

**5 Church Street
Norton
North Yorkshire
SE 7920 7145**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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2011

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North Yorkshire
SE 7920 7145**

NY 11/00376/FUL

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd at 5 Church Street, Norton, Malton, North Yorkshire (SE 7920 7145) on the 15th August 2011. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the installation of an underground water tank on site (NY/11/00376/FUL).

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

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was carried out on the 15th August 2011 during the groundworks associated with the installation of an underground water tank at 5 Church Street, Norton, Malton, North Yorkshire, (SE 7920 7145, Fig. 1). The Watching Brief was undertaken to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to the Planning Application Consent (Ref: NY/11/00376/FUL).
- 1.2 The Watching Brief was designed to provide the appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development, in accordance with the archaeology policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS 5)*.
- 1.3 All work was funded by Mr C Brack.

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 lies on the fringes of the town of Norton, on the northern side of Church Street (Fig. 1). The site is bounded by dwellings to the east, Malton bridge to the west, a petrol garage to the south and Malton to Scarborough railway line to the north. The site stands at a height of c. 18m AOD.

2.2 The soils at the site are of the Fladbury 3 soils, found on the floodplains of major rivers. These overlie a geology of chalky glaciofluvial drift (Mackney, 1984, 194).

2.3 At the time of the Watching Brief the former garage showroom once occupying the site had been demolished and the resulting debris cleared to leave an open area.

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 The site of the Roman fort and *vicus* (civilian settlement) at Malton lies north-east of the site, across the river Derwent. Additional Roman settlement spread southwards across the river to cover a substantial area of what is now 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 works on the riverbank uncovered part of a road surface along with finds of Roman date suggesting a possible ford heading for southern gate of the fort (Robinson, 1978).

3.2 The medieval village of Norton was in existence by the time of the 1086 Domesday Survey, the settlement being recorded variously as *Norton(e)* and *Nortun(a)*, the name meaning 'north farm' (Smith 1937, 140). The site lay on

the western fringes of the medieval village, and medieval pits were identified during the excavations at Cornucopia further east of the development site.

- 3.3 The 1852 First Edition Town Series Plan of Malton and Norton records open land with trees and notes it as the site of St Nicholas' Hospital.
- 3.4 An evaluation by trial trenching was carried out at the site in February 2004. Three trenches were excavated, one towards the western end of the site and two in the northern half (MAP 2004). Two fragments of an undated stone wall were identified in the northern trench, sealed beneath a series of 18th century surfaces, dumps and tipping layers. Later activity consisted of a 19th century stone wall, brick walls and levelling deposits. No Roman or Medieval deposits were encountered during the evaluation.

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Recording Brief were to record and recover any archaeological remains that were affected by the development, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological work involved the supervision of the excavation of the trench for the new water tank. The trench formed a rectangle measuring approximately 2.70m x 1.60m. The water tank was to be attached to those services already existing on site.
- 5.2 The trench was excavated by a rear-acting mechanical excavator using a toothless blade, operating under close archaeological supervision.
- 5.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).

5.4 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the Recording Brief on a high resolution digital camera.

6. Results (Pls. 2, 3 & 4)

6.1 The trench for the new water tank measured approximately 2.70m x 1.60m and was up to 1.70m deep. A silt trap was also excavated on the eastern edge of the water tank trench and measured 1.60m in length, 0.80m wide and was 0.59m deep.

6.2 The full depth of the excavation trench failed to reach natural deposits. At the base of the trench was a brownish grey silty sandy clay and had a maximum depth of 0.89m. This in turn was sealed by a thick layer of black silty material containing modern demolition debris possibly representing an episode of tipping. This deposit was sealed by a layer of hardcore up to 0.26m deep. The sequence in the trench was completed with a tarmac car park surface.

6.3 No archaeological features, deposit or finds were revealed during the Watching Brief.

7. Conclusions

7.1. The apparent absence of any archaeological deposits may be due to the post 18th century development of the site seen through dumping, levelling and tipping deposits or possibly due to the shallowness of the excavation trench, which did not reach natural deposits, through which Roman features would be cut.

8. Bibliography

Mackney, D. 1983 Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 1: Northern England.
Soil

et al. Survey of England and Wales.

MAP 2004 5 Church Street, Norton, Malton, North
Yorkshire. Archaeological Evaluation.

Robinson, J.F. 1978 The Archaeology of Malton and Norton.

Smith, A H 1937 The Place-Names of the East Rising of Yorkshire and
York.



Figure 1. Site Location

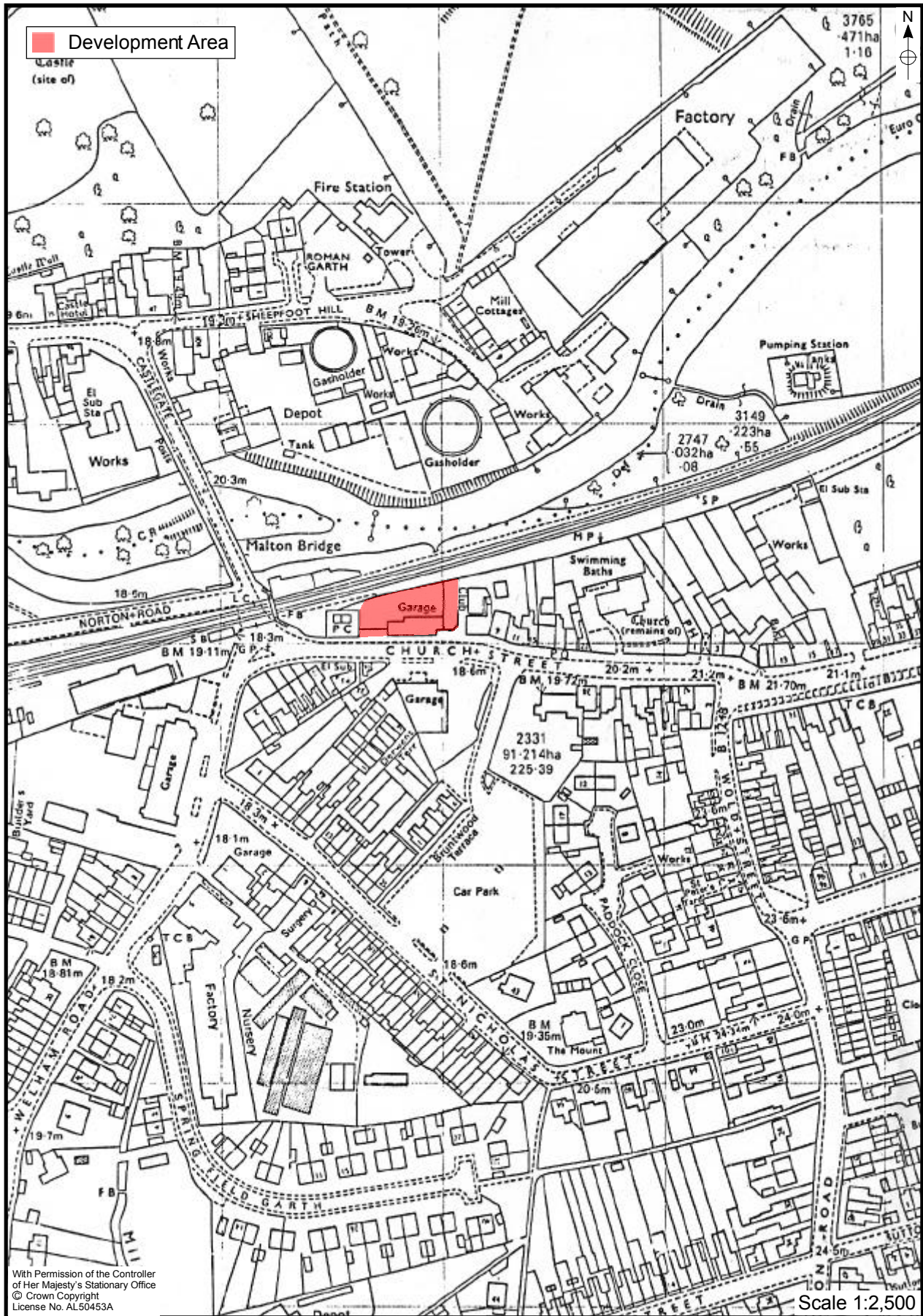


Figure 2. Area of Archaeological Watching Brief.

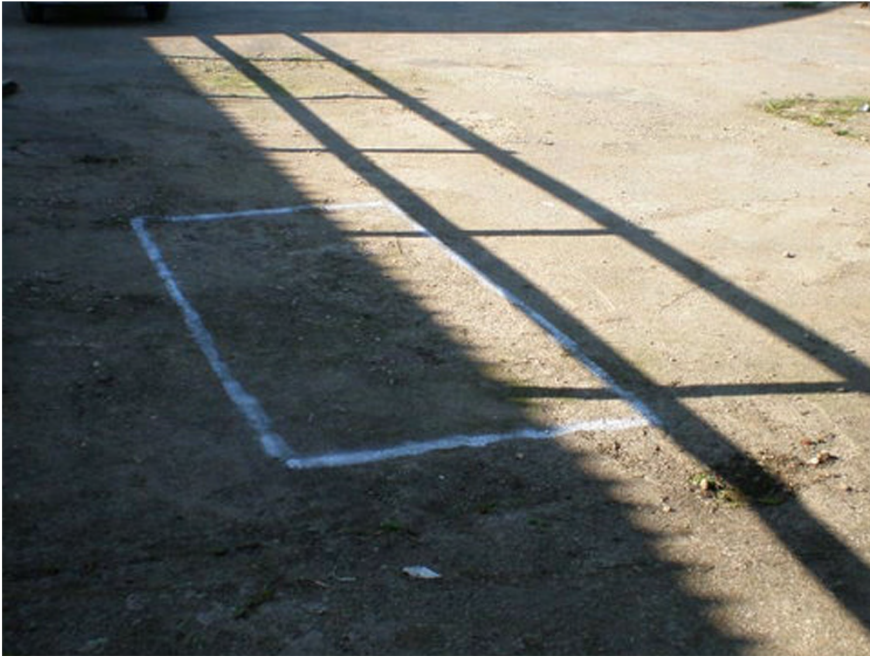


Plate 1. Site Prior to Excavation. Facing South.



Plate 2. Trench after Excavation. Facing North.



Plate 3. Section through Excavation Trench. Facing East.



Plate 4. Section through Silt Trap. Facing South.

MAP

Archaeological Consultancy Ltd

STANDARD WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING (“WATCHING BRIEF”)

5 Church Street, Norton
11/00376/FUL

- 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 or obligation. The scheme does **not** comprise a full specification or Bill of Quantities, and the County Council makes no warranty that the works are fully or exactly described. No work on site should commence until the implementation of the scheme is the subject of a standard ICE Conditions of Contract for Archaeological Investigation or similar agreement between the Developer and the Archaeologist.
- 3 The Archaeologist should notify by letter or e-mail the County Archaeology Service (archaeology@northyorks.gov.uk) at least 10 working days in advance of the start of work on site.
- 4 The removal of overburden (that is vegetation, turf, loose stones, rubble, made ground, Tarmac, concrete, hardcore, building debris and topsoil) will 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.
- 5 Removal of overburden by machine will 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.

- 8** Heavy plant will 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.
- 9** Upon completion of fieldwork, samples will be processed and evaluated, and all finds identified, assessed, spot-dated, properly stored, and subject to investigative conservation as needed. 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.
- 10** A summary report will 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, and 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.
- 11** Copies of the summary report will be provided to the client(s), the County Heritage Section (HER), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage. A licence should be granted to the accepting museum and the County Council to use the documentation arising from the work for its statutory functions and to give to third parties as an incidental to those functions.
- 12** Upon completion of the work, the Archaeologist will make their work accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>). Submission of data to OASIS does not discharge the planning requirements for the Archaeologist to notify the County Archaeology Service of the details of the work and to provide the Historic Environment Record (HER) with a summary report on the work.
- 13** Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2005 (EIR) information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'. Requests for sensitive information are subject to a public interest test, and if this is met, then the information has to be disclosed. The Archaeologist should inform the client of EIR requirements, and ensure that any information disclosure issues are resolved before completion of the work. Intellectual property rights are not affected by the EIR.
- 14** The County Archaeologist will 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 there is a need to remove human remains, an exhumation licence should be obtained from the Department for Constitutional Affairs (coroners@dca.qsi.gov.uk), or a faculty obtained where the remains are buried in land consecrated according to the rites of the Church