

Councillor John Weighell  
North Yorkshire County Council  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire  
DL7 8AD

12th March 2014

Dear Councillor Weighell,

### **Cuts to North Yorkshire Archaeology Service**

I am writing to you on behalf of RESCUE – The British Archaeological Trust to express the concern of our members over the proposals to cut the budget for the North Yorkshire Archaeology Service. RESCUE is a non-political organisation dedicated to supporting archaeology and archaeologists in Britain and abroad ([www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk](http://www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk)). We do not receive any state support and are entirely dependent on the contributions of our members to support our work.

North Yorkshire Archaeology Service has a critical role in ensuring adequate protection for the Historic Environment and providing advice and expertise to planners, developers and members of the public. In particular, this team assists the five district councils within Tyne and Wear to fulfil their obligations under NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework), para. 141 which requires that

'local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible'

The North Yorkshire Archaeology Service team is small and any cuts to the financial contribution to the service will have a negative impact on the Team [add apostrophe] ability to provide accurate and considered advice in a timely manner during planning consultations. This risks both a slower response time and inadequate mitigation of damage to heritage assets (archaeological sites, listed buildings etc.) threatened by the development proposals.

Interest in the Historic Environment by the public continues to grow and heritage-led tourism is an important contributor to the economy of North Yorkshire. Any action that diminishes the opportunities to enhance the knowledge of its history and archaeology risks damaging this source of sustainable growth.

Our heritage is a non-renewable resource. North Yorkshire Archaeology Service is not a large team and the savings to be made are small in terms of council budgets and yet the impact of these losses on planners, developers and the people of North Yorkshire cannot be undone, and are a much higher price to pay than any small savings.

RESCUE urges you to rethink this move and find the money to develop the Historic Environment rather than damaging it through a reduction in finance.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Caruth  
Secretary,  
RESCUE: The British Archaeological Trust