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SNY	15172
ENY	4898
CNY	8374
Parish	1015
Rec'd	26/10/2009

**HORSE ARENA, MANOR HOUSE BRIDGE**

**CATTERICK VILLAGE, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**



JB Archaeological Services

On behalf of

M Chapman Esq.

October 2009

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Rec'd 26/10/09.

1015 parish  
1/15/107T/FULL  
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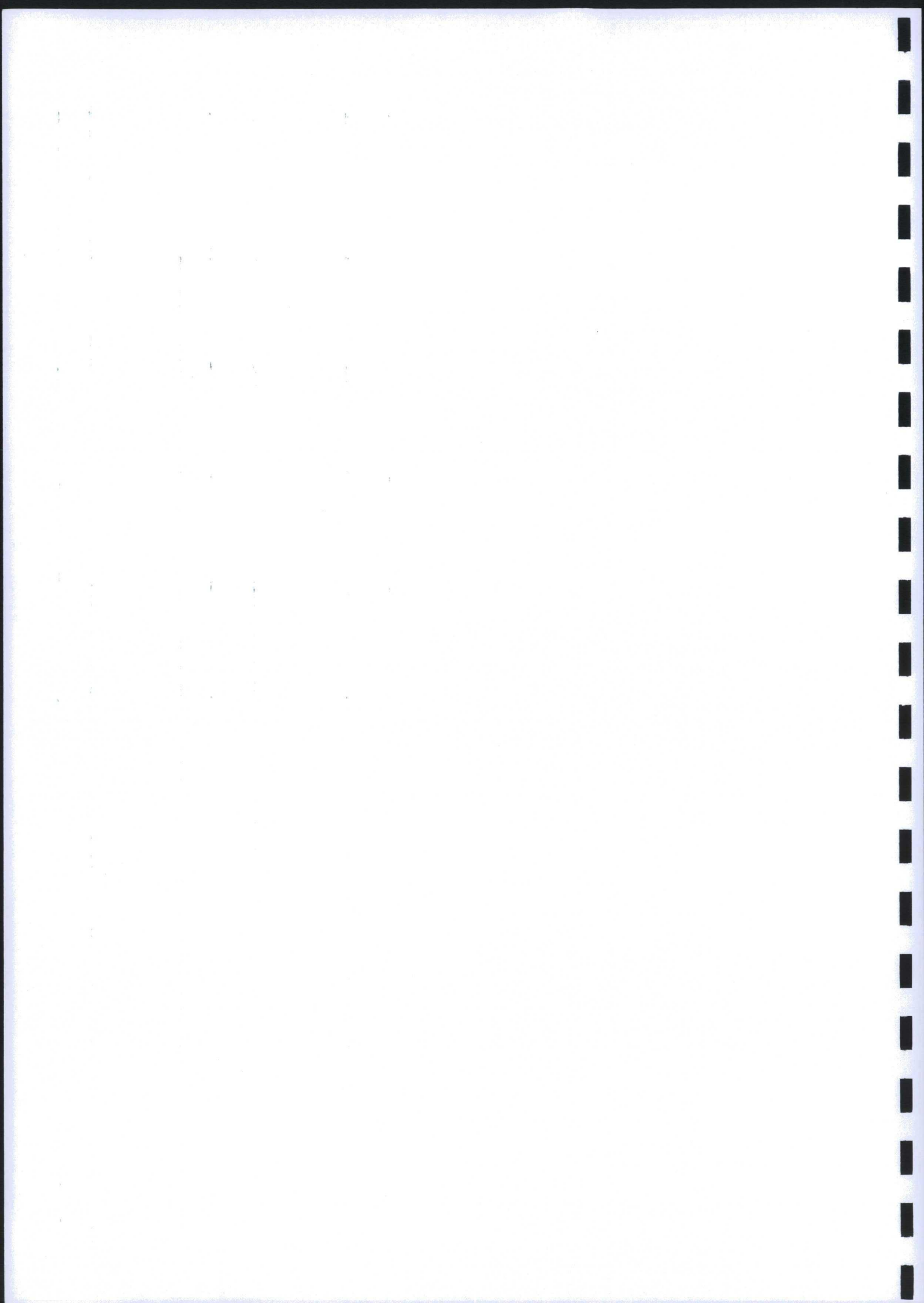
*Summary*

*As the construction of a new horse riding arena adjacent to Manor House Bridge to the west of Catterick Village (SE 2352 9768) lay close to the line of Dere Street Roman road and its potential for associated archaeological remains a condition on the planning application for an Archaeological Watching Brief was placed on the ground disturbance works.*

*The ground work for the new arena consisted of a topsoil strip over the area of the development followed by the excavation of shallow drainage trenches. The ground works were undertaken on the 13/14<sup>th</sup> October 2009.*

*The results of the watching brief were negative as it appears that the ground has always been farmland in the past. The only artifactual material noted was the occasional fragments of late medieval/early post-medieval and 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery which appear to be as a result of manuring to improve the field.*

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



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief on the ground works for a new horse arena to the east of Manor House Bridge, Catterick, North Yorkshire (SE 2352 9768). The watching brief was a condition on the planning application as the site lay close to the line of Dere Street Roman road.
- 1.2 The watching brief was conducted by JB Archaeological Services (JBAS) for M Chapman Esq., and was carried out on 13/14<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

### Historic Background

- 2.1 The site lies approximately 10m to the west of the known line of Dere Street. Dere Street was one of the major Roman military roads built soon after the invasion to facilitate the control of the country. The Dere Street is the Saxon name for the road which is a continuation of Ermine Way running from York, via Aldborough and Catterick and then on to Corbridge in Northumberland. Several sections of the current A1/A1 (M) run along the line of Dere Street. The early Ordnance Survey maps show the area as open fields.
- 2.2 The place name for Catterick is first recorded in c.150 AD as *Katouraktonion* and then over the following centuries as: *Cataractone* in the 4<sup>th</sup> century; by Bede in 730 as *Cataractam uicum*; then in Domesday Book of 1086 as *Catrice*; in 1198 as *Cateriz*; in 1231 as *Kateric*; in 1238 as *Catrich*; in 1308 as *Katrici*; in 1362 as *Catrik*; in 1396 as *Catteryke* and finally in 1536 as *Catheryk* (Morris, 1982, 41). The name *Cataractam uicum* recorded in 730 by Bede is taken to show Anglo-Saxon occupation (IBID, 60) which is borne out by the presence of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery to the north of the site. The name itself comes from the Latin *cataracta* meaning waterfall, though this is apparently a misunderstanding of the original Celtic place-name meaning '(place of) battle ramparts' (Mills, 1998, 73).

### Geology and Soils

- 2.3 The underlying solid geology of the site is of Namurian millstone grit of the Upper Carboniferous (British Geological Survey, 2001) which is overlain by a quaternary geology of sands and gravels of river terraces (British Geological Survey 1977). The soils that have weathered from this are the Wick 1 association which are deep well drained, coarse loamy and sandy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983).

### Topography and Land-use

- 2.4 The site is situated in an area of flat land between Catterick village and the line of the current A1 adjacent to the eastern end of Manor House Bridge; see Figure 1 (SE 2352 9768). The arena is surround by farmland and pasture at a height of c.57mOD.

### **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 horse arena. 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 The topsoil was stripped using a tracked mechanical digger with a toothless bucket under direct archaeological supervision. Once the topsoil had been removed and the area inspected for archaeological features prior to the drains being cut.

4.2 During all of the ground works the exposed ground surfaces were inspected for archaeological features and the resulting topsoil stockpiles were monitored for archaeological artefacts.

4.3 Due to the lack of archaeological features the site was not drawn and a simple record photograph was taken on a digital camera at 5m pixel resolution (Plate 1).

### **5.0 RESULTS**

5.1 The watching brief was somewhat negative as the area seems to have been farmland up until the present day. If there are any roadside features associated with Dere Street at this location they may lie closer to the Roman road than this site.

5.2 A very small number of fragments of late medieval/early post-medieval and late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery were noted in the topsoil during the stripping. These were all very small fragments and mostly well abraded which is probably the result of manuring with midden material derived from the nearby settlement. The only other artifactual find was a piece of thin section, highly polished geological stone, once part of a brooch or similar. Its thinness, size and finish show that it is from a modern piece of jewellery.

5.3 No archaeological features were observed during the topsoil stripping and subsequent excavation of the drainage.

## 6.0 DISCUSSION and CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 As can be seen from above, the results of the watching brief were negative due to use of the area for agriculture and its location away from areas of earlier activity. No direct evidence for any archaeological features was recorded.

### References

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### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Mr M Chapman for inviting me to undertake the project.



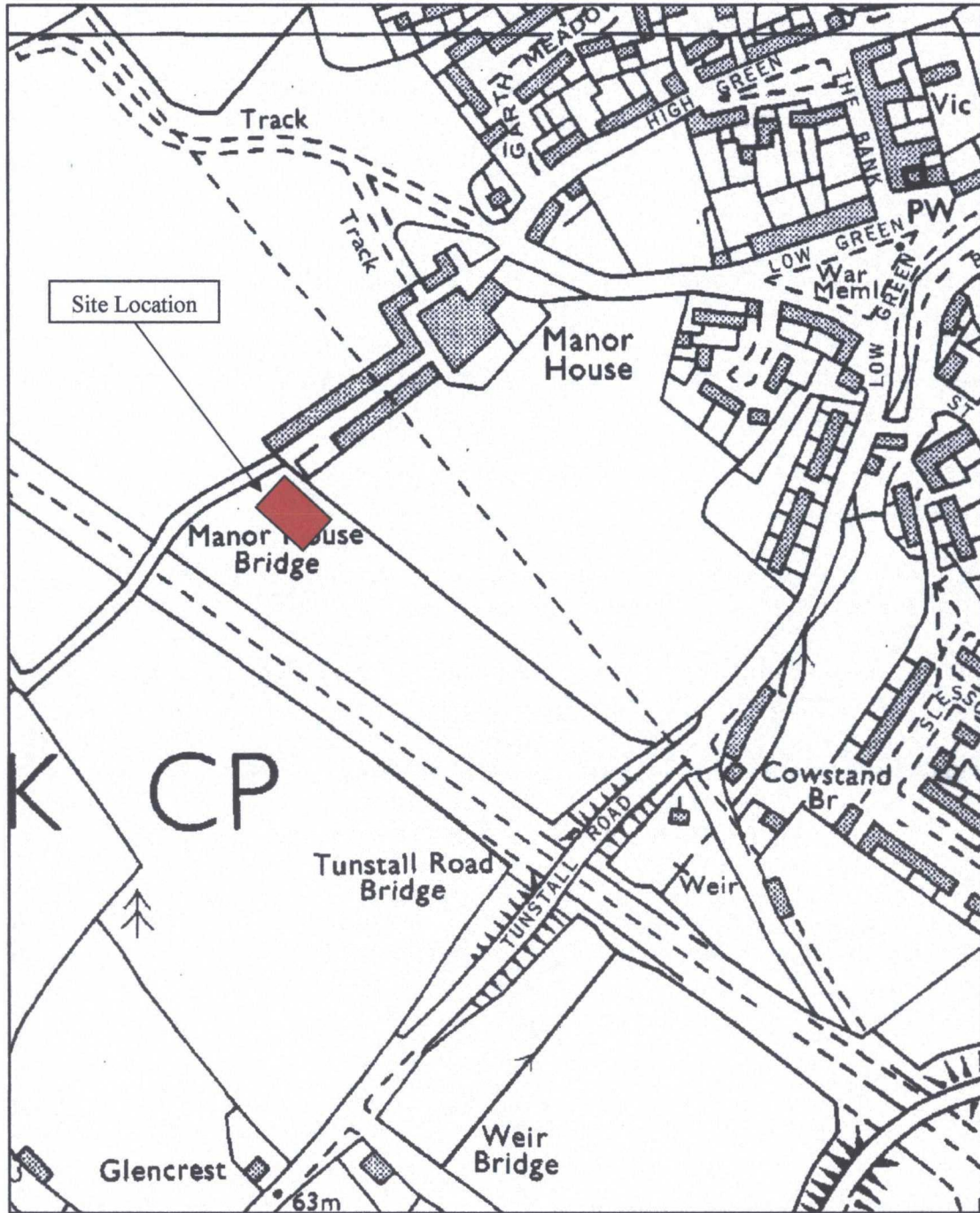


Figure 1. Site Location.

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Plate 1. General view of stripped site looking south-west.