

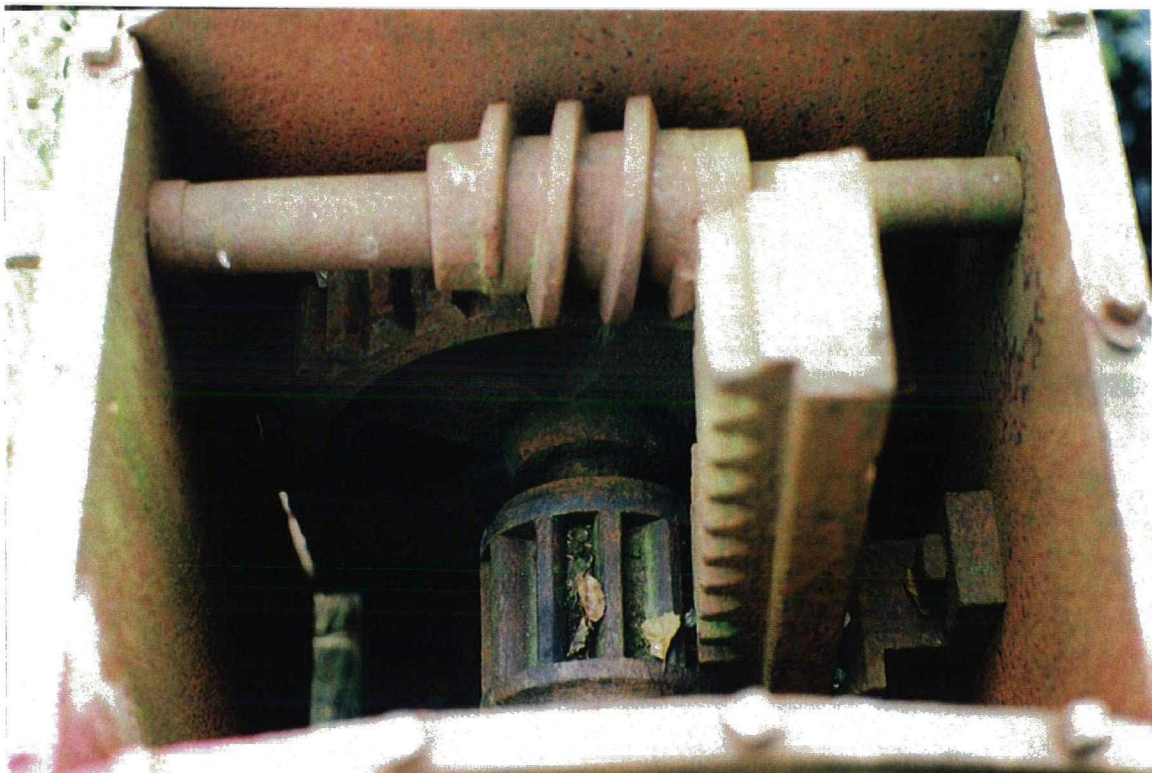
PLATES 1, 2, & 3



PLATES 4 & 5



PLATES 6 & 7



It was agreed that the principal archaeologist would be present, on site, during the machine excavation and removal of any turf / overburden, top soil and upper levels of the sub soil.

In the event that archaeology is exposed during, the above works it was agreed that adequate time is allowed for the archaeologist to record same.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological supervision of groundworks at the above concluded on 22nd January 2000. The site inspections that constituted this brief were made intermittently throughout those groundworks that were undertaken on the northern bank of the River Nidd. The watching brief was largely negative, with no significant archaeological features or deposits being identified. However, there follows a brief summary on the works.

No archaeology was identified during the removal of turf, topsoil within the study area. With the exception of the water management systems, no archaeology was identified as cutting the surface of the sub soil.

Within the central area of the site, it is apparent that the ground levels had been subjected to a high level of previous disturbance. This had involved the tipping of hardcore, tarmac scuffings, concrete, brick and general construction debris within this area of the site. It would appear that the deposition of this material had been made in order to raise the ground levels on the northern bank of the river. Furthermore it was determined that the former flood bank was made up entirely of tipped construction debris.

This level of disturbance meant that the potentially archaeologically rich deposits had been contaminated with overburden. Small pockets of less heavily disturbed areas were identified across the development area. Towards the south eastern extent of the site, a layer of buried ploughsoil was identified. However, upon detailed inspection the deposit proved negative.

As had been anticipated the excavation of the toe trench intersected the line of the covered leat. This linear structure was identified within the central area of the site at N.G.R.1554 6535 within close proximity to the weir. The leat measured 4m wide x 0.54m deep and had well defined U shaped profile. The leat was lined with roughly dressed sandstone. The leat was filled with alluvial deposits.

A sequence of homogenous fills were identified, each of which were silt / sand based and contained a high quantity of gravels and water worn cobbles.

The groundworks adjacent to upstream elevation of the bridge were two fold, namely; the grading of an existing flood bank that effectively blocked the flood arch and an exploratory excavation to ascertain the nature and form of the foundations of the late 20th century footbridge abutment. These works failed to identify either the south eastern extent of the covered leat or any previously concealed fabric of the principal bridge.

The watching brief generated a small assemblage of 19th century and modern artefacts. These were dominated by pottery sherds, but also included, bottle and window glass and metalwork. These artefacts were not recovered.

SOURCES CONSULTED:

Map Sources:

- 1775 Jeffreys Map of Yorkshire – North Yorkshire Records Office
- 1854 OS 1st Edition 6" to the Mile – North Yorkshire Records Office
- 1895 OS 6" inch to the Mile – North Yorkshire Records Office
- 1909 OS 25" inch to the Mile – North Yorkshire Records Office
- 1924 A Plan of the Bewerley Hall Estate, Nidderdale (York Family Sale Plan).
- 1997 OS 1:25,000 – Explorer 26
- 1999 OS 1:1250 (Extract) - Drawing No.BWA/019130/G/1/001

SMR Sources:

NYCC SMR Consultation – October 1999

O.S. Record Card No. SE 16 NE 17

Bibliography:

Nidderdale – W.Grainge, 1863

Upper Nidderdale with the Forest of Knaresborough – H.Speight, 1906

A History of Nidderdale – B.Jennings (ed.) 1967/1983