

Rec 6/12/4  
2058 parish  
C 2632

E 2073 - WB  
S 9116

18 - 22 Bridge Street  
Great Ayton  
Middlesbrough  
Cleveland

NZ ~~SW~~ 5570 1070

Archaeological Watching Brief

2/02/058/0626E

NYCC HER	
SNY	9116
ENY	2073
CNY	2632
Parish	2058
Rec'd	06/12/04

MAP  
2004

18 – 22 Bridge Street  
Great Ayton  
Middlesbrough  
Cleveland  
SW 5570 1070  
NE  
Archaeological Watching Brief

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**18 – 22 Bridge Street  
Great Ayton  
Middlesbrough  
Cleveland  
SW 5570 1070**

## **Archaeological Watching Brief**

### **Introduction**

Great Ayton is a small town situated c.3km north-east of Stokesley on the A173 road between Stokesley and Guisborough. The site 18 – 22 Bridge Street, Great Ayton lies within the Parish of Great Ayton in the County of North Yorkshire (Fig. 1 : ~~SW~~ 5570 1070).

NZ

18 – 22 Bridge Street are existing buildings immediately adjacent to the A173 to the north, and Easby Lane to the east (Fig 2).

An Archaeological Watching Brief condition was placed on the proposed development (Application number 2/02/058/0626E) that was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd between December 2003 and June 2004

The site is located on soils of the Dunkeswick Soil Association that is slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy and fine loamy over clay soils on till from Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sandstone and shale. (Mackney et al 1983).

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### **Archaeological Background**

The whole of Great Ayton is listed on the Sites and Monument Record because of its inclusion in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The church of All Saints at the west end of the town is no longer in use, but has been superseded by the new Christ Church (VCH 1914). The Quaker family of Richardson was settled at Great Ayton and here in 1841 the school for the children of Friends was founded, which stands at the east end of the village street.

The old schoolroom of Great Ayton, now the parish council room, bears above its doorway the inscription, 'Michael Postgate built this school house in the year 1704. Rebuilt 1785.' It was here that Captain Cook was educated.

One of the manorial com-mills is still in existence In 1281-2 Baldwin Wake, then lord of manor, possessed a water-mill called 'Westmuhie', and a fourth part of another called 'Estmulne', which has disappeared. In 1696 the mill of Great Ayton, which was described as very ancient, was in the possession of Ralph Lowther.

On the site, property number 22 ( Langton House) is a Grade II listed building dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> and later 18<sup>th</sup> century. On the 10<sup>th</sup> November <sup>2003</sup> a member of MAP Archaeological Consultancy assisted "The Great Ayton Community Archaeology Project" to carry out a building survey

### **Work Programme**

The aim of the brief was to enable the recording and recovery of archaeological and structural remains, which may have been affected by the proposed development

A JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket carried out the excavation work outside of the properties and all work carried out inside the buildings was done by hand. All groundworks were carried out under archaeological supervision

### **Results**

All work around the exterior of the building revealed a single deposit of dark yellowish sandy silt containing modern pottery and brick/tile c.0.3m in depth directly above natural (Pl 1)

Observations undertaken during the works in the interior of the property recorded a tiled floor and bedding mortar (1001). Removal of this deposit revealed a light yellowish brown, gravelly sand deposit (1002) roughly 0.25m in depth, probably placed to receive the tiles. Below which was a dark yellowish brown, sandy silt (1003) c.0.1m in depth containing 5 sherds of pottery dating to the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 3 & Pl. 2), the bottom of which was not reached.

This material looks likely to be an existing plough soil deposit that has survived below the current building.

No further archaeological features or deposits were recovered

### **Conclusions**

The absence of any significant archaeological features in or around the buildings leads to the conclusion that a large amount of disturbance has occurred on the site over recent centuries

### **Bibliography**

Mackney, et al 198                      Soils and their uses in Northern England. Soil Survey of  
England and Wales **Bulletin** No 10. Harpenden

VCH 1914                                      A History of the Yorkshire North Riding

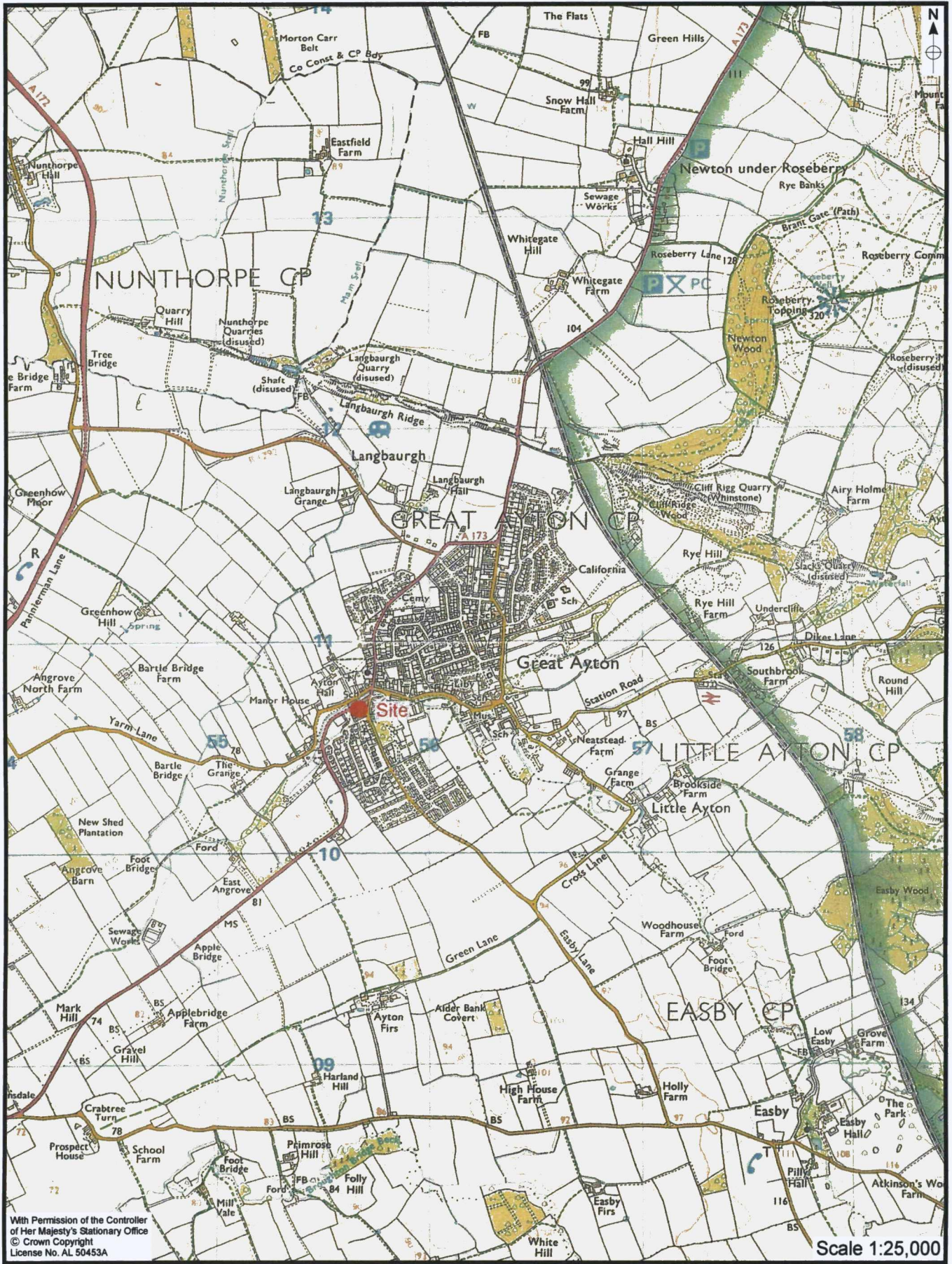
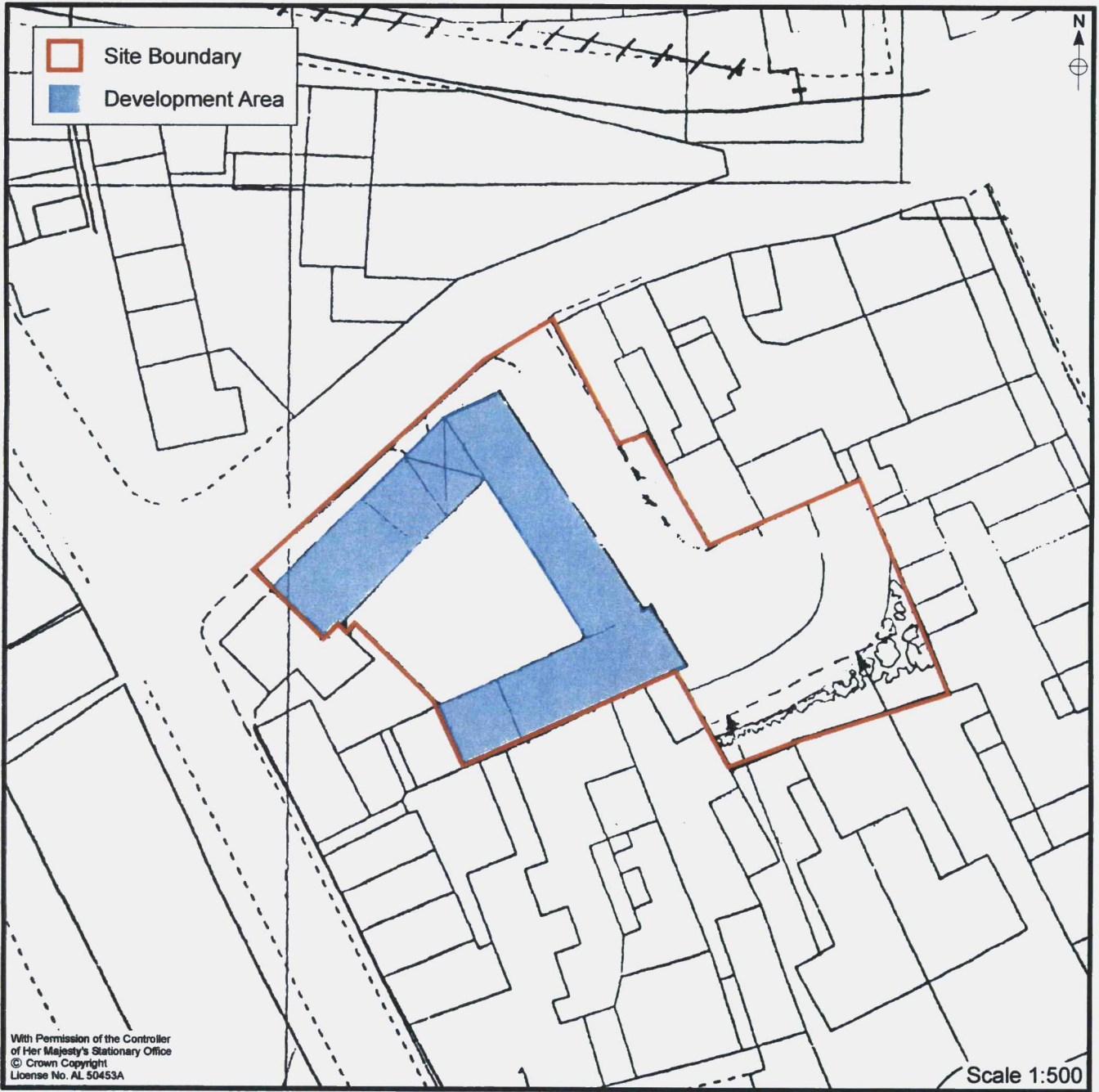
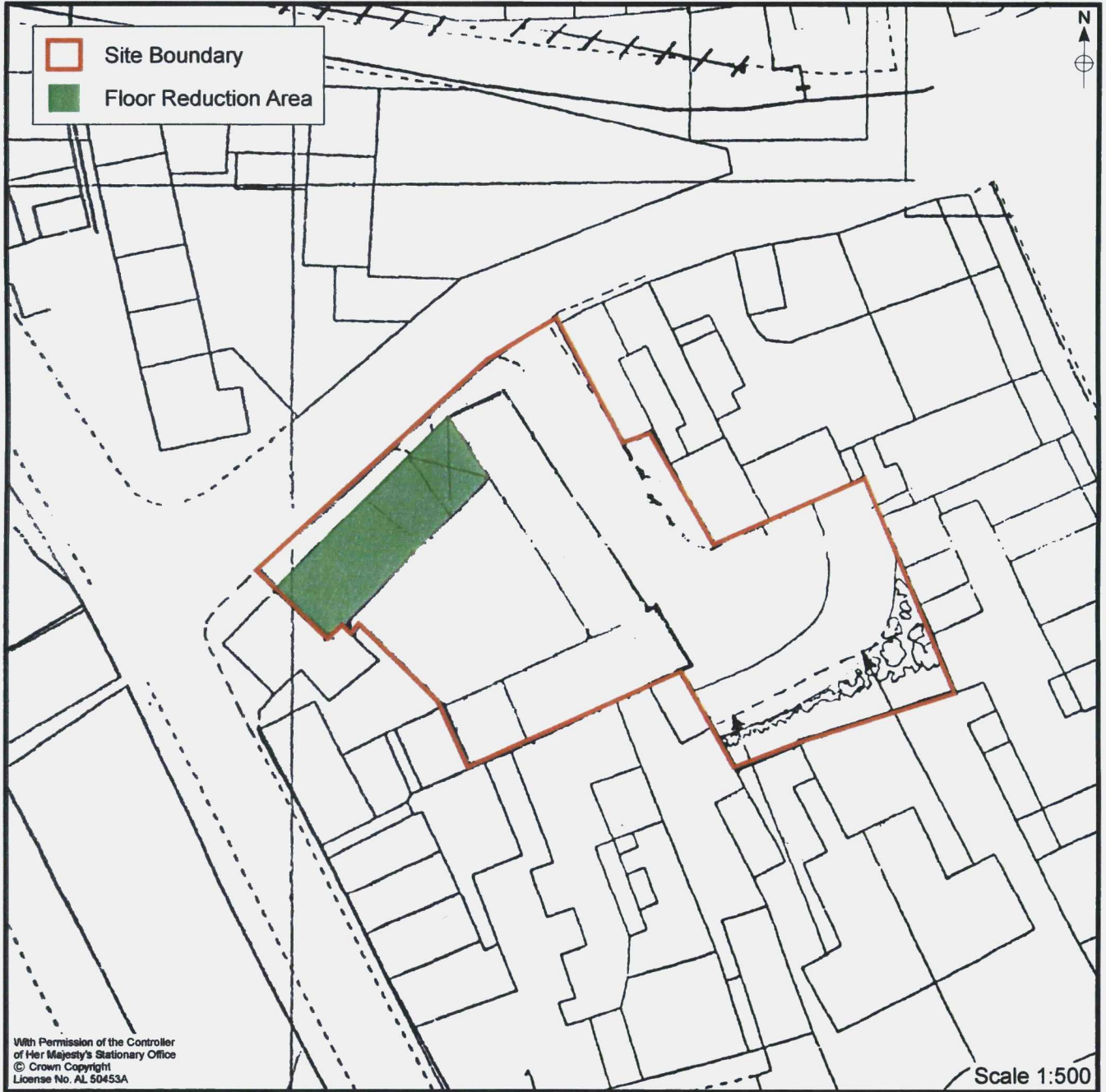


Figure 1. Site Location



**Figure 2.** Area of Development





**Figure 3.** Location of Floor Reduction Area



**Plate 1.** Excavation Work Outside Buildings, Facing North West



**Plate 2.** Deposits Located Inside Building, Facing South East

## Appendices 1

### Finds Catalogue

<i>Context No</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight(kg)</i>	<i>Spot Date</i>
1003	Pottery	5	1 base sherd 4 body sherds	0.042	12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> centtury