

MAP
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE Ltd.

Norton Manor
22 Commercial Street
Norton
Malton
North Yorkshire

SE 7940 7135
MAP 10.92.2012
12/00369/LBC
Archaeological Watching Brief

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Report Prepared By Mark Stephens	Report Authorised By 
Date: 08/08/2012	Date: 08/08/2012

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Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice on July 18th and 27th, 2012 during the excavation of the foundations for a new single-storey extension at Norton Manor, 22 Commercial Street, Norton, Malton, North Yorkshire.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were located during the Watching Brief.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was carried out on July 18th and 27th, 2012 during the excavation of the foundations for a new single-storey extension at Norton Manor, 22 Commercial Street, Norton, Malton, North Yorkshire (SE 7940 7135, Figs. 1 and 2).
- 1.2 The ground-works had the potential to affect archaeological remains, and so the advice of the Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council was that an Archaeological Watching Brief should be carried out at the site

(Planning ref. 12/00369/LBC). MAP Archaeological Practice was engaged to undertake the Archaeological work.

- 1.3 All works were funded by Mr and Mrs Wardale.
- 1.4 All maps within this report are reproduced under licence from the Ordnance Survey with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright licence no. AL 50453A.

2. Topography and Geology

- 2.1 The site lies on the southern side of Commercial Street, Norton's main street (Figs. 1 and 2; PI 1). The area of the new extension had formerly been occupied by a recently demolished lean-to that had superficial foundations.
- 2.2 The underlying geology of the site consists of glacio-fluvial sand and gravel (Mackney *et al* 1983).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 Norton Manor is situated within the core of the area formerly occupied by the Roman settlement at Norton. The course of the Roman road from Norton to Settrington runs on a south-eastward alignment c. 50m south of the site (Robinson no. 275). Roman settlement and industrial activity has been recorded under much of the centre of modern Norton. Recorded activity within the block bounded by Commercial Street and Wood Street (in which Norton Manor lies) consisted of deeply stratified 2/3rd century deposits at the Wood Street Garage (MAP 2008). Pottery manufacture has been recorded at Norton Primary School (MAP 2012), the Primitive Methodist chapel on Commercial Street (Robinson no. 245) and further to

the south in the Howe Road Area (Robinson 1978, nos. 330-353) as well as other locations in Norton.

3.2 The medieval village of Norton was focused on the church and probable moated site on Church Street, with buildings extending eastwards along Commercial Street as far as the line of what is now Plum Street and the eastern end of Wood Street. Wood Street has its origins as a Back Lane that gave access to the properties fronting Commercial Street. The site is therefore securely within the limits of the medieval settlement. The presence of a probable moat at the western end of Church Street (Robinson, no. 384) suggests that that was the location of a manorial site in the medieval period. Robinson places the post-medieval manor house of Norton at the eastern end of Commercial Street (*ibid.*)

3.3 Norton Manor is a stone-built dwelling, listed Grade II as 'The Elms'. It is described by English Heritage as being of the early 18th century, probably with earlier origins, and with late 19th century alteration and extension (www.english-heritage.org.uk - listing entry no. 1149540). The listing entry states that this building was Norton's manor house until the late 19th century.

4. Methodology

4.1 The groundworks were carried out by a 1.5 tonne 360° excavator. The area of the extension was c. 12m x 3m in size, including a ramp at the eastern end. The initial groundworks consisted of a general mechanical strip of the area down to a depth of 0.65m from the existing ground surface. After the site strip, 0.80m wide foundation trenches were excavated along the western, southern and eastern sides for an additional depth of 0.35m.

- 4.2 The groundworks were observed at all times by an archaeologist, and the exposed surfaces and trench sides were inspected for archaeological features, deposits and finds. A series of digital images were taken for record purposes.

5. Results

- 5.1 Natural deposits consisted of yellowish sand and gravel, and were encountered at a depth of 0.80m from the existing ground surface.
- 5.2 A c. 0.80m deep deposit of mixed soil, ash and limestone rubble overlay the natural (Pls. 2-4). Several modern intrusions were present, including a large pit containing brick and tile rubble that ran along the length of the eastern foundation. Modern drain- and water-pipes were revealed in the western part of the stripped area.
- 5.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

6. Discussion

- 6.1 It appears that the area of the Watching Brief had been truncated, probably during the construction of the present dwelling or the formation of the adjoining former farm-yard. That process may have removed any archaeological deposits that may once have existed at the site.

7. Bibliography

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- Mackney, D. *et al.* 1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 1: Northern England.
- MAP 2008a 27 Wood Street, Norton, North Yorkshire.
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- Robinson, J.F. 1978 The Archaeology of Malton and Norton.

8. Project Staffing Details

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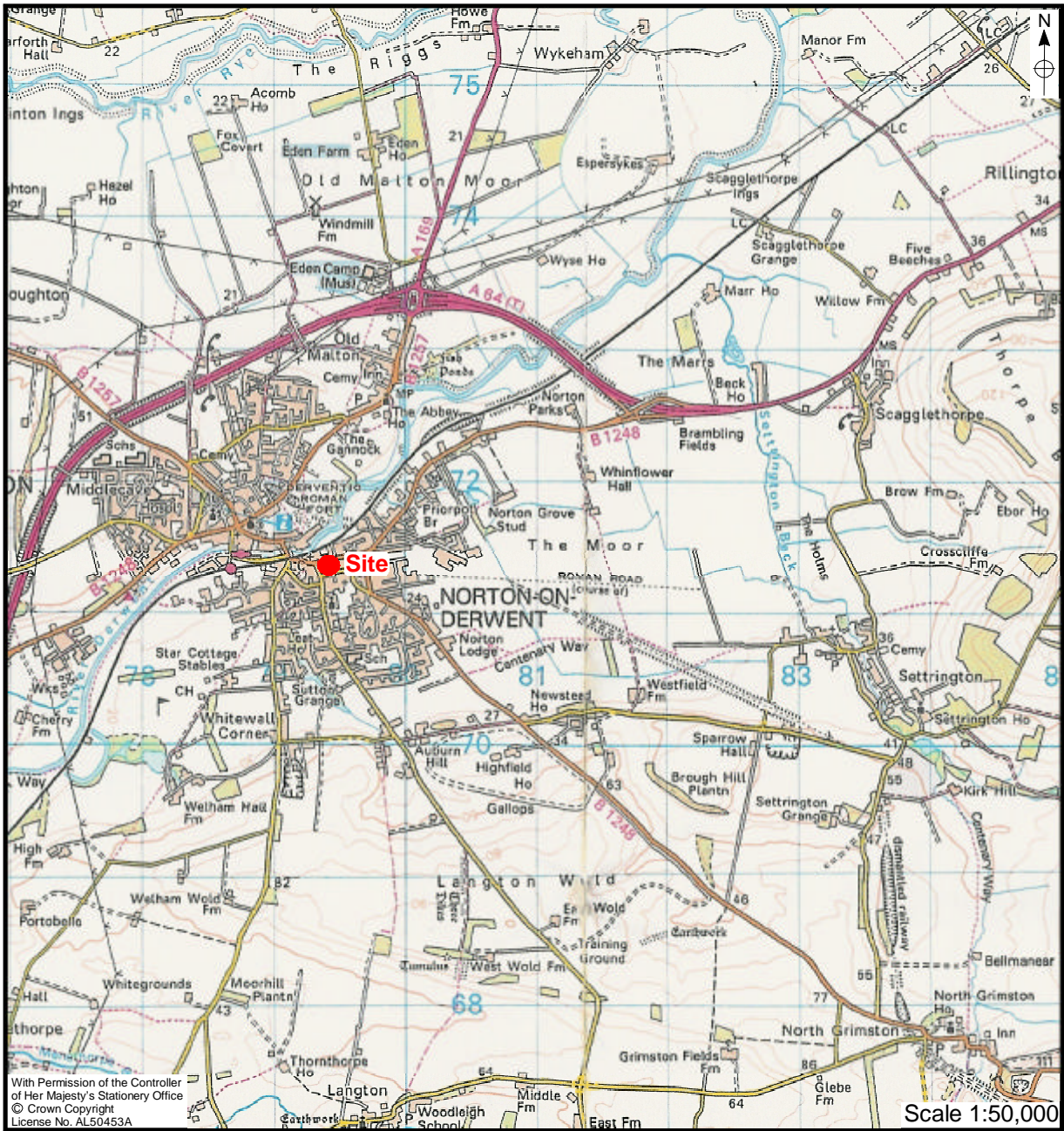
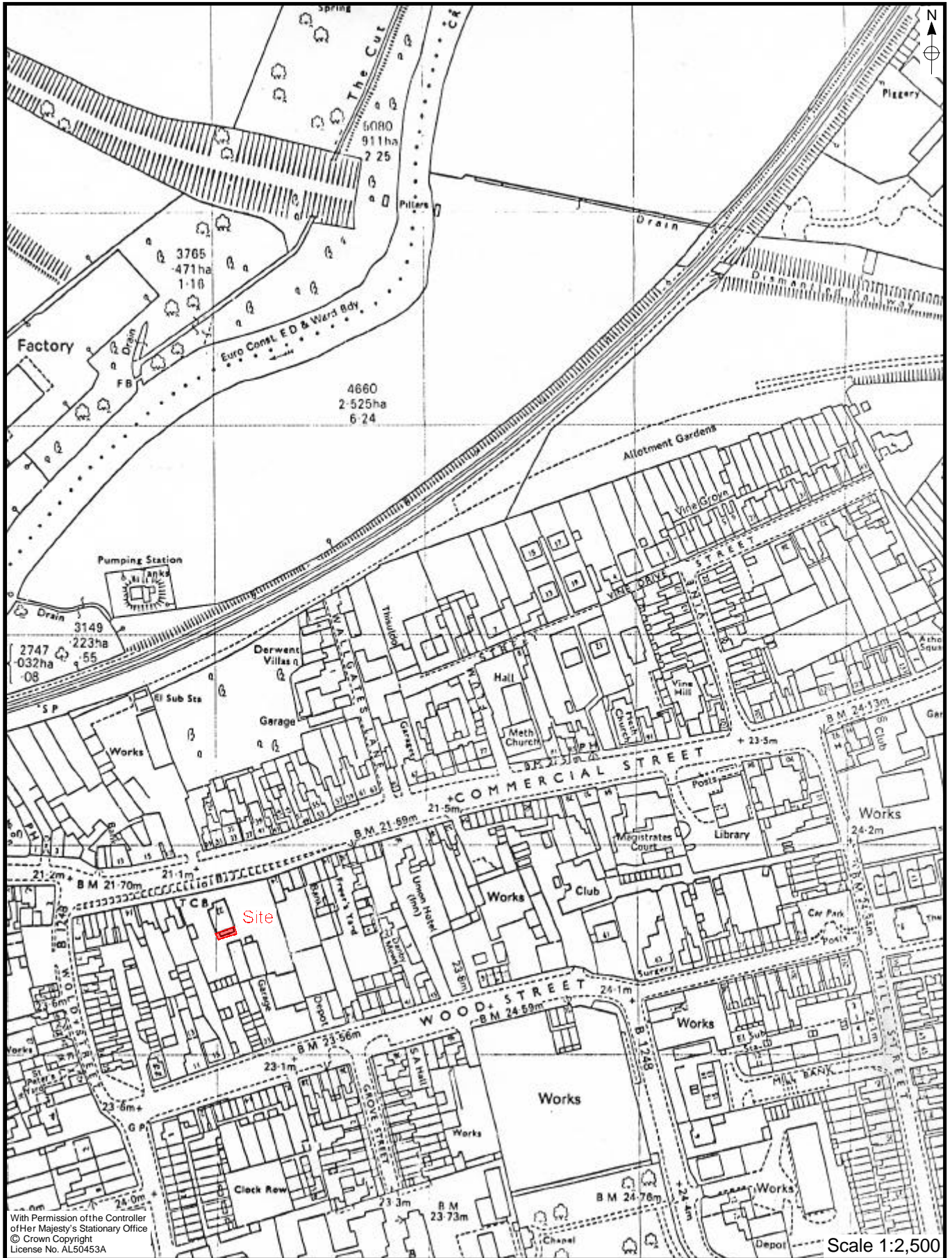


Figure 1. Site Location.



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Scale 1:2,500

Figure 2. Area of Development



Plate 1. General View of Site. Facing North-east.



Plate 2. Section showing rubble deposits. Facing South.



Plate 3. Services at west end of site. Facing West.



Plate 4. Completed site. Facing North-east.

