

NYCC HER	
SNY	10522
ENY	2864
CNY	4556
Parish	2062
Rec'd	26/07/05

ArcheType

Riggs Bungalow
Aysgarth
Leyburn
DL8 3AL

01 969 663250

vivienne.metcalf@btinternet.com

Neil Campling
County Archaeological Officer
Heritage Unit
North Yorkshire County Council
Racecourse Lane
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

My ref: RH/0705

25th July 2005

Dear Neil,

N. Y. C. C.	
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
26 JUL 2005	
Pass to	JHE
Ackd.	
Ansd.	

re: Watching Brief at Rowan House, Hackforth, during excavation works for the construction of a Stable Block. SD244-931.

Excavation work for the foundations of a stable block at Rowan House, Hackforth, took place on Monday 18th July 2005 and were completed within one day. The work was undertaken by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, under the supervision of myself, Vivienne Metcalf.

An archaeological watching brief was required by the planning consent because Hackforth is a village of at least medieval origins, wiped out during the later medieval period by the plague. Recent work by the water utility company had uncovered a number of skeletons some distance to the north-east of the present development site (*Mrs Notman, pers. comm.*). Traces of medieval ridge & furrow cultivation can be identified in the field immediately to the west of that in which the present development is situated.


An area of approximately 110 sq. m. was excavated by mechanical excavator to a depth of approximately 40cm. Removal of the plough soil revealed a subsoil composed of sands, clays and gravels originating from glacially-derived deposits. No earth-cut features were identified.

A small number of finds were recovered during the excavations. These included a fragment of field drain, a piece of clay tobacco pipe stem, some fragments of animal bone, and one undiagnostic sherd of quite fine, sandy red earthenware, reduced on the exterior, which was probably of medieval date. All were discarded.

In summary, the area directly affected by the present development contained no features or artefacts of archaeological significance. The field in which the development is situated is presently under cultivation beyond the new paddocks, and has apparently been ploughed annually throughout living memory. While the presence of archaeological remains elsewhere in the field cannot be discounted, it is possible that any more ephemeral archaeological features have been destroyed by ploughing.

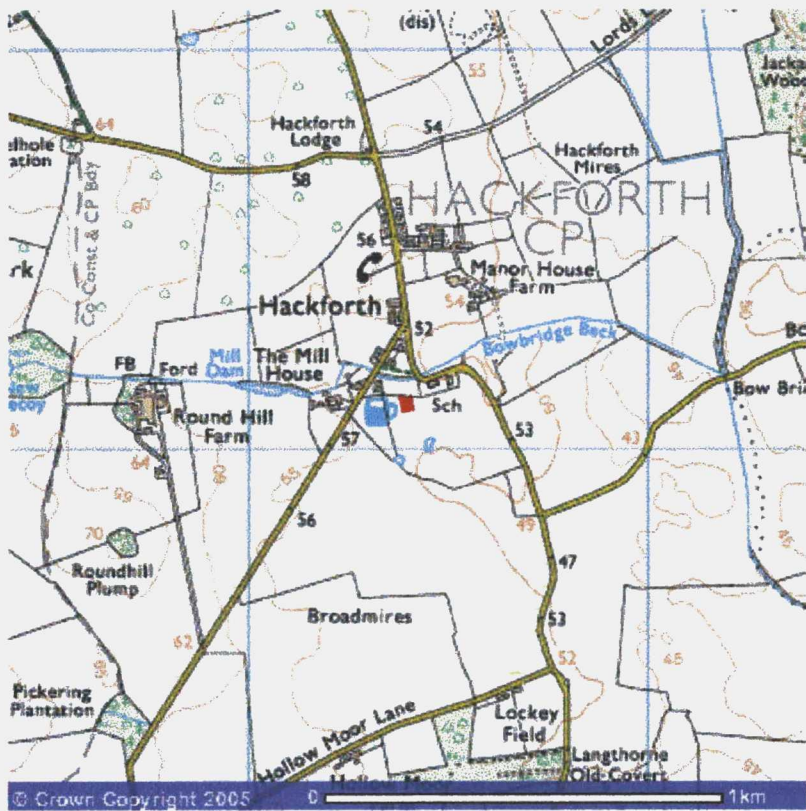
If you require any further details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vivienne'.

Vivienne Metcalf

cc Mr and Mrs Notman, Rowan House, Hackforth



■ Location of development

