

HIGH BRIDGE

KNARESBOROUGH

NORTH YORKSHIRE

SE 34507 57133

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

FOR

HARROGATE BOROUGH COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 1994

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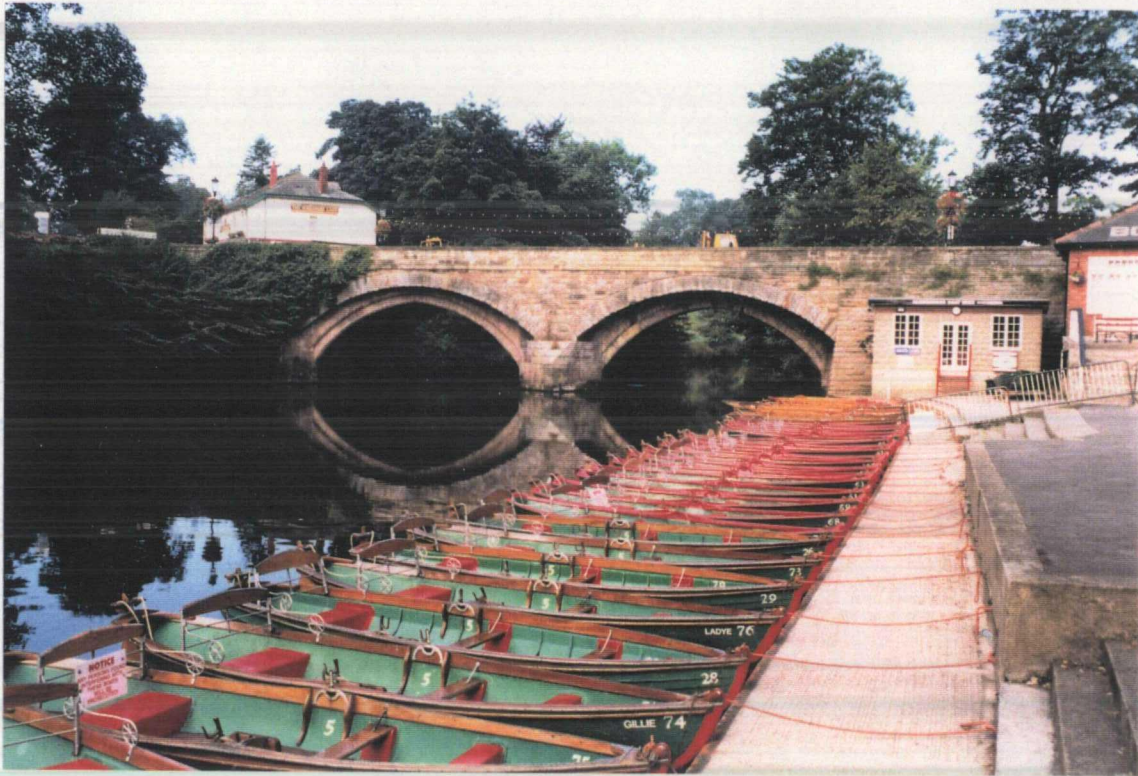
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PLATE 1



General shot of High Bridge

**HIGH BRIDGE, KNARESBOROUGH
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
SEPTEMBER 1994**

INTRODUCTION

In June 1994 Harrogate Borough Council instructed Kevin John Cale, Archaeological Consultant, to maintain an archaeological Watching Brief on ground disturbance associated with footworks and trench excavations on the High Bridge County Scheduled Ancient Monument No 87

Mrs M Kershaw, Curator, Harrogate Museums Service, had informed Technical Services, Harrogate Borough Council in 1994 that the proposed works were to be undertaken on a Scheduled Ancient Monument and as such permission for ground disturbance would have to be granted from English Heritage. Harrogate Borough Council were informed that it would be necessary to engage the services of an archaeologist to maintain a watching brief on the proposed ground disturbance.

The works were undertaken in order to replace sections of an existing and now outdated surface water drain, in advance of the resurfacing of the existing highway and footways across the bridge. The alignment and location of the proposed trench excavations were chosen, where possible, to coincide with areas of the structure that had been previously disturbed by the laying of services, and in so doing it was hoped the works would have the least possible impact on the monument.

The desk top study indicated that the site of the existing bridge had been a major crossing point of the River Nidd since at least the 13th Century with the northern bank of the river being the focus of the medieval woollen cloth industry within Knaresborough. The existing structure whilst containing late medieval fabric was largely the product of more recent rebuilds and extensions.

A site inspection combined with discussions with Harrogate Borough Council's Engineers prior to the commencement of works indicated that the surface of the bridge had been heavily disturbed by repeated ground disturbance associated with the laying of services and resurfacing works. However, the potential remained that medieval and post medieval archaeological deposits and surfaces may survive in situ across parts of the structure.

The watching brief was undertaken on Tuesday 6th September and concluded on Friday 11th November 1994.

FIGURE 1

SITE LOCATION PLAN

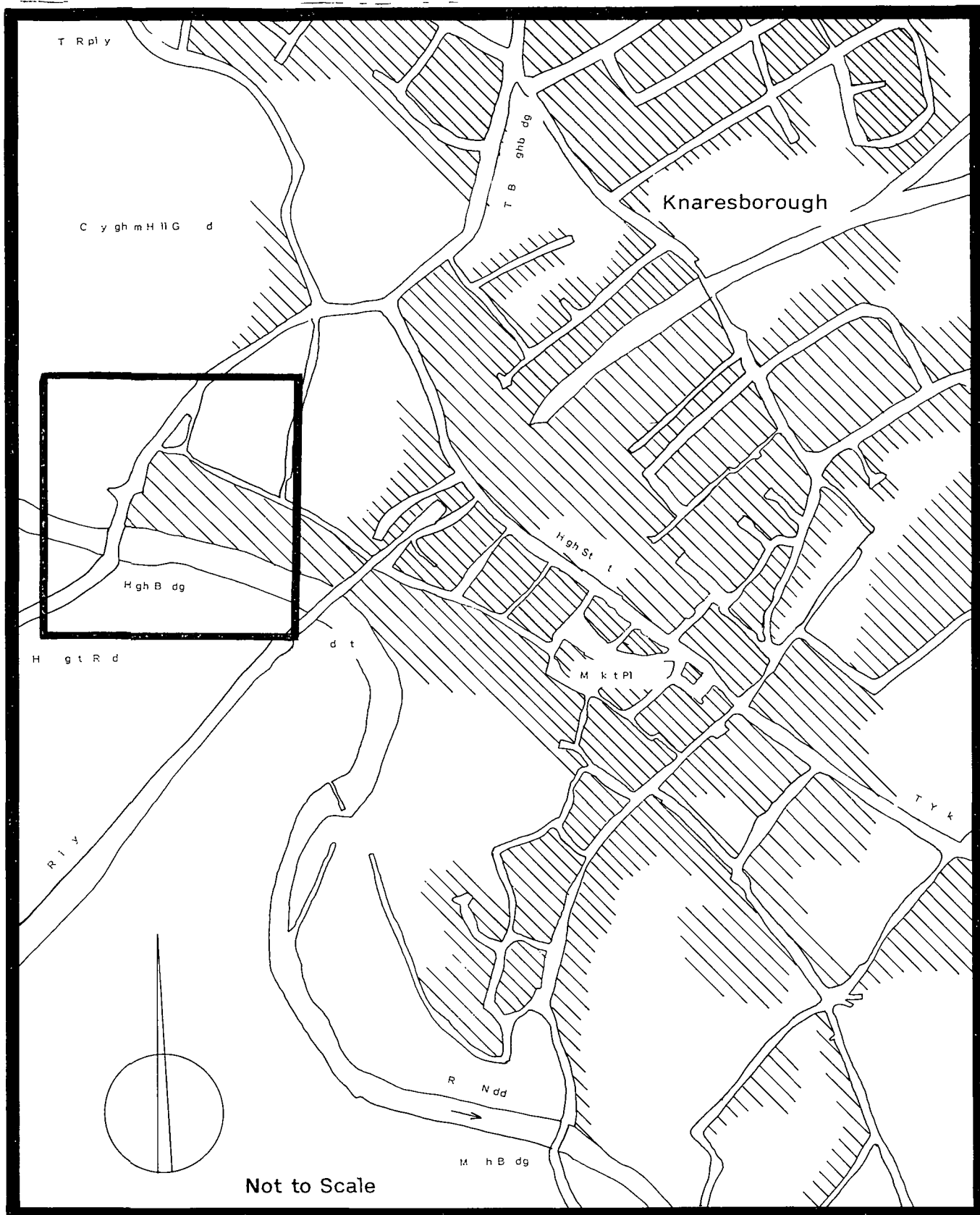


PLATE 2



**West facing elevation of High Bridge, revealing
the three distinct phases of construction**

PLATE 3



East facing elevation of High Bridge