

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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**Jasmine Cottage, Middleham**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. Y044/12**

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This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard procedures.

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## **Summary**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of two trenches at Jasmine Cottage, Middleham, North Yorkshire. No archaeological remains were recorded and no pre-modern finds were recovered.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on 2 February 2012. The work was commissioned by Lynette Jackson-Wilde in order to fulfil an archaeological planning condition (refs 1/80/33Y/VAR and 11/00783.VAR). CFA code and number for the project is MELM/2050.

All work was undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by CFA and agreed with Richmondshire District Council.

#### **1.2 Site Location and Description**

The site was within the grounds of Jasmine Cottage, Middleham, North Yorkshire, DL8 4NX (Fig. 1, NGR: 412855 487760). The excavation area sloped from west to east from approximately 130 to 128m above the Ordnance Datum (AOD).

The geology of the area consists of 'Carboniferous limestone with sandstone and argillaceous rocks of the Yardale group' (BGS 2012). Soils of the area are described as 'Freely draining very acid sandy and loamy soils' with ground cover 'heath and forest' (Landis 2012).

#### **1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background**

Middleham is an historic medieval market town, located on a hill, and dominated by a prominent royal castle dating to the 12th century. The parish church (The Church of Saints Mary and Alkelda) is of Norman foundation, though most of the present building dates to the 14th and 15th centuries (VCH 1914). Middleham today is a centre for tourism and horse racing and there are a number of trainers based in the local area.

#### **1.4 Previous Archaeological work**

No previous archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the development area prior to this watching brief, though a watching brief did take place on a neighbouring property 'The Grove' in 2004 (Clarke 2004), though no archaeological remains were encountered.

#### **1.5 Objectives**

The general objectives were to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains; assess their character, interpret them in terms of their significance and; produce a report on the results.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 Watching Brief**

The trenches were positioned in order to avoid electric cables, drains and water mains, while still located as close as possible to the original extension and covering as much area as possible. Trench 1 formed an 'L shape' and was 2m long north to south and 3m long east to west. Trench 2 was approximately 6m long. Both trenches were 0.75m wide, though due to the friable nature of the ground, the sides of the trenches repeatedly collapsed. Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 0.75m as this was the depth of the original footings for the extension. Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of up to 1.1m in an attempt to establish the depth of made ground and the level of the natural subsoil.

All excavation was monitored and the trenches and resulting spoil were visually inspected for finds and evidence of archaeological features. Appropriate recording forms were completed and photographs were taken of the excavated trenches.

### **2.2 Standards and Guidance**

CFA Archaeology is a registered organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All work was conducted in accordance with relevant IfA Standards and Guidance documents (IfA 1994, 2001), English Heritage guidance (EH 2005, 2006, 2008a, 2008b, 2008c and 2011, and CFA's standard methodology.

### **2.3 Archiving**

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, finds, plans and reports, will be deposited with an appropriate museum or repository according to an agreed timescale, and will be ordered according to current guidelines and to nationally recognised standards (UKIC 1990, 2001, MGC 1994, SMA 1995, Ferguson and Murray 1997 and Brown 2007).

### **3. RESULTS**

No archaeological remains were recorded during the course of the watching brief on either of the two trenches, and other than modern ceramic building materials, cables, wire, bottle glass and plastics no finds were recorded. Figure 1 shows the position of the trenches; Appendix 1 consists of a list of all photographs taken and below is a description of the deposits recorded in both trenches (plates 3 and 4).

Angular grey stones to a depth of up to 0.10m were present across the entire area, forming the surface of residential car parking for the cottages (Plate 1), below this was a mixed grey soil with approximately 50% gravel and pebbles, presumably forming a base for the car park approximately 0.10m thick. Below this was made ground up to 1m thick, consisting of dark grey soil, large rounded cobbles, pebbles, gravel, ceramic building materials and modern domestic detritus, including bottle glass and plastic (fairy liquid bottle).

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

The watching brief recorded no pre-modern archaeological remains and indeed was confined entirely to modern and made-ground deposits. The lack of archaeological remains recorded during the course of this watching brief is consistent with the results from the watching brief on the neighbouring property (Clarke 2004). It is evident that the area of the car park and probably much of the adjacent areas has been significantly altered, with made ground consisting of builder's rubble, redeposited natural limestone and garden soil being used to create level terraces, establishing level areas for building foundations, gardens and parking.

## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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BHO 2012, British History Online, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk> (Accessed 03/02/12)

Landis 2012, <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes>, (Accessed 03/02/12)

## Appendix 1: Photographic Register

No	Contexts/description	Facing	Conditions
1	General pre-excavation	Southeast	Clear
2	Working shot, machine excavation of Trench 1	North	Clear
3	Trench 1 post-excavation	North	Clear/Overcast
4	Trench 1, east-facing section	West	Overcast
5	Trench 1, west-facing section	East	Overcast
6	Trench 1 post-excavation	South	Overcast
7	General shot of cottages and road	West	Overcast
8	General shot of cottages and road	Southeast	Overcast
9	General shot of cottages and road	Southwest	Overcast
10	Working shot of Trench 2	East	Overcast
11	Trench 2, south-facing section	North	Overcast
12	Trench 2 Working shot	East	Overcast
13	Trench 2 post-excavation	East	Overcast
14	Curb stone (close up)	-	Overcast
15	Curb stone profile (close up)	-	Overcast

**Plates 1 – 4**



Plate 1: The Excavation Area Prior to Trenching



Plate 2: Working Shot During the Excavation of Trench 1





Plate 3: Excavated Trench 1

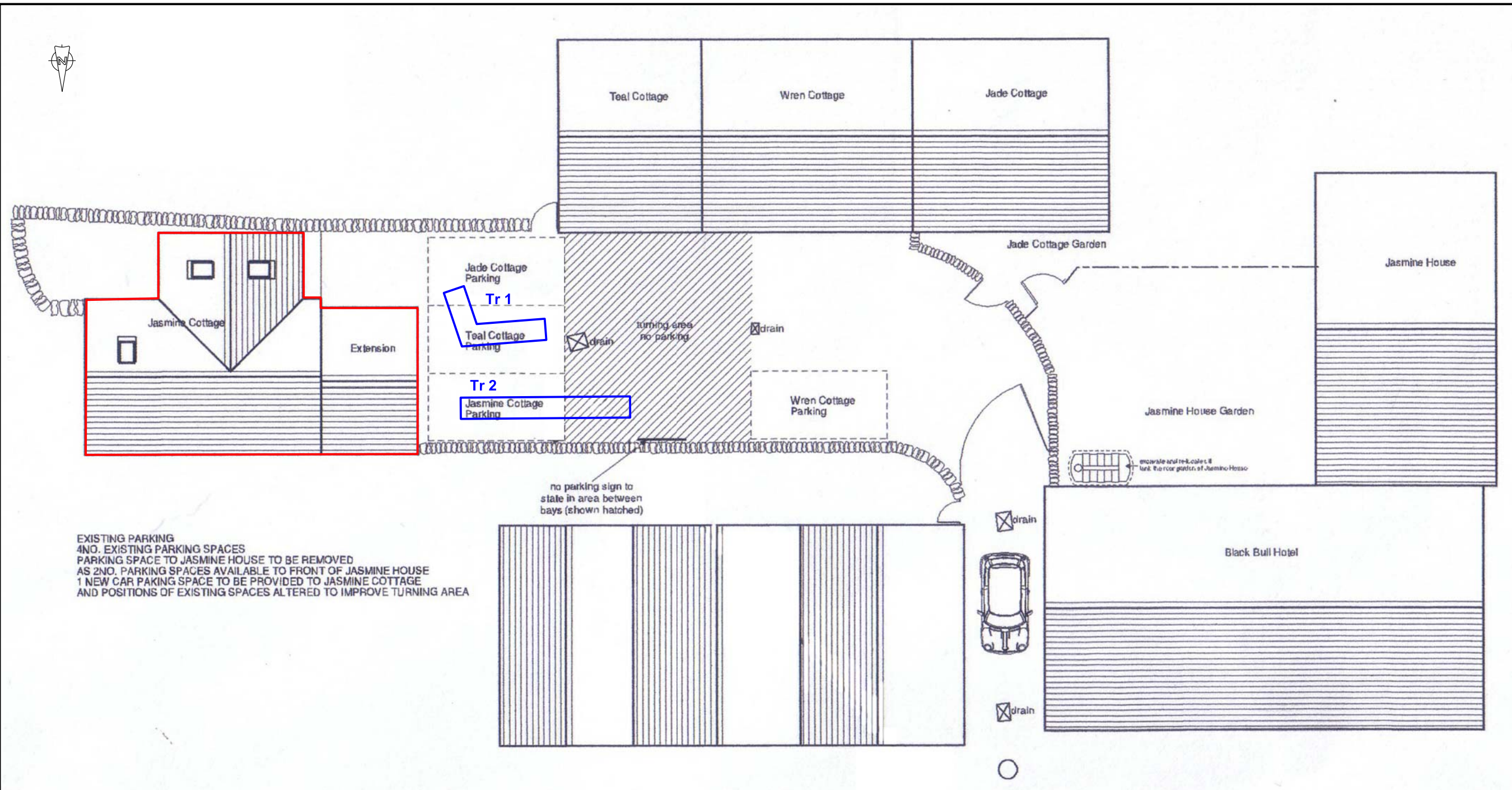


Plate 4: Excavated Trench 2

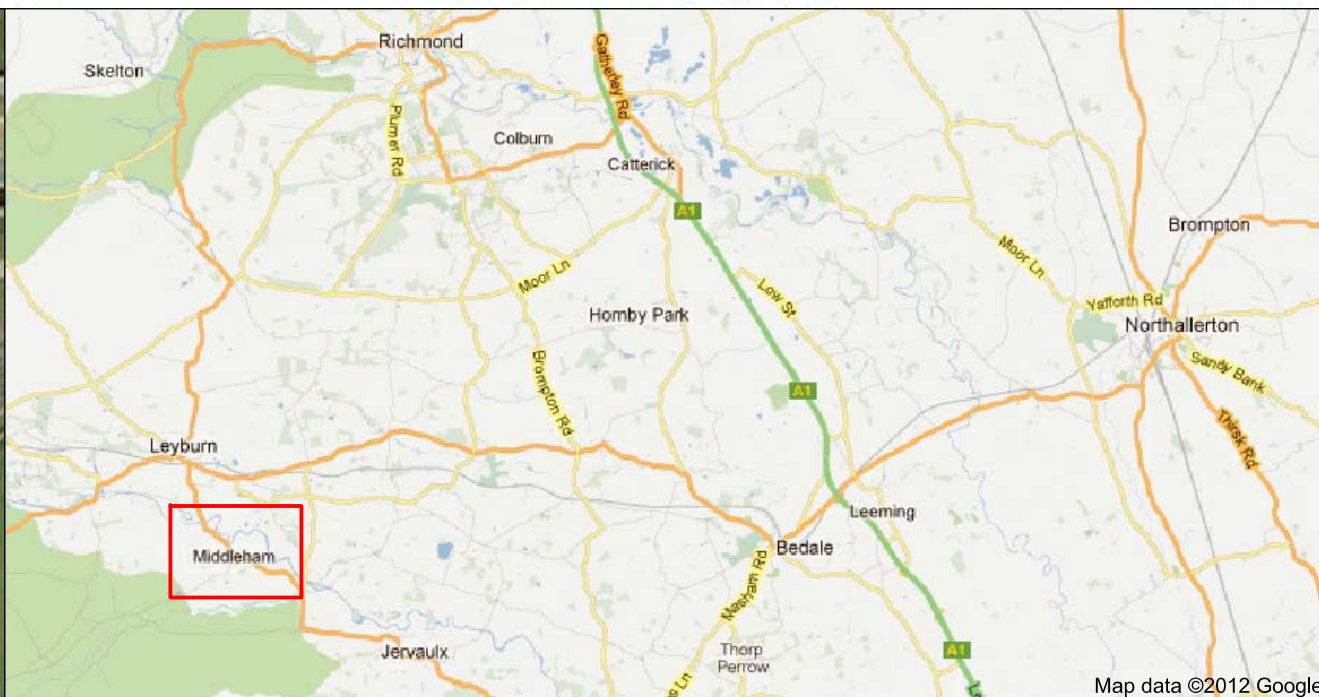
## Figure 1



Key:



EXISTING PARKING  
 4NO. EXISTING PARKING SPACES  
 PARKING SPACE TO JASMINE HOUSE TO BE REMOVED  
 AS 2NO. PARKING SPACES AVAILABLE TO FRONT OF JASMINE HOUSE  
 1 NEW CAR PARKING SPACE TO BE PROVIDED TO JASMINE COTTAGE  
 AND POSITIONS OF EXISTING SPACES ALTERED TO IMPROVE TURNING AREA



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Client: Lynette Jackson-Wilde

Scale at A3: 1:150