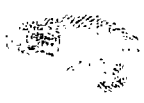


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SNY	9814
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CNY	4775
Parish	3083
Rec'd	27/10/05

**23 Town Street  
Old Malton  
North Yorkshire  
SE 79672 72528**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**



<b>N. Y. C. C.</b>	
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES</b>	
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**23 Town Street  
Old Malton  
North Yorkshire  
SE 79672 72528**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report.**

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**23 Town Street  
Old Malton  
North Yorkshire  
SE 79672 72528**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

***Non Technical Summary***

*An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at 23 Town Street, Old Malton, North Yorkshire, during October, 2005 (SE 795672 72528, Figs. 1 and 2). The work took place in two phases and involved monitoring groundworks associated with the stripping of topsoil and subsoil (Phase 1), and the subsequent excavation of foundation trenches associated with a proposed residential development (Phase 2.)*

*A number of undated archaeological features were identified during Phase 1. These included a stone wall, and a linear feature. Although only a limited number of finds were recovered to aid dating, it is likely that these features relate to medieval settlement in the vicinity of the present town.*

**1. Introduction**

1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at 23 Town Street, Old Malton, North Yorkshire (SE 79672 72528) during October 2005. planning reference 27.10.05. The watching brief was undertaken to fulfill an archaeological condition attached to planning application 05/00897/FUL in accordance with a WSI agreed with NYCC (Appendix 6)

1.2 The site code for the project was MAP 11.03.05.

1.3 All work was funded by A.D. Sturdy Building Contractors.

1.4 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 area covers an area of approximately 28m x 13m. The site is bounded by residential properties to the east and south, by open farmland to the north, and by Town Street to the west. The topography consists of a ridge, situated at an elevation of 25m AOD, with slopes to both the north and the south.

2.2 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 Ehnton 2 and Foggathorpe 2 Associations respectively (Mackney *et al.* 1983).

## 3. Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 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).

3.2 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 12<sup>th</sup> century 'new borough' of Malton that is situated 2km to the south-west.

- 3.3 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 Otrida (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.
- 3.4 Two pieces of carved stone recorded in the churchyard may represent traces of the pre-conquest church (Robinson 1978, Numbers 143-144).
- 3.5 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 (Tovm 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.
- 3.6 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 19<sup>th</sup> century. Excavations in 1942 established the position of the Chapter House.

3.7 The Priory also owned land and houses at Old Malton, the Lascelles family granting their estate in the village to the Priory in the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Hudleston, 1962).

3.8 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, may represent the line of the former precinct boundary.

3.9 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.

3.10 An Archaeological Evaluation that was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. At Manor Farm, Old Malton (immediately to the south of the current site) identified linear features, pits and postholes of medieval date, together with evidence of earlier Romano-British activity on the site. (MAP 2005).

#### 4. Methodology

4.1 The monitored groundworks were undertaken in two phases (Fig. 00):

Phase 1: Stripping of topsoils and subsoils.

Phase 2: Excavation of foundations associated with a proposed housing development.

- 4.2 All excavations were undertaken by a rear-acting mechanical excavator, operating under close archaeological supervision.
- 4.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 4.4 All 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.
- 4.5 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the Watching Brief on colour print film and digital camera.

## **5. Results**

### **5.1. Phase 1 (PL 1)**

- 5.1.1 Groundworks monitored in Phase 1 covered an area of 28m x 13m. Excavations were undertaken to a mean depth of 0.56m below existing ground level.
- 5.1.2 Excavation revealed a deposit of naturally-formed sandy gravel that was truncated by a 3m long, 0.40m wide, east to west-aligned construction cut (context 1008) that contained the remains of a roughly-made stone wall (context 1006 Pl. 2). Cut 1008 was backfilled by a silty clay deposit that contained one pottery sherd of medieval date (context 1007, Appendix 2).
- 5.1.3 Wall 1006 was truncated by a 1.6m long, 0.80m wide linear feature of elongated plan (context 1005). Cut 1005 was filled by a silty clay deposit that did not contain any finds (context 1004). Deposit 1004 was in turn truncated by a 0.60m long, 0.50m wide modern pit cut (context 1003). Cut 1003 was filled by silty deposit that contained a large amount of animal bone (context 1002).



5.14 Deposit 1002 was sealed by a 0.56m deep deposit of subsoil (context 1001), which was in turn covered by modern topsoil (context 1000).

## 5.2 Phase 2 (Pls. 3, 4)

5.2.1 The monitored Phase 2 groundworks encompassed the excavation of foundations for the housing development. The second phase of work was carried out by the contractor without notifying the monitoring archaeologist. The excavated footing trenches were subsequently inspected and recorded by the monitoring archaeologist whilst they were still open.

5.2.2 The foundation trenches measured 0.90 in width and were excavated to a depth of 0.60m. The stratigraphy exposed was consistent across the whole of the site and consisted of approximately 0.30m of greyish brown silt subsoil (context 1001) that sealed undisturbed, naturally-formed sandy gravel deposits. No archaeological features were observed during this phase of the Watching Brief

## 6. Conclusions

6.1. The Watching Brief at 23 Town Street revealed a wall and a linear feature (contexts 1006, 1005) that were located at a mean depth of 0.56m below existing ground level. Although the accompanying finds evidence was rather sparse, it is likely that the features relate to medieval settlement activity in the immediate vicinity. In this respect, the Watching Brief results were similar to those obtained by the recent Evaluation Excavation at Manor Farm (MAP 2005).

6.2 In conclusion, it may be said that the Watching Brief has again highlighted the archaeological potential of the central area of Old Malton and future planning proposals for Malton should take this archaeological potential into account.

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