

FORUM

NEW SERIES
Volume 5
2016

The Journal of Council for British Archaeology
YORKSHIRE



CBA Yorkshire Annual
Review

Research, Fieldwork and
Excavation

Education, Community
and Commercial

Council for
British Archaeology

www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk

About FORUM Yorkshire

FORUM is an annual archaeological journal where community, independent, professional/commercial and academic archaeologists (and practitioners in complementary fields) can report their research or extend discussions about archaeological and allied issues. A range of contributions is invited including long (4000–8000 word) or short (2000–4000 word) articles, shorter notes (up to 2000 words), site summaries, and preliminary or full research fieldwork and project reports. Longer papers may be considered and requests should be submitted to the editor. We also accept reviews of books or articles related to the archaeology and heritage landscape of Yorkshire. Contributions are welcomed from students, voluntary and community-based groups, independent practitioners, providers of training and education, commercial organisations and academics. Contributors (and the editor) may request independent, specialist review of articles that are submitted for consideration. *FORUM* is dated and published retrospectively for the prior calendar year and distributed to subscribed members.

The geographic scope of this journal is Yorkshire including areas that were part of Yorkshire prior to the 1974 boundary reorganisation. Contributions on archaeology which is not located in Yorkshire (or its previous boundaries) but is immediately adjacent or pertinent to it may be considered. Authors are requested to contact the editor prior to writing such an article.

Contributions may be on any period of archaeology and the human past relevant to the geographic scope outlined above. A copy of the full editorial policy may be obtained from the editor. However, it should be noted that the editor reserves the right to request changes to the paper, to make changes that maintain the house style and to request feedback from independent (anonymous) reviewers as considered appropriate.

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Citation example

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FORUM is both a printed and an electronic publication. The printed, hard-copy, volume contains reports from CBA Yorkshire, updates from our institutional members and abstracts of articles on archaeology in Yorkshire. The full articles are published in the electronic, online, volume. The online version is available to members only for the current year after which it will be made available on open access in browser-readable formats.

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FORUM

NEW SERIES
Volume 5
2016

The Journal of Council for British Archaeology YORKSHIRE

Published by the Council for British Archaeology Yorkshire

Edited by Christiane Kroebel

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Council for British Archaeology Yorkshire

CBA Yorkshire is a charitable organisation funded entirely by our members' and affiliates' subscriptions. This organisation aims to advance the education of the public in archaeology, to advance and assist in research, to provide information and to encourage widespread participation in archaeology throughout society. It brings together those interested in archaeology in Yorkshire and accordingly supports local societies, works with other partners in heritage and environmental conservation, encourages and publicises relevant research and advertises opportunities for education and participation. It sponsors, undertakes research and supports other individuals or organisations through modest grants. The organisation also provides advice and information, and campaigns on heritage issues within the historic Ridings of Yorkshire, from the Tees to the Humber, and from the Pennine moors to the east coast, in order to raise the profile of archaeology in the minds of decision makers. These aims are fulfilled through advocacy, working behind the scenes to protect and enhance the historic environment, together with our annual symposium, other meetings, newsletters, a website, electronic communications, and the *FORUM* journal.

Charitable Status | Council for British Archaeology Yorkshire is a registered Charity number 519581. A copy of the constitution may be obtained from the secretary or found on the CBA Yorkshire website.

Officers 2016–2017 | The Organisation is run by a management committee and overseen by trustees. These are elected at the AGM and meet four times each year.

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Join the Committee—and help promote archaeology in Yorkshire!

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Back cover	Left Enamelled brooch with zoomorphic decoration [ID YORYM-0CD32C], PAS Roundup 2016 © PAS. Right World War 1 practice trench in area 1, City Fields, Wakefield. Archaeological Register © WYAS Archaeological Services.

Contents

Proceedings

Editorial	iv
How to Access <i>Forum</i> Online	v
Members' Call to Action: Do we have your email	v
CBA Yorkshire Annual Review 2015–16	vii
CBA Yorkshire Secretary's report	ix
Thematic Index	x

Articles

An Iron Age Landscape at Balby Carr, Doncaster, South Yorkshire. <i>Patrick Daniel</i>	1
Mitchell House, Thorpe, Yorkshire Dales National Park: Historic Building Research and Recording. <i>John Buglass and Gail Falkingham</i>	12

Communities in Action

Nidderdale Chase Heritage Group: The Ashelby Pasture Project Artefacts – an Unexpected Haul. <i>Elizabeth Dent, Carolyn Heseltine, Barry Nuttall, Tom Wheelwright, Sheila Wilkins and Pat Wilson</i>	24
The Hanging Grimston Community Archaeology Project. <i>Marcus Jecock, Steve Bence, Christopher Hall and Trevor Pearson</i>	45

Behind the Scenes

Portable Antiquities Scheme roundup 2016: Recent Roman finds from Yorkshire with enamelled decoration. <i>Denise Wilding and Rebecca Griffiths</i>	48
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Archaeological Notes and Reviews

The Whitby Museum Witch Post: a Reconsideration. <i>Christiane Kroebel</i>	55
The Fulford Gold Shilling. <i>Ian Greig and Emma Pemberton</i>	59

Archaeological Register

Selected Recent Work in Yorkshire by JB Archaeology Ltd. <i>John Buglass</i>	62
Recent Work in West Yorkshire by Archaeological Services WYAS. <i>Jane Richardson</i>	68
Recent Work in Yorkshire by Wessex Archaeology. <i>Ashley Tuck and Andrew Norton</i>	75

Editorial

Christiane Kroebel, Hon. Editor 2016–17

forum-editor@cba-yorkshire.org.uk

You are holding volume 5 of *Forum*, a slimmer journal but still showcasing archaeological activities around Yorkshire. Last year, we had to make the difficult decision to reduce the cost of producing *Forum*, which was unsustainable in the long term. As mentioned at the AGM in York in February and repeated in volume 4, we decided to print abstracts of articles only and to make available the full article to members online. This ensures that CBA Yorkshire is financially secure whilst at the same time saving space on your bookshelves and the recycled paper burden. For information on how to access the full online journal, see opposite page (p. v).

In this issue, CBA Yorkshire's chair, Steve Bence, summarises the society's forward plan in which *Forum* continues to inform you of archaeological activities around the county whilst also reporting on our institutional members' accomplishments. Some of this appears already in our 'Communities in Action' section in *Forum* but we would like to hear more about happenings in your groups and bring it to the notice of members across Yorkshire.

In our society's secretary's report, Trevor Pearson highlights the prominence of the annual symposium and the broad range of speakers which make it such a success every year. Trevor continues, reporting on the management committee meetings and the need for more members to become involved.

The articles represent a broad spectrum of archaeological activities across Yorkshire from Balby Carr near Doncaster to Whitby. There are excavations, watching briefs, recordings, metal detecting, research and reassessments. Individuals and groups, contractors and volunteers have been engaging with their localities to bring new understanding to the past.

As this volume goes to the printer, we are planning the next issue. If you wish to contribute in 2017 do get in touch.

As is customary, with the publication of this present volume, *FORUM* volume 4 (2015) becomes fully open access. Visit <http://www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk/forum> to download as a PDF file or to read online in magazine format.

Editor's acknowledgement

I would like to thank Spencer Carter for his continued help and especially his prompt replies to my many questions. I would like to thank Trish Neilson for proof-reading and the CBA Yorkshire committee and trustees for their support and understanding whilst I come to grips with editing the journal. If anyone wishes to join the editorial team, please get in touch.



Write for FORUM Yorkshire—we'll help you spread the word!

How to access *Forum* online

Forum: the Journal of Council for British Archaeology Yorkshire is printed and distributed in hard copy with only abstracts of articles and CBA Yorkshire's year in review. The online edition can be downloaded as a PDF for reading online or printing for personal use. Your computer will require *Adobe Acrobat Reader* software which is free – most computers include this software.

To view or download *Forum* volume 5 (2016), enter this link into your web browser –

<http://www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk/forum/forumpdf>

When the PDF prompts you for a password, enter **Yorkshire2016!** (case sensitive)

You can view the file or save it on your computer by selecting File > Save As in the Acrobat Reader menu and then selecting a location on your computer (for example, Desktop or Documents folders)

In order to maintain the value of *Forum* for subscribed members, please do not share the password or any unprotected version with non-members until it is publically available.

Call to Action—do we have your email address?

We want to make sure that we can communicate with you on a regular basis. We send out periodic news about events, fieldwork opportunities and exciting finds, plus our refreshed e-News Bulletin exclusively for CBA Yorkshire members.

Email addresses often change. We therefore ask that you send us an email today so that we can keep our records up to date. Rest assured that your contact details are stored securely only for CBA Yorkshire activities and are never passed to any third parties.

Please send an email to web@cba-yorkshire.org.uk using your preferred contact account as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
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| Joint/Family Members: | Please include all associated first-and-last names, postal address and any additional email addresses associated with your membership. |
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20 million annual hours

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Picture courtesy of Elaine Pope

We want every MP and Councillor to hear about how important heritage is to communities from their own constituents.

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CBA Yorkshire Annual Review 2016

Steve Bence, Chair 2016–17

chair@cba-yorkshire.org.uk

These are challenging times for CBA Yorkshire and organisations like it. Despite the astonishing rate of growth in our knowledge of the past over the last twenty years or so, principally the result of highly successful archaeological interventions, many of the organisations that exist to celebrate that new knowledge now find themselves in real difficulty, with museums probably the hardest hit. Heritage Lottery funding and Arts Council England grants can do great things for organisations with very specific and time bound objectives but organisations with more generalised remits tend to find it much more difficult to attract funding. At the root of these problems lies 'austerity'; with government increasingly expecting heritage related organisations to be self-financing, their income streams have suffered, impacting negatively on their ability to serve the needs of their memberships. In addition, and possibly even more problematically in the longer term, heritage related organisations now seem to be finding it increasingly difficult to attract the volunteers that they need to fill their committee posts and produce their products. The reason for this is not totally clear but again the suspicion must be that 'austerity' is probably the main culprit; as people find it harder to make ends meet, they feel they have less time for the sort of voluntary work that heritage related organisations like CBA Yorkshire rely upon.



In the context of this rather problematic reality I have, since taking over as Chairman of CBA Yorkshire a year ago, been working with my fellow committee members to try to identify a sustainable way forward for CBA Yorkshire. To that end we have reviewed all aspects of our current activities and have come up with a simple forward plan. Our overriding objective is to take action to both reduce our costs and give our members greater value for money. We recognise that our plan is not without risks, principally in terms of the scale of the voluntary effort required to deliver it, but we passionately believe it is the right one in our current circumstances.

I give below a summary of what CBA Yorkshire hopes to do for its members in 2017.

Institutional Membership Drive

We will write to all Yorkshire's archaeological societies, archaeological contractors, universities and colleges that offer archaeological courses and Historic Environment Forums asking them to join CBA Yorkshire. We will emphasise that becoming a member of CBA Yorkshire will give them –

1. the opportunity to take part in our well-established 'Annual Symposium' event
2. the opportunity to take part in our entirely new annual 'Autumn Showcase' event
3. the opportunity to have annual updates of their activities published in 'Forum'
4. the opportunity to have details of their specific digs and other projects published in 'Forum Extra'.

Newsletter

We will publish 4 e-newsletters each year that highlight our own activities and those of our institutional members, i.e. Annual Symposium, Autumn Showcase, 'Forum', 'Forum Extra', CBA Y events, institutional members' events.

Website

We will replace our existing website with a new and simpler one that highlights our own activities and those of our institutional members, i.e. Annual Symposium, Autumn Showcase, 'Forum', 'Forum Extra', CBA Y events, institutional members' events.

Annual Symposium

We will organise and run our well-established 'Annual Symposium' event for our members in February 2017.

Autumn Showcase

We will organise and run an entirely new 'Autumn Showcase' event for our members in September 2017.

Forum

We will produce *Forum* as a hard copy document which will contain –

1. Annual updates from our institutional members
2. Abstracts of articles about our institutional members' specific digs and other projects, published in greater detail in *Forum* 'extra'.

Forum 'extra'

We will produce *Forum* 'extra' as an entirely new e-book containing articles about our institutional members' specific digs and other projects.

Programme of events

Resources permitting, we will run a programme of events, ensuring that all such events are self-financing.

Advocacy

Resources permitting, we will carry out some advocacy work in support of Yorkshire's archaeology. In carrying out this work we will, in particular, try to ensure that Yorkshire's planning authorities always take archaeology properly into account when progressing development proposals.

As I hope everyone will accept this is a very demanding set of objectives for an organisation that currently relies entirely on the efforts of a handful of volunteers. In closing therefore I would particularly like to thank my fellow committee members, and in particular Paul Brayford, Spencer Carter, Ian Drake, Christiane Kroebel and Trevor Pearson, for their on-going and herculean efforts on behalf of CBA Yorkshire. I would also like to take this opportunity to ask all members of CBA Yorkshire to think seriously about whether they might be able to help the organisation in some capacity in the future. Please don't hide your light under a bushel; if you think you might be able to help us deliver on one or more of our objectives please feel free to contact me at any time for an informal discussion about how you might be able to assist. Should you wish to get in touch my email address is bencesteve@aol.com and my telephone numbers are landline 01377 2888497 or mobile 07979 744581. I look forward to hearing from you.

Secretary's report

Trevor Pearson, 2016–17

secretary@cba-yorkshire.org.uk

For CBA Yorkshire the year began in early February with a very successful Symposium held in the Fountains Learning Centre at York St John's University. Attended by over 100 members and friends of the group, the committee was very grateful for financial assistance from the Yorkshire Architectural and York Architectural Society (YAYAS) to help offset the cost of putting the event on. It is therefore most welcome that YAYAS have also agreed to help with the 2017 Symposium

The 2016 Symposium covered a broad spectrum of topics from plans to develop long-term projects on the Yorkshire Wolds by Historic England to a community-based archaeology project at Fryston in South Yorkshire. It was a particularly memorable to hear Dr Peter Addyman talk about the York Volume of the Historic Towns Atlas published several months earlier and which marked the culmination of many years of dedicated work mapping the changing layout of the city from Roman times to the nineteenth century.

At the AGM prior to the Symposium, Steve Bence was elected chair of CBA Yorkshire. Steve has been a member of the group for many years but has never served on the committee before which means he has been able to bring a fresh eye to help shape the direction of the group. As a result over the course of the four committee meetings held this year in April, June, September and November, Steve has developed a strategic plan identifying our priorities. These include rethinking the format of our annual Forum publication to help reduce costs and to look at improving communications with our members and to draw in new members from the many lottery-funded heritage projects that have begun over the last few years. The plan recognises the importance of the February Symposium in bringing heritage groups in the region together each year but it also has the objective of putting on a second conference in the autumn.

CBA Yorkshire is run by a management committee who devote a good deal of time to helping the group meet its aims and objectives, but for the group to grow and to maintain its relevance, it needs new people to step up and volunteer to join the committee. We advertise our vacant posts ahead of the AGM each year, and I hope some of you will seriously consider taking an active part in helping to run the group.



Join the adventure today—and help spread the word!

Thematic index of article content	Palaeolithic Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Roman	Early Medieval	Late Medieval	Post-Medieval Modern	Landscape Survey	Building Recording	Remote Sensing	Excavation	Desk-Based Research	Thesis Synthesis	Community Voluntary	Education Training	Commercial Developer	Academic Research	Local Society Group	
Paper title <i>Authors</i>	Themes:								Period				Method				Engagement			
Articles																				
Iron Age Landscape at Balby Carr, Doncaster, South Yorkshire <i>Daniel</i>				■								■					■			
Michell House, Thorpe, Yorkshire Dales National Park: Historic Building Research and Recording <i>Buglass & Falkingham</i>							■			■			■				■			
Communities in Action																				
Nidderdale Chase Heritage Group: The Ashelby Pasture Project 2015 Artefacts – an Unexpected Haul <i>Dent et al.</i>							■	■				■	■		■	■			■	
The Hanging Grimston Community Archaeology Project <i>Jecock, Bence, Hall & Pearson</i>				■	■		■		■		■	■			■	■			■	
Behind the Scenes																				
Portable Antiquities Scheme roundup 2016: Recent Roman finds from Yorkshire with enamelled decoration <i>Wilding & Griffiths</i>	Multi-period								Recording				■							
Archaeological Notes and Reviews																				
The Whitby Museum Witch Post: a Reconsideration <i>Kroebe</i>								■					■		■					
The Fulford Gold Shilling <i>Greig & Pemberton</i>						■						■			■					
Archaeological Register																				
Recent Work in Yorkshire by John Buglass Archaeological Services <i>Buglass</i>	Multi-period								■	■		■			■	■	■		■	
Recent Work in West Yorkshire by WYAS Archaeological Services <i>Richardson</i>	Multi-period									■	■	■	■				■			
Recent Work in Yorkshire by Wessex Archaeology <i>Tuck & Norton</i>	Multi-period								■			■					■			

Chronology | Dating nomenclature for British archaeological periods as defined by Historic England:

Post-Medieval	After 1540 cal AD	Bronze Age	2500 – 600 cal BC
Late Medieval	1066 – 1540 cal AD	Neolithic	4000 – 2500 cal BC
Early Medieval	410 – 1066 cal AD	Mesolithic	c. 10,000 – 4000 cal BC
Roman	43 – 410 cal AD	Palaeolithic	Until c. 10,000 cal BC
Iron Age	cal BC 600 – 43 cal AD		

An Iron Age Enclosure at Balby Carr, Doncaster, South Yorkshire

Patrick Daniel[†]

With specialist contribution by

Alistair J. Barclay: radiocarbon analysis

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Keywords Balby Carr, Iron Age, Roundhouse, Double-ditched enclosure, Field system, Radiocarbon dates, Bayesian modelling

Abstract

Recent work by Wessex Archaeology complements earlier investigations by Archaeological Services WYAS and Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit that revealed a double-ditched enclosure and associated field boundaries at Balby Carr, Doncaster, South Yorkshire (NGR 458480, 400460). Together, these excavations have exposed the majority of the enclosure, and details of the surrounding field system. An unenclosed settlement consisting of at least five hut circles, pre-dating the enclosure, lay to the south-west, while a further four hut circles were recorded inside the enclosure. Bayesian analysis of the radiocarbon dates confirms that these features are largely of Middle to Late Iron Age date, with the open settlement probably dating to the 3rd century BC and the double-ditched enclosure occupied from the 2nd century BC into the latter half of the 1st century BC or the early part of the 1st century AD. Analysis of the rich environmental samples from the site has thrown light on the nature of the surrounding landscape and its agricultural exploitation.

Introduction

Balby Carr is a flat and low-lying area (around 5m above Ordnance Datum) situated between Doncaster and the M18 motorway, in South Yorkshire (Fig. 1). The margin of the town's built-up area currently runs across Balby Carr, an east–west frontier following the Division Drain, with grazing fields to the south little changed since the 19th century, and commercial and retail premises to the north. It is this commercial development that has occasioned and funded the archaeological work described below (Fig. 2).

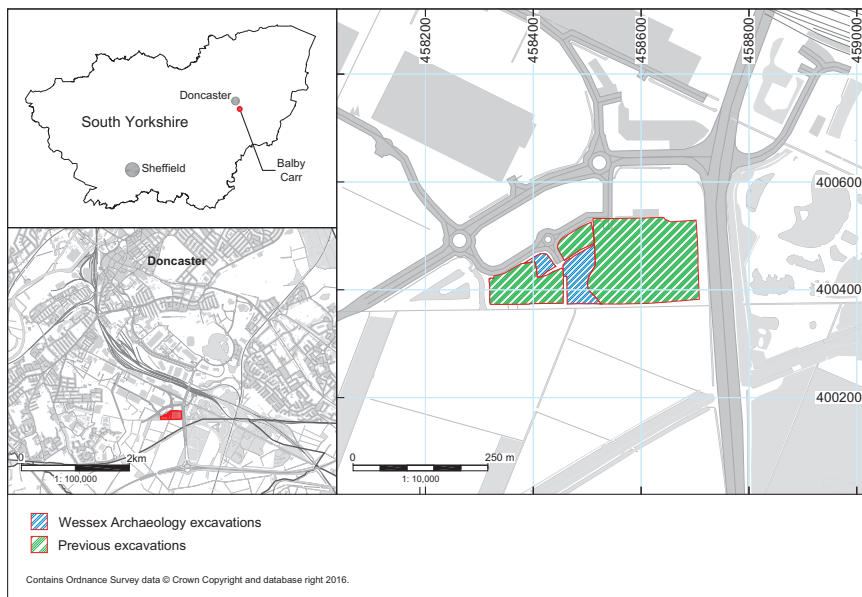


Figure 1 Location plan.



Figure 2 The south-eastern corner of the double-ditched enclosure, looking north (Photograph: Aerial-Cam).

The considerable archaeological potential of Balby Carr was first signalled by aerial photography which identified cropmarks of a possible settlement enclosure set within extensive field systems of probable Iron Age and Romano-British date. Balby Carr has been subjected to piecemeal development since the 1990s, with a corresponding archaeological response. This has resulted in what was essentially a unified and coherent cropmark landscape being given important detail by a series of excavations. Recent work by Wessex Archaeology filled in a gap between areas previously investigated to the immediate north, east and west.

Together these excavations have exposed around 5ha of the ancient landscape (Fig. 1). They have revealed an unenclosed settlement of Middle Iron Age date consisting of at least five hut circles. This was succeeded in the Middle to Late Iron Age by a sub-rectangular double-ditched enclosure within which a further four hut circles were recorded, one of them within a small circular sub-enclosure. The enclosure, the occupation of which ceased in the Late Iron Age, was set within a system of largely rectilinear fields.

This article presents an overview of the combined results from the excavations and uses new evidence from the recalibration and analysis of radiocarbon dates to better understand the chronology of the landscape as a whole.

Open settlement

Evidence for an open settlement, comprising five relatively small hut circles between 3m and 8m in diameter, was revealed in the south-west corner of the site (Archaeological Services WYAS 2006) (Fig. 3). Their remains were ephemeral, consisting of incomplete arcs of ditches, 0.3–1m wide and up to 0.25m deep, with simple fill sequences. One of the hut circles contained the partial remains of a hearth, but no datable artefacts were recovered.

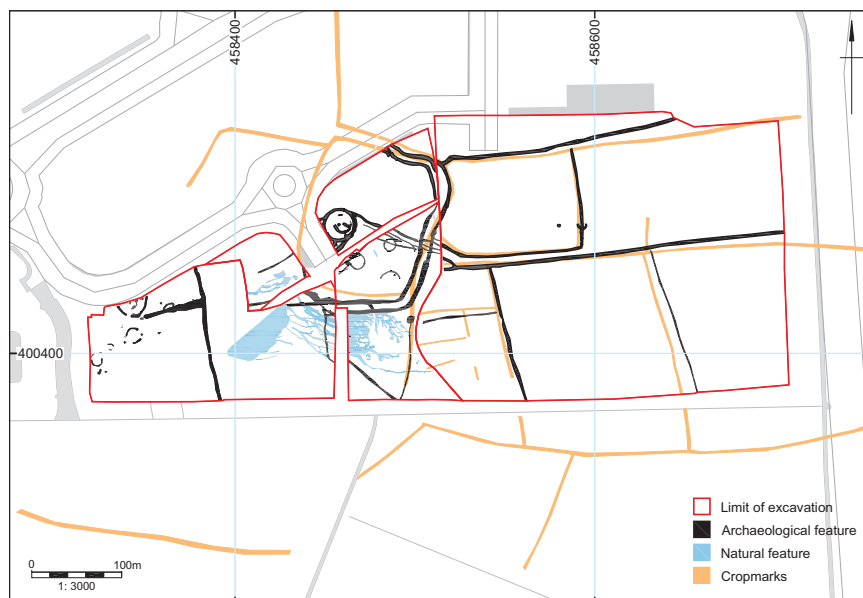
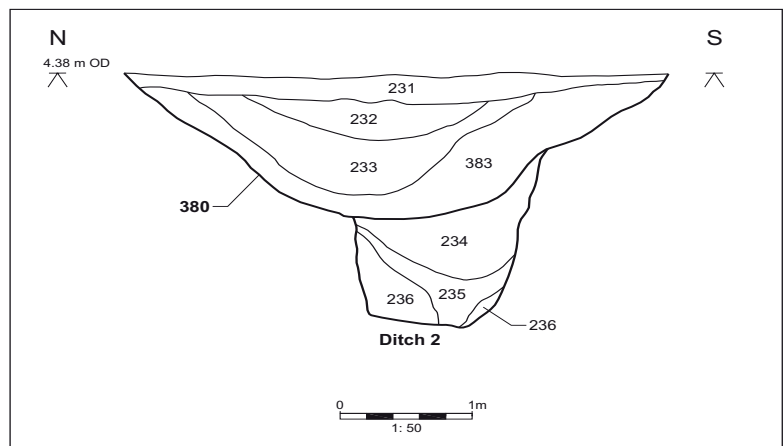


Figure 3 Site plan.

Double-ditched enclosure

The enclosure was first detected as, what appeared to be, a single-ditched cropmark, but the excavations have shown it to be double-ditched on its northern, eastern and southern sides (Jones 2007; Archaeological Services WYAS 2008a, 2008b; Wessex Archaeology 2016), with the western side not yet excavated (Fig. 3). The gap between the inner and outer ditches varied between 2 and 4m. The enclosure measured up to 100m north–south by 75m east–west, and enclosed an area of some 0.5ha. Its inner ditch had a generally steep-sided profile and typical dimensions of 1.9m wide by 0.7–0.9m deep, although a broader, shallower recut was recorded on the eastern side (Fig. 4). The outer ditch also had a steep-sided, U-shaped profile, and was typically 1.6–2m wide by 1.2m deep.

Figure 4 Section through the inner enclosure ditch showing the recut © Archaeological Services WYAS. Reproduced with permission.



Due to their matching lines it is assumed that both ditches were constructed at the same time. Stratigraphic evidence reveals something of the development of the enclosure, with both ditches containing complex sequences of banded fills. Artefacts were extremely scarce, and the pottery from the inner ditch appears to be pre-Romano-British, although is not especially chronologically diagnostic. Organic preservation was good. It seems that the inner ditch, due to its renewal by recutting, outlived the outer ditch, and although the enclosure's occupation had ended by the start of the Romano-British period, the enclosure probably remained a feature in the landscape.

The enclosure was set within a rectilinear field system, but there has been no consistency in the sequential relationships recorded at the intersections between the field ditches and the outer enclosure ditch during the various phases of work. This may indicate differing periods of maintenance for the various elements of the field system. A possible trackway between fields crosses the line of the enclosure leading to the circular sub-enclosure. The environmental evidence points to hedgerows defining the fields and they may have continued to perform this function long after the ditches had become infilled. From their spatial arrangement, the field system and enclosure appear to have been set out at the same time, although the field system may have outlived occupation of the enclosure.

A network of infilled water channels extended south from the outer enclosure ditch. These features have a web-like appearance in plan, and were shallow with sterile fills. They resemble natural features, probably caused by surface water run-off and overspill from the enclosure ditches, but possibly modified by human activity and traffic.

Roundhouses in enclosure

Four hut circles were recorded within the enclosure (Fig. 3), measuring between 6m and 11m in internal diameter. The northernmost lay within the 16m diameter circular sub-enclosure defined by a ditch up to 1m wide by 0.8m deep. The hut circle contained the remains of a hearth and a clay floor, and with the surrounding ditch supplied most of the finds from the settlement, including late prehistoric pottery, pieces of structural daub, evidence for lead working, a fragment of a glass bangle, three beehive querns, and animal bone indicative of food waste. This suggests that the roundhouse is likely to have been a domestic structure. The three other ring gullies in the enclosure lay to the south-east, and may have surrounded ancillary or storage structures.

Radiocarbon analysis

Introduction

A Bayesian approach has been adopted for the interpretation of the chronology from Balby Carr (Bayliss *et al.* 2007). Although simple calibrated radiocarbon dates are accurate estimates of the dates of the samples, it is the dates of the archaeological events represented by those samples which are of interest. Here it is the chronology of the ditches, roundhouses and associated settlement that is under consideration, not just the dates of the individual samples. Bayesian analysis allows the dates to be combined with other prior information (such as stratigraphy) to produce a model and realistic estimates for these events. The sampled materials, contexts and radiocarbon results are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1 Radiocarbon Analysis Summary

Lab code	Feature	Material	Radiocarbon age BP	Error $\pm$ years	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ‰	$\delta^{15}\text{N}$ ‰	C:N	Calibrated at 95% confidence	Posterior density estimate (95% probability)	Site report ref.
SUERC-63698	Enclosure – outer ditch	Animal bone (dog mandible)	2159	31	-21.0	8.5	3.3	360–100 Cal BC	210–50 Cal BC	WA 2016
SUERC-63699	Enclosed roundhouse	<i>Corylus</i> hazelnut shell	2095	31	-22.6			200–40 Cal BC	180–40 Cal BC	WA 2016
SUERC-14609	Enclosure – outer ditch	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> twig	2090	35				210–1 Cal BC	190–60 Cal BC	ASWYAS 2008b
SUERC-14708	Enclosure – outer ditch	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> twig	2110	40				360–1 Cal BC	200–60 Cal BC	ASWYAS 2008b
SUERC-14707	Enclosure – outer ditch	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i> twig	2065	35				180 Cal BC–Cal AD 20	160–30 Cal BC	ASWYAS 2008b
SUERC-14709	Enclosure – outer ditch	Blackberry fruit stone	2075	35				190 Cal BC–Cal AD 10	130 Cal BC–Cal AD 10	ASWYAS 2008b
SUERC-15124	Enclosed roundhouse	<i>Alnus/Betula/Corylus</i> wood	2090	35				210–1 Cal BC	190–30 Cal BC	ASWYAS 2008b
SUERC-10496	Unenclosed roundhouse	<i>Corylus</i> charcoal	2253	35	-26.5			400–200 Cal BC	320–200 Cal BC (77.5%)	ASWYAS 2006
SUERC-10497	Unenclosed roundhouse	<i>Corylus</i> charcoal	2300	35	-25.9			420–210 Cal BC	410–350 Cal BC (38.3%) 300–200 Cal BC (57.1%)	ASWYAS 2006
SUERC-10498	Field system ditch	<i>Corylus</i> charcoal	2520	35	-27.7			800–540 Cal BC	800–540 Cal BC	ASWYAS 2006
SUERC-19393	Field system ditch	Animal bone (cattle premaxilla)	2110	35	-21			350–40 Cal BC	190–40 Cal BC	ASWYAS 2008a
SUERC-19394	Field system ditch	<i>Alnus/Salix/Corylus</i> waterlogged wood	2025	35	-27.3			160 Cal BC–Cal AD 60	160 Cal BC–Cal AD 30	ASWYAS 2008a
Wk-10975	Field system ditch	<i>Betula/Alnus</i> wood	1999	123				370 Cal BC–Cal AD 260	200 Cal BC–Cal AD 30	Jones 2007
Wk-12979	Enclosure – outer ditch	Wood (unident.)	1989	43	-			110 Cal BC–Cal AD 130	110 Cal BC–Cal AD 60	Jones 2007
Wk-12978	Enclosure – outer ditch	Wood (<i>Alnus</i>)	1968	43	-			60 Cal BC–Cal AD 130	120 Cal BC–Cal AD 30 (88.9%)	Jones 2007

Method

The dates have been calculated using the calibration curve of Reimer *et al.* (2013) and the computer program OxCal v4.2.3 (Bronk Ramsey and Lee 2013). The simple calibrated (unmodelled) results are cited at 95% confidence and quoted in the form recommended by Mook (1986) with the end points rounded outwards to 10 years. The ranges in plain type in Table 1 have been calculated according to the maximum intercept method (Stuiver and Reimer 1986). All other ranges are derived from the probability method (Stuiver and Reimer 1993). Date estimates derived from the model are listed in Table 1 as ‘posterior density estimate’ and are given at 95% probability, and highlighted in italics unless otherwise stated in the text. Parameters generated from the Bayesian model are rounded outwards to 5 years.

A Bayesian model combining the stratigraphy from all phases of fieldwork and the 15 available radiocarbon results is given in Figure 5. This shows that the 15 radiocarbon dates clearly belong to more than one phase of settlement activity with two results directly associated with an earlier phase (the open settlement).

One of the dates (SUERC-10498) returned the earliest result of 800–540 Cal BC and is possibly on redeposited charcoal. The individual sample has poor agreement with the group and in the model has been treated as a *terminus post quem*. If the two samples from the unenclosed settlement (SUERC-10496 and 10497) and three samples from the field system (WK-10975, 12979 and 12978) are excluded, then nine of the remaining samples from the enclosed settlement are statistically consistent (X2-Test: df=8 T=9.7(5% 15.5)) and belong to the same phase of activity. The model has good overall agreement (Amodel 85%).

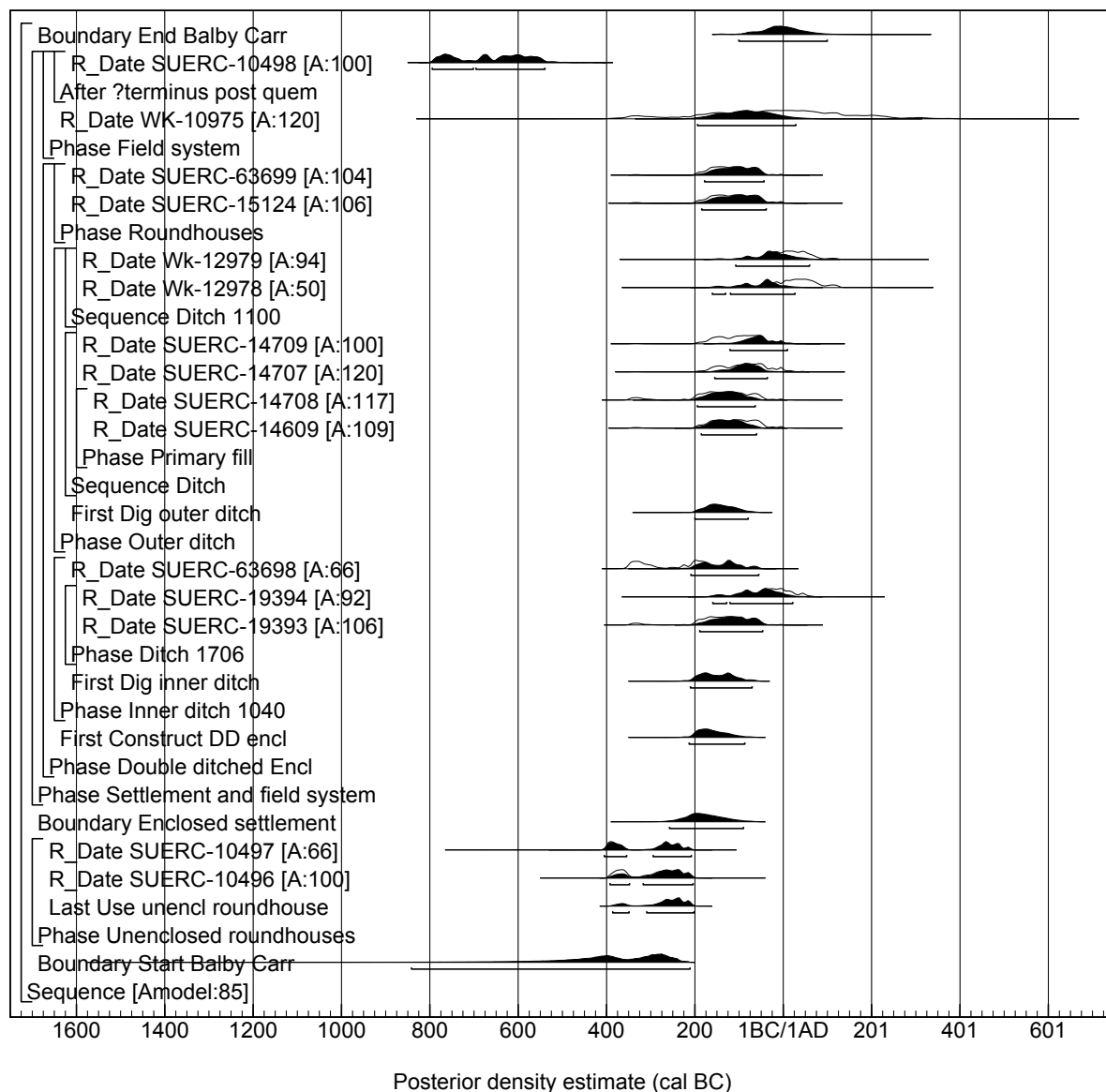


Figure 5 Probability distributions for the dates from Balby Carr. [Each distribution represents the relative probability that an event occurred at a particular time. For each of the dates two distributions have been plotted, one in outline, which is the result produced by the independent calibration of the radiocarbon measurement and a solid one which is based on the chronological information provided by the model. The large square brackets down the left-hand side of the diagram, along with the OxCal keywords, define the overall model exactly.]

Unenclosed settlement

Analysis shows that the open settlement is almost certainly earlier than the enclosure. Two radiocarbon dates (SUERC-10496 and -10497) on samples of *Corylus* charcoal from different roundhouse gullies, probably associated with their use, are statistically consistent (X2-Test: df=1 T=0.9 (5% 3.8)) indicating that they belong to the same phase of activity. Bearing in mind there are only two dates for this phase of activity, the results can

be clearly seen to fall at the start of the sequence (Fig. 5). The likely start date for this phase of activity lies in the earlier part of the Middle Iron Age and possibly the 3rd rather than the 4th century BC (modelled as *'First Begin unencl settlement'* 410–350 Cal BC (47.9%) or 315–215 Cal BC (47.5%) at 95% probability). Certainly occupation of the open settlement appears to have ceased before the end of the 3rd century BC (modelled as *'Last Use unencl settlement'* 390–345 Cal BC (13.7%) or 310–200 Cal BC (81.7%) at 95% probability).

Enclosed settlement

In comparison, the enclosure and settlement was constructed slightly later and almost certainly within the 2nd century BC (modelled as *'First Construct DD encl'* 215–85 Cal BC at 95% probability or 205–135 Cal BC at 68% probability) and it is estimated that the enclosure was in use for approximately 150 years (modelled as *'Span Use of DD encl'* 95–210 years at 68% or 10–240 years at 95% probability with a median of 150 years) (Fig. 6). The final silting of the double-ditched enclosure appears to have taken place either in the latter half of the 1st century BC or during the early part of the 1st century AD (modelled as *'Last Final ditch silting'* 100 Cal BC–60 Cal AD at 95% or 55 Cal BC–25 Cal AD at 68% probability).

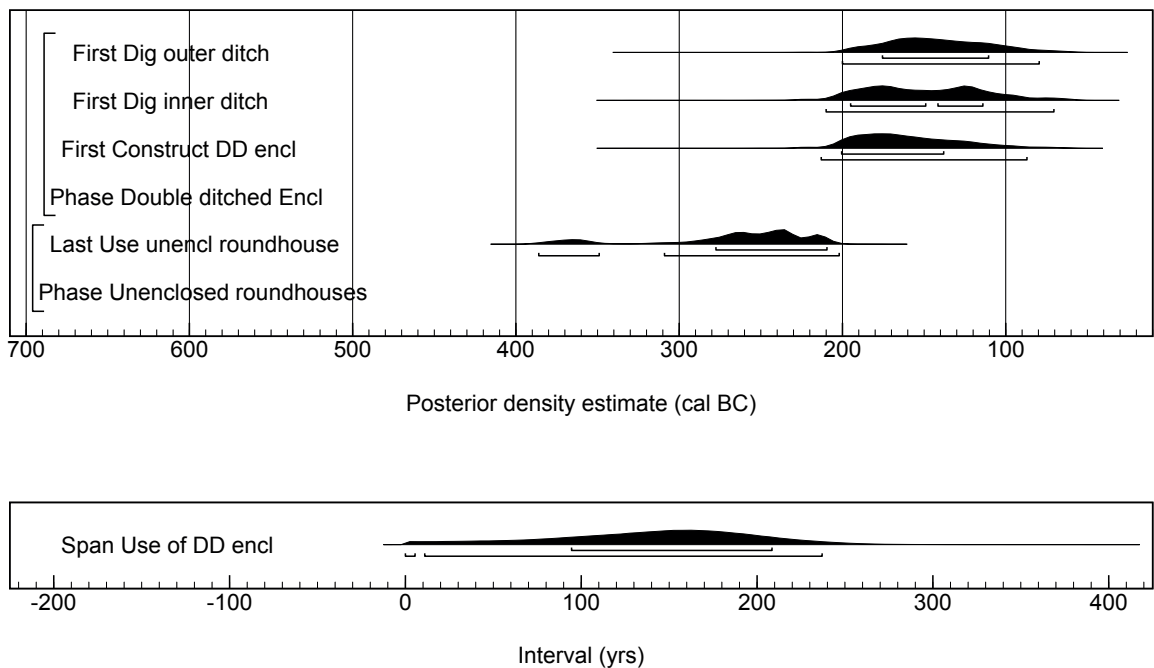


Figure 6 Modelled date ranges: disuse of the unenclosed settlement and construction of the double-ditched enclosure (top) and likely duration of use in years of the double-ditched enclosure (bottom).

Field system

The stratigraphic relationship between the field system and the enclosure is less well dated, although both are considered to be of a similar date. Of the two radiocarbon dates (SUERC-10498 and WK-10975) the former is considerably older than all the other samples and is possibly residual (modelled as a *terminus post quem* using the *'after'* parameter in the model). In contrast, WK-10975 is consistent with other samples and has good individual agreement (A:120) but has a significant error (i.e. a large $\pm$ value). In conclusion, the date of the field system is currently imprecise.

Farming and the Iron Age landscape

As its name indicates, Balby Carr is a (former) wetland, and waterlogged ground conditions have allowed excellent survival of organic remains (Fig. 7). The sum of the environmental evidence from the investigations indicates that in the 3rd–1st centuries BC the landscape contained seasonally waterlogged pasture, wet alder-carr woodland, water-filled ditches, waste ground and hedgerows. The grazing of livestock is indicated, as is the coppicing or pollarding of woodland. The overall impression is of an orderly, well-managed landscape.



Figure 7 Section through the outer enclosure ditch ©Archaeological Services WYAS. Reproduced with permission.

Beef was the primary meat consumed in the settlement, supplemented by lamb and mutton, with only occasional pork and venison. A grain-rich gully fill inside the double-ditched enclosure provides clear evidence of arable agriculture, with cereals probably grown on higher ground in the vicinity, and processed and consumed within the settlement.

The site is a good example of a seasonally occupied pastoral settlement, of which other examples are known elsewhere in the region (Chadwick 2010, 155). There is ample evidence, from bones to dung beetles, for the presence of cattle on the site.

The environmental evidence suggests that the local landscape would have been seasonally inundated, with standing water a common occurrence in the ditches. Human occupation may therefore have only been possible in the drier months. The presence of gullies cutting the hut circles and extending away from them, with some connecting to the field system, suggests that drainage was a concern for the inhabitants. Each roundhouse may have been used for a short period before being replaced by another in a new location within the enclosure. This is supported by the presence of ditches cutting across hut circles, suggesting that the settlement as a whole continued in use even after individual buildings fell into disuse.

Balby Carr and the wider region

Numerous rectilinear enclosures set within field systems of more or less regular form are known across West and South Yorkshire (Roberts *et al.* 2010, 28, fig. 37), although few examples containing evidence of settlement have been excavated. Parallels for the Balby Carr enclosure have been investigated, for example, at Adwick-le-Street (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2006), Armthorpe (Richardson 2008), Edenthorpe (Atkinson 1994) and Rossington (Burgess and Norton 2014). Although only modest amounts of artefacts were recovered from Balby Carr, these were relatively profuse compared to the regional norm, perhaps positioning this site towards the upper end of the local Iron Age settlement hierarchy.

There are glimpses within the artefactual evidence of social and economic links beyond the region. One pottery vessel, which lacks local parallels fits more readily with the ceramic traditions of eastern and north-eastern Yorkshire (Fig. 8). In addition, quernstones were imported from the Pennines, with one, due to its collared form, thought to derive from northern Yorkshire, rather than the closest available outcrops. The fragment of a glass bangle is also a highly unusual find, and is typical of continental production.

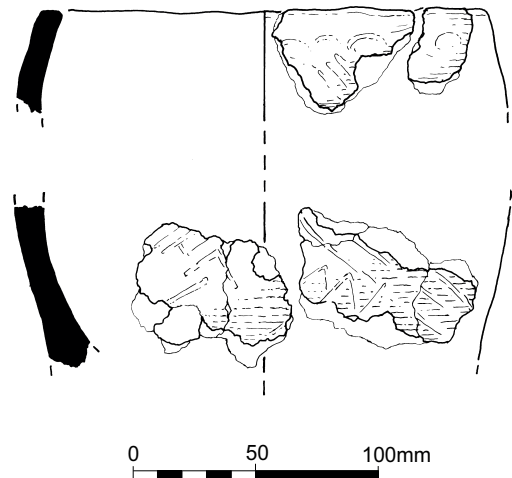


Figure 8 Pottery vessel from the inner enclosure ditch.

Balby Carr in the Romano-British period

By the end of the Iron Age, occupation of the enclosure had ended, and the infilling of its outer ditch was effectively complete, with little environmental or artefactual evidence for domestic activity in the immediate vicinity (Fig. 9). The absence, from all of the excavations, of material culture of obviously Romano-British or continental manufacture indicates that settlement had moved elsewhere by the time of the Roman Conquest. However, the field system and enclosure were probably still evident and may have continued to be farmed, but

there is no sign of wholesale reorganisation of field boundaries during the Romano-British period.

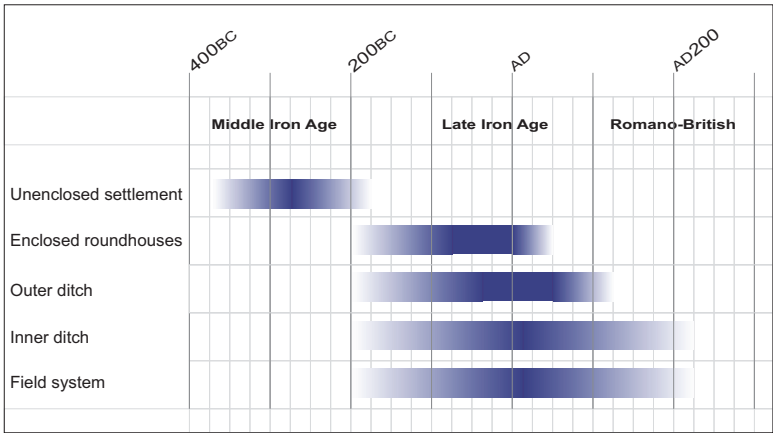


Figure 9 Chronology of the landscape.

Archives

The archive is currently stored under project number 105400 at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Unit 6, Sheaf Bank Business Park, Project Road, Sheffield, S23DN. It is hoped in due course that it will be deposited with Doncaster Museum.

Acknowledgements

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Mitchell House, Thorpe, Yorkshire Dales National Park: Historic Building Research and Recording

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Keywords Mitchell House, Thorpe, Yorkshire Dales, 17th century, L-shape, One and a half storey, Cross passage building, External stack

Abstract

Survey and research into Mitchell House at Thorpe in the Yorkshire Dales National Park recorded the remains of a building, which probably had its origins in the early 17th century. It was originally constructed as an L-shaped structure and would have occupied a raised platform at the rear of a small paddock, which may have been an allotment type garden. It was probably a one and a half-storey building with a central, elaborate doorway to a cross passage and an external chimney stack on the southern gable end. The half-storey element of the building would probably have been for storage and the area adjacent to the chimney would have been the main bedroom. The southern portion of the building typically would have been for livestock or agricultural storage. The removal of the southern part of the L-shape in the late 18th or early 19th century could well have been due to damp problems from the nearby streams, coupled with the construction of new barns nearby and seems to mark the decline of the importance and status of Mitchell House. The final reduction in the length of the building occurs in the second quarter of the 19th century and appears to be part of a number of alterations, which re-configure the building into the form seen today. Even though documentary research did not manage to identify a specific reason for the building being known as Mitchell House the parish registers show that there is a Mitchell family living in the Burnsall area in the 1640s. From the dating evidence surviving within Mitchell House it would seem that an original construction date of the first half of the 17th century would not be unreasonable. This in turn suggests that it may well have been built by or for the Mitchell family recorded in the baptismal records for Burnsall.

Introduction

As part of the planning process a programme of historic building recording and documentary research was undertaken into Mitchell House, Thorpe in the Yorkshire Dales National Park (NGR SE 01306 61645) (Fig. 1). The building lies almost at the southern limit of the village in an area of level ground with a paddock enclosed by a small dry stone wall to its front (west). The aim of the investigation was to identify, record and interpret any features of architectural and historical interest surviving within the fabric of the building and to attempt to establish the origins of the building's name.

Figure 1 Mitchell House, Thorpe, all photographs © JB Archaeology Ltd.

DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

by Gail Falkingham

Historic Mapping

The earliest map held by the North Yorkshire County Record Office, Northallerton, which depicts the village of Thorpe is the Thorpe in Burnsall Enclosure Map of 1793, surveyed 1789 (NYCRO) (Fig. 2). On this map Mitchell House appears to be depicted as an L-shaped structure with a small rectangular enclosure attached to the south-west. That this is Mitchell House is by no means certain but its general location in relation to the road, stream and what appears to be Kail Farm to the north-east would appear right though it seems somewhat close to both the stream and road. However, this may be attributed to the quality of map making at this time, poorer than that seen a century later. Overall it would seem reasonable to assume that this may well be an earlier form of Mitchell House.

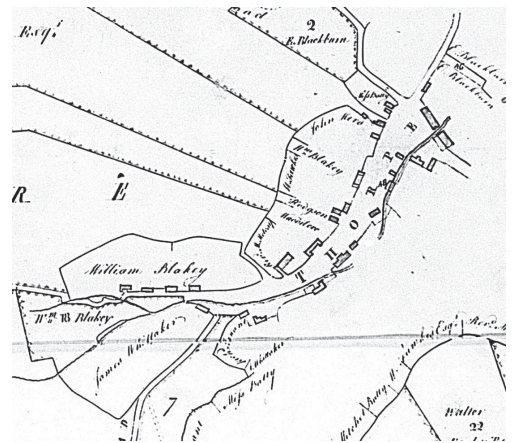
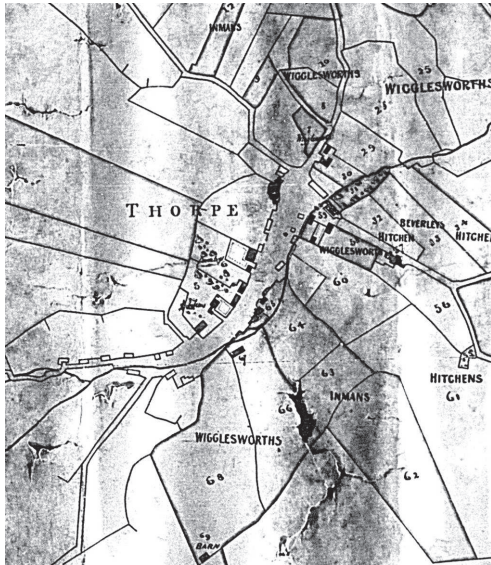


Figure 2 Thorpe in Burnsall enclosure map, surveyed 1789, dated 1793. [MIC 604] © NYCRO.



The next map showing the site is another plan of Thorpe township (Fig. 3) which although undated is believed to be possibly from the 1830s. This plan shows Mitchell House as a rectangular structure almost double the size of the square structure shown on the later 1849 tithe map (Fig. 4). Assuming there is a degree of accuracy in these plans, it can be seen that Mitchell House is no longer L-shaped by the early 19th century, which would imply a degree of demolition in the period between 1789 and the 1830s.

Figure 3 Plan of part of Thorpe township, undated ca. 1830s. [MIC 2165/35] © NYCRO.



Figure 4 Burnsall, Thorpe sub Montem, and Burnsall with Thorpe tithe map and apportionment, part 2, 1849. [MIC 1790/93-105] © NYCRO.

The 1848 Burnsall with Thorpe sub Montem tithe apportionment, accompanying the 1849 tithe map (NYCRO 1845–1950), indicates that the present Kail Farm, identified as no. 42 on the map, is listed as a ‘house, yard and garden’. The present Mitchell House is identified as no. 43, which is listed as a ‘dog kennel, and pasture’. The landowner of both properties is Robert Procter, and the occupier is Jeremiah Stockdale.

The first edition 6” Ordnance Survey map of 1853 (National Library of Scotland) (Fig. 5) indicates Mitchell House as a property, labelled as ‘No.2’, which is ‘a portion belonging to the parish of Linton’. Upon review of both the Linton in Craven Enclosure Map 1793 (NYCRO WYCRO) and the Linton in Craven Tithe Map 1844 (NYCRO T PR/LTN/5/3), it was found that neither map shows any land or property held in Thorpe. No explanation for the association of this property with Linton could be found. However, Lodge (1994, 73-5) discusses the parish of Burnsall and notes that there is a long-standing assumption that the Burnsall parish was

created out of Linton parish, and that corn tithes were paid by the parish of Burnsall to the rectors of Linton. This latter payment is also referenced in Kelly's trade directory of 1908 (Kelly 1908).

The three editions of the OS covering the latter 19th and early 20th centuries all show Mitchell House as a relatively small, square building in the corner of a small field or paddock. This ties in with the 1849 Burnsall tithe plan (NYCRO T PR/BNS) (Fig. 4) but is different from the rectangular building shown in the various earlier maps (Figs. 2 and 3). These changes from an L-shaped building in the 1780s to a rectangular one in the 1830s and then to a simple square one by the latter part of the 19th century could be seen to suggest that a once larger, more significant building is undergoing some form of gradual reduction in both size and status. The reduction in size can be clearly seen as the building becomes smaller and the change in status with its use, in the 1840s at least, as a dog kennel and later as a stable (*pers. comm.* Mr Gamble).



Figure 5 Burnsall excerpt of Ordnance Survey 6" map, 1853. © National Library of Scotland.

Census Records, Trade Directories and other Family Records

In order to try to determine the origin of the use of the name Mitchell for the building the parish registers and census records were researched. This was to try to determine if someone by the name of Mitchell was associated with the building. Using the online records available at Ancestry.com a search was made of the England Census records for Thorpe from 1851 to 1911 (Ancestry.com 2004, 2005a, 2005b, 2005c, 2005d, 2010). In addition to the census returns trade directories and tithe apportionments were also researched. Unfortunately there was no family by the name of Mitchell living in Thorpe in any of the census returns and trade directories consulted.

However, a search for the name Mitchell for the adjacent parish of Burnsall produced a number of records from the Select Births and Christenings 1538-1975 (Ancestry.com 2014a), and Select Marriages, 1538-1973 (Ancestry.com 2014b). These were:—

Elizabeth Mitchell, baptised 18 July 1645, Burnsall, father Abraham Mitchell

Anne Mitchell, baptised 11 February 1647, Burnsall, father Abraham Mitchell

Robert Mitchell, baptised 03 August 1771, Burnsall, father Thomas Mitchell

John Mitchell, married 29 April 1736 at Burnsall, spouse Issabell Waddilove

John Mitchell, married 23 October 1755 at Burnsall, spouse Ann Hodgson

Although this shows that a Mitchell family is local to the Burnsall area in the 17th and 18th centuries, no specific connection could be found with Thorpe in the records consulted. In addition in his history of Burnsall and Thorpe, Lodge (1994, 209) gives a list of men living in Thorpe during the mid 18th Century and a Thomas Mitchell is named. Further research into family records and parish registers may reveal additional information.

BUILDING RECORDING

by John Buglass

The building recording confirmed that after its original construction Mitchell House has undergone at least two major phases of alteration, which primarily appear to have been the reduction of size of the earlier building down to the single-celled structure now present. These alterations would appear to include the raising of the roof line and re-configuration of the southern end wall, as well as the alteration of several of the openings in the various elevations. The fabric of Mitchell House is of coursed, undressed or hammer dressed stone under a stone tile roof. All of the building material appears to be locally sourced stone and to be primarily gritstone (Fig. 1). Although the axis of the building is on an NNE to SSW alignment, for ease of description this has been simplified to north-south.



Figure 6 Mitchell House, Thorpe.

Phase I – Original Building: possibly 17th century (Figs. 2 – 9)

The surviving portion of the building can be seen to occupy the southern end of a much larger plot with a clearly visible, level building platform surviving to the north of Mitchell House (Fig. 6). This difference in length between the physical remains and the platform reflects the cartographic evidence given above on the maps from 1830s and 1849 (Figs. 3–4). Although the surviving platform does not clearly show the L-shape seen on the 1789 survey (Fig. 2), there is a noticeable slope running westwards from the northern end of the platform which would seem to suggest that there was once some form of feature here. The paddock to the west of Mitchell House is very wet, and damp issues in the east-west arm of an earlier building may well have caused the start of the reduction of the size of the building.

From the surviving portion of Mitchell House the most significant feature is the size and location of the chimney stack on the southern gable end (Fig. 7). From the position of the quoins on either side of the chimney it can be seen to have been built originally as an external stack and, at a later date, the southern wall has been moved outwards to make it flush with the outer face of the chimney. This form of external stack is seen in late 16th but more typically in 17th century houses (e.g. Brunskill, 1982, 82; HMSO/WYMCC, 1986, 106 et seq; Illingworth, 2014, 64 and Robinson, 2014, 9). The rebuilding of the southern end of Mitchell House can also be seen in the slightly concave nature of the gable wall, with the front and rear walls projecting somewhat beyond the line of the rear of the stack. The quoins that delineate the sides of the stack stop at a point 3.5m up the 6m gable suggesting that it was once a much shorter structure. However it is also possible that the topmost part of the stack was demolished and rebuilt in a different style.



Figure 7 Mitchell House, Thorpe, view of southern gable end.

Internally the chimney stack can be seen to be a very large structure completely out of proportion with the surviving singled celled building. This shows that Mitchell House was once a much larger, higher status building. Over the remains of the surviving hearth there are indications of an inverted V-shaped feature running over the lintel, which may have been some form of smoke hood. This line is repeated in the remains of earlier stonework, now partially obscured by later additions, visible within the top part of the hearth. The lower part of the fireplace has been much altered over time obscuring any earlier features.

In the northern wall there is evidence for two blocked doorways and it would be very unusual for a single celled structure to have four entrances. Therefore it would appear that these two doorways originally would have led from the surviving room into another part of the building located along the raised platform to the north. From the size and position of the large quoins in the north-western corner it can be seen that these quoins have been added at a later phase of development of the building, presumably when it was being reduced in length. It should be noted that the quoins in the northern end of Mitchell House are square in section and much longer than the markedly thinner, shorter quoins seen at the southern end of the building. This difference in quoin shape and size is quite noticeable and the fact that the thinner quoins seen in the chimney and at the southern end of the building are better made would strongly suggest that they were made for a higher status building. On the eastern side of the blocked western doorway there are the remains of a shallow, vertical groove cut in the stonework, which would seem to have been part of the moulded decoration around the entrance. Internally the large gritstone lintel survives in situ, whilst externally only part of the lintel is still present as it has been partially removed during the rebuilding of the corner when the building was reduced in length.

Internally the northern wall has a single, centrally located stone projecting into the room *ca.* 2.25m above the current floor level. This may well be the remains of the support for a spine beam, which would have run from here to the apex over the hearth. Finally, on the eastern side of the northern gable there are the remains of a wall extending beyond the current build line. These are the remains of the wall which would have once run along the length of the building platform and formed the back of the house (Fig. 8).



Figure 8 Mitchell House, Thorpe, view of northern gable end.

The western elevation of Mitchell House has two doorways at ground level and two windows just below the eaves. The under-eaves windows appear to be a later addition to provide ‘top light’ into the room as there is no corresponding upper floor room for it to serve. The two doorways into a single celled structure is an unusual feature and probably reflects an earlier internal configuration, traces of which can still be seen in the arrangement of cobble and flag flooring. The doorway at the southern end is more ornate than the northern one and obviously reflects the once higher status of the building. This is unless it has been reused from another building elsewhere (that however would seem unlikely as a doorway such as this would not normally be inserted into such a modest building). The southern doorway has a straight lintel with simple decoration of bead moulding around its edge and slightly rounded corners just below the lintel (Fig. 9). This style of doorhead can be dated to the late 16th/17th century (Alycock and Hall, 2010, 20). Directly above this doorway there are two stones of unknown function, though in this location it would be expected that they would have either a date or initials. It is possible that they are marked in some way but have been turned round so the inscriptions are now not visible. Directly above the two stones is a small window with the same bead-moulded decoration suggesting that the window and doorway are contemporary. The northern doorway is a simple configuration of gritstone jambs and lintel more typically associated with agricultural buildings in the Dales.



Figure 9 Mitchell House, Thorpe, lintel.

The northern window appears to have been formed from parts of at least two other windows. The lintel retains the moulding for a stone mullion whilst the sill is in two parts and has no moulding for the mullion, showing re-use. Just below the sills of both of the windows there is a single course of noticeably thinner stones, a feature which is often seen along the line of the eaves of a building (Fig. 1). Interestingly the top of the surviving stub of the once longer eastern wall (see above for details) is at the same height as this course of stones (Fig. 8). When these two features are taken into consideration with the level of the top of the earlier chimney stack shown by the quoins (Fig. 7), it would seem to suggest that Mitchell House has had the roof line raised at some point after its initial construction.

The eastern elevation of Mitchell House retains two openings, a blocked lower one and a glazed one just under the current eaves; both are made from simple gritstone elements. A 1920s photograph shows that the lower blocked window once had stone mullions (*pers. comm.* Mr Gamble). The under-eaves window appears to be a later addition to provide ‘top light’ into the room, as there is no corresponding upper floor room for it to serve.

Overall within the surviving portion of Mitchell House there is the evidence for an earlier one to one and a half storey stone built dwelling which had an external chimney stack. It appears to have had a formal main doorway with a simple bead moulded surround and a mixture of stone mullion windows and bead mould window surrounds. The latter were probably only on the front elevation.

Phase II – Change in Shape: between 1789 and 1830 (Figs. 2 and 3)

From the cartographic evidence detailed above, it can be seen that there is a significant change in the shape of Mitchell House between 1789 and 1830. This change involves the removal of the ‘foot’ part of the L-shape of the building to leave a rectangular structure. The physical evidence for this is limited with only a modest slope running east-west from the northern end of the building platform (Fig. 6).

Phase III – Reduction in length: between 1830 and 1849 (Figures 3 and 4)

The township and tithe maps show that there is a significant reduction in the length of Mitchell House between 1830 and 1849. This reduction in length changes the building from a rectangular plan into the single-celled one currently seen today. The physical evidence for this can be seen in a number of aspects of the site. Firstly, the building platform on which Mitchell House stands extends some 7m to the north of the current building. Secondly, there is a small projecting stub of a wall on the eastern (rear) elevation of Mitchell House which had continued further (Fig. 8). Thirdly, there are two blocked entrances (one with a decorated surround) in the northern gable end which would seem have led to additional rooms. Finally, the eastern boundary wall runs straight for the length of the building platform before changing direction reinforcing the suggestion that this was once the original line of the building.

Although it is currently not certain, it would seem likely that the moving out of the southern gable end to be flush with the exterior of the stack, the raising of the roof and the re-location of the elaborate doorway to the southern end all occurred at the same time as the final reduction in size of Mitchell House. It is certain that the elaborate, southern doorway could only have been inserted where it is when the southern gable end was being altered. In addition it would seem that, as this is a re-used structural element, it would have come from the part of the building to the north, which was being demolished, along with the decorated window above it.

Discussion and conclusions

From the results of the documentary research, cartographic and physical evidence it can be seen that Mitchell House was probably originally built in the early to mid 17th century (though a late 16th century date cannot be ruled out) as an L-shaped structure. This building would have occupied a raised platform at the back of a small paddock, which may have once been an allotment type garden. It would appear to have originally been a one or more likely one and a half storey building with a central, elaborate doorway to a cross passage and an external chimney stack on the southern gable end. The half storey element of the building would probably have been for storage and the area adjacent to the chimney would have been the main bedroom. If the original Mitchell House was a cross passage building, then the foot part of the L-shape would probably have been for livestock or agricultural storage and therefore less likely to have been raised on a substantial building platform.

The removal of the foot of the L-shape in the late 18th or early 19th century may well have been due to damp problems from the nearby streams, coupled with the construction of new barns nearby for the livestock. This would seem to mark the start of the decline of the importance and status of Mitchell House. The final reduction in the length of the building occurred in the second quarter of the 19th century and appears to be one of a number of alterations, which re-configured the building into the form seen today.

Although the documentary research did not manage to identify a specific reason for the building being known as Mitchell House, the parish records show that there is a Mitchell family living in the Burnsall area in the 1640s. From the cartographic and dating evidence relating to Mitchell House, it would seem that an original construction date of the first half of the 17th century would not be unreasonable, which in turn suggests that it may well have been built by or for the Mitchell family recorded in the baptismal records.

Acknowledgements

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1793. Thorpe in Burnsall enclosure records; Map: Plan of Thorpe inclosure, surveyed anno 1789. [WYCRO] [MIC 604]

1793. Linton in Craven enclosure records. [WYCRO] [MIC 604]

1844–1847. Linton in Craven tithe records. [T PR/LTN/5/3] [MIC 1796/381-388]

1845–1850. Burnsall tithe map and apportionment. Tithe map 1849 (three parts : Burnsall, Thorpe sub Montem, and Burnsall with Thorpe). [T PR/BNS] [MIC 1790/93-105]

Undated, *ca.* 1830, or 1840–1950. Plan of part of Thorpe township, parish of Burnsall [Henry Wigglesworth, named on the map, was rector of Slaidburn 1780-1838 & acquired lands in Thorpe by marriage in 1795]. [ZXF (M) 1/3/1] [MIC 2165/35-39]

1898. A plan of property in the township of Burnsall with Thorpe in the parish of Burnsall, traced at the Board of Agriculture from part 2 of a 2nd class tithe map. [ZXF (M) 1/3/2] [MIC 2165/40-46]

NIDDERDALE CHASE HERITAGE GROUP: THE ASHELBY PASTURE PROJECT Artefacts – an Unexpected Haul!

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The Nidderdale Chase Heritage Group (NCHG) has been engaged in the excavation of the site at Ashelby Pasture, in Upper Nidderdale, since 2013 [see earlier reports: Forum 2014 vol. 3 – Forum 2015 vol.4]. The excavated structure appears to be a linear build of five bays with suggestions of domestic accommodation to the south and livestock quarters to the north. This paper presents a brief background to the history and context of the site and a summary and description of the artefacts recovered to July 2016. These are organized into four categories: glass, metal, pottery, clay pipes. The paper also includes a brief outline of early research and analysis of finds by distribution and type, and a note on some of the issues still to be pursued.

Introduction

The Nidderdale Chase Heritage Group (NCHG) came into existence in 2006 and from 2007 – 2012 completed a Heritage Lottery-funded project researching and recording the development of a post-monastic landscape and community in Upper Nidderdale, North Yorkshire. Field walking surveys revealed previously unrecorded features in the landscape, and topographical and geophysical surveys confirmed the presence of earthworks indicating a possible two- or three-celled building. Excavation began in 2013. The site has proved to be larger and more complex than initially anticipated and excavation has now spanned a period of four digging seasons.

Site history

The study area is located on the north-eastern slope of the Nidd valley overlooking Gouthwaite Reservoir on land granted to the Abbey of Fountains in 1175. The site formed part of East Holme Grange, one of the monastic vaccaries established by the Abbey. At the time of the Dissolution it appears that the site was within a large, open-wooded pasture of c.18ha running from the valley floor to open moorland.

By the latter part of the 18th century, the Yorkes of Bewerley had acquired the land. The earliest estate maps, dated 1782 and 1813, as well as the First Edition OS map, show the area before Parliamentary Enclosure took place, and locate the site above two small, early enclosed fields (Calf Fall) formed from the open pasture. None of the written documentary sources consulted mentions the existence of a structure in this location, although others are fully recorded. The field itself appears for the first time on the 1909 OS map and subsequently on later maps up to 1997. It is depicted on vertical aerial photographs from 1946 to 1988 but only the 1988 image reveals the multi-celled rectangular platform and the terrace below it. The feature clearly sits in an ancient agricultural landscape (Fig.1).

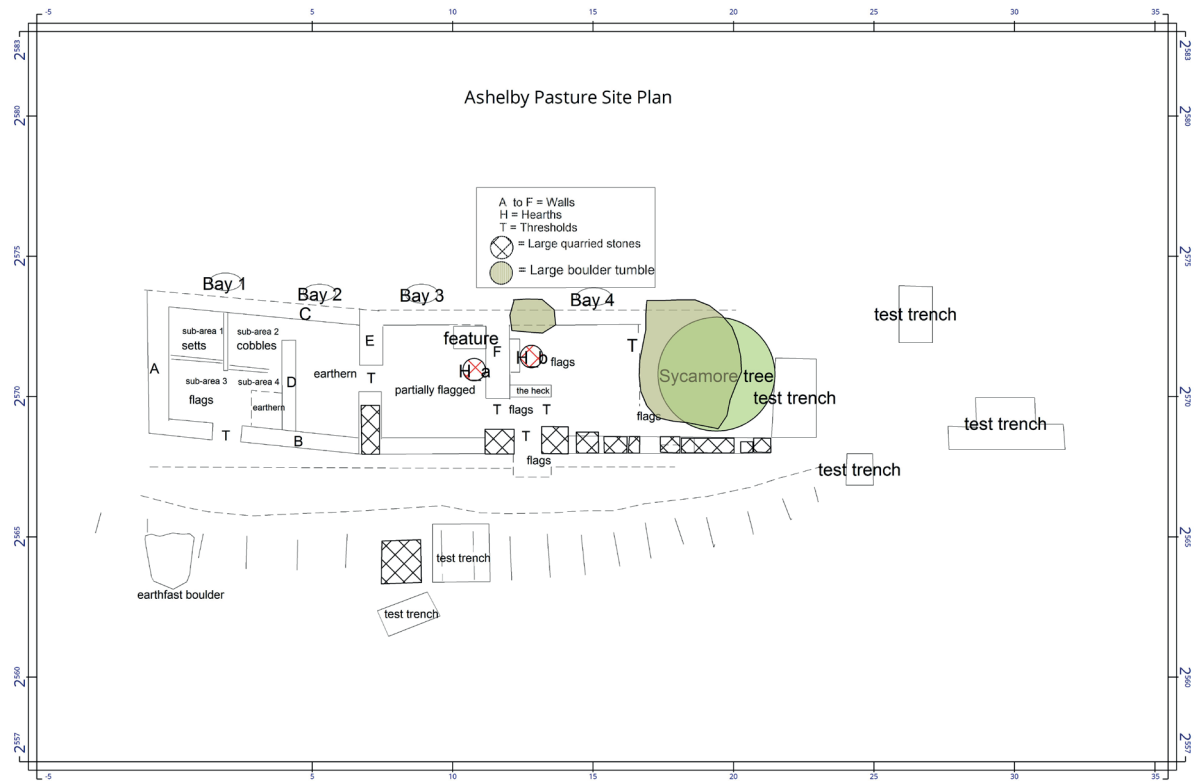


Figure 1 Site plan by Earl Hintze.

Site location and description

The present-day field of improved grassland, known to the Group by its historical name of Ashelby Pasture, covers an area of approximately 3ha. The site is to be found towards the top of the field within a complex of tracks and hollow ways. The area is broadly rectangular in shape and measures approximately 25m x 10m. The earthworks, revealed by the snow cover in the 1988 aerial photograph, were found in the field survey to consist of partly grass-covered gritstone blocks standing on a cut and fill platform constructed across the contour. However, the presence of a large sycamore tree, estimated to be about 200 years old, and large gritstone boulders make it difficult to evaluate the full length of the structure. At the present time excavation has revealed what appears to be a linear build of five bays which indicate livestock quarters to the north (Bays 1 and 2) and domestic accommodation to the south (Bays 3, 4 and 5) (Fig. 2).



Figure 2 Aerial view of site taken by drone, Martyn Sheard.

Artefacts report 2016

Excavation work totalled 64 digging days to the end of July 2016; the winter months have been devoted to post-excavation work, including the recording and analysis of finds.

The number of artefacts located at this site is now approaching 800. The majority are pottery sherds and glass shards of varying types, thickness, colour and decoration. In addition, a small range of clay pipe fragments and metal objects have been recovered, several of which were found using metal detecting techniques. The total finds to July 2016 are: glass (single or duplicate) 353; pottery 341; metal 68; clay pipe fragments 13 (Fig. 3).

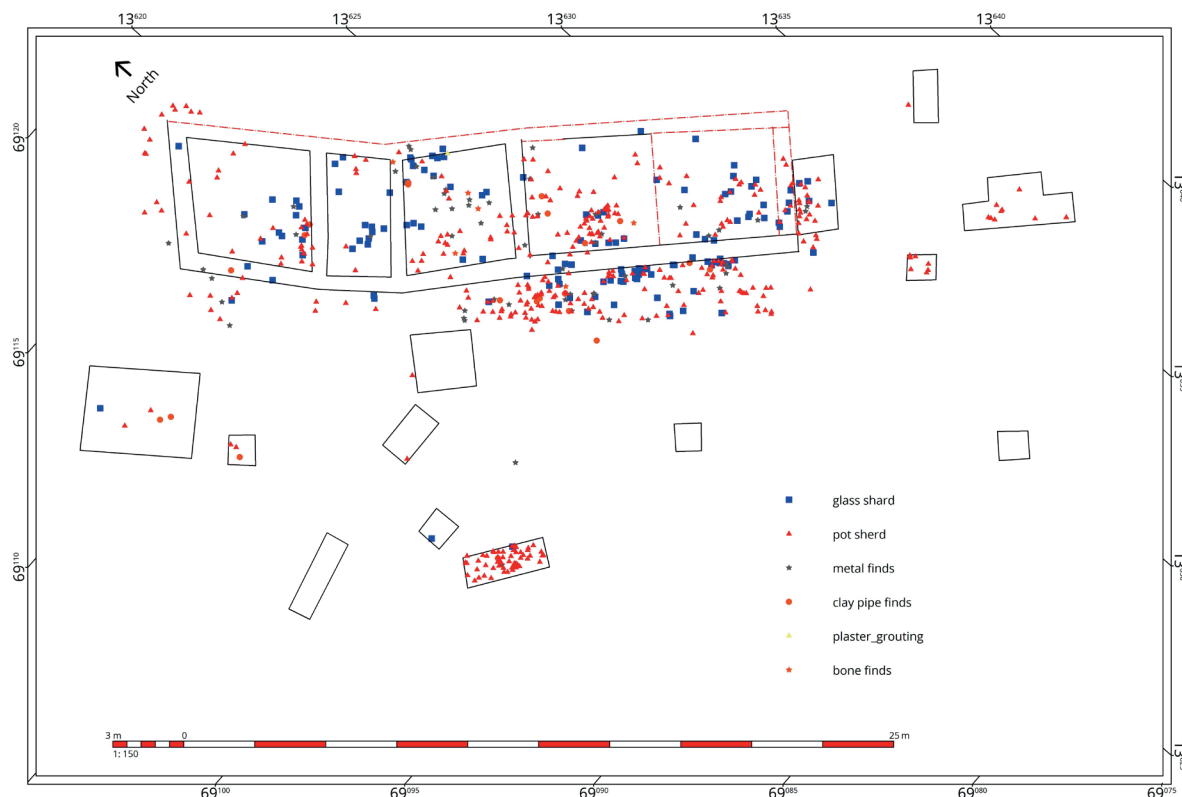


Figure 3 All finds diagram, Earl Hintze.

At the time of recovery all artefacts are recorded as to position, photographed in situ to a scale-bar, given a three letter code and placed in an annotated bag. Post- excavation work includes cleaning and recording in precise detail weight, size, thickness and colour. Rim-chart percentages are taken if appropriate. All artefacts are drawn, in outline and profile, photographed again, back and front, before the individual record sheet is added to the file. Spreadsheets are generated to show the location of artefacts and distribution by type.

Glass

The site has yielded a considerable number of glass finds of varying types. Numerous shards have been recovered throughout the site: thin, clear, flat glass 1mm W; some thicker, greenish flat shards 2mm W; and also several clear white curved pieces suggesting a broken vessel or bottle. Analysis by colour revealed: clear glass 6; light blue 8; very light green 20; light green 285; medium green 22; dark green 12.

A large proportion of the glass is medium to pale green, between 1mm and 2mm thick, and as several shards show signs of lead beading, are possibly window glass. There are also dark green shards, mostly curved, opaque and with bubbles in the material and are probably bottle glass. Eight shards of blue glass have been recovered, five curved and three flat (Fig. 4). The thinnest is 0.65mm and the thickest 4.00mm. These too are probably bottle glass. In addition, there are some shards of dark green thicker glass, possibly from bottles.



Figure 4 Shard of blue glass [ID SHR]. All artefacts photographed by Paul Reinsch.

The window glass falls into different thicknesses and probably different age categories. However, research has not yielded any work of reference to aid in our analysis and much remains conjecture. Some shards bear marginal putty marks and may have been used in diamond pane windows. Strip lead comes have also been found.

The olive green bottle glass has been researched from discussions with local glassblowers and referenced both to books and auction catalogues. It seems possible that the shards are from a mallet-shaped bottle, dating from the first half of the 18th century. No definitive research has yet been carried out on the more modern bottle glass which, from curvature of shards, suggests that they are 19th century pop, medicine or ink bottles.

Example and Description: One shard of very dark olive green glass (Fig. 5) is roughly triangular in shape (90mm L x 70mm W x 10mm D). It contains two large air bubbles (10mm). In profile the piece is roughly 'S' shaped. The top flares over and is 4mm thick, tapering to 3mm to its broken edge. At the base it is 10mm thick. The outside face of the glass is more abraded at the base whilst it is relatively free from scratches under the rim. A crease in the glass suggests the point where a base for the vessel was formed. This shard represents 17.5% of a vessel possibly 200mm in diameter. The rim measures 20mm.



Figure 5 Vessel glass [ID APT]

Some analysis of the location of the finds has been undertaken. Only three shards of window glass were recovered from outside Bay 1 whereas 35 shards were found outside Bay 4. 25 of these were window glass and the rest probably fragments of domestic pieces – five blue, one brown, two clear curved, and two dark green opaque curved (Fig. 6).



Figure 6 Dark green opaque glass [ID AOX]

Metal

Metal finds are recorded by size, type of metal used, its possible function i.e. nail or hook, and the state of deterioration or corrosion of the object. Pieces of corroded iron have proved difficult to identify beneath the concretion. Finds comprise a total of 19 nails and 15 flat, unidentifiable objects. Five objects are circular with holes, which may indicate that they are buttons (Fig. 7). Six larger objects have been provisionally identified as a clog iron, fragments of a pony shoe, a hinge, a spike and two hooks (Figs. 8.1, 8.2, 8.3). Eight strips of lead have been identified, probably window comes (Fig. 9).



Figure 7 Button [ID ANR]



Figure 8.1 Iron beam hook [ID ABC]



Figure 8.2 Possible clog iron [ID AHT]



Figure 8.3 Part horse-shoe [ID AWB]



Figure 9 Window came [ID ARC]

In terms of distribution, a fragment of flat iron, possibly a door sneck, a bent fragment of iron, probably a hook, and one nail were found outside the doorway of Bay 1. To the exterior of Bay 4 six nails, a disc with a hole, possibly a button, and three flat pieces were recovered. Although a good deal of window glass was recovered, no lead comes were found here.

Pottery

A wide variety of pottery is present on the site and 341 sherds have been collected by July 2016. These vary in size from a flake – more glaze than pot – to the base of a bowl measuring 110mm x 59mm, with a further 13 sherds making up two-thirds of the bowl. Thickness also varies widely from as delicate as 2mm to a chunky 9mm. Whilst patterns are mostly simple blobs and streaks of a darker shade there are several very intricately marked fragments (Fig. 10).



Figure 10 Decorated pottery fragment [ID AIQ]

The colours vary greatly in quantity. White and blue are the rarest with only six and three respectively, and whilst one of the blue sherds is highly decorated the white are plain but glazed on both sides (Fig. 11). 43 green sherds have been recovered, the dominant shade being a darkish olive. The fabric of these varies but is evenly split between dark terracotta and a light pinky-beige (Fig. 12). 28 sherds of yellow-cream pottery have been found. Of these almost half have a brown pattern of dots, stripes, or feathering. The fabric is mostly beige and only six are terracotta (Figs. 13.1, 13.2, 13.3). Black is the most predominant colour and falls into two main categories. The 25 sherds of plain black have a very high glaze and appear to have tiny dots or pimples beneath the glaze. The fabric splits evenly between terracotta and beige. Black Lustre accounts for 51 sherds, and except for two, the fabric is terracotta (Fig. 14). The largest group of pottery comprises 121 brown sherds, which can be split into four categories: 35 chocolate brown of which 20 have glaze on both sides; 12 sherds with a yellow/cream inner glaze, and three unglazed. The fabric splits between terracotta and beige (Figs. 15.1, 15.2). A further 35 sherds are described as treacle or toffee brown, often shading to lighter golden brown in rough streaks and blobs on both sides; only two have yellow inner glaze. Five of these have a terracotta fabric, the rest are beige with black inclusions (Fig. 16). 27 sherds in a lighter golden brown (caramel) have been recovered, only four of which are plain. The rest are patterned in darker brown from rough streaks to stripes and dots. The fabric of these is beige, sometimes with a pinky tone and black inclusions (Fig. 17). Of the 21 dark brown sherds eight have a yellow inner glaze with some external patterning in the same colour. The rest have a matching internal glaze, and two are unglazed. The fabric is mostly pinky-beige with five of the plain brown pieces being terracotta. 29 sherds are partially glazed. These are difficult to identify as only small amounts of glaze remain. In terms of colour these can be categorized as yellow eight; green seven; brown six; orange three; cream two; pink two; black one. In 22 sherds the fabric is terracotta; five pinky-beige and two grey beige (Fig. 18). This leaves 27 sherds classed as unglazed. The outside of the sherds seem to be of a plain terracotta fabric, sometimes smoothed to appear orangey. The insides show traces of glaze or colour in 14 sherds, and the rest are grey (Fig. 19).



Figure 11 White glazed pottery [ID ARD]



Figure 12 Light pinky-beige terracotta [ID SHO]



Fig. 13.1 Yellow sherd with brown bands and spots [ID AGE]

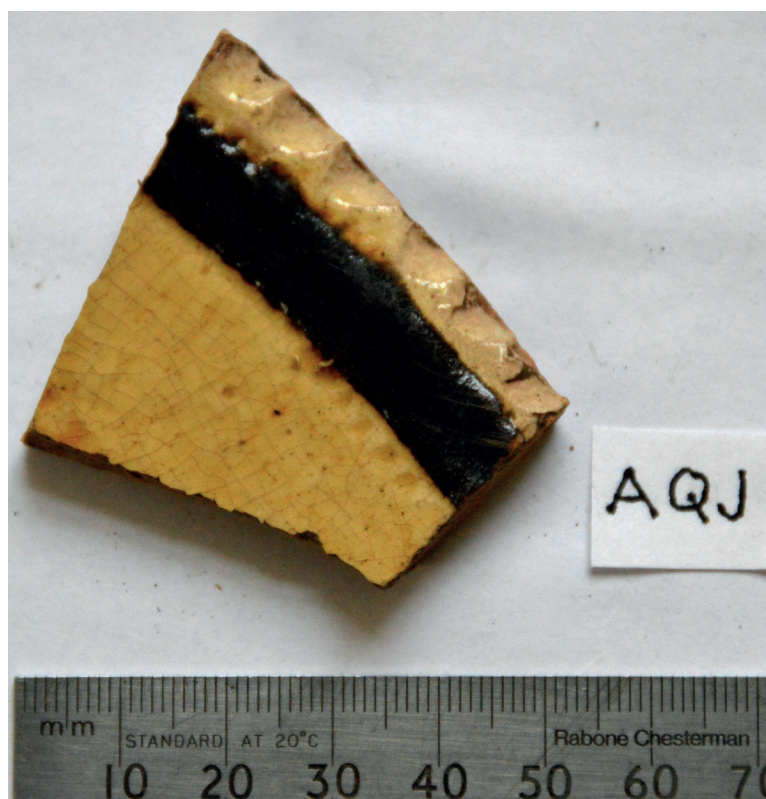


Figure 13.2 Cream sherd, crimped edge [ID AQJ]

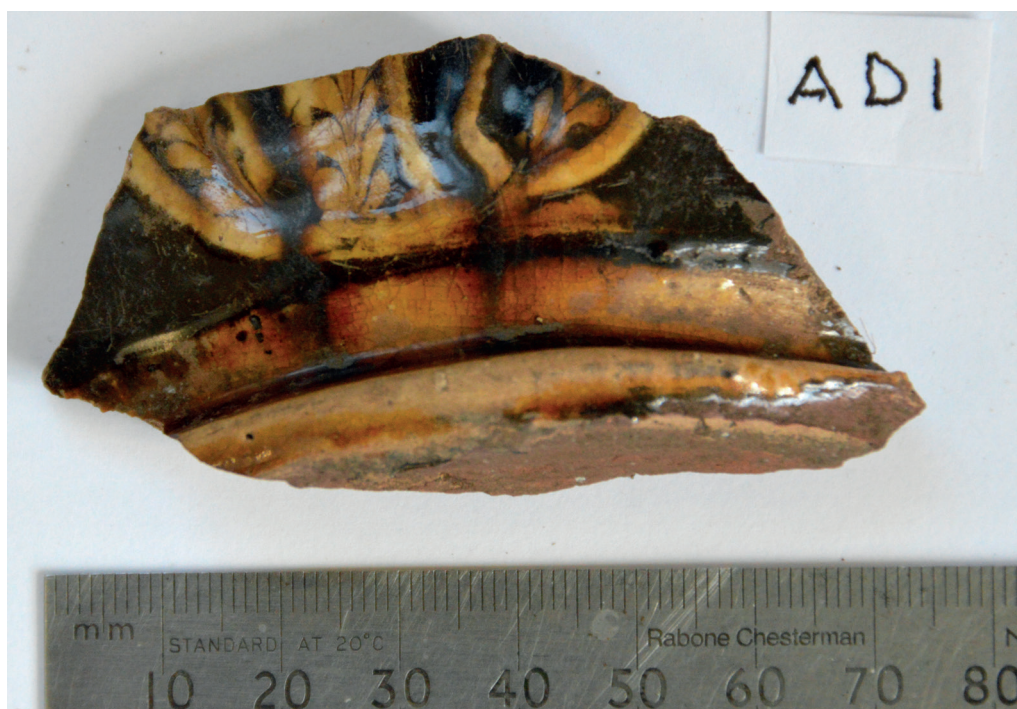


Figure 13.3 Roll edged base, patterned body [ID ADI]

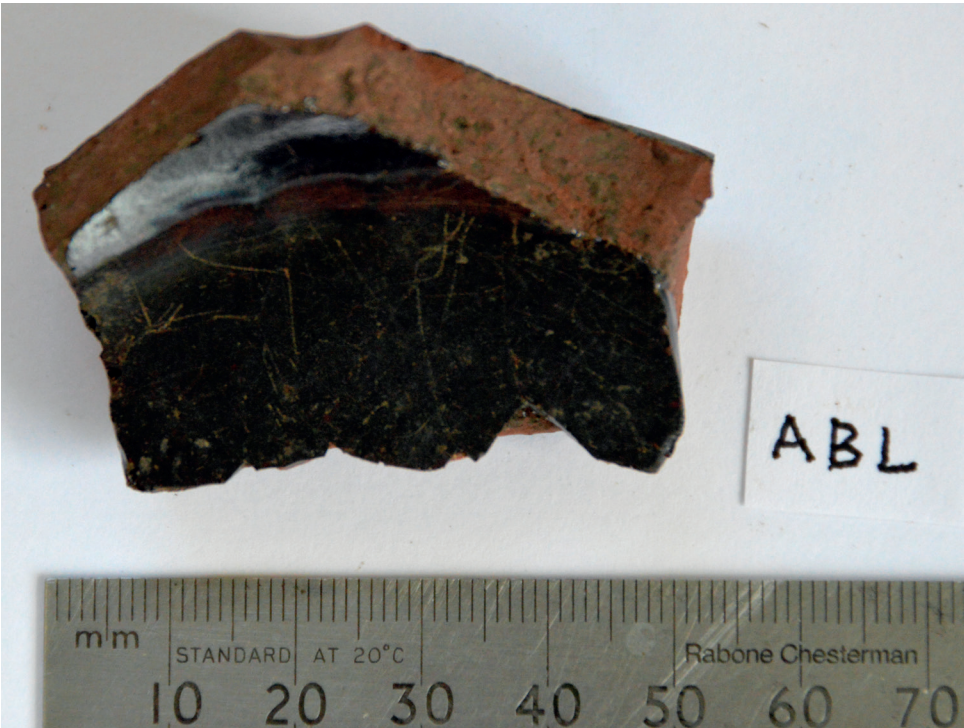


Figure 14 Part base, black lustre on terracotta fabric [ID ABL]



Figure 15.1 Sherd, black outer, cracked [ID AHV]

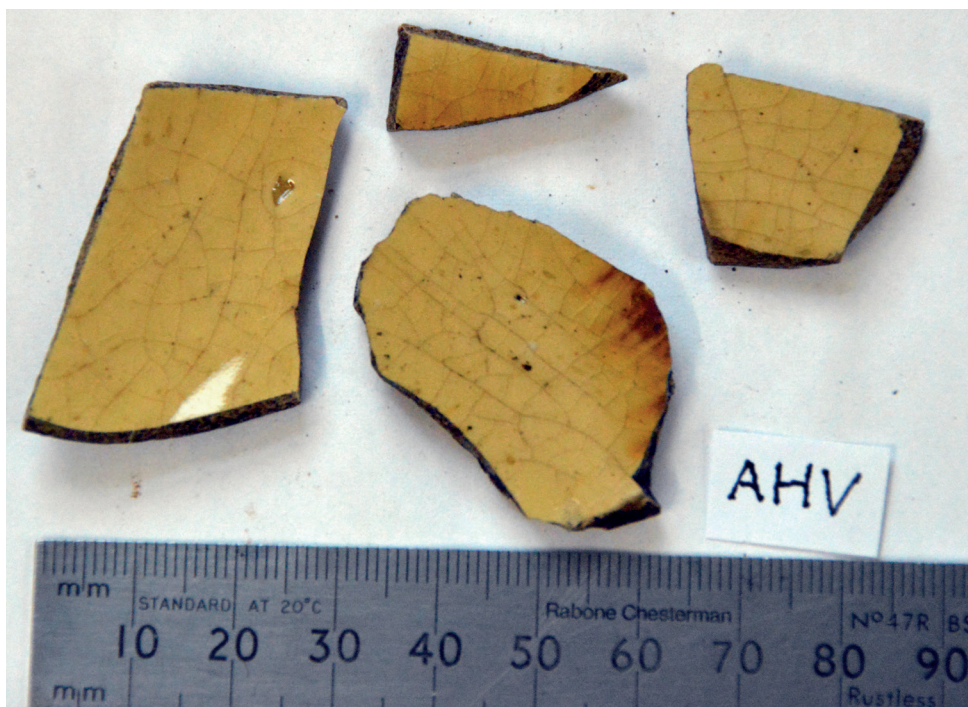


Figure 15.2 As previous sherd, yellow inner, cracked [ID AHV]



Figure 16 Sherd, ridged, dark treacle colour [ID AQA]



Figure 17 Sherd, mid-brown tone with black inclusions [ID APD]



Figure 18 Sherd, red-pink fabric, remnant yellow glaze, zig-zag pattern [ID AAS]



Figure 19 Unglazed terracotta sherd, grey inner [ID ACJ]

Examples and Description:

A highly glazed sherd of blue and grey pot (Fig. 20) measuring 40mm W x 44mm L; the fabric is grey, 5mm thick. The heavily decorated outside comprises a central panel framed by a plain cobalt blue edging and a flared rim. Each blue strip is edged by a narrow grey band. The central panel is fluted with a grey glaze overlaying the blue. Between the fluted section and the blue panel edge is a border strip of grey on blue, 3mm W, bearing a chevron pattern.



Figure 20 Blue and grey pot [ID AAY]

Three sherds of yellow-cream glazed pot (Fig. 21) quite fine, 2mm thick. The largest sherd is the rim of a pot or jug. Just below the rim are two brown spots the size of a 5p coin, and as the pot flares out, a brown line. The smaller sherds have stripes of 1mm W in chocolate brown and part of what could be a clover leaf.

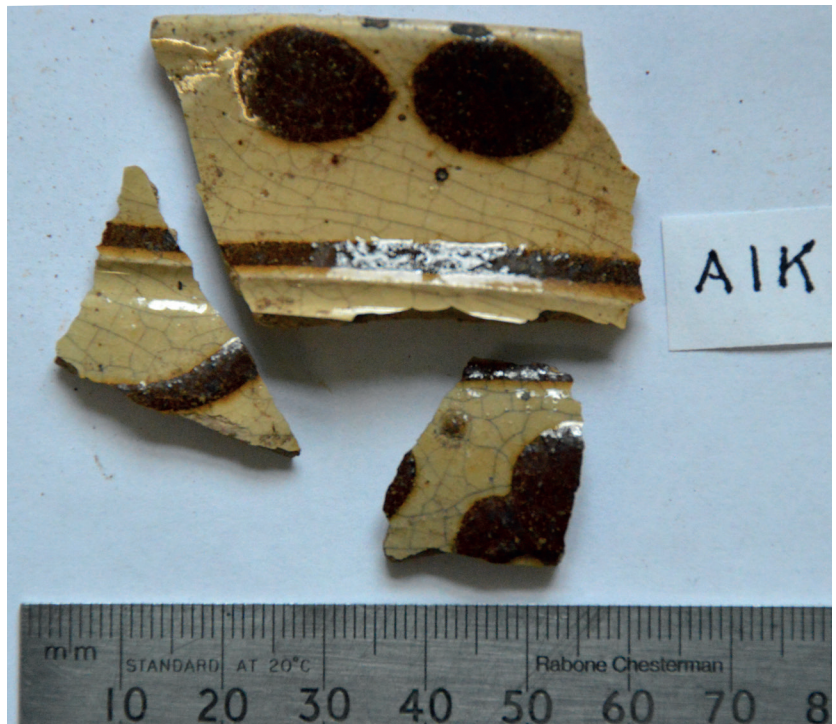


Figure 21 Yellow-cream pot [ID AIK]

A chunky sherd of low status terracotta pottery (Fig. 22) 68mm x 50mm. It has a single glazed side of a striking yellow-green shade. A clearly defined ridge of 6mm W traverses the unglazed face.



Figure 22 Low status terracotta pottery [ID AHG]

A sherd of chunky pot, probably the rim of a large platter (Fig. 23) rim chart size: 18. 2.5%. It has an olive green glaze on the upper side and the whole rim. There are signs of burning on the outermost edge of the rim. The fabric is pinky-beige but appears almost orange on the base.



Figure 23 Rim of a pot or platter [ID ANL]

A sooty sherd of terracotta (Fig. 24) 5mm thick, shows a slight curve, rim chart size: 11. 7.5%. There are traces of a greenish stripe with a slightly concave surface and a blob of white (size of a 5p coin). The underside also has a blob of white with no further pattern visible due to soot.



Figure 24 Sooty sherd of terracotta [ID ANT]

An initial comparison has been made between the pottery recovered from the front of Bays 1 and 4. Seven sherds were found outside Bay 1; 47 outside Bay 4. These comprised sherds of the full range of colours and types.

Clay pipes: bowls and stems

During the course of the excavation three fragments of pipe bowl have been found, along with 10 fragments of stem. One pipe bowl was complete with a short portion of stem (Fig. 25) (SHQ). The second bowl was incomplete but similar in shape to (SHQ). The third was only a fragment.

The complete bowl is slightly bulbous measuring 25mm from base to rim of bowl. The angle of bowl to stem is 130 degrees. The bowl has a round, flat spur 10mm in diameter. The inside diameter of the bowl is 14mm at the top, and the outside diameter 22mm at the thickest point. The rim of the bowl is angled and not parallel with the stem. The thickness of the bowl is 2mm; the stem is 15mm long, diameter 8mm and bore 2mm; the colour is off-white.



Figure 25 Clay pipe [ID SHQ]

The incomplete bowl appears similar in shape and style to the complete bowl but is beige in colour. The fragment of bowl is also beige but is not part of the incomplete bowl. These two items were found close together outside Bay 4.



The pipe stems were of varying lengths from 22mm to 105mm. The diameter of the stems ranged from 7mm to 10mm, the majority being 8mm. The bore of the stems ranged from 1mm to 3mm, the majority being 2mm or 3mm. The stem colour ranged from off-white to beige (Fig. 26).

Figure 26 Clay pipe stem [ID SHN]

In terms of distribution, Bay 1 yielded one pipe stem, whilst all three pipe bowls and one stem were found outside Bay 4.

Research

A Group representative attended a Ceramics in Archaeology workshop provided by Elmet Archaeology. An opinion was given on a number of the Ashelby Pasture pots. Preliminary visits were also made to the York Museum, Barley Hall (York), and Skipton Museum.

A sample of sherds was also taken to the Castleford Museum (West Yorkshire) after the Group was advised that the collection included sherds dating from the late 18th century. Of particular interest was the pottery from the earliest and most prolific pottery in the area, David Dunderdale & Co 1790 – 1821. None of the finds were found to match the pots on display. Access was also provided to Dunderdale's Pattern Book of 1796 (Walton 1973) which contained designs copied from the Leeds pottery, but again, no comparisons were found.

The Group has visited the premises of the York Archaeological Trust (YAT). 35 sherds, representing a cross-section of finds, were offered for consideration. After a review of pottery within the YAT collection, from Roman through Medieval to 18th century, and the opportunity to consult various books and journals, the Group was provided with a brief identification on each find submitted.

A pottery expert has also visited the Group twice and viewed all the pottery artefacts. She gave immediate opinions on some of the pieces and photographed others for further research. She is to submit a written report in due course.

Local experts and practitioners, including glassblowers, have been consulted. Additionally, Group members have begun reading widely within their particular area of interest and responsibility.

Further work

The Group will be seeking further professional support to aid with identification and dating, and will continue drawing on literature within the field. It is hoped that response to this article may also help us, particularly with the dating of artefacts.

Archives

Artefacts are with the Group at present; contact the corresponding author for more details.

Acknowledgements

The Nidderdale Chase Heritage Group would like to thank Mr. T. Wheelwright, the landowner, for his support; Janis Heward (Community Archaeologist) for directing and supervising the excavation and organising the post-excavation work, including the artefacts research teams. Earl Hintze, for maps, plans and diagrams; Marie-Anne Hintze, for historical background; Paul Reinsch, for artefact photography, and all members and additional volunteers who have contributed to the project. Aerial photography (drone camera) was by Martyn Sheard.

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The Hanging Grimston Community Archaeology Project

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Keywords Iron Age, Romano-British, Ladder settlement, Medieval, Deserted village, Community archaeology

The Hanging Grimston Community Archaeology Project is a joint venture of the High Wolds Heritage Group and Scarborough Archaeological & Historical Society. Its principal aim is to test, mainly through excavation, ideas derived from recent earthwork and geophysical surveys about the phasing and history of medieval and earlier settlement remains at Hanging Grimston - a deserted village on the western scarp edge of the Yorkshire Wolds, just north of Garrowby Hill. The site is a scheduled ancient monument (National Heritage List for England (NHLE) 1019093).

Introduction

Four trenches were opened over a two-week period in July 2015 (Jecock *et al.* 2015). This year three trenches were excavated. Two trenches from last year, no. 2 on the eastern boundary of the manorial enclosure and no. 5 on the site of a large, post-medieval, C-shaped house, were re-opened and extended in order to excavate them fully down to natural deposits at the same time as investigating more of the features within. One new trench (Trench 6) was also dug to investigate the character of the western boundary of the manorial enclosure.

Trench 2

We now know that the earliest feature within Trench 2 (Fig. 1) is a deep ditch (its base lying circa 1.7m below modern ground surface) aligned roughly north-south. This has a W-profile, presumably indicating it silted and was then recut. It is currently undated, but we believe it to be Roman or even prehistoric. In the 12th or 13th centuries, long after the ditch had completely silted and been forgotten, a pebble surface was laid over the natural chalk bedrock in the east end of the trench, extending over the ditch. This may have been a yard area, although if so, it was not in use for long before the eastern boundary wall of the manorial enclosure was constructed across it. We have also found a number of other walls within the enclosure, but at present their relationship to each other and the manorial boundary is unclear; one of these was also constructed across the silted ditch and must have begun to fall down for a buttress was subsequently added.

Figure 1 Trench 2 looking north-east. To the north (top left), the robbed manorial enclosure wall visibly overlies the fills of the W-profile ditch, as does another wall at middle left of frame; the latter had subsequently to be buttressed to help support it (the buttress has been removed to allow excavation of the ditch).



Trench 5

Trench 5 (Fig. 2) was started in 2015 to investigate the remains of a large C-shaped building overlying, and therefore later than, the main medieval village earthworks. At the end of last year's excavations we discovered documentary evidence that suggests the building is in fact the mansion house of John Bouchier, second son of Sir Ralph Bouchier of Beningbrough Hall. Sir Ralph bought the Hanging Grimston estate in 1575 specifically for John and his wife. In 2016 Trench 5 was emptied of backfill, extended by a metre or so to the south to expose more of a (presumably medieval) stone wall found last year below the robbed-out remains of the Bouchier mansion, and excavated down to natural across the whole area of the trench.

At the deepest levels in Trench 5, underlying both the Bouchier mansion and medieval wall, a number of features were found cut into natural which here is not chalk but a clayey solifluction deposit overlying Whitwell Oolite. Several of these cut features contained what looked to be Roman pottery and very likely relate to an Iron Age/Romano-British 'ladder settlement', which geophysical survey has suggested lies under the eastern edge of the medieval village. Later, in the medieval period, a stone building was constructed of which we have found a stretch of the southern wall: we know this because a doorway in the wall has rebates in its northern side marking the position of a former internal timber doorframe. This building was in turn succeeded by the Bouchier mansion whose basic plan is traceable on the surface as a series of earthwork banks. As the excavations progressed last year, it became apparent that the earthwork we were sampling within the trench was in fact an upcast bank of spoil from a robbed-out wall line that lay immediately to the west. The actual robber trench was only seen with difficulty last year, but was much more apparent in the southern extension to the trench this year. Unfortunately the robbing has been comprehensive and no floor levels survive. The form and quality of architectural stone fragments (door mouldings, window mullions, etc.) and fragments of window comes (lead strips) recovered from the demolition rubble, however, are indicative of both a 16th/17th-century date for the building and it being of relatively high status, thus seeming to corroborate our identification of it as the documented Bouchier mansion.



Figure 2 Trench 5 looking west, showing the medieval wall and doorway. The bank at middle right is the upcast from the robbing of an internal north-south wall of the Bouchier mansion. Various features cut into the orangey natural can be seen in the floor of the trench, especially at bottom right.

Trench 6

Trench 6 (Fig. 3) was a new trench this year, positioned to sample a point on the western boundary of the manorial enclosure where earthwork evidence indicates it is met by an internal east-west scarp-cum-bank. Before excavation we took the scarp

representing the manorial boundary to be the remains of a ruined wall. However, where sampled by Trench 6 the boundary was found to consist solely of an earthen bank overlain by a deposit of yellowish, more stony, material (probably upcast natural), and with a broad ditch or possible routeway on its western (outer) side. The bank is low and broad suggesting it may have originated as a plough ridge; if so, it indicates that the manorial enclosure is at least partly laid out over former cultivated fields and post-dates the founding of the village. The east-west scarp running away at right angles from the enclosure boundary proved to be the downhill edge of the upcast natural - seemingly a levelling deposit associated with terracing the hillside within the enclosure to create level platforms for buildings.



Figure 3 The east end of Trench 6, looking north along the line of the western boundary of the manorial enclosure. Excavation suggested the boundary is here composed of a former plough ridge overlain by upcast natural.

Acknowledgements

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Portable Antiquities Scheme roundup 2016: Recent Roman finds from Yorkshire with Enamelled Decoration

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Keywords Metal-detector finds, Roman, Patera, Brooches, Buttons, Enamelled artefacts

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a nationwide initiative with the purpose of identifying and recording archaeological artefacts found by members of the public, many through metal-detecting. During 2016 around 2850 finds were recorded in North and East Yorkshire and of these 1085 were Roman finds. This reports highlights six enamelled artefacts, a patera, three brooches and two button and loop fasteners.

Introduction

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a nationwide initiative with the purpose of identifying and recording archaeological artefacts found by members of the public. The scheme is run by the British Museum, and has 37 Finds Liaison Officers (FLOs) across England and Wales who record these finds. The majority of the artefacts are discovered by metal detectorists, and the FLOs work closely with metal detecting clubs, as well as members of the public who come across artefacts through activities such as gardening or hiking.

At the time of writing 2849 finds have been recorded in North and East Yorkshire during 2016. Of these 333 are prehistoric, 321 are early medieval, 589 are medieval and 453 are post-medieval, but by far the era with the most finds is the Roman period, with 1085 Roman finds recorded this year. The majority of these are coins, but brooches also factor considerably, as well as dress accessories such as rings, mounts and button and loop fasteners.

Enamel decoration is a common theme on many of the objects recorded by the PAS. This technique became prevalent in the Roman period, with a study in 2009 ascertaining that there were 1662 enamelled Roman items on the PAS database nationwide, in contrast to 249 enamelled objects from the Iron Age (McIntosh 2009, 4). If we update this to current statistics, 7820 Roman artefacts are enamelled in comparison to only 572 from the Iron Age. An unusual item of particular interest this year is an enamelled Roman patera, but there are a number of other enamelled Roman objects discovered in Yorkshire in 2016 which are described here.

The enamelled Roman patera | 'Eastrington', East Riding of Yorkshire

<https://finds.org.uk/database/search/results/q/YORYM-20B68C>

This type of object is a form of vessel comprising a long handle and bowl, and our example (Fig. 1, YORYM-20B68C) is decorated at the outer surface of the bowl with three parallel rows of evenly spaced recessed square cells, filled with repeating groups of four coloured enamels: yellow, red, blue, green. The handle is sub ovate and highly decorated, with an engraved inscription down its centre which reads: VTERE FELIX (use in happiness). The letters retain enamel in alternating red and blue. VTERE FELIX is an inscription used for the invocation of good luck and featured on a variety of Roman object types. Two finger rings bearing the VTERE FELIX inscriptions have also been recorded with PAS: DOR-8F5E8E from Gussage St Michael, Dorset and BH-C3A8E7 from Hockliffe, Bedfordshire. LIN-C355C3 from North Kesteven, Lincolnshire is a brooch fragment with the same inscription.



Figure 1 A highly decorated patra [ID YORYM-20B68C].

Patera could perform a number of functions. Some were shallow, circular vessels, used to contain liquids for ceremonial, sacrificial or domestic purposes (Mills 2000). Very elaborate vessels such as the Staffordshire Pan (Fig. 2, WMID-3FE965) were non-functional and are likely to have been souvenirs of Hadrian's Wall or commemorative issues awarded to an individual. It is likely that this example from Yorkshire falls into the category of ceremonial or commemorative patera due to its highly decorative style.



Figure 2 The Staffordshire Pan [ID WMID-3FE965]



Simpler forms were carried by Roman soldiers as part of their standard kit and used as general cooking and eating utensils, but these examples tended to have pronounced concentric rings on the base which may have aided heating and the handles had perforations at the terminal end for suspension. An example of one of these on the PAS database is NCL-335745 (Fig. 3).

Figure 3 A functional patena with concentric rings on its base [ID NCL-335745]

The enamelled brooches

A mid 1st – 2nd century enamelled brooch | North Riding of Yorkshire

<https://finds.org.uk/database/search/results/q/YORYM-5876>

Of the Roman brooches discovered in 2016, three are of particular interest. YORYM-5876E5 (Fig. 4) dates from the mid-1st to 2nd century AD and, unusually for Roman brooches, has been found complete. The rectangular wings are short, and from the centre of the head a D-sectioned upper bow extends into a circular ring and dot style panel. Decorative enamel has been preserved in the central dot, as well as in the lozengiform cells at the lower flared bow. These brooches were worn in pairs, with one at each shoulder, and from the loop a decorative chain would have been suspended between the two brooches.



Figure 4 A mid 1st – 2nd century enamelled brooch [ID YORYM-5876E5]

An umbonate disk brooch | Wakefield

<https://finds.org.uk/database/search/results/q/YORYM-962973>

Another example, YORYM-962973 (Fig. 5), is an Umbonate disk brooch, dating to the 2nd-3rd centuries AD. Again, this has survived relatively well, and has blue and orange enamel present in triangular cells arranged around a domed knob in the centre. 6 knobs are spaced evenly around the perimeter, with circular projections at 12 o'clock and 6 o'clock on the disk, which house the pin mechanism and catchplate respectively. It is thought that due to the standardisation of design and decoration on these styles of brooches that they were produced on a large scale, through organised workshops possibly based on the continent (Bayley and Butcher 2004, 176).



Figure 5 An umbonate disk brooch [ID YORYM-962973]

An enamelled brooch with zoomorphic decoration | East Riding of Yorkshire

<https://finds.org.uk/database/search/results/q/YORYM-0CD32C>

YORYM-0CD32C (Fig. 6) is an interesting example dating to AD 80-250. It is broadly crescent shaped with three panels of enamel set into the main body. The crescent tapers towards the base before terminating in two zoomorphic heads, between which is a lenticular stud set with enamel. The zoomorphic terminals appear to represent dogs or wolves, and provide an example of zoomorphic decoration being present on a plate brooch, without the brooch itself being in the form of the animal, as is often the case.



Figure 6 Enamelled brooch with zoomorphic decoration [ID YORYM-0CD32C]

Two enamelled button and loop fasteners

Enamelled button and loop fastener | East Riding of Yorkshire

<https://finds.org.uk/database/search/results/q/YORYM-DBDD8D>



A recent find of note is an enamelled button and loop fastener – YORYM-DBDD8D (Fig. 7). Decoration on the head comprises sub-triangular swirls in alternating blue and red enamel. It is thought that this type of object is associated with the military, although PAS examples are not always found on sites specifically related to military activity (Downes and Griffiths, 2016).

Figure 7 Enamelled button and loop fastener [ID YORYM-DBDD8D]

An enamelled button and loop fastener with circular head | East Riding of Yorkshire

<https://finds.org.uk/database/search/results/q/YORYM-EA7D62>

YORYM-EA7D62 (Fig. 8) is a particularly fine example of an enamelled button and loop fastener. This object has a circular head with a quartered circular enamelled motif set within a circular recess at its centre. J.P. Wild states that the enamelled button and loop fasteners were ‘probably a product of the northern school of enamellers of the second century A.D.’ (1970, 140). The predominant red and yellow coloured enamels increased to include white, green and blue with a flower-petal design being favoured. Wild also explains that this type is commonly found in the forts of Hadrian’s Wall, on the Antonine Wall and on the Upper German limes.



Figure 8 An enamelled button and loop fastener with circular head [ID YORYM-EA7D62]

Conclusion

All of these finds have come to light through the responsible reporting of finds by members of the public. These objects are now all recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database (www.finds.org.uk) and their records are accessible to members of the public and researchers alike. As many of the artefacts are metal detecting discoveries, the PAS provides a means to create a cohesive, publicly available dataset which would otherwise be lost. This has numerous benefits, from the ability to identify new archaeological sites through analysis of assemblages to the capacity to show patterns in finds distribution across the country. Additionally, new types of artefact come to light, such as a new type of double-headed button and loop fastener with a regional distribution specific to Yorkshire. Therefore, through the careful recording and plotting of findspots to a minimum six-figure grid reference, every object on the PAS database has the potential for use as a source to further our knowledge of the past.

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The Whitby Museum Witch Post: a Reconsideration

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Keywords Witch posts, North York Moors

The history of witch posts in 17th-century farmhouses on the North York Moors can be traced back to about 1900 only. They have been thought to prevent witches from entering the house and more recently, it has been suggested that they are catholic mass posts. The article describes the oak posts in their location near the fireplace and gives a brief explanation of witchcraft. It discusses the arguments for and against being either witch posts or mass posts before concluding that they are probably neither.

Introduction

The witch post is one of the curiosities in the museum that fascinates visitors. Stories of witches and witchcraft resonate in the imagination generating fear in some, admiration in others and bemusement in most. I wanted to know more about the post because the information on display is minimal and has not likely changed since the post was brought to the museum in the 1930s. Further research seemed appropriate to bring together all the references and open discussion on the topic.

The Witch Post

The witch post is a carved wooden post positioned near the fireplace of a house and believed to prevent witches, fairies or evil spirits from entering the occupants' house. It was placed at the end of a screen or thin wall at a right angle to the fireplace and was also referred to as a heck post (Hayes and Rutter 1972, 87–95; RCHM 1987, 218). Witch posts in this form are distinctive to the North York Moors with only one example elsewhere, in Lancashire. The posts have been found in 17th-century farmhouses and were still considered an integral part of the house and sometimes replaced after rotting away as late as the early 20th century (Natrass 1956, 136–8). The post (Fig. 1, catalogue reference WHITM:SOH1483) in Whitby Museum was presented by R. Lionel Foster, Esq., J.P., in 1936 and came from East End Cottage in Egton.



Figure 1 Whitby Museum witch post. © C. Kroebel with permission from the Whitby Literary and Philosophical Society.

The origin of these carved posts is obscure but would seem to be linked to the lay-out of 17th-century farmhouse buildings. The fireplace was located on an internal wall with a passageway separating the living areas from farm animals with doors at either end of the passage to the outside (Fig. 2). A screen to exclude drafts created by the passage would be an early development. The screen or divider was usually a wooden partition; sometimes on top of a low stonewall, which often served as the back for a bench as well, was set at right angle to the fireplace with the post at the end. The posts have the distinctive saltire (X) at the top with other carvings within the arms of the cross and below (Fig. 3). Some posts are particularly decorative such as one from near Scarborough now at the Pitts Rivers Museum. Although folklore associated witches with Rowan wood, the posts examined by Hayes and Rutter (1972) were made out of oak, as were the crucks, beams and other structural framework for the houses. They found that a number of these witch posts were re-used as lintels in barns, byres and earth-closets.

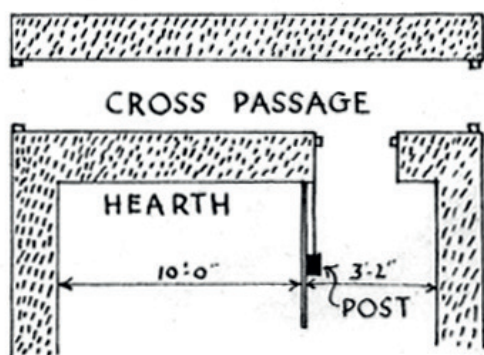


Figure 2 Bugle Cottage, Egton, and published in YAJ 1956. © Yorkshire Archaeological & Historical Society.

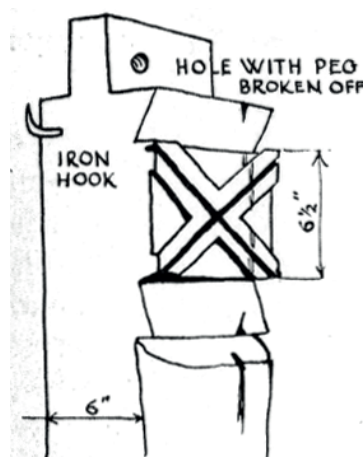


Figure 3 Post from Whitby Museum both drawn by M. Nattras

Our knowledge of these posts as witch posts goes back to the very end of the 19th century, so it is difficult to be certain how the term originated and why only on the North York Moors. When Canon J.C. Atkinson, vicar of Danby, sent such a post to the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford in 1893, he was cautious about attributing it as a witch post because only one informant wished to discuss it. This post, thought to be from a shoemaker's house in Danby, was the second post in the Pitt Rivers Museum, joining one collected at least 20 years earlier from the Scarborough area, but which had (probably) not been labelled as a witch post until Atkinson's example came to the museum (Coote *pers.comm.*). Unfortunately, we do not know what prompted Pitt Rivers to collect one but it seems likely that Atkinson's attribution was the first mention of it.

When Joseph Ford of Castleton wrote his reminiscences in the 1930s or 40s, he attributed these posts to 18th-century witch-laying ceremonies (1990, 93–96). These being carved after the priest conducted the ceremony and would prevent the witch from doing any more evil beyond this point.

Recently, Peter Walker has proposed an alternative explanation for these posts. He has hypothesised that these are mass posts to indicate safe meetinghouses for catholic recusants in the 17th century (2011). The occupants would carve the cross at the top of the post after a visit and blessing from Nicholas Postgate, who was born to a catholic family c.1596 in Ugglebarnby, near Whitby, and educated to the priesthood at the English College in Douai, France, before returning to Yorkshire as chaplain to gentry households and later to farming families on the Moors (Sheils 2004). According to Walker, the varying number of scrolls appearing on most posts, would be linked to a code to identify the next mass house in which Nicholas Postgate said mass.

Related but dissimilar posts are found in Wales. There, they appear as pairs of figures on either side of the doors and have a phallic element leading to the conclusion that the figures were meant to protect the house from witches and evil spirits (William 1978). This, i.e. at the door to the house and on either side of the entrance, appears a more plausible position for the post to be an effective symbol to ward off witches from coming into the house. The window might be another position to

place markings to prevent witches from entering and this idea has been taken up by Historic England, who have asked the public to record symbols and inform them of their location (2016).

The history of witchcraft

The history of witchcraft is long and intricately entwined up with magic, cunning men and wise women. These men and women were often healers or helped others to detect thieves and recover lost or stolen property. This type of magic was seen as doing good and acceptable to most. It was only when magic was used to do harm that witches were identified and pursued because it undermined society through anti-social behaviour of the supposed witch and overall disapproval was understandable.

Witchcraft was alleged when misfortune happened to someone who thought it was caused by a person in their community. That person, the witch, almost always a woman, was often a very poor neighbour, who had had a falling out with them. Sometimes relations deteriorated over a lack of charity or other event and the woman might emit a curse in response. When some trouble occurred soon after, it would be said that the poor woman had used bad magic, maleficium, to cause it and she was called a witch (Thomas 1976). At the beginning of the 17th century, Edward Fairfax of Fuyston, Yorkshire, wrote an account of the occurrences that made him believe his daughters were bewitched (Grainge 1882). From this it becomes clear that the supposed witch was a neighbour and well known to the family, had frequent contact with the daughters amongst others and could not have been excluded easily from the house. She was accused of being a witch, taken to court but found not guilty to the chagrin of Edward Fairfax. It is instructive to read a first-hand account of the children's illness and the only explanation of its cause that seemed credible to the parents was witchcraft. However, the father did not appear to have resorted to any protective measures or to have used any form of detection other than public accusation and court.

Discussion

The original meaning of these posts can no longer be ascertained with certainty and appears to have become lost in time. It may be appropriate at this point to mention that there is little understanding of how people used space, especially their own rooms, areas or openings in their homes in the past. Additionally, the meaning of these spaces to individuals and families may change over time and between families.

It is possible that the witch post might have been thought to offer protection to households on the North York Moors but in what way is not immediately comprehensible unless the carving represented some sort of invocation and would force the 'witch' to depart or prevent her from practicing her craft. Atkinson described many examples of tales of witches in the area around Danby but never mentioned the witch post (1891). His cautious attribution in his letter to the Pitt Rivers Museum is the first mention of it. Ford's anecdote places the timings in the mid-18th century far too late to seem credible.

The alternative explanation that it is a mass post appears doubtful, too. Nicholas Postgate spent the first 30 years as chaplain to catholic families after his ordination in France before returning to the North York Moors in the 1660s and ministering to recusant families there. He claimed to have 600 penitents and by 1676 one-third of the adult population were catholics (Sheils 2004). These could hardly be unknown and his activities could not have been kept secret. Non-conformists were well known and regularly fined. Nicholas Postgate's arrest and execution at the age of 82 in 1679 came as a result of fears over a Popish Plot.

Conclusion

There is little doubt that these posts are remarkable. I suggest that they are neither witch posts nor mass posts but are purely decorative features for the home. Maybe someone will come up with another theory. In the meantime, the tales have their own fascination and link us to the past.

Acknowledgement

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The Fulford Gold Shilling

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Keywords Anglo–Saxon, Gold, Coin, Metal detecting

This is a first-hand account of the discovery of an early seventh-century gold shilling minted in York by metal detectorists. The second part of the article continues with an interpretation and the significance of the coin.

The story of the discovery

Whilst working on the archaeological dig in Fulford searching for the Battle of Fulford 1066 we became interested in metal detecting after seeing other members of the team using theirs. A few weeks after the dig had finished we decided to buy our own and were given the chance to buy a second hand 'Garrett 250 Ace' from a colleague for £100; we also bought a new Garrett hand held pro-pointer.

Having watched and learned from the metal detectorists, we decided to continue working in and around the area of Fulford in the hope of unearthing more evidence of the battle. Within two days of starting we got a signal from the detector. We dug down about a foot but couldn't find anything though we were still getting the signal. We decided to use the pro-pointer. After about 10 minutes of fingertip searching we spotted it, a very small gold coloured object. We cleaned away the soil and our eyes nearly popped out of our heads, as we could not believe our luck!

Upon closer inspection, it looked as though we had found a gold item with lettering that resembled Runes on one side. We took a picture of it and sent it to a close friend and said we had 'struck gold'. Within an hour or so we received an email back with a picture of a similar item that had been sold earlier the same year for a lot of money.

Knowing about the importance of reporting finds of gold to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), we made our way to the Yorkshire Museum a few days later. We arrived at the customer service desk and asked if we could speak to Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) but were told that they were not sitting at that time. We showed the item to the lady on the desk and she got straight on the phone to Andrew Woods, Curator of Numismatics at York Museums Trust and we were asked to take a seat at a table in the gift shop to await his arrival.

A few minutes later Andrew joined us at the table. First of all we played a little game with him by showing him some other interesting items such as a silver short cross penny dating to around AD 1255 and an early mediaeval spindle whorl. Eventually we handed over the gold item (Fig. 1) and Andrew's jaw hit the floor! He could not believe what he was holding and he had a 'WOW' moment.



Figure 1 The Fulford Gold Shilling © York Museums Trust/Portable Antiquities Scheme.

He explained that we had actually found a very early gold shilling dating back to around AD 620–650 and that this was only about number 19 that had ever been found. At this point, our jaws hit the floor! Andrew explained that this coin was stuck somewhere near York Minster around the time of the first Archbishop of York, Paulinus, who died in AD 644 and was the second closest coin to be found near the city. We left the coin in the safe hands of Andrew and the PAS and awaited authentication.

It wasn't until we received the PAS report that the reality and importance of our find hit us; we had unearthed almost 1,400 years worth of history after only a couple of days and a few pounds. Though we have had a very good offer from a private collector we had already decided that we wanted this stunning piece of York's history to be on public display and not be sold to a private collector for it never to see the light of day again. We agreed with the landowner, who will receive half of the proceeds, to wait to see if the Museum can raise the funds to buy the coin for it to go on semi-permanent display in York. We are still working with Andrew and the Museum and hope for a positive outcome.



Figure 2 The authors showing the Fulford gold shilling in comparison to a one pound coin.

Reporting, recording and interpretation

by Andrew Woods

The coin was very promptly reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS). The local Finds Liaison Officer is based in the Yorkshire Museum and was thus only a short journey from where the shilling was found. The coin was identified and added to the database where its record, and an image of the coin, will remain. The coin is one of only four seventh-century York shillings recorded on the database (PAS). Despite a growing number of coins of this type being found, there are relatively few where provenance is known precisely and recorded officially. As such, the Fulford shilling's prompt reporting and full recording is a welcome addition to this growing group.

The Fulford gold shilling was struck in York in the early- to mid-seventh century, the first coinage ever made in the town of York. Until recently their attribution to a mint in York was uncertain but recent finds, which show a clear Yorkshire focus, have made this attribution very likely (Allen and Naylor 2014). Almost all of the surviving specimens come from Yorkshire with the only exceptions being a small number in Northern Lincolnshire and a single example from the Netherlands (Allen and Naylor 2014, 157). Assuming the correct attribution to York, then the Fulford shilling would be the coin found closest to the mint since the 1840s discoveries of several shillings in the centre of York.

York Shillings are exceptional rare objects, with only 21 specimens now known to the author. The majority of these have been found in recent years, with the advent of metal-detecting a far greater number of finds are available for study. The tiny number of known specimens is suggestive of their limited use within early medieval society. Their gold content would have ensured a very high value and the coin was likely to have been used only within the upper echelons of society, probably for quite a limited range of functions. Its striking is likely to have been as much a symbolic act as it was about creating a viable currency.

The series is sub-divided with slightly different imagery visible in each of the sub-types. The Fulford shilling is sub-type C with a highly stylised standing figure, holding two crosses on the obverse. The figure is clearer on earlier versions of the shilling (groups D, A and B) where the design is more clearly human. Complicating matters further, the blank is smaller than the die used to strike the coin meaning that elements of the design have disappeared from the edge. The depiction, with a chequerboard body is reminiscent of the ecclesiastical figures within the seventh-century Book of Durrow (Man of Matthew) and it is likely that a churchman is depicted on the York Shillings. On the reverse there is a small cross within a beaded border, surrounded by a legend. This is struck off-centre, meaning that much of the reverse legend is obscured. The elements of the legend which can be read are

[] NOAP: [] (retrograde N).

The coin represents one of the best recorded and provenanced of the York Shilling type. This is an area of emerging importance, illuminated by a growing body of metal-detector finds. Future research may help to better understand the legends on the coins, under whose authority they were struck and the areas in which they were used. Crucial to this will be prompt, clear reporting of future finds which will help to further define all of these issues.

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Selected Recent Work in Yorkshire by JB Archaeology Ltd

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Keywords 18th century visitor facilities, Medieval defence, 19th century human remains, 18th century landscaping, Weir, Roman buildings, Crambeck ware

JB Archaeology Ltd, formerly John Buglass Archaeological Services, has undertaken archaeological watching briefs at Brimham Rocks, near Harrogate, and Fountains Abbey, near Ripon. Excavations took place at Conisbrough Castle, Doncaster, and Brooklyn House, Norton on Derwent, and recording prior to repair and consolidation at High Dam Weir on the River Laver, near Ripon. The project at Fewston church saw the completion of the excavation with the re-burial of human remains after analysis and study.

Introduction

As a result of an increase in the number of larger projects undertaken, this last year has seen the creation of JB Archaeology Ltd from John Buglass Archaeological Services. JB Archaeology Ltd has been involved in a wide range of projects across Yorkshire. These have included a variety of developer-funded excavations and watching briefs as well as large scale community excavations. Below is a selection of the work undertaken; the detailed results of these and of all the others carried out in 2016 can be found in the relevant county Historic Environment Records (HER).

Brimham Rocks Visitor Centre, Summerbridge, Harrogate

NGR SE 2063 6502

The National Trust commissioned an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a cable trench running between the visitor centre and kiosk at Brimham Rocks. The remains of an earlier stone path leading to nearby steps were recorded to the south-west of the visitor centre. This path would appear to be part of the earlier layout of the visitor facilities – possibly dating to the later 18th century when the purpose built visitor centre was originally constructed. In addition to the path a small number of artefacts were recovered from various points along the cable trench, which reflected the use of the area over the last 200 years. The most significant of these was a modest amount of later 18th and 19th century pottery and animal bone which would appear to represent the remains of earlier rubbish dumped by the staff who occupied the house.

Conisbrough Castle, Conisbrough, South Yorkshire (Fig. 1)

NGR SK 5145 9888

The third and final season of an English Heritage project (funded jointly by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery) saw a team of local volunteers excavate two trenches in the inner bailey of the Castle. As in the previous two years, the trenches were located to help in understanding the development of the early castle.

The first trench was located in order to determine the alignment of the massive ditch located and investigated in the first two seasons. This was achieved and it was found that this very large ditch was running in a curve across the inner bailey towards the eastern side of the Gatehouse. The curve of this ditch would appear to show that the earliest defensive features were probably located in the north-eastern corner of the site, where the impressive keep now stands. Provisional dating of its backfill is 12 to 13th century, which would imply that its origins are potentially close to the time of the Norman invasion.

In order to determine the source of a significant amount of Tortsby type pottery, which had been misidentified during the 1960s excavations on the site, the second trench was located alongside the Chapel. The backfill in this trench was rapidly removed and exposed a sequence of fills in a shallow feature, which once may have had a cobbled edge to it. The fills of this feature also contained 12 to 13th century pottery. This trench unexpectedly showed that the structure currently known as The

Chapel has far more substantial foundations than would have been expected, which would appear to hint that the building was originally built for a different, possibly defensive, purpose. The detailed analysis of the 2016 season is ongoing and it is anticipated that the full results of this, and the previous season's work, will be reported in full in a future edition of Forum.



Figure 1 Aerial view of excavation on the corner of the Chapel in the inner bailey at Conisborough Castle. © JB Archaeology Ltd.

St Michael and St Lawrence, Fewston (Fig. 2)

NGR SE 1947 5411

In 2009 work began on the new Heritage Centre at the western end of Fewston church, which resulted in the recovery of 154 skeletons (of which 22 could be named) by a group of professional and community based archaeologists. Teams from York and Durham Universities examined the human remains using a wide range of techniques. This detailed study, in conjunction with extensive documentary research on the 22 named individuals by members of the local community, has been able to create a very detailed portrait of life, work and death across the social classes in the Washburn Valley in the late 18th and 19th centuries. The examination of the human remains has now come to an end and they were reburied in September 2016 (<http://www.leeds.anglican.org/news/unique-service-commemoration-celebrates-village-heritage-project>). However, research continues and the results of these unique investigations are presented in a series of events at the Washburn Heritage Centre between January and April 2017. This will consist of the publication of a booklet, exhibition and short film, which draws together the results of all the research to give an overview of life in rural Yorkshire in the 19th century.



Figure 2 Service of Commemoration © Simon Hill of Vidar Media.

East Green, Fountains Abbey, Ripon (Fig. 3)

NGR SE 2788 6836

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of the National Trust during repairs to part of the wall of the ‘canal’ running along the southern side of East Green at Fountains Abbey. Although no specific archaeological features were encountered, over a dozen pieces of architectural stonework from the abbey were recovered. These stones appear to have been re-used during the 18th century landscaping, which created the canal by controlling the course of the River Skell through the former monastic estate. The area behind the existing wall was wholly made-up ground, again the result of large scale landscaping. The various pieces of architectural stone were cleaned, photographed and placed in the abbey’s stone store.



Figure 3 Architectural stonework from the banks of the River Skell at Fountains Abbey. © JB Archaeology Ltd.

High Dam Weir, River Laver, Ripon (Fig. 4)

NGR SE 29497 71057

A programme of archaeological recording was undertaken for the Yorkshire Dales River Trust on High Dam Weir prior to the creation of a fish pass on its western side. A programme of limited documentary research produced cartographic evidence that showed that a dam and weir were present here from at least 1788 onwards. Early 20th century maps showed that the dam had undergone a number of changes, the most significant of which was the addition of a bypass leat on its western side between 1854 and 1908.

The field survey recorded the remains of the weir and evidence for the bypass leat on its western side as well as the start of the head-race on the eastern side that fed Bishopton Mill some 750m to the south-east. The majority of the visible remains of the weir were covered in modern concrete which had failed in places. Where it had failed, parts of the earlier dam structure were visible and it could be seen to have been constructed from a wooden frame with a core of large, partially squared, stone blocks. On the banks on either side of the dam were the remains of dry stone walls which would have contained the river channel and prevented erosion of the banks – often known as training walls.

Overall the remains of High Dam Weir and its associated water management features were, at the time of the original survey, in a fair to poor and in places very poor condition, and were obviously suffering from continuous water erosion. As part of the works to create the fish pass the areas of recent damage and loss of structure were repaired under a limited programme of consolidation work.



Figure 4 Volunteers from CRAG (Conisbrough Research and Archaeology Group) and 3D Archaeological Society (Harrogate) recording the remains of High Dam Weir. © JB Archaeology Ltd.

Brooklyn House, Norton on Derwent (Fig. 5 and 6)

NGR SE 7930 7086

As part of a phased investigation into the site of a new school in Norton an open area excavation was undertaken on some 1400m² on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council. This was a follow up to an earlier evaluation and geophysical survey, which had recorded the remains of a small Romano-British field system. The 2016 excavation investigated the remains of three robbed out stone buildings and a potential mausoleum. Whilst the role of two of the buildings await the analysis of the finds assemblage the third building was found to contain a stone-built flue and was probably used for either malting or corn drying. The most striking feature of the site was the vast amount of pottery and animal bone recovered. To date there are approximately 20,000 sherds of pottery, and rising, with an equally large amount of well preserved animal bone. This huge amount of material appears to have come from a mid to late 4th century rubbish dump that had spread over the earlier stone buildings, which, at the time of writing, appears to have been built over at least part of a second century cemetery.

The analysis of the finds from the site is about to start but there are already some interesting hints at an unusual assemblage. In addition to large amounts of Crambeck wares and calcite gritted pottery there are a number of locally produced 'face pots' and 'blacksmiths pots' as well as part of a ceramic cockerel and a sherd decorated with gammadion cross or swastika. The variety and wealth of finds can also be seen in the number of fragments of copper alloy jewellery, jet and shale objects, styli, bone and copper pins and iron tools. In addition to the large amounts of Romano-British material artefactual remains were also recovered which dated to the later Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, possibly Anglian/Anglo-Saxon, post-Norman conquest and post medieval periods. Although the amounts of material from some of these periods is very small it does show that in the past there has probably been almost continuous human activity over the last 7000 years on, or passing through, the site on the way to the nearby river crossing.

The on-going watching brief has recorded the remains of a further six stone buildings all orientated with the gable end on to the adjacent Roman road, a section of which is also being excavated. The road would have led up to the all important crossing point on the River Derwent which was controlled by the fort on the northern bank. Initial interpretations of the buildings discovered shows that many of them had been built on a large scale with well constructed, stepped stone foundations. These walls survived up to five courses high and to within a 0.25m of modern ground level. Some of these buildings are currently thought to have been warehouses, possibly with shops facing onto the adjacent road. So far it has only been possible to excavate one whole building which was 14m long and 5m wide. The remains of the other buildings encountered show that one of them was probably around 8m wide – a substantial and expensive structure in rural Roman North Yorkshire.

Work on site is still on-going and once that is complete and all of the material has been analysed a fuller account will be presented in a future edition of *Forum*.



Figure 5 Team of professionals and volunteers excavating remains of Roman stone building. © JB Archaeology Ltd.



Figure 6 Gammadion cross or swastika decorated parchment ware pot. © JB Archaeology Ltd.

Recent Work in West Yorkshire by Archaeological Services WYAS

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With contributions by

Phil Moore, Rosie Scales, David Williams, Matt Wells, Kevin Moon, Marina Rose, Christopher Sykes

Keywords Roman field boundaries, World War 1 trench, Victorian industry, Georgian corn mill

Excavation, recording, evaluation and surveying took place on sites throughout West Yorkshire in Featherstone, Wakefield, Wrenthorpe, Holbeck, Horsforth and on Snow Hill.

Flass Lane, Featherstone (Fig. 1 and 2)

NGR SE 47391 23531

In advance of a residential development of 560 dwellings and associated infrastructure, a programme of archaeological works including a strip and record excavation and a watching brief took place on the outskirts of Featherstone, West Yorkshire.

The excavations took place between February and May 2016 and revealed two phases of enclosure and an elongated sinuous trackway, which was deep enough in places to be interpreted as a hollow-way, and flanked by ditches. Other archaeological features included a trackway, pits and ditches in the interior of the enclosure and also field boundaries, all of which are likely to date to the 1st to 3rd centuries AD. The finds indicate evidence of nearby metalworking and an unusual and potentially important assemblage of pottery, which includes Samian ware and mortaria. Post-excavation analysis of the finds is ongoing.



Figure 1 Excavation at Flass Lane.



Figure 2 Holloway at Flass Lane.

City Fields, Wakefield (Fig. 3 and 4)

NGR SE 34287 22555

An excavation in advance of a housing development in Wakefield took place in the summer of 2016, and identified three main periods of activity, Roman, post-medieval and World War One. The whole site had been heavily disturbed by modern activity and plough furrows were visible across the site, as were drains and disused water pipes. The Roman activity consisted of an enclosure ditch and surrounding field systems. The post-medieval activity was probably related to nearby Stanley Hall. A practice trench probably from World War One is one of the most unusual features on site.



Figure 3 World War 1 practice trench in area 1.



Figure 4 Overview of the site.

Wrenthorpe Lane, Wrenthorpe (Fig. 5)

NGR SE 30402 22240

A scheme of archaeological evaluation and excavation was carried out in advance of residential development on land off Wrenthorpe Lane, Wrenthorpe, West Yorkshire in early 2016.

Ten trenches were excavated, each targeting anomalies detected as part of a geophysical survey, some of which were interpreted as potential kilns. On excavation, five of the trenches contained archaeological features, including a small number of undated ditches and discrete features. The sixth trench contained a series of deposits relating to a kiln or kilns, which was later the focus of a small open-area excavation. This confirmed the presence of three brick clamps and spreads of associated material. The brick samples recovered indicate a late 19th-century date onwards for their manufacture.



Figure 5 Excavation of kiln.

Tower Works, Holbeck (Fig. 6 and 7)

NGR SE 29526 33024

An archaeological strip and record programme was undertaken on land formerly occupied by the Globe Iron Foundry and later, Tower Works in Holbeck, West Yorkshire.

The archaeological works comprised three trenches that targeted areas of possible interest identified by a desk-based assessment. The few remains proven to be from the Globe Foundry period and comprised masonry foundations. The excavation also recorded the truncated remains of surfaces, but no internal features survived sufficiently well to inform any further interpretation of the detailed layout or function of the foundry. However, the excavation did, in detail, record features from later periods, including two machine stands interpreted as part of the wire manufacturing process. It also recorded two gear wheel pits, powered by a rope race from the Engine House and also hot and cold flue systems, which probably discharged into the Giotto Tower. Cartographic records and architects drawings were used to build up this composite interpretation of the remains, most of which date from 1899. The construction of the later works reduced the earlier remains to foundation level, removing, with a few exceptions, the surface features of the Globe Works in the excavated areas.



Figure 6 Overview of site.



Figure 7 Globe Foundry Foundations.

Snow Hill, Wrenthorpe (Fig. 8 and 9)

NGR SE 32431 22272

A cart-based geophysical (magnetometer) survey, covering approximately 8 hectares, was carried out on agricultural land at Snow Hill, Wrenthorpe, West Yorkshire. An additional three hectares was surveyed using conventional hand held survey equipment as it was unsuitable for cart-based magnetometry. Former field boundaries were identified, and two enclosures were recognised in the dataset. A high magnetic response, close to an area of former quarrying, might be a thermos-remnant signature indicative of a former kiln, which do occur within the area. The archaeological potential of this site was deemed to be medium to high, and was followed by trenching and open area excavation.

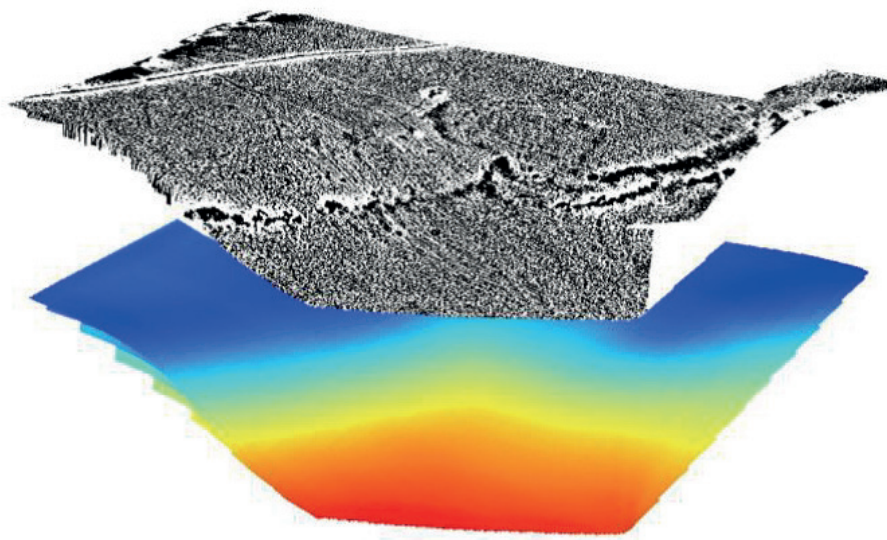


Figure 8 Magnetometer results at Snow Hill.

An enclosure of Roman date was identified to the east of the area appended to a north-south aligned ditch. The second enclosure was medieval in date with later features indicating field boundaries and evidence for mining activity.



Figure 9 Excavation at Snow Hill.

Horsforth Corn Mill (Fig. 10 and 11)

NGR SE 25280 37801

Archaeological Services WYAS excavated and recorded a Georgian water powered corn mill at Horsforth, which was built between 1772 and 1787 on the site of an earlier building.

Whilst excavating the site, the water wheel pit was revealed giving an insight into how the mill was powered, and how this changed over time, from using an undershot waterwheel to an overshot wheel before eventually moving to steam.

With guidance from Historic England, the mill is expected to be incorporated into the building of a new office block and flats.



Figure 10 Water wheel pit.



Figure 11 Aerial view of the site (drone photograph).

Archives

The associated archives will be deposited with Leeds Museums & Galleries and Wakefield Council Museum Service. Please contact Zoe Horn for further details zoe.horn@aswyas.com.

Acknowledgements

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Recent Work in Yorkshire by Wessex Archaeology

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Keywords Iron Age, Romano–British, Medieval, Modern period, Field systems,



Figure 1 Location of recent work.

Wessex Archaeology undertook excavation and watching briefs in North, West and South Yorkshire representing Iron, Romano British, medieval and modern periods.

Land off Langton Road, Norton-on-Derwent, North Yorkshire

NGR SE 7965 7037

As part of an on-going project, summarised in the previous volume of Forum (v. 4, 2015), a watching brief was maintained on geotechnical works. The site comprises two river terraces, with evidence for Romano-British activity on the lower terrace and medieval activity on the upper terrace. The watching brief identified further evidence for palaeochannels on the lower terrace, and further medieval pottery was recovered from soils on the upper terrace.

Land off Barnsley Road, Scawsby, South Yorkshire

NGR SE 5286 0556

Forty-four trial trenches were excavated across approximately 16ha of land ahead of the construction of a new motorway service station. Trenches targeting geophysical anomalies and confirmed the presence of field ditches, which were confined to freely draining limestone areas and absent from wetter, more clayey ground. Finds consisted largely of animal bone, but a sherd of hand-made shell-tempered pottery of probable later prehistoric date was recovered from one of the ditches. Based on the field system's form and the site's regional context a Late Iron Age to Romano-British date is considered likely. Sparse palaeoenvironmental remains suggest agricultural activity, and the evaluation suggests that the site lies at the edge of a farmstead or agricultural estate.

Land to the West of Top Street, Bawtry, South Yorkshire

NGR SK 6501 9313

A small-scale evaluation produced evidence for post-medieval domestic activity. The earliest feature was a pit containing the burial of three terrier-like dogs, accompanied by pottery dating to the 17th/18th century. Similar pottery was recovered

residually elsewhere on site. Later features, of 19th/20th-century date, relate to the use of the land as backyards or garden plots.

Rossington Inland Port Borrow Pit 2, Doncaster, South Yorkshire

NGR SK 5860 9920

Earlier phases of the on-going work at Rossington, which have revealed an extensive Late Iron Age to Romano-British field system, have been summarised in previous volumes of *Forum* (including in 2015). During this watching brief four ditch intersections were investigated. As is typical of the region, no datable artefacts were retrieved, but a piece of waterlogged roundwood recovered from the base of one ditch returned a radiocarbon date of 60 Cal BC to Cal AD 70 (UBA-31831, 2006±28 BP). This may indicate a Late Iron Age date for the inception of the field system. The ditches were shown to be contemporary, suggesting a system of centrally planned land division. Although palaeoenvironmental preservation is generally poor in the area, the evidence recovered indicates that the ditches contained still or slow-moving water, and had damp, grassy, muddy banks, with woody scrub growing nearby; a fragment of heron humerus was recovered. The absence of evidence for cereal cultivation suggests the fields were used for stock rearing.

42/44 Kirkgate, Otley, West Yorkshire

NGR SE 2021 4542

A small-scale strip and record excavation was undertaken close to the medieval core of Otley. Area stripping, which was restricted to a maximum depth of 0.5m below ground level, failed to reveal deposits pre-dating the 19th century. However, the excavation of foundation and drainage trenches, to a maximum depth of 1.2m below ground level, revealed evidence for infilled medieval or post-medieval features. Due to restricted access the precise nature of these features could not be determined, but they were probably rubbish pits, perhaps originating as quarry or cess pits. Their upper fills contained material dating to the 18th century.

Proceedings

Editorial. *Christiane Kroebel*

How to Access *Forum* Online

Members' Call to Action: *Do we have your email address?*

CBA Yorkshire Annual Review 2016. *Steve Bence*

CBA Yorkshire Secretary's Report. *Trevor Pearson*

Thematic Index

Articles

An Iron Age Enclosure at Balby Carr, Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Patrick Daniel

Mitchell House, Thorpe, Yorkshire Dales National Park: Historic Building Research and Recording. *John Buglass*

Communities in Action

Nidderdale Chase Heritage Group: The Ashelby Pasture Project.

Artefacts – an Unexpected Haul. *Elizabeth Dent, Carolyn Heseltine, Barry Nuttall, Tom Wheelwright, Sheila Wilkins and Pat Wilson*

The Hanging Grimston Community Archaeology Project.

Marcus Jecock, Steve Bence, Christopher Hall and Trevor Pearson

Behind the Scenes

Portable Antiquities Scheme roundup 2016: Recent Roman finds from Yorkshire with enamelled decoration. *Denise Wilding and Rebecca Griffiths*

Rebecca Griffiths

Archaeological Notes and Reviews

The Whitby Museum Whitch Post: a Reconsideration.

Christiane Kroebel

The Fulford Gold Shilling. *Ian Greig and Emma Pemberton*

Archaeological Register

Selected Work in Yorkshire by John Buglass Archaeological Services. *John Buglass*

Recent Work in West Yorkshire by Archaeological Services WYAS.

Jane Richardson

Recent Work in Yorkshire by Wessex Archaeology.

Ashley Tuck and Andrew Norton

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