

NYCC HER	
SNY	9843
ENY	2914
CNY	4038
Pansh	1092
Rec'd	29/09/2005

ArcheType
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c. Nick Jenkins

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

20th September 2005

Dear Gail,

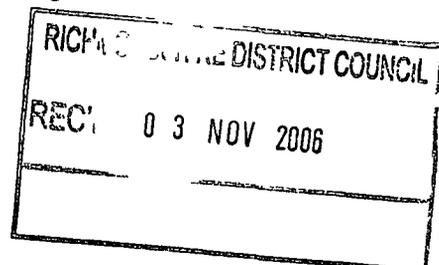
Development to the rear of nos 33 & 33A Newbiggin, Richmond
Application no 1/92W/1145E/Full

I write to inform you of the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken at the above site during ground disturbing work associated with the development. In brief, no evidence of archaeological significance was recovered from the site. See below for further details.

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 later activity, preserved beneath the nineteenth and twentieth century buildings on the site.

The watching brief took place over a number of days in August and September 2005, and included

- monitoring and examination of core samples taken for construction engineering purposes,
- monitoring site clearance and levelling works,
- watching deep excavations to locate the main sewer running east-west across the site and to insert a new junction chamber,
- watching excavations for the underpinning of foundations of the existing building at the north east corner of the site,
- monitoring the excavation for a drain running southwards down the west side of the site to the new junction chamber.



The development is now to be constructed on piles rather than on trenched foundations. It is my professional opinion that there is no need for the watching brief to continue during the piling operation, as no archaeological evidence is likely to be recovered because of the nature of the work. The archaeological work relating to the development at Welbury Press is therefore completed.

Archaeological watching brief - further details

The building at the north, street front of the development site (now 33 & 33a Newbiggin) has a date stone for 1899. To the rear of that structure, extending southwards against the east side of the plot, the buildings housing the Welbury Press succeeded a toy factory which operated on the site just after the Second World War. Prior to that, probably in the 1920s at latest, a range of buildings along the south boundary of the plot had been used as stables for the Buck Inn public house, two plots east. (Information pers comm from the neighbour at 'Surpse View' adjacent to the site, a local man who was the third generation of the family building firm before his retirement.)

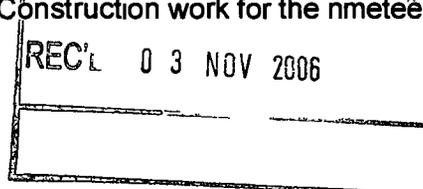
The conng operation to test the site for engineering purposes took place after the demolition of the Welbury Press buildmgs. Six cores were sunk, to a maximum depth of approximately 6m. At the south end of the site, below a thick black organic soil (1), a deposit made up of a grey/brown/yellowish clayey soil (2) extended from a depth of c 700mm below the surface to a depth of c 1.50m, and overlay a yellow/grey clayey subsoil (3) which merged into a thick plastic yellow clay 'natural' (4). In the cores taken further north, up-slope on the site, soil deposit (2) was largely missing from the cores, suggesting previous levelling of the site.

From soil deposit (2) in the cores at the south end of the site some fragments of animal bone and four undiagnostic sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. This suggested that soil deposit (2) represented a medieval occupation horizon which was apparently missing further north on the site.

This conclusion was reinforced by the evidence recovered during the four further stages of the watching brief. Soil deposit (2), even where it survived at the south of the site, was well below the levelling operations and untouched by them, excavations in the northern part of the site, for drainage and underpinning, revealed no trace of soil deposit (2), and no finds earlier than the eighteenth century (pottery, glass and a clay tobacco pipe bowl). Most of the material recovered dated to the late nineteenth/early twentieth century.

The area of the northern and western part of the site, in line north/south with the entrance from the street, where most of the excavation for drains took place, was quite 'clean' of finds except for the top 300/400mm of soil, and appeared to be a garden soil which may even have been imported to the site. Closest to the standing building this soil contained a quantity of mortar and other debris which probably related to the construction of the 1899 building, or to the construction of the buildings which housed the Welbury Press.

In conclusion an apparent medieval horizon up to 1m deep survives at the south part of the Welbury Press site, but at a depth untouched by any of the present development work. Its full extent could not be plotted because it was only identified in core samples. Further north on the site, up-slope towards the present street frontage, the medieval horizon appeared to have been removed during levelling operations in about the eighteenth century or later. Construction work for the nineteenth century



house and the twentieth century industrial buildings had effectively removed all trace of earlier occupation

The watching brief at the Welbury Press site suggests that development work in similar situations around Newbiggin, on plots where such substantial nineteenth and twentieth century development has not taken place, could well yield information concerning the medieval occupation of this part of Richmond

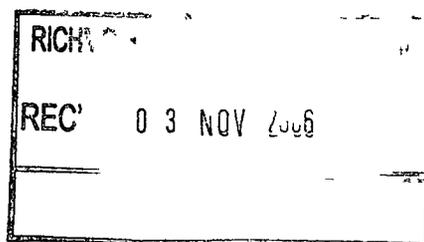
I enclose a plan showing the location of the major excavations related to the drainage works, and trust that this will be sufficient for your purposes. The site archive, which is mainly 35mm slides of the work in progress, together with notes and a copy of this letter, will be lodged with the Richmondshire Museum

Yours sincerely



Vivienne Metcalf

cc Jeremy Waite, Kinsey Leisure Ltd, Conistone
Nick Jenkins, Building Design, Leyburn
Richmondshire Museum



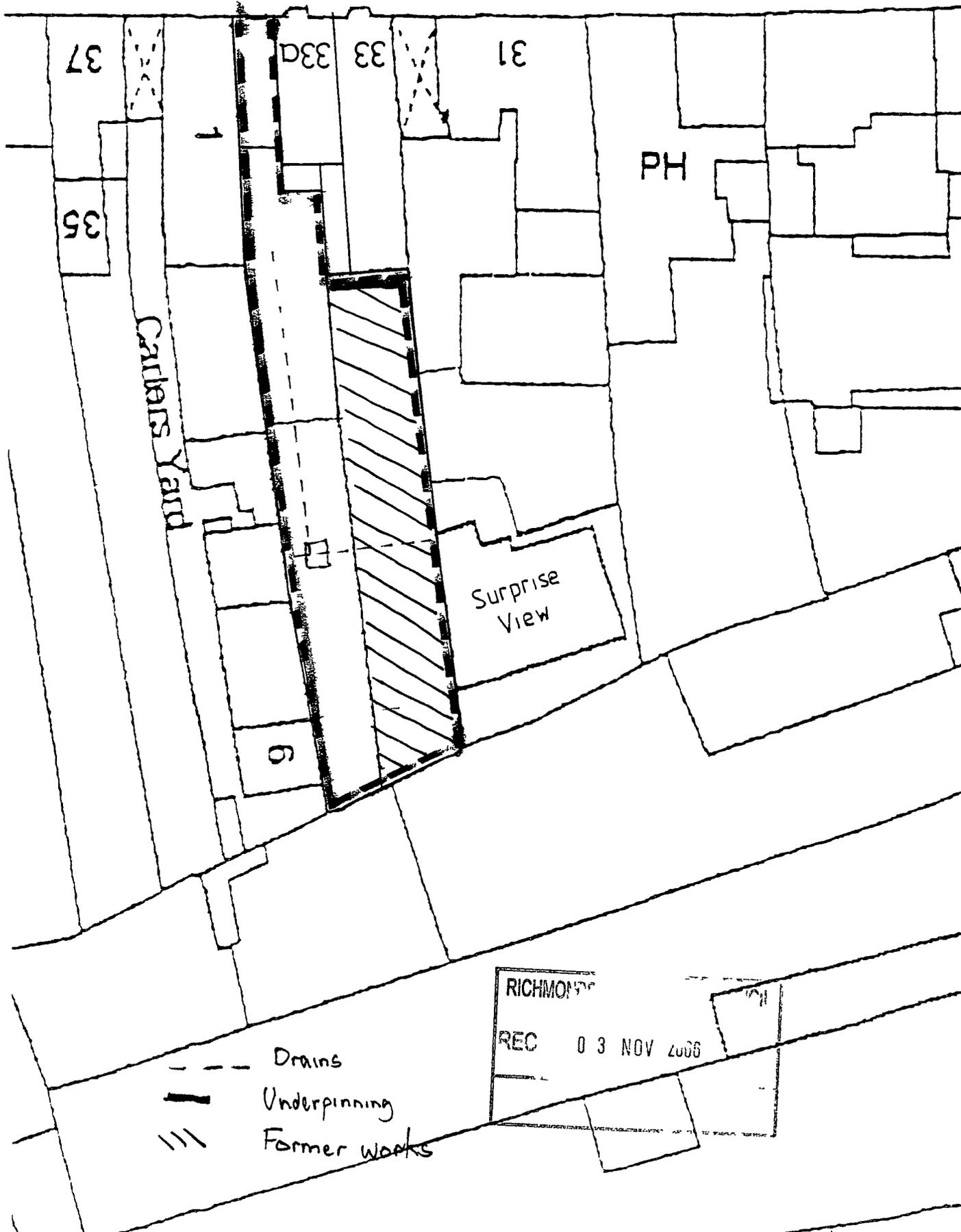
Sketch Plan



NEWBIGGIN

Welbury Press Site, Richmond

Scale 1:100



- Drains
- Underpinning
- /// Former works

RICHMOND
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