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**17 Church Street
Norton
North Yorkshire
(SE 7930 7140)**

Archaeological Watching Brief

**MAP
December 2004**

**17 Church Street
Norton
North Yorkshire
SE 7930 7140**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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**17 Church Street
Norton
North Yorkshire
Single Storey Extension**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Introduction

The site of 17 Church Street is situated in the parish of Norton, North Yorkshire, on the south bank of the river Derwent, at SE 7930 7140 (Fig. 1 & 2). It is bounded to the north by the York to Scarborough railway line, to the south by Church Street and to the east and west by commercial properties.

The site is located on soils of the Landbeach Association. This association comprises of permeable calcareous and non-calcareous loamy soils, overlying a solid geology of chalky glaciofluvial and river terrace drift. (Mackney et al 1983).

The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on the 1st of December, 2004.

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Historical and Archaeological Background

The Roman Fort and *vicus* (civilian settlement) at Malton lies to the north of the river Derwent, with further Romano-British settlement situated on the southern bank beneath a substantial area of the modern town of Norton.

The present Church Street is believed to follow one of the major Roman roads that ran from the fort. In 1862, drainage work on the riverbank in Norton uncovered part of a metalled road surface, associated with finds of Roman date. This was interpreted as a ford on the line of the road running south from the southern gate of the Roman fort. On the north bank, a road was

found to gradually ascend from the ford towards the present Church Street (Robinson 1978). The road ran through the Roman settlement at Norton and continued on to York (ibid).

During the rebuilding of Norton Church in 1814 sherds of fourth century pottery were found (Robinson, 1978, .p3). A stone inscribed with a dedication to a goldsmith, the only one of its type found in Britain, was also recovered during the building work.

In 1976 sherds of Romano-British and medieval pottery were recovered from beneath the floor of Norton Post Office during foundation work (Robinson, 1978 p.40). In 2001 MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. recorded and excavated three burials beneath the Post Office during repairs to flood-damaged floors. The burials were of medieval date and truncated deposits containing Romano-British pottery.

The medieval village of Norton began to grow in the 18th century and expanded greatly from the mid-19th century onwards to form a large residential and commercial centre rivaling Malton.

Two properties to the east is the site of the former St Nicholas Church and graveyard. The Church was built in 1814 at a cost of £2,500, replacing an earlier Norman church that had fallen into disrepair. The Churchyard was closed for burials in circa 1850, a new town cemetery being opened in July 1852. The new church had a relatively short life and was closed and demolished in March 1901. (Robinson. 1978 p 40). Shortly afterwards the land was acquired by Ryedale District Council. An open-air swimming pool was constructed in the early 1920s. The present pool building dates from the early 1980s.

Work Programme

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

The foundations and overburden was removed by machine, using a mini 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision (Pl.1 & 2).

Results

The excavation and overburden strip located a single deposit of 19th – 20th century demolition material including bricks, tiles, limestone fragments, clay pipe and bone china pottery. No archaeological features were encountered.

Bibliography

- Mackney, D. (Ed.) 1984 Soils and their use in Northern England
Robinson, J.F. 1978 The Archaeology of Malton and Norton



Figure 1. Site Location



Plate 1. Preparation of Site, Facing South



Plate 2. Excavation of Foundation, Facing South



**STANDARD WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI)
FOR LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING ("WATCHING BRIEF")**

- 1 The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains which are:
 - a) affected by proposed development only to a limited and clearly defined extent,
 - b) not available or susceptible to standard area excavation techniques, or
 - c) of limited importance or potential.The work should not require the construction programme or development to be held up while archaeological investigation takes place, although some developers may give such a facility.
- 2 The WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements needed to comply with an archaeological planning condition. The scheme does **not** comprise a full specification, and the County Council makes no warranty that the works are fully or exactly described. The details of implementation must be specified in a contract between the developer and the selected archaeological contractor.
- 3 The removal of overburden (that is vegetation, turf, loose stones, rubble, made ground, Tarmac, concrete, hardcore, building debris and topsoil) should be supervised by the Archaeologist contracted to carry out the WSI. The Archaeologist should be informed of the correct timing and schedule of overburden removal.
- 4 Removal of overburden by machine should be undertaken using a back-acting excavator fitted with toothless or ditching bucket only. Where materials are exceptionally difficult to lift, a toothed bucket may be used temporarily. Subsoils (B horizons) or deep, uniform fills of features may also be removed by back-acting excavator but only in areas specified by the Archaeologist on site, and only with archaeological supervision. Bulldozers or wheeled scraper buckets should not be used to remove overburden above archaeological deposits. Where reinstatement is required, topsoil should be kept separate from other soil materials.
- 5 Metal detecting within the development area, including the scanning of topsoil and spoil heaps, should only be permitted subject to archaeological supervision and recording such that metal finds are properly located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection should be carried out following the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice.
- 6 Where structures, finds, soil features and layers of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed by construction works, the Archaeologist should be provided with the opportunity to observe, clean, assess, excavate by hand where appropriate, sample and record these features and finds. If the contractors or plant operators notice archaeological remains, they should immediately tell the Archaeologist. The sampling of deposits for palaeo-environmental evidence should be a standard consideration, and arrangements should be made to ensure that specialist advice and analysis are available if appropriate.

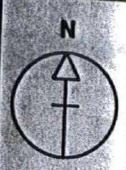
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- 7 Heavy plant should not be operated in the near vicinity of archaeological remains until they have been recorded, and the Archaeologist on site has allowed operations to recommence at that location. Sterile subsoils (C horizons) and parent materials below archaeological deposits may be removed without archaeological supervision. Where reinstatement is required, subsoils should be backfilled first and topsoil last.
- 8 Upon completion of fieldwork, samples should be processed and evaluated, and all finds cleaned, identified, assessed, spot-dated, and properly stored. A field archive should be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist should arrange for either the County Archaeologist or an independent post-excavation specialist to inspect the archive before making arrangements for the transfer of the archive to an appropriate museum or records office.
- 9 A summary report should be produced following NYCC guidelines on reporting. The report should contain planning or administrative details of the project, a summary of works carried out, a description and interpretation of the findings, an assessment of the importance of the archaeology including its historical context where appropriate, and catalogues of finds, features, and primary records. All excavated areas should be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and field boundaries. All significant features should be illustrated with conventionally scaled plans, sections, or photographs. Where few or no finds are made, it may be acceptable to provide the report in the form of a letter with plans attached.
- 10 Copies of the summary report should be provided to the client(s), the County Heritage Unit (SMR), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage.
- 11 The County Archaeologist should be informed as soon as possible of the discovery of any unexpected archaeological remains, or changes in the programme of ground works on site. Any significant changes in the archaeological work should be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority. If human remains are encountered, they should be exhumed subject to the conditions of a Home Office licence.



TITLE NUMBER
NYK239317

NORTH YORKSHIRE : RYEDALE



ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP REFERENCE: **SE7971SW**

SCALE **1:1250** Enlarged from 1/2500

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