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37A Cliff Street
Whitby
North Yorkshire
(NZ 89786 11152)

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
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2005

**37A Cliff Street
Whitby
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief
NZ 89786 11152**

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**37A Cliff Street
Whitby
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief
NZ 89786 11152**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A Watching Brief was undertaken on all groundworks for a single, replacement residential dwelling at 37a, Cliff Street, Whitby (NZ 89786 11152: Fig. 1). The work was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd in January, 2005. *in accordance with a WSI prepared by NYCC.*
- 1.2 All work was funded by Mr. T. Bell.
- 1.3 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordinance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 50453A.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 Cliff Street is located fairly centrally within the town of Whitby and runs parallel with Silver Street to the west, St Ann's Staith to the east and Flowergate to the south. To the north Cliff Street becomes The Mount on the approach to the West Pier.

3. Geology and Soils

- 3.1 The site stands on the Flint Soil Association (5721) a reddish fine loamy over clayey soil with a solid geology of reddish till (Mackney *et al.* 1983).

4. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The proposed development lies within the historic core of the medieval and later settlement of Whitby, in an area with potential for the survival of archaeological remains. This part of the town may preserve evidence for terracing and infill deposits of the medieval and post-medieval periods

4.2 Cartographic evidence for 1740 (John Wooler's plan) shows Cliff Street occupied by buildings with garden plots to the rear. A 1782 plan of Whitby by Francis Gibson records development along Cliff Street with tenements occupying the street and an area of open land to the south-west.

4.3 The early 19th century maps of 1828 and 1841 by John Wood and Francis Pickernell respectively, illustrate the increased structural activity along the western end of Cliff Street towards The Mount. The area around number 37 Cliff Street is approaching the northern limits of the main town centre with further tenements and buildings to the north-east and open land to the north-west. The 1853 Ordnance Survey Map of Whitby shows the continuing development of the town including the start of the spread of buildings along the west cliff area including the Royal Hotel.

5. Excavation Methods

5.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken on all groundworks associated with the building of a replacement dwelling at the site of No. 37a, Cliff Street (Fig. 2). A back acting mechanical excavator was used to remove all overburden and excavate all trenches under the supervision of an archaeologist.

5.2 A drawn written and photographic record was made of all deposits encountered during the groundworks.

6. Results

6.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified or recovered during the watching brief where natural clay deposits were identified within the foundation trenches of the proposed new dwelling.

7. Conclusion

7.1 Although the area of the Watching Brief lay within the vicinity of suspected areas of archaeology, no features or artefacts was observed during the works.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

Plan of the Town of Whitby	John Wooler, c. 1740	Not to Scale
Plan of the Defences	Francis Gibson 1782	Not to Scale
Plan of Whitby	John Wood 1828	Not to Scale
Plan of the Town and Harbour	Francis Pickerells 1841	Not to Scale
Ordnance Survey Sheet 3	Scale 1:1056 1853	

Secondary Sources

Mackney, D.	1983	Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 1: Northern England. Soil <i>et al.</i>	Survey of England and Wales.
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Figure 1. Site Location



Figure 2. Area of Watching Brief



Plate 1. Overall Shot of Site. Facing South West



Plate 2. Detail of Foundation Trench. Facing West

Appendix 1 Photographic Listing

Frame N	Description	Direction
1	Detail of foundation trench	North
2	View into adjacent garden	North
3	General shot / site clearance	South
4	General shot	West
5	General shot	West
6	General shot and adjacent properties	North
7	General shot and adjacent properties	North-east
8	General shot and adjacent properties	South
9	General shot and adjacent properties	South