

1/15/2004/1/11

ArcheType

Archaeological Watching Brief

at

The Former Blacksmith's Shop, Catterick Village
Mr & Mrs Jamieson

NYCC HER	
SNY	9044
ENY	1947
CNY	2919
Parish	105
Rec'd	09/03/2004

1) Introduction

- 1 1) In August 2003 ArcheType was commissioned to undertake an Archaeological Watching Brief during development works at the former Blacksmith's Shop, Catterick Village. The development site is situated at SE 2398 9805, immediately adjacent to Pallett Hill, an apparently artificial mound lying close to the centre of the original village, approximately 300m away from St Anne's Church. The mound has been variously interpreted as a burial mound or barrow, or a motte, a high point within an early Norman Castle. In addition, Catterick itself is an area of high Romano-British activity, both military and civilian, and Anglo-Saxon remains were identified close to this area of Catterick Village during earlier construction works.
- 1 2) Because of the development's proximity to Pallett Hill, an archaeological watching brief was requested by the planning authority in order to establish the presence or absence, date, nature, function and state of preservation of any archaeological remains that might be revealed during ground disturbance associated with the development work.
- 1 3) The works included preparation for a retaining wall to the west of the entrance to the site and extending approx 12m north, the reduction of levels at the north end of the existing building to accommodate the new kitchen extension, cleaning and levelling of the area north-west of the existing building, and the excavation of the footings for the proposed garage in this same north-western area.

2) Methodology

- 2 1) The project commenced on Monday February 9th 2004. Ground works were undertaken by the contractors during Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th February, using a JCB mechanical excavator. Vivienne Metcalf, an experienced field archaeologist, was on site during all excavation works, as listed above at 1 3).
- 2 2) A photographic record was made using 35mm slide film, and the photographs were transferred to CD-Rom. Notes were made on site using a hand-held tape recorder, and transcribed on return to the office. A plan of the works was drawn at a scale of 1:500 (fig 1).

3) Results

The results of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- 3 1) The existing building stands on an artificially levelled area, the natural contours of the ground rise to the north and west of the building.
- 3 2) The ground between the standing building and Pallett Hill had been cut away, probably when the building was constructed, to give access to the rear of the property. The existing hedge was removed to clear for a retaining wall,

exposing a vertical standing section of undisturbed gravels approx 1.50m deep before the natural contours of the mound recur, sloping away to the top of Pallett Hill. The hedge line was marked by dark humic topsoil which contained fragments of pantile, modern glass and pottery, of which the earliest sherds dated to the late eighteenth century.

- 3,2) The hedge continues as a bank to form the western boundary of the plot and appears, from associated finds, also to date to the late 18th or early 19th century, and to be contemporary with the date suggested for the existing building (1805).
- 3 3) The overburden across the entire plot consisted of a dark humic topsoil up to 45cm deep, which contained artefacts dating from the late 18th century and later, no earlier material whatsoever was recorded during the excavations,
- 3 4) Excavations up to 1.50m deep for the foundations of the garage towards the rear of the plot removed the overburden to expose bands of uniform gravels and water-worn cobbles in a yellow/brown silty sandy matrix. These are of natural origin, being water-laid deposits consistent with similar gravel and cobble deposits elsewhere in the Cattenck area. These gravels occurred across the entire site, and were cut only by two very late 20th century pits, more than 1m deep, which contained (eg) plastic flower pots and car maintenance debris, and which were not recorded in detail. One was located immediately behind the standing building and was removed completely to bring the foundations for the new extension level with the present internal floor. It 'bottomed' on the natural gravels.

4) Conclusions

- 4 1) No archaeological remains pre-dating the very late eighteenth century were recorded at the former Blacksmith's Shop and associated plot, the areas affected by the excavation and earth-moving associated with the development contained no archaeological remains. The mound(s) that form the top of Pallett Hill may be artificial, but they are situated on the high point of a natural gravel ridge which rises west and south from the area of High Street, and remain unaffected by the development.
- 4 2) No evidence to assist with identifying the date and function of the Pallett Hill mound(s) was recovered from the 'watching brief' at the former Blacksmith's Shop site. No evidence from the Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon or Medieval periods was recovered from the site.

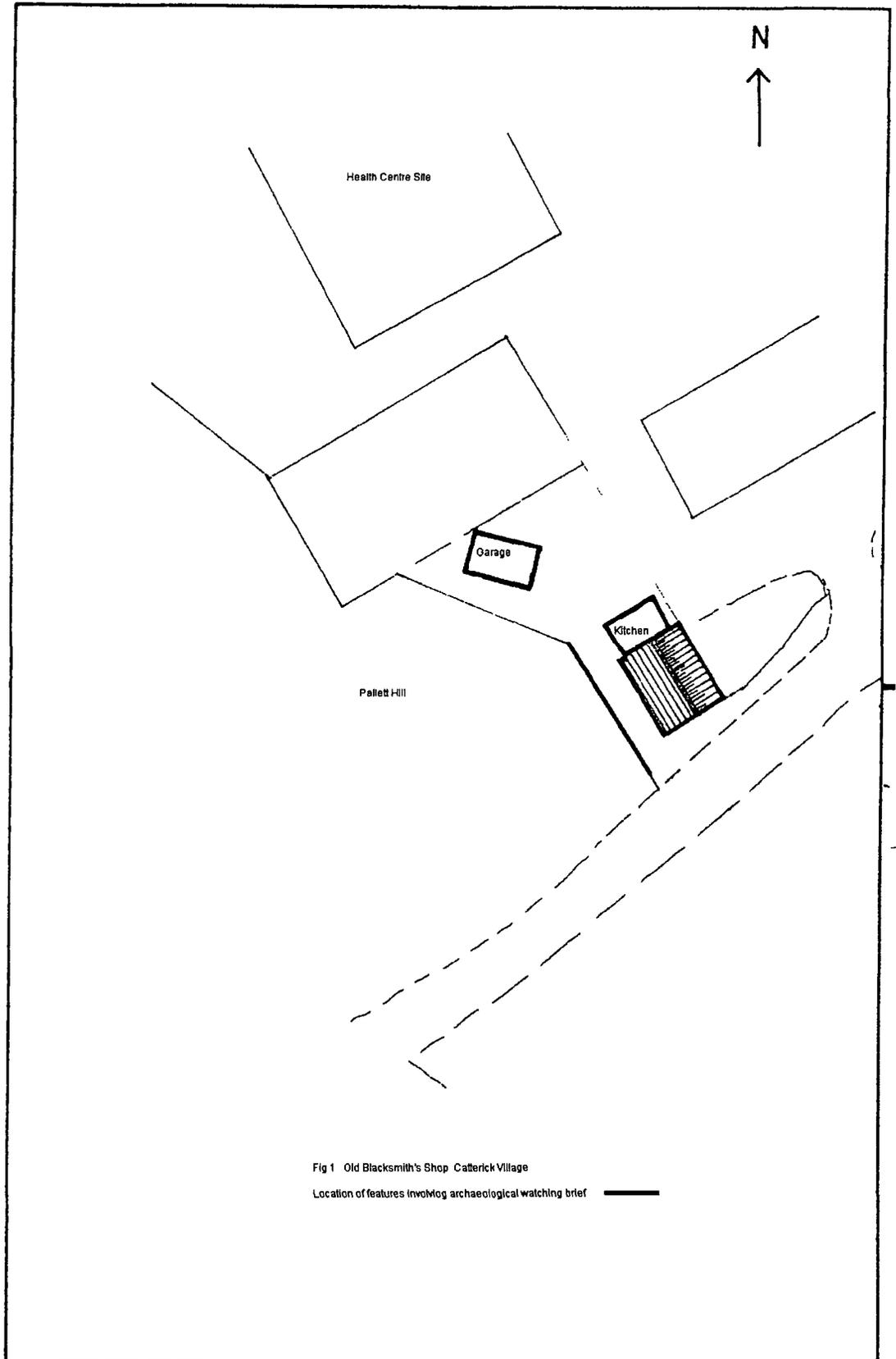


Fig 1 Location plan of the development, showing the deepest excavations by a heavy black line
 Scale 1 500