

NYCC HER	
SNY	9115
ENY	2115
CNY	648
Parish	3102
Rec'd	11/11/04

**The White Swan Hotel  
Market Place  
Pickering  
North Yorkshire  
(SE 7927 8443)**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
99/01226/fwl

**MAP  
September 2004**



**The White Swan Hotel  
Market Place  
Pickering  
North Yorkshire  
SE 7927 8443**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

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**The White Swan Hotel  
Market Place  
Pickering  
North Yorkshire  
SE 7927 8443**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

***Non Technical Summary***

*An Archaeological Watching Brief by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd was undertaken during August 2004 at land adjacent to The White Swan Hotel, The Market Place, Pickering, North Yorkshire The work involved monitoring groundworks associated with the erection of residential properties on the site.*

*No archaeological features were observed during the Watching Brief*

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on a plot of land adjacent to The White Swan Hotel, The Market Place, Pickering, North Yorkshire (SE 7927 8443) during August 2004.
- 1.2 The site code for the project was MAP 09.02.04
- 1.3 All work was funded by The White Swan Hotel.
- 1.4 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**

2.1 The site lies in the market town of Pickering, on the eastern bank of the Pickering Beck, at SE 7927 8443 (Figs. 1 and 2). The site is bound to the north by Castle Bank and, to the south by Market Place and to the east and west by commercial properties. The site consists of a series of run down buildings used for storage, located on a gravelly surface, which at the time of the watching brief was being used as an temporary parking area by the staff of the White Swan Hotel. The excavation area, was situated to the north-west of the The White Swan Hotel.

2.2 The site was approximately 29m x 9.50m in size and at the time of the Watching Brief was covered by gravel and modern mbbble deposits associated with the demolition of previous buildings.

2.3 The site stands on soils of the Rivington 1 Association, and is a well-drained coarse loamy soil on gentle or moderate slopes on Carboniferous and Jurassic sandstone. (Mackney et al 1983).

## **3. Historical and Archaeological Background**

3.1 The earliest known occupation in the vicinity of Pickering is represented by Iron Age pile dwelling structures discovered near Keld Head, in the Costa Beck, which flows to the west of Pickering According to Professor A.H. Smith, the name of Pickering in old English was *Piceringas*, the settlement of Picer and his descendants.(Smith 1928).

3.2 Pickering became part of the Kingdom of Deira around 500-540 and during the conversion of King Edwin in 627 a Saxon Church is believed to have been constructed in the town. The Saxon church stands on the site of St. Peter and St. Paul's to the east of the site. The font in the modern church is believed to be of Saxon origin, and there is a carved stone on a bracket at the west end of the south aisle, which is a fragmented piece of a Saxon cross.

- 3.3 The mound on which the castle stands can also be dated to the Saxon or even a earlier period and it may have been used as either a Saxon home of the Lord of the manor, or the site of a moot house/local meeting place.
- 3.4 At the time of the Norman Conquest of 1066, Pickering was the property of Morcar, Earl of Northumberland, and the manor was valued at £88.00. By 1086 the manor of Pickering's value has been reduced to £1.00.2d due to the heavy taxes forced on the north by William the conqueror after the rebellion of that year. Most of the buildings in the town during that era would have been constructed out of wood with thatched roofs.
- 3.5 By the early 12<sup>th</sup> century the name of the town was changed to *Pickering's* and a charter was granted to the town by King John allowing Pickering to have a ruarket, during this period a Borough was formed and shops began to appear in the market place.
- 3.6 At the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century the old thatched cottages still prevailed and the shambles was constructed at the top of the market place, alongside the pillory.
- 3.7 Considerable redevelopment of the town began during the Georgian period, stone became widely used for the building of new cottages, and red pantiles replaced many of the old thatched roofs.
- 3.8 The redevelopment of the town continued throughout the Victorian period. In 1836 a light railway line was opened up between Pickering and Whitby, but because of an Act of Parliament forbidding the use of steam the trains were horse drawn.
- 3.9 1838 saw the construction of the first workhouse in Pickering, it served not only the town but also the surrounding area a total population of 10,678; the building itself had accommodation for 100 paupers,

- 3.10 In 1845 the hospital of St Nicholas, which has been seen in records from the 12th Century, was discovered in Marton Lane and was excavated in 1938.
- 3.11 The Pickering to Whitby Railway was sold off and the new owner relayed the track and linked it to London via Rillington. In 1846 the Pickering railway station was rebuilt using stone and the first steam locomotive enters the town.
- 3.12 The Old Shambles at the top of the market place was finally removed in 1856; a replacement building was constructed in 1868. This building was used as a bank, spirit vaults, cheap stores, com merchant's warehouse, farmer's union office, and a barbershop during its lifetime. It became locally known as the Vaults. The Building known as the Vaults was demolished in 1958 to widen the road (Snowden)
- 3.13 In 1887 there were a number of alterations at the White Swan Hotel when it was converted from a coaching inn to a more multi purpose commercial property. J and W Coverdale had their own brewery on site, and the landlord of the White Swan supplied wedding carriages, funeral coaches and a hearse. Parts of these Outbuildings can still be seen on site (Clitheroe 2002).
- 3.14 Cartographic evidence for the site illustrates the progressive development of the site from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The 1928, Ordnance Survey records a series of buildings, outbuildings and boundary walls on the site (Fig. 3).
- 3.15 Modern day development of the site shows the location of the former stables/outbuildings, which were constructed in the 1800s still in use at the time of the watching brief.

#### **4. Methodology**

- 4.1 The foundation trenches were excavated in shallow spits by a 360° mechanical excavator, operating under close archaeological supervision.



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

4.3 All 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. Results

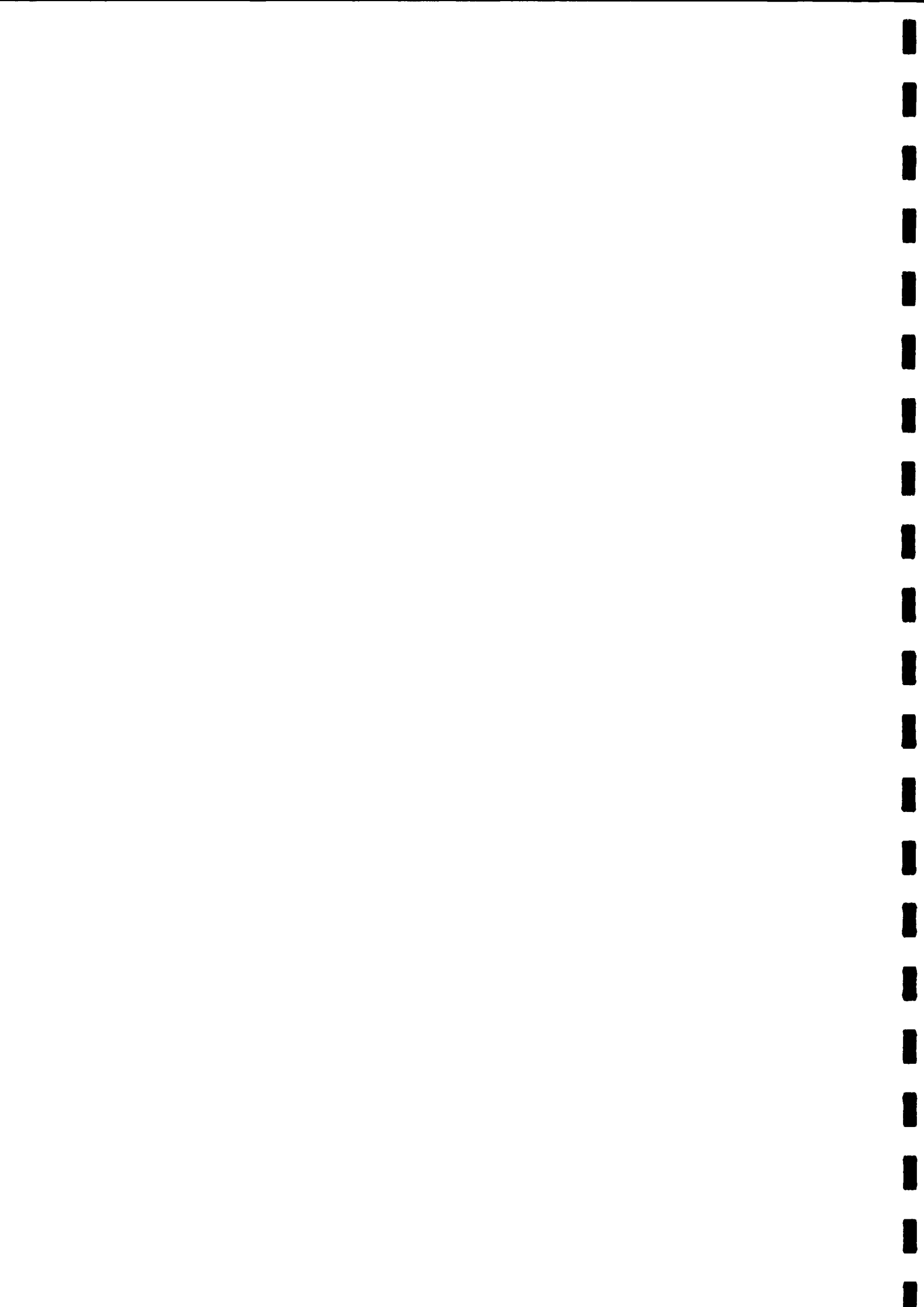
5.1.1 The foundation trenches measured 0.60m in width and were excavated to a depth of 0.60m. The stratigraphy exposed was consistent across the whole of the site. Soil profiles consisted of approximately 0.50m of dark brown silty clay topsoil (1000) sealing undisturbed natural limestone deposits (1001). No archaeological features were observed during the Watching Brief.

## 6. Conclusions

6.1 Natural deposits were reached in the foundation trench. No subsoil deposits were observed. No archaeological features were recorded, and the lack of any pottery other than the 19<sup>th</sup> century factory-made Earthenwares, which were only observed in very small amounts, suggests the only deposits surviving on site belonged to this period.

## 7. Bibliography

- Ekwall, E. 1970 The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names  
Beresford, M. 1973 English Medieval Boroughs a hand list  
Mackney, D. 1983 Soils of England and Wales-Sheet 1 Northern England  
Smith, A.H. 1928 The Place Names of the North Riding of Yorkshire  
Snowden, K. 1988 Pickering Through the Ages, A Concise History Of This Ancient North Yorkshire Town.  
Clitheroe, G. 2002 Pickering Images of England



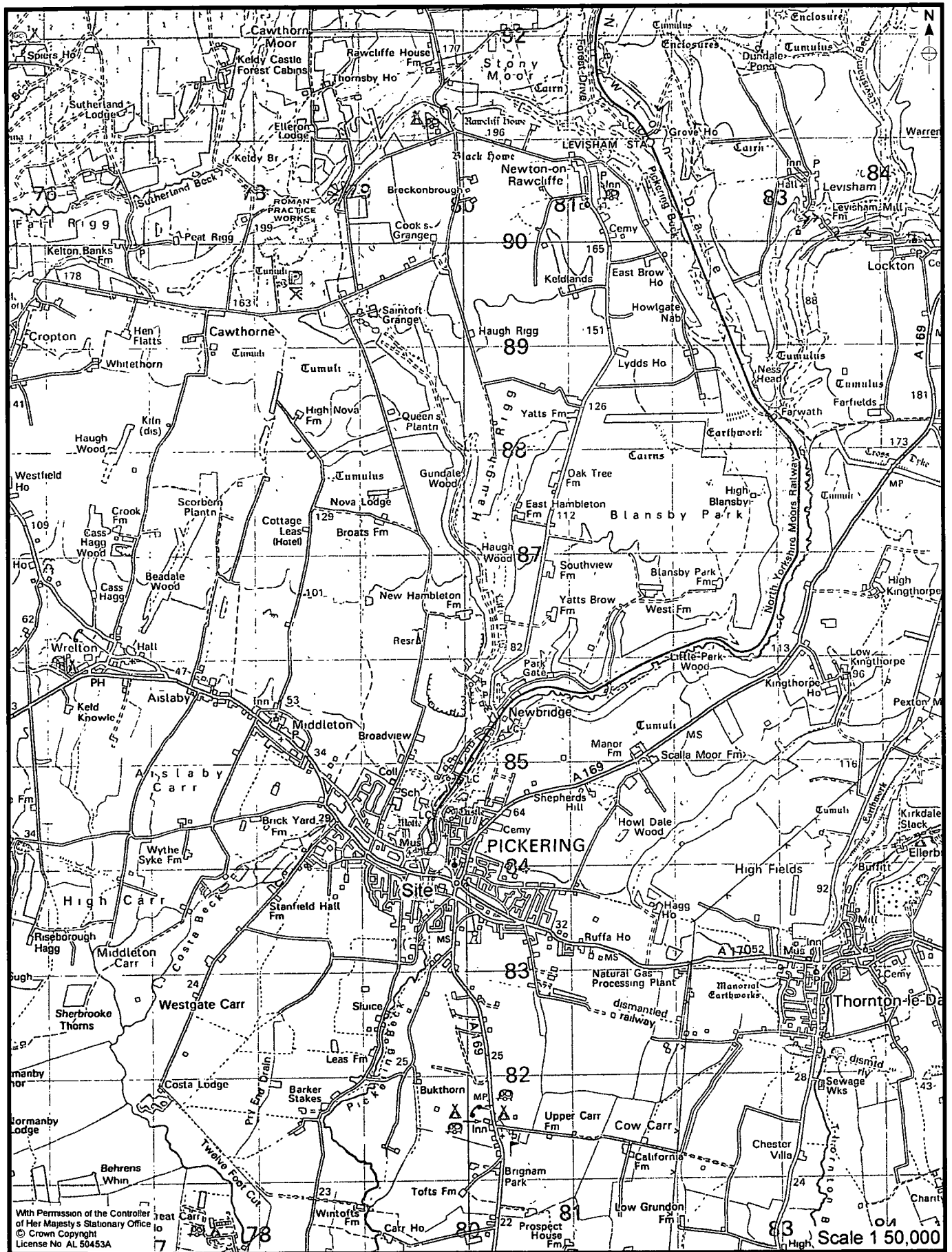
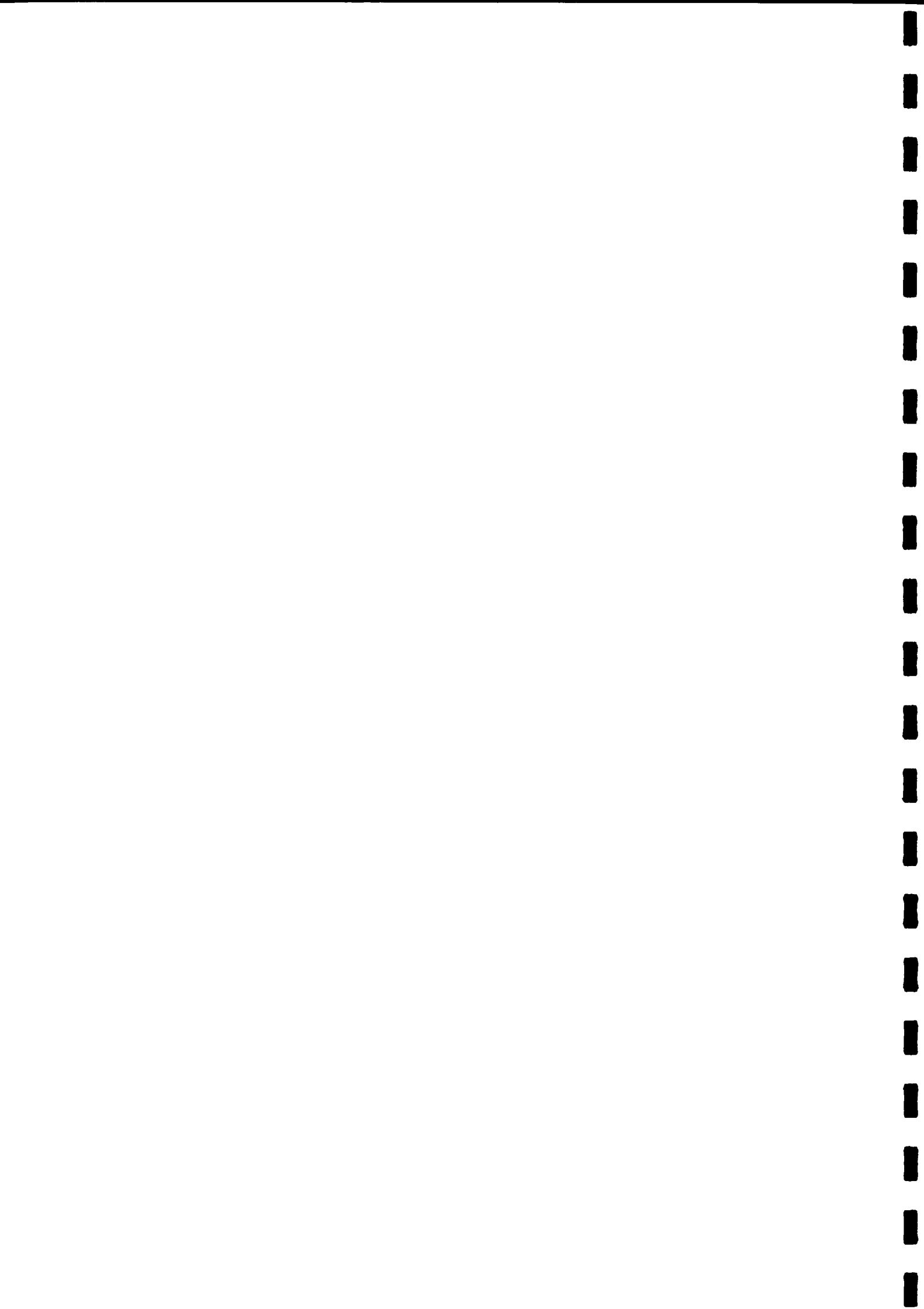


Figure 1. Site Location



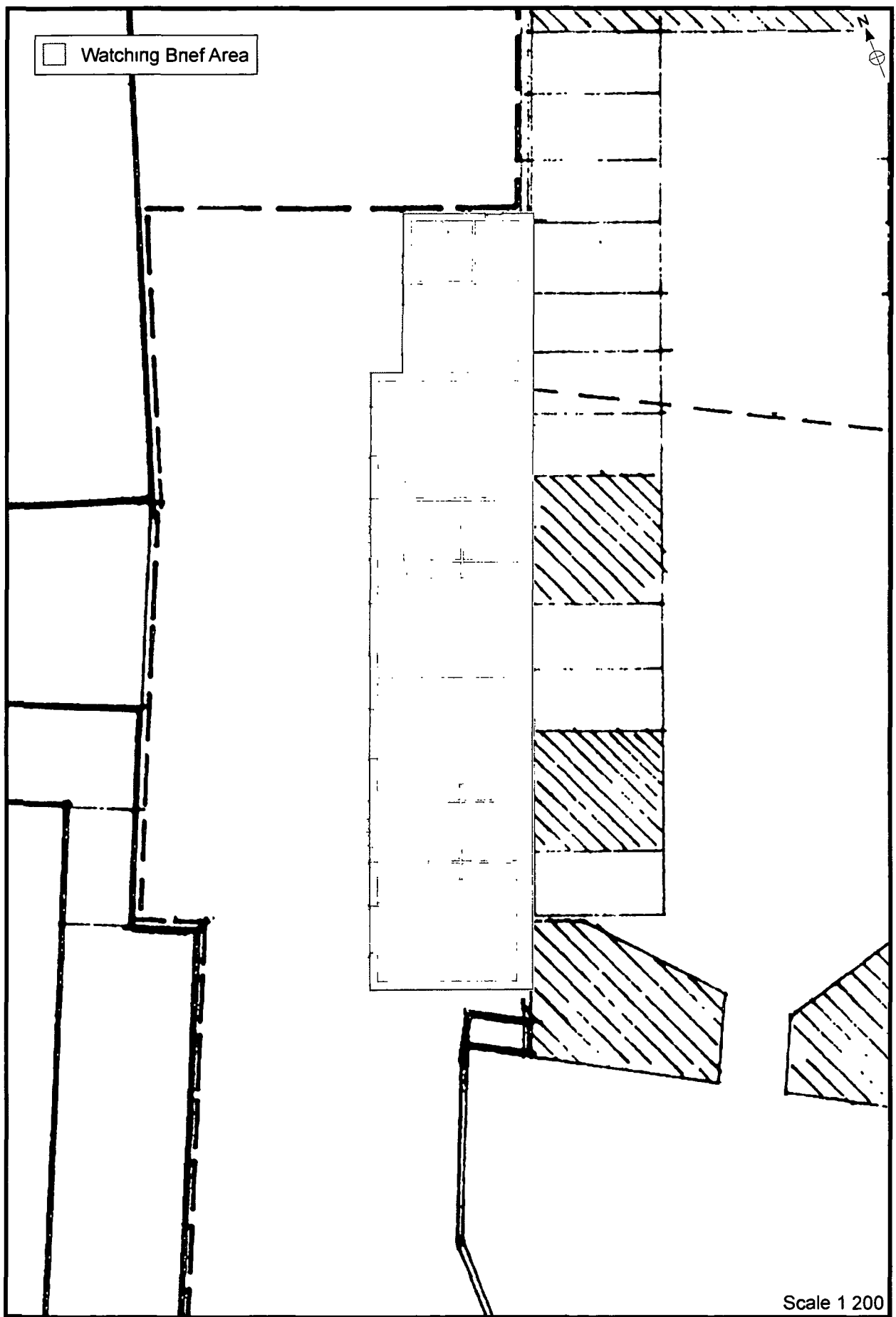
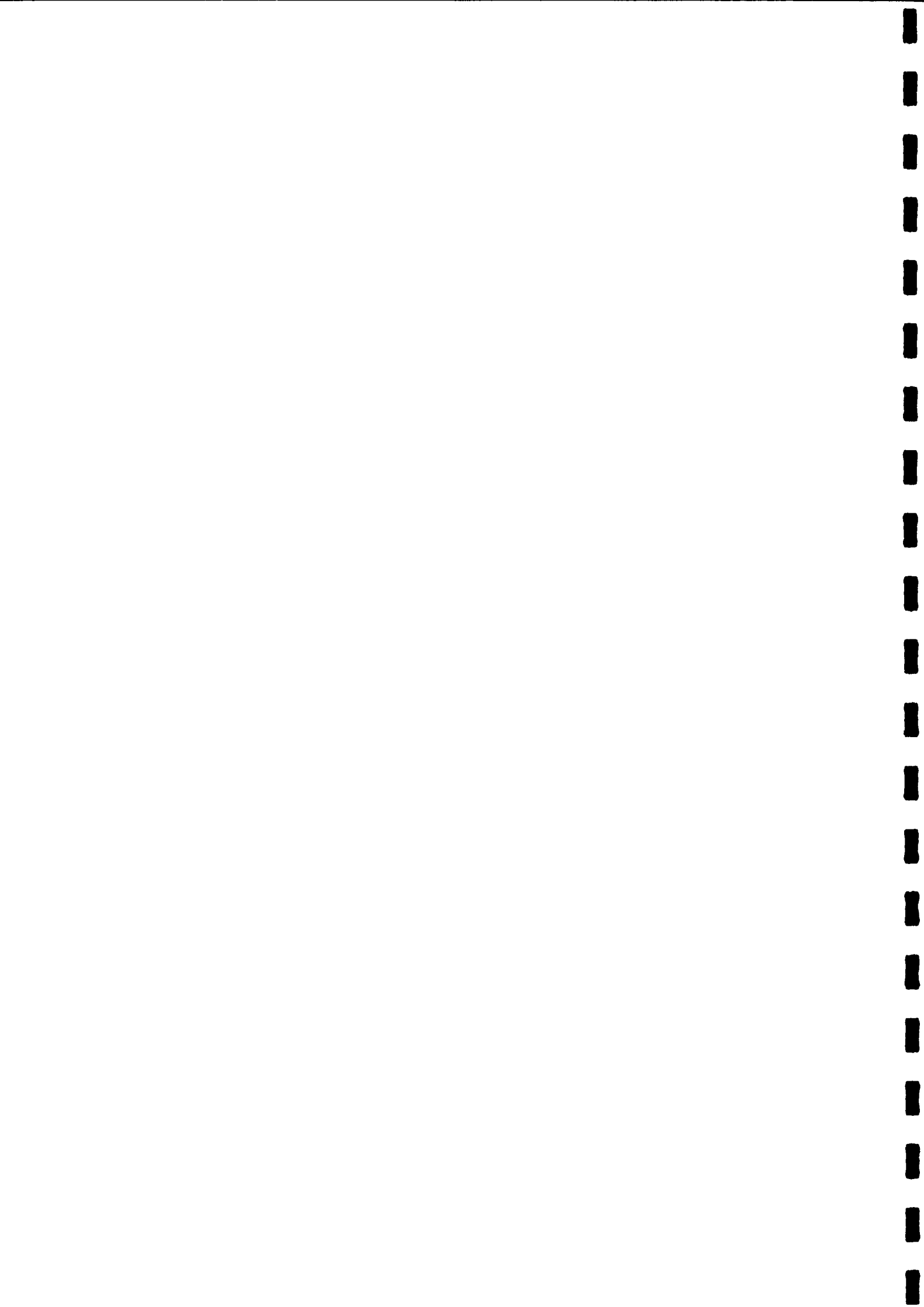
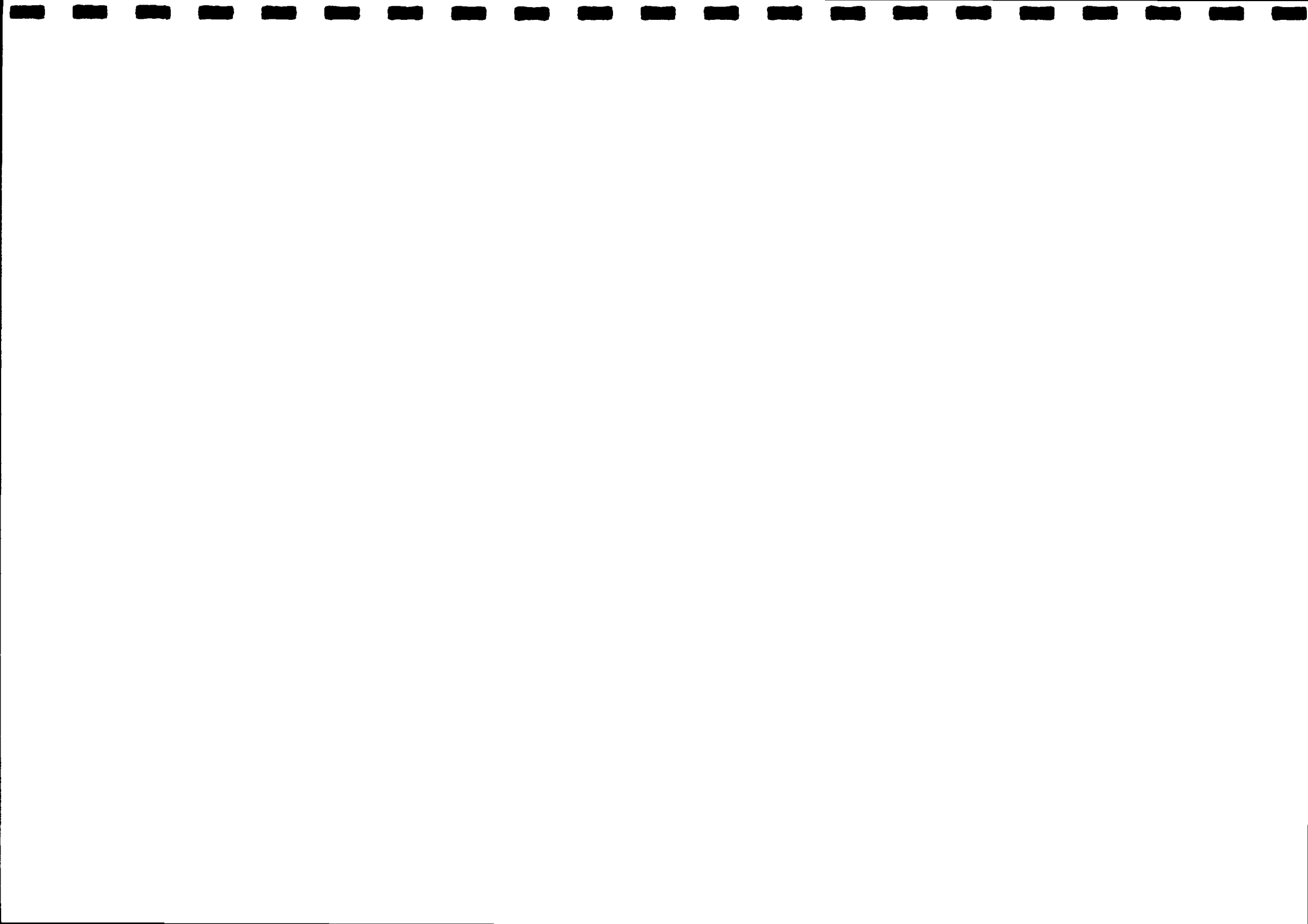


Figure 2. Watching Brief Area





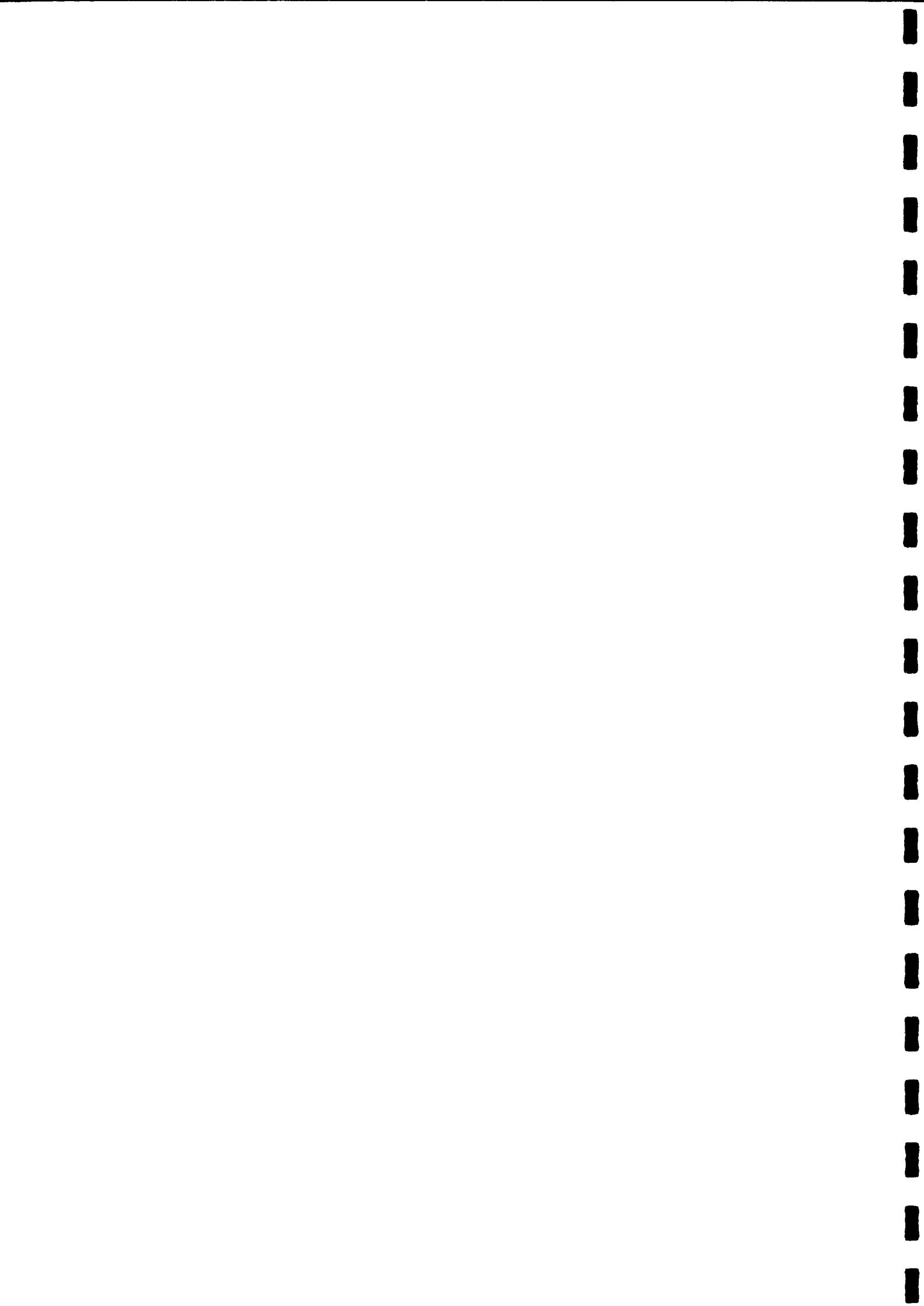




## APPENDIX 1

### Context Listing

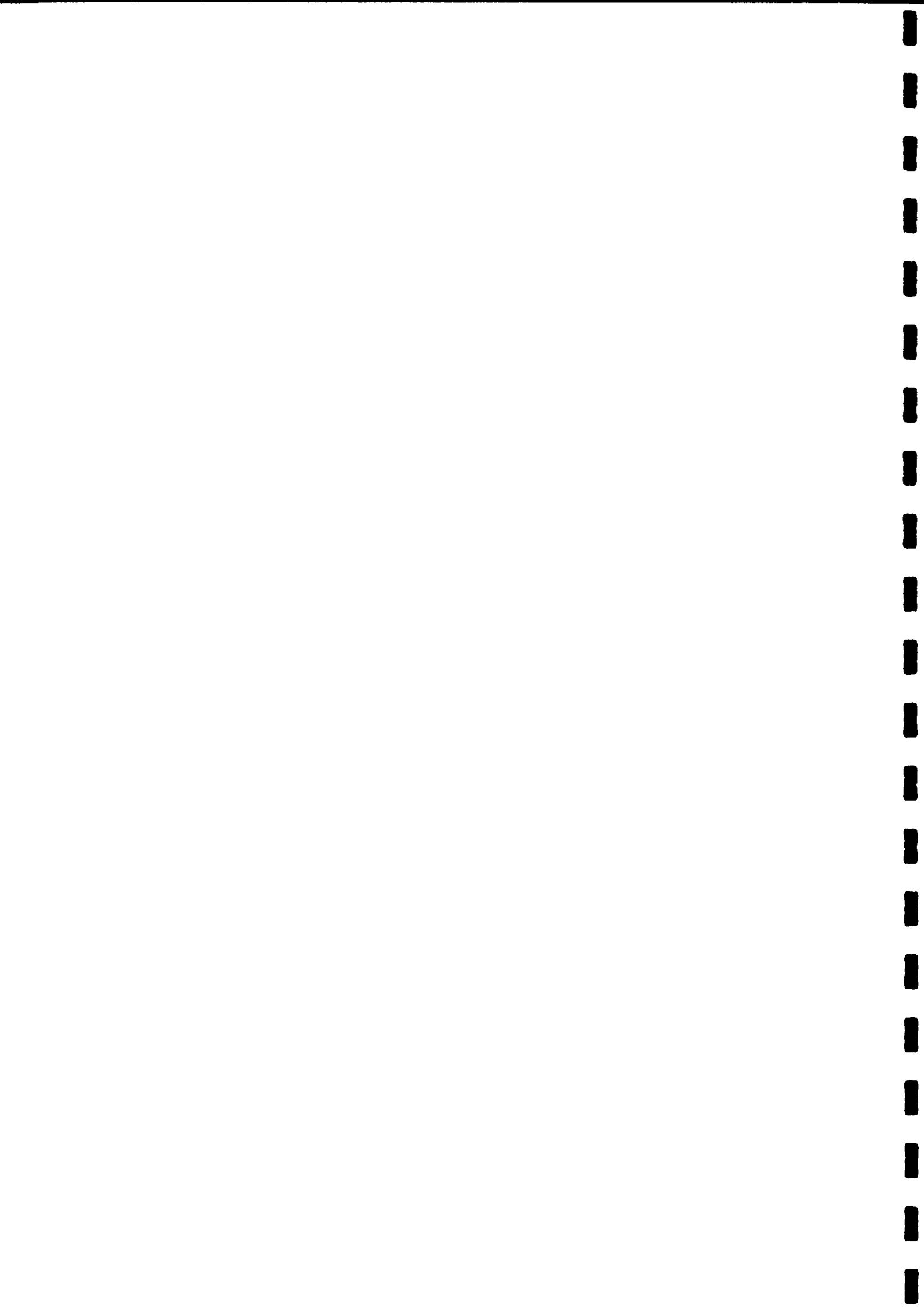
<i>Context</i>	<i>Description</i>
1000	Deposit, 10YR 4/2, silty
1001	Deposit, 10YR 3/3, natural limestone bedrock



## APPENDIX 2

### Finds catalogue

<i>Context No:</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight (kg)</i>	<i>Spot date</i>
1000	Pottery	1	1body sherd	0 11	19th-20th Century
	Animal bone		1 fragment	0 01	
	CBM		1 tile	1	
	Glass		3 fragments	0 06	
			1 bottle	0 11	



## APPENDIX 3

### Drawing Archive Listing

<i>Drawing Number</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	1 100	Plan	Overall plan of Foundations

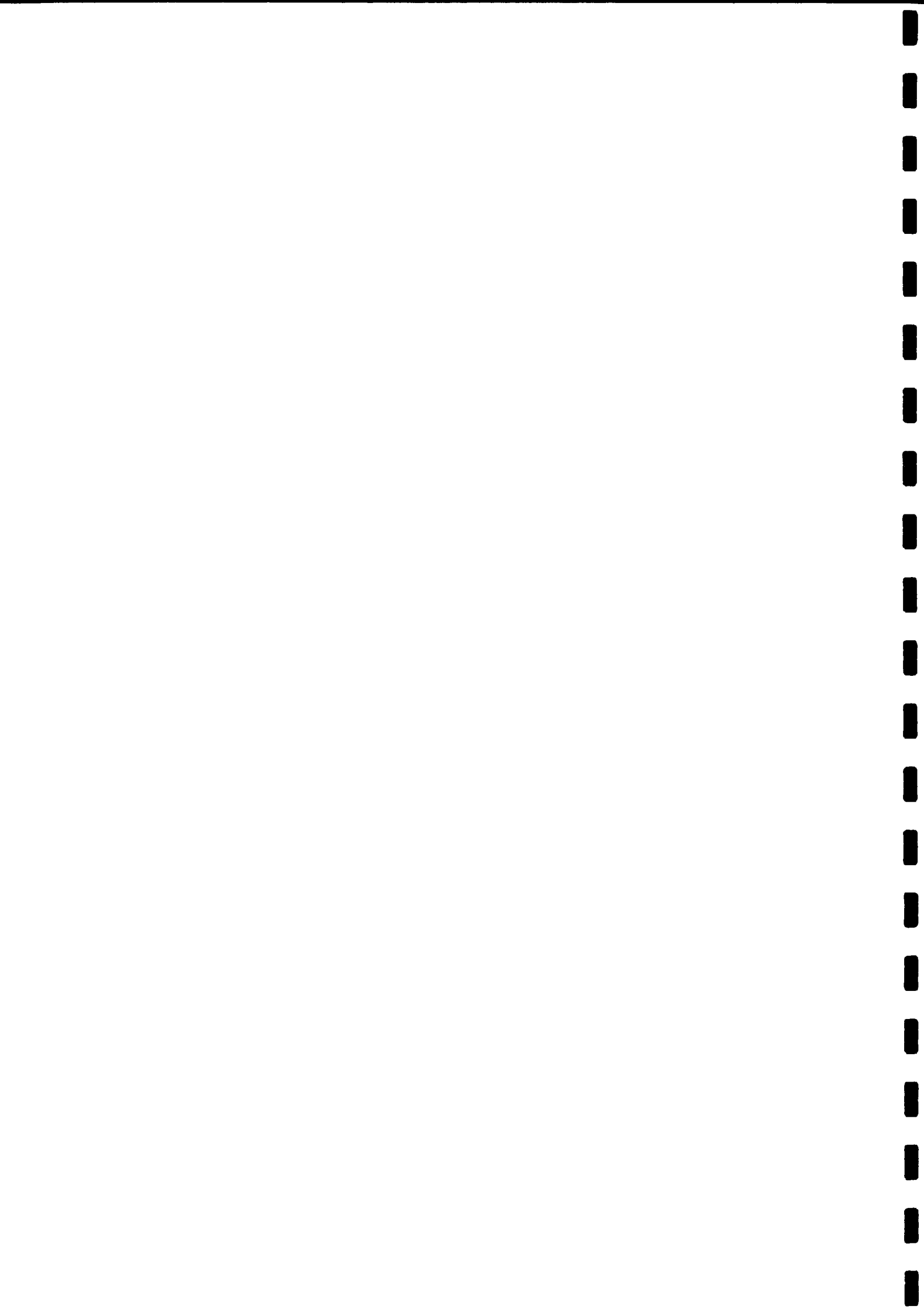


## APPENDIX 4

### Photographic Archive Listing

#### Colour Print

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Facing</i>
16	Pre-photo of site prior to machining	N/A	North
17	Pre-photo of site prior to machining	N/A	North
18	Pre-photo of site prior to machining	N/A	North
19	Pre-photo of site prior to machining	N/A	North
20	Post-ex photo after the removal of 1000	N/A	North
21	Post-ex photo after the removal of 1000	N/A	North
22	Photo of embankment terracing	N/A	East
23	Post-ex photo of foundations	N/A	North
24	Post-ex photo of foundations	N/A	North
25	Post-ex photo of foundations	N/A	North
26	Post-ex photo of foundations	N/A	North
27	Photo of upstanding buildings on site	N/A	South
28	Photo of upstanding buildings on site	N/A	West
29	Photo of upstanding buildings on site	N/A	West
30	Post-ex photo of foundations	N/A	North





## APPENDIX 5

### The White Swan, Pickering 09.02.04: Project Team Details

#### Fieldwork

Charles Rickaby

#### Post-excavation REPORT

Charles Rickaby *archive check and preliminary draft*  
Nigel Cavanagh *editing and final report text*  
Charles Rickaby, *processing and catalogue*  
Dave Knight *CAD and illustrations*

#### FINDS

Mark Stephens *dating/analysis*  
Charles Rickaby, *processing and catalogue*

