

NYCC HER	
SNY	18585
ENY	5889
CNY	
Parish	6099
Rec'd	24.04.03

8th July 02

Page 1.5

Dear Mr.Ogden,

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**  
**WILLOW BROOK, SIDDLE LANE, KETTLESING, NORTH YORKSHIRE**  
**FOR MR.OGDEN**

Further to your instruction, dated 21<sup>st</sup> June 02 I have had the opportunity to undertake a rapid Archaeological assessment of the above site.

This statement has been prepared to accompany an application to Harrogate Borough Council's Planning Department concerning the proposed re-development of the site.

The contents of this statement draw on both desktop studies and a rapid field inspection of the two fields that are likely to be affected by the proposals. A consultation was made of those, relevant, maps held by The Local Reference Library – Harrogate, North Yorkshire County Council Records Office and West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield.

The recent site inspection was conducted with the full permissions of the landowner. The study area was inspected in late June, the optimum time of grass and vegetation cover. However, I am confident that this statement provides an accurate overview of the upstanding archaeological remains across the site.

The following has been noted; -

### **The Site**

The study area comprises of field (OS Field No.5774) centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) SE: 2260 5674 constituting 0.794 hectares and currently managed as improved pasture, together with a narrow wooded belt (OS Field No.5767), centred at NGR SE: 2260 5660 constituting 0.890 hectares. Field 5774 has been designated the site of the proposed dwelling. The dwelling known as Willow Brook is presently situated on the boundary between the two fields. The dwelling is accessed from the north off Siddle Lane by a vehicular track, from the south via a bridleway and from the east by public footpath; these thoroughfares converge to the immediate south west of the dwelling.

The existing property comprises of a detached 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse that has undergone subsequent modernisation and extension. The most recent extension being that to the western end of the building dating from the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The lean to detail on the north elevation of the 19<sup>th</sup> century dwelling has been carried through on the more recent extension. Two dormer windows pierce the roof of the original. The external walls are built of sandstone with a stone slate roof. The roof has stone copings and ornamental stone kneelers to the gables, with five stone stacks of varying date. The older section of the house, to the east, has vertical form windows where as the more recent extension, to the west, has horizontal formed windows. Three detached ancillary buildings were noted to the north west of the dwelling, namely a single storey, stone built privy / fuel store, a modern stable and garage / car port.

### **Background**

#### **The Roman Road**

The conjectural line of a Roman Road known as Watling Street passes through the site on east north east alignment, on route for Olicana (Ilkley) from Isurium (Aldborough). The line of the road has been the subject of much archaeological attention and discussion but physical evidence of the thoroughfare remains allusive in Lower Nidderdale.

Mr.P.Ross (1917) and Mr.E.Waight (1996per comm.) believe they have identified sections of this projected route as the road traverses the hill side from Kettlesing Head to its fording of the Nidd to the immediate north of Hampsthwaite. This line is supported by Medieval documentary evidence, 12<sup>th</sup> century monastic charters note that the section of Roman Road known as Watling Street east of Kettlesing Head ran along the line of Long (Love) Lane in Felliscliffe to cross the Nidd near Hampsthwaite (Fountains Charters p.204). Unfortunately, little has been found in the way of archaeological evidence to support this line of the road. An archaeological assessment and subsequent watching brief was conducted by Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA 96/50 & 97/38) on behalf of Yorkshire Pipeline Services during 1996/7. The pipeline corridor between Harlow Hill and Clapham Green transected the suspected line of the Roman road to the south west of Hampsthwaite at Swincliffe, NGR SE: 4252 4581, but these extensive groundwork's failed to identify the road. Recent archaeological works in Hampsthwaite ( Cale K J 1998, 2000) failed to confirm the existence of the road within and to the north side of the village.

However, the cartographic evidence would strongly suggest that the Roman road traverses the study area on an east alignment. The early maps such, Forest of Knaresborough Map (1767) and Jefferys Map (1771) are relatively vague and the line of the road is ambiguous. However, the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition survey of 1853 clearly annotates the line of the road as it passes south of Kettlesing. At which point, for a distance of approximately 260 metres, the road

is depicted running on an embankment. This earthwork has been breached in two places to afford access for the more recent lanes that descend the hill into Kettlesing. The line of this earthwork passes to the immediate north of Willow Brooks (not named) and projects into the fields beyond to the west and east. Subsequent maps, with the exception of the 1909 25" map (which omits the road line), have respected this same course.

### The Fields

Map regression studies have confirmed the following:-

In 1767 the study area was located within the Township of Felliscliffe within the Forest of Knarborough, situated at the interface between ancient enclosure and a broad linear tract of unenclosed land that extends from the high ground to the south down into the neighbouring township of Birstwith. It is possible that the narrow belt of woodland, OS No. 5767 has been mapped as a chain of assarts, these small, often narrow, fields respect the boundary of the ancient enclosure and indicate encroachment, legal and otherwise, into the unenclosed forest waste. The larger of the two fields, OS No.5774 is not depicted and lies within the broad tract of unenclosed waste, that may have functioned as an outgang (a historic droveway).

In 1772 it would appear that the study area lies within a large, enclosed, parcel of ground, situated to the immediate east of the linear settlement of Kettlesing. There is no indication of field boundary divisions.

In 1853 the study area is dominated by hachure marks delineating the embanked line of the Roman road, to the immediate north of which two buildings (un-named) are depicted within the south western corner of a large field. The boundaries of this field respect the north, south and western boundaries of field, OS No. 5774. A narrow field extends to the south of the Roman road, the boundaries of which respect those of the wooded belt, OS No. 5767.

By 1909 the area has been surveyed in some detail. It can be established that the two buildings (un-named) are situated on the site of Willow Brooks and the detached privy / fuel store. The buildings are accessed by a vehicle track off Siddle Lane to the north, and by two footpaths from the east, the most southerly of which respects the line of the Roman road. The larger of the two fields, OS No.5774 is recorded as in 1853, with an acreage of 1.969 and a redundant field number of 216. The narrow field, OS No.5767 is depicted as in 1853, with an open stream running adjacent to the western boundary. A track extends into the parcel from the south, bridging the watercourse. The field is recorded as redundant field number 219, having an acreage of 0.746.

In 1973 the buildings are depicted, with the southern most having been extended on its western gable, the property is not named. The large field to the north has been divided into three, the largest of which is recorded as OS No.5774, having a hectareage of .794. The field to the south, OS No.5767 is unchanged from 1909, with a hectareage of .089.

### Site Inspection

No previously recorded archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken on the site.

It has been confirmed that approximately 98% of the study area is devoid of surface archaeology.

Field 5774

Land Use: Grassland:Meadow:Improved

Aspect: North

The principal field, designated as the site of the proposed relocation of the existing dwelling, has, in very recent years, been heavily disturbed associated with formation of a tennis court. The tennis court is located within the south east quadrant of the field; its construction has resulted in the excavation and disposal of large volumes of earth. Within the western extent of the field, a curvilinear bank was recorded. The bank extends for approximately 50 metres in length, on a northern alignment, measuring up to 1.5 metres in height with a predominant east facing aspect. The bank appears to have been formed from recently accumulated and landscaped spoil, most probably derived from the formation of the tennis courts. A small number of stacked / tipped boulders were identified across the field, with each boulder, measuring approximately 1 metre in diameter and showing signs of having been recently machine excavated it is suspected that they were removed from the site of the tennis court. A timber stable / loosebox has been recently constructed on a concrete slab, within the south western corner of the field.

Site inspection has confirmed that no archaeological earthworks survive within this field.

Field 5767

Land Use: Woodland:Deciduous:Unmanged

Aspect: North

The field was found to be a narrow strip of semi mature woodland. An open stream follows the western boundary in a steep sided, often sinuous, natural cutting, which measures up to 1.7 metres below the ground level of the woodland. The configuration of dry stone walls within the eastern extent of the woodland demarcates the extent of two small garden sized allotments, now disused and overgrown. These were accessed off a narrow track that runs down the spine of the woodland. The surface of the path, although heavily overgrown appears to be trodden earth, with a pebble/cobble surface to reinforce its crossing of the stream in the southern extent of the woodland. A second, timber planked bridge has been installed to afford access over a storm culvert within the northern extent of the wood. Natural ground levels within the woodland fall gently to the north, but in places, there is evidence to suggest that ground levels have been artificially raised. For instance within the centre / north of the wood, to the immediate north of the stream crossing ground levels rise to the east by 0.60m, the well defined west facing bank is suggestive of a cultivation platform. Within the northern extent of the wood, close to its boundary with the property's access road, two platforms of made up ground straddle the course of the storm drain, close to the drains confluence with the open stream. Here ground levels rise acutely by 1.5 metres in height. The surface of these platforms appear to be relatively level, although the site is heavily obscured by vegetation. A telegraph pole has recently been erected on the southern most platform. Whilst these platforms appear to be no more than truncated, conical shaped mounds of spoil, their close proximity to the projected line of the Roman road suggest they may be the residual remains of the embanked thoroughfare, if not in situ then displaced.

Site inspection could not confirm the line of the Roman road, a storm drain, measuring 1.5m wide and up to 2.4 in depth presently runs on the projected line of the road, situated on the boundary between the rear yard and the woodland, OS No.5767. A rapid inspection of the fields to the immediate west and east of the study area appears to suggest that there are no surface remains of the embanked Roman road.

Page 5.5

Willow Brook

Paved yard areas extend along the south and north facing elevations of the house. The southern has been formed on different levels incorporating a narrow, open storm water channel (dry at the time of inspection) that appears to pass beneath the timber bridge in field OS No.5767 before discharging into the open stream to the immediate west.

### **Summary**

With regards to the likely impact that the development proposals will have on the surface archaeology, it has been calculated this will be low / moderate, however, it has not been possible to establish the degree to which archaeology may survive below the existing ground levels of the site.

The design proposals indicate that the majority of the proposed ground disturbance associated with the construction of a new dwelling and detached garage will be undertaken to the north of the existing dwelling, in an area that would appear to have been, previously, heavily disturbed associated with the construction of a tennis court.

The formation of a new access road to the north west, likewise should have little impact, although the proposed line does breach a linear embankment that has been interpreted as recently landscaped spoil.

The demolition of the existing property should have little impact, although the works close proximity, within 10 metres, to the line of the Roman road makes any necessary ground disturbance within this area potentially sensitive.

The demolition of outbuildings should have little impact on surface archaeology.

The landscaping proposals for the site, following the completion of the development proposals, have not been fully realised, as such, caution has to be implemented by the design team and Client, as to the nature this may take, particularly south of the existing dwelling.

### **Recommendations**

In view of the above, it is likely that on receipt of the development proposals North Yorkshire County Council will recommend that an archaeological condition be placed on the Planning Consent. It is likely that the fulfilment of this condition will require the Client to appoint an NYCC Approved Archaeologist to implement a watching brief on groundwork's associated with the development, demolition and landscaping aspects of these proposals.

I trust you find the above in order. Should you have any queries regarding the above, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

**Kevin Cale**

Cc. J.Goodwin Esq – Carter Jonas  
P.Knowles Esq – Peter Knowles Associates

## **Sources Consulted**

### **Maps**

1767 Forest of Knaresborough

1772 Jefferys Map of Yorkshire

1853 Ordnance Survey Map, 6" 1<sup>st</sup> Edition

1909 Ordnance Survey Map 25" West Riding Sheet CL111.11

1973 Ordnance Survey Map 1:2500

1997 Ordnance Survey Map 1:25:000 – Explorer 297

### **Archive Document**

1998 Cale K J Archaeological Watching Brief, Village Green, Hampsthwaite, For Transco

2000 Cale K J Archaeological Assessment, Hampsthwaite Abattoir, For R.D.L.Evans Esq

1996 NAA Archaeological Assessment of a Water Corridor between Harlow Hill and Clapham Bridge, Harrogate, For Yorkshire Pipelines

1997 NAA Archaeological Watching Brief, Pateley Bridge Water Pipeline, For Yorkshire Pipelines

Waight E C The Roman Road From Hampsthwaite to Aldborough