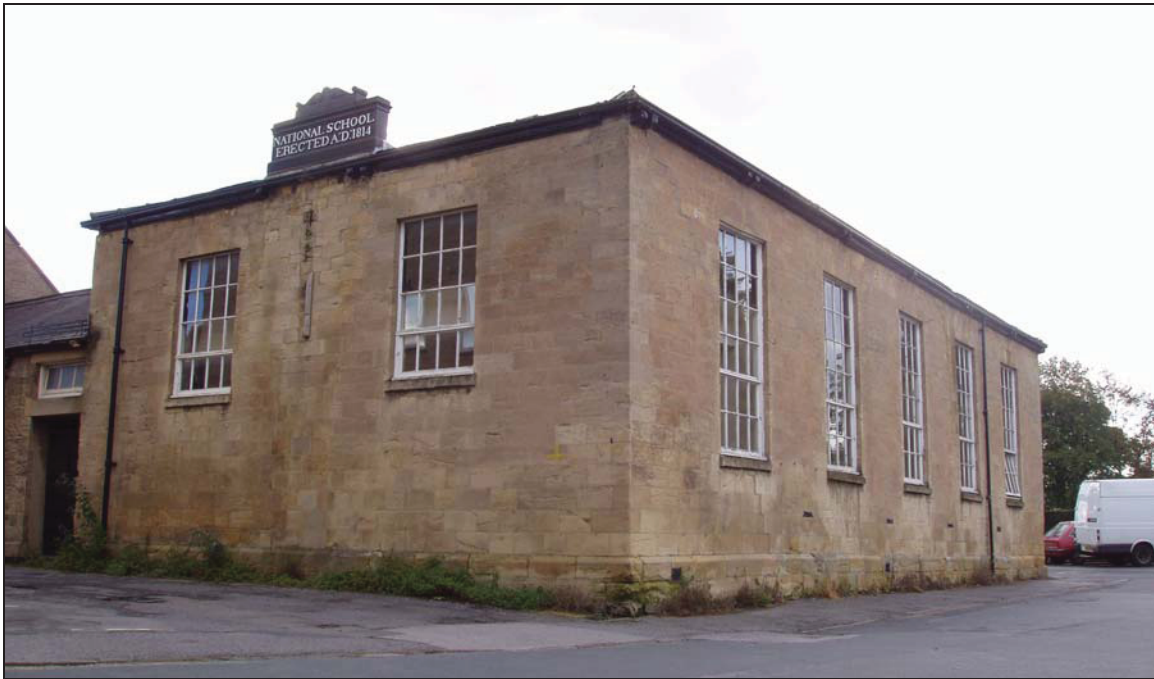


**UNITS 1 AND 2 CASTLE PRECINCT,
KNARESBOROUGH, NORTH YORKSHIRE:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**



**CS Archaeology
October 2008**

On behalf of: The Selby Road Halton
25 Waterside
Knaresborough
North Yorkshire
HG5 8DE

National Grid Reference (NGR): SE 3497 5693

Project Number: 29

Fieldwork and report by: Chris Scurfield

Timing: Fieldwork October 2008
Report October 2008

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Frontispiece: The former "National School" built "1814"

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken at Units 1 and 2 Castle Precinct, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire. This work was required to meet a condition placed on Scheduled Monument Consent. The archaeological watching brief consisted of preparing a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and monitoring the excavation of two test pits. The test pits were designed to inform future engineering strategies necessary to stabilise the building. The present building was built as a 'National School' (c.1814).
- 1.2 The results of the watching brief confirmed the presence of Late Medieval contexts, which were probably associated with the upper deposits of Knaresborough Castle's moat.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Proposed Development Area (PDA) consists of a roughly rectangular plot of land (0.055 hectare) consisting of the building footprint of a former school, which is a grade II Listed Building. The PDA is centred on National Grid Reference SE 3497 5693. Within the PDA it was initially proposed to excavate eight test pits, however two (TP1 and TP4) were excavated.
- 2.2 The PDA lies within the parish of Knaresborough 5 kms north-east of Harrogate (**Figure 1**). The PDA is situated at the north-eastern side of the Scheduled Monument of Knaresborough Castle (SM No. 34841: **Figure 2**) and lies within the town's Conservation Area.
- 2.3 The watching brief was undertaken on the 9th and 10th October 2008 in response to a condition on Scheduled Monument Consent to convert a former National School, which had recently served as a solicitors office, into commercial shops.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The earliest documentary reference to Knaresborough is recorded in the Domesday Book of AD 1086. The place name suggests a defended settlement prior to the Norman Conquest. Anglo-Saxon Burghs usually had a defensible bank or ditch but there are no surviving records for the construction of a bank or ditch around Knaresborough. Knaresborough Castle dates to the early 12th century (CS Archaeology 2008).
- 3.2 During the Medieval period the town's residents shared communal responsibilities and were known burgesses and burgesses and are recorded in the town in 1169. The first record of a market to be held at Knaresborough was in 1206. During the 13th century there was a strong ironstone industry in the town's hinterland and the town also developed in importance as a woollen centre (*ibid*).
- 3.3 The Castle is typical of the medieval period with an impressive tower and walled enclosures or wards with an external moat. Access to the castle was via two gateways which were defended by fortified gatehouses and spanned the moat. Remains of these bridges have been found below present ground level. The castle features two sally ports, which were large access tunnels and were large enough to allow a rider on horse back to pass through. The western side of the Castle features a dry moat up to 30m wide. Excavations during the 1930s, of the southern section, revealed that it was at least 3.5m deep. The northern arm of the moat was landscaped in the 19th century as part of the creation of a pleasure garden and the eastern arm of the moat was filled in after the castle's partial demolition after the civil war. It is considered that significant remains within the moat will survive (*ibid*).
- 3.4 The PDA represents the former National School which has an elaborate scrolled date stone "National School 1814" (Plates 1 and 2). The building is constructed of course sandy limestone under a hipped slate roof with two gabled extensions to the south-east elevation which extended the accommodation. The building still retains its original large window opening though the windows frames are not original and have been replaced with modern timber casements with lower hinged openers.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The objective of this watching brief is to gather sufficient information to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits.

5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 This has been carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (CS Archaeology). All deposits were removed under constant archaeological supervision.
- 5.2 The test pits were excavated by hand after the concrete floor had been broken out using a pneumatic hammer. As the excavated material from the test pit was removed it was screened and metal detected for artefacts. The excavated pits revealed the building's lower walls which extended >2m below the present floor surface.
- 5.3 During and after excavation all exposed surfaces and spoil were surveyed for metal, and examined for artefacts.
- 5.4 A representative test pit (TP1) was drawn (Figure 4). This revealed the nature and extent of the stratigraphy onto which the former school had been constructed. Also it revealed the nature of introduced levelling deposits during the construction period c.1814. Written records of the contexts were made on *pro-forma* recording sheets and have been summarised in Appendix 2. A photographic record was made of all deposits in black and white silver based film using a 35mm single lens reflex camera and this forms part of the site archive. Digital photographs were also taken to illustrate the report and supplement the archive.
- 5.5 Datum levels were provided via spot heights from the OS digital site plans, and were transferred to the floors adjacent to the test pits by a recently calibrated dumpy level.
- 5.6 Because of the nature, presence of dateable artefacts and lack of firm context, environmental sampling has not been carried out. NB A bulk sample of 40L has been taken, but unless requested otherwise, CS Archaeology will discard this deposit after 2 months from the date of this report.
- 5.7 Dr K Emerick of English Heritage and Ms L Hawkins were kept fully informed during the archaeological works.

6. RESULTS

6.1 A total of two test pits were excavated (**Figure 3**). Sufficient information was obtained from these pits to inform the design process. Archaeologically the deposits in each test pit were very similar and were formed in four distinct phases:

- Phase 4, the modern concrete floor [001];
- Phase 3, loose modern levelling deposit [002];
- Phase 2, successive historical levelling deposits [003-009];
- Phase 1 probable truncated moat deposit [010] which contained Late Medieval pottery (15th or early 16th century).

6.2 Test Pit 1 (TP1: **Figure 4: Plates 3-4**). The Phase 4 deposits are represented by a concrete floor [001] that extended to 0.06m below the floor and its base was marked by a damp proof plastic membrane. The concrete floor overlaid 0.4m of loosely consolidated fill [002] into which had been constructed a brick sleeper wall [012] that would have supported a timber floor (no longer extant). The sleeper wall [012], was constructed with wide voids, for air circulation to the timbers, and was bonded with a cement mortar, and was aligned south-west to north-east, along the axis of the building. Its upper surface had had an bitumastic and jute covering applied as a damp proof membrane.

6.3 The Phase 3 deposit [002] surrounded the sleeper wall [012] and was associated with modern 20th century artefacts including frequent fragments of lime based plaster, modern breeze blocks and re-used architectural stone fragments some from late 19th century window sill. The deposit [002] was a levelling deposit introduced to raise the floor and support the modern concrete floor [001], and therefore would appear to date to the late 20th century, probably when the building was converted into a solicitors office and major structural elements such as a vault and sub-dividing walls were inserted into the building.

6.4 The Phase 2 deposits [003-009]; were characterised by successive tip lines (**Figure 4**) representing alternate loads of differing non organic materials, The recurring pottery types throughout these deposits would appear to provide a very similar date for their deposition. These layers included a construction layer, [005] represented by crushed limestone and lime mortar. This construction layer was probably associated with raising of the building's walls [013] and upon completion the levelling was increased to provide a base for sleeper walls [012]. Significant pottery from these contexts as recovered and assessed (Appendix 3) and was from a wide date range (15th to 19th century). The nature and extent of the Phase 2 deposits indicates that they were extramural in origin, historically introduced into the PDA from building and renovation works from within Knaresborough.

6.5 The Phase 1 deposit [010] had been truncated by [009] and had been vertically cut by [011] to form the wall's [013] foundation trench. These features were at some considerable depth below floor level. It forms a relatively deep deposit which was cut for the foundation trench [011] of the school walls [013]. The context [010] has been provisionally interpreted as an earlier deposit relative to

the Phase 2 deposits, and has been confirmed by the presence of late 15th /early 16th century pottery.

- 6.6 Test Pit 4 (TP4) contained very similar stratigraphy to TP1. The depth of the limestone walls (2.3m: 75.75m AOD) were roughly the same with those found in TP1 (2.05m: 76m AOD).

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 This watching brief has revealed the depth of significant archaeological deposits along the building's south-west elevation. The depth of these deposits is *c.* 76m AOD \pm 0.5m. The presence of the moat could not be confirmed but the Phase 1 deposit [010] can, with caution, be dated to the late 15th to early 16th century. The approximate depth of the northern moat was thought to be 3.5m (Section 3.3. above: approximately 74.5m AOD), and therefore the deposit [010] at the bottom of test pits 1 and 4, probably represents the middle to upper fill.
- 7.2 The limited number and spacing of the test pits failed to reveal any significant morphological features, such as break of slope or tip lines, associated with a moat.

8. REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliography

Cumberpatch, C.G. 2003 *The transformation of tradition; the origins of the post-medieval ceramic tradition in Yorkshire*. Assemblage
<http://www.shef.ac.uk/assem/issue7/cumberpatch.html>

CS Archaeology, 2008, *Units 1 and 2 Castle Precinct, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, unpublished report.

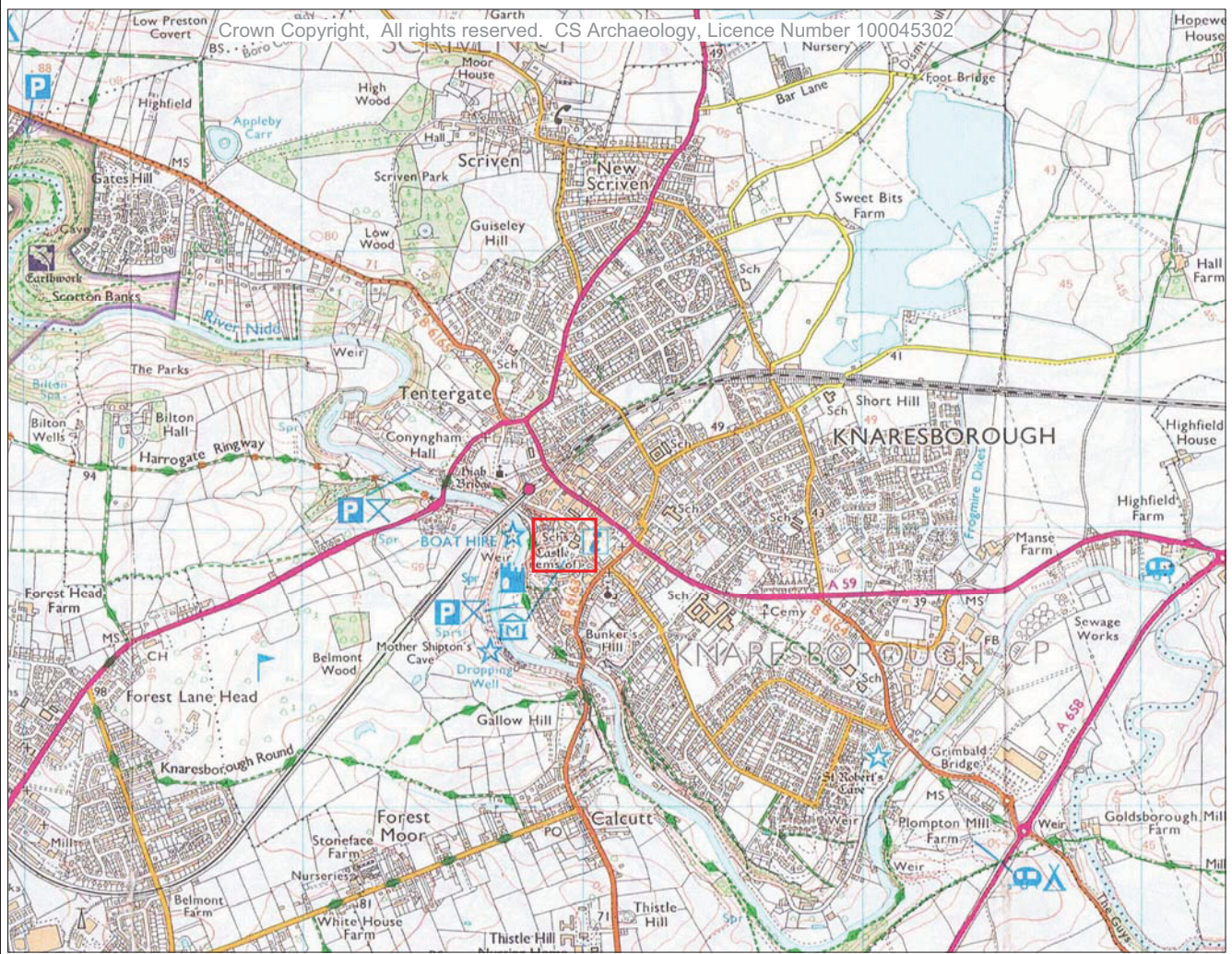
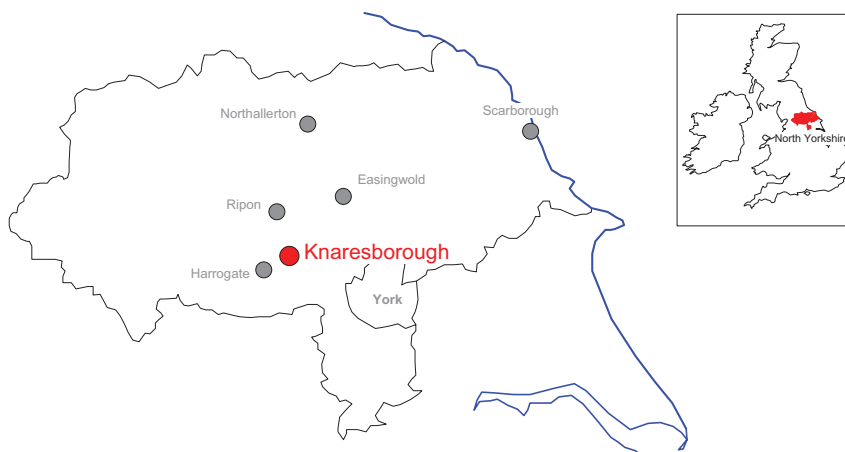
8.2 Cartographic References

1854 1st Edition 6" Ordnance Survey map

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Selby Road Halton and CNP Ltd for commissioning this report, and to CNP Ltd for facilitating site access. Further thanks to Dr C G Cumberpatch for carrying out the pottery assessment.

FIGURES



scale: 1:25000



for inset see Figure 2

Units 1 and 2, Castle Precinct,
Knaresborough: An Archaeological
Watching Brief

Figure 1: Location Map

CS Archaeology
October 2008

31m

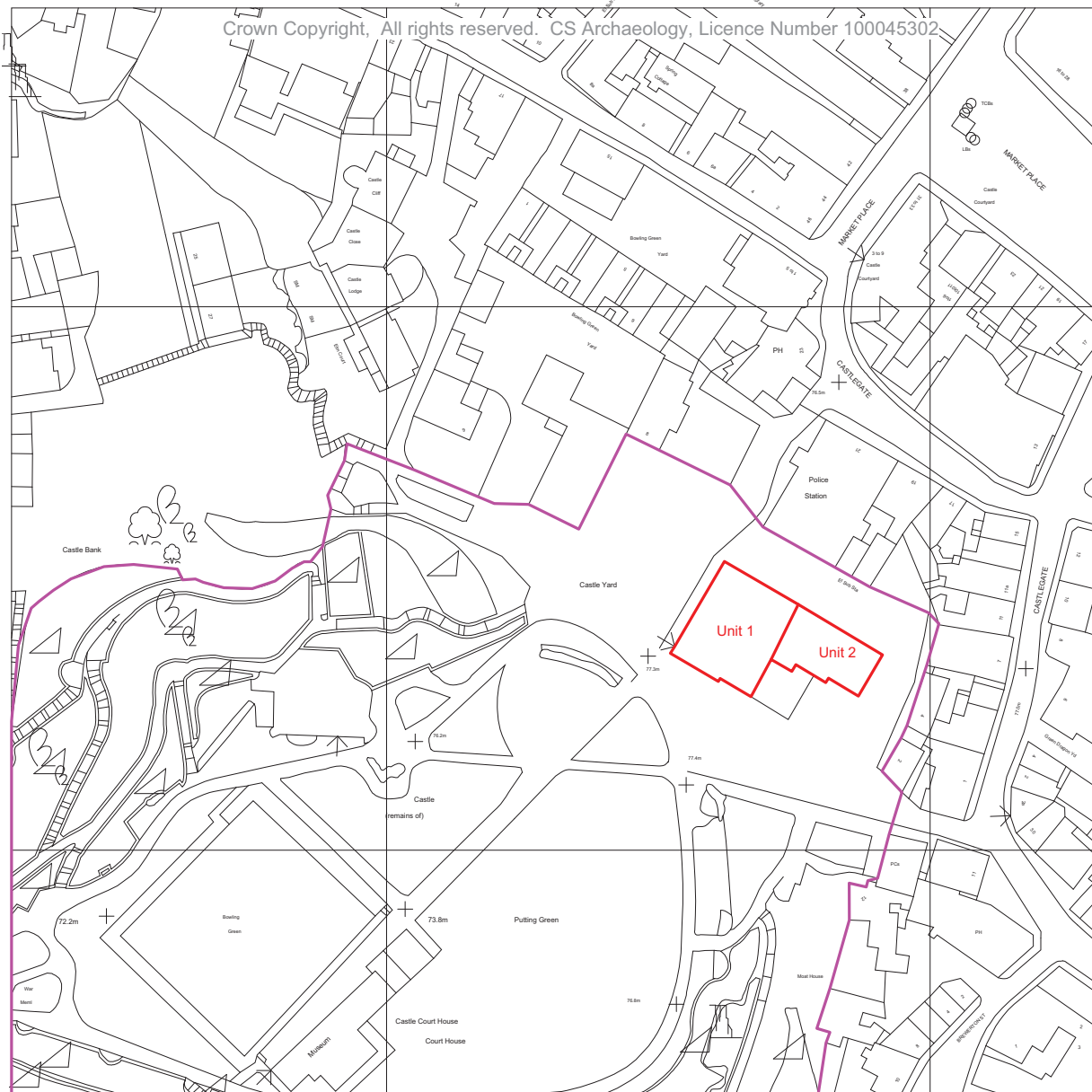
349

350

31m

4 570

Crown Copyright, All rights reserved. CS Archaeology, Licence Number 100045302



570

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scale 1:1250

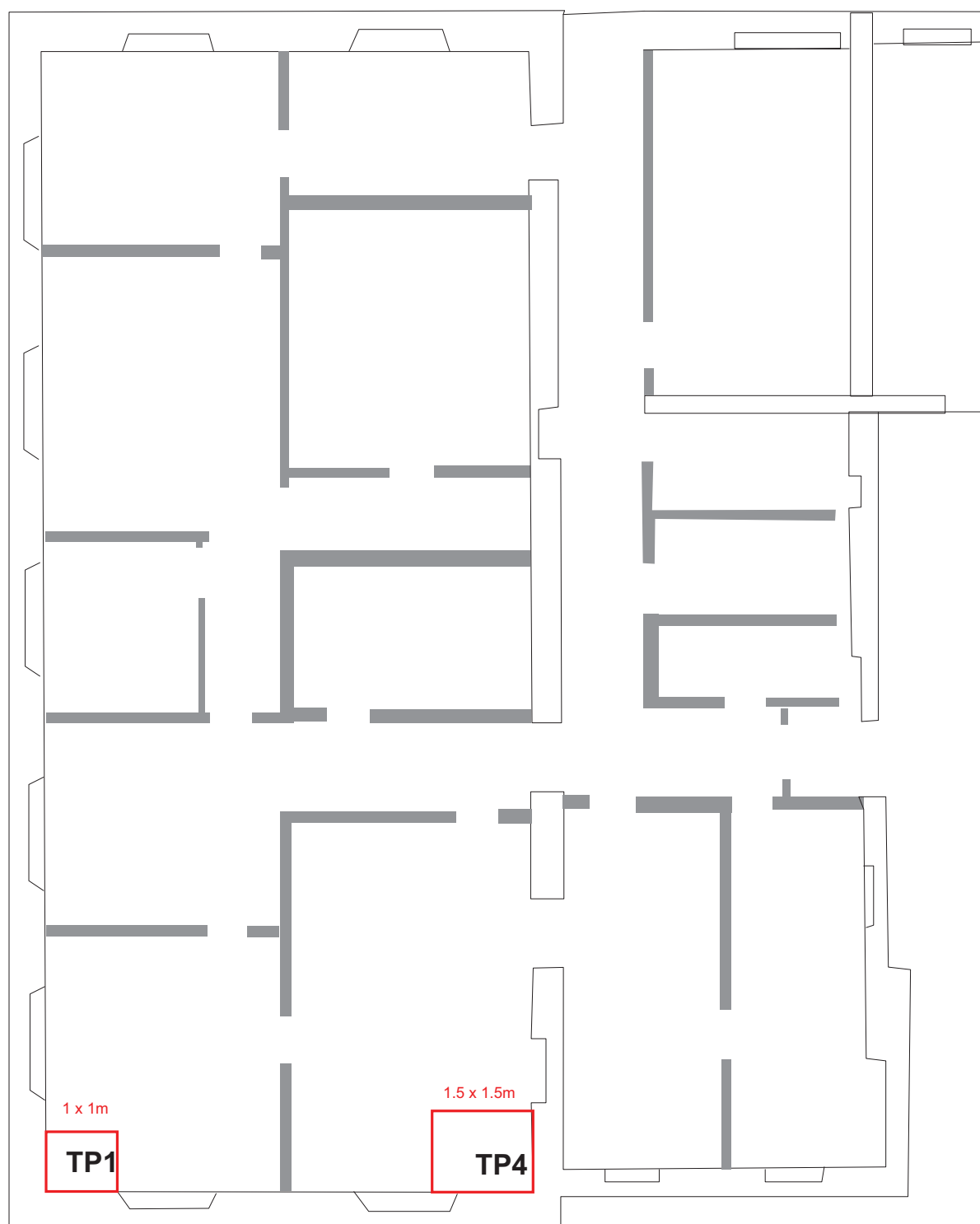
Scheduled Monument Boundary

Proposed Development Area (PDA)

Units 1 and 2, Castle Precinct,
Knaresborough: An Archaeological
Watching Brief

Figure 2: Location Map
of the PDA

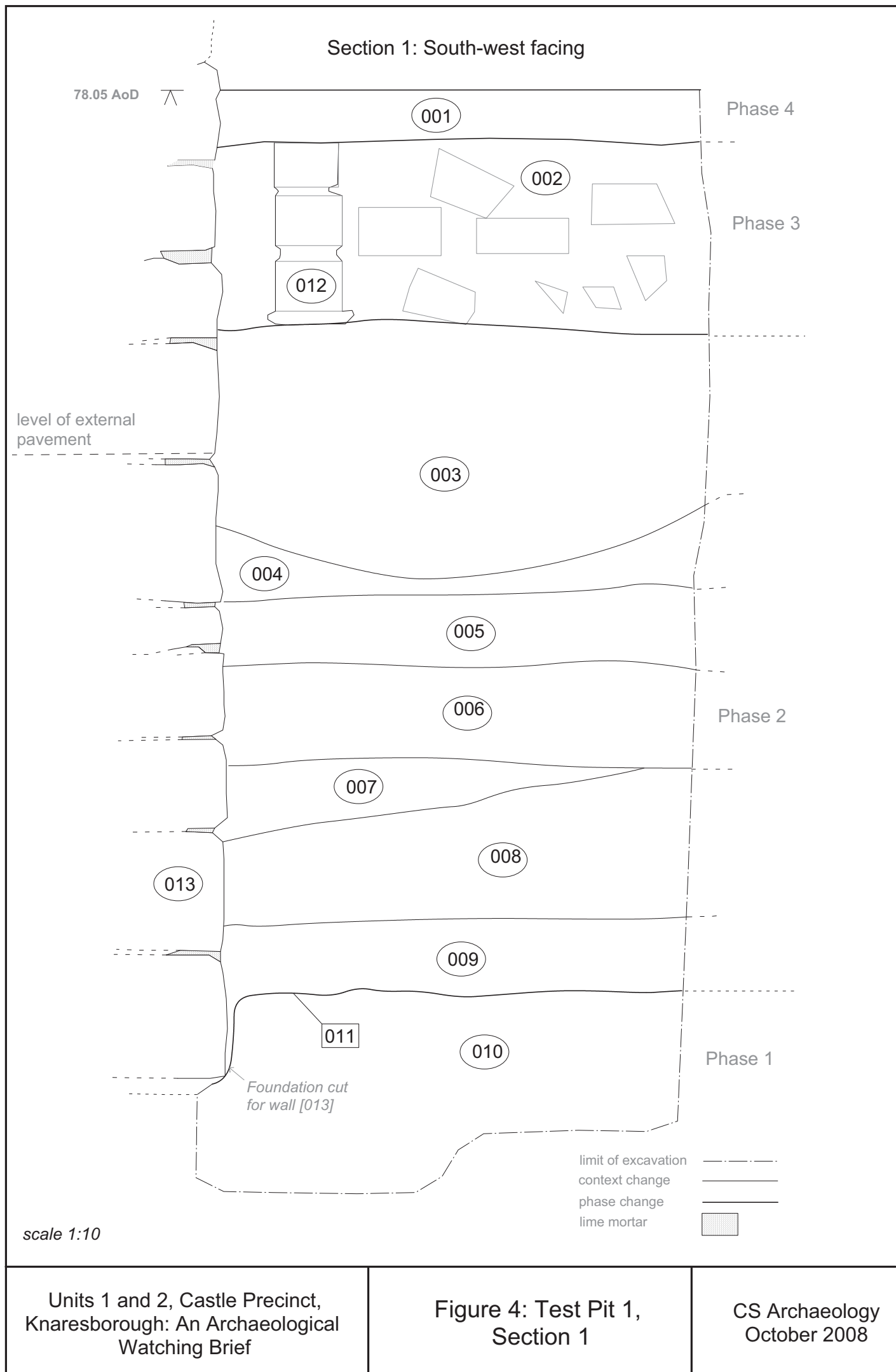
CS Archaeology
October 2008



South-west wall



not to scale



PLATES

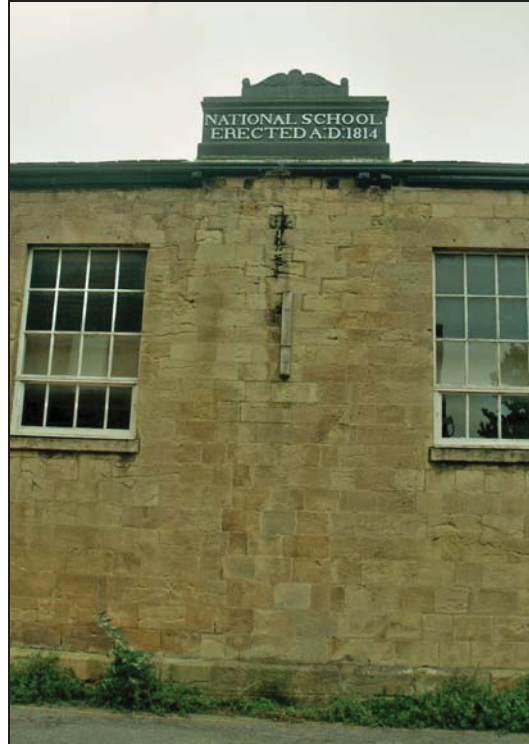


Plate 1 (1/13): view of the former front of the building (north-east elevation) with blocked doorway below the prominent date stone, from the north-east



Plate 2 (1/15): view of the building's exterior with subsidence cracks to the corner, from the west south-west



Plate 3: Test pit 1 view of the upper contexts with the sleeper wall [012] after the concrete floor [001] was removed, from the east south-east



Plate 4 (1/36): Test pit 1 (TP1), excavated view 2.3 m below floor level, from the east south-east



Plate 5 (1/21): TP4, view of the upper contexts with the sleeper wall [012] after the concrete floor [001] was removed, from the east south-east



Plate 6 (1/17): TP4, oblique view of the south-west facing section, from the west

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation

**UNITS 1 AND 2 CASTLE PRECINCT,
KNARESBOROUGH, NORTH YORKSHIRE:
A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

CS Archaeology

September 2008

0 SUMMARY

- 0.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is in response to a condition placed on Scheduled Monument Consent by English Heritage (2/7/2008: Monument No. 34841) which permits development to proceed subject to an approved written scheme of investigation, which has to be agreed in advance before any works can take place.
- 0.2 This condition has been imposed because the Proposed Development Area (PDA) is situated within a Scheduled Monument could impact on archaeological deposits of national significance.
- 0.3 This WSI proposes that an archaeological watching brief is implemented to ascertain the nature of the archaeological resource which may be encountered during the site works.
- 0.4 The results from these archaeological works will provide a more detailed assessment of the PDAs archaeological resource.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Details

1.1.1 *Site Name:* Units 1 and 2

1.1.2 *Location:* Castle Precinct, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire.

1.1.3 *Status:* Scheduled Monument (No. 34841)

1.1.4 *Grid reference:* SE 3494 5696

1.1.5 *Area of site (hectares):* c.0.00055

1.1.6 *Purpose of the work:* to record the archaeological resource. This record will establish the presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the PDA in the areas outlined in **Figures 1** and **2**, and if suitable, samples will be collected for palaeoenvironmental research.

1.2 Archaeological Background

- 1.2.1 The earliest documentary reference to Knaresborough is recorded in the Domesday Book of AD 1086. The place name, suggests a defended settlement prior to the Norman Conquest. Anglo-Saxon Burghs usually had a defensible bank or ditch but there are no surviving records for the construction of a bank or ditch around Knaresborough. Knaresborough Castle dates to the early 12th century.
- 1.2.2 During the Medieval period the town's residents shared communal responsibilities and were known burgesses and burgesses were recorded in the town in 1169. The first record of a market to be held at Knaresborough was in 1206. During the 13th century the ironstone industry developed in the town's hinterland and the town developed in importance as a woollen centre (NYCCHS 2005, 2).
- 1.2.3 The Castle is typical of the medieval period with an impressive tower with walled enclosures or wards with an external moat. Access to the Castle was via two gateways which were defended by fortified gatehouses and spanned the moat. Remains of these bridges have been found below present ground level. The castle features two sally ports, which were large access tunnels and were large enough to allow a rider on horse back to pass through. The western side of the Castle features dry moat, this was up to 30m wide and excavations during the 1930s, of the southern section, revealed that it was at least 3.5m deep. The northern arm of the moat was landscaped in the 19th century as part of the creation of a pleasure garden and the eastern arm of the moat was filled in after the demolition of the castle after the civil war. It is considered that significant remains within the moat will survive (English Heritage 2002)
- 1.2.4 The PDA represents the a former School and is depicted on the second edition 6" Ordnance Survey Map of 1892. The stone building is characterised by a hipped slate roof and gabled extension which feature large multi-light windows.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 This WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements to both mitigate and enable an assessment of the impact of development proposal on the archaeological resource of the PDA. This is in accordance with local plan policies and the national Planning Policy Guidance, Note 16 on Archaeology and the Planning, 1990. The PDA lies within Knaresborough Castles's Scheduled Monument Area (Number 34814) and this WSI has been written in response to a condition placed Scheduled Monument Consent by English Heritage.
- 1.3.2 This archaeological condition on consent is to prepare this WSI which covers the removing and study of any matters of archaeological/historic importance observed during the watching brief. The watching brief will apply to all below ground works, namely the excavation of test pits and installation of underpinning to stabilise subsidence problems.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of this programme of archaeological work is to gather sufficient information to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Watching Brief

- 3.1.1 It is proposed to carry out a watching brief of the site strip and foundation excavation operations.
- 3.1.2 This project will be undertaken in a manner consistent with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and professional standards and guidance (IFA, 2001).
- 3.1.3 CS Archaeology will ensure that services are located prior to excavation by means of site plans.
- 3.1.4 The overburden such as turf, topsoil, made ground, rubble or other superficial fill materials will be removed by hand and or mini digger using a toothless/ditching bucket. Mechanical excavation will be used extremely judiciously, under constant archaeological supervision down to the required depth.
- 3.1.5 The removed material will be scanned using a metal detector under archaeological supervision ensuring that all metal finds are located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection should be carried out following the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice.
- 3.1.6 Should any human remains be revealed these will be initially left *in situ*. The coroner's office will be informed only if the remains appear to have been buried for less than 50 years. If the remains prove to be archaeological and have to be removed, a licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice and relevant regulations.
- 3.1.7 It is not anticipated that the natural geology will be truncated however should this arise the Watching Brief will ensure that any archaeological deposits will be fully recorded. All deposits will be fully recorded on standard context sheets, photographs and conventionally-scaled plans and sections. All features will be planned at 1:20, with individual features being planned at 1:10 where additional detail is required. All feature sections sampled will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. The elevation of the underlying natural where encountered will also be recorded. Even if no archaeology is recorded the stratigraphy will be recorded. The limits of excavation will be shown in all plans and sections, including where these limits are coterminous with context boundaries.
- 3.1.8 The watching brief will favour preservation in situ, unless features will be directly affected by on-site works. If features are to be affected all anthropomorphic features will be investigated –

discrete features will initially be half-sectioned; linear features will be excavated to 20% of their extent, not less than 1m in extent. Archaeological contexts at junctions or interruptions in linear features will be sufficiently excavated for the relationship between components to be established.

- 3.1.9 All finds that are 'treasure' will be reported to the coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act Code of Practice (1997).
- 3.1.10 Attention will be paid to artefact retrieval and conservation, ancient technology, dating of deposits and the assessment of potential for the scientific analysis of soil, sediments, biological remains, ceramics and stone.
- 3.1.11 All artefacts and ecofacts visible during the excavations will be collected and processed, unless variations to this are agreed by the archaeological monitor (EH/NYCC). In some cases sampling may be most appropriate.
- 3.1.12 Finds will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in First Aid for finds (Watkins and Neal, 1998). In accordance with the procedures of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991), all iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins) and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy should be X-radiographed before assessment. Where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues should be collated by hand, with separate samples collected for micro-slugs. In these instances, the guidance of Bayley *et al* (2001) will be followed.

3.2 Sampling Strategy

- 3.2.1 If the archaeological deposits are of sufficient interest Environmental sampling may be recommended. Different sampling strategies will be employed according to established research targets and the perceived importance of the deposits under investigation. CS Archaeology conventionally recovers three main categories of sample:
 - i) Routine Soil Samples; a representative 500g sample from every excavated soil context on site. This sample is used in the characterisation of the sediment, potentially through pollen analysis, particle size analysis, pH analysis, phosphate analysis and loss-on-ignition;
 - ii) Standard Bulk Samples; a representative 30-40 litre sample from every excavated soil context on site, in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (2002). This sample is used, through floatation sieving, to recover a sub-sample of charred macroplant material, faunal remains and artefacts;
 - iii) Purposive or Special Samples; a sample from a sediment which is determined, in field, to either have the potential for dating (wood charcoal for radiocarbon dating or in situ hearths for magnetic susceptibility dating) or for the recovery of enhanced palaeo-environmental information (waterlogged sediments, peat columns, etc).
- 3.2.2 Samples will be taken for scientific dating, principally radiocarbon (C14) and archaeomagnetic dating, where dating of artefacts is insecure and where dating is a significant issue for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies.

- 3.2.3 Environmental samples will be collected from primary and secondary contexts, where applicable, from a range of representative features, including pit and ditch fills, postholes, floor deposits, ring gullies and other negative features. Positive features should also be sampled. Sampling will also be considered for those features where dating by other methods (e.g. pottery and artefacts) is uncertain. Animal bones will be hand collected, and from bulk samples collected from contexts containing a high density of bones.
- 3.2.4 Standard Bulk Samples of 40-60 litres or more will be recovered from every archaeologically significant soil context as part of a comprehensive environmental sampling strategy.
- 3.2.5 Within each significant archaeological horizon a minimum number of features required to meet the aims of the project will be hand excavated. Pits and postholes normally will be sampled by half-sectioning although some features may require complete excavation. Linear features will be sectioned as appropriate. No deposits will be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable. As the objective is to define remains it will not necessarily be the intention to fully excavate all trenches to natural stratigraphy. However, the full depth of archaeological deposits across the entire site will be assessed. Even in the case where no remains have been located the stratigraphy will be recorded.
- 3.2.6 Any excavation, whether by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be demonstrably worthy of preservation in situ.

3.3 Photography

- 3.3.1 A general and detailed photographic record of the excavations and site reduction will be made.
- 3.3.2 General and detailed photographs will be taken with a 35mm camera. All photographs will be in black and white using an appropriate silver based film (Ilford 400 Delta), this will form the primary photographic record.
- 3.3.3 This record will be supplemented by 35mm colour slides, especially where colour is an aspect that needs to be recorded, e.g. built structures and bedrock and characteristic stratigraphy.. All photographs will contain an appropriate graduated photographic scale. Digital photographs will also be taken to illustrate the report and to supplement the archive, copies will be included in the digital archive which will be supplied both to English Heritage and North Yorkshire County Council.

3.4 Site Monitoring

- 3.4.1 English Heritage (EH) and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) will be notified at least two weeks in advance of the site works and the start of the archaeological watching brief, so that arrangements for monitoring the work can be made.
- 3.4.2 Monitoring will be arranged so that all excavated areas can be inspected in an exposed condition.

3.5 Health and Safety

- 3.5.1 CS Archaeology will operate with due regard to health and safety and a copy of the risk assessment will be sent for approval to the archaeological monitors (EH and NYCC).

3.6 Post –Recording Work and Report Preparation

- 3.6.1 Once the field recording work has been completed, a full report of the results of the watching Brief will be completed. The post-excavation assessment of material will be undertaken in accordance with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991). The report will include: background information, methods, detailed results, grid references, conclusion and discussion.
- 3.6.2 The watching brief report will include a phased interpretation of the site, if possible.
- 3.6.3 The watching brief report will also consist of a detailed context index to the archive.
- 3.6.4 The results of the palaeo-environmental assessment by an appropriate specialist will outline the potential of the samples taken and will be included in the watching brief report.
- 3.6.5 The report will provide an interpretation of the results, placing them in local and regional context.
- 3.6.6 A copy of this WSI will be included as an appendix to the final report.

3.7 Report Submission

- 3.7.1 Copies of the completed report will be submitted in both hard and digital formats to:
- The Client and Client's consultant CNP Leeds;
 - Ms G Falkingham, County Archaeologist Heritage Unit NYCC;
 - Dr K Emerick, IAM, English Heritage;
 - National Monuments Record, Swindon.

3.8 Submission and Deposition of the Archive

- 3.8.1 The archive, including a copy of the report, will be compiled, indexed and then offered for deposition with the appropriate repository (Yorkshire Museum).

3.9 Publicity

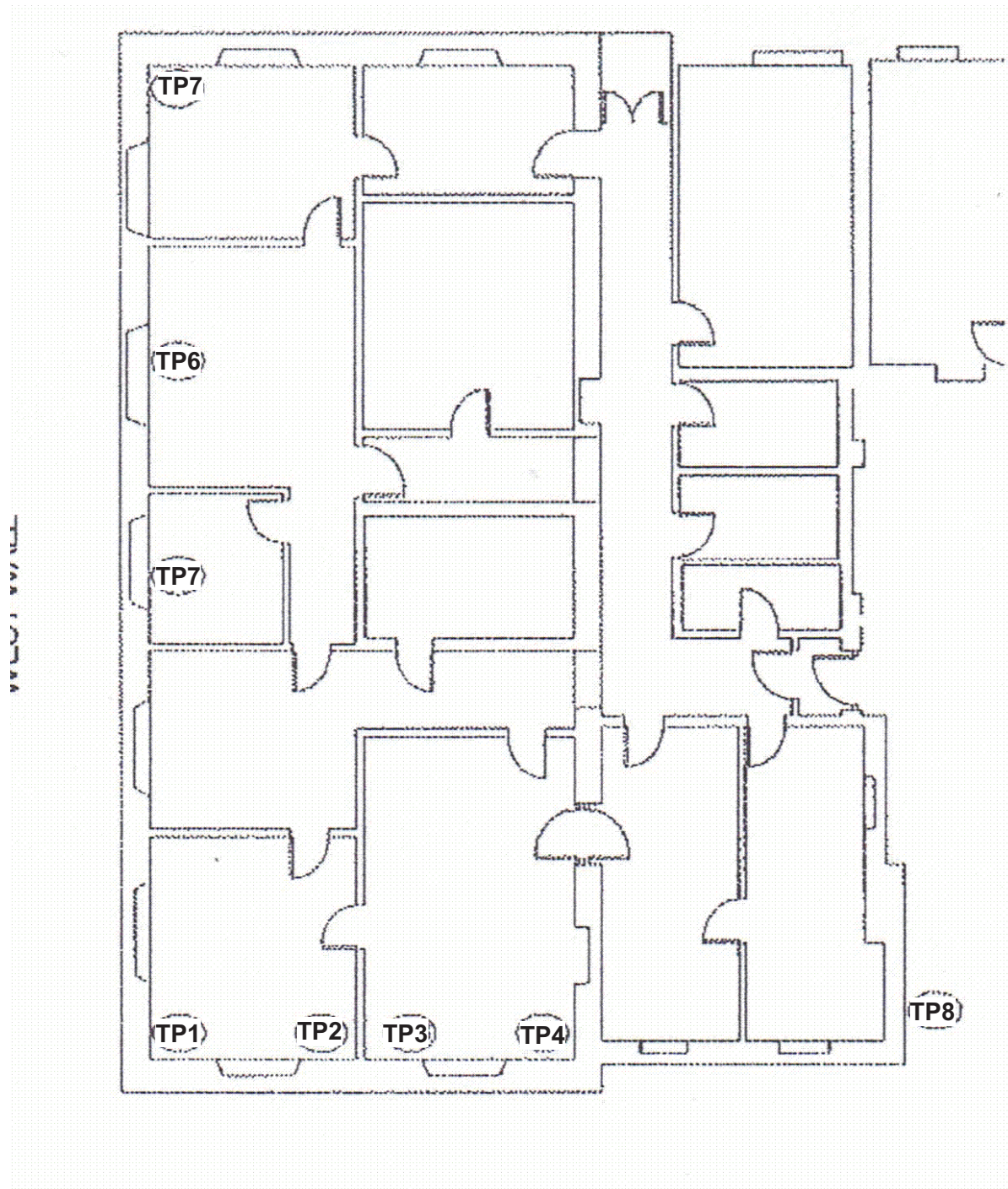
- 3.9.1 Provision will be made for publicising the results of the work locally, and an OASIS form will be completed for the project.

3.10 References

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not to scale

A WSI for Units 1 and 2
Castle Precinct, Knaresborough,
North Yorkshire

Figure 2: The PDA with
Test Pits 1-8

CS Archaeology
September 2008

Appendix 2: Archive Inventory

PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER A *35mm Black and White Film (Ilford Delta Professional)*

Film/ Frame No.	Plate	Location	Description	From
1/36-33		TP1	General view to the bottom of wall [013]	SE
1/32		TP1	Oblique view of the test pit	S
1/31-30		TP1	Detail of the phase 2 deposits	SW
1/29		TP1	Detail of the phases 3-4 deposits	SW
1/28		TP1	Detail of the phase 2 deposits	SW
1/27		TP1	Detail of the phase 1 deposits	SW
1/26		TP1	Detail of the upper exposed wall [013]	SE
1/25-23		TP1	Detail of lower exposed wall [013]	SE
1/22-21		TP4	General view of the exposed south-west wall	NE
1/20		TP4	Oblique view	E
1/19-17	6	TP4	Oblique view of the south-west facing section	W
1/16		TP4	General post excavation view	NW
1/15-10		External	General external elevations	-
1/9-5		External	Views of the Castle	-
1/4		External	View of the PDA from the Castle	SW
1/3-2		External	General view across Castle Yard	S

PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER B *Digital colour 5 MB resolution*

Film No.	Plate	Location	Description	From
1			Pre-excavation view after removal of [001]	vertical
2	3		Working shot with the sleeper wall [012]	NE
3	4	TP1	General view to the bottom of wall [013]	SE
4		TP1	Oblique view of the test pit	S
5	5	TP4	General view of the exposed south-west wall	NE
6		TP4	Oblique view	E
7		TP4	General post excavation view	NW
8	1 & 2	External	General external elevations	-

CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Location	Description
001	TP1	<i>Deposit:</i> modern concrete floor with three graded mixes on top of a damp proof membrane. Overlies [002].
002	TP1	<i>Deposit:</i> mixed brown clayey sandy with gravel and general building debris including large fragments of lime mortar with lime wash and paint still adhering. Overlies [003], underlies [001] up to 0.4m deep. Significant artefacts included a large school compass and a foreign (German) coin.
003	TP1	<i>Deposit:</i> brown gravely silt with occasional rounded (river worn) stone some with lime mortar still adhering. Overlies [004], underlies [002] up to 0.53m deep.
004	TP1	<i>Deposit:</i> dark brown silty loam with distinct tip lines. Overlies [005], underlies [003] up to 0.15m deep.
005	TP1	<i>Deposit:</i> crushed limestone/lime mortar. Overlies [006], underlies [004] up to 0.15m deep. Artefacts included residual Medieval and Post Medieval pottery, butchered animal bone (cattle and pig) and oyster shells and a stamped “ <i>Fleetwood</i> ” clay pipe stem.
006	TP1	<i>Deposit:</i> mid brown sandy clay. Overlies [007], underlies [005] up to 0.2m deep.
007	TP1	<i>Deposit:</i> orange clayey sand with frequent angular limestone. Overlies [008], underlies [006] up to 0.17m deep.
008	TP1	<i>Deposit:</i> dark brown sandy silt, with frequent brick fragments. Overlies [009], underlies [007] up to 0.3m deep.
009	TP1	<i>Deposit:</i> orange clayey sand with frequent angular limestone. Overlies [010], underlies [008] up to 0.3m deep.
010	TP1	<i>Deposit:</i> Light brown sandy clay wet to the touch. Below [011] above – unknown deposits. Artefacts consisted of a single sherd of C15th pottery
011	TP1	<i>Cut:</i> foundation cut through [010]
012	TP1	<i>Structure:</i> modern poorly built sleeper wall with shallow cement foundation. Modern bricks bonded with cement mortar. Overlies [003] underlies [002 and 001].
013	TP1	<i>Structure:</i> coursed limestone walls that extend 2.3m below floor level. . Overlies [011] underlies [009].(For detailed recording see Figure 4)
014	TP4	<i>Deposit:</i> modern concrete floor with three graded mixes on top of a damp proof membrane. Same as [001], overlies [015].
015	TP4	<i>Deposit:</i> mixed brown clayey sandy with gravel and general building debris including large fragments of lime mortar with lime wash and paint still adhering. Overlies [016], underlies [014] up to 0.4m deep.
016	TP4	<i>Deposit:</i> mixed series of deposits similar to TP1[003-009].
017	TP4	<i>Deposit:</i> Light brown sandy clay, below [016] similar to TP1[010]

DRAWING REGISTER

Dwg. No.	Figure	Description	Scale Drawn	Reproduced in report at
Section 1	4	South-west facing section of TP1	1:10	1:10
Section 2	-	South-west facing section of TP4	1:20	-

A representative selection of pottery from TP1 was examined in the following assessment report. This material forms the basis of the site archive.

Pottery from Knaresborough Castle precinct: an assessment

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Introduction

The pottery assemblage from excavations in Knaresborough Castle precinct was examined by the author on 17th October with a view to producing an assessment of the material including and indication of the date range. The details are set out in the catalogue below.

Catalogue

TP 1 Context 010

- One sherd, including the bung-hole, from a cistern in a very hard, reduced fabric containing moderate to abundant fine quartz grit and small voids. The external surface is coated with thin, hard, dark green glaze and the bung-hole is built up at one side to ensure a close fit with the spigot. Cisterns of this type appear during the 14th century and have been linked with the popularity of hopped beer rather than ale. This example appears to be somewhat later in date and should probably be attributed to the 15th or early 16th century. The style and pattern of glazing is recognisably medieval but while the fabric is harder and denser than medieval fabrics, it does not have the semi-vitrified appearance of a Midlands Purple type ware.

TP 1 006 – 009 Sample

- Blackware; one small body sherd (3 grams) of 17th century Blackware, glazed internally and externally with the distinctive hard, fine dark red fabric typical of Blackwares (cf. Cumberpatch 2002: 186-7).
- Late Blackware: One body sherd (9 grams) of 18th century Late Blackware, glazed internally and externally on a hard, dense, orange to red fabric containing sparse to moderate rounded white grit and occasional fine black grit.
- Late Medieval Green Glazed Sandy ware: One clubbed jar rim in a fine, even, pale grey reduced fabric containing occasional rounded quartz grains. The type is amongst the latest examples of the green glazed sandy ware tradition which dates back to the earlier medieval period (11th century) and which was replaced by darker glazed vessels in the late medieval and post-medieval periods (Cumberpatch 2003). The thin bright green glaze covers the internal and external surfaces and is typical of this type of pottery. A date range within the 15th century is probable but it might be as late as the early 16th century.
- Late Medieval Green Glazed Sandy ware: One clubbed jar rim in a fine orange oxidised fabric containing moderate to abundant rounded quartz grit. The sherd is glazed internally only with only small spots of glaze externally. The sherd should most probably be dated to the 15th century.

- Unglazed Red Earthenware: One sherd from the base of a large jar or similar vessel (69 grams) in a bright orange oxidised fabric containing moderate to abundant from rounded white grit and occasional quartz grains. The sherd is unglazed and lacks diagnostic traits. A broad late post-medieval to early modern date is suggested for the sherd.
- Coarse Mottled ware: A slightly everted, clubbed jar rim in a fine, even oxidised fabric (29 grams) with occasional voids and no visible inclusions. The sherd has a dark brown, slightly mottled glaze internally and externally. A date range within the 18th or very early 19th century appears to be appropriate for this sherd.
- Brown Glazed Fineware: The rim of a bowl or small pancheon (23 grams) with black glaze internally but unglazed externally. The fabric is orange in colour with lighter streaks and occasional fine black grit. A date range within the later 18th and 19th century would be appropriate for this sherd.
- Brown Glazed Coarseware type: The base and lower walls of a jar or pancheon weighing 59 grams. The sherd has an unusual very hard, dense streaky grey fabric containing fine quartz grit and occasional rounded red grit up to 1 mm in size. The exterior is unglazed but the interior has a dark brown shiny glaze. No specific parallels are known for the fabric but on general principles a later 17th to early 19th century date would seem appropriate.

Discussion: The pottery assemblage is a mixed one and includes material of late medieval, post-medieval, early modern and later date. A larger group from the contexts represented would probably be of some considerable interest as the chronology and typology of 15th and 16th century wares is relatively poorly known and the details of the end of the medieval pottery tradition and its relationship to the emerging post-medieval tradition, while known in outline, remain poorly understood, as discussed further elsewhere (Cumberpatch 2003).