

377

1/12/1238C/FULL

NYCC HER	
SNY	11226
ENY	3485
CNY	5220
Parish	1092
Rec'd	18/10/2006

ArcheType

Dolly Farm House
Nappa Scar
Askrigg
DL8 3JX

01 969 650511

vivienne.metcalfe@btinternet.com

Gail Falkingham
Heritage Section
North Yorkshire County Council
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

N. Y. C. C.	
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
18 OCT 2006	
RS	
Pass to.....	
Ackd.....	
Ansd.....	
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my ref: Richmond 10/06

17th October 2006

Dear Ms Falkingham,

re: watching brief during groundworks for extension at the rear of 39 Newbiggin, Richmond.

Further to our telephone conversation of yesterday, I write to confirm that the watching brief required during development at the rear of the above property was undertaken and completed during the week beginning 9th October 2006.

The original property at 39 Newbiggin is a small house on the street frontage, constructed mainly of stone rubble with a small amount of brick. The walls have slightly offset foundations no more than 500mm deep. The house, which is double-fronted with a central door, probably dates to the early-mid eighteenth century, though the windows are not original. It is flanked on either side (east and west) by taller, more typical 'Georgian' houses of later date. These houses have extensions/outbuildings to the rear (south). The new development at no. 39 extends no further south than its neighbours.

The watching brief was required because the proposed development lies within the *Archaeologically Sensitive Area* of Richmond as identified in the District Local Plan. The area of the development is one with potential for survival of medieval settlement remains, lying within the Newbiggin suburb of the town. It was considered that any excavations associated with the development might encounter evidence associated with medieval and early post-medieval activity, preserved beneath the later buildings on the site.

The watching brief involved the monitoring of excavations, using a mini-digger with a toothless ditching bucket, for foundation trenches and services including drainage. The pattern of stratigraphy closely resembled that noted during previous work by ArcheType at the old Welbury Press site, to the rear of 33 and 33a Newbiggin. The underlying 'natural' (a thick plastic yellow clay) was exposed at a depth of

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approximately 750mm at the north part of the site, close to the present house; this dropped away quickly towards the south, and at a distance of 6m from the house was observed at a depth of approximately 1.10m. It was overlain by a thin layer of grey-brown clayey subsoil, which in turn lay below a layer of black humic garden soil, much disturbed, which contained quantities of stone and some mortar. Though only observed as the foundation and drainage trenches were excavated, this deposit did not appear to be structural, but rather gave the impression of a deposit of building rubble which had been buried, covered with topsoil, and the area subsequently cultivated as a garden.

Finds from the area were associated with the disturbed soil, and included animal bone, glass and pottery sherds, including Staffordshire slipwares and brown and white earthenwares, dating from the mid-eighteenth century and later. Only one abraded sherd of possible medieval date was recovered from the area.

Evidence from this watching brief appears to corroborate that from the earlier Welbury Press observations: that in this area of Newbiggin, towards the north of the site, up-slope towards the present street frontage, any medieval horizon appears to have been removed during levelling operations in the eighteenth century or later. Construction work for the eighteenth century houses, both this one and its slightly later flanking neighbours, may have effectively removed all trace of earlier occupation in this area. The ground at the rear of these properties seems to have been made-up in an attempt to level the gardens; medieval deposits may survive further towards the south, below the garden soils.

I trust this is sufficient information for your purposes. I am copying this letter to Ms L Meacham, the owner; subject to her approval, the finds recovered will be deposited in the Richmondshire Museum, together with a copy of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Vivienne Metcalf'.

Vivienne Metcalf
ArcheType

All Archaeological mapping should be regarded as indicative not definitive.

Heritage Section
Countryside Service
North Yorkshire
County Council
County Hall
Northallerton DL7 8AH
(01609) 780780

39 Newbiggin, Richmond
ArcheType WB location

1/92/1238C/FULL

Scale 1:400

Compiled by GF
on 26 October 2006



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