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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

HIGH FARM

HOPPERTON

NORTH YORKSHIRE

N.G.R. SE 42200 56920

COUNTY / PARISH NO. 6095

FOR

EAST TAYLOR HEWARD & N H C B.

MARCH 1999

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**HIGH FARM
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
JUNE 1998**

INTRODUCTION

The proposed archaeological investigation was conducted during ground disturbance associated with the construction of proposed dwellings and ancillary buildings on an existing farm yard site at High Farm, Hopperton, North Yorkshire.

LOCATION AND STATUS

High Farm is situated towards the northern extent of the village of Hopperton, on the eastern side of the main carriageway that runs through the village. The study area is located to the immediate north of the farmhouse at National Grid Reference 442200 456920 within the parish of Allerton Mauleverer with Hopperton.

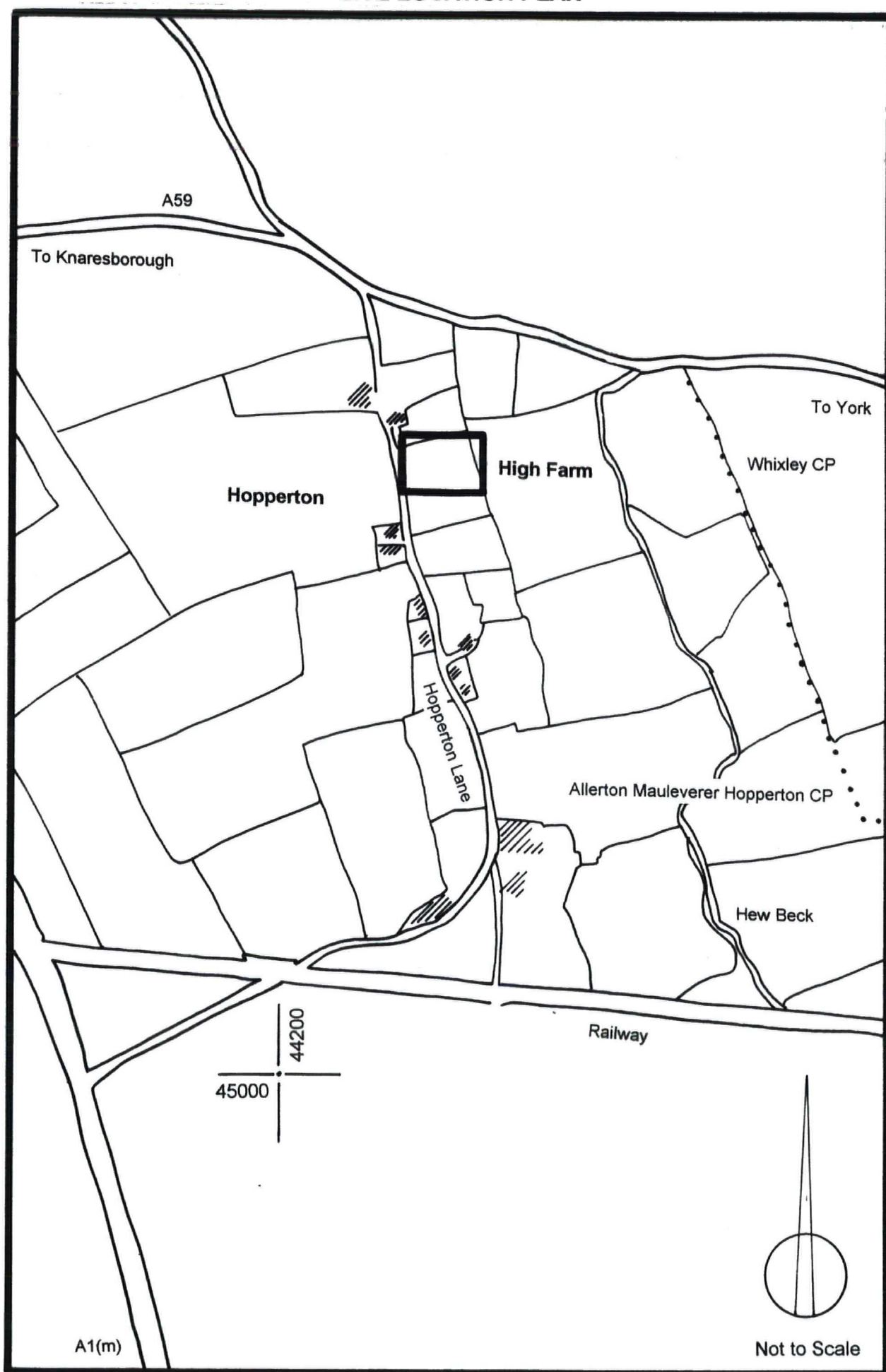
PLANNING HISTORY

Full Planning Permission for the conversion of an existing barn and the construction of a new, detached dwelling, garage and stable block was granted by Harrogate Borough Council, during 1997.

Prior to the commencement of groundworks the Client was informed by The Deputy Archaeologist, Heritage Unit, North Yorkshire County Council that due to the potentially sensitive nature of buried archaeological deposits within the village it would be necessary for the groundworks within the northern area of the village to be subject to an Archaeological Watching Brief. This condition would help to recover and record any archaeological remains and where at all possible to minimise the impact that these works may have on the archaeology.

FIGURE 1

SITE LOCATION PLAN



HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Prior to the commencement of works a consultation of the Sites and Monuments Record, NYCC was made in conjunction with a rapid site inspection. From which it was determined that the proposed works did not intersect any extant archaeological remains. However the surrounding landscape is rich in archaeology.

Evidence of prehistoric activity within the vicinity of Hopperton is largely derived from the identification of lithic scatters on the western side of the A1 (M). These artefacts are products of the Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Age peoples spanning approximately 7000 years. These were identified during a rapid fieldwalking exercise that was conducted in advance of the recent upgrading of the A1 between Walshford and Dishforth.

The Romans were present within the area, this appears to have been largely concerned with the construction of Dere Street the main north / south road. The line of which passed through the neighbouring parishes of Cattal and Whixley, situated approximately 2km to the east of Hopperton.

The settlement of Hopperton was in existence during the Anglo Scandinavian period, unfortunately the documentary evidence for this period is slight. However, The Domesday Book, compiled during the late 11th century, confirms that the village then known as Homtone was surrounded by lands that were held by English tenants, Thorbjorn, Thorgautr, Arnketill and Kethill the personal-names of which strongly suggest Scandinavian ancestry. Furthermore it has been suggested by H. Speight that a prominent, gravel moraine known as Claro Hill may have been used by the Anglo Scandinavian peoples as a meeting place, or *Mote*, and from which the Wapentake name may have been derived.

During the medieval period Hopperton was a vill within the township of Allerton Mauleverer. The township was in turn situated with the larger administrative unit known as the Wapentake of Upper Claro. It is known that during this period there were two foci of settlement within the township, namely Allerton Mauleverer and Hopperton. It would appear the former outsized the former in both area of land holding and importance. The farmed land surrounding the vill of Allerton Mauleverer amounted to approximately 600 acres as opposed to 400 acres at Hopperton.

From medieval documentary sources it is known that the settlement at Allerton Mauleverer consisted of a manor house, church and crofts and tofts. The exact location and form of the manor house has not been confirmed.

St.Martin's church is situated at N.G.R. SE 4158 5795, the existing church is a rebuild dating to 1745, although archaeological excavations have shown that the site supported a church in the 12th century. An early 12th century charter indicates that the crofts and the tofts of the settlement were situated near to the church, the documentary evidence also suggests that the settlement was served by a mill and mill pond.

In 1100 a Benedictine Priory was founded at Allerton Mauleverer by Richard Mauleverer. The religious house was originally a cell of Holy Trinity at York, however, within ten years of it's foundation the priory was made subject to Marmoutier Abbey. On the 28th May 1314 King Edward II gave license to John Mauleverer to erect a Chantry at Allerton, the documentary sources would indicate that by the end of the 14th century structural elements of the religious complex had become dilapidated. In 1414 the priory was granted to King's College Cambridge.

During the later medieval period the village and Priory at Allerton Mauleverer was largely deserted, the site reverted to fields surrounding Gate Hill Farm and St.Martin's Church. Earthworks relating to the medieval settlement have been identified under the existing park gardens and plantations at N.G.R. SE 4207 5880. H.Speight notes that building stone was removed from the site of the Priory during the 18th century.

It was during the later medieval period that Hopperton became the focus of settlement within the township. As with the neighbouring settlement little is presently known of the layout and form of this medieval village. Shallow earthworks relating to this early settlement and it's surrounding field systems survive in those fields of unimproved pasture that straddle the road through the existing village. Aerial photographic evidence (AJC 078/3+4, dated 23.07.86) indicates a concentration of agricultural earthworks, to the immediate south of Hopperton Grange at N.G.R. 44240 45630 comprising; ridge and furrow and headland banks together with a single building platform. A complex of similar features are identifiable to the immediate east of the study area, centred at N.G.R.44230 45670, here the general trend in the alignment of the earthworks is north north west i.e parallel with Hopperton Street. A complex of building platforms are situated to the south of the study area at N.G.R. 44230 45660.

An inspection of the available cartographic sources would indicate that settlement, road network and the surrounding field configuration at Hopperton has changed little in the last 150 years. The present village consists of a string of detached cottages and isolated farms straddling a main street known as Hopperton Lane. The buildings are typically mid / late 19th century and appear to be purpose built by the Allerton Estate, each are surrounded by garden plots.

The road network appears little different from the present entering the village from the north off the A59 (New Road) as Hopperton Lane and exiting to the south west as Grey Thorn Lane. A small number of footpaths and minor tracks serviced the 19th century village these included;

A footpath running from Hopperton Grange to Gelsthorpe Farm.

A footpath passing through the village from New Inn Farm to the village of Whixley via Rainshaw Farm.

During the 19th century the field configuration surrounding the village is made up of a chain of small closes that straddle Hopperton Street, beyond which larger field unit extend to the parish boundary. The present field boundaries are largely unchanged with the exception that a number of fields have amalgamated to form larger units, this has resulted in the disappearance of a number of the small closes on the west side of Hopperton Lane.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The study area is situated in the northern extent of the village on a site that commands an elevated aspect at 41.80 metres AOD. Ground levels across the site fall gently downwards to the south east. The site is accessed from the north west corner off Hopperton Street.

The centre and western extent of the site is presently occupied by 19th and 20th century farm buildings, including a Barn, Covered Fold Yard, Dutch Barn and Stock Sheds many of these units are in an advanced state of disrepair. The farm buildings are connected by a yard surface formed from a concrete slab. A number of the, more recently constructed, detached, prefabricated units have been partially demolished. The eastern extent of the site forms part of field of pasture. This field contains shallow earthwork remains. An aerial photograph of the site AJC 078/5, 23/07/96 delineates a complex of rectilinear banks that almost certainly form part of Hopperton's medieval settlement and field system. The field has recently experienced some recent disturbance associated with the construction of a Livestock and Implement Shed that is situated within it's south east corner, together with the tipping and levelling of demolition rubble immediately adjacent to the curtilage of the farmyard.

PLATES 1 AND 2



High Farm, Hopperton, facing west north west.



Study Area, prior to demolition and site clearance, facing north.

PLATES 3 AND 4



Study Area, prior to demolition and site clearance, facing south east.



Study Area, prior to demolition and site clearance, facing south.