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4 OLD MARKET PLACE, RIPON.

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION.
OSA REPORT No: OSA06EV12.

JULY 2006.



OSA

ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY LTD

25A Milton Street • York • North Yorkshire • YO10 3EP
 telephone • 01904 411673 • fax • 01904 414522 • mobile • 07767 385766
 e-mail • mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk
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Front Cover: Nocturnal Visitor to Trench 1.

Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA06EV12**SITE NAME:** Land to the rear of 4, Old Market Place, Ripon**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 31270 71385**PLANNING REFERENCE:** 6.31.2217.B.FUL**ON BEHALF OF:** Lee Hill Construction Ltd
Camp Hill Close
Dallamires Road
Ripon
HG4 1QY**TEXT:** Graham Bruce**GRAPHICS:** Marie-Claire Ferguson**FIELDWORK:** Graham Bruce
Tim Robinson**TIMING:** Fieldwork
5th and 6th July 2006
Post excavation & report preparation
July 2006**ENQUIRIES TO:** Nick Pearson
On Site Archaeology
25A Milton Street
York
YO10 3EP*tel* (01904) 411673*fax* (01904) 414522*mobile* (07767) 385766*e-mail* mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk

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1.0 Abstract.

On-Site Archaeology carried an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 4 Old Market Place, Ripon. This took place to assess the archaeological impact of development proposals prior to the determination of a full planning application (6.31.2217.B.FUL). On-Site Archaeology were appointed to conduct the necessary works as outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit.

The evaluation involved the excavation of two 2m x 2m trenches to assess the nature and extent of any archaeological features and deposits that may be present. Both of the trenches encountered archaeological features dating to the medieval period, cut into the surface of the natural at depths of between 1.05m and 1.20m below the modern ground surface. The foundations for the proposed development are likely to be a maximum of 0.90m deep and will therefore have a minimal impact upon the archaeological remains. Service trenches associated with the new development may be deeper and therefore disturb the remains. Whilst any decision regarding the necessary level of archaeological mitigation must lie with the North Yorkshire County Council Heritage section and the local planning authority, an appropriate response is likely to require an archaeological watching brief being undertaken during groundworks.

2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography & Land Use.

The area of proposed development is located within the town of Ripon, North Yorkshire, within the Borough of Harrogate, North Yorkshire. Ripon is situated on the River Skell about one mile west of its confluence with the River Ure which runs to the north of the town. It lies on the edge of the lowlands of the Vale of York with the Magnesian limestone uplands to the west.

The application site lies on the east side of the Old Market Place, which is immediately north of the Market Place. The proposed dwellings are to be built on the site of existing outbuildings to the rear of the shop, which comprise a single-storey brick-built structure and adjoining lean-to structure to the east adjoining the northern boundary of the plot. The eastern boundary of the site is formed by a stone-built wall, through which there is a wide, gated access from the car park to the east. To the north the site is bounded by the Post Office, and the western half of the site is bounded to the south by no.3 Old Market Place, the Hornblower public house. For the eastern part of the site, the southern boundary is formed by the rear elevation of a building fronting onto Moss Arcade to the south. A passageway between Nos. 3 and 4 Old Market Place leads to the rear of the site from Old Market Place through gated access. Existing lean-to structures along the western half of the site's southern boundary are to be demolished as part of the proposed development.