

OS/00273/MPV

3000 1.1.

NYCC HER	
SNY	9653
ENY	2772
CNY	4394
Parish	3083
Rec'd	16/6/05

**Manor Farm
Old Malton
North Yorkshire**

SE 7956 7252

Archaeological Evaluation

Authorised by

Date:.....

© MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.

June 2005

**Manor Farm,
Old Malton,
North Yorkshire
SE 7956 7252**

Archaeological Evaluation

Contents	Page
Figure List	3
Plate List	3
Non-technical Summary	4
1. Introduction	4
2. Site Description	5
3. Geology and Soils	6
4. Archaeological and Historical Background	6
5. Objectives	8
6. Methodology	9
6.1 Evaluation	9
6.2 On-Site Recording	10
6.3 Plans and Sections	10
6.4 Photographic Record	10
6.5 Finds	10
7. Results	10
7.1 Trench 1	10
7.2 Trench 2	11
7.3 Trench 3	11
7.4 Trench 4	12
7.5 Trench 5	13
8. Discussion	15
9. Implications of the Proposed Development	16
10. Bibliography	17
11. List of Project Contributors	18

Appendices

1. Context List	33
2. Finds Catalogue	35
3. Archive Summary	37
4. Photographic Listing	38
5. Environmental Sample Listing	39
6. Pottery Table	40
7. Pottery Assessment Report	41
8. Project Specification	43

Figure List

Page

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Site Location. | 19 |
| 2. Evaluation Trench Location. | 20 |
| 3. Plan and Section of Trench 1 Features. | 21 |
| 4. Plan of Trench 2 Features. | 22 |
| 5. Section of Trench 2 Features. | 23 |
| 6. Plan and Sections of Trench 3 Features. | 24 |
| 7. Plan of Trench 4 Features. | 25 |
| 8. Sections of Trench 4 Features. | 26 |
| 9. Plan and Sections of Trench 5 Features. | 27 |

Plate List

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Trench 1 – Linear 1003. Facing West. | 28 |
| 2. Trench 2 – Pre-excavation. Facing South. | 28 |
| 3. Trench 3 – General view. Facing East. | 29 |
| 4. Trench 3 – Segments 3005, 3007, 3010 and 3011. Facing South. | 29 |
| 5. Trench 4 – Pit 4012. Facing East. | 30 |
| 6. Trench 4 – Pit 4014. Facing North. | 30 |
| 7. Trench 3 – Gully 4003 and Posthole 4005. Facing East. | 31 |
| 8. Trench 5 – Gully 5012. Facing North. | 31 |
| 9. Trench 5 – Pit 5010. Facing North. | 32 |
| 10. Trench 5 – Pit 5020. Facing North. | 32 |

**Manor Farm,
Old Malton,
North Yorkshire
SE 7956 7252**

Archaeological Evaluation

Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological evaluation was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on land at Manor Farm, Old Malton, North Yorkshire during April and May 2005. The work was undertaken in advance of a proposed change of use of agricultural buildings to offices, the erection of four new office units and associated groundworks (ref no. 05/00273/MFUL). The Evaluation consisted of five trenches.

Trench 1, situated in the northern part of the site, revealed a broad north-south aligned linear feature of Roman date. Another east-west aligned ditch was recorded in Trench 2, located circa 8.0m to the south-east of Trench 1.

Trenches 3 and 4 in the central part of the site revealed undated pits and linear features, together with a number of small pits or postholes of medieval date. A northern extension to Trench 3 illustrated that the slope existing at this location was, at least in part, an artificial scarp that was probably formed relatively recently during the erection of farm buildings.

In the extreme south-western corner of the site, Trench 5 contained further undated ditches and pits, along with two rubble-filled pits of 12th to 13th century date.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on land at Manor Farm, Old Malton, North Yorkshire (Figs. 1 & 2: SE 7956 7252). The Evaluation took place during April and May 2005.

- 1.2 The Evaluation was carried out on behalf of Redworth Construction Ltd, at the behest of the Senior Archaeologist, Heritage Unit, North Yorkshire County Council. The Senior Archaeologist had advised Ryedale District Council that an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in response to plans to re-develop the site by the erection of office buildings and associated groundworks. (Ref. 05/00273/MFUL1.3).
- 1.3 The evaluation was designed to establish the nature, location, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The information provided from the evaluation was to allow an assessment to be made of the impact of the development upon the archaeological deposits at the site. This assessment was to be used as the basis for an informed planning decision as to whether the development should be permitted. Upon the granting of permission, this information will assist in identifying options for minimising, avoiding damage to, and/or recording any archaeological remains. This strategy follows the archaeology policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Guidance 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG 16)*.
- 1.4 The MAP site code for the project was 05-04-05.
- 1.5 All work was funded by Redworth Construction Ltd.
- 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

- 2.1 The site is situated in the central part of Old Malton village, on the northern side of Town Street, approximately 200m to the north-west of the parish church of St. Mary, formerly the church of St. Mary's Priory. The present farmyard covers an area of approximately 0.65 ha. and represents the

amalgamation of a number of smaller farmsteads that took part in the 20th century. The site is bounded by residential properties to the east and south, by open farmland to the west, and by the gardens of other properties to the north. The topography consists of a ridge, situated at an elevation of 25m AOD, with slopes to both the north and the south.

3. Geology and Soils

- 3.1 The site lies over the junction of solid coralline oolitic limestone to the south and glacio-fluvial sands, gravels and clays to the north (OS 1960), with corresponding soils of the Elmton 2 and Foggathorpe 2 Associations respectively (Mackney *et al.* 1983).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 A number of Roman finds have been found at Old Malton suggesting that occupation of the same date existed in the immediate vicinity (Robinson, 1978, Numbers 39-43). The Roman finds include a lava quernstone, a dress fastener, a coin and a pewter *patera*. The line of the Roman road leading from the eastern gate of the fort at Orchard Fields is continued by a hollow-way to the south of Town Street (*ibid.* Number 180).
- 4.2 The place-name *Malton* (*Maltune* in 1086) is the Scandinavianised form of Old English *Middeltun*, meaning 'the middle farm' (Ekwall, 1936). *Old Malton* distinguishes this settlement from the 12th century 'new borough' of Malton that is situated 2km to the south-west.
- 4.3 Old Malton existed as a pre-conquest settlement, the Domesday Survey (DB) mentioning two Anglo-Saxon owners: Ulf, who had one manor (1 carucate held at DB by the Archbishop of York), and Otrfrida (1.5 carucates held by Earl Hugh at DB). There were two other manors at the time of the Domesday Survey, both belonging directly to the king. The largest of these manors consisted of the 8 carucates held by Siward and Thorkil, along with land for 2

- ploughs, 1.5 of which were in desmesne; also 7 villains and 5 bordars with 3.5 ploughs. A church and site of a mill are also mentioned. This manor had been worth 20s. in 1066, but had declined to 10s. at DB. The other manor was held by Kolbrand, and consisted of 3 carucates, with land for 1.5 ploughs, 1 villain with half a plough, and 16 acres of meadow 1 league long and 1 league broad. Together this had been worth 10s. in 1066, but had halved in value by 1086.
- 4.4 Two pieces of carved stone recorded in the churchyard may represent traces of the pre-conquest church (Robinson 1978, Numbers 143-144).
 - 4.5 The lay-out of the medieval village of Old Malton is difficult to reconstruct because of the influence on the human topography by St. Mary's Priory, which lay within the settlement's confines. Tentatively, it is possible to suggest that Old Malton was aligned along the south-west to north-east street (Town Street), with the addition of Westgate at the northern end of the village. Some idea of the size of the medieval settlement is indicated by the fact that there were 23 households paying the sum of £3-16-11 at the 1302 lay subsidy.
 - 4.6 The Priory was founded in *circa* 1150 by Eustace fitzJohn and belonged to the Gilbertine Order. The present parish church comprises the western part of the nave and two-thirds of the original façade of the Priory church. The below-ground remains of the cloister and other monastic buildings to the south, and the remainder of the church to the east, were traced in the 19th century. Excavations in 1942 established the position of the Chapter House.
 - 4.7 The Priory also owned land and houses at Old Malton, the Lascelles family granting their estate in the village to the Priory in the 13th century (Hudleston, 1962).
 - 4.8 Abbeys and Priors were more than simply collections of ecclesiastical buildings, but were self-contained communities that included agricultural structures, pasturage, cemeteries and gardens spreading over large areas. The exact limits of the precinct of Old Malton priory are uncertain, although all the

monastic buildings known from previous study lay south of Town Street. The present boundary and track that runs southwards from Town Street, past the eastern end of the church and Abbey House, then swinging west and north to meet the western end of Town Street could be a candidate for the precinct boundary. This line continues over Town Street, running north-east to join the western end of West gate. This would give a large sub-circular block of land with a diameter of *circa* 700m (which is smaller than the precincts at, for example, Byland and Rievaulx). This is of course purely conjectural, and only verifiable by considerable further research, but the possibility remains that the area of Manor Farm lay within the Priory precinct.

- 4.9 The dissolution of Old Malton Priory in December 1539 must have had a considerable affect on the medieval settlement by freeing the monastic resources for other use, and allowing the priory land at Old Malton to be exploited in fresh ways.
- 4.10 The Enclosure Map of 1795-1800 (transcribed in Hudleston 1962) labels the area immediately to the west of the proposed development site as 'Flats', referring to groups of strips within the Open Fields.

5. Objectives

5.1 The objectives of the evaluation were:

- a) To establish by trial trenching the nature, depth, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits which may be affected by the development proposals.
- b) To prepare a report summarising the results of the work and assessing the archaeological implications of the proposed development.
- c) To prepare and submit a suitable archive to the appropriate museum.

5.2 Two particular topics were to be addressed:

- a) The presence of any pre-medieval land-use at the site, whether Prehistoric or Romano-British
- b) The character of any medieval activity, particularly any associated with St. Mary's Priory.

6. Methodology

6.1 Evaluation

- 6.1.1 Five trenches were excavated at locations agreed by the Archaeology Section of the Heritage Unit, NYCC (Fig. 2). The total area evaluated was approximately 200m² **Trench 1** (10m x 3m) was situated in the northern part of the site and **Trench 2** (10m x 2m) was in the north-east corner of the site. **Trench 3** (5m x 10m in size with a 2m x 10m extension to the north) and **Trench 4** (10m x 3m) were in the central area of the site, whilst **Trench 5**, (9m x 6m) was situated the south-western part of the site.
- 6.1.2 The evaluation areas were stripped of topsoil by a rear-acting mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless blade, operating under close archaeological supervision. Machining ceased at the top of archaeological or naturally-formed deposits, depending upon which appeared soonest.
- 6.1.3 Postholes, and pits were half-sectioned and segments were excavated across linear features in order to determine their function and form.
- 6.1.4 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 6.1.5 All artefacts were retained for specialist analysis.
- 6.1.6 Samples were taken from sealed deposits for environmental analysis.

6.2 On-site Recording

6.2.1 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.

6.3 Plans and Sections

6.3.1 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.

6.4 Photographic Record

6.4.1 The photographic record comprised monochrome and colour prints, and colour transparencies, in 35mm format, recording all archaeological features encountered.

6.5 Finds

6.5.1 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.

7. Results

7.1 Trench 1 (Pl. 1, Figs. 3 & 6)

7.1.1 Trench 1 was designed to examine activity in the northern part of the site. Removal of the turf and layers of sandy subsoil revealed the surface of yellowish sandy silt natural deposits (context 1005), which were cut by a single linear feature (context 1003).

7.1.2 Cut 1003 was a 4.0m wide, 0.20m deep feature on a north-south alignment. The fill (context 1004) consisted of brown silty sand that contained six Romano-British sherds (4 Greyware, 1 calcite-gritted and 1 tazza rim in

probable Ebor Ware), suggesting a 2nd century date, and animal bone fragments.

7.1.3 Fill 1004 was covered by a thin deposit of yellowish brown silty sand (context 1002), probably formed by the mixing of naturally-formed deposits with the overlying brown clay subsoil (context 1001), which had a depth of 0.60m. The uppermost deposit in the trench was a 0.50m deep layer of recent topsoil (context 1000) that was probably created by relatively recent horticulture.

7.2 Trench 2 (Pl. 2, Figs. 4 and 6)

7.2.1 Trench 2 was positioned in order to examine an area in the north-east of the proposed development area. Machining ceased at the surface of the yellowish brown sandy subsoil (context 2005), which was cut by a solitary linear feature (context 2004).

7.2.2 Cut 2004 was crossed the entire width of the trench on an east-west alignment, and was 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep. The brown silty clay fill (context 2003) contained animal bone fragments.

7.2.3 A layer of yellowish brown sandy silt (context 2002) overlay Fill Deposit 2003; as with Deposit 1002 this represented the mixing of natural-formed deposits with the overlying subsoil, which in the case of Trench 2 consisted of a 0.70m deep layer of brown clay silt (context 2001). The sequence was completed by an even, 0.65m deep layer of recent horticultural soil (context 2000).

7.3 Trench 3 (Pis. 3-4; Fig. 6)

7.3.1 This trench was excavated in the central part of the site. Machine removal of deposits ceased at the top of the yellowish brown sandy silt natural (context 3013), which was mixed with patches of limestone brash and reddish brown silty clay. A number of features (contexts 3012 3005, 3007 and 3010/3011) were visible in the natural surface.

7.3.2 Deposit 3012 was a semi-circular spread of yellowish brown sandy silt situated at the southern baulk of the trench. Originally regarded as a possible pit fill, excavation showed this deposit to be a localised variation within the deposit 3013.

7.3.3 Cuts 3005, 3007 and 3010/3011 were similar linear features that were grouped together on north-east to south-west alignments in the central part of the trench. The widths were in the range of 0.35 – 0.50m, and the depths around 0.10m. These linear features had similar yellowish brown silty sand fills (contexts 3004, 3006 and 3008/3009 respectively), the only dateable find being a calcite-gritted sherd from Deposit 3008.

7.3.4 The linear features were overlain by a 0.14m deep deposit of brown sandy silt, the interface between the natural and the overlying 0.40m deep subsoil (context 3002).

7.3.5 The subsoil in the southern part of the trench was masked by a layer of limestone fragments (context 3001), representing a relatively recent yard or access surface. Further modern activity was illustrated by a deposit of heavily mixed gravel, limestone, concrete and brick rubble (context 3014) present within the northern extension to the trench. Deposit 3014 was apparently the result of the erection and demolition of recent farm buildings. A 0.30m deep layer of modern topsoil (context 3000) completed the sequence.

7.4 Trench 4 (Pls. 5-7, Fig. 6)

7.4.1 Trench 4 was positioned at the central part of the site, approximately 15m east of Trench 3. Overburden was removed by machine down the top of the natural deposits (context 4006), a mixed yellowish brown sand with patches of limestone fragments. Two pits (contexts 4012 and 4014), two linear features (contexts 4003 and 4010) and a posthole (context 4005) cut the natural surface.

- 7.4.2 Both pits extended outside the excavated area, but these appeared to be sub-oval features that were 1.5m wide, and 0.50m deep. Each pit had a brown silty clay fill (contexts 4011 and 4013 respectively), the former containing animal bone fragments.
- 7.4.3 Linear Feature 4003 extended approximately 7.5m into the excavated area from the eastern baulk, before terminating. The brownish silty clay fill (context 4002) contained two 13th to 14th century sherds and animal bone fragments. Linear Feature 4010 extended for 2.5m northwards into the trench from the southern baulk, before ending in a rounded terminal. The dark greyish brown silty clay fill (context 4009) contained animal bone fragments.
- 7.4.4 Posthole 4005 was situated immediately south of Cut 4003. The feature was 0.28m in diameter and 0.12m deep. Its brownish grey silty clay fill (context 4004) contained a single 13th to 14th century sherd.
- 7.4.5 The cut features described above were overlain by a 0.11m deep of yellowish brown silty sand subsoil (context 4001), which in turn was overlain by a recent topsoil layer that varied in depth from 0.60m to the south to 0.34m to the north. The topsoil layer was cut by a modern curvilinear gully (Cut 4008, Fill 4007), a drain (Cut 4018, Fill 4017), and a recent rubbish pit (Cut 4016, Fill 4015).
- 7.5 Trench 5 (Pls. 8-10, Fig. 9)
- 7.5.1 Trench 5 situated at the south-western corner of the proposed development area. As with the other trenches, machining ceased at the top of natural deposits, which coincided with the appearance of a sequence of cut features.
- 7.5.2 Stratigraphically, the two earliest features consisted of a pit (context 5022) and a gully (context 5012/5018). Pit 5022 was an oval cut that was 0.90m wide and 0.25m deep. The sole fill consisted of brown sandy, clay silt (context 5021) that contained animal bone fragments. The gully was aligned north to south, and was excavated in two segments (contexts 5012 and 5018) that showed it to

be approximately 0.80m wide and 0.25m deep. The brown sandy silt fill (contexts 5011 and 5017 respectively) contained animal bone fragments.

7.5.3 Pit Cut 5022 was truncated by a later feature (context 5020). Pit Cut 5020 was situated in the south-eastern part of the trench adjacent to a similar pit (context 5010). Both features were of sub-circular plan, with diameters of 1.50m and depths of 0.25m. The fill deposits (contexts 5019 and 5009 respectively) were similar yellowish brown sandy silts, characterised by the presence sub-rounded limestone rubble. Fill Deposit 5009 contained sherds of York Glazed and Staxton wares, and Fill Deposit 5019 contained Gritty, Staxton, York Glazed and Brandsby-type wares, suggesting a 13th century date.

7.5.4 A series of undated features, consisting of a gully (context 5014/5016) and two small pits (contexts 5024 and 5026) were identified in the north-western part of the trench. The gully post-dated Gully 5018.

7.5.5 Gully 5014/5016 was traced for a length of approximately 3m on a west-east alignment. It terminated at Gully Segment 5016. The cut was 0.50m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.20m. The dark greyish brown clay silt fills (contexts 5013 and 5016 respectively) contained no finds.

7.5.6 Pit Cuts 5024 and 5026 extended westwards out of the excavated area and were shallow, amorphous features that were filled with similar brown sandy silts (contexts 5023 and 5025 respectively). No finds were recovered from Deposits 5023 and 5025.

7.5.7 The above-mentioned features were covered by a layer of brown silty sand subsoil (context 5002) that decreased in depth from 0.40m at the west to 0.10m at the east of the trench. Deposit 5002 was sealed by a layer of dark-greyish brown ploughsoil (context 5001). Deposit 5001 was truncated by a series of three postholes (contexts 5004, 5006 and 5008), whose recent date was illustrated by the remains of *in-situ* timber posts found within them.

8. Discussion

- 8.1 The Evaluation identified archaeological activity in all five of the evaluation trenches. The interpretation and dating of the site is restricted by the relatively modest finds assemblage, but the activity there can be shown to relate to three archaeological periods: Roman, medieval and undated.
- 8.2 The linear feature (context 1003) in Trench 1 contained only Romano-British sherds, the tazza fragment suggesting a 2nd century date. Context 1003 was broad and shallow, which is not consistent with a boundary ditch, and it may be that this feature represents a hollow-way or trackway. Another Romano-British sherd was recovered from Cut 3010 and it, along with the other similar features encountered in Trench 3, are suggestive of agricultural features, probably associated with ploughing.
- 8.3 Medieval gullies and a posthole were recorded in Trench 3. These features indicate some form of structural activity alongside minor boundaries, typical of 'backland' activity away from the street frontage. The similarity between the two rubble-filled pits in Trench 5 means that they are likely to have been associated with each other. Rubble-filled pits at medieval sites in the East Riding (e.g. at Beverley, Evans and Tomlinson 1992) formed post-settings for large timber-framed structures. Even though the Old Malton examples are shallower than those recorded on other sites, there is the strong possibility that they represent parts of a former structure. Given the relative proximity of this location to the Town Street frontage, the structure would presumably have been related to properties situated there.
- 8.4 The undated features fall into two categories: linear features and pits. A relatively early date is indicated by the leached nature of the fills of these features. The undated linear features in both Trench 2 and 5 were presumably agricultural boundaries, the example in Trench 5 being earlier than a probable plough-scar that was on a different alignment. The two relatively substantial pits (contexts 4012 and 4014) in Trench 4 were settlement-related, as was the

example in Trench 5 (context 5022). Pit 5022 was cut by a 13th century feature, suggesting a pre-medieval date. Without trying to push interpretation too far, it is possible that the undated features represent a rural settlement of Iron Age and/or Roman date; or alternatively they could well relate to medieval activity.

8.5 There was no evidence of activity that could be directly linked with St. Mary's Priory. In particular, there was no evidence of cemetery activity or any diagnostically ecclesiastic structures. The evaluation therefore leaves open the question of the extent of the priory precinct, and whether it originally extended into the proposed development area.

8.6 In summary, the evaluation confirmed the presence of significant archaeological remains at the site, of local, and arguably, regional importance, but not of sufficient quality to rule out the proposed development on archaeological grounds. The archaeological remains could be adequately preserved by record (e.g. archaeological excavation) rather than physically *in situ*.

9. Implications of the Proposed Development

9.1 Each of the five evaluation trenches showed clear evidence of archaeological activity, with definite settlement-related features (i.e. the most significant deposits) in the central (Trenches 3 and 4) and south-western (Trench 5) parts of the site.

9.2 The linear features in Trenches 1 and 2 are covered by a considerable thickness of topsoil and subsoil:

	Overburden Depth	Height of Archaeology +10cm
Trench 1	1.10m	21.37m AOD
Trench 2	1.25m	21.35m AOD

- 9.3 The northern extension to Trench 3 showed the area of the slope to be heavily affected by recent landscaping. The level area to the south, occupied by the bulk of the trench, was covered by approximately 1m of overburden, the height of the archaeological deposits (+10cm) starting at 22.88m AOD.
- 9.4 Overburden masking the archaeological deposits in Trench 4 decreased from 0.80m in the north to 0.60m in the south. The AOD height (+10cm) of the archaeology lay at 22.30m.
- 9.5 In Trench 5 the depth of overburden totalled 0.70m. The height at which the archaeological deposits occurred (+10cm) lay at 24.50m AOD.
- 9.6 It can be seen that in places there is a considerable coverage of overburden (topsoil and subsoil) that protects the archaeological deposits. If it is not possible to confine the ground-works for the proposed development within the topsoil and subsoil (and above the archaeology), the archaeological deposits should be recorded by open area excavation in advance of the development.

10. Bibliography

- English Heritage 1995 A Strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds.
- Ekwall, E. 1936 The Concise Dictionary of English Place-names
- Evans, D.H. & Tomlinson, D.G 1997 Excavations at 33-35 Eastgate,
Beverley, 1983-6.
- Hudleston, N.A. 1962 History of Malton and Norton.
- IFA 1998 Institute of Field Archaeologists Year Book.
- Mackney, D (Ed). 1983 Soils of England and Wales.

OS 1960 Geological Survey of England and Wales. Pickering: Sheet 53.

Robinson, J.F. 1978 The Archaeology of Malton and Norton.

11. List of Project Contributors

Excavation Team: Mark Stephens, Charles Rickaby, Geoff Wilson.

Digital Survey: Dave Knight, Mark Stephens.

Report Text: Mark Stephens.

Appendices: Charles Rickaby.

Illustrations: Dave Knight.

Editor: Nigel Cavanagh.

Finds Processing: Anne Finney.