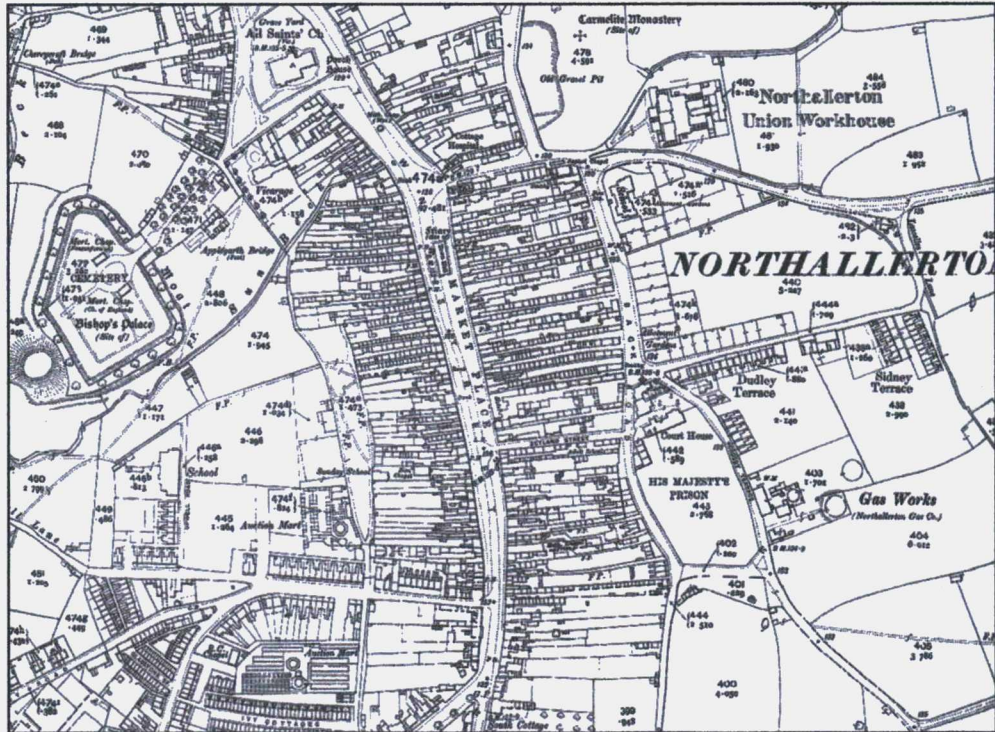




YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

NYCC HER	
SNY	9521
ENY	2024
CNY	2959
Parish	2110
Rec'd	25/04/2005



# 189a HIGH STREET NORTHALLERTON NORTH YORKSHIRE

## A Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief

by Gareth Dean

rec 25/4/05

2110 parish

S 952i  
E 2024  
C 2959

2/03/110/0302Y

NYCC HER	
SNY	
ENY	
CNY	
Parish	
Rec'd	

**189a HIGH STREET  
NORTHALLERTON,  
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**A REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF**

by

**Gareth Dean MA**

April 2005

*Cover Illustration*

1911 Ordnance Survey map of Northallerton

© 2005 York Archaeological Trust, Cromwell House, 13 Ogleforth, York YO1 7FG  
Tel: (01904) 663000 Fax: (01904) 663024 Email: enquiries@yorkarchaeology.co.uk  
Registered Charity No: 509060

## CONTENTS

	page
SUMMARY	
1 INTRODUCTION	3
2 METHOD STATEMENT	4
3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	7
4 THE WATCHING BRIEF	11
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	19
6 BIBLIOGRAPHY	20
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	20

### Figures

1	Site location	3
2	Building layout and 2003 excavations discussed in text	5
3	Location of excavated trenches	6
4	Previous archaeological observations around current site	8
5	18th century map of Northallerton	9
6	1911 Ordnance Survey of Northallerton	9
7	Composite plan of features observed during ground reduction	10
8	Service Trench 1, North facing Section 1	17
9	Service Trench 2, North facing Section 2	17
10	Service Trench 2, South facing Section 3	17
11	Service Trench 2, South facing Section 4	17
12	Service Trench 2, South facing Section 5	17
13	Service Trench 3, South-east facing section 6	17

### Plates

1	Back culvert/drain 1061/62	15
2	Showing cobbled surface 1064 and overlying deposits	15

### Abbreviations

BGL	Below Ground Level
OSA	On Site Archaeology
VCH	Victoria County History
YAT	York Archaeological Trust



## SUMMARY

Between January and March 2004, York Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological watching brief during the initial ground work prior to the construction of a new building for Betty's Tea Rooms at 189a High Street, Northallerton. The work followed on from a watching brief carried out by the Trust in 2003, confirming the presence of extensive post-medieval archaeological remains within the yard area at the rear of the property. The earliest archaeological deposits exposed were a brick culvert sealed by a cobbled surface. The excavation of the new service trenches exposed a clearance cuts and episodes of extensive levelling. The reduction of the ground surface exposed a well-preserved cobbled yard that had partially been covered over with tarmac, the foundations of the recently demolished buildings and part of the floor plan of another structure that is shown on the 18<sup>th</sup> century plan and the 1911 Ordnance Survey map. Close to the rear of the upstanding section of 189a, below a demolished modern extension, a cellar was exposed lined with salt glazed bricks. Also exposed close to the rear of 189a High Street was a chamber with a brick barrel vault roof that appeared to have been used as a water tank. The dates of the archaeological features at the rear of 189a High Street are uncertain but it seems likely that they are 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest is most likely associated with the period when the property was used as a private house and the subsequent reorganisation of the yard area may be associated with its change from residential to commercial use.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

York Archaeological Trust carried out an archaeological watching at 189a High Street, Northallerton, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 3687 9388; Fig 1) between January and April 2004. The work followed on from the watching brief carried out by York Archaeological Trust in August 2003 (Dean 2003) that had shown that archaeological deposits survived in the area at the rear of the property. The work was carried out on behalf of Nicholas Associates, architects.

The site archive is currently stored by the York Archaeological Trust under the museum accession code YORYM: 2003.300.

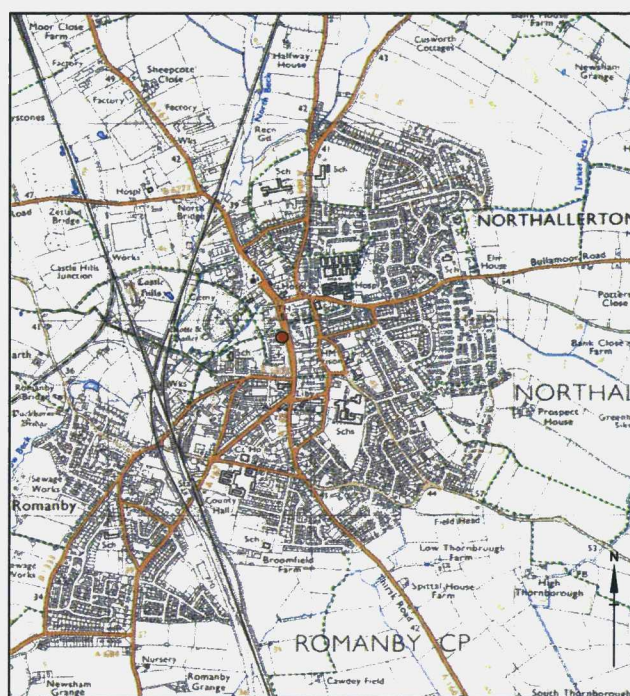


Fig. 1 Site location

## 2. METHOD STATEMENT (Figs 2-3)

The watching brief involved the monitoring of the reduction of the ground level across the yard area at the rear of the property, the excavation of three service trenches and two trenches for the foundations of the concrete raft upon which the new buildings were to be constructed. Three upstanding 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century extensions at the rear of 189a were demolished prior to the reduction of the ground level and the excavation of the new service trenches and foundation trenches. The ground level was reduced by an average 0.4m across the rear of the property. The south side of the site was heavily disturbed by the removal of the large roots of a sycamore tree and a pear tree, and no archaeological deposits were observed in this area. Once the ground level had been reduced, the yard surface was covered with approximately 0.1m-0.2m of crushed stone. Service Trenches 1 and 2 were then cut through at this level.

Service Trenches 1 and 2 were 0.5m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.6m BGL at the rear of the property and to a maximum depth of 1.2m within the car park west of the property. Service Trench 1 was approximately 25m long and Service Trench 2 approximately 37m long. Three manholes (Manholes 1-3) were excavated within Service Trench 1, they measured 1m x 1m and were observed to a depth of 0.4m BGL. The bases of these manholes were not observed as they had already been partially filled with concrete. One manhole was excavated in Service Trench 2 (Manhole 4) that was of similar dimensions to those in Service Trench 1.

Service Trench 3 was excavated in the car park area west of the site, beyond the area of ground reduction. Prior to the ground reduction the yard area had sloped up gradually to the level of the car park. Service Trench 3 consisted of two manholes (Manholes 5 and 6) that measured 1m x 1m and 1.2m deep and were connected by a trench 3m long, 0.7m wide and 1.1-1.2m deep.

Two trenches for the foundation or 'toe' of the new concrete raft foundations were excavated within the yard. The trench excavated on the northern side of the yard (Foundation Trench 1) commenced 1.8m from the rear of the upstanding buildings of 189a High Street and followed the line of the boundary wall for 11m. The trench was 0.6m wide and 0.3m-0.5m deep. The second foundation trench (Foundation Trench 2) was excavated on the south side of the site adjacent to the boundary with the Midland Bank. The trench extended for 16m parallel to the boundary with the bank before turning 90° to run north for approximately 6.5m. The trench was 0.6m wide and 0.3m - 0.5m deep.

All records were made in a site note book with drawings of plans and sections made at a scale of either 1:20 or 1:50 where archaeological deposits were exposed and recorded, using the York Archaeological Trust *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2004). All depths in the service trenches are based on the ground level after the reduction had taken place except for Service Trench 3 and Manholes 5 and 6 where the ground level is taken from the car park, the level of which was not altered.



Fig.2 Building layout and 2003 excavations discussed in text





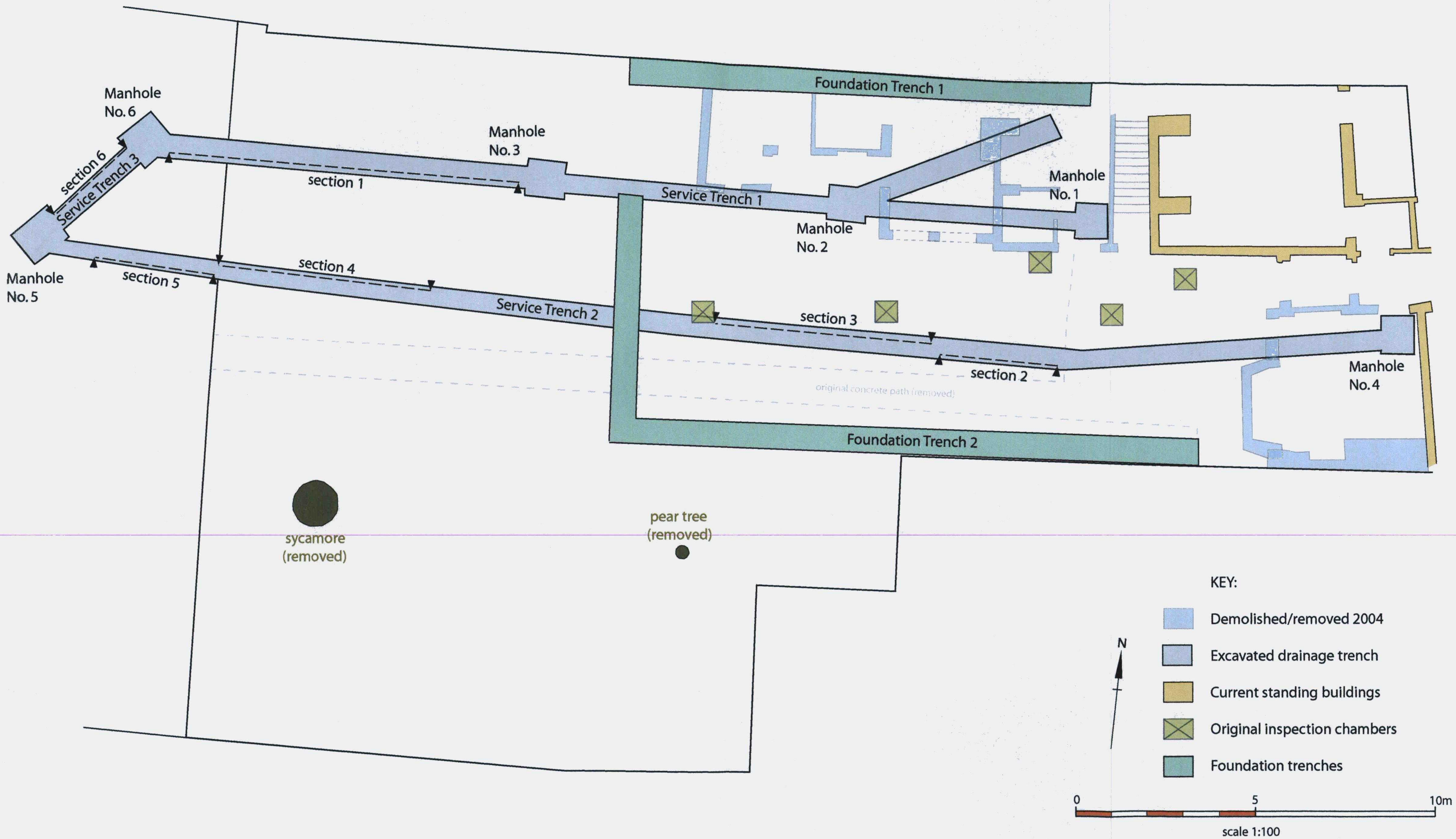


Fig.3 Location of excavated trenches

### 3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

189a High Street is located within the historic core of the medieval town of Northallerton. The property appears to be the result of the amalgamation of two medieval strip plots that are at right angles to High Street. A lane runs along the rear of the property parallel to the street. The watching brief was earned out because it offered the opportunity to investigate a backyard plot within the town.

The following account of the history of the town was taken largely from the Victoria County History (VCH 1968). Northallerton occupies a central position within the Vale of York between the Hambleton Hills and the River Swale, and on a Roman road from York to Durham although there has been limited evidence of Roman occupation in the area. In the Anglo-Saxon period, Northallerton was the centre of the Allerton Wapentake and is recorded in the Domesday Book in 1086. The name of the town was originally Allerton, but had become known as Northallerton by 1375 (Smith 1969). According to the Domesday Survey, the Allerton Wapentake had 616 villeins prior to 1066, but at the time of the survey in 1086 is recorded as waste. A castle was built at Northallerton at Castle Hills, to the west of the town, possibly by William the Conqueror. There is very little evidence for the Anglo-Saxon period in the town, but a few fragments of a Saxon cross were found at the church. The church itself is predominantly of 12<sup>th</sup> century date but it may have been founded earlier.

The layout of Northallerton is the result of medieval town planning and consists of a north-south aligned High Street (Sheeran 1998). The Wapentake was granted to the Bishops of Durham by William Rufus and developed into what was known as the Liberty of Allertonshire. The Bishop's Palace, at the northern end of the town, was certainly built by 1226 but may have earlier origins. The Bishop of Durham also founded a hospital to St James located on the south side of the town in the 12<sup>th</sup> century but it had fallen into disrepair by the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Sheeran 1998). In the 14<sup>th</sup> century Northallerton was caught up in the Scottish wars and in 1314 the church was damaged in a Scottish raid and rebuilt in 1323. A Carmelite Friary was founded at the northern end of the town in 1356 and an Austin Friary was established where the Fleece Inn stands on the High Street, almost No 189a. Economically, Northallerton relied on the agricultural trade and tanning for its wealth throughout the medieval period.

The Friaries disappeared after the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536 and the plots redeveloped. The Carmelite Friary became the site of the town poor house. The Bishop's Palace was largely destroyed through the 17<sup>th</sup> century after grants were issued that allowed the stone to be used to repair mills and buildings within the town's market place. The church was extensively rebuilt in 1779 and 1883-5. The town remained in the possession of the Bishops of Durham until 1837.

Through the 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries Northallerton still relied on the agricultural industries for its wealth and was never heavily industrialised. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Northallerton was an important



coaching town. It had four coaching inns along the High Street. With the arrival of the railway in 1841 the town maintained its importance as a communications centre. The development of the town as the County Town can be traced back to the 17th century when The Quarter Sessions for the area were held in the town. In 1856 the North Riding Constabulary was founded, one of the last County forces to be formed, Northallerton was selected as its headquarters. With its history of local administration, Northallerton became the obvious location for the headquarters of the North Riding County Council, and in 1906 a purpose built structure was built on the site of the old racecourse to the south of the town (<http://northallertonweb.co.uk/history.htm>)

In 1930, over a third of the population lived in the dark, narrow yards to either side of the High Street. After the Second World War, a clearing and re-housing programme took place, with Council houses erected on the eastern side of the town in 1948. A concentrated programme to demolish the yards and re-house the occupants in new council houses started in the mid 1950s. Both Council and private housing was constructed to the east and south of the town, the re-housing programme was completed in the late 1960s (<http://www.tyerman61.freeserve.co.uk/Timeline.htm>)



Fig. 4 Previous archaeological observations around current site (shaded) discussed in text

Archaeological work in Northallerton has shown that buried deposits do survive in the area around the High Street. An evaluation to the east of the High Street in East Road exposed medieval pits and structural features (Taylor-Wilson 2000). At 120-120a High Street an archaeological watching brief did not identify any archaeological deposits (Clarke 2000a) but at 167-170 High Street a 19<sup>th</sup> century garden soil was exposed directly above a truncated natural subsoil (Clarke 2000b). Post-medieval structural remains were observed during a watching brief at the rear of 176 High Street (Clarke 2000c). At the Golden Lion public house a watching brief identified medieval material (OSA 2003). A previous watching brief at 189a High Street, Northallerton (Dean 2003) within the building and the yard exposed

a variety of archaeological deposits. Within the building there was evidence for earlier floor surfaces and in a pit adjacent to the northern wall of the property the foundations for an earlier building. Within the yard at the rear of the property, test pits suggested that there was evidence for post-medieval structures and yards surviving.

A map of Northallerton from the 18<sup>th</sup> century clearly shows the historic core of Northallerton focused on the High Street with regularly sized strip plots extending from either side with the church and the Bishop's Palace at the northern end of the town. The Ordnance Survey map of 1857 shows very little alteration to the layout of the town but does indicate the location of the Carmelite friary and the supposed location of a Roman camp to the west of the town known as Castle Hills. It was in the

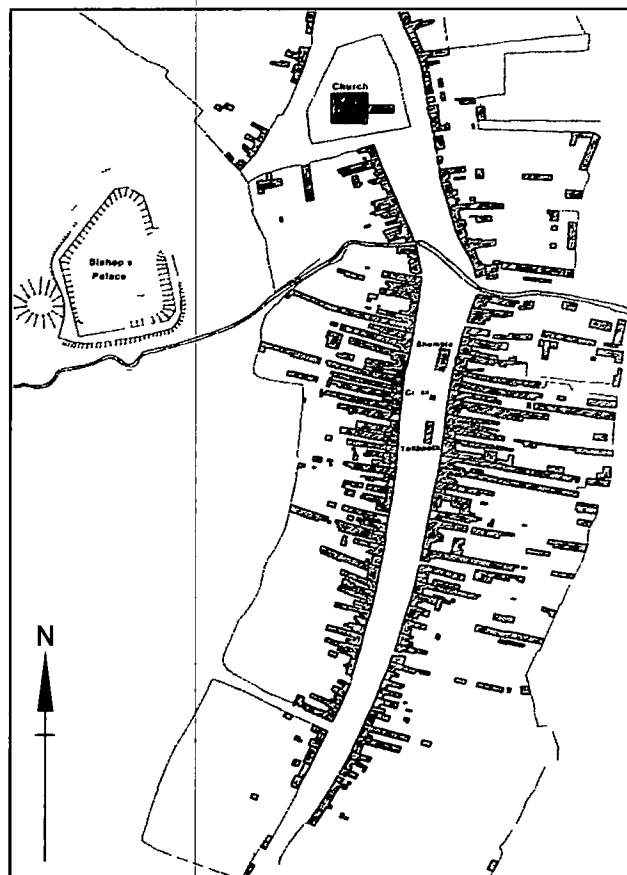


Fig 5 18th century map of Northallerton

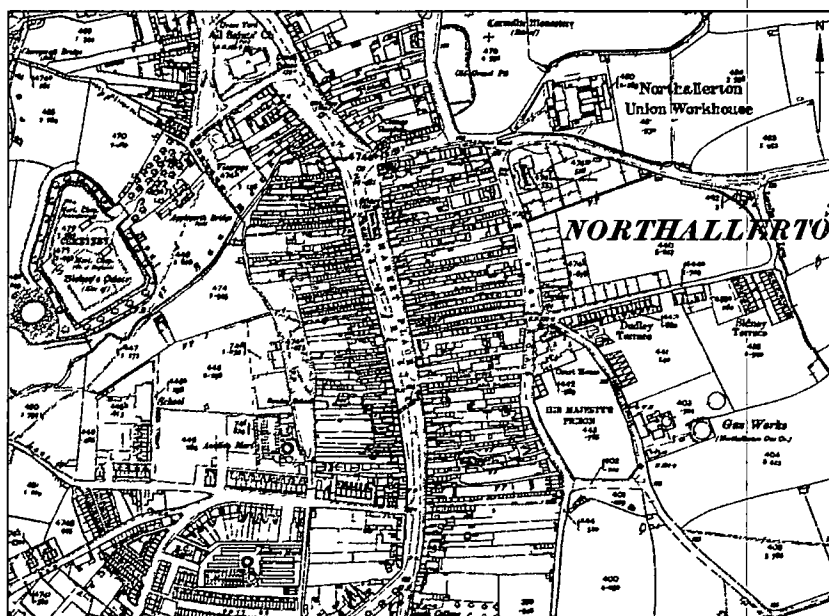


Fig 6 1911 Ordnance survey of Northallerton

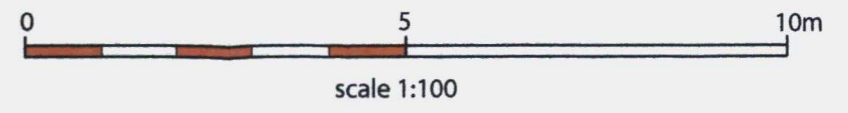
late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries that the town expanded extensively from the medieval core of the High Street.

The 1911 Ordnance Survey map shows the infilling of area to the south and west of the High Street towards the railway. The modern Ordnance Survey map shows the extensive infilling of the town with new development on all sides of the High Street.





Fig.7 Composite plan of features observed during ground reduction





## 4. THE WATCHING BRIEF

### 4.1 GROUND REDUCTION (Fig. 7)

The earliest archaeological deposit exposed was the well-preserved remains of a cobbled yard surface (1026, 1027 and 1036). This cobbled yard was observed in the whole of the area defined by the kerb stones on the western edge of the site, the demolished buildings (1038 and 1040), the boundary wall to the north, and the line of the concrete path (1028) to the south, and extended to the rear of the upstanding buildings of 189a High Street. This cobbled yard consisted of evenly sized sub-rounded cobbles set within a firm dark grey silt with frequent inclusions of clinker.

The foundations for the demolished structure (1038) cut through the cobbled surface 1026. Structures 1038 and 1040 are probably contemporary and it is reasonable to assume that both are alterations to 189a High Street. The northern and western areas of Structures 1038 and 1040 had a concrete floor (1031).

At the western limit of the yard area adjacent to the car park there were the remains of a structure that is shown on the 18<sup>th</sup> century map and the 1911 Ordnance Survey map. Three walls of this structure (1023, 1080 and 1081) were defined in the top soil strip. Wall 1023 was the external wall on the western side of the building and was aligned north-south. The wall was constructed from bricks measuring 220mm x 80mm x 100mm set in a soft white mortar. This wall survived to a height of three courses laid in two courses of headers separated by one course of stretchers. The internal face of the wall was lined with a hard pink grey plaster covered by blue paint. Butting against the inside of the wall was a tiled floor (1022) that was directly below the topsoil (1000). This floor was only exposed in one area against the western wall of the building and the majority of the area within the building consisted of cobbles (1082). This wall forms part of the structure observed in Test Pit 5 in the 2003 watching brief (Dean 2003).

Bonded to this wall was the southern external wall aligned east-west (1080). Unlike Wall 1023 this wall had a series of doorways into it. The brick work at the western end where it was bonded to Wall 1026 consisted of bricks of the same dimensions bonded in the same courses and mortar. The doorways were defined by sandstone slabs that formed thresholds into the building. The first of these (1081) was at the western end of the wall, 0.8m from the corner with Wall 1026 and consisted of two sandstone slabs. One slab measured 0.4 x 0.2m and the other slab measured 0.5m x 0.2m. The doorway was 0.9m wide and was separated from the next door by the base of a brick column, 300mm wide, constructed of two bricks adjacent to each other with a third brick laid across the end. The next doorway (1083) was 1.5m wide and the threshold consisted of three sandstone blocks. The largest of these sandstone blocks was 0.6m long and 0.2m wide. The other two blocks in the threshold were 0.7m long and 0.4m long and again 0.3m wide. All of the thresholds showed signs of wear. An exploratory trench

excavated on the outside of wall 1023 exposed two York stone slabs (2030 and 2031) abutting the wall 0.4m BGL.

A possible internal wall (1084) was exposed 0.9m to the north of and parallel to Wall 1080. This wall was constructed of a single course of bricks laid lengthwise of similar bonding and dimensions to those described above and also had evidence of plaster adhering to it. The space between the two walls consisted of cobbles (1085). 1.2m to the east of Wall 1084 were two parallel rows of bricks (1086) set into a cobbled surface (1026). It may be that these bricks are part of a drain within the building. These cobbles and bricks were seen in the 2003 watching brief.

On the southern side of wall (1080) butting up to it a rectangular area was exposed. This started 0.2m to the west of the entrance (1083) and finished at the eastern end of the entrance, 1028. This rectangular area was 2.8m long and 2m wide, and extended to the area of the former concrete path (1004). Within this area was a compact sand with frequent inclusions of small stones and clinker (1029) which probably represents a floor level. On the western side of 1028 was a cobbled surface (1027). On the eastern side of 1028 was a clinker path (1030) 0.6m wide that appeared to be curving towards the rear of 189a High Street.

Overlying the cobbles, 1026, the clinker path, 1030, Wall 1084 and the possible drain, 1086 was a layer of tarmac (1002). This tarmac was very soft and smelt strongly of bitumen. Overlying all the deposits within the yard was a topsoil (1000) that consisted of friable mid-brown silt sand with inclusions of brick rubble and mortar. Prior to the removal of the top soil the ground had sloped down by c.0.5m from the edge of the car park into the yard area. Adjacent to the edge with the present car park the topsoil was up to 0.2m thick and was directly above Wall 1023. In the rest of the yard area there was approximately 0.2m-0.4m of topsoil.

## **4.2 SERVICE TRENCH 1**

### **4.2.1 Manhole 1**

On the eastern side of the manhole was a wall consisting of three courses, two bricks thick (2000). Directly below this was a possible footing (2001) for Wall 2000, offset by c.200mm to the west below which it was exposed for a further three courses. This wall formed part of the stair well to the brick barrel-vaulted cellar to the immediate east of the wall. The upper part of the wall had formed part of the demolished buildings (1038). The bricks within Walls 2000 and 2001 appeared to be hand-made and their dimensions suggested a 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century date which would make them contemporary with the main part of 189a High Street. Along the southern side of the manhole were the foundations of the demolished building 1038.

### **4.2.2 Manhole 2**

The wall of the demolished building (1038) continued but the ground was heavily disturbed.

There were indications of a possible mortar floor (2031) on the inside of the building. The bricks within the wall of the demolished building appeared to be machine-made and were probably of 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

#### 4.2.3 Manhole 3

A cobbled surface (1087) was observed within this manhole set on a mid-grey brown sandy silt (1088) 0.12m thick which was probably a levelling deposit.

#### 4.2.4 Service Trench

At the eastern end of the trench closest to the rear of 189a High Street there were again deposits associated with the demolished building (1038). The base of one of its walls was located within the trench, 2.8m from the wall of the cellar, 2000. The earliest deposit within the trench at this end was a mixed levelling deposit consisting of burnt clay, mortar, clinker and brick and tile rubble (1089) 0.35m thick that extended as far as the western end wall of the demolished building (1090). In the section of the trench between Manholes 2 and 3, the earliest deposit was a firm mid-grey clay silt with frequent charcoal and mortar inclusions (1091) 0.55m BGL. This was overlain by 0.22m thick deposit of firm mid brown silt (1092). Directly above this was a firm, dark grey silt with charcoal and clinker inclusions within which was set the cobbles of the yard, 1026 and 1036. Overlying the cobbles was a light brown silt sand (1093). Cut through this and into the top of the cobbled surface (1036) were the foundations for the west wall of Building 1038. Sealing these deposits was the modern crushed stone (1025).

In the section of the trench from Manhole 3 to 0.8m into the car park area at the western edge of the yard there were extensive archaeological deposits surviving. The earliest deposit observed was a firm, dark grey silt (1012). Overlying this deposit at the western end of the trench was a 0.1m thick layer of clinker (1011) directly above which was a 0.1m thick deposit of firm, mid-grey silt (1010). This was sealed by 0.38m of firm, dark silt (1007).

At 2.6m east of the end of the trench, Deposit 1012 had been truncated by a clearance cut (1013) that had steeply sloping sides. This cut had been backfilled with a loose, mixed deposit of cobbles and brick rubble (1014). This deposit was truncated by a second clearance cut (1015) that also had steep sides. This clearance cut had three possible fills. The first was a firm mid grey clay silt (1016) that was overlain by a 0.1m thick layer of mortar (1017) and directly above this was a friable red-brown sand (1018). These clearance cuts were probably associated with alterations to the yard prior to the construction of a large building (1023) which was seen in the ground reduction and a section through which was observed within this Service Trench.

The wall, 1023, of the structure had no clearly defined construction trench. On the eastern side of the wall was a large cut (1008) that had truncated deposit 1007. This cut (1008) had a steep



edge and a gradual break of slope at the base. The base of the cut was flat and extended to the bottom of Wall 1023. Within this cut was a deposit of brick rubble, cobbles and mortar (1025). It is unclear whether this cut formed part of a broad construction trench or whether it was a demolition event. On the western side of the wall there was a sequence of deposits associated with floors within the building. The earliest of these was a 0.1m thick layer of mortar (1017). This was overlain by a 0.1m thick deposit of friable, dark grey silt (1019) that was directly below a 0.12m thick deposit of brown sand (1020). It is unclear whether any of these deposits related to floor levels or were make-up deposits. Overlying these was a 80mm thick layer of mortar (1021) onto which was bedded a tile floor (1022).

Directly above the floor surface and the Wall 1023 was a 60mm thick layer of the topsoil 1000 that was truncated by the cut for the ground reduction, Context 1024, that had been filled with crushed stone (1025).

### 4.3 SERVICE TRENCH 2

#### 4.3.1 Manhole 4

The manhole was excavated in the northern corner of the cellar 1041, exposed in the ground reduction of the yard. The manhole exposed the stairs (1042) descending into the cellar.

#### 4.3.2 Service Trench

The service trench through the cellar, 1041, and the water reservoir, 1043, only exposed the modern backfills 1044 and 1045. The section from the end wall of the water reservoir, 1043 (Section 2) exposed a sequence of levelling. The earliest deposit was a firm, mid-brown silt (1048) 0.1m thick. This was overlain by a mid-orange sand with frequent inclusions of brick rubble and mortar (1047). Directly above this was a 0.1-0.2m thick deposit of ash and clinker (1046). At the eastern end of the section, cut through 1046 was the wall, 1043, of the reservoir. The top of Wall 1043 and deposit 1046 had been truncated by the clearance carried out in the present redevelopment of the site and were overlain by the backfill of the water reservoir (1044). At the western end of the section 1047 had been cut through by 1049 which was the cut for a modern service pipe (1051). The cut had been backfilled with a mixed deposit of cobbles, brick rubble and mortar in a loose dark grey silt (1050). Overlying all the deposits was the stone hardcore (1001) that had been laid down after the ground reduction.

Section 3 extended from the modern service trench, 1049, to the edge of an existing brick manhole (1060). The earliest structure exposed was composed of two parallel lines of bricks aligned north-east / south-west, thought to represent a brick culvert or drain (1061 and 1062) Plate 1). The space between the bricks was filled with a deposit of firm, dark grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks (1263). The alignment of the culvert would suggest it would have extended to the rear of the upstanding portion of 189a High Street but its function was not clear. Directly above the culvert, 1061, and 1063 was a layer of cobbles set in a firm, grey silt

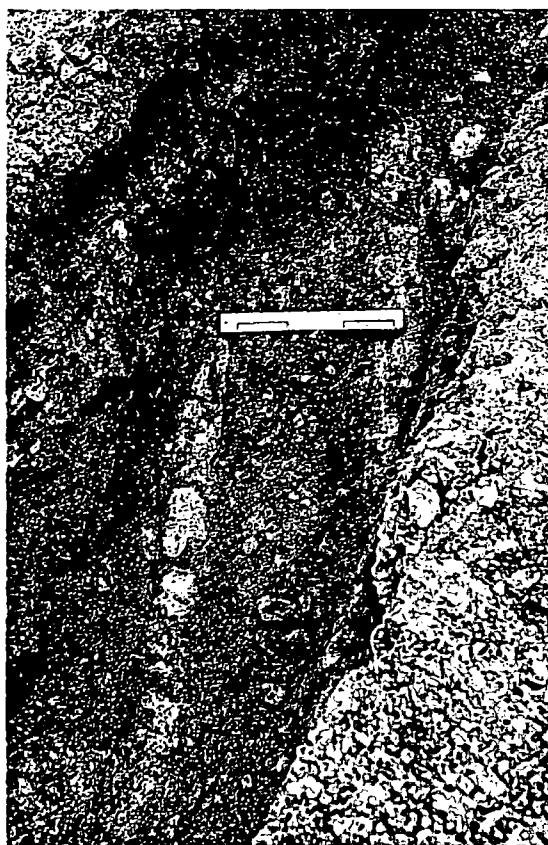


Plate 1 Brick culvert/drain 1061/62

with occasional inclusions of charcoal (1064) (Plate 2). This layer of cobbles represented an earlier yard associated with the rear of 189a High Street. Although an exact date is far from certain, the dimensions of the bricks used in the construction of the culvert would suggest a date of the late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century. This may indicate that both were associated with the early phases of the upstanding building.

Sealing the cobbles was a 0.1m-0.2m thick layer of firm, dark grey silt (1065). Above this was a sequence of levelling deposits similar to those in Service Trench 1. Overlying 1065 was a 0.2m thick deposit of mortar and brick mbbles. This appears to have been truncated by a cut (1067) - perhaps a clearance cut. The earliest fill in this cut was a 0.12m thick deposit of firm mid-brown silt (1060). This was overlain by 0.12m of mortar, brick mbbles and clinker directly above which was a 0.1m thick layer of sand and brick fragments (1070). Sealing these deposits was the cobbled yard (1026) observed in the

ground reduction. This had been cut through by the service trench, 1049, described above, and the brick chamber, 1060, of the manhole. Overlying the cobbles and abutting the manhole was the crushed stone, 1001, laid down after the ground reduction.

The fourth section recorded in the trench was located 7.2m east from the manhole 1060. The earliest deposits exposed were 1080 and 1085. Deposit 1080 was a firm, dark brown sandy silt and 1085, a firm dark grey silt. Overlying 1080 was a deposit of firm, light brown silt (1079) and overlying 1085 was a layer of cobbles (1084) that are the same as the cobbles seen in the ground reduction (1026). Cut through these deposits were the walls of a structure. The actual construction cut for this was no longer visible as



Plate 2 Showing cobbles 1064 and overlying deposits 1085, 1070, 1060, 1069, 1026 and 1025

the walls had been removed but were defined by two robber cuts - 1074 on the west side of the structure and 1078 on the eastern side. Within cut 1074 there was the top of one brick still *in situ* exposed at the base of the trench. Both cuts were filled (1075 and 1077) with a mix of mortar, brick rubble and dark grey silt. Between the two robber cuts were deposits that were associated with the floors of the structure. The earliest of these was firm, mid-grey brown silt with occasional inclusions of mortar and charcoal (1083), 0.1m thick. This was overlain by 0.1m of a friable sandy mortar that was overlain by a deposit of firm, grey silt with frequent inclusions of pebbles, stones and clinker (1081). This section was located in the area of Cut 1028 and Deposit 1029 that were observed in the ground reduction (see 4.1 above) These contexts and those seen in section together indicate the location of a demolished yard building.

At the eastern end of the section there was again evidence for clearance cuts and levelling activity. Overlying Deposit 1079 was a deposit of firm, mid-grey brown silty sand (1073) that was 0.25m thick. This had been truncated by a cut (1071) which was filled with a dark grey silt with inclusions of clinker and brick rubble (1096). Directly above this were the remains of the topsoil (1000) removed in the ground reduction which was cut by the modern clearance cut (1024) which was filled with 0.45m of crushed stone.

The final section recorded in this trench was at the western end between the kerbs of the car park (1003) and Manhole 5 (see 4.3.1 below). The earliest deposit in this section was a 0.48m thick, firm, dark brown sandy silt (1059) that is the same as Deposit 1080. Truncating this deposit was a 0.2m deep cut (1058) that was filled with loose brick rubble and mortar (1057). Directly above this was a deposit of grey silt (1097) abutted by a layer of mortar (1056). The latter was 1.6m long and 0.1m deep, and had a clearly defined interface with Deposit 1097. The function of the mortar is unclear but it did appear to be a deliberately laid deposit and it may be that it related to another structure within the yard. Overlying 1098 was a concentrated dump or layer of clinker (1054), 0.1m thick and overlain by a firm, dark grey brown silt (1060). Cut into 1060 was a shallow feature (1052), 0.2m deep that was filled with a clean light grey silt (1053) overlain by a 0.1m thick deposit of grey clay (1099). Directly above Deposit 1060 was the concrete foundation (1005) for the kerb stones (1003) of the car park. Abutting 1060 was a 0.3m thick deposit of crushed stone (1006) bedding for the tarmac of the car park.

#### 4.3 SERVICE TRENCH 3

##### 4.3.1 Manhole 5

The earliest deposit exposed was a firm grey silt (2003), 1.1m BGL. This was overlain by 0.3m of a loose, grey brown silt with frequent inclusions of brick rubble, mortar and clinker (2004). Directly above this was a 0.5m thick deposit of firm, dark grey silt (2005) overlain by 0.2m of crushed stone bedding (2006) for the 0.1m thick tarmac (1001) of the present ground surface.



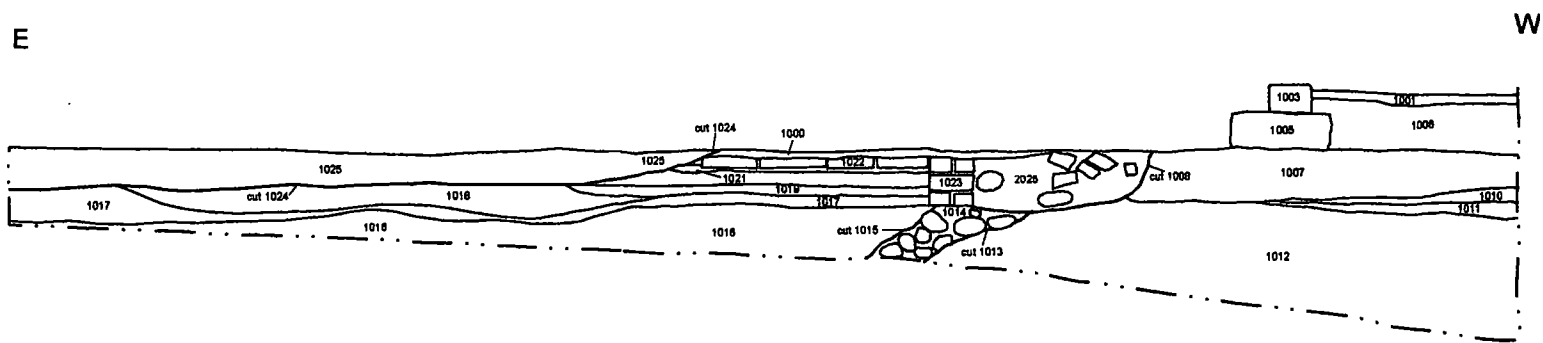


Fig. 8 Service Trench 1, north facing Section 1

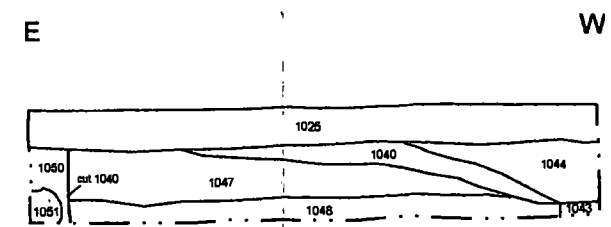


Fig. 9 Service Trench 2, north facing Section 2

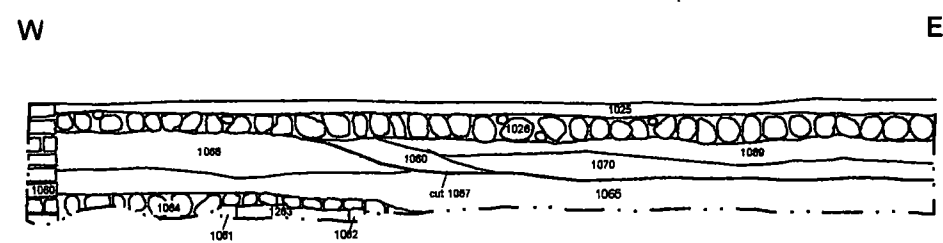


Fig. 10 Service Trench 2, south facing Section 2

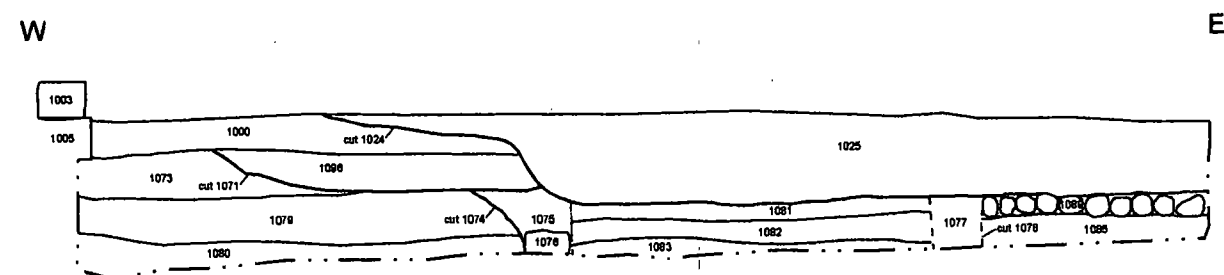


Fig. 11 Service Trench 2, south facing Section 4

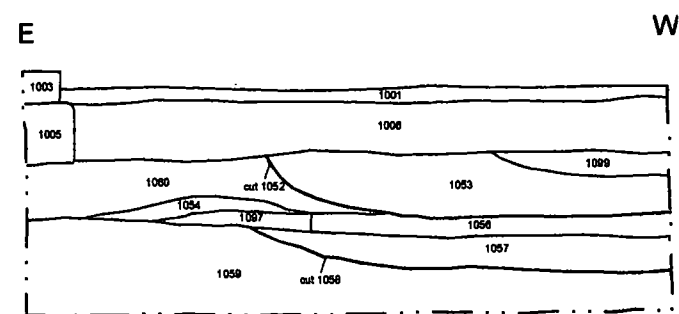


Fig. 12 Service Trench 2, north facing Section 2

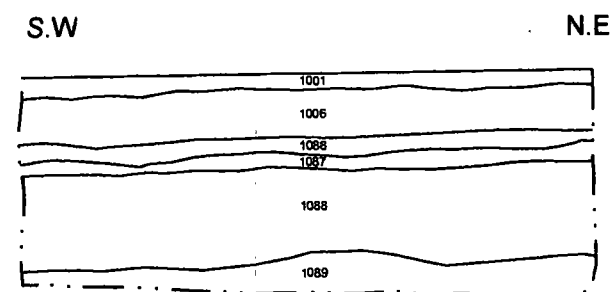
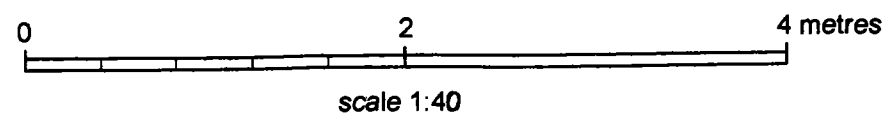


Fig. 13 Service Trench 3, south-east facing Section 3



#### 4.3.2 Manhole 6

At the base of the manhole between 1.1m and 1.2m BGL, was a layer of compact sandstone fragments and cobbles in a grey brown silt (2008). This was overlain by a 0.7m deposit of mid-brown silt with frequent inclusions of brick rubble and mortar (2009). This was overlain by 0.25m-0.3m of crushed stone bedding (2010) for the 0.1m thick tarmac (1001) of the car park.

#### 4.3.3 Service Trench

The deposits within the service trench were very similar to those within Manholes 5 and 6. The earliest deposit exposed was a 0.1m-0.2m thick deposit of sandstone fragments and cobbles in grey brown silt (1089) which is the same as Deposit 2008 observed in Manhole 6. Overlying this was a 0.5m thick deposit of mid-brown silty clay with inclusions of brick rubble (1088) which is probably the same as 2004 in Manhole 5 and 2009 in Manhole 6. Above this was a 0.1m thick layer of mixed clinker, cobbles, brick fragments and mortar (1085) directly above which was a 0.1m-0.15m thick deposit of firm dark grey silt with frequent inclusions of mortar and brick rubble (1086). This was overlain by 0.2m thick layer of crushed stone bedding (1006) for the tarmac of the car park (1001).

### 4.4 FOUNDATION TRENCHES

#### 4.4.1 Foundation Trench 1 (north side)

The earliest deposit in Foundation Trench 1 was friable, mid-brown silt that was exposed at the eastern end of the trench 0.3m BGL. This deposit extended for 3.4m before cobbles set in a dark grey silt with frequent clinker inclusions were exposed (2011). These cobbles formed part of the yard that was seen across the northern side of the area at the rear of the property in the ground reduction. Cut through these cobbles was the base of one wall (2012) associated with the demolished building, 1038. Directly above the cobbles was 0.2m of crushed stone (1025) that was imported after the ground reduction.

#### 4.4.2 Foundation Trench 2 (south side)

A deposit of loose sand and brick rubble (2013) was observed at the base of the trench aligned with the boundary wall with the HSBC Bank 0.5m BGL. This was overlain with cobbles set in dark grey silt that formed part of the later yard, 1026 and 1036 (see above). Overlying the cobbles was a loose, dark grey brown silt (2014) that had been within a flower bed. This was overlain by 0.2m of crushed stone (1025) laid over the site after the ground reduction. In the section of the trench aligned north-south the earliest deposit exposed was a firm dark grey brown silt with frequent inclusions of brick rubble and mortar (2016). This was overlain by the cobbles (1026 and 1036) set in dark grey silt that formed the later yard. Directly above this was 0.2m of crushed stone 1025 laid down after the ground reduction.

## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The watching brief supplements the tentative conclusions drawn from the 2003 watching brief (Dean 2003). The watching brief confirmed the presence of a complex sequence of post-medieval archaeology within what appeared to be a plot of land of which the boundaries are of probable medieval origin and go back to the laying out of the High Street. This is suggested by the dimensions of the plot itself. 189a High Street is a little over 10m or 33 feet wide and it is clear from the cartographic evidence that it is most likely an amalgamation of two medieval strip plots each 16.5 feet or one perch wide. The average plot width on the High Street, taken from the modern Ordnance Survey map, suggests that most of the single width property plots are 5m-6m in wide. The evidence is therefore that the High Street was laid out using the standard perch.

The earliest archaeological features observed in the watching brief was a culvert or drain (1061-1062) with bricks of a late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Overlying this was the remains of an earlier cobbled yard (1064). Both of these may be associated with the early phases of the present structures of the upstanding 189a High Street. Overlying these archaeological features was a complex sequence of cuts and deposits on average 0.5-0.6m thick across the main area of the yard that suggested a deliberate alteration and raising of the yard area. The nature of the material suggests that much of it was derived from demolition perhaps from earlier structures within the yard as there was a high quantity of brick rubble and mortar within them.

The footings for a building (1023) observed at the western end of the ground reduction area and in Section 1 of Service Trench 1, and within Trial Pit 3 of the 2003 watching brief (Dean 2003), probably relate to the large sub-rectangular building shown on the 18<sup>th</sup> century and 1911 maps of Northallerton. The function of the building is far from certain but presence of cobbled floor within the structure, the indication of a possible brick drain set within it may suggest it was a stable. The buildings (1038, 1039 and 1040) along the northern side of the yard, that were standing in 2003, were demolished prior to alteration of the yard area can all be related to structures shown on the 1911 Ordnance Survey Map. There was also extensive evidence for a cobbled yard which had been indicated in the earlier watching brief. Although its relationship with the structures (1038, 1039 and 1040) is far from certain it seems likely that it predated these buildings, as the foundations for the walls either cut or were built upon the cobbles.

The watching brief has proved to be of interest as it shown the complex alterations and development of a yard which it can be suggested has its origins in the medieval period. Although no deposits or artefacts of this date were recovered during this watching brief, material for the 14<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from the previous York Archaeological Trust watching brief on the site (Dean 2003). The watching brief showed that there has been a succession of structures from a variety of dates, from the late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## 6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Clarke, A., 2000a. *Archaeological Watching Brief at 120-120a High Street Northallerton* MAP Unpublished Report

Clarke, A., 2000b. *Archaeological Watching Brief at 165-170 High Street, Northallerton: an archaeological watching brief* MAP Unpublished Report

Clarke, A., 2000c. *176 High Street Northallerton, an archaeological watching brief*, MAP Unpublished Report

Dean, G., 2003. *189a High Street, Northallerton*, York Archaeological Trust Field Report 2003/39

Newman, C.M., 1999. *Late Medieval Northallerton* (Stamford)

OSA. On Site Archaeology 2003. *The Golden Lion. 110-14 High Street Northallerton. Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief*, OSA Report OSA03WB10

Sheeran, G., 1998. *Medieval Yorkshire Towns* (Edinburgh)

Smith, A.H., 1969. *The Place Names of the North riding of Yorkshire* (Cambridge)

Taylor-Wilson, R., 2000. *An Archaeological Evaluation at East Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire*, Pre-Construct Archaeology Unpublished Client Report

VCH Paige, W. (ed.), 1968. *The Victoria History of the Counties of England. A History of Yorkshire. North Riding 1* (London)

### 6.1 INTERNET SOURCES

<http://www.tyerman61.freeserve.co.uk/Timeline.htm>

<http://www.northallertonweb.co.uk/history.htm>

## 7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Additional Watching Brief work                      Kurt Hunter-Mann

Illustrations and report production              Russell Manwood

Editor    Dr Patrick Ottaway



## YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

...undertakes a wide range of urban and rural archaeological consultancies, surveys, evaluations, assessments and excavations for academic, commercial and charitable clients.

...can manage projects, provide professional advice and monitor archaeological works to ensure high-quality, cost-effective archaeology.

...staff has a considerable depth and variety of professional experience, and an international reputation for research, publication and maximising the public, educational and commercial benefits of archaeology.

Based in York, its services are available throughout Britain and beyond.



## YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Cromwell House  
13 Ogleforth  
York  
YO1 7FG

Telephone: (01904) 663000  
Fax: (01904) 663024  
email: [enquiries@yorkarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@yorkarchaeology.co.uk)  
web: [www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk)