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**Mill House  
Kirkby Fleetham  
North Yorkshire**

*Archaeological Watching Brief*

*June 2011*

*Report No. 2228*

CLIENT

**Mr Mike Dillon**

**Mill House  
Kirkby Fleetham  
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*Summary*

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the clearing of an area of land adjacent to Mill House, Kirkby Fleetham prior to the construction of a new dwelling. Only natural deposits and made ground were encountered during the monitoring. No archaeological features, deposits were recorded during the course of the watching, although residual pottery dating from the 13th – 19th centuries was recovered.*



ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
WYAS

**Report Information**

Client: Mr Mike Dillon  
Address: 1 Forge Lane, Kirkby Fleetham, DL7 0SA  
Report Type: Archaeological watching brief  
Location: Kirkby Fleetham  
County: North Yorkshire  
Grid Reference: SE 286 943  
Period(s) of activity represented: Residual medieval  
Report Number: 2228  
Project Number: 3715  
Site Code: MHK 11  
Planning Application No.: 11/00248/FUL  
Museum Accession No.: Not yet assigned  
Date of fieldwork: 3rd June 2011  
Date of report: June 2011  
Project Management: Ian Roberts BSc PSA MIFA  
Fieldwork supervisor: David Williams BA PIFA  
Report: David Williams  
Illustrations: David Williams  
Photography: David Williams  
Research: -  
Specialists: Chris Cumberpatch BA PhD (pottery)

Authorisation for  
distribution:

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### **Acknowledgements**

Archaeological Services WYAS would like to thank Mr Ian Harrison of the Plan Shop Architects and Mr Mike Dillon for commissioning the project. Further thanks are also extended to Mike Dillon for the on site assistance that he provided.

## 1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was instructed by Mr Ian Harrison of the Plan Shop Architects on behalf of their client Mr Mike Dillon to undertake an archaeological watching brief at a site adjacent to 1 Forge Lane, Kirkby Fleetham (see Fig. 1) during the ground preparation for a new dwelling (Planning Application ref: 11/00248/FUL). The monitoring was undertaken on the 3rd June 2011.

### Site location and topography

Kirkby Fleetham lies approximately 8.5km to the west of the town of Northallerton, and 5km to the south east of Catterick. The site is located on the south-eastern side of the village. The site of the new building is bounded by existing residential buildings to the east and west and the remains of the motte and bailey castle and medieval settlement earthworks within Hall Garth to the south (Fig 1). The main road through the village bounds the site to the north.

The site lies at an approximate height of 37m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and is centred at NGR SE 286 943.

### Soils, geology and land-use

The solid geology is recorded as part of the Sherwood Sandstone Group, overlain by River terrace deposits of undifferentiated sands and gravels (British Geological Survey 1998). The overlying soils are of the Wick I series typically categorised as well drained coarse loamy sandy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1980). The site was previously used as a private garden.

## 2 Archaeological and Historical Background

There is little evidence of Palaeolithic to Neolithic activity within the development area although locally a number of ritual monuments including cursus monuments, henges and burial enclosures have been identified. Again, although Bronze and Iron Age sites are known within the region, no monuments or finds have been recorded in the development area. The Roman town of Catterick (*Caractonium*) lies 7km to the north-west of the site and Roman finds have been numerous in the area, with spot finds of coins from Low Kiplin and Great Langton just to the north of the site, on the opposite bank of the river Swale.

The village of Kirkby Fleetham is documented in the Domesday Book suggesting a pre-existing settlement with associated agricultural system. Ridge and furrow field strips have been identified to the east of Kirkby Fleetham Hall. The church of St Mary has elements that date from the Norman period. The proposed development lies within the historic core of the village adjacent to the site of the castle, which is scheduled as 'Motte and bailey castle (Plate 1) and medieval settlement earthworks within Hall Garth' (national monument no. 34728). The castle was given a licence to crenellate in 1314, but only the moat and and some

remnants of the walling now survive. The 1857 Ordnance Survey map depicts a number of tracks, field boundaries and river defences which have subsequently been removed with the introduction of large scale and intensive farming techniques.

### 3 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- to assess the potential for archaeological remains to survive in the area of the proposed dwelling;
- to determine the date, nature, depth and stratigraphy of any archaeological features and deposits encountered.

### 4 Methodology

An archaeologist was present during the mechanical excavation and clearing of the footprint of the new dwelling and garage. An archaeologist monitored the machine excavations and inspected all upcast material. Appropriate written, drawn and photographic records were made in accordance with recognised professional standards (e.g. Institute for Archaeologists 2008) and ASWYAS watching brief guidelines and site recording manual (ASWYAS 2003; 2006). The contents of the primary archive are listed in Appendix 1, a concordance of contexts is contained in Appendix 2 and a copy of the written scheme of investigation is presented in Appendix 3.

### 5 Results

Two joined rectangular areas were excavated and measured 22m in length by 19.3m in width, comprising an area of 194m<sup>2</sup> (Fig 2; Plates 2-3). The clearing of the area consisted of removing the topsoil and subsoil deposits down to the top of the natural. The topsoil (100) was 0.20m thick and consisted of a dark brown black silty sand. This overlay subsoil (101) which was between 0.05-0.15m thick and consisted of a greyish brown sandy soil.

Within the north half of the striped area was layer of building rubble (102) that was situated below the topsoil layer and above the natural, this replaced the subsoil layer and appeared to be infilling a slight hollow in the north-eastern corner. The hollow was an area of natural approximately 0.30m lower than the surrounding natural to the south.

Deposit 102 was deepest at the western side of the stripped area at 0.25m deep. This deposit appears to represent a levelling activity within the garden to raise the slightly hollow area up.

The natural deposit consisted of yellowish brown sands and gravels and were located at 36.08m aOD at the eastern side, rising up to 37.26m aOD at the western side of the stripped area.

No archaeological features were encountered during the course of the watching brief, although nine sherds of residual pottery were recovered from the subsoil deposit 101. The date range for the pottery sherds varies widely from the 13th century to the early 19th century.

## 6 Artefact Record

### Pottery by Chris Cumberpatch

#### *Introduction*

The pottery assemblage consisted of nine sherds of pottery from a single context (101). The details are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Pottery from Context 101

Type	Number	Part	Form	Date range	Notes
Buff Sandy ware	1	Rod handle	Jug	C13th - C14th	Unidentified local oxidised sandy ware fine quartz tempered fabric
Cane Coloured ware	1	BS	Hollow ware	C19th	
Late Medieval Sandy ware	1	Flake	?Bowl	?C15th - C16th	Oxidised sandy ware with green glaze internally; exterior surface missing
Mottled Creamware	1	Base	Jar	c.1740 - c.1820	Creamware body with purple mottled glaze
Reduced Greenware	2	BS	Hollow ware	LC13th - C15th	Fine reduced fabric w/ green glaze exterior
Reduced Greenware type	2	BS	Hollow ware	LC13th - C15th	Pale grey to orange sandy fabric with green glaze ext; one sherd with rilled band
Redware	1	BS	Hollow ware	C18th	Fine red fabric with clear glaze interior and exterior with fine yellow mottling
Total	9				

#### *Discussion*

The pottery assemblage includes sherds of medieval, early modern and recent date from the same context suggesting disturbance in the 19th century or later and the incorporation of earlier material into a later context. The nature of this activity cannot be determined from the pottery evidence.



The range of wares represented includes two distinct fabrics within the regional Reduced Greenware tradition. At present it is not possible to suggest sources for either of the groups as few potteries have been identified and fewer excavated.

The early modern and recent pottery was of standard types which are common on sites of 18th and 19th century date throughout northern England and beyond.

## **7 Discussion and Conclusions**

No archaeological remains were encountered during the excavation of the footprint for the new dwelling at Mill House. The excavations that were monitored only uncovered a modern made ground levelling deposit confined to the northern area of stripped site. The remainder of the site only identified topsoil and subsoil deposits situated upon the sand and gravel natural.

The recovery of medieval pottery sherds from a site located so close to a medieval village core and motte and bailey site is not unexpected. The recovery of the pottery from the subsoil deposit and the wide date range from the 13th century to the early 19th century indicates the incorporation of earlier material into a later context, mostly likely caused during the infilling of the slight hollow in the north-eastern corner and any general landscaping activity on site.



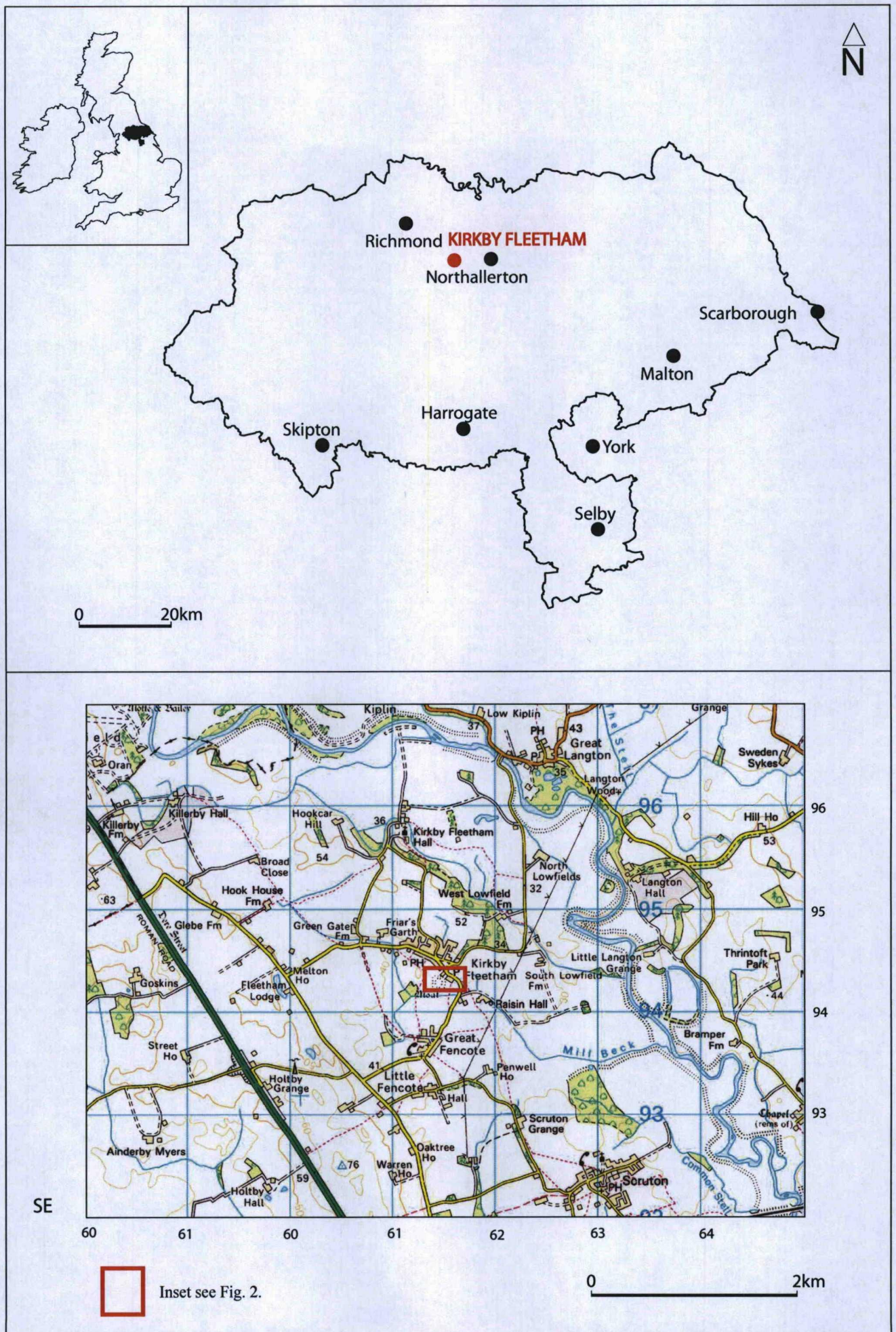


Fig. 1. Site location





Fig. 2. Site location showing position of monitored area (1:500 @ A3)





*Plate 1. General shot of scheduled monument from site, looking south-west*



*Plate 2. General shot of monitored area, looking north-west*



*Plate 3. General shot of monitored area, looking north-east*

**Appendix 1: Inventory of primary archive**

Phase	Description	Quantity
Watching Brief	Context register sheets	1
	Context sheets (nos. 100-103)	2
	Plan with Levels	1
	Site plans	2
	Digital photo record sheet	1
	Digital photo contact sheet	1
	Risk assessment	1
	Written scheme of investigation	1
	Watching brief daily monitoring from	1

**Appendix 2: Concordance of contexts yielding artefacts or environmental remains**

Context	Description	Artefacts and environmental samples
100	Topsoil – dark brown black silty sand (0.20m thick)	Pot (9)
101	Subsoil – greyish brown sandy soil with small sandstone fragments (0.05-0.15	
102	Building rubble – made ground deposit, greyish brown sandy soil with brick fragments and small lime mortar flecks (0.05-0.25m thick)	
103	Natural sands and gravels	

### **Appendix 3: Written Scheme of Investigation**



# **Written Scheme Of Investigation**

## **for an Archaeological Watching Brief**

### **at Land Adjacent to 1 Forge Lane, Kirkby Fleetham**

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This specification has been prepared by Archaeological Services WYAS on behalf of the Mr Ian Harrison of The Plan Shop Architects for submission to the Hambleton District Planning Officer to satisfy the requirements of the Development Management Archaeologist at North Yorkshire County Council (hereafter NYCC) as mitigation for the construction of a new detached residential dwelling.

1.2 A limited amount of archaeological work consisting of a watching brief is proposed to identify and record any archaeological remains which are revealed or disturbed by groundworks during the development of a site adjacent to 1 Forge Lane, Kirkby Fleetham (Grid Reference SE 286 943; Planning Application ref: 11/00248/FUL).

#### **2. Background**

2.1 Planning approval is being sought, for the erection of a two storey town house in the garden of Mill House, 1 Forge Lane, Kirkby Fleetham. Development in this area has the potential to encounter remains associated with medieval settlement and activity. Therefore, the Development Management Archaeologist at North Yorkshire County Council has advised that there is reason to believe that important archaeological remains may be affected by the proposed development and that a programme of archaeological work is required.

#### **3. Archaeological Interest**

3.1 There is little evidence of Palaeolithic to Neolithic activity within the development area although locally a number of ritual monuments including cursus monuments, henges and burial enclosures have been identified. Again, although Bronze and Iron Age sites are known within the region, no monuments or finds have been recorded in the development area. The Roman town of Catterick (*Caractonium*) lies 7km to the north-west of the site and Roman finds have been numerous in the area with spot finds of coins from Low Kiplin and Great Langton just to the north of the site, on the opposite bank of the river Swale.

3.2 The village of Kirkby Fleetham is documented in the Domesday Book suggesting a pre-existing settlement with associated agricultural system. Ridge and furrow has been identified to the east of Kirkby Fleetham Hall. The church of St Mary has elements that date from the Norman period. The proposed development lies within the historic core of the village adjacent to the site of the castle, which is scheduled as 'Motte and bailey castle and medieval settlement earthworks within Hall Garth' (national monument no. 34728). The castle was given a licence to crenellate in 1314, but only the moat and an d some remnants of the walling now survive. The 1857 Ordnance Survey map depicts a number of tracks, field boundaries and river defences which have subsequently been removed with the introduction of large scale and intensive farming techniques.

#### **4. Aim of the Watching Brief**

4.1 The aim of the watching brief is to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits that are disturbed or revealed during the groundworks associated with the development. This work will mitigate the destruction of buried archaeological remains through 'preservation by record'.



## 5. Fieldwork Methodology

5.1 In order to maximise the potential for identifying archaeological remains all groundworks will be undertaken using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, where possible. The intention of the archaeological watching brief is not to unduly delay the work of other contractors on site, however, a degree of flexibility is expected in order that the archaeologist can fulfil the terms of this specification. The archaeologist shall not excavate any area beyond those scheduled by the development works.

5.2 An archaeologist will be present on site during the excavation/ground reduction of any area below a depth of 0.15m. The archaeologist should view the area as it is being dug and any trench sections after excavation has been completed. Where archaeology is judged to be present, the excavated area should be rapidly cleaned and the need for further work assessed. Where appropriate, any features and finds will then be quickly hand excavated, sampled if appropriate, and recorded.

5.3 Features/deposits of archaeological concern will be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, scale drawings and written descriptions sufficient to permit the preparation of a report. Section drawings (at a minimum scale of 1:20) will include heights O.D. Plans (at a minimum scale of 1:50) will include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features.

5.4 The actual areas of ground disturbance (even if no archaeological remains are present) will be recorded on a suitable base map/development plan and the stratigraphic sequence and the depth/nature of the excavations will be briefly recorded. If archaeological remains are identified, their location is to be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on an up-to-date 1:1250 O.S. map base.

5.5 Excavated soil will be searched as practicable for finds. All artefacts are to be retained for processing and analysis except for unstratified 20th century material, which may be noted and discarded.

5.6 All securely stratified contexts will be sampled for environmental analysis and scientific dating. Additional 'spot' samples will be taken if suitable material is encountered during the watching brief.

## 6. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

6.1 Should there be, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant more detailed recording than possible within the scope of this WSI, then the archaeological contractor is to urgently contact the developer and the Planning Officer with the relevant information to enable the matter to be resolved.

6.2 Any human remains that are discovered will initially be left *in situ*, covered and protected. If removal of burials is necessary, this will comply with a valid Ministry of Justice exhumation licence and any local environmental health regulations.

6.3 The terms of the Treasure Act, 1996 will be followed with regard to any finds, which might fall within its purview. Any such finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the Code of Practice. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.



## 7. Post-excavation Analysis and Report Preparation

7.1 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples will be processed and all finds shall be cleaned, identified, analysed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. Finds of 20th century date will be quantified and summarily described, but will then be discarded if appropriate. All finds of 19th century or earlier date will be retained and archived.

7.2 A fully indexed field archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and fully labelled photographs/slides. A quantified index to the field archive will form an appendix to the report. The original archive is to accompany the deposition of any finds, providing the landowner agrees to the deposition of finds in a publicly accessible archive.

7.3 A fully illustrated report will be produced, which will include background information on the need for the project, a description of the methodology employed, and a full description and interpretation of the results, placing them in a local and regional context, if appropriate. It is not envisaged that the findings are likely to be published, but it the report will be produced with sufficient care and attention to detail to be of use to future researchers.

7.4 Plans will be at an appropriate scale showing: areas excavated and the identified (and, where possible, predicted) archaeological features/deposits. Trench and feature plans must include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features. Section drawings must include O.D heights and be cross-referenced to an appropriate plan.

7.5 All artefacts and environmental material will be analysed by qualified and experienced specialists who can document and demonstrate levels of professional competence and technical expertise and access to comparable materials. Artefact analysis is to include the production of a descriptive catalogue. Finds critical for dating and interpretation should be illustrated.

7.6 All work will be undertaken in accordance with Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance.

## 8. Archive Deposition

8.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, Archaeological Services WYAS will contact the relevant museum archaeological curator in writing to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive. The letter will be copied to NYCC. In this case the contact is Richmond Museum. Archaeological Services WYAS will endeavour to obtain consent of the landowner, in writing, to the deposition of finds.

8.2 An on-line OASIS form will also be completed.

## 9. Report Submission

9.1 Archaeological Services WYAS will supply a copies of the report to the developer within an agreed time following completion of fieldwork. Copies of the report should be supplied to the Planning Officer and the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record at County Hall, Northallerton, where it will become publicly accessible, unless confidentiality is explicitly requested in which case it will become publicly accessible six months after deposition.

## 10. Health and Safety

10.1 Archaeological Services WYAS has its own Health and Safety Policy and Codes of Practice, which have been compiled using national guidelines such as FAME. These guidelines conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation.

10.2 The archaeologist on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations and will be provided with a site-specific risk assessment. Where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard will also be taken of any reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose.

10.3 The main site contractor should be aware of the requirements of archaeologists working on site and make provision in their own risk assessment in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations.

10.4 It is the responsibility of the main site contractor to identify the locations of underground services.

10.5 Health and safety will take priority over archaeological matters at all times.

## 11. Insurance

11.1 Archaeological Services WYAS has effected appropriate insurance cover with Zurich Municipal Insurance, PO Box 568, First Floor, 1 East Parade, Leeds, LS1 2UA, policy number OLA 03R896 0013. Any further enquiries should be directed to The Chief Financial Officer, Financial Services (Room 403), County Hall, Bond Street, Wakefield, WF1 2QW.

## 12. Monitoring

The Hambleton Planning Officer will be responsible for monitoring the project, acting on behalf of the local planning authority, and their officers will be afforded the opportunity to inspect the site and the records at any stage of the work.

## 13. Resources and Programming

13.1 To be arranged

## 14. Quality

14.1 Archaeological Services WYAS is an accredited ISO 9001:2000 organisation and a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists, operating to nationally agreed guidelines, processes and procedures. These are set within a framework that endeavours to carry out the required work and submit the final report in a manner that meets with our client's specific needs, providing quality assurance throughout the project and for the end product. These guidelines, processes and procedures are contained within a Quality Manual and all staff work in accordance with this manual.



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ISOQAR ISO 9001:2000  
Cert. No. 125QM8003



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