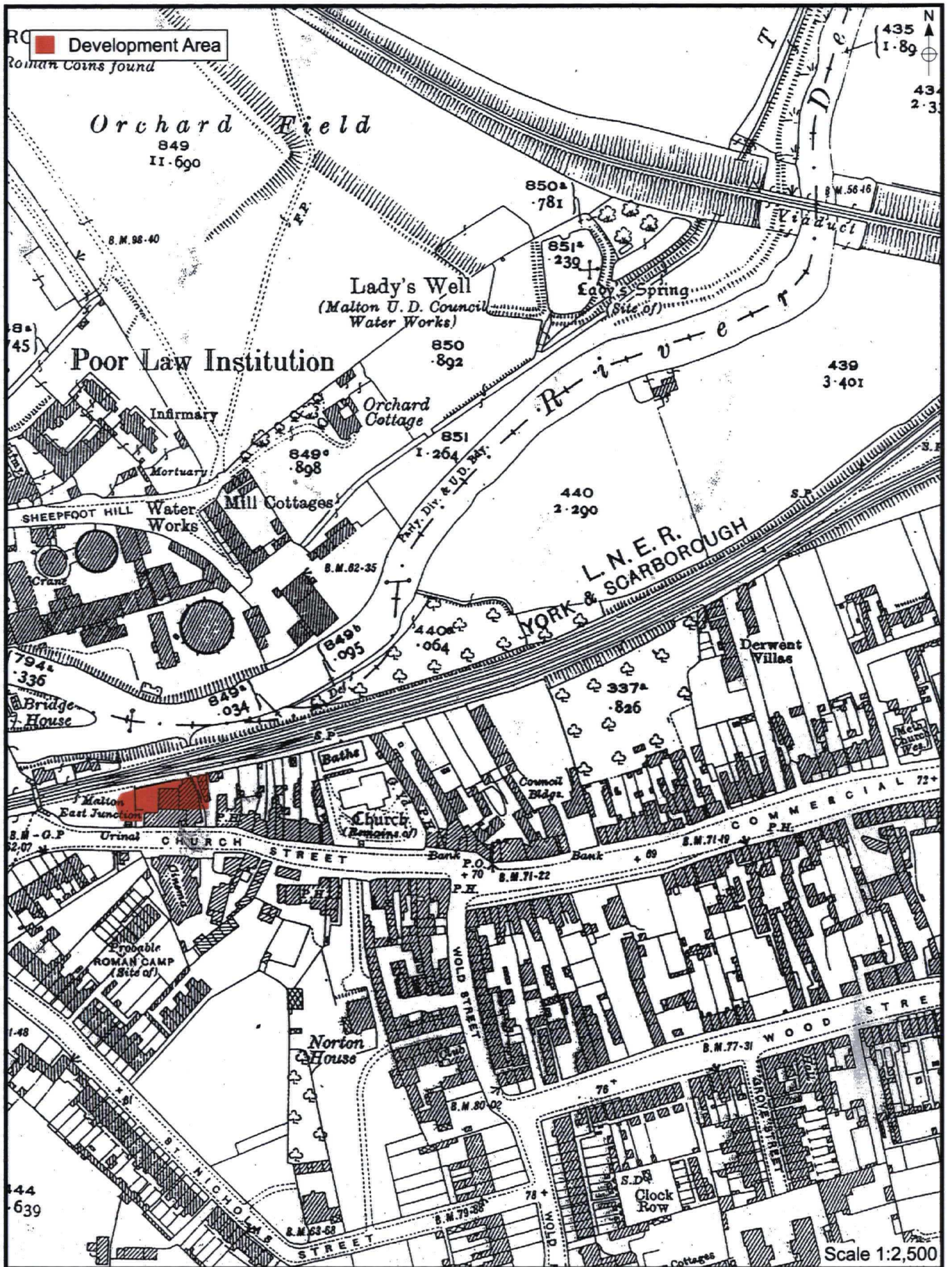


Figure 6. Extract from Ordnance Survey Map, 1924

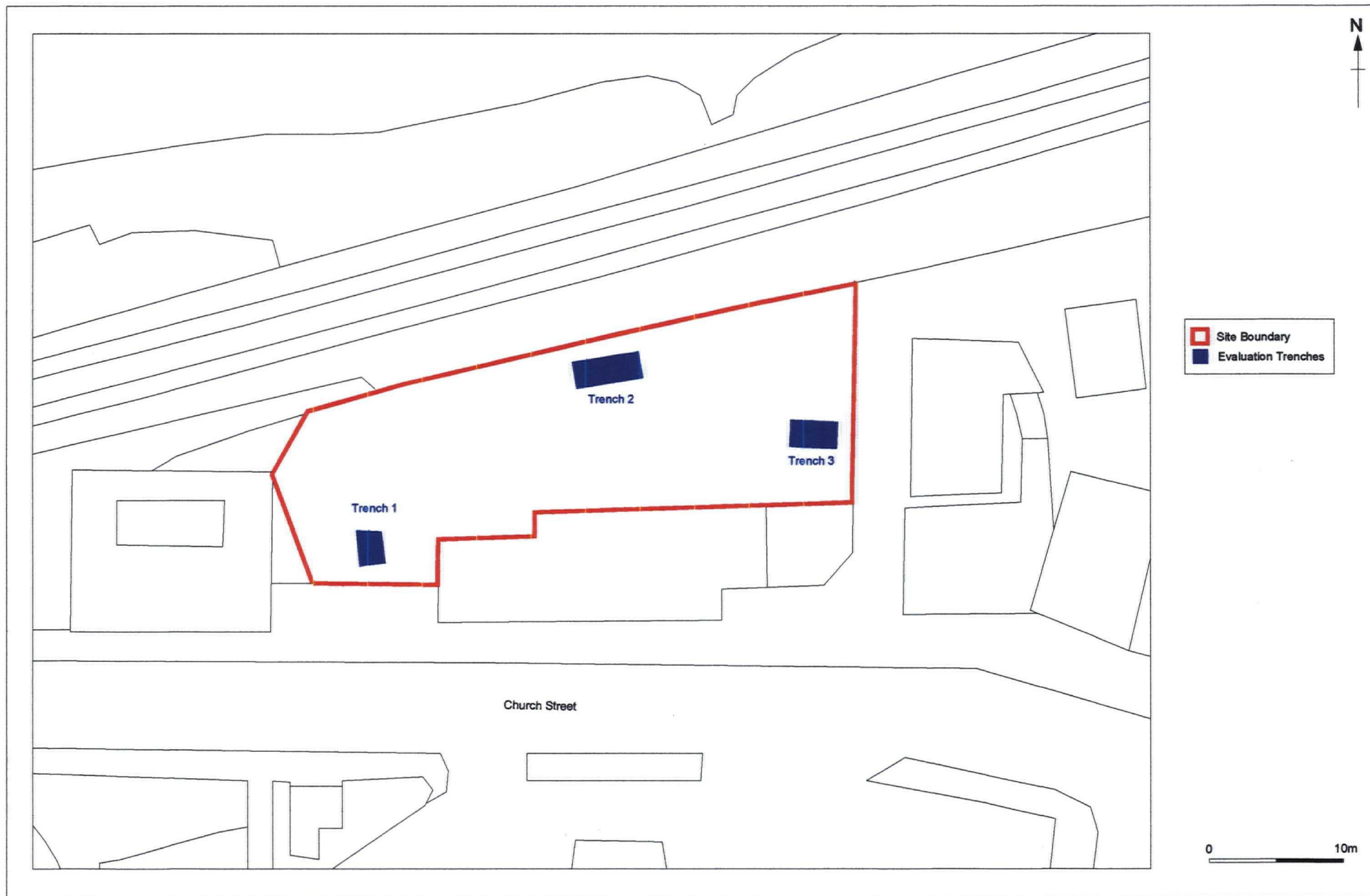


Figure 7. Evaluation Trench Location

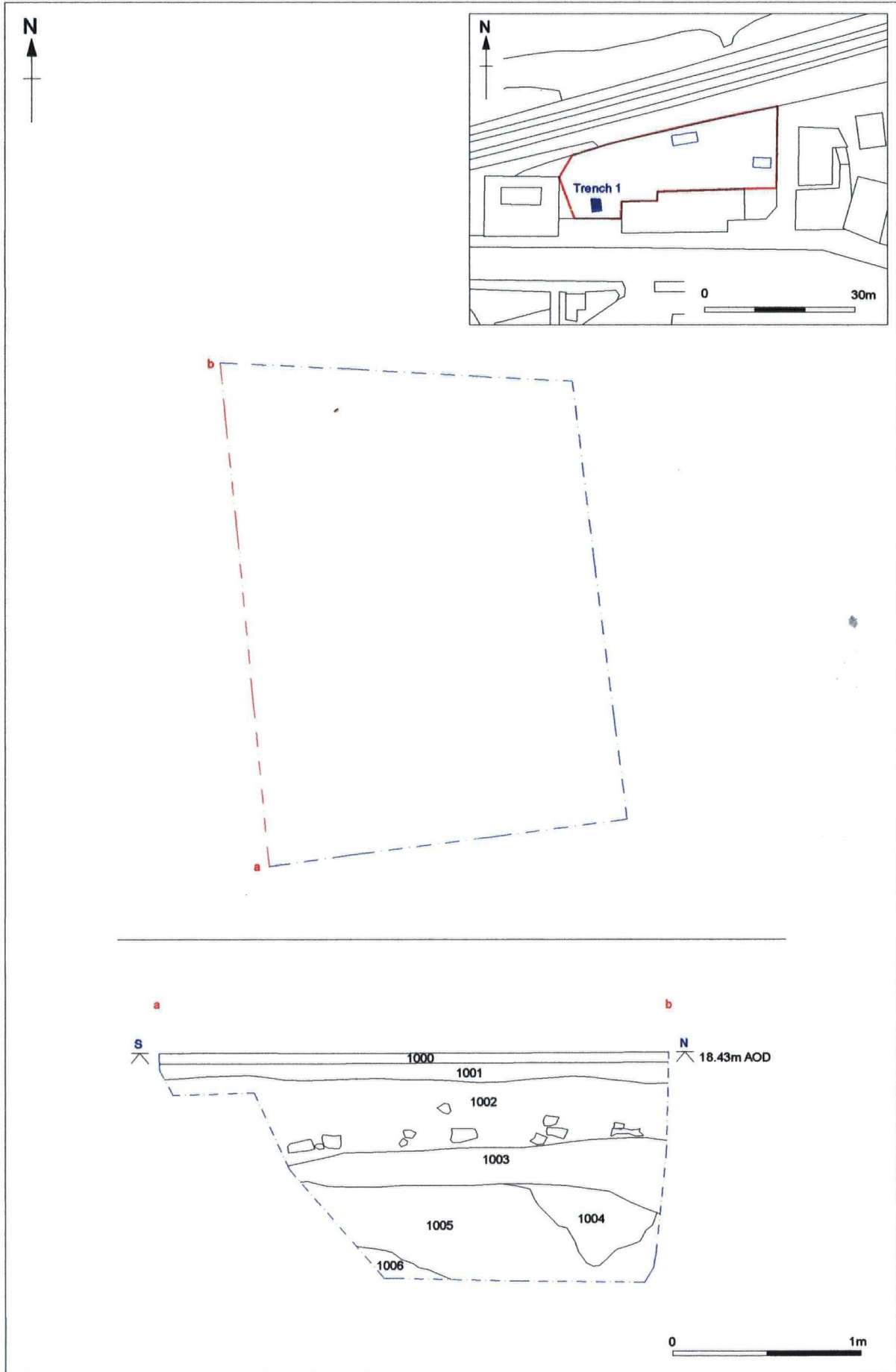


Figure 8. Plan and Section of Trench 1

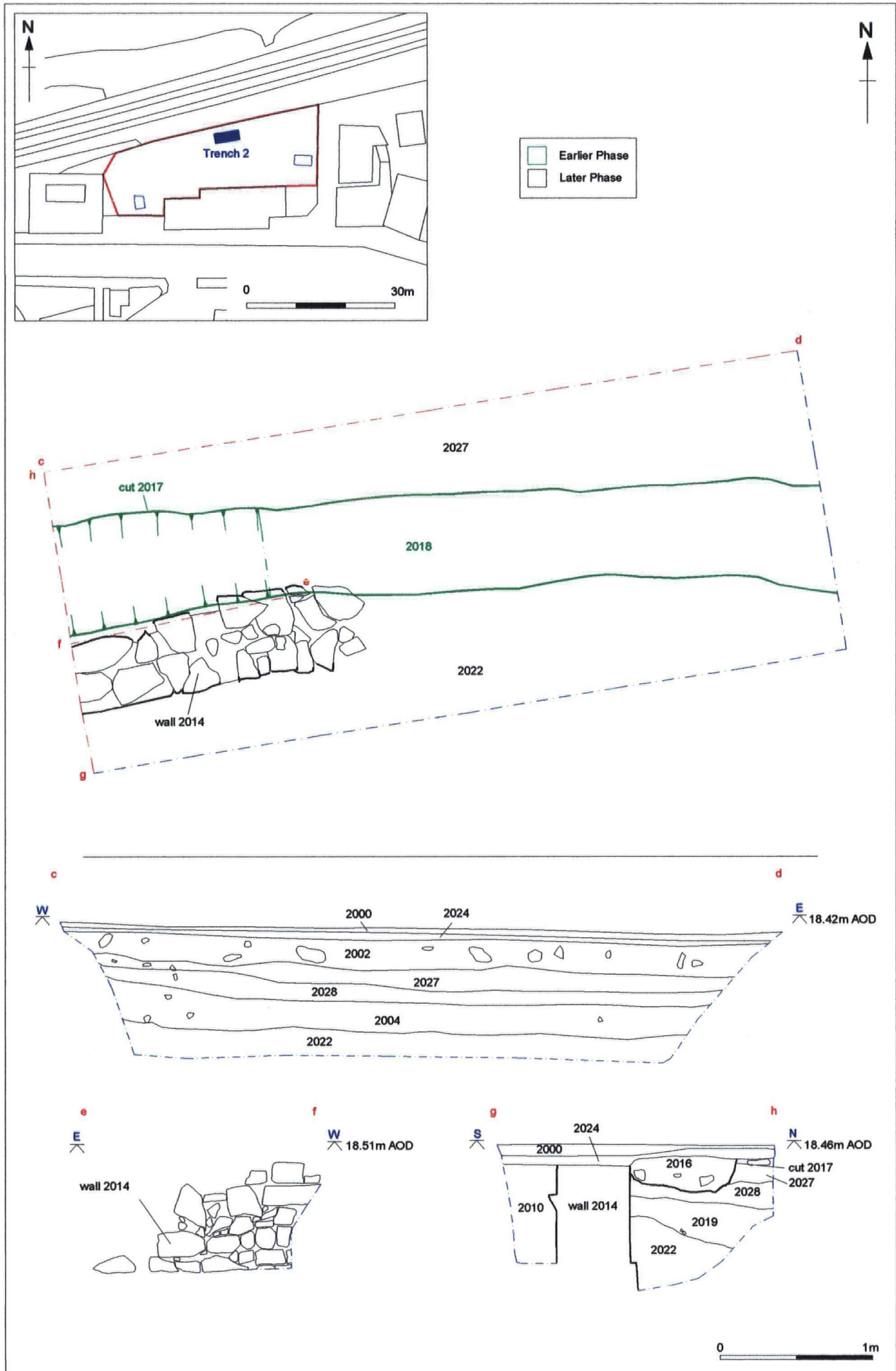


Figure 9. Plan and Sections of Trench 2 Features