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Parish	1090
Rec'd	27/07/2008

**JERVAULX HALL, JERVAULX**

**NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**Planning Reference 1/90/27/FULL**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**



**ArcheType Archaeological Associates**

on behalf of

**Mr B Odner**

John Buglass for ArcheType Archaeological Associates  
Dolly Farm House  
Nappa Scar  
Askrigg  
Leyburn DL8 3JX

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**JERVAULX HALL, JERVAULX  
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

***Summary***

*As the site of the proposed development lay adjacent to the Scheduled Monument area for Jervaulx Abbey (Scheduled Monument Number 26940), a condition on the planning application (1/90/27/FULL) for an Archaeological Watching Brief was placed on the ground disturbance works for the footings of a new garage on the existing driveway, and other ground works relating to the refurbishment of the building, within the grounds of Jervaulx Hall, Jervaulx, North Yorkshire (SE 1698 8579).*

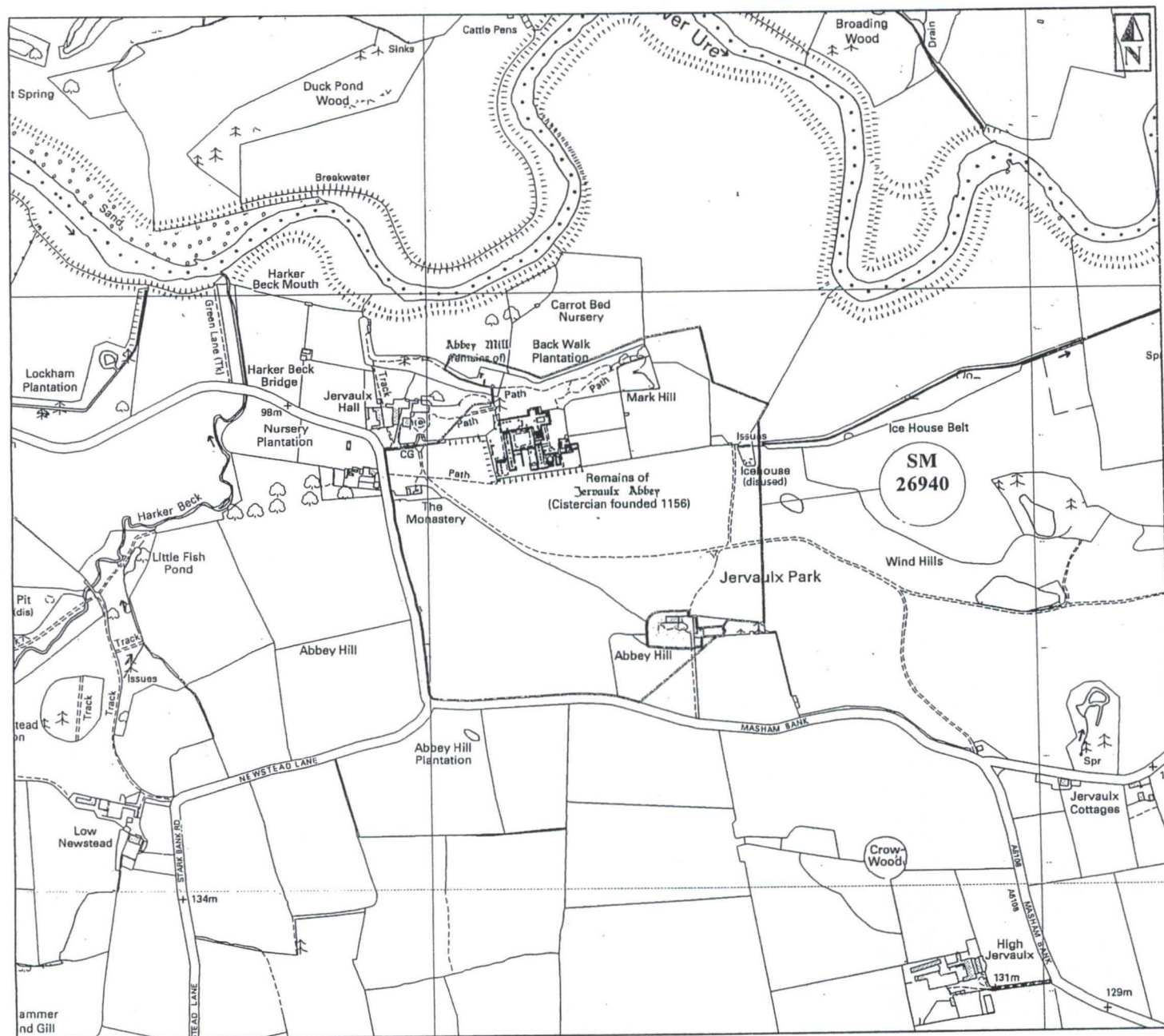
*The ground work for the garage consisted of a rectangular foundation trench enclosing an area of approximately 6m x 4m. The trench was c. 0.75m wide and 1.2m deep and was located in the middle of the existing drive way on the south side of the hall.*

*Other ground work included the stripping of an area approximately 7m x 8m to the east of the house to a depth of approximately 350-400mm. Some remedial work was also undertaken on the retaining wall on the north side of the site.*

*The results of the watching brief were negative - no archaeological finds or features were encountered during the ground works. However, a quantity of re-used architectural stone from the nearby abbey was observed in the rubble from the various demolition and building works that were currently in progress.*

*No other archaeological finds or features were recorded during the ground works.*





## Jervaulx Hall

Fig 1 Location Map.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on the ground works for a new driveway in the grounds of Jervaulx Hall, Jervaulx, North Yorkshire (SE 1698 8579). The Watching Brief was a condition on the planning application (1/90/27/FULL) as the site lay adjacent to the Scheduled area for Jervaulx Abbey (SAM 26940).
- 1.2 The watching brief was conducted by John Buglass for ArcheType Archaeological Associates on behalf of the client, Mr Bengt Odner, and was carried out in two phases. The watching brief on the works for the driveway was carried out between 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Monitoring of other associated works was carried out on March 19<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 2008.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

### **Historic Background**

- 2.1 The current hall was built after the dissolution of the monasteries, and has undergone several alterations and extensions over a number of years. The hall complex contains not only the main hall itself but a well preserved stable block along with several other later buildings.
- 2.2 The landscape to the east contains the major and nationally significant archaeological remains of Jervaulx Abbey and its associated buildings (see Jecock, 1999 for details).
- 2.3 The place name for Jervaulx is first recorded in c.1145 as *Jorvalle* meaning 'valley of the River Ure'. The name is derived from a pre-English name for the river, of uncertain origin, and the Old French *val* for valley (Mills, 1998, 199).

### **Geology and Soils**

- 2.4 The site lies on the eastern edge of the Yorkshire Dales in an area of Carboniferous limestones (Butlin, 2003, 10 and British Geological Survey, 2001). Overlying this, the quaternary geology is of alluvium deposited by the River Ure (British Geological Survey 1977). The soils derived from this are the Wick 1 association which are deep, well drained coarse loamy/sandy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

### **Topography and Land-use**

- 2.5 The hall is situated at the base of a south facing slope at a height of about 105m OD. The hall itself has been built on an area of level ground which has been partially modified and cut back out of the hillside. The area of the



first watching brief lay to the south of the Hall in the area previously used as a drive way to the house from the A6108 which runs between East Witton and Masham. The second area lay to the east of the Hall, and at the rear (north) of the building.

- 2.6 The land around the hall is primarily used for grazing livestock.

### **3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 The objective of the watching brief was to identify and record any features of archaeological interest revealed or damaged during the ground works for the construction of the new driveway and other modifications to the site. The specific aims were to:

- archaeologically record (graphically and photographically) any archaeological features revealed by the ground works
- recover any archaeological artefacts and environmental material exposed by the ground works

### **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 All excavations and clearance works were carried out by contractors using a wheeled mechanical digger with a toothed bucket under archaeological supervision.
- 4.2 During all of the excavation the exposed ground surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and the resulting topsoil stockpiles were monitored for archaeological artefacts.
- 4.3 Drawings were produced of the archaeological features encountered, and these were also recorded photographically, on 35mm colour slide and black and white print film and digitally at 5m pixel resolution. 0.5m, 1m and 2m bi-coloured poles were used as scales and a north pointer for orientation. For the detailed photography a 0.4m bi-coloured scale was used.

### **5.0 RESULTS**

- 5.1 The excavation of the foundation trenches did not reveal any archaeological remains or artefacts. The drive had been constructed by simply spreading a layer of gravel approximately 200mm thick on top of the existing topsoil. The topsoil layer was observed to be quite deep (up to 350mm thick) which suggests that the area may have been previously cultivated for a long period of time. Below the topsoil was the underlying drift geology of alluvial sands and gravel (Plates 1 & 2).

- 5.2 Prior to the watching brief a certain amount of excavation had occurred on the north-western side of the hall (Plate 3). According to the contractors this had encountered the remains of an earlier cellar and work had been halted on this pending a decision from building regulations due to the made-up nature of the ground.
- 5.3 During a general site inspection the remains of numerous pieces of reused building stone were observed in the various demolition piles generated by the building work. The vast majority were ashlar blocks, some with dressing patterns on them; a few were more diagnostic.
- 5.4 The diagnostic blocks consisted of two pieces of window sill (Plate 4), a piece of roll moulded window frame/jamb (Plate 5), a piece of possible column (Plate 6), a possible piscina (Plate 7), a piece of ashlar with a masons mark (Plate 8) (the contractor said that he had seen several pieces with masons marks during the building work), a piece of roll moulded window reused in a boundary wall (Plate 9) and a possible capital from a blind arcade (Plate 10). It would appear that a lot of the stone used in the various phases of the hall was re-used from the adjacent abbey.
- 5.5 No other archaeological finds or features were encountered during the excavation of the foundations.
- 5.6 Additional works, including ground clearance, excavations and works to the revetment wall, were also monitored. No other archaeological finds or features were identified.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION**

- 6.1 From the results described above it can be seen that there has apparently been little in the way of human activity along the line of the existing driveway apart from agricultural activity which appears to have lead to the development of a deep topsoil.
- 6.2 No archaeological remains were identified that pre-dated the construction of the hall after the dissolution. The various construction phases of the hall can be seen to have made extensive use of building material salvaged from the nearby abbey.



## References

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