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Gail Falkingham
 Heritage Unit
 North Yorkshire County Council
 County Hall
 NORTHALLERTON DL7 8AH

15 May 2000

Dear Gail,

Jolby Manor, Stapleton – Watching Brief

I am writing to let you know the results of the watching brief I carried out at Jolby Manor on 4th and 5th May 2000.

I observed the excavation of foundation trenches and some further excavation to reveal existing services. The foundation trenches were between 85 and 95 cm. wide, and 90 cm. deep. The existing ground surface was in part gravel, in part grassed lawn and in part concrete.

Beneath the gravel, to the north of the house, was a dark brown-grey silty sand containing stones and 19th/20th Century pottery fragments, with occasional cobbles. Towards the east of the gravelled area the cobbles became more frequent, directly overlying the clay at 50 cm. below the surface, and there was also an area of dark grey and black silty clay in the same vicinity. In the north-west corner of the gravelled area was a concentration of brick and tile near the surface. The soil became clayey with depth and by 70 cm. below the surface was orange-brown, blue-red or greenish yellow clay containing occasional large angular stones.

The grassed area was to the east, and the topsoil was c. 35 cm. deep. Below this was similar variegated clay to that in the gravelled area. In places were scatters of tile, wood, stone, rough concrete, modern pottery etc., all apparently 20th Century, and at the north-east corner was an area of mortar or plaster surrounded by several large stones and concrete and an upright timber post. The ground level in the grassed area was lowered by 30 – 40 cm. This revealed more modern debris including a line of mortared bricks which were possibly not in situ.

The concreted area, to the east of the existing house, contained a conservatory, and the new foundations followed the line of the existing conservatory foundations. The trenches therefore contained concrete to a depth of 60 cm., below which was undisturbed clay.

The clays underlying the site were glacial in origin. No items of archaeological interest were observed which were earlier than 20th Century. There were traces of a former building in the north-eastern part of the development, but this appeared to be relatively modern. Elsewhere, the soils and debris were consistent with the area having been a farmyard, possibly with



NYCC HER	
SNY	543
ENY	121
CNY	1642
Parish	1096
Rec'd	17/05/2000

some cobbled areas, but with no traces of earlier occupation. The site has been extensively remodelled in the last 20 years by the current owners.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alison".

Alison Clarke