

FORUM

NEW SERIES
Volume 8
2019

The Journal of Council for British Archaeology
YORKSHIRE



CBA Yorkshire Annual
Review

Research, Fieldwork and
Excavation

Education, Community
and Commercial

Council for
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FORUM

NEW SERIES

Volume 8

2019

The Journal of Council for British Archaeology YORKSHIRE

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Edited by Mike Turpin

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Council for
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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.

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

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 2019–2020 | 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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FORUM

Volume 8

The Journal of Council for British Archaeology
YORKSHIRE

2019

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About FORUM Yorkshire

FORUM is an 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 is accessible on-line 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.

Authors are responsible for obtaining written permission to use any copyrighted material in their paper including Ordnance Survey mapping or

derivatives thereof, and any material which is the intellectual property of any person(s) other than the author. Contributions for a particular volume/year are conditional upon available space and may be deferred to a subsequent issue. Upon publication, authors receive a PDF soft copy of their paper(s). The editor will contact the corresponding (primary) contributor to confirm inclusion, specify any required amendments and relay any feedback provided by reviewers.

All communications concerning the publication should be directed to the editor at:

associate.editor@cba-yorkshire.org.uk

Access and electronic distribution

FORUM 2019 is an entirely on-line electronic publication. The online version is available to members only, for the current year, after which it will be made available on open access in a browser-readable format (pdf). From *Forum* 2018 individual articles can be downloaded as well as the full journal.

Back copies

A very limited supply of *New Series* back copies is available to newly subscribed CBA Yorkshire members and non-members. Alternatively all the new series on-line journal versions are available to download from the CBA (Yorkshire) website at

www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk/forum-archive/1

Please visit the CBA Yorkshire website for details about older *Foundation Series* copies. There is an archive for older *Forum* editions and Newsletters at

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Editorial

Mike Turpin, Acting Hon. Editor

associate.editor@cba-yorkshire.org.uk

Volume 8 of *Forum* is about to see some significant changes. One of the most significant has been the departure of Christiane Kroebel after three years as Editor. We are all very grateful to Christiane for the work she has done as Editor and the quality of the *Forum* Journal that has continued over the last three years. Having offered to help her with Volume 7 last Christmas, I found myself suddenly in the driving seat in order to publish this 2019 edition. At the same time there were several new faces on the CBA Yorkshire management committee, not the least being Tony Hunt as our new chair. Having carried out a review with some of our members, it was apparent that we needed to take a look at *Forum*, alongside other issues. After some discussion, it was agreed that we adopt a purely on-line edition of *Forum*. A primary consideration was the cost of publication and distribution to all members. It was felt that the money saved could be better used to support 'Archaeology in the Community' in other more direct ways.

As Acting Editor, I agreed with this, but there are also many new positive opportunities which an on-line version can offer. The length of the publication might run to several hundred pages but links can be provided in the contents page so that a reader can jump to any article of interest. Each article can be downloaded separately and then printed off by the reader if they want to keep a hard copy.

As well as providing information within articles, *Forum* can also be seen as a gateway into the wider information resources available on the internet. This year's edition will include many live links to other resources. A good example would be the 'Apollo' archive at Cambridge University which can be accessed from Martin Millett's *Aldborough* review. As well as linking to other documentary resources, readers can link directly to other media for instance relevant videos and as an example photogrammetry 3-D images such as from the Cawood excavation provide an exciting opportunity to examine the trenches in a new way.

Going on-line also means we are not confined to an annual publication deadline to get the copy printed. This enables the possibilities of further updates during the year and this idea is being looked at with a view to further announcements.

Looking ahead, it is important to understand that the CBA Yorkshire *Forum* is not owned by the Editor or the committee, but is owned by all members of CBA Yorkshire. If we are to achieve our objective to provide a comprehensive picture of all the archaeology going on within our region: commercial, academic and importantly community projects, we need members to contribute that information so it can be published for all.

PLEASE, don't wait until you are asked; when you feel your project is ready to publish in the new *Forum* format, get in touch via the web-site and let the Editor know. New simplified guidelines should make it a relatively simple and rewarding experience.

Mike Turpin
January 2020

To view or download *Forum* volume 8 (2019), use this link to access the CBA Yorkshire Website

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

Forum is available as a menu option from the Front Page.

Click on 'Forum' and you will see three options. Clicking on 'Current Forum' will take you to the page with a link to the 2019 edition for CBA Yorkshire members. You will need to enter the password when prompted.

Enter **Yorkshire2019!** (Case sensitive)

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 publicly available.

The other two *Forum* link options can be used by anybody to access past editions of *Forum*.

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CBA Yorkshire Annual Review 2019

Dear member, welcome to FORUM 2019!

This has been my first year as Chairman of the CBA (Yorkshire), and, just like many of my committee colleagues, this has also been my first year on the committee.

This influx of fresh faces on the management side of the committee has meant we are able to look afresh at what CBA Yorkshire is here to do, what we offer members in terms of benefits and services, and what we should be offering to our membership in the future.

My ambition has been to adopt on a local level the CBA core message: Archaeology for All.

We stand for the promotion and championship of community archaeology and local history. We exist to support you and your community in group projects that benefit everyone in your area. This remains the core function of CBA National and of the regional groups.

What does this core statement actually mean? It means simply that we are throwing our arms wider: firstly, our remit is acknowledged to include archaeology in all its forms: from Mesolithic flint assemblages on the high Yorkshire Moors to World War 2 defences on our coastlines. We exist to support the understanding and preservation of these, and the plethora of sites that lie between these extremes in time and in geography.

However now, in response to our changing world, we need to focus as much of our efforts on the For All part of the message. We will therefore be promoting the inclusivity of archaeology: we wish to promote the benefits of community Group activities to those who seek social interaction, those who are looking for friendship and companionship, those who are seeking mental or physical relaxation, those who need a hobby away from the pressures of day to day modern life. We will be looking to engage with those who have mental or physical health issues, with the young and the old alike. We will attempt to support activities that try to engage all the above groups and more.

We recognise the huge benefits that archaeological projects can bring to their communities and their neighbourhoods: inclusivity, engagement and a sense of belonging is only the start. We can help communities achieve common goals, we can help them investigate their origins and history and in so doing, pass the ownership of those origins down to a new generation. We can help communities record and investigate their past and present their findings to the world.

In the past the CBA has sometimes struggled to define its role and to exert an influence in Community Archaeology. In the future we will change this, and indeed these changes have already started.

The largely new committee of CBAY has already started to define a new series of support functions for the affiliated groups. For example, this year we held our Selby Conference “Pathways to the Past”. Designed solely to support the founding of new community history groups the conference focussed on Funding, Setting up Projects, Volunteering and Where to Find Resources.

The attendees to this unique event went away armed with information and practical advice on starting their own projects, and already we are seeing these fledgling groups starting their investigations and planning their projects.

CBA Yorkshire was approached by the Cawood history group in February of 2019. They presented to the us their ambitions for a project to investigate crop marks at Cawood Common.

CBA Yorkshire adopted the Cawood project as a showcase to demonstrate the activities we could support. As you will be able to read in the following articles, we were able to offer support in aerial photography, geophysics, excavation and post excavation. We have been involved in the publicity of the site as well as the presentation of our findings.

Cawood has been an outstanding site for so many reasons, and we are looking forward to not only supporting future seasons with the Cawood team, but we are looking to assist many other projects in the coming years.

We would like our support to be more than on site functions. We would like to support our groups in terms of equipment libraries, skills and training directories, lists of skilled individuals willing to help, resources available to borrow or loan and 'how to' publications to help people get started.

We want to provide our fledgling groups with support, advice, publicity and, where appropriate, funding.

We will help you, our members, to find appropriate projects that can fulfil your personal needs. We will help our affiliate groups set up projects by which we will connect the people and resources to help them achieve their objectives.

We will provide lists of funding resources; and we will assist in bidding for this funding

We will help with publication and provide a place for such reports and publications to be stored for all to see, read and comment: one of those places will be right here, on the Forum Web Pages!

Our mission is simple, but so much more complex to carry out: we stand for Archaeology for All. We stand for inclusivity, equality, engagement and most of all we stand for community: for me community is about people and engaging a community in a common purpose. A community is something we all aspire to belong to.

Please join us in these objectives by helping where you can, as much as you can.

Our activities rely entirely on people like you offering a few hours every year to help us. Please consider offering a little time, and thank you for reading. Please enjoy Forum!

Tony Hunt
Dec 2019

A skills partnership in practice – The Cawood experience

Dave Went

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Introduction

CBA-Yorkshire is very interested to develop channels of mutual assistance between community archaeology groups, professionals and academic archaeologists across the county, and we are currently considering a number of ways to achieve this. One ambition, for example, would be to create a ‘lending library’ of excavation tools and other equipment. Another might be to establish a directory of members, affiliate societies, university departments and professionals who are willing to share their knowledge and expertise. Expect to hear more along these lines as we pursue these and other ideas in 2020. In 2019, however, we were just gathering our thoughts and hoping to foster collaboration whenever a suitable opportunity presented itself. Consequently, when we learned of the Cawood Castle Garth Archaeology Group’s intentions to investigate the Hagg Lane cropmarks (see XXXX et al, this volume), the Committee was keen to see if we could put some of our ideas into practice.

The project is focussed on a complex of cropmarks – clusters of probable round house gullies set amid extensive trackways and enclosures – spread across a very large arable field south of Cawood, in the southern lobe of North Yorkshire to the south of York. The first major challenge to the group was to ensure that the recorded cropmark evidence available to the group was as good as it could be, and so the first part of CBA-Y’s assistance came from our Chair, Tony Hunt, who as many will know, provides a drone-imaging facility free of charge to local groups across the county. Tony flew the site on several occasions in early 2019 taking both true colour and near-infra red photographs: the latter being particularly useful for revealing stress and variation in the condition of the crop, with all that implies for the identification of archaeological features buried beneath the plough soil.

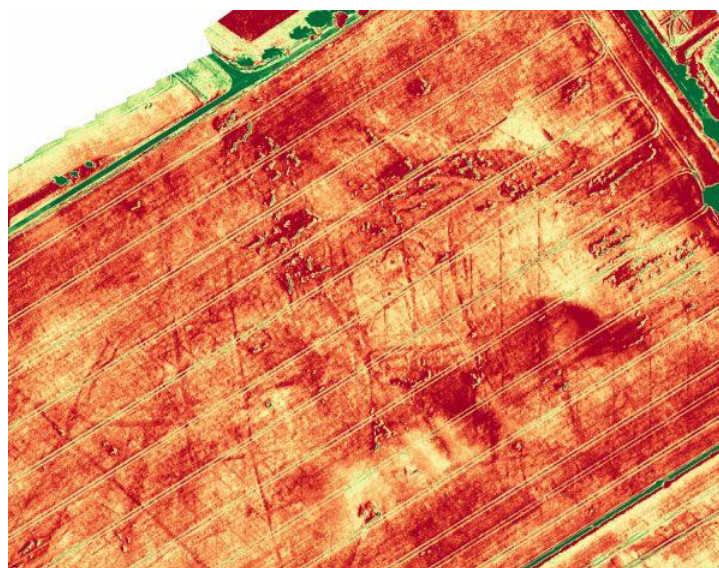


Figure 1 Orthophotograph (derived from numerous rectified overlapping images) of the Cawood cropmarks using the near infra-red spectrum, which is particularly good at distinguishing between areas of restricted and verdant crop growth (T Hunt © 2019).

As Figure 1 demonstrates, Tony's images – mosaics comprising hundreds of individual vertical shots stitched together using photogrammetric software – provided far more detail than had been available from existing aerial photographs, including those which had first been used to map the cropmarks during English Heritage's 1998-2002 Vale of York project. It was this mapped transcription (available to view through the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record) which first drew the Group's attention to the site.

These more detailed images helped the project's archaeologist Jon Kenny to determine the best locations for the Cawood Group's spread of evaluation trenches. The next problem was how to fix the precise positions of these cropmarks in the real-world geography of the field – a field some 16 hectares in extent, without any clearly defined features such as buildings, gates, or fence corners around the perimeter.

The next offer of assistance came from the manager of Historic England's Aerial Investigation and Mapping Team for the north – Matt Oakey – who helped me to use the AERIAL 5 rectification package to pin Tony's images to the Ordnance Survey and the finely-rectified BlueSky aerial images available from the Environment Agency. With the rectified cropmark images now transferred to ArcGIS (though QGIS, commonly used by community groups, would work just as well) we were able to plot the coordinates for the trenches which Jon had sketched over the features, in the reasonable certainty that we would be no more than a metre adrift from the actual positions of the archaeological remains.

The final step was to take these trench positions and lay them out in the field, a task which could only be done sensibly using high specification Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) equipment – which we used to call GPS. Most archaeological units have access to this equipment, as do most university archaeology departments, and in future CBAY hopes to forge better links between these organisations so that their assistance is more commonly available to community groups. For the moment, however, the best solution was for me to take some professional development leave from Historic England and use my team's equipment to fix the trench locations. This plan was upset by the delayed start to the excavation and my subsequent lack of availability, but another of my Historic England colleagues, Becca Pullen, kindly agreed to sacrifice a bit of her time to complete the job, and to guide the Cawood volunteers through the process as she did it.



Figure 2 Using Survey-grade GNSS equipment to record the trench positions and key features during the closing stages of the excavation.

I was extremely curious to see how our process of cropmark visualisation location translated into revealing the features through excavation, so I extended my CPD involvement to act as a supervisor during the first week of the fieldwork. This led to machine-watching on day one, something I hadn't done in earnest since the late 1990s (but it is a bit like riding a bike!) before settling down to assist with cleaning and sampling the numerous ditches and gullies. Margaret and Jon's article contains the detail of what was then revealed by the volunteer excavators over the following fortnight, so I won't repeat any of that here.

I would only add that when we returned to the site with GNSS equipment to plot the main features and the final extent of the trenches, and combined the results with the final photographs for the excavated trenches captured by Tony's drone, the correlation between the GIS cropmark positions features and the excavated features was within 0.5m – in other words 'spot on'!

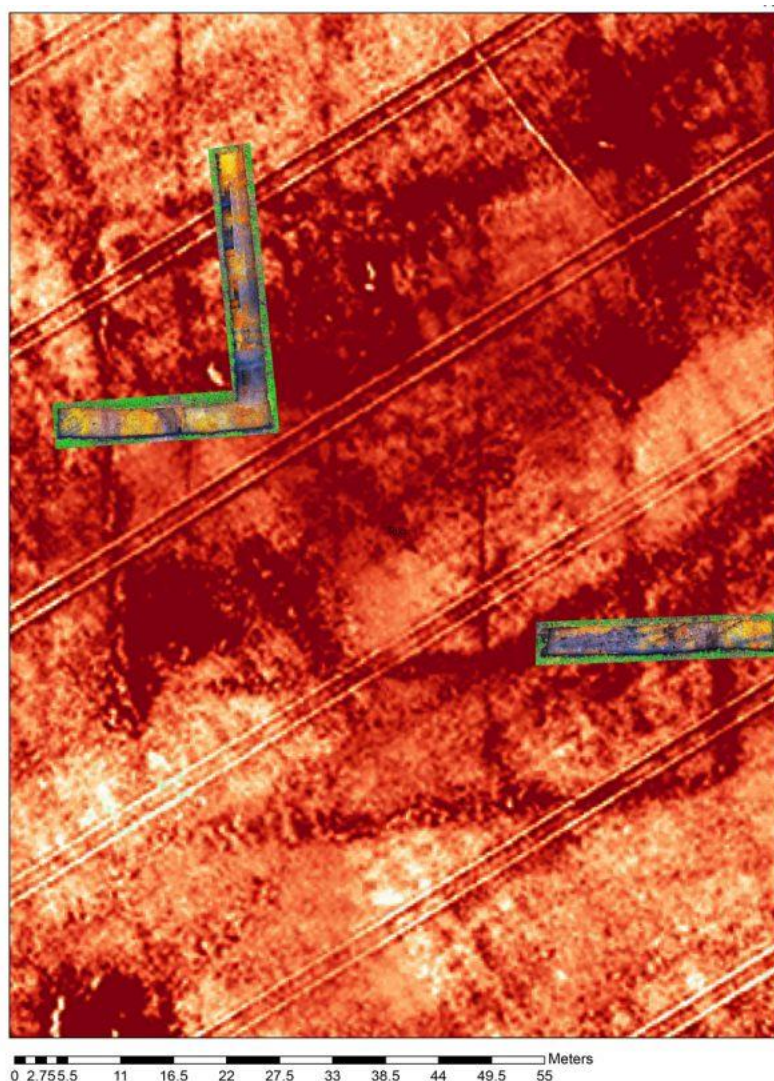


Figure 3 Drone photographs of the individual trenches against the background near-infrared images (T Hunt 2019 ©) positioned with the ground survey of the excavated trenches.

Cawood is just the first example of how a CBAY-backed network of support between different voluntary and professional archaeologists can operate in the county. The approach certainly has promise and we hope to expand it with the help of the membership in the coming year. In this first instance we relied heavily on the Committee and their personal contacts. Going forward we hope to establish a wider and more effective directory of skills and equipment, helping others to replicate Cawood's success.

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CBA (Yorkshire) Pathways to the Past Conference September 2019

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Corresponding author

Megan Clement Dryland
Programme Secretary CBA(Yorkshire)

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In September 2019, CBA Yorkshire hosted a well-attended day-long workshop to help advise new groups and established groups on various aspects of archaeological projects.

The venue was the magnificent Selby Abbey and included a number of excellent speakers on a range of subjects.



Pathways to the Past Selby Abbey

©Eric Houlder

The purpose of the event was to help provide advice and pointers on aspects of archaeological projects, as a response to queries from affiliated groups.



The workshop advised on projects groups might undertake, how to find different funding sources, what use the internet and social media might be and how to set up a new local archaeological and historical society. Speakers were asked to share their knowledge on these topics. It was fortunate that Neil Redfern, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Historic England, was the first speaker of the day and his inspirational talk encouraged many of the listeners to feel more confidence when exploring what archaeological investigations they may embark on in the future.

Neil Redfern Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments -- North of England

©Eric Houlder

There were some excellent talks from Nina Muir, Community First Yorkshire, and Katherine Boardman, National Lottery Heritage Fund, on funding and where to discover different types of funding available for archaeological projects, with some handy top tips on writing bids; valuable advice for new and established groups alike.

Chris Halley-Norris, from Selby AVS, gave an amusing and inspiring talk discussing how to find volunteers for archaeological projects and advice on establishing new groups. There were also helpful talks on geophysics and post-excavation as well as CBA Yorkshire's Digital Communications Officer, Alistair Galt, on the mysteries of the internet and where to find the information you seek.

The highlights of the day were some of the more well-known speakers; most notably Carenza Lewis, of Channel 4's 'Time Team', and a strong supporter of community archaeology. The very last talk of the day was given by members of Thornton le Street History Group, who finished the day in style sharing their success story and plans for the future. Their top tip – always have fig rolls to hand!



Carenza Lewis ©Eric Houlder

Since running the workshop CBA Yorkshire has been approached by several individuals and groups who have asked for assistance in helping to establish groups and projects. CBA Yorkshire would like to thank all the speakers who gave up their time to provide advice and guidance to attendees.

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Rehabilitating The Fremington Hoard: evaluating 'A hoard of Roman military equipment from Fremington Hagg' written by G.A.Webster, 1971 and considering its significance for the archaeology of Upper Swaledale.

John P.T. Gardner

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Abstract

Fremington is in upper Swaledale, close by Reeth. In 1852 a collection of objects found at Fremington Hagg was donated to the Yorkshire Museum. The collection included items (pendants, roundels, strap ends and other fittings) which would have been attached to Roman military horse harness.

Part of the collection was sold and is now in the British Museum. No item from the 'hoard' is on public display in the British Museum or the Yorkshire Museum. Its significance for the archaeology of Swaledale and Roman era exploitation of the North Pennines has not been fully appreciated.

Modern era analyses have misdirected the archaeological eye. This article attempts to disentangle the provenance of the 'hoard', reinterpret the collection and set the assemblage in its archaeological and topographic context.

The article argues that the reinterpreted hoard should be on public display as an assemblage and as powerful example of how the historiography of archaeological artefacts in prominent museum collections has obscured rather than illuminated the past.

Introduction

The 'hoard' should be re-assessed. According to the Yorkshire Museum it 'dominates the Museum's collection of Roman military equipment' (Tilley, 2018).

But, it's hidden away, not on public display. It's one of number of significant Roman era finds from the area around Reeth in Upper Swaledale, which include the Grinton Hoard and the finds from the SWAAG excavations at Hagg Farm. It's also in store in two places, the Yorkshire Museum and the British Museum.

Webster's short article is the only archaeological assessment (Webster, 1971).

In 1973 P. T. Craddock, Janet Lang and K. S. Painter publish a metallurgical analysis of some of the silvered 'Roman Horse-Trappings from Fremington Hagg, Reeth, Yorkshire, N.R.' from both museums. They concluded that the materials, manufacturing techniques and the designs were sufficiently similar to suggest that the items were made in the same workshops (Craddock et al, 1973).

The questions I set out to answer were:

What was 'the hoard' believed to be? What pieces did Webster believe belonged to the hoard?

Where did it come from? How and why was it 'collected'? Why are the pieces in two different museums?

What was really in 'the hoard'? Is the assemblage really a hoard or is it something completely different?

What does it tell us, in combination with more recent finds and excavations, about Roman era activity in Swaledale?

The result is part detective story, one in which the great and the good, notably Canon Greenwell, founding father of northern archaeology and Augustus Franks, first collector of British antiquities at the British Museum are cast in a less than flattering light. It's also a story of questionable assumptions based on historical stereotypes. And it's a cautionary tale. A modern era archaeologist (Webster died in 2008) of some repute may have misdirected the archaeological eye. The Fremington 'hoard' never was a 'hoard'.

The hoard

According to the Yorkshire Museum (YM) catalogue entries and display case labels the 'hoard was:

'several specimens of silvered bronze horse furniture, ornamented with slightly-engraved patterns' (1852); 'many ornaments of brass inlaid with silver...apparently the trappings of horse, and belonging to Roman times' (1855) and 'a large collection of bronze articles.....' (1891).

Images are available on the Yorkshire Museum's Online Collections site and in the British Museum's (BM) Research online collection (YM 2019; BM 2019a).



Figure 1 Examples from British Museum's Research online collection



Figure 2 Examples from Yorkshire Museum

Webster also believed that the hoard included a donation to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society in 1833 by one of its founding members, Daniel Tuke recorded as an 'ancient caparison of a horse from the moors near Reeth' in the Society's records (Biodiversity Heritage Library, 2019).

Daniel Tuke was a Quaker, a land surveyor based in York, son of John Tuke, mapmaker and author of the Agricultural survey of the North Riding. Tuke had family connections in the area close to Swaledale. His brother had married a woman from Startforth near Barnard Castle. So Daniel was well placed to find and receive objects collected by landowners and found by agricultural workers. However, the 'caparison' donation is most unusual.

Daniel Tuke's donations, accessed from as far away as Alston were almost exclusively geological samples.(Biodiversity Heritage Library, 2019) A 'caparison' is a cloth or hanging, which may have been decorated, so this terminology is also confusing, given the precision with which Tuke's other donations are recorded.

The nature of Tuke's donations and the confusing terminology makes Webster's conflation of the 1833 'caparison' with the 'hoard' questionable. The Tuke 'caparison' almost certainly did not belong to the 'hoard'.

Phillips, first keeper of the YM (founded by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society (YPS)), writing in 1855 placed the ornaments 'at Fremington, near Reeth'. The 1852 catalogue entry, probably written by Charles

Wellbeloved, states that the 'specimens of...horse furniture' were 'found on Fremington Hagg, near Reeth'.

It was Webster's belief that 'Hagg' refers to Fremington Edge, the scar which dominates lower Arkengarthdale and the valley of the Swale above Fremington.

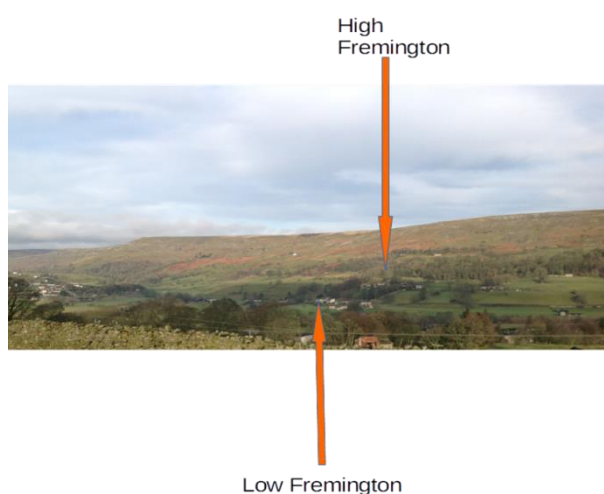


Figure 3 Fremington Hagg from the hillside above Grinton on the south bank of the River Swale

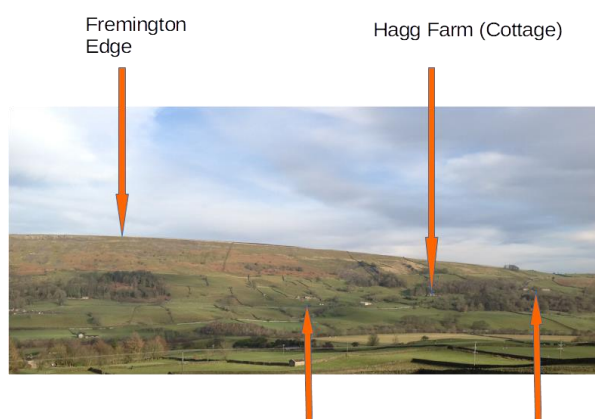


Figure 4 Looking West from Swaledale to Arkengarthdale

This has long been acknowledged as an error. The area known as the Hagg, now occupied by Hagg Farm, is downslope from Fremington Edge. 'Hagg' named sites have been consistently marked on the earliest Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 and 1:25,000 series as 'West Hagg' and 'Hagg Cottage'.



Figure 5 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000

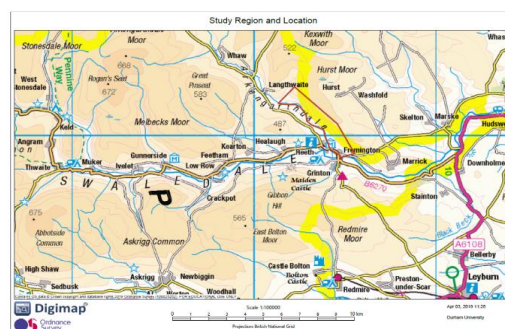


Figure 6 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000

'Belonging to the hoard': Webster 1971

Webster took an interest in the hoard from the late 1950s onwards. He visited the British Museum to draw the pieces from the 'hoard' in its collections. He did these drawings with considerable skill. One copy survives in the archives of the Yorkshire Museum.

He corresponded with George Willmot, (Keeper of the Yorkshire Museum from 1950 until 1970) and visited the Yorkshire Museum to draw and evaluate the items thought to be from the hoard in the Museum collections. Webster's drawings of the YM pieces are not as precise and technically adept as those of the BM pieces. He presents all the drawings from the BM and YM together in his article. On the page they appear to be of comparable accuracy which is not the case when viewed in the archives.

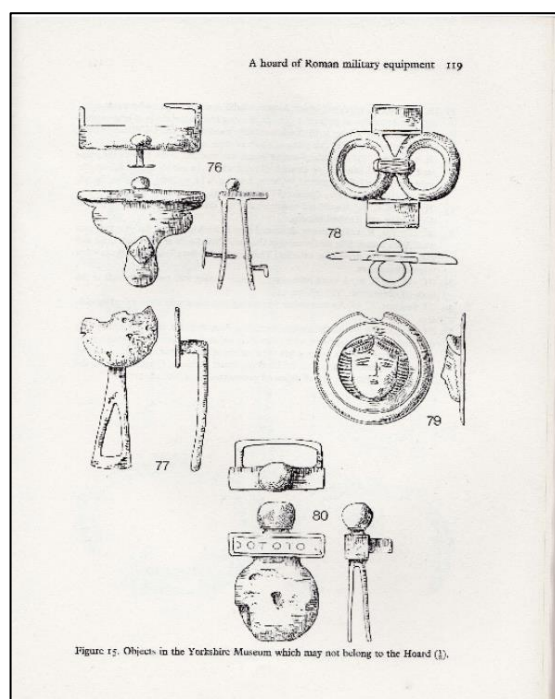


Figure 7 Illustrations from Webster, 1971, p119

Webster began his analysis of the pieces by sorting them in to two categories: belonging to the hoard and not belonging to the hoard. He rejected pieces which were not 'silvered' and which were not pendants, roundels, flat strips and studs.

He did not compare the hoard with other deposits of horse furniture from Yorkshire. There's no reference in Webster's work to the Stanwick (Melsonby) Hoard (presented to the British Museum in 1844). There is a direct route, about 19 miles long, from Swaledale, above the Hagg, by road and footpath leading from Fremington to Stanwick.

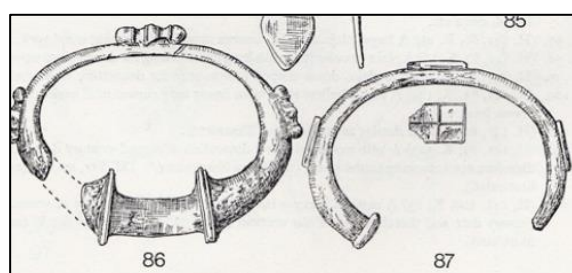


Figure 8a Examples from Fremington and Stanwick (British Museum b)

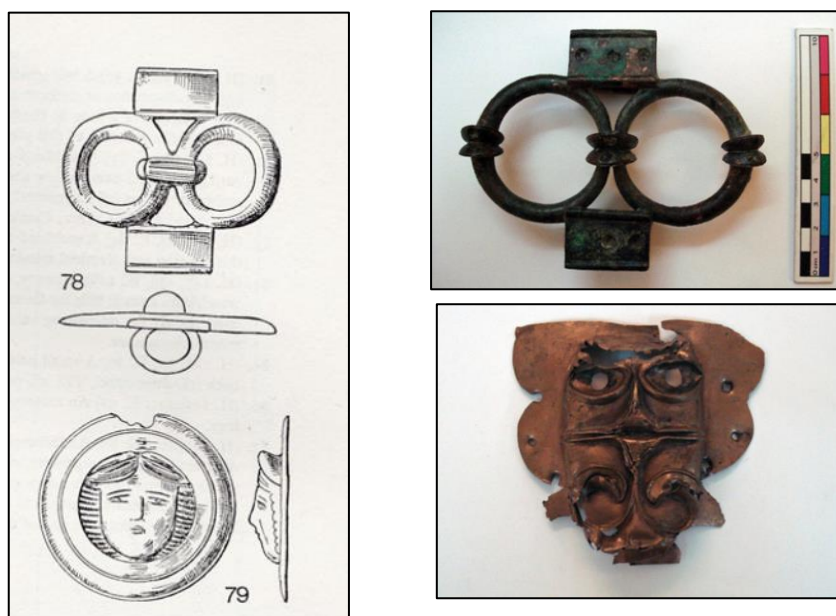


Figure 8b Examples from Fremington and Stanwick (British Museum b)

The Stanwick (Melsonby) hoard was re-interpreted by Colin Haselgrove in his summary of the excavations at Stanwick, published in 2016 as 'Cartimandua's Capital' (Haselgrove, 2016). The Stanwick (Melsonby) hoard contains items of horse furniture similar in design and execution to those which Webster rejected as 'not belonging to the hoard', produced in an indigenous, Iron Age/Romano-British style.

Webster set about dating and interpreting the pieces he selected by comparing the forms and stylistic features with the finds from the Doorwerth Hoard, dredged from the Rhine in 1895 and interpreted by Holwerda in 1931. The Doorwerth Hoard can be viewed on the online site of the Rijksmuseum Oudheden in the Netherlands. It contains pieces in similar forms and with similar but not the same decorative motifs.

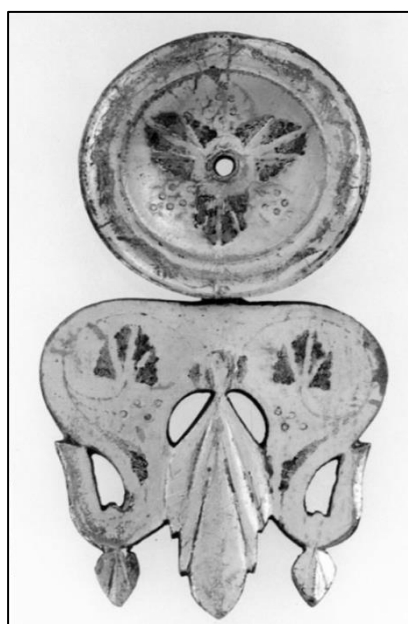


Figure 9 Example from Rijksmuseum Oudheden, 2019

It is important to point out that the items in the Yorkshire Museum have gone through periods of storage and have been taken away at least once during the Second World War. It is not clear from the archives how methodically and securely the pieces were originally catalogued and stored. Webster did not make reference to these conditions although the records do indicate that there was a risk that items from other collections may have found their way in to the Fremington collection during storage or when it was moved for safety.

Where was Fremington Hagg in 1852?

The 1844 Tithe Map for the Reeth township division of Grinton parish includes Fremington. 'Hagg' can be seen in plot 1085 marking a farmhouse and outbuildings. This is the building now known as West Hagg. Hagg Cottage is marked to the east of 'Hagg' on the perimeter of plot 1100. Hagg Cottage borders a number of plots which make up Hagg Wood Plantation.

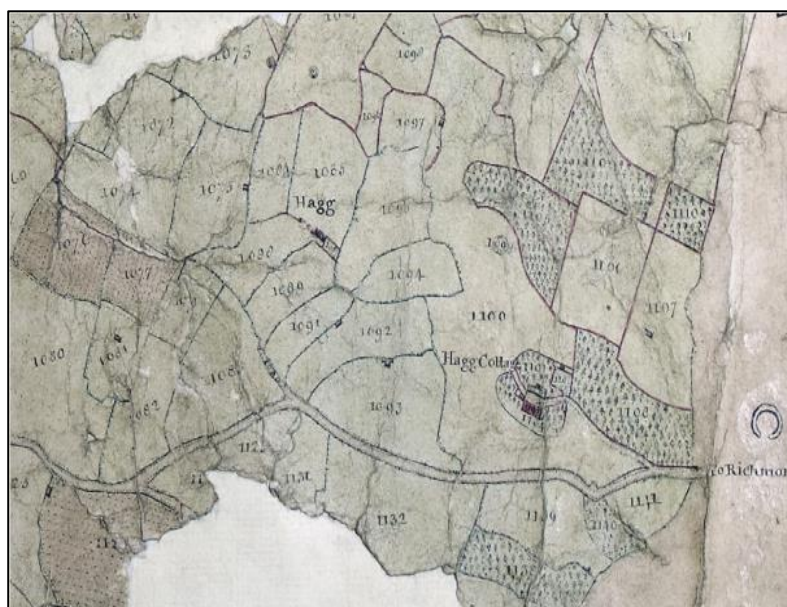


Figure 10 Tithe Map 1844 Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group, 2019

Hagg Cottage is a late 18th century construction built as a family residence by George Atkinson, a prominent local mine entrepreneur, who was still living there in 1834. It is likely that the woods of Hagg Wood are plantations contemporary with the new build of Hagg Cottage.

By 1844 the owner of Hagg Cottage was George's nephew (?), Charles Dunbar Atkinson, a civil engineer, who was the absentee landlord of West Hagg, Hagg Cottage and Reels Head. He died in January 1848 extinguishing a line of Atkinsons in Fremington going back to the C14th and possibly earlier.

In 1840 Robert Clementson is listed in White's directory as a 'farmer' in Fremington. (Swales, 2019) Sometime between 1824 when Robert was a miner in Gunnerside and 1851, he had taken the tenancy of the fields west of Hagg Cottage, sharing one field with Mary Wilson, tenant of Reels Head. The 1841 census lists him as occupant of Hagg Cottage. The census lists another building at 'Hagg Cottage' as uninhabited.

West Hagg is clearly marked as 'Hagg' on the 1844 Tithe Map.

Robert Cleminson is listed as occupying Hagg House in 1851 whilst Hagg Cottage is occupied by the incumbent of Marrick. It's reasonable to propose that the enumerator in 1841 confused Hagg House (a working farmhouse, occupied in 1841) with Hagg Cottage (a gentleman's residence?) which was unoccupied in 1841.

Robert Cleminson died in 1857. In his will he states that he was the resident of Fremington Hagg but it is clear from the will that he has not benefitted from his landlord's death in 1848 by becoming the owner of Fremington Hagg which is not part of his bequests.

On this evidence, in 1852, Fremington Hagg was the farmhouse and lands tenanted by Robert Cleminson from at least 1840. The farmhouse is labelled as West Hagg in the First Series OS 6 inch map surveyed in 1854. The records indicate Fremington Hagg/West Hagg was clearly differentiated from Hagg Cottage, a house and gardens on the boundary of the fields of Fremington Hagg. The hoard came from what is now West Hagg and the fields around the farmhouse.

How and why was the 'hoard' collected?

The 'why' is easier to answer than the 'how'?

Local, regional and national events prompted interest in creating public and private geological and natural history collections. Prompted by the discovery of the Kirkdale cave deposits in 1821, local men of means and influence in York created the Yorkshire Philosophical Society (YPS). Their number included Reverend Charles Wellbeloved, naturalist and antiquarian/archaeologist. Wellbeloved was the honorary curator of antiquities. He co-authored *A short Account of the Yorkshire Museum* in 1841.

By 1827, via public subscription the YPS funded the construction of the buildings and gardens which became the Yorkshire Museum.

Over the years between 1827 and Wellbeloved's death in 1858 (at the age of 90) the pursuit, collection and display of antiquities became much more important to the Society. The society's annual journal records increasing number of historical and archaeological artefacts being donated to the Museum under the heading 'Objects of Scientific Curiosity'. By 1848 the Society had acknowledged the growing importance of archaeology by creating a separate section on Antiquities in its annual reports. (Biodiversity Heritage Library, 2019)

Wellbeloved was also a founding member of the Yorkshire Antiquarian Club in 1849. Its members regarded themselves as archaeologists, not primarily as collectors.

This was also the era of the 'barrow diggers' and collectors, people like Thomas Bateman, an active excavator on behalf of wealth landowners as far north as Ripon and Canon Greenwell, an avid collector and promoter of barrow digging, acknowledged as a 'father' of archaeology in Yorkshire and County Durham. Bronze age axe heads from Fremington Edge made their way in to the collections of the British Museum.

Collecting and displaying artefacts had become a mark of intellectual, scientific and even moral worth.

This was also the period of high demand for surveyors. They were engaged through the 1840s mapping and recording parish fields and crops for the commutation of tithes all across Yorkshire. Many took the opportunity to train farm workers to identify and collect artefacts from cultivated fields which the surveyors would then sell on in to the collecting market. The Tithe map for Reeth (including Fremington) was produced in 1844.

Throughout the period of Cleminson's tenancy of the Hagg there were considerable incentives at all levels of society for individuals to retrieve artefacts, collect them, display them and market them.

How the items in the 'hoard' were collected is much more problematic.

There is no record in the lists of donations in the annual reports of the YPS of the donation of the pieces by 'Captain' Harland, recorded in the catalogue as the donor. It may be the case that the 'donation' recorded in Wellbeloved's 1852 Handbook and repeated on display case labels was actually an 'off the books' purchase made in or before 1852.

Captain Harland, member of a prominent local family in Swaledale, is recorded in the 1851 census as a 'Lieutenant, on half pay'. He had lived in Reeth but by 1851 was living in Marrick. He had no known connection with the property, land and tenants at Fremington Hagg or Hagg Cottage. He had some local status as chair of the Poor Law Union. He produced a volume on Swaledale dialect in later life but there is no evidence that he had any interest in antiquities nor that was he ever a member of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society.

It's hard to understand how the 'hoard' came to be entrusted to him unless the Reverend Mason, incumbent of St Andrews, Marrick and occupant of Hagg Cottage in 1851 had some part to play in the process.

So there is a question mark about the donor, his involvement and motivations.

There's an even bigger question mark about how the assemblage, all 103 items, was brought together.

The fields around Fremington Hagg are pasture. There's no evidence of the fields, most of which are very small, around 2 acres in area, have ever been ploughed. Building up a collection from chance finds in plough soil is unlikely. The soils are very thin, often 10cm or less over bedrock or buried structures. There's some chance of finds coming to the surface due to livestock trampling and/or erosion.

But, as Webster himself identified (Webster, 1971) and was confirmed by Cradock and his team, (Cradock et al 1973) there is a compelling uniformity of form and composition amongst the silvered roundels, pendants, flat strips and studs, even though many show marks of wear and damage.

It is more likely that all or most of the items were found as a single deposit. It is probable that the deposit was found by some form of 'excavation' such as digging trenches or drains; putting in building foundations; robbing building stone from upstanding/shallow buried remains or by 'barrow' digging.

The first three activities are conceivably part of agricultural work/agricultural improvement in the period. However, the third, barrow digging is also plausible because of the characteristic features of Cleminson's holdings.

Cleminson's lands as recorded in 1844 included a large field, plot 1100, which is an anomaly. It is 11 acres in size, 5 or more times the size of the other fields in Cleminson's holdings. It's so large that it is shared with Mary Wilson, tenant of Reels Head, the farm which she rents from Charles Dunbar Atkinson. Her portion of plot 1100 provides her and her family with access to plots 1106 and 1107 which are parts of her tenancy.

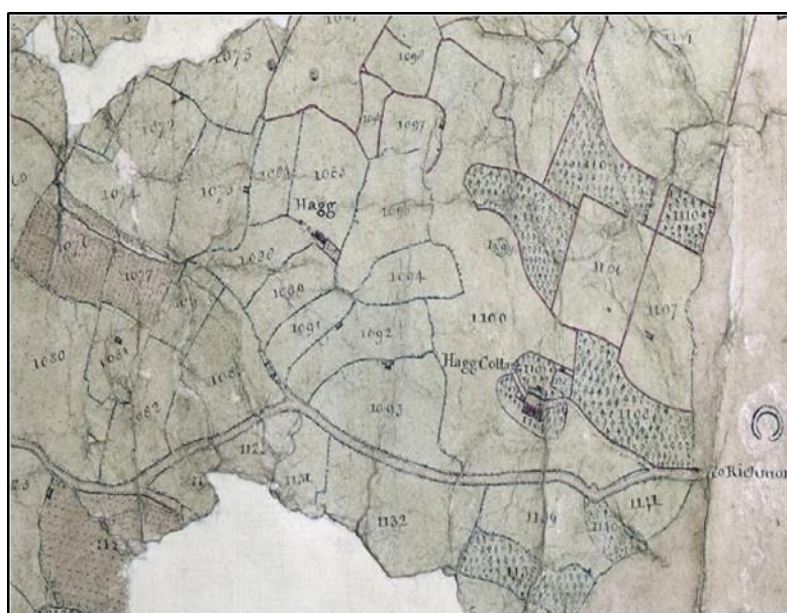


Figure 11 Tithe Map 1844 Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group, 2019

Plot 1100 includes a prominent mound marked separately as plot 1099. There is no obvious reason why such a small plot, which livestock can freely roam across, is picked out in this way. However, even now, it has a relatively level surface and the remains of a regular, circular perimeter which can be seen on the Tithe Map and especially clearly, on the 1854 OS 6inch (EDINA 2019). Local anecdote has memorialised the mound as some kind of shooting box. However, it is one of a number of prominent mounds in and around the fields owned by Charles Dunbar Atkinson and tenanted by Robert Cleminson.

It is important to note that plot 1099 as well as the fields around it has a significant viewshed. Mounds like 1099; clearance cairns/burial mounds etc on this hillside would have been prominent features in an unenclosed, de-forested protohistoric landscape. The view from 1099/1100 overlooks the Swale up to the fords at Marrick, the crossing at Grinton and the roads across the moors from what is now Leyburn and from Redmire to Grinton.

Mound 1099 was investigated during the early SWAAG excavations at Hagg Farm (SWAAG 2013 a). There were large deposits of earth and material at the base of the mound, variously interpreted as 'tumble' and hill wash during excavations of possible structures immediately west of the mound (see Excavation reports: ASDU 2013, SWAAG 2013b, SWAAG 2017, SWAAG 2018) . Excavation on the top of mound 1099, reached bedrock; found few, mainly modern era finds but did locate what may be a natural feature, a rectangular, box shaped cavity in the limestone (SWAAG 2013 a).

So there is a prominent mound within the area of Fremington Hagg. It's likely that mound 1099 would have taken the eye of 'barrow' diggers particularly because of Bronze Age finds from mounds on Fremington Edge. Certainly, by 1854, this feature, 1099, had been 'landscaped' and may have been 'landscaped' before 1844 when the Tithe Map was surveyed. In the absence of other evidence for excavation related to agriculture or construction work at West Hagg or Hagg Cottage in the same period, mound 1099, is a candidate for the find site.

Why are the pieces from the 'hoard' in two different museum collections?

In 1852 Reverend Wellbeloved, honorary keeper of antiquities for the Yorkshire Philosophical Society catalogued *'several specimens of silvered horse furniture, ornamented with slightly engraved patterns'* from Fremington Hagg.

In 1880, Sir Augustus Franks, first Keeper of British and Medieval Antiquities and Ethnography since 1866, donated four horse pendants, from Fremington Hagg to the British museum.

The hoard had been split up. By who? Why?

Willmot, Keeper of the Yorkshire Museum from 1950-1970, wrote to Webster that he believed that the culprit was Canon Greenwell. The letter is in the archives at the Yorkshire Museum. Greenwell was an honorary curator of antiquities for the Yorkshire Philosophical Society from 1874 until 1894.

Greenwell and Franks were extraordinary collectors. A large proportion of Greenwell's collection was donated to the British Museum, paid for by a donation from the American banker, John Pierpoint Morgan, in 1908. The collection included Bronze Age axes from Fremington Edge.

Willmot had no evidence specifically about the Fremington 'hoard'. But he did believe that Greenwell had sold on items from the Yorkshire Museum collection, from a deposit from Westoe and that Greenwell had replaced the missing items with plaster casts.

Franks purchased items from Greenwell like the 'wheel' from Greenwell's excavation of Lady's Barrow which Franks purchased in 1875. So it is possible that Greenwell sold Franks the horse pendants.

The Treasurer's accounts for the Yorkshire Philosophical Society do record 'income from the sale of duplicate antiquarian specimens.' Income from these sales totalled £30.00 in 1875, £25.00 in 1876, £6.00 in 1877, £1.00 in 1878 and none at all in 1879. £30.00 in 1875 at today's values is approximately £3,400.00. There are no sales of duplicate antiquarian specimens recorded between 1878 and 1894.(Biodiversity Heritage Library, 2019) These sales of duplicate items coincide with the first 5 years of Greenwell's honorary curatorship.

The items donated by Franks are 'duplicates' of other items in the hoard. They do appear to be better examples of roundels and pendants than those in the Yorkshire Museum collection. It does appear that Greenwell (and the other honorary curators) were prepared to break up collections and sell them on.

It's hard to see a financial motive for the sales. The society had healthy balances in 1875 and 1876 of over £317.00 and £430.00 respectively. (Biodiversity Heritage Library, 2019) This appears to be the actions of two men who were part of an aggressively acquisitive group of antiquarians. Their trade in antiquities was designed to cement their status as members of an elite group of eminent scholars and to reinforce the pre-eminence of the collections at the British Museum over those of regional Museum.

Why did the sales of duplicate items end? It's very hard to tell. However, 1878 was a turning point in Franks' career. In 1878 he turned down the post of principal librarian of the British Museum, equivalent, at that time, to the role of a chief executive. He continued to be Keeper of Antiquities until his retirement in 1896.

What was really in 'the hoard'? Is the assemblage really a hoard or is it something completely different?

Webster followed the tropes employed by past curators of antiquities/keepers of the Yorkshire Museum.

For him the 'hoard' was 'a cache of loot....taken by a follower of Venutius..and never recovered' (Webster, 1971 p 108).

He took the idea of 'loot' from his research in to the Doorwerth hoard, recovered from the Rhine in 1898 and interpreted as a ritual deposit of items seized by rebels during the Batavian revolt. He's drawing an analogy between the Batavian Revolt and Venutius' revolt against the Roman client, Cartimandua in 69 AD. Venutius' revolt coincided with the withdrawal of Batavian forces from Britain, including cavalry, the forces which had spearheaded the Roman expansion in to the north.

There is a sense in which Webster is following Philip's lead in implying that the items in the assemblage cannot possibly be the possessions of a native. Phillips' view was that the hoard was 'the work of an ingenious Gaul'. In the 1891 Museum catalogue the hoard has become 'the stock in trade of some travelling artisan'.

There is an underlying belief that the hoard had been buried/hidden for safe keeping and never retrieved. A belief founded in historical stereotypes.

Webster excluded a number of items from the hoard. Some he illustrated in his 1971 article. The illustrations included a number of cast iron objects such as terrets which are also parts of horse harness. He chose not to illustrate the following:

- 15 locks
- A cloak fastener
- A decorated knife handle
- A jug handle
- A small bronze stand
- Two probes
- A mount in the form of a dolphin
- A clasp knife case, the blade missing
- Two brooches
- A plain stud with a button loop (which is probably modern) (Webster 1971)

The Doorwerth Hoard has obvious appeal as a reference collection. It includes multiple roundels and pendants carrying the same or similar designs to those in the Fremington assemblage (Rijksmuseum Oudheden 2019).

However, the Stanwick/Melsonby hoard which Webster ignored, also has similarities with the Fremington assemblage because it contains similar items of cast iron horse furniture and imagery.

Haselgrove re-evaluated the provenance of the Stanwick/Melsonby hoard and could not rule out the original hoard being mixed with other objects found nearby. Haselgrove suggested that many of the objects may be related to a burial. He identifies the objects as late Iron Age, dating from a period within the first 75 years of the 1st century AD. He also suggests that there are some items from Roman military equipment in the hoard.(Haselgrove, 2016)

His analysis suggests that there was a local tradition of burying valuable items of horse furniture alongside other goods.

Looked at through the twin lenses of Doorwerth and Stanwick/Melsonby the Fremington assemblage, not just Webster's selection, takes on a new complexion. The 'hoard' begins to look more like a structured deposit.

So, using Nicolay's proposition, the assemblage includes a deposit of military equipment in a non-military context. (Nicolay, 2007)

Nicolay has analysed the practice, widespread in Batavia, of burying valuable military equipment, including horse furniture as a mark of social status. The silvered horse furniture in the assemblage would have been purchased by its original owners and used for military display. Burying it openly would have been a very public gesture.

The designs on the Doorwerth and Fremington assemblages are not Batavian. The armies which fought the Batavian revolt came from Northern Gaul implying that the symbolism on the roundels and pendants may have belonged to defeated soldiers from northern Gaul. The Ala Petriana, operating across the north Pennines, was originally raised in Gaul and may have been active in Britain as early as 69 AD, based in Corbridge and later at Stanwix, Carlisle.

Two traditions appear to coalesce. One, a local tradition of formally depositing horse furniture and other goods; possibly in a burial. The other, an imported tradition of formally and publicly burying military equipment in a non-military setting, and what a setting Fremington Hagg is. Prominent, highly visible, possibly associated with traditions of past burials in the form of mounds.

Webster, taking his chronology from the Doorwerth Hoard, tied the assemblage, to the Flavian period. He made a connection with the revolt of Venutius in Brigantia, which coincided with the withdrawal of forces to tackle the Batavian revolt, and assumed that the silvered pieces must have been, like the Doorwerth hoard, booty but, in this instance, hidden and never retrieved.

Webster's chronology is questionable. It needs to be extended. The assemblage may well have been deposited later in the C1st. It may well have been a structured deposit reflecting the mixing of Roman and indigenous practises and material culture in a public statement, possibly a memorial, of status and rank.

It is still possible that the 103 items assessed by Webster may include accidental additions to the original assemblage caused by inaccurate cataloguing, poor storage and transport for wartime safe keeping. The items may contain items added by Greenwell after the sale to Franks but this is unlikely if the pendants sold to Franks were genuinely regarded as duplicates.

There is good reason to include many of the items which Webster excluded in the assemblage by reconfiguring it as a structured deposit rather than a 'hoard'. It's more likely that the assemblage was not a hoard at all, not valuable items buried to be retrieved at a later date, but a formal marker in a public space, buried and never meant to be retrieved.

What does the assemblage tell us about Roman era activity in Swaledale?

The assemblage comes from West Hagg and the fields around the farmhouse and buildings. The assemblage appears to be Romano British, dating to the late C1st AD. The military component of the assemblage, the silvered pieces of horse furniture, indicates connections with Roman cavalry, possibly from Northern Gaul, operating in the North Pennines.

Occupation and activity at the Hagg farm site excavated by SWAAG indicates late Roman era occupation and use. However, the site finds have included heavily abraded C1st Roman pottery which has been interpreted described as heirloom material, lost or broken, then worn down, in the C4th or later. The finds come from a large area of flagged surfaces and revetted banks associated with roundhouses. The structures and features occupy the area to the west of tithe plot 1099.

The modern field system around West Hagg, as shown on the earliest maps, partially replicates the boundaries of an earlier field system. Elsewhere, visible on the ground and/or on the LIDAR imagery there are the banks and linears of an earlier field system. The field names suggest that the later field system represents progressive addition of fields, probably in the medieval/post Roman periods up to the modern era (in the form of early and parliamentary enclosure). The relic banks and linears may be the remains of an Iron Age/Romano British field system and do have some of the characteristics of a Romano-British 'ladder' field system. The early 'farms' represented by the relic field boundaries are probably connected with managing livestock given that there is little evidence of early cultivation in the form of 'cord rig'.

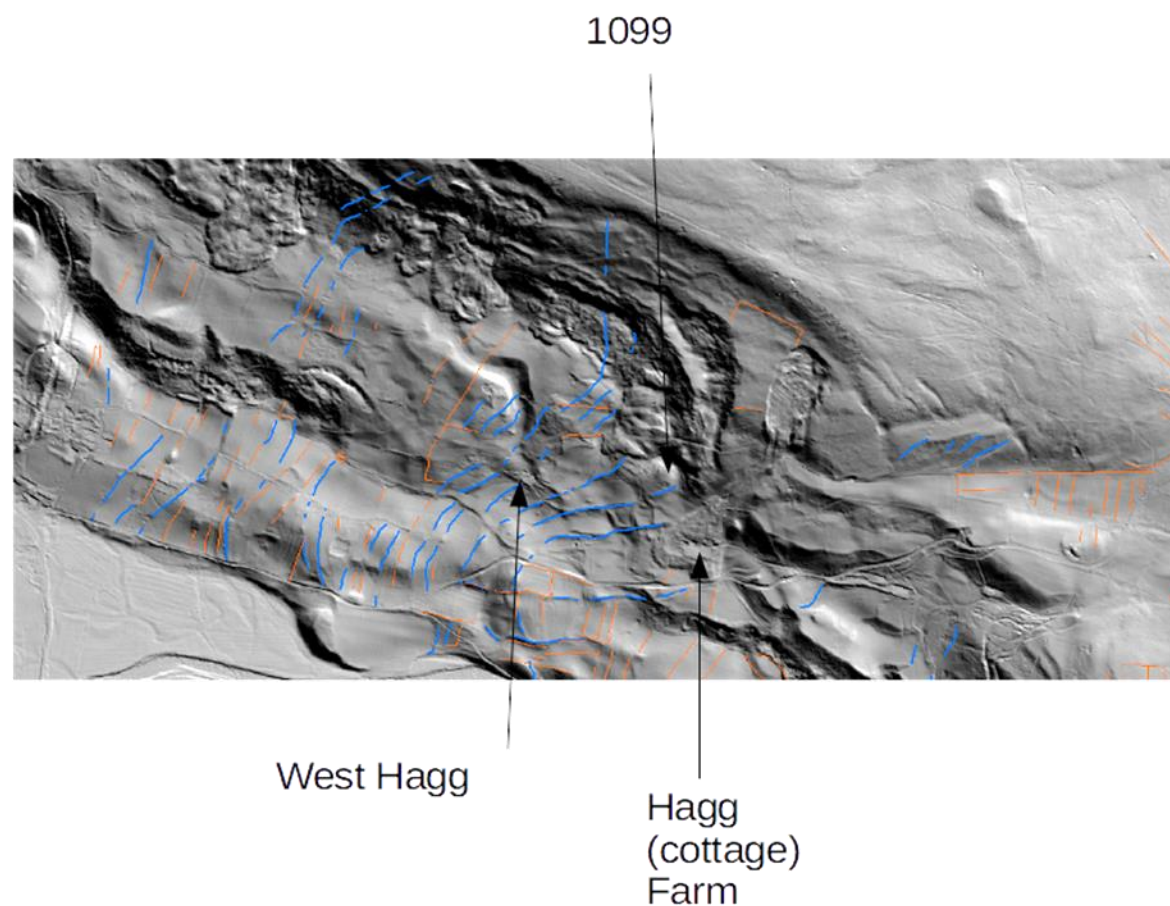


Figure 12 LiDAR Image (Author 2019)

Fremington Hagg borders the Fremington arm of the Grinton-Fremington dykes. Ainsworth et al proposed that the Grinton arm, at Dyke House, on the south bank of the Swale was probably Bronze Age implying that the Fremington arm is of the same date (Ainsworth, 2015).

The Fremington Dyke, which appears to extend the dyke system across the river, is respected by the possible 'ladder' field system which terminates at the Dyke.

West of the Fremington dyke the field systems are characterised by terraces and lynchets, unlike the fields to the east leading to West Hagg, where terraces are absent and where there are few lynchets. The dyke seems to segregate pasture from arable land. The dyke itself would have created a barrier which most livestock, under normal conditions, would not have crossed, reinforcing the proposition that West Hagg and the fields around had been dedicated to livestock management. It's possible that the Dyke was repurposed as a livestock barrier or that it was deliberately constructed as a multipurpose feature, purposes which included controlling animal movements and keeping stock off crops on the terraces and lynchets.

The annual cycle of livestock management based on extensive seasonal grazing of upland moors and paddocks/fields associated with a principal habitation cluster includes periods of gathering in, the gathering together of large numbers of stock for a variety of purposes. Tithe plot 1100 could have performed such a function and may have been the original, hedged enclosure; the 'haga' in Old English. This would add to the social and cultural significance of Fremington Hagg. Its economic significance, the management of large numbers of animals; the sub division and segregation of a large area of upland landscape; its maintenance as fertile arable and sustainable pasture suggests activity at the area or regional scale, a scale of activity beyond that required for self-sufficiency of small local social entities, family units and 'farms'.

The earliest period in which area wide or regional organisation of supplies and provisioning at such a scale may have become a priority is in the late Iron Age, when the population centre at Stanwick was approaching its zenith. In this hypothesis Fremington Hagg would have formed a node in a provisioning network, supplying Stanwick but also linked via fords at what is now Oxcue and Marrick to a network leading south via Barden and Bellerby (where there was a major source of quernstones in the Romano British period)

Activity across these two networks, already functioning in the late Iron Age, intensified in the early Roman period, under the supervision of a sympathetic native polity (the Brigantes), when it became important to secure the networks and develop provisioning and supply of livestock as meat, hide, fleece and draught animals. This was a military function, primarily carried out by cavalry. From AD 69 and especially up to and including the occupation of Hadrian's Wall the valley would have continued to be an essential component of the long distance supply of livestock to communities, towns and garrisons to the North and those of the more intensively cultivated arable lowlands to the east and south.

The coins in the Grinton hoard, found in 1988, have been dated in a range from 74 AD to AD 196. It has been suggested that the coins were a soldier's pay packet. (Casey and Wenham, 1990) Grinton is on the south bank of the Swale, immediately to the south west of Fremington Hagg and overlooked by it.

The Grinton hoard and the Fremington assemblage indicates the between AD 69 and AD 196 upper Swaledale was a significant focus for military activity but not necessarily military occupation. It should be noted that other major earthworks, particularly east of Grinton, have yet to be excavated and may yet reveal signs of occupation.

Fremington Hagg was an important social, cultural, political and economic location, important enough for an individual, probably Roman-British, to make a deposit there made up of valuable Roman horse harness and implements mixed with local, indigenous artefacts. What was the relationship between that individual and the Roman military? It's impossible to determine. Discharged soldier?; Indigenous craftsmen servicing cavalry?; Thief?; Battlefield scavenger?; Beneficiary of valuable gifts from a Roman cavalryman?

Conclusion:

Relegating the 'hoard' to the collection of Roman military equipment, following Webster's direction of travel, impoverishes the understanding of the whole deposit and the prehistoric significance of the landscape it was found in. Reassessing it in its full historical, archaeological and topographic context exposes the hyperbolic, stereotypical narratives which Webster and his predecessors indulged in, which Webster himself deployed in the way he judged what should be and should not be in the 'hoard'. The 'military' designation is one such stereotypical response.

This is a structured deposit placed deliberately in a prehistorically significant landscape, a deposit which expresses the mingling of indigenous and Roman era traditions from across the North Sea. The landscape shows evidence of Roman era exploitation and intensification of pre Roman agricultural re-organisation which had been prompted by the concentration of population in a significant centre, Stanwick. The deposit, like the Stanwick (Melsonby) hoard mingles indigenous and Roman traditions. It places upper Swaledale firmly in the networks of provisioning and supply during the early Roman occupation.

Rejecting the early stereotypes and hyperbole raises serious questions about Webster's chronology and dating of the deposit. The provenance of the original donation and the impact of aggressively acquisitive antiquarians on the two collections is a powerful story in itself, one which raises questions about other donations/collections in the Museum during the early period of Greenwell's honorary curatorship.

The Fremington collections deserve better. They should be seen, presented in their full context, and promoted as the most significant find, up to date, of all in Upper Swaledale.

Acknowledgements:

Many thanks to Adam Parker, Assistant Curator, Yorkshire Museum for access to the Fremington Hoard collection and associated archives.

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Roman Rubbish and Out of Town Shopping?

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Abstract

A six year programme of excavation and research as part of the development of new school facilities at Norton has revealed and recorded evidence for human activity on the site covering the last 10,000 years. Within this time span the vast majority of the remains were from the Roman period between the 2nd and 5th centuries AD. These remains clearly showed the systematic development of the southern edge of the settlement from an agricultural landscape, though use as a burial ground, to commercial buildings before finally ending up as what appears to be the 'town dump'.

Introduction

The last six years has seen a programme of systematic excavation, analysis and research into the site of new education facilities at the former Brooklyn House Youth Centre, Langton Road, Norton on Derwent (NGR SE 7930 7086). The site was known to lie within an area of significant archaeological activity associated with the Roman fort and settlement located just to the north of the river Derwent. In the past extensive evidence for Romano-British (1st century AD to 4th century AD) activity has been recorded along Langton Road to the east of the site in the form of the remains of numerous burials and cremations along with at least eight kilns, the remains of several buildings and part of a well-made road (Robinson 1978, Gazetteer Nos 235, 236, 303-314; Wilson 2006, 43-45). These remains are part of an extensive settlement which developed on the southern bank of the river around the crossing point leading to the Roman fort across river Derwent at Orchard Field, Malton (Latin *Delgovicia* (Creighton 1988; Wilson 2017) – the name also probably applied to the occupation of the Norton side of the river). As the settlement developed it appears to have spread southwards along either side of a major Roman road. Within this expansion of the town, discrete areas for different functions developed and in the area of Langton Road these were for burials and small-scale manufacturing - mostly ceramic production. These are two activities that are typically located on the outskirts of towns due to their nature and the amount of land needed and the requirements of Roman law which forbade burial within settlements.

Evaluation

The first stage of the investigations in to the site was a desk-based assessment (DBA) in 2014 which identified a substantial number of Romano-British archaeological sites in and around the proposed development (Buglass 2014). These sites were particularly concentrated along its eastern boundary and showed that there was a high potential for significant remains to be present within the development site.

One of the major clues to the sites potential was the annotation on historic Ordnance Survey mapping 'Roman Coins found previous to AD1851' in the middle of the then proposed development.

The DBA was followed up by a high resolution geophysical survey of the site (Lyll 2014). The results of the geophysical survey showed that there were probably at least two phases of enclosure ditches, possibly delineating areas of cultivation or they could be marking discrete areas of activity.

In addition to the enclosures, several areas of strong magnetic response were located. Although these are usually the result of large iron objects in the ground (e.g. ploughshares), there is always a potential that they could represent a feature such as a kiln – several of which had previously been found in the area.

Based on the investigations described above a programme of evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken, focussing mainly on the results of the geophysical survey. This would be in order to inform a final mitigation strategy for the main development. The trial trenching covered an area of 266m² and investigated 11 anomalies in addition to assessing two potentially ‘blank’ areas. Broadly this confirmed the initial interpretations of two phases of enclosures dating to the 3rd century AD followed by a second in the later 3rd and into the 4th centuries AD. Both of these phases had cut through an earlier, probably Romano-British, soil horizon. All of these phases of activity could be seen to be relatively short lived with rapid silting and little re-cutting of the ditches. The one significant feature which would never have shown on the geophysical survey was that once the enclosure ditches fall out of use they rapidly silt up, or are fill in, and the whole area then appears to be used for rubbish disposal from the settlement to the north. This is clearly seen in the large amounts of well-preserved domestic material in the form of pottery, metal work, building materials and animal bone more or less evenly distributed throughout the upper deposits. This dumped refuse could be clearly seen to form a significantly thicker layer of material further to the east and closer to the Roman road which is located between the site and Langton Road. This material dates from the late 3rd through to the early 5th centuries AD.

Excavation

As a result of the evaluation a comprehensive programme of open area excavation and monitoring was undertaken before and during the development works. The open area excavation covered c.1300m² and uncovered not only part of the field system identified previously but the remains of at least two stone buildings (one measuring 13x5m) ; a corn dryer/malting kiln and a possible mausoleum (Figure 1).



Figure 1 The 13x5m building being excavated by volunteers

In addition to these substantial structures there were also two infant burials, all of which was covered by an extensive dump of rubbish which covered the entire excavation area.

The rubbish dump proved to be a very rich source of artefactual material with large numbers of Roman finds being recovered (Figure 2), highlights of the finds include:

- c.20,000 sherds of pottery
- 80+ coins, including counterfeits
- Bronze brooches; jet jewellery and bracelets
- Shale hairpins
- Tweezers
- Nine iron styli
- Pair of metal working tongs
- Military equipment



Figure 2 Possible votive pot from area of earlier burials/rubbish dump

In addition to the plethora of Roman finds there was a noticeable prehistoric element to the overall assemblage which included cord decorated Bronze Age pottery and Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flints (e.g. leaf-shaped and oblique arrowheads).

As well as the open area excavation the monitoring of works results in several additional areas of detailed excavation which recorded the remains of at least two substantial buildings (Figure 3); a section through a well-built Roman road; a rare intact *bustum* burial; a further infant burial and several hearths.



Figure 3 Remains of two substantial 'warehouse like' building located cable end to road (Scale 1m, looking west)

Although the limitations of the development area meant that only part of the two substantial stone buildings could be investigated, they could be seen to be 8m wide with foundations over a metre deep. These two buildings were arranged gable end on to the adjacent road, as was the building recorded in the open area excavation to the south. Interestingly the building in the open area has a possible 'forecourt' between the building and the road.

Interpretation

The post-excavation analysis and research is well underway and is starting to provide some interpretations as to the development of the site. The initial findings clearly show the ebb and flow of the development of the southern side of the Roman settlement. This is seen in the earlier agricultural landscape with its enclosures the area is then used as an edge of town burial ground. This in turn is supplanted by the construction of several substantial stone buildings which are focussed on the adjacent Roman road. The substantial size of the buildings shows that the settlement was prosperous and expanding steadily into the 3rd and 4th centuries.

There then follows a period of ‘decline and fall’ with the area to the south of the building becoming a rubbish dump for the town. Presumably refuse is being carted down the adjacent road to beyond the last building and then discarded across the unused field. The rubbish dumping could also be seen to spread into the now abandoned and salvaged buildings in the later 4th and early 5th centuries AD and it is this later activity that gives the site another of its unusual aspects. Initial results of the pottery analysis seem to show a significant 5th century component which may have implications on how the end of empire affected this part of rural North Yorkshire.

The possible ‘forecourt’ to the building in the open area excavation facing on to the road is very similar to ones seen on other Roman sites, notably the recent excavations along the A1. The two large buildings end on to the road are currently interpreted as possible warehouses. This in turn leads to a tentative interpretation of the area as being a potential example of ‘out of town’ shopping – though we will not be certain of this until the ongoing analysis is completed. The results of which will be published in the spring of 2020 as:

Phillips, J and Wilson, P, (forthcoming) *Life, Death and Rubbish Disposal In Roman Norton: Excavations at Brooklyn House 2015-16*. Archaeopress

Acknowledgements

The work described in outline above would not have been at all possible without the generous funding of North Yorkshire County Council as part of the development works. Particular thanks go to: Janet Phillips and her on site team, especially Emma Samuel for the endless watching brief; Sophie Tibbles for her sterling work in the finds processing and recording; Pete Wilson for wrestling with the intricacies of the post-excavation works.

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Digging Sheffield a New Identity – Evaluation of the Site of Sheffield Castle

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Abstract

A three-month evaluation programme on the Site of Sheffield Castle conducted by Wessex Archaeology unearthed traces of raised earthwork – a motte, and proved the existence of a castle that pre-dated a stronghold demolished during the Civil War in the mid-17th century. In addition, the evaluation recorded the remains of the 18th century bowling green, slaughterhouses and steelworks and engaged with several hundred members of public who participated in the project.

Introduction

In 2018 Sheffield City Council commissioned Wessex Archaeology to conduct an archaeological evaluation on the site of Sheffield Castle. This was the first large-scale investigation of the archaeological remains of the castle and comprised 11 trenches and 23 geoarchaeological boreholes which were excavated across the former mound of Sheffield Castle and its moat (Fig. 1).

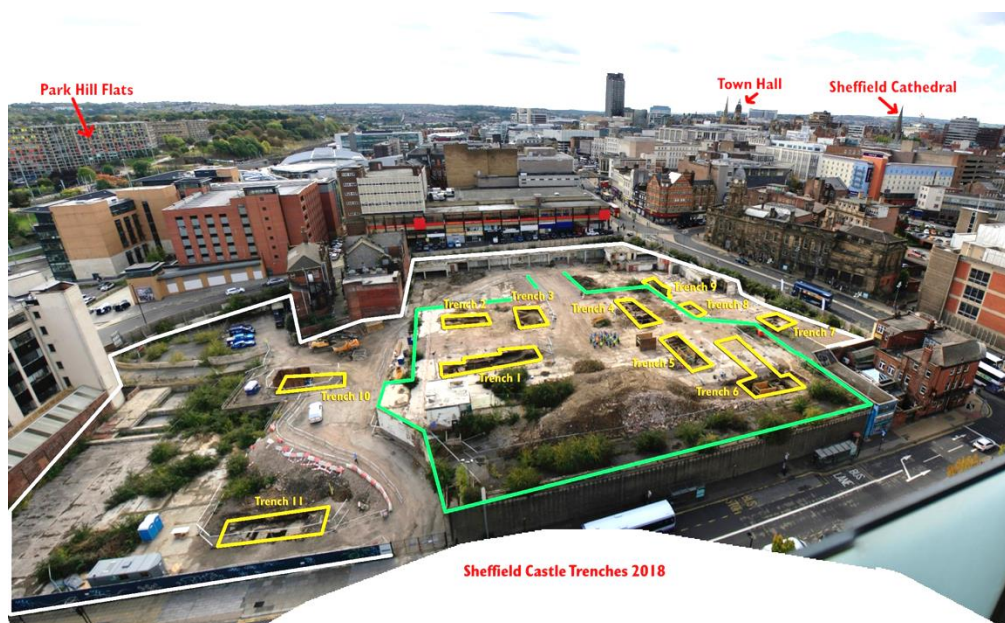


Figure 1 Site during evaluation, photograph by Paul Rowland, reproduced with permission P. Rowland

The methodology for this work, based on the decades of research and numerous on-site archaeological investigations, was compiled Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd and reviewed by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS), advisers to Sheffield City Council, and a Project Board, comprising representatives from Wessex Archaeology, Sheffield City Council, the University of Sheffield, Historic England and the Friends of Sheffield Castle. The archaeological work was carried out during the late summer and early autumn 2018 by Wessex Archaeology North, students of the University of Sheffield and 350 volunteers.

This article describes the results of that investigation. A publication (Hadley *et al.* 2020) on the results of this evaluation seen in the context of the previous investigations of the site and its future development is expected in the early 2020.

Brief History of the Site

At its peak, Sheffield Castle was one of the largest medieval castles in northern England. It was partially demolished during the English Civil War in the mid-17th century.

The castle, built at the confluence of the River Don and the River Sheaf in the early 12th century by William de Lovetot, is believed to have been erected on the site of an Anglo-Saxon hall (Richardson and Dennison 2014). In the late 12th century the castle passed to de Furnivals through a female line and in 1270 Thomas de Furnival received a licence to build a stone castle (to fortify and crenellate it) (Richardson and Dennison 2014). About 120 years later, yet again as part of a dowry, the castle became a property of the Talbots, a family of great wealth and influence. In the 16th century the lord of Sheffield Castle was the exceptionally wealthy George Talbot, the sixth Earl of Shrewsbury, the jailer of Mary Queen of Scots who was held as prisoner in the castle (and the nearby Manor Lodge) until 1584 (Richardson and Dennison 2014).

During the Civil War in the mid-17th century and immediately after, the castle has been almost completely slighted, the site resembled a quarry from which the stone and other material was removed (Askew 2017). From at least 1700 to around 1780, a bowling green dominated the inner court of the castle (Fig. 2), and was surrounded by gardens, yards and orchards.

Following an Act of Parliament in 1784 rows of slaughterhouses were built along the River Don and the River Sheaf. These are depicted on Fairbank's 1797 map of the city (Fig. 3). By the 19th century, the slaughterhouses had expanded to the area of the west bank of the river Sheaf, while the steelworks replaced the bowling green and dominated the centre of the site (Fig. 4). In the 20th century, the site was redeveloped as a Co-operative Store and council market. This was followed by the expansion of the markets resulting in the Co-operative Store being redeveloped and incorporated into the Castle Markets which were removed in 2013.

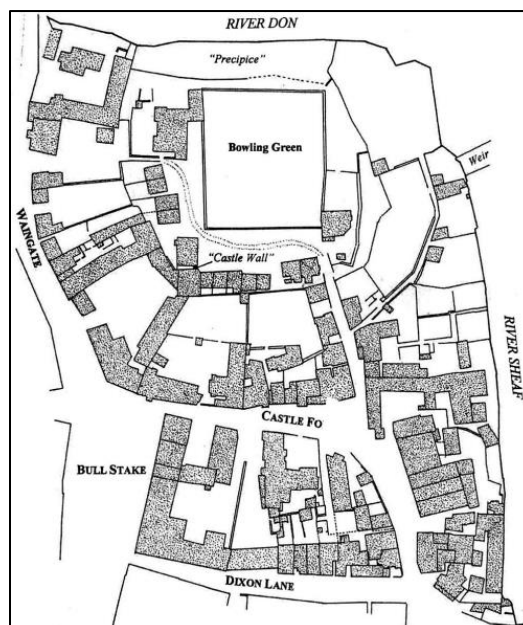


Figure 2 Bowling green and its environs, reproduced with permission of Sheffield City Council



Figure 3 Fairbanks plan, 1797, showing the slaughter houses, reproduced with permission of Sheffield City Archives

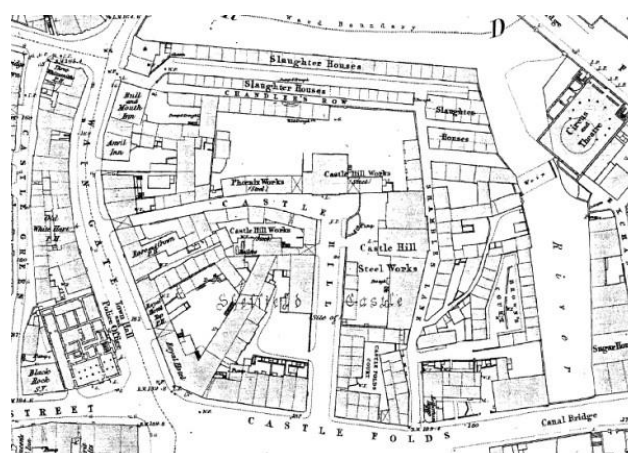


Figure 4 Ordnance Survey Map, 1853 showing the steelworks and the expansion of the slaughter houses, reproduced with permission of Sheffield City Council

Previous Archaeological Works

Prior to 2018 Sheffield Castle has been subject to several campaigns of archaeological excavations and recording. Between 1927 and 1929 the remains of the castle were unearthed during the construction work for the Brightside and Carbrook Co-op store and were recorded by Leslie Armstrong, a prehistorian, and his assistant, Joseph Himsworth, cutler and silversmith. Himsworth recorded his observations in an unpublished diary, whilst Armstrong published his results in the Hunter Society's *Transactions* (Armstrong 1930).

In 1958, during a construction work for Castle Markets, the remains of the castle were recorded by Leslie Butcher of the City Architect's Department and John Bartlett, Deputy Director of the City Museum. Leslie Butcher interpreted the gatehouse results, monitored stanchion pits and identified a section of the wall (later Grade II listed; see below) near to the south-west corner of the original market building.

During the re-enforcement of the sloping ground along the Castlegate and the construction of a vertical wall in 1972, Pauline Beswick, then Keeper of Antiquities at Sheffield City Museum, recorded another section of the castle stone wall. Standing remains of the courtyard building, preserved beneath the 1920s market building were surveyed in 1994 by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Field and Research Unit, as part of re-consolidation works. This work concluded that the original surviving structure was in good condition (Latham and Atkinson 1994).

Modern excavations conducted by Archaeological Research and Consultancy at the University of Sheffield (ARCUS) between 1999 and 2001 were focused on the north area of the site and the east arm of the moat (Davies 2000; Davies and Symonds 2002). In 2013, Met Geo Environmental carried out a geophysical survey as part of works commissioned by Sheffield City Council. The survey identified the two previous ARCUS evaluation trenches together with two anomalies: one perhaps delineating a distinct change in ground composition, and the second to the west, marking a linear area of north-south alignment, possibly caused by a wall or foundation feature.

Site Designations

Three areas of masonry, formerly part of the castle's structure, survive within the former markets complex, and are Listed as Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest (Grade II); under National Heritage List for England Nos 1254808, 1254809 and 1254810 and IOE Nos 458126, 458127 and 458128.

2018 Evaluation and the Results

The evaluation of the site was carried out between 13 August and 20 October 2018 by Wessex Archaeology's Ashely Tuck (site director), Sam Birchall, Amy Derrick (site supervisors), Milica Rajic (project manager), four students from the University of Sheffield (James Chapman, Georgina Goodison, Paul Harrison, Isabelle Sheriff) and ten volunteers from general public per day (five on site and five in post-excavation), with over 350 volunteers participating in the project overall. Geoarchaeological borehole survey was carried out by Wessex Archaeology staff members Liz Chambers and Richard Payne.

At the time of the evaluation, the structures relating to the former Castle Markets complex have been demolished to ground level with the exception of a limited number of supporting or retaining walls. In addition, the structures housing two areas of the surviving castle-related masonry remain on site. The site, which lies between 49m and 56m above Ordnance Datum (OD), was overlaid by concrete slab relating to the recently demolished market (Fig. 5).



Figure 5 Birdseye view showing different levels, concrete and remaining structures of the Castle Markets

The geology underlying the site is mapped as an outcrop of Silkstone Rock, a type of Sandstone within the Lower Coal Measures (British Geological Survey online viewer). Superficial Alluvial deposits are recorded close to the site, associated with the Rivers Don and Sheaf. Eleven trenches excavated across the castle site (centred on NGR 435805, 387684) were up to 7m wide and up to 20m long. The boreholes primarily targeted deeper moat sequences. All trenches were machine excavated hand cleaned and excavated. All archaeological layers were recorded. Levels within each trench were then further reduced by hand and machine to investigate deeper layers (Fig. 6).

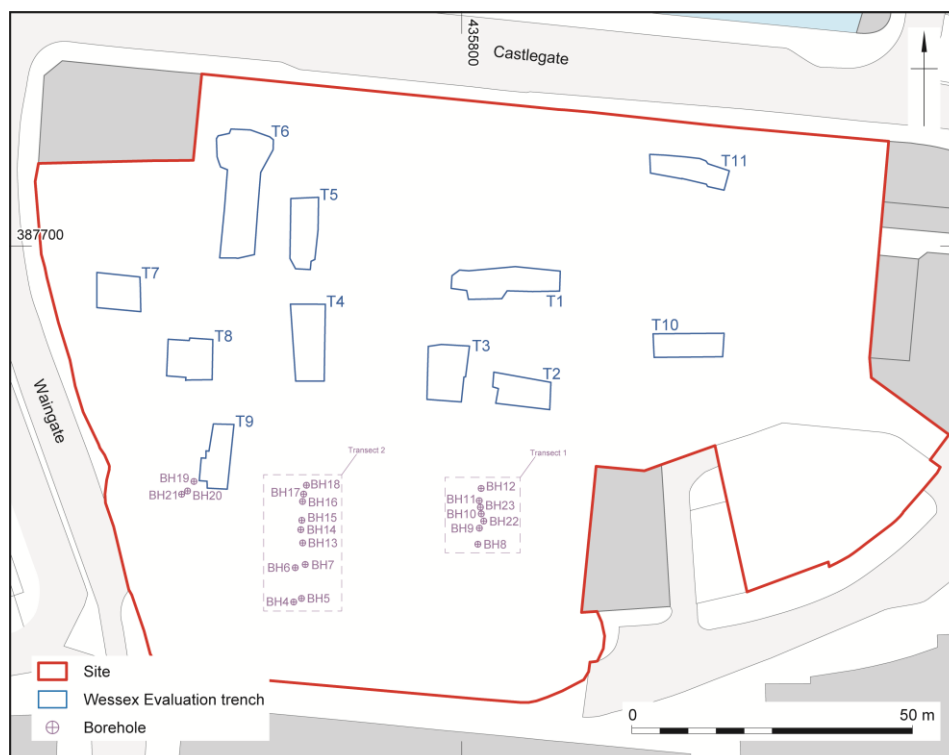


Figure 6 Location of trenches and boreholes

Where needed, the trenches were stepped, and box shored which allowed for excavations to a maximum depth of 4m below ground level. Plate and waling shoring was used to reach the maximum depth of excavation of 6m from the existing ground level in trench 10 (Fig. 7)

The artefactual assemblage, which comprised medieval and post-medieval material including pottery, clay tobacco pipe, slag, animal bone, ceramic building material (bricks and tile), glass, leather, metal, shell, stone and wood, has been assessed. A minimum of 40 litre bulk soil samples were taken from targeted secure archaeological contexts. Additional samples were taken from the most significant deposits. The samples were processed and the material which includes uncharred wood and other macrofossil material, charred seeds and wood charcoal has been assessed, and some radiocarbon dates have been obtained (Tables 1 and 2). Dendrochronology was applied to two oak samples (Table 3).

Borehole samples were extracted using a window sampler, enabling laboratory testing for microfossil assessment and dating evidence on different deposits within the moat (Table 3).



Figure 7 Shoring of Trench 10

Table 1 Radiocarbon dates

Trench number	Context number	Sample number	Material dated	Lab Code	Age (BP)	Age-range (95.4%) Cal AD
1	1057	1003	Charred plant remains: <i>Secale cereale</i> grain	UBA-41312	818±28	1170–1260
1	1076	1009	Charred plant remains: <i>Hordeum vulgare/distichum</i> grain	UBA-41313	902±25	1040–1210
5	5041	5004	Charred plant remains: <i>Triticum</i> sp. grain	UBA-41314	823±22	1170–1260
6	6044	6002	Charred plant remains: <i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell	UBA-41315	785±22	1220–1270
6	6060	6009	Waterlogged plant remains: <i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell	UBA-41316	916±32	1030–1200

Table 2 Radiocarbon dates from boreholes

Borehole number	Depth (m below ground level)	Material dated	Lab Code	Age (BP)	Age-range (95.4%) Cal BC
BH11	3.52–3.54	Bulk sediment	UBA-41062	9157±48	8536–8513 (3.5%) 8485–8280 (91.9%)
	4.75–4.77		UBA-41063	2622±32	836–771
	5.76–5.78		UBA-40850	4289±25	2925–2880
BH13	1.82–1.84		UBA-41064	7554±42	6477–6356 (93.5%) 6290–6269 (1.9%)
	2.86–2.88		UBA-40851	17548±70	19520–18892

Table 3 Dendrochronology dating

Timber number	Cross-section (mm)	Rings	Sap	Growth mm/yr	Result	Interpretation
3057	140x110	167	-	0.81	AD 825–991	After 1001
6055	240x125	129	-	1.16	AD 888–1016	After 1026

During the evaluation there was considerable public interest in the site. This was further increased by the opportunity for members of the public to participate in the excavation and post-excavation work, such as finds processing. In addition, all participants and visitors were encouraged to take photographs of the site, and this has resulted in a vast photographic account (Rowland 2019). Numerous site tours and off-site talks were also undertaken. Weekend and week day site tours were attended by the public, stakeholders, schools, youth groups and local history groups. Over 50 public talks were given both during and after the on-site works, with more talks planned for 2020. Wessex Archaeology conducted social media interactions (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, blog) which, on average, reached and engaged more than 1200 people per week.

Evidence of a Motte and Sheffield Castle's Early Beginnings

A substantial depth of redeposited alluvium found in the centre of the castle site has been identified as a motte. This deposit was encountered in Trenches 2 and 3, located approximately 14 m to the north and 3 m above the existing, partially-preserved castle gatehouse's base (Fig. 8).



Figure 8 Evidence of the motte

The top of the deposit is at 51.68m OD and slopes at a 45° interface, towards the gatehouse to the south. Deposited directly on undisturbed alluvial clay, this silty clay deposit contained fragments of micro-charcoal and iron accumulations. Numerous sandstone inclusions recorded in the upper levels of the deposit were sloping to the south-east. Overlying this was a series of clay and stone rubble deposits.

In Trench 3 the redeposited alluvium clay layers recorded at 52.10m OD contained various quantities of charcoal inclusions (1–5%). Large unworked flat stones, making a 0.52m wide linear feature, capped the layers. The stone feature was oriented south-east to north-west, survived two courses high and appeared to be constructed in a single phase (Fig. 9).



Figure 9 Stone support and redeposited alluvium in Trench 3

The clay layers continued to accumulate after the linear stone feature was built. The origin of the clay used in the construction of the motte is unknown and it could have come from the banks of either or both of the rivers or from a ditch that surrounded the motte.

The date for the motte is equally difficult to determine. The layers were almost sterile, and no artefacts were recovered from them. Samples of inorganic material were taken from Trench 2 for optically stimulated luminescence dating (OSL) and portable optically stimulated luminescence dating (pOSL) which produced a range of dates (from the 1st to the 15th centuries AD) showing that the grains had not been fully re-set during the construction of the motte. Luminescence techniques date inorganic materials (in this case quartz sand) by measuring the length of time since they were exposed to light (re-set).

Fragments of the 13th-century pottery (Reduced Sandy ware, North Nottinghamshire Quartz & Shell ware and Hallgate A type ware) were found associated with the motte in Trench 3. Despite the absence of secure dating, the motte is unlikely to be later than the late 12th century (Pounds 1990, 21). However, it is plausible that the motte was not constructed in one phase of works but that it continued to be modified as the presence of the fragments of the medieval pottery found in Trench 3 suggest.

Approximately 50m to the north-west of Trenches 2 and 3, at 50.5m OD (just above the current level of the Castlegate Road), four cut features in Trench 6 (two beam slots and two postholes) represent an entranceway (Fig. 10).



Figure 10 Postholes and gullies in Trench 6

These features are roughly of the same date as the motte and are most probably associated with it. One of the postholes was radiocarbon dated to Cal AD 1030–1200 (UBA-41316, 916±32 BP) (Table 1). These features were sealed by a layer which contained a modified piece of timber (6055) dendrochronologically dated to no later than the mid-11th century (Table 3; Tyres 2019, 4). Above this were small pits dug into two layers, all overlain by two levelling deposits. Cut into the layers and the small pits was a pit from which a fragment of pottery dated to the medieval period was recovered. The pit also contained a primary fill of slag which was broadly dated to the medieval period and is similar to slag recorded in Trenches 1 and 5.

A stone rubble layer through which another pit was dug sealed all of the above features. The pit contained a block of Magnesian Limestone and, although this particular stone does not show any evidence of use, it is possible that it was part of a great tower constructed here in the mid-15th century (Thomas 1920–4, 71).

In Trench 1, several layers of redeposited alluvial clay (with the lowest layer recorded at 51.50m OD) containing the 13th–14th-century pottery (Oxidised Sandy ware) were recorded under a very disturbed cobblestone stone surface (52.20–52.80m OD). This surface and the layers comprise further evidence for the early castle.

To the west of Trench 1, in Trench 5, a cobblestone surface, which showed evidence of repair, was recorded at 53.9m OD (Fig. 11). Below the cobbles three fragments of the mid- to late 13th-century pottery (Hallgate A type ware) were found. A 13th-century copper-alloy toiletry item (an ear scoop and fingernail cleaner) was found between the stones (Fig. 12). A charred grain from the surface was radiocarbon dated to Cal AD1170–1260 (UBA-41314; 823±22 BP) (Table 1).



Figure 11 Cobblestone yard in Trench 5



Figure 12 Ear scoop found on the cobblestone surface in Trench 5

In Trenches 1 and 5, a dark red deposit containing iron smelting slag and tap slag (which seems to have been used to repair cobblestone surface) was recorded within redeposited alluvium layers used for levelling the site. Similar slag was recovered from levelling layers in Trench 6 (see above). The layers in Trench 1 were radiocarbon dated to Cal AD 1170–1260 (UBA-41312; 818±28 BP) and Cal AD 1040–1210 (UBA-41313; 902±25 BP) (Table 1). In Trench 6 the layers were radiocarbon dated to cal. AD 1220–1270 (UBA-41315; 785±22 BP) (Table 1).

Demolition and Rebuilding

The two demolition layers were observed in Trench 3 sealing the stone linear feature and the clay motte deposits. The layers were dark brown, organic and contained charred oats, hulled barley, rye and free-threshing wheat, uncharred redshank, knotgrass, black bindweed, bramble, alder and a large quantity of hazelnut shells and wood (charred and uncharred). The lower demolition layer also contained vivianite (bluish mineral which requires iron, phosphate, water and levels of oxygen and sulphide for its formation and changes its colour from white or greyish to blue on exposure to air). The upper demolition layer was rich in unburnt wood (some identified as hazel roundwood), possibly representing a collapsed fence. The 13th-century pottery fragments (Reduced Sandy ware, North Nottinghamshire Quartz & Shell ware and Hallgate A type ware) were recovered from the two demolition layers. One of the timbers (3057) from this layer has been dendrochronologically dated to at least the first half of the 11th century (Table 3; Tyres 2019).

The demolition layers were sealed by several layers of redeposited alluvial clay, some which contained demolition material. These were interpreted as levelling deposits and this practice was evidenced across the site (for example in Trench 6). Fragments of the 13th- to 14th-century pottery were found in the levelling deposits in Trench 3.

Further to the north-west, in Trench 6, walls and a staircase were excavated and recorded at 52.02 to 53.93m OD. A north-south oriented wall (1m wide) was made of sandstone blocks and lime mortar. This wall, which retained earlier redeposited alluvium to the east, turned 90° to the east before turning again 45° to the north-east. At this point it was 0.4m wide (Fig. 13). A staircase which was made of flagstone treads and which had a rendered small alcove with iron stains, was found adjacent to the west face of the north-south oriented part of the wall. The flagstone floor found at the bottom of the staircase run further to the east. A presence of a doorway was evidenced by an indentation in the floor.



Figure 13 Medieval wall in use in post-medieval period in Trench 6

One sherd of the 18th-century mottled ware was recovered from underneath one of the flagstones in Trench 6. Additionally, a brick fragment resembling an 18th-century type with attached industrial slag was found within the (disturbed) rubble core of the wall. The presence of the post-medieval artefacts may suggest that these 13th- and 14th-century structures continued to be used and maintained as late as the 18th century.

The Moat

The evaluation of the site, trenching and three transects of boreholes combined, investigated the west, south and the east moat. Trenches 7–9 and boreholes 19–21 were positioned to investigate the west and the south moat. Trenches 7 and 8 contained modern features and were truncated (Fig. 14), however in Trench 9 a small section of the west moat, showing its orientation towards the modern Waingate, was excavated.



Figure 14 Bedrock truncated by 20th-century concrete

The results from the trench, together with the results from the boreholes show that the west arm of the moat was 5.6m deep with its base set at about 46m OD, its north profile was rock-cut, with a steep inner profile (Fig. 15).

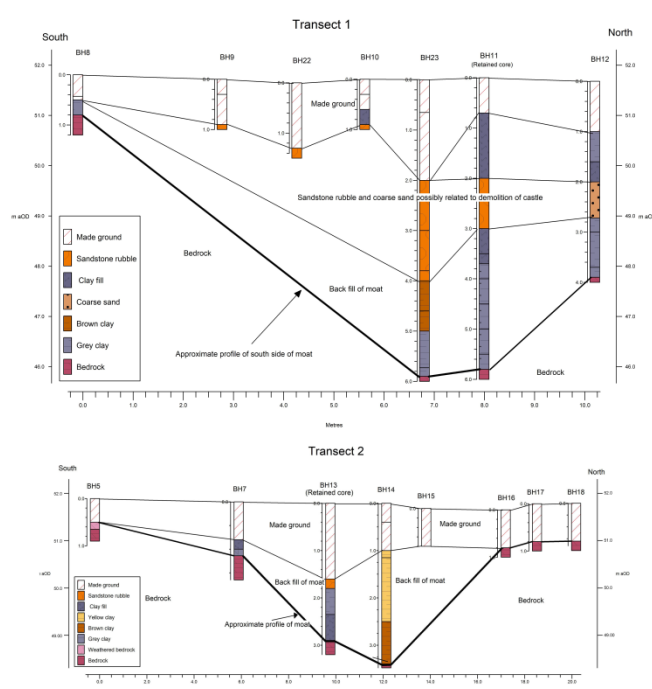


Figure 15 Transects showing profiles of the moat

A thick mixed clay backfill was recorded as the lowest fill of the moat. This was sealed by sandstone rubble and a brown mixture of sand and clay containing late 13th- to early 15th-century pottery (Coal Measures Whiteware type, Reduced Sandy ware and Sheffield type ware), uncharred plant seeds, and a rich assemblage of land snails. Bricks and other debris had been pushed into the top fill of the moat.

Two borehole transects (boreholes 4–18, 22 and 23) across the southern arm show that the moat here was 10.5m wide, up to 6m deep with both its sides cut into bedrock. Near the gatehouse the moat's base is recorded at 45.5m OD. Slightly to the west, the moat has a flat base which is recorded at 49m OD.

The analysis of pollen from the samples taken from several levels within the moat confirm presence of elm, hazel and alder (found in basal fills), and cereal pollen, meadowsweet and the rose family (found in the upper fills). Analysis of ostracods and diatoms show that in this part the moat was filled intermittently with still, heavily polluted, shallow water, but also that the moat experienced dry periods.

The most unexpected result from the south moat came in the form of radiocarbon dates which span the period from the Late Glacial through to the Bronze Age (Table 2) but have not produced a single medieval date.

The east moat was investigated by Trenches 10 and 11. Trench 10 was an extension of the evaluation carried out by ARCUS in 1999 which showed that the west side of the east moat was cut into bedrock but that it was less steep-sided than the west or the south moat (Davies 2000). The east moat was 8.5m wide and around 2.5m deep, under up to 4.5m of fills deposited during the Civil War and later post-medieval and modern material. The east moat was narrower and shallower than the south moat, but its base was deeper although not reached, even though the trench was excavated to a depth of 6m (44.53m OD).

The east side of the east moat is a gently sloping clay bank (Fig. 16) made of three layers of clean redeposited alluvium, similar in composition to that from which the motte was constructed and probably deposited at the same time.

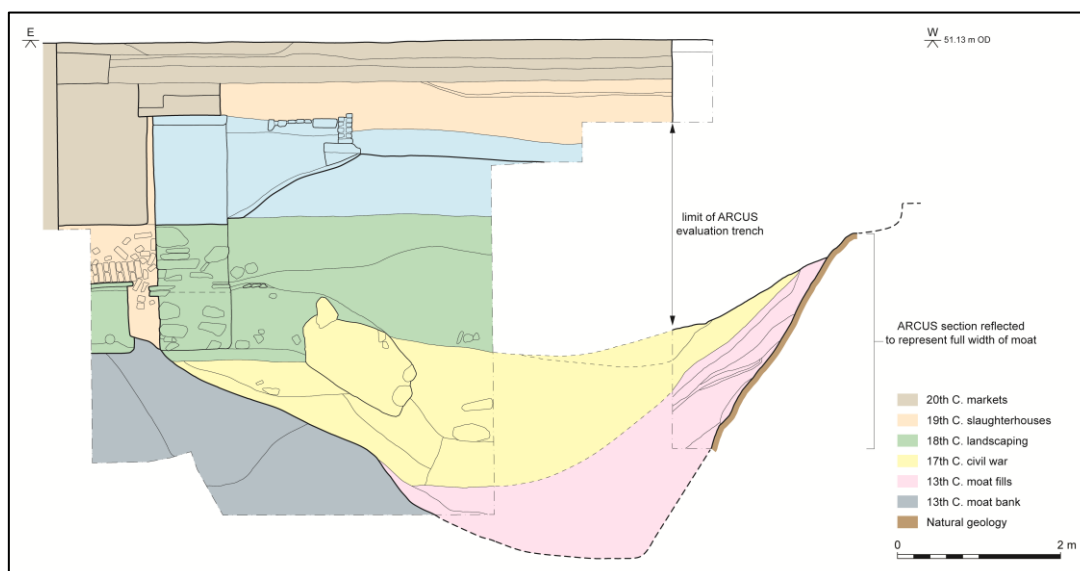


Figure 16 Moat in Trench 10

Thirteenth to 15th -century pottery (Humberware and Sheffield ware) was found within the bank while a possibly medieval rectangular fragment of a plinth and a 14th–15th-century voussoir from a large arch at least 3m wide came from the fills of the east moat.

Trench 11 (30m to the north) was positioned to detect evidence of the castle moat, however the earliest levels reached here (at 2.4m below ground) are levelling layers deposited for construction of a range of slaughterhouses prior to 1800.

Sheffield Castle in the Late Medieval and Post-medieval Periods

A small cobblestone surface recorded in the south-east corner of Trench 1 is the only evidence of the late medieval period of the site found during the evaluation (Fig. 17). This surface, a possible yard, was found at about 54.5m OD and was dated to the 15th to early 16th centuries by five fragments of pottery of Late Medieval Sandy ware type found between the cobbles.



Figure 17 Late medieval surface in Trench 1

The 17th-century layers were recorded in Trench 10 (fills on top of the moat) and these were composed of redeposited alluvium, probably representing the upcast from slighting works and therefore redeposited for a second time. The artefacts included just two sherds of the 17th-century pottery along with residual 14th- and 15th/16th-century pottery (Blackware and Blackware type ware, Coal Measures Purple ware and Coal Measures type ware). Two large pieces of the lime mortar-bonded rubble core of walls were also found in the 17th-century moat fills. In addition to this, a very thin layer (0.15m) of orange red sand with stone and brick rubble inclusions was found on top of the late medieval cobblestone surface in Trench 1. Various pottery types found within this layer were all either from the 17th century or pre-dating it.

In the early 18th century more levelling material was laid down across the entire site. In Trenches 1 and 5 the levelling deposit was recorded immediately under two north-south oriented, parallel stone walls, 40m apart. These walls are at the expected position of the bowling green and are made of sandstone blocks bonded with lime mortar. The levelling layers contained the 18th-century pottery and clay pipe as well as intrusive later material.

Another drastic change in the landscape occurred with the construction of a series of slaughterhouses along the banks of the River Don and the River Sheaf. This was evidenced in Trench 11 where rough sandstone bases bonded with lime mortar were dug into levelling layers of alluvial clay. Thresholds for three rooms and handmade brick walls were also recorded in Trench 11. In one of the rooms a floor made of sandstone flags was sloping towards the north facilitating drainage from the slaughterhouse into the River Don (Fig. 18).



Figure 18 Slaughterhouse in Trench 11

Elements of slaughterhouses were also recorded in Trench 10 where two cobbled surfaces and a wall were also found. The cobbled surfaces, probably a yard and a lane depicted on the 1853 and 1892 Ordnance Survey maps were divided by an almost 1m wide wall. The wall was east-west oriented, rebuilt and used as a wall of slaughterhouses when that industry expanded to this part of the site in the 19th century. These slaughterhouses were used up until 1928 and had several modifications during the intervening 130 years.

In addition, in Trench 10, a flagstone surface of a narrow lane extending from Shambles Lane (later Castle Folds Lane) towards the River Sheaf was recorded sitting on the top of the eastern bank of the moat. This lane is depicted on the 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps (Fig. 19).



Figure 19 Ordnance Survey Map, 1892 showing the lane between the Castle Folds Lane and the River Sheaf mirroring the course of the moat reproduced with permission of Sheffield City Council



Figure 20 Remains of the cementation furnace in Trench 1

Steelworks

The remains of a cementation furnace and associated structures known from the late-19th-century maps were investigated in Trench 1 (Fig. 20).

The furnace was poorly preserved, made in substantial sandstone blocks and handmade bricks. One of the chambers probably acted as a fire or ash pit for the furnace. Iron bars built into the structure were also recorded. Redeposited ash and heat-affected materials from the furnace were used as a backfill in which lumps of ganister (a refractory grade of sandstone), crozzle (vitrified lining of the furnace chest) and rubble were also found. Even though the furnace chest has been removed, the excavation yielded sufficient evidence to confirm that the furnace remains correspond to cementation furnaces excavated elsewhere in Sheffield, for example at Hollis Croft (Wessex Archaeology 2019). Other steelworks related remains were found in Trench 1 (and also in Trenches 2, 3 and 5) include boundary walls and stone capped drains.

In Trench 3 the remains of a weighbridge, depicted on the 1892 Ordnance Survey map by the letters 'W.M.' (weighing machine) were found. The weighbridge was a brick-lined pit with sandstone corner stanchions and a maintenance access passage. In the same trench a small surface attributed to the cobbled Castle Hill Road, shown on the 1853 Ordnance Survey map, were also found.

Further to the west, in Trench 4 exterior and interior brick walls bonded with lime mortar and ash mortar sitting on sandstone representing remains of steelworks associated buildings and rooms were identified. Within one of the rooms was a pair of large, reused sandstone blocks (0.9m x 0.4m x 0.3m) probably used as a base (of a machine?). Fittings on the underside of the blocks indicated that they had previously been used for this purpose, possibly in another setting.

The above-mentioned features truncated the remains found in the south end of Trench 4: brick and lime mortar wall, kerbs, flagstone, cobblestone and sett surfaces. These features, north-east to south-west aligned, are depicted on the 1853 Ordnance Survey map. In the north end of the trench, at 53.42m OD, was an exhaust gas flue perhaps associated with a boiler or some other industrial process. The sides of the flue were constructed of firebricks and the base comprised handmade red bricks covered in a refractory sand.

Summary and Conclusion

The 2018 evaluation of the site of Sheffield Castle enriched and expanded our understating of the development of Sheffield and its medieval past. It has also, for the first time in the history of the archaeological investigations of the site, recorded the remains spanning the period from the post-medieval times to the 21st century. For the first time ever, the site was excavated, recorded, visited and its history appreciated by volunteers and thousands of members of the public.

The evaluation unearthed the evidence of the first Sheffield Castle: a motte and an enclosure with an entrance defined by the gullies and the postholes which were used in the middle of the 12th century. A slightly later in date cobbled surface of a possible courtyard separated these two areas. The burnt wood and organic remains of the early castle and the motte's stone support were amongst the evidence of one of, most likely, many fires that happened in the mid- and late 13th century.

Levelling layers found throughout the site and throughout all periods illustrate the continuous development and re-building of the site – a process that is still ongoing.

The evaluation also showed that the moat was not uniform in shape, width and depth and that some of its fills date from the prehistoric times. The scientific evidence (ostracods and diatoms) now tell us that the south part of the moat was not filled with water from either of the rivers, but that it rather contained heavily polluted puddles. The west arm is probably under the modern Wingate Street. The projection of the east side of the moat is seen as a narrow lane visible on the 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps. The projection of the lane suggests that the moat continues towards the River Don, although the evaluation failed to confirm that it joined the river. The remains of a building with staircase found in the north-east corner of the site attest to medieval buildings not only surviving the Civil War but being in use in the 18th century, maybe even as part of a bowling green. The remains of the bowling green, which was present on site for at least 80 years and was surrounded by cottages and other properties and overlooked the allotments, the gardens and the River Sheaf to the east and the River Don to the north, were represented by two parallel walls 25m apart.

In the late 18th century the site dramatically changed to include slaughterhouses (surviving underground as walls, thresholds and sloping stone floors) which kept expanding from the rows parallel to the River Don to an area perpendicular to the River Sheaf. The slaughterhouses were in use up to the early 20th century when they were demolished.

Steel production present on site from at least the early 19th century expanded to occupy the entire site by the mid-19th century. In addition to steel production, the site housed workshops which manufactured edge tools and cutlery. The development of the site in the late 19th century saw the steel production and associated manufacturing gradually being taken over by merchants of various goods. The shops incorporated into the markets in the 20th century continued to be the main activity on the site well into the 21st century.

This site provides evidence for the beginnings of Sheffield, its medieval architecture, power, wealth and politics. While of unparalleled importance for the development of the city, Sheffield Castle was just one of the properties owned by the wealthy, well-connected, noble and aristocratic families in the country. The results of the 2018 evaluation show that the site became even more important to Sheffield's identity when ordinary people – workers, butchers and merchants – established their trades including those that made Sheffield a world-famous city. The site finds a new significance and a lease of life through the interaction with the new Sheffielders who came to dig and leave their mark on the history of the constant development and change of the site.

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Fieldwork and Excavation at Aldborough

(*Isurium Brigantum*) 2009–2019

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Abstract

This paper summarises the research that has been undertaken at the Roman town of Aldborough (Isurium Brigantum) since 2009. This work is situated in the context of previous work on the site. Information is given about the publication of this research with links to a large amount of information now made available through open-access digital archives in Cambridge.

Background

Aldborough is the site of the Roman town of *Isurium Brigantum*, the principal town of the *civitas* of the Brigantes, and as such one of the main civilian centres of the Roman north. Although there is considerable debate about the nature of the Brigantes and the extent of their territory, it seems clear that this extended across much of northern England as far as Hadrian's Wall. Whatever its exact geographical extent, it also seems certain that although the *civitas* developed out of an indigenous Iron Age population group, its Roman manifestation was the product of the imposition of the Roman administrative system on a largely decentralised local population. In this sense, it is difficult to equate its development with *civitates* in south-east England where there is greater evidence for social continuity from the Late Iron Age. Equally, the traditional view that sort to explain urban development simply as a by-product of Roman military dispositions has long been discredited. However, the absence of evidence for any Pre-Roman Iron Age centre in or near Aldborough, contrasts with the strong evidence for an important indigenous focus at Stanwick and Scotch Corner in the Tees valley and this raises important questions about the processes leading to Aldborough's foundation and development. These questions are not only of local relevance, but have broader importance in understanding urban development in the hinterlands of the frontiers of the Roman Empire more widely.

Against this background which suggests that Aldborough is a key site for any understanding of the Roman North, the history of archaeological research there is somewhat paradoxical. On the one hand, in contrast to many places in Britain, serious investigation and recording began very early, with good information going back to the end of the 17th century. This tradition continued, with a particularly energetic period of exploration in the 1830s–40s after Andrew Lawson acquired the Aldborough Manor estate (Ecroyd Smith 1852). By contrast, with the exception of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society's excavations on the defences in 1934–38 (Myres *et al.* 1959) and a major field-survey of the towns' environs in the 1980s–90s, systematic research was remarkably limited until recently. Hence, the town does not figure as it ought to in many accounts of Roman Britain.

This situation has changed significantly since our project began in 2009, and it is the purpose of short paper to draw attention to the work since then, and to give CBA Yorkshire members notice of the full publications now appearing. These extensive sources provide full details of the work we are doing, and as the project is committed to full open access digital publication, it is unnecessary to do more than summarise our work here. Equally, given the nature of this paper, we have confined references to previous work to a minimum as the full and extensive bibliography for the site is readily available in the works cited.

The research we have been undertaking has been in two broad stages. In Stage 1, we undertook three connected pieces of work: geophysical surveys of the available areas within and around the Roman walled town; a collation of the results of antiquarian work and past excavations; and finally the analysis of the results of the 1980s–90s field survey.

In Stage 2 we have moved to limited excavation, re-opening parts of past excavations on the site in order to better understand that past work, to assess the survival of the structures they uncovered, and to provide chronological evidence about the development of the town. We will review this work briefly.

Survey

The work we started in 2009 initially involved magnetometry (fluxgate gradiometry) survey of the walled area of the Roman town, covering open areas including a number of private gardens. This was subsequently extended to extend across the areas beyond the town walls along the main Roman access roads. In total an area of about 100 ha was covered using this method. The results were generally excellent, providing clear details of many buildings and streets, as well a complex landscape of cemeteries and enclosures surrounding the town. The results have been fully mapped in our new publication, with an area by area description and analysis of the results (Ferraby and Millett 2020, chapter 3). A digital layered pdf of the results is also available (Ferraby and Millett 2019a).

In a few areas, either where the magnetometry results were masked by surface rubble, or where magnetometry was impossible (eg. on the modern road in front of the church), we complemented this with Ground-penetrating Radar survey. Initially in our coverage of the churchyard, this was done using a single antenna, but later working in collaboration with Ghent University larger areas were surveyed at high resolution using a multiple array. The results were extremely successful, allowing us to identify key structures and providing an extremely clear series of images of buried structures differentiated by depth. This information has been integrated with that from the magnetometry and an overview plan showing the results has also been published (Ferraby and Millett 2019a; Ferraby and Millett 2020, chapter 3).

Finally, whilst undertaking these geophysical surveys, we also collected spot height data across the town to enable us to better understand the complex surface topography of the site. This was enhanced with GPS and Total Station survey in other areas, so that we have now produced a close-interval contour survey of much of the Roman town (Ferraby and Millett 2019a). At the same time, we also establish the Ordnance Survey co-ordinates of a series of structures to enable us to accurately locate some of the antiquarian finds and past excavations (see below).

Antiquarian studies and past excavations

Alongside collecting new information through survey we have also completed a thorough re-examination of all past work on the site. This has involved locating all previously published information, assessing it, and attempting to georeference the findspots. This has resulted in the mapping of some 105 past discoveries and interventions which have been mapped and re-evaluated (Ferraby and Millett 2019a), with our monograph including the reproduction of a series of illustrations and plans that have not hitherto been available in print (Ferraby and Millett 2020, appendix 1)). This study not only provides an interesting account of the history of archaeology on the site (Ferraby and Millett 2020, chapter 2) but has also enabled us to reassess many of the discoveries in the light of current knowledge, forming the basis of our new synthesis of the development of the site (Ferraby and Millett 2020, chapter 4). This work has been complemented by Richard Brickstock's recent publication in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* of an analysis of the coins from the site, completed in conjunction with our survey (Brickstock 2019a). The full coin lists have also been published on-line (Brickstock 2019b).

Publishing previous surveys

An important field survey of the areas surrounding the walled Roman town was undertaken in the 1980s and 90s, initially led by Jennifer Price, but later developed on a large scale under the direction of Colin Dobinson. Working with them both, our project facilitated the study of the finds recovered from these surveys, leading to the publication of the results in a paper in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* (Dobinson *et al.* 2018) with the data fully published on-line (Millett *et al.* 2018).

Presenting new information from old excavations

As noted above, the second stage of our work at Aldborough has involved the re-excavation of selected areas dug in the past to retrieve new information. In 2016 small-scale work was completed next to the mosaics displayed on the English Heritage site, originally excavated in the 1840s (Ferraby and Millett 2020, appendix 1, gazetteer nos 22 and 104).

Here we examined a small part of the baths complex (Ecroyd Smith 1852, pl. 15), establishing that the 19th century survey plans were accurate and that the structures excavated remained in good condition (Ferraby and Millett 2019b).

Our 2017 trench re-opened part of the area beside the road in front of the church previously dug in 1770 (Ferraby and Millett 2020, appendix 1, gazetteer nos 6 and 105). It has long been believed that the extensive remains recorded here formed part of the *forum* of the Roman town, and our antiquarian work had revealed new sources of information about this early excavation. Our GPR survey (above) established the likely survival of the walls of the *forum* beneath the modern road, and this excavation (in a very restricted area) confirmed this and also enabled us to date its construction, to examine and sample 1st century AD pre-forum deposits, and establish the date for its conversion to other uses (Ferraby and Millett 2019c; 2019e)

The 2018 excavation looked at part of a structure in the NE quarter of the site that was exposed during the 1924 excavation campaign. Here we were able to identify a 1st–2nd century buried soil at the base of the sequence, and date the construction of a huge warehouse located in the magnetometry survey the northern end of which was labelled as ‘Masonry T’ when dug in 1924 (Ferraby and Millett 2020, appendix 1, gazetteer no. 38). This can now be dated to the mid to late third century, and is probably a warehouse associated with the collection of taxes by the provincial administration (Ferraby and Millett 2019d).

Most recently, in our 2019 season we examined an area a little distance inside the North Gate that was also explored in 1924 (Ferraby and Millett 2020, appendix 1, gazetteer no. 34/3). This work will be completed in the summer of 2020 with a continuation of examination of the area opened in 2019. The results showed that the 1924 excavators although clearing a fairly extensive area they only excavated more deeply in a very limited zone. Our excavation revealed a long and complex sequence at the intersection between the road to the gate and the most northerly street in the town’s grid. This included a sequence of 4th–5th century timber buildings overlying structures that faced onto the road to the North Gate. At the base of the sequence was a blacksmith’s workshop and timber buildings.

We are in the process of completing the post-excavation analysis of the material from the 2016–18 excavations, and have begun work on the 2019 material. The intention is to deposit full archives including specialist reports on the University of Cambridge’s open access digital repository so that they are published and freely available. We will also prepare journal papers to report the results in a widely available synthesis.

Conclusions

Our work since 2019 has now produced a great deal of new information about Roman Aldborough which is in the process of being published. Our discussion of the development of the town (Ferraby and Millett 2020, chapter 4) provides an entirely new synthesis and suggests a series of new interpretations that have wide implications for our broader understanding of the Roman North. We are committed to continuing this research, developing excavations that provide local volunteers with experience of archaeology through a cutting edge research project. We are also committed to making our data fully available digitally and on-line, so keep an eye on the Cambridge University digital repository where many of the items listed in the bibliography are already available. We will be adding new material soon.

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A project like this has only worked through collaboration between the survey team and local people. We have been extremely lucky to have been allowed unfettered access to survey on farmland and in private gardens – we are grateful to all those who have facilitated this.

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Echoes of a Forgotten Past: Young Archaeologists help Rediscover an almost Remembered Icehouse.

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Abstract

This is a story about how a Young Archaeologists Club helped to rediscover an icehouse in the very park where they are based, Middleton Park, Leeds. Their two digs continued the exploratory work of Friends of Middleton Park and the initial dig of South Leeds Archaeology. Together with a little bit of background detection work they began to form the story of the Middleton Lodge Icehouse, and had lots of fun in the process.

Leeds YAC

The Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) is the only UK-wide club where 8-16 year olds can participate in real archaeology. YAC explores all areas of human history; the Romans, Vikings, Ancient Egyptians and Victorians etc. Leeds YAC members take part in fantastic, hands-on activities, such as working with artefacts, visiting historical sites and at least once a year members are given the opportunity to try their hand at real excavation. Leeds YAC made its home at Middleton Park following support from the Heritage Lottery Funded project 'Parks for People', Leeds City Council and Wade's Charity, for the creation of a Visitor Centre and school outreach programme, the History Detectives, Leeds YAC precursor, led by Louise Martin.

Background

Middleton Park lies to the south of Leeds, West Yorkshire. The parkland and woods were formerly part of the Manor of Middleton, subsequently the Middleton Estate. Between 2006 and 2008, Heritage Lottery funded "Middleton Park Community Archaeological Survey" was conducted by the Friends of Middleton Park, under the guidance of Martin Roe. The survey investigated the extensive early mining remains within the park, parts of which are designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Coal has been mined on the estate from the medieval period. By 1646 the land and woods were valued at £60 a year together with a "colemyne" valued at £350 per year. The discovery in the 1750's of a deeper rich coal seam made the Middleton Colliery the main supplier of coal to Leeds, 4 miles to the north, to the financial benefit of the owners, the Brandling family.

The wood on the land in front of Middleton Lodge was felled and sold in the 1750's, creating the parkland; there is an advert in the Leeds Intelligencer in 1756 for a large sale of wood. Middleton Lodge was built around the 1760's for Charles Brandling, after he had had Thomas Paine design and build his main residence, Gosforth House (now Newcastle Racecourse), just outside Newcastle. It has previously been suggested that the Lodge and estate grounds were also designed by Thomas Paine, though there is no documentary evidence for this, nor firm date for the construction of the Lodge. The Lodge was certainly built by 1766 when a child from there is recorded to have died. From sale advertisements in the early 1800's, it can be inferred that the Lodge had all the usual gardens, hothouses, glasshouses, estate and outbuildings of a well-appointed country hall.

In the 1860's the estate was taken over by the Middleton Estate and Colliery Company and the Lodge became the residence of Edmund Maud, who was a shareholder in the company. In 1920 the Estate passed to Wades Charity and Leeds City Council, though the Lodge was continued to be used as a residence by Miss Maud, granddaughter of Edmund Maud, until her death in 1933. From 1934 the Lodge served as Club house for the Middleton Park Municipal Golf Course, but after a new Club House was built in the 1980's the empty Lodge suffered vandalism and a fire which resulted in its demolition in 1991. The outbuildings etc. had previously been demolished in the 1950's.

Nowhere in the documented history was there any mention, or even an echo, of an icehouse, even though every well-appointed country house of the period had one. The "Middleton Park Community Archaeological Survey" made no reference to an icehouse – they had not found one.

An Echo of a Forgotten Past

However, when the survey team interviewed a retired Park Groundsman, Robin Silverwood, he mentioned that a long road down a near north facing slope, not far from the site of the Lodge, had been known as "Ice Hill" when he was a young apprentice. Suddenly, a nearly forgotten echo began to amplify throughout Middleton Park. Martin Roe, the professional archaeologist leading the survey, picked up the echo and suggested there could be an icehouse located in the shadow of the slope.

This echo also intrigued Paul Hebden, one of the Friends and a member of the earlier survey team. Over the following years he searched the area for any remains that could be possibly be an icehouse. Early in 2013 he found, deep under the leaf mould, the curved row of old bricks lying at the foot of Ice Hill (Figure 1).



Figure 1 The site in 2013 before any excavation. A brick edge is just visible through the leaf litter
©Mike Turpin

2013 Investigation

A few old bricks really could have been anything; Friends of Middleton Park invited members of South Leeds Archaeology (SLA) to investigate. In May 2013, SLA chairman Paul Boothroyd and others undertook an exploratory dig in the shadow of Ice Hill. As the photograph shows, the dig found a substantial brick lined hole, dug partially into the slope. The bricks were handmade, of the sort used for the Lodge. The lining of the hole appeared to consist of an inner triple row of bricks, with an earth packed gap, and a second outer double layer of bricks. This excessively thick brick lining, with an apparent air gap (albeit filled in) is typical of icehouse construction. A foundation layer of stonework was found on the outside of the brickwork, indicating possible stone-facing on the dome covering the icehouse. Unfortunately, no threshold or entrance to the hole was found.

At the start of the dig, the team made an initial guess as to where the entrance might be, based on the most convenient and accessible location. At the end of the dig, there were no signs of the entrance, then the team realised they were out by 180°. They had piled their spoil over what was probably the actual icehouse entrance! (Figure 2)



Figure 2 Paul Boothroyd stood in the heavily brick lined Ice Cone at the end of the South Leeds Archaeology dig in 2013. He appears to be pointing to the spoil heap that is over the Ice House entrance
©Mike Turpin

The 2013 dig had confirmed the discovery of the Middleton Lodge Icehouse, but questions were unanswered; was the entrance really under the spoil heap and what was the icehouse's overall shape? Sadly, not long after 2013, Paul Boothroyd passed away, and SLA did not return to answer these questions.

Leeds YAC answer the echo in 2017

These questions continued to echo throughout the park and in 2017 the leaders of Leeds YAC couldn't source an excavation for members to participate in. So, with the support of SLA and Leeds City Council, Leeds YAC decided to answer the call.



Figure 3 Young, and not so young, Archaeologists being instructed in the 2017 dig ©Leeds YAC



Figure 4 YAC Members digging and recording in the 2017 dig. ©Leeds YAC

Clues on the ground echoed the location of the entranceway. Leeds YAC decided to follow and see what further forgotten histories lay hidden in the overgrowth. They removed the overlying spoil from the earlier dig, and quickly the youth members of YAC uncovered the northern wall of the entranceway (Figure 5).



Figure 5 At the end of the 2017 dig, showing the excavated wall that forms part of the Ice House entrance. ©Leeds YAC

Surprisingly it didn't extend all the way to the most easterly trench inferring there must be a return, and therefore a shorter entrance than anticipated. The top and the northern elevation of the wall were exposed to 2.25m in length and 0.45m in depth. Based on the brickwork setting it was inferred that the thresholds from outside and into the brick lined hole had been identified to the south and west respectively.

A second small trench was placed on the internal elevation of the icehouse. Icehouses were typically conical, narrowing with depth, often with a dome or other roofed structure; curiously this icehouse seemed to get wider as it got deeper. (Figure 6 from Buxbaum (see references))

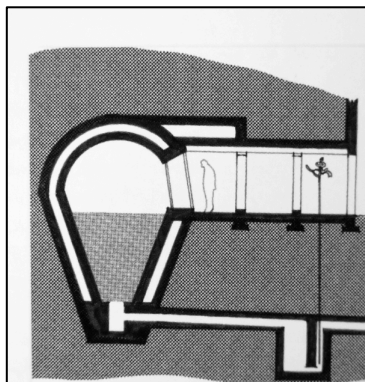


Figure 6 Cross Section of diagrammatic ice house

By the end of the weekend we had even more questions: where were the other walls of the entrance and its floor; how deep did the internal structure get before it started to get narrower? Unfortunately, Leeds YAC and SLA did not know if there would be another opportunity to come back.

Desk Based Research

Meanwhile, a search of the digitised maps at the National Library of Scotland revealed something curious. The 25-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1922 (last survey revision 1919) showed an "Old Shaft" at the icehouse position (Figure 7). Curiously the map shows an "igloo" footprint; classic of an icehouse, not a shaft opening. The orientation of the entrance was the same as the wall rediscovered by YAC. Despite the number of mine shafts scattered throughout Middleton Park, no other showed an "igloo" structure.



Figure 7 OS25inch 1922 map showing "igloo" shaped "Old Shaft".

Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland <https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>

In the short space of time from the end of the 18th century to the beginning of 20th century Middleton Park's legacy as a mining area echoed louder than the Lodge's domestic arrangements; it would seem the icehouse had already been formally forgotten; just another 'Old Shaft' – just an unfortunate guess by the OS surveyors? Such dismissive interpretation suggests the icehouse superstructure had already been demolished, leaving just the "igloo" plan, which on the ground could easily have looked like a mine shaft, if one ignores the footings of the entrance!

There is no indication when the icehouse was razed or, indeed, when it ceased to be used. From the latter half of the 1800's, commercial ice-making machines were being introduced, and eventually artificially produced ice at any time of the year, made icehouses redundant.

In the 1920s a light railway was built from Leeds through the woods to carry building materials for the construction of a large municipal housing estate on the Middleton plateau, only yards from the 'forgotten' icehouse. A couple of years later it was converted to a public electric tramway between Leeds and Middleton. Who knows how many people passed it without hearing its echo over the sound of the tram tracks? (Figure 8)



Figure 8 Leeds Tram passing close by the Ice House © Travel Lens Photographic

It is possible that the icehouse was used for less than 100 years, only to be demolished, covered by leaf mould, and forgotten, for more than 100 years.

2019 Investigation

In 2019, the echoes of the unanswered questions of the icehouse were still with Leeds YAC; where were the other walls of the entrance and what was the true plan of the structure? Leeds YAC could not ignore the echo.

With continued permission they excavated a new trench. In 2017 the excavation was split into the children's area around the entrance and the adult's area within the main circular structure. The members of Leeds YAC proved themselves responsible, capable and safe, so in 2019 they were given the opportunity not just to excavate the entrance with trowels, but also the main structure using larger hand tools such as shovels and mattocks. This excavation, more so than that of 2017, gave the members opportunities to experience all aspects of archaeological investigation: very quickly the YAC members found their favourite parts of the excavation. Some settled in to carefully removing the vegetation incursion from the entrance and brickwork using trowels, hand shovels and buckets; some gained a sense of achievement with the physically demanding bulk soil removal from inside the structure using larger hand tools such as mattocks and shovels; some took pride in cleaning the site up in preparation to take photographs; some showed an interest in other aspects of recording such as technical drawing; the concept of robotic survey equipment appealed to the gadget lover in everyone; all joined in vocalising their observations so that they could be committed to record.

Very little of the work was done by the supervising adults, except some of those who got a little over excited when the form of the entrance started taking real shape and went ‘wall chasing’, and of course when the rain came down! Biscuits and juice were provided in the equipment van whilst some of the adults carried on in the wet. The activities the members of YAC participated in were entirely their choice, contrasting with commercial based excavations where a bit of delegation is usually required. The supervising adults assisted in ensuring that all aspects of the investigation were being undertaken in order to answer all the questions that echoed around the icehouse.



Figure 9 Lots of Activity on the first day of the 2019 YAC dig. ©Leeds YAC



Figure 10 The site at the end of the first day of the 2019 dig. The start of a possible air gap in the circular brick work can be seen, as can the entrance wall return. ©Leeds YAC

A decision was made to investigate the internal footprint between the entrance and the circular structure of the icehouse. The wall to the south had fewer courses than that of the north, due to it being built on the upslope of Ice Hill, the brickwork being built directly onto the natural, yellow sandstone. This was thought at first to be a compressed floor surface but having a floor surface that sloped with the hillside made no sense. Is it possible that the icehouse had been razed below the occupation level within the entrance?

With a little teamwork, over the course of the weekend the full plan of the entrance became apparent; square and squat. (Figure 11)



Figure 11 The entrance at the end of the 2019 dig ©Leeds YAC



Figure 12 It can get crowded, but everyone looks happy. 2019 dig ©Leeds YAC



Figure 13 Adults stand around talking, while the youngsters get on with the work! 2019 dig. ©Leeds YAC

Interpretation

Three seasons of investigation by SLA and Leeds YAC meant that the icehouse, forgotten, remembered only as a whisper – a possible mine shaft – was rediscovered. An understanding of its shape, construction and function was being defined.

The main structure of Middleton Lodge Icehouse is circular with a square entrance built against its eastern side. This entrance was constructed directly on top of the natural underlying sandstone slope. So, whilst the brick courses were laid level, more courses existed along the northern wall, laid on the downslope, than the southern wall. Icehouse entrances were usually long both to keep heat out and to accommodate ladders for accessibility. Middleton Icehouse's position in the shadow of, and partially built into, the north facing slope may have allowed a shorter entrance to function well enough. A question still echoes: did they use ladders to get in and out, how and where were they kept?



Figure 14 The complete icehouse taken with a pole camera. A door post hole can be seen on the inner circle of bricks.

©Leeds YAC

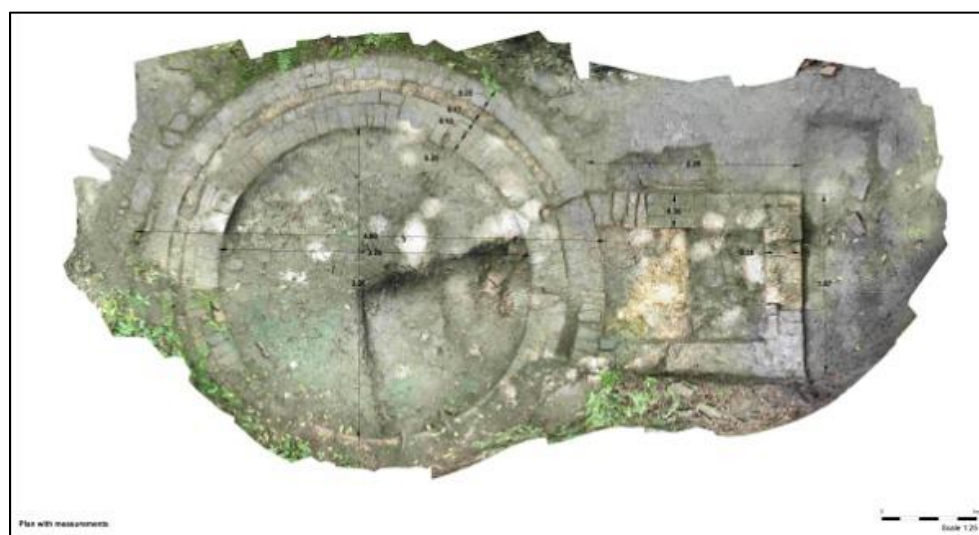


Figure 15 Site plan from 2019, with measurements, produced by CFA Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Leeds YAC using photogrammetry techniques and software.

©Leeds YAC

The investigations also revealed a possible door jamb (Figures 14, 15), and therefore threshold into the main icehouse structure. Within the internal circular structure of the icehouse the bricks followed a very regular pattern until they reach the entrance. (Figures 14, 15) At this point the row of bricks was interrupted by a square gap. The gap that separates the internal row of bricks from the external row was also blocked up at this point by a square brick. This may be brick displacement, however, within the gap there is an obvious mortar layer and difference in brick levels, which does not exist within the area of brickwork that aligns with the internal footprint of the entrance way. Whilst all this may be the result of the demolition of the structure, it is possible these represent deliberate design to accommodate a door or a threshold, albeit a narrow one.

To the south, butting up against the upslope of Ice Hill, the brickwork survives to higher level than the rest of the exposed circular structure. It is clear at this point that there is a designed air gap above the mortar layer Figs (11, 14, 15) . It is uncertain as to whether this gap extended all the way round the circumference. Perhaps quite innovatively, rather than a swing door in a small space, could YAC have rediscovered a sliding door system within something as circumscribed as an icehouse?

Most likely however, the gap represents an air cavity, technology which would have kept hot things hot or cold things cold! It is unexpected to find this within the dome structure, so more questions started to echo as the surface debris was cleaned up; beneath the mortar layer were bricks. (Fig 10)

Is this a standalone course engineered at the point of ground level to provide structural stability? Whether or not there is an air cavity below this would not be determinable without structural deconstruction.

The widening of the circular structure with depth would suggest that the three digs so far have only just investigated the dome of the icehouse, cut much deeper into the sandstone than expected. Other clues, as well as the documentary evidence, are beginning to provide depth to its understanding: a possible chute, a possible meltwater drain.

The 18th century was the last of five centuries known as the ‘Little Ice Age’; 400 years of global cooling making areas of water freeze far more regularly and more intensively than is witnessed today. The road which may have carried ice carts from the lake would pass the top of the slope, where there are vague signs of ... something.

Running upslope from the south-east corner of the entrance is a slight depression just visible under the vegetation. Without further investigation it is hard to say whether this is natural or person made, but if it is person made is it possibly a chute designed to transfer ice from the lake in Middleton Park, the most likely source of ice?

The technology was there within this landscape to transport goods up and down slopes, so was this applied to the transportation of ice? A sensible question.

Exploring downslope from the icehouse, poking out from the vegetation is a possible meltwater drain. Icehouses were not freezers, but they would delay ice melting. It wouldn't do to allow water to build up in the subterranean structure as this would speed up the process of the ice melting. Icehouses had a drain at the bottom to syphon off the meltwater. It would be unsafe to encourage the young members of YAC and the wider community to empty out the icehouse structure to try to find the meltwater drain and identify the true shape and depth of the icehouse; icehouses can be potentially over 5m deep, some have been known to up to 20m in depth. Investigation of this drain through surveying techniques and mini excavation, if possible, may help to confirm the depth of this structure.

Sharing What Was Learnt

Dissemination and sharing are important in archaeology so that the past is better understood, so that alternative ways of living can be identified and learnt from, and how the present came into being. Leeds YAC aim to share their discovery, so that the past of Middleton Park is remembered. In sharing what they have rediscovered and researching what others have shared, comparisons can begin to be made, identifying the norm and the unique. The bigger the dataset that can be created, it is with greater confidence that interpretations can be made. In sharing their rediscovery, Leeds YAC hope to inspire the creative minds of the community to imagine and interpret the past.

Thank You

So, Leeds YAC thank you for allowing them to share and helping them to remember their nearly forgotten icehouse. They'd also like to thank Leeds City Council for giving them permission to investigate this unique and fascinating structure within the park.

Thanks are also due for the wonderful help from members of South Leeds Archaeology and the Friends of Middleton Park. They'd like to thank all their members without whom this investigation would not be possible, and for the assistance of Pontefract and York YAC. In 2017 CITiZAN offered their support with the provision of equipment, and CFA Archaeology Ltd have had a presence both years in providing professional advice, recording equipment and assisting in the interpretation of the data that has been collected. They have produced a photogrammetry 3D model of the Icehouse, from which plans and elevation sections have been produced with dimensions (Fig 15) and relative height data. At the 2019 dig Gavin Johnson, a local film maker, came along several times and has produced a 10 minute video of the weekend dig, for which many thanks. Leeds YAC are still considering their data, so if anyone has any thoughts or expertise they would like to share, please get in touch.

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Icehouses Tim Buxbaum Shire Publications

Leeds YAC <https://www.facebook.com/yac.leeds> Contact: leedsyac@gmail.com

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Excavation at Aldborough Moor Farm by the Roman Roads Research Association, 2019

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Abstract

In 2016, aerial photography revealed that part of the Roman road from York to Aldborough (RR8a) appeared to have a complex construction, possibly comprising three carriageways. Subsequent geophysical survey, whilst failing to reveal the road, did identify a nearby complex of enclosures of probable Roman date. In September and October this year (2019), the Roman Roads Research Association (RRRA) embarked on an ambitious volunteer and community excavation to investigate the road, and assess the enclosures for potential Roman period settlement. The excavation was a huge success, both in terms of the importance of the archaeology and equally importantly in its community involvement.

Introduction & Background

The following is a brief account of the Roman Roads Research Association's (RRRA) recent excavation at Aldborough Moor Farm, Marton-cum-Grafton, N. Yorkshire. An interim report will be made available next year on the RRRA website (www.romanroads.org).

The general course of the Roman road (RR8a) from Eboracum (York) to Isurium Brigantum (Aldborough, North Yorkshire), is for the most part well established (Margary 1974 p.427; Haken 2017), and is marked for much of its length by the course of modern roads.

At Aldborough Moor Farm, located where the modern B6265 bears towards the north west to head towards Boroughbridge, the Roman line to Aldborough is marked on the 1895 6 inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map, carrying straight on across the fields until it's course towards Isurium's east gate is joined, and marked, by Dunsforth Road (figure 1).

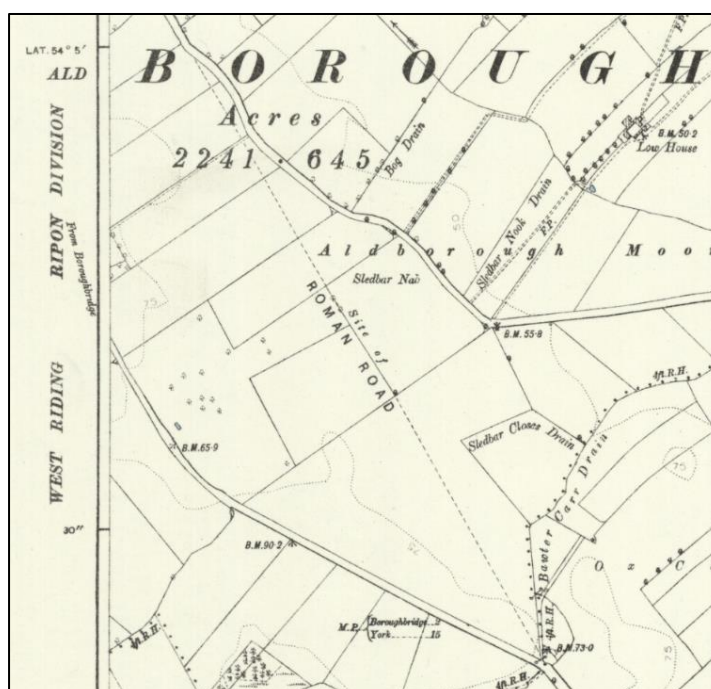


Figure 1 Ordnance Survey, 1895, 6 inches to the mile, showing the course of the Roman road - Aldborough Moor Farm did not yet exist. Reproduced from National Library of Scotland under CC-BY-NC-SA Licence

In 2016, Tony Hunt took a series of photographs of those fields with a drone, revealing a series of cropmarks marking the Roman road very clearly (A M Hunt 2016, pers. comm.). Whilst close to the line marked by the Ordnance Survey, they did not agree with precision, and appeared to suggest the possibility of three carriageways, along with some possible misalignment of the road. Further cropmarks a short distance west of the Roman road appeared to confirm features identified in 2011 in the National Monuments Record (Pastscape 2019) as a rectilinear enclosure and other linear ditches and field boundaries. Subsequent aerals taken with a drone by the author in the summer of 2018 (figure 2) added further clarity.



Figure 2 Orthomosaic photo of the site. © Mike Haken 2018

Sometimes, fate takes peculiar turns that no-one could ever expect. Albert Hills, who takes care of all permissions for RRRA geophysics and fieldwork, was totally unaware that his brother Derek had bought Aldborough Moor Farm a few years ago! Without any encouragement from Albert, Derek and his son Stephen are keen to know what lies beneath their land, so taking every advantage of this serendipitous coincidence, the RRRA undertook a geophysical survey of the field in question prior to our excavation which commenced in September 2019. This work was later supplemented in October by a survey of most of the field to the north west, in different ownership, the combined results being shown in figure 3.



Figure 3 Gradiometer results from Aldborough Moor Farm and adjacent land, with the course of the Roman road and trench locations added. ©James Lyall & RRRA 2019

It quickly became very clear that none of the road features showed at all on the gradiometer plot, an observation that had been made during a previous gradiometer survey on the road in this field by Nick Wilson, as part of his PhD research (N Wilson, pers. comms. 2019). The superficial geology of the site is all glacial deposit, with belts of clay, sand, and gravels, and it was thought that the large amorphous areas of high readings visible on the plot just where the road passes, may have been caused by an iron rich clay deposit, which in turn may in some way have had influence over the results. It was also apparent that the rectilinear enclosure previously noted was actually much more complex than previously realised, and may well have been a small settlement placed alongside a trackway which branched off the Roman road.

The Metal Detecting Survey

After a thorough assessment of both the aerial photographs and the gradiometer survey, it was decided to conduct a thorough metal detecting survey on the enclosures, partly to attempt to glean potentially dating evidence from the plough soil, but also to discourage unwanted attention from nighthawks. Dunelm Metal Detector Club from Durham, known to be a responsible group who have done archaeological work before, were invited to undertake the survey. About 1.2 Ha was divided into 2m wide strips, and two strips allocated to each individual detectorist. In theory, only non-ferrous objects were to be detected, although several iron objects were in fact recovered. As a matter of policy, all finds were recorded, irrespective of their likely date, and their find spots recorded with GPS.

Results from the enclosures were quite disappointing, with only nine of some 81 finds recovered being possibly Roman, including five coins and a brooch. Only one of the coins was identifiable, a so-called “campgate” of Constantine 1 (307 – 337 AD).

A nicely preserved Victorian halfpenny from 1876 was also found, and also a very well-worn 1686 halfpenny of James II, minted in Dublin – one wonders how that ended up in a field in north Yorkshire! Following the structured survey, the detectorists were then asked to turn their attentions to the area at the bottom of the hill near the Roman road, with some very unexpected results. On this occasion some 55 finds were recorded, of which 15 are probably Roman with a few more which could potentially be. Two interesting brooches were recorded, one being a mid-1st century Langton Down type, and a second being a Headstud brooch with enamel latticed decoration which lacks the column base foot so characteristic of the type. Only four from some twelve coins or fragments could be dated with any confidence, all early 4th century AD. Most interesting of all however was the distribution of the finds, the majority of Roman items coming from a narrow band along the course of the Roman road, with a distinct cluster in one area on the south west edge of the road in the northern part of the field. This led to speculation by a few detectorists of a roadside settlement, possibly shops or workshops of some kind. Such an interpretation did seem at odds with the location, in a hollow that is prone to flooding, as we were to discover only too frequently during the later excavation! All finds were initially retained by us for assessment, and with the agreement of the landowner will ultimately be returned to their respective finders.

The Excavation

The aim of the subsequent excavation was to answer some key questions

- Could we determine the original form of the Roman road, and its method of construction?
- Why was the Roman road across the field built with a distinct kink rather than on a straight alignment. Were two construction crews involved?
- Did the road have three carriageways, as implied by the aerial photography, and if so what purpose did this serve?
- Why did the Roman road fail to show on the Gradiometer survey, and could understanding this phenomenon help to explain why Roman roads are frequently not found when sought for using this method?
- Could we find any evidence of some form of roadside activity south west of the road, as suggested by the metal detecting survey?
- Could we identify any evidence of human habitation within the area of enclosures?
- Could we ascribe any date to the enclosures area?
- What was the relationship between the enclosures and possible settlement and the road

The excavation was to be open to all volunteers, not just RRRA members, with the hope that we would attract volunteers from the local community, which indeed we did. Apart from our site director, James Lyall, every person involved in the dig was a volunteer. That includes Rebecca Ellis, a PhD student at the University of Hull who acted as our Finds Officer and was present for almost every day, and in James's opinion (and mine) set new standards for finds processing on a "community" excavation. To reach the widest audience, we used Eventbrite as a booking system for volunteers, which worked well, especially as Eventbrite don't charge for free events.

The excavation was planned to commence on 21st September, running for at least two weeks. Due to some truly awful weather, we actually had to extend the duration of the dig twice, running into a fifth week with five days and two half days lost to rain. For the latter part of the work, bailing out became a regular ritual for a couple of hours each morning (figure 4).



Figure 4 The daily ritual - the team bailing out Trench AB. © James Lyall 2019

The figures for attendance make fascinating reading. In total, we had 116 people register to attend, booking some 402 days between them. Of those, 28 people (24%) failed to turn up without cancelling. This might at first seem very disappointing (it was infuriating at the time), however most of the no-shows (none of whom were RRRRA members I'm proud to add!) were only booked for a single day, so that when allowing for the five days lost to rain, only 42 person-days were actually lost to absenteeism from 347 booked (12.1%). Most positively, 88 volunteers, with a wide age range (figure 5) took part providing a huge 305 person-days of work!



Figure 5 Volunteer Edward Playford being taught how to fly a drone © RRRRA 2019

Open Day

To give people not actively involved a chance to view the site, we held an Open Day On Saturday 12th October with three guided tours around the site, explaining to visitors what had been found and the likely interpretation (figure 6). Ninety people attended, and a collection raised £115 which will be used to help pay for x-ray analysis of ironwork finds.



Figure 6 James Lyall explaining the pit/well to visitors at the Open Day © RRRA 2019

Excavation of Dere Street

To enable us to investigate the issue of the road's lack of straightness on the site, it was decided to open two trenches across the Roman road, located at either end of the site (see figure. 3), so results could be compared. This might help us to assess whether or not the apparent inaccuracies were due to two different construction teams working in opposite directions.

Aerial photography suggests that the separation between the outer road ditches is between 18m and 20m across the site. To allow for error, and to ensure that we could understand the area beyond the outer ditches, two areas were opened, nominally 30m x 4m each. The topsoil was removed by machine, operated by local farmer, Mr. Andy Young, who volunteered for the task. Figure 7, showing Trench AB with part of the road structure exposed, gives an idea of the scale of the resulting excavations.



Figure 7 Drone image showing volunteers at work in Trench AB. © Mike Haken 2019

Both trenches yielded similar results, with a central road constructed from small stones and gravel, which had at some stage been repaired or resurfaced with cobbles or large pebbles. However, evidence for anything resembling the three lane highway of the aerial photos initially proved extremely elusive, and it was only in the third week of excavation that the picture of the whole structure suddenly started to become clear. By this time the weather had forced us to focus on just one of the two Roman road trenches, the north westerly one (Trench AB) being selected because it showed better survival, and was next to the belt of detector finds. Rather than describe the entire process of excavation, it is perhaps simpler to outline what we now think are the three main stages of the development of the road.

Phase 1. The lower parts of the original road structure appeared to survive reasonably well in both trenches, although both had been heavily impacted by post medieval and modern drainage systems. The road was constructed as a fairly conventional agger, about 8m wide at the base, from rammed stones and gravel bedded on a levelling layer of dark grey clay. In Trench AA the layer of dark grey clay was over 250mm deep, used to stabilise the natural sand beneath. In Trench AB the layer was a maximum of 120mm, tailing off at the edge of the agger, this time sitting on artificially levelled natural clay (tool marks still visible), hence the lack of need for depth. No sign of any laying out features such as a central spine, or any kerbs, were apparent in the original construction. These results correspond with the construction found during excavation on the same road a few miles south at Green Hammerton (Ambrey & Cooper 2009). Most unexpected in Trench AB were linear depressions in the dark grey clay, on the south west side of the road only, which we could only interpret as wheel ruts formed during the road's construction, then filled with orangey yellow sandy clay which made them appear like stripes during excavation (figure 8). Thoughts of taking “Abbey Road” type photos were only just resisted!



Figure 8 Possible wheel ruts in Trench AB, created during construction, forming orangey coloured stripes in the underlying clay layer. © RRRA 2019

There may have originally been wide and shallow “scoop” ditches immediately adjacent the agger, less than 200mm deep and approximately 2m wide, although remains of only the south west ditch in Trench AB has to date been found. There were also much deeper outer ditches, and whilst recutting has made determining their original form difficult, it seems likely that they were spaced some 17.8m between centres, ie almost exactly 60 Roman feet. It is impossible to be certain that the outer ditches were part of the original construction, but their use elsewhere at this spacing suggests some standardisation so being part of the original scheme seems likely.

Evidence of wheeled traffic was provided in the form of lines of iron pan in Trench AA, preserving the base of former wheel ruts, buried beneath later resurfacing (figure 9).



Figure 9 Lines of iron pan, formed in the base of former wheel ruts, the ruts themselves having been removed during later re-surfacing. © RRRRA 2019

Phase 2. The scoop ditches were either filled or removed (the south western one in Trench AB was certainly filled) and a layer of small cobbles some 3m wide added either side of the agger, but not extending quite to the outer ditches. There was no sign of these cobbles being intended as a surface; rather it seems they acted as a solid base for a layer of sand which was then applied above. Such belts of sand to the side of Roman roads are not unknown, and are usually interpreted as providing a surface for the movement of animals. A 3m wide band, however, would be completely inadequate for the movement of herds of cattle or flocks of sheep, and in any case would not have needed a cobble base, natural clay being more than sufficient. We are suggesting that these sand “shoulders” were added specifically for use by cavalry. It is worth noting that clay shoulders found during excavation of the so-called Roman Ridge, RR28, near Wentbridge, retained hoofprints (Eric Holder, 2017, pers.comms.). It is the layer of cobbles, combined with the sand above, which causes the parching visible on aerial photographs and the appearance of possible outer carriageways (see figure 2.)

Phase 3. The outer ditches were backfilled with sandy clay, and the sand shoulders then substantially extended (without a cobble base) to widths of about 8.5 m either side of the agger. This change could potentially reflect a shift from purely military and logistical use, to one supporting agriculture and the movement of large numbers of livestock. The ditch fill is sufficiently similar to the underlying superficial geology, as to appear exactly the same to our gradiometer, hence making the ditches effectively invisible to our gradiometer survey.

Both trenches provided evidence of later repair or remodelling of the central road structure using larger flattish cobbles up to 130mm across, everything above having been removed over the centuries by the plough. There was further evidence from Trench AA that crude cobble kerbs may have been built at a later stage to help support the agger, at which time the running surface must have been reduced to about 4m. Whether this was late Roman or medieval work is impossible to determine.

Initial conclusions are that we cannot support the idea of two teams, as the construction seems extremely consistent. We may, however, be able to explain the lack of straightness, and this could simply be down to the terrain. As we found out to our cost, when it rains heavily the belt of clay which underlies the road on the site seriously restricts drainage. What we noted however, was that whilst the areas to the sides of the road flooded, the road itself did not, the course of the road having been very carefully chosen to utilise the top of a very slight ridge which seems to correspond with the probably clay deposit visible on the geophysics. Looking across the field it became clear that the slightly kinked line may well have been to ensure that the road took the highest possible line, without having to deviate up the hillside. Detailed analysis of the topographic data gathered during the geophysical survey will hopefully shed further light on this.

Unusually for a road excavation, we did manage to recover a few finds. The south west outer ditch in Trench AB yielded a nice Roman pot base at the bottom of the later backfill, and the foot of the ditch contained organic material including pieces of antler along with what look like hawthorn twigs. The sand layer above was also found to contain animal bone, possibly deer. Whilst far from conclusive, these finds tend to support the hypothesis that there may have been some kind of roadside activity along the south west side of the road during the Roman period.

Excavation in the Enclosure

Given our limited time and resources, it was decided to restrict excavation within the enclosures and potential settlement, to minimise any potential post-excavation costs. With this in mind, we focussed on the large rectangular enclosure, with one trench across the north east ditches with the aim of recovering datable evidence, and a further trench opened to examine the curious high anomaly in the middle of the enclosure.

We had aimed the trench across the ditches (Trench AD) to include both the inner and outer ditch, unfortunately the trench was slightly mislocated so only the inner ditch was excavated, which gave the highest response in the gradiometer survey. A second feature, identified as a small irregular pit, was also excavated in Trench AD. The ditch turned out to be substantial, being about 1.2m deep and 2.6m wide, “V” sectioned and with a so called “ankle-breaker” or cleaning slot at the bottom (figure 10). Whichever interpretation is correct, the ditch has clear Roman military associations, and whilst not enclosing a military site, it may well be that the enclosure was constructed by a veteran.



Figure 10 The enclosure ditch, showing the “ankle-breaker” or cleaning slot. © RRRRA 2019

Trench AC was situated over the large anomaly, which turned out to be a very large pit. The pit was sectioned, and found to be roughly circular with a diameter of over 4m. It was excavated to a depth of almost 2m before work had to stop on safety grounds (figure 11.). The bottom, which seemed quite soft, was then augured in the centre, the augur reaching a depth of a further 1.2 m before hitting something solid. Without further work, the original function of the pit cannot be accurately determined, although it seems possible, even likely, that it is a well cone, and that the unknown object blocking the path of the augur is part of capping off of the well.



Figure 11 The section of the large pit. © RRRA 2019

Our wish for datable evidence and evidence of Roman occupation was rewarded in spades – almost literally! All three features had at some point been deliberately filled with burned material containing building material, including many broken tegulae, stone flag (possibly also roofing material), daub and pottery, with some animal bone. The most likely interpretation is that all three features were filled with material recovered from a nearby building which had burned down. Certainly, it would seem unlikely that it would have had been brought very far to be tipped into existing ditches and pits. Until a full analysis has taken place, we are being cautious about dates, but first impressions suggest a varied pottery assemblage in terms of both origin and date, possibly suggesting occupation of the site through much of the Roman period. What is certainly true is that some of the pottery was very fine tableware, including sherds from at least one, possible two pieces of Moselkeramik folded ware from workshops in or near Trier, which was exported to this country between about 180 – 250 AD (Tyers, 2014). Two sherds that fit together were recovered from Trench AC (pit/well) some 60cm apart vertically, strongly suggesting that the pit was filled in one operation. Other finds include just two probable tesserae, one white, one green, and both very small, again suggesting high status.

Resistivity Survey

As part of our attempt to assess why the road failed to appear on our gradiometer survey, further geophysics was carried out during the course of the excavation using resistivity, with our trusty old RM15 (figure 12). The survey was led by Mike Turpin and conducted by several of our volunteers covering nineteen 30m square grids. The work did establish that the road shows well with resistivity in the arable part of the site, but not so much in the pasture, which was unexpected. It was interesting to observe changes in response as the ground got progressively wetter!



Figure 12 Downloading the resistivity results



Figure 13 Resistivity Results along the line of the road

The resistivity survey was carried out over a number of different days and with different teams of inexperienced volunteers on each day. The introduction and background section has already indicated that the gradiometer results failed to show any road-like features as suggested by the aerial survey.

The first three resistivity plots shown at position 1 showed the possibility of features aligned to cropmark evidence. The darker square (ie lower resistance) to the north east was the result of surveying a very damp part of the field which after further rain became significantly water-logged. On the second day (position 2) the focus was on the northern end of the field adjacent to the second road trench (Trench AB) and here a broad and well defined band of high resistance was revealed, which corresponds perfectly with the projected location of the Roman road and its flanking "carriageways" of sand. Over the next four survey days, the weather became progressively wetter with the soil becoming increasingly saturated. As a result, the ground was becoming progressively more conductive to electricity, making resistivity increasingly ineffective. One days 3 and 4, the buried road ditches were holding more water than the adjacent soil, and are just visible as dark lines (low resistance) on the image, however the outer belts of sand were now saturated, and failed to show at all. By days 5 and 6 the ground was even wetter and is possibly why no anomalies indicative of potential archaeological features could be seen, although it is possible that the irregular anomalies visible are caused by former clay extraction.

The final resistivity survey along the road was carried out in the paddock adjacent to the main field to check on the alignment of the road to the south east. The plot can be seen as a parallelogram rather than a rectangle (figure 14), due to an unfortunate error in setting out the grid, only spotted when the corner locations were recorded with GPS. Whether or not the poor results from the pasture were caused by ground water is unclear.

The survey certainly revealed anomalies which match well with the extrapolated lines of the excavated road features within the investigation area. Unfortunately, due to the increasingly inclement weather, the survey also serves as an excellent example of the detrimental impact of groundwater on the efficacy of resistivity.

Conclusions

As an exercise in community and voluntary archaeology, the excavation was a huge success. We attracted volunteers with a huge range of experience, crucially including several who had never been on a dig before. Indeed, I can report that at least two of those have since gone on to volunteer on a different site, and we have also gained several new members as a result of the excavation.

From an archaeological perspective, whilst we are still waiting for detail to be added from specialist reports, we have answered most of our questions. We now know that the Roman road started life as a fairly standard road, laid out along the slightly higher ground and so not quite straight, and was later widened to accommodate cavalry (probably!) and then with further shoulder added for other livestock (again, probably!), when the outer ditches were filled with clay preventing them from showing on the magnetometry results. It was never strictly speaking three carriageways. We found evidence which might support roadside activity south west of the road, and we can now state with confidence that there was at least one high status Roman building in or near the large rectangular enclosure. The only question outstanding is how the enclosures and presumed settlement relate to the Roman road. Further excavation is essential to have any chance of understanding that relationship, and we are already planning to do more on the site next year.

Crucially, we hope that we have established that in order to understand individual Roman roads fully, excavations need to be much bigger than is all too often the case. The all too frequently seen trial trenches of just one or two metres width, positioned so as to just catch ditches either side of the supposed agger, will never yield the detailed understanding we are starting to glean from this site. What's more, it's not necessary to gain a lottery grant approaching £100K to undertake an excavation of this scale, our total costs being expected to be well under a tenth of that, funded entirely from a single donation. As I hope we have shown, organised the right way, with the right supervision, volunteer archaeology works!

Acknowledgements

We must especially thank the landowners, Derek Hills and Stephen Hills and their farm manager Phil Dickinson for their enthusiasm, cooperation and assistance during the excavation.

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Our Finds Officer, Reb Ellis (a PhD student at the University of Hull), who set new standards for on-site finds assessment on a volunteer excavation.

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Crin's Fremington: Finding my way back to Domesday

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Abstract

This article attempts to identify the modern boundaries of Fremington, a district in Upper Swaledale, relating it to the entry in Domesday showing ownership to belong to Crin. A combination of modern mapping techniques, together with extensive observations of the landscape have led to the conclusion that there is scope for further archaeological investigation.

Introduction

This piece is a reflection on my experience of trying to identify and walk the boundaries of the manor of Fremington, held by Crin, in 1066.

Who was Crin? No one can tell. The name is not repeated anywhere else in Domesday, later charters or manorial court records. There is a reference to a Crin of Merrington in the C13th record of the miracles of St Godric.

Where is Fremington? It lies in Upper Swaledale. Upper Swaledale is the zone crossed by the principal tributaries of the River Swale outlined in blue on the map below. The township of Fremington is marked in red.

The name 'Fremington' is believed to be based on a personal name 'the settlement of Frem/Fremi'.

However, 'freme', an adjective, in Old English has associated meanings such as 'good', 'bold', 'flourishing', 'vigorous'. The 'bold', 'vigorous' settlement?

Locating Fremington

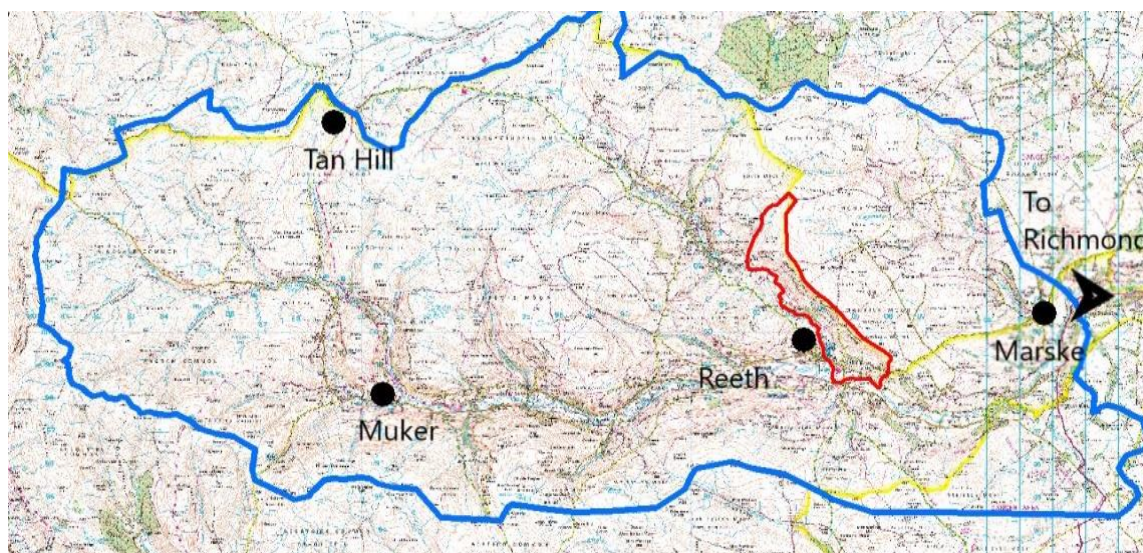


Figure 1 Fremington in the wider landscape, shown as a red boundary

This zone is an area of high to very high climatic severity, with a severe climate. It is characterised by steep sided valleys.



Figure 2 Fremington in Lower Swaledale

At the base of the Swale valley there are narrow bands of moderately fertile floodplain soils. There are isolated areas of lime rich soils on mid slopes. Otherwise the soils on the slopes and plateau grasslands and moors are poor and affected by impeded drainage.

The ecology of Swaledale is the product of the interaction between topography, climate, geomorphology, habitat/species diversity and human activity. The ecology of upper Swaledale is distinctive and different from that of neighbouring upland river catchments, Wensleydale and Teesdale.

The topography, climate and geo-morphology create a challenging environment. The capacity of people to build sustainable, long term communities was constrained by the limited range of opportunities which this challenging environment offered.

'Crim' has no direct equivalent in Old English or Old Norse. It does have equivalents in modern Scots Gaelic and Welsh meaning 'Shrunken', 'wizened', 'niggardly'. Over 600 years after the official departure of Roman administration it seems that a settlement was overseen by an individual with what appears to be a Brythonic name. There are a handful of other Domesday manors in Wensleydale, Swaledale and Teesdale which also had 'lords' whose names had similar roots which are not Old English or Scandinavian.

Chrin's Fremington

Crim's Fremington was of little value, even before being 'wasted' in the Harrying of the North

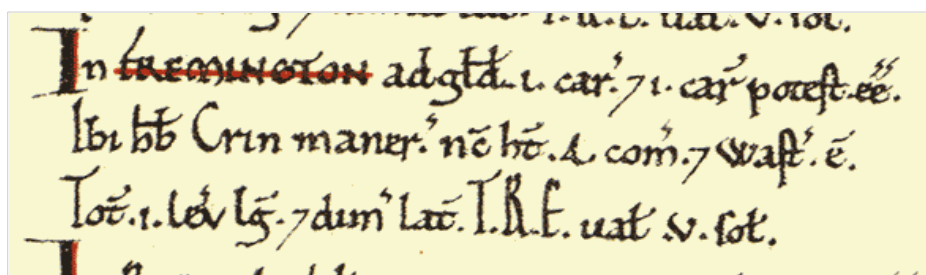


Figure 3 The Domesday Entry for Fremington

2 carucates of ploughland. Worth 5 solidi in the reign of Edward, in 1066. A solidus in this context is not a coin. It's a unit of account, a book keeping entry in Domesday, equivalent to 1/20th of a pound, a shilling.

I originally looked at 132 Domesday manors between Bishopdale and upper Teesdale. 30 were valued at 5 solidi or less. 20 of those were given a value of '0' placing Crin's Fremington at the very bottom of the list of manors which had any value at all. A league....that's much harder to define. Many small manors in the North Pennines are given the same dimensions so the distances recorded in Domesday were probably a 'rule of thumb', a rough estimate. The number of furlongs in a league varied in different parts of the country although it is generally thought to have been 12 furlongs long, about a mile (1760 yards/1600 metres)

So Crin's Fremington which was roughly 1 league long and one half a league wide, was twice as long as it was wide, about 2.4 kilometres long and 800 metres wide. Should have been an easy walk along the river valley and up, along the ridge known as Fremington edge.

Initial Reconnaissance – Walking the Boundaries

Which is what I did, over a number of days. Map in hand, with sighting compass and GPS, searching out prominent natural features which could have been boundary markers.

Dead easy to start with. Use the 1830's sub-division of Grinton Parish, the boundary used in early censuses to differentiate Fremington from the other sub-divisions and from the parish of Marrick to the east. To the west, up Arkle Beck, Storthwaite, nice, enticing, Scandinavian place name. To the East, Reels Head. Follow the Arkle Beck to the Swale, turn east along the river bank and turn up hill from the river due south of Burfitts Bank.

At that point way marks to the north, crossing open ground, at least way marks which I could 'see', disappeared, and something else happened. Looking back towards Hagg Farm and West Hagg I couldn't 'see' the low mounds which I know are there, which I have walked past and photographed many times.

What was going on? At one level, my modern era mental maps, the tools which my brain uses to filter out the massive volume of visual data in the landscape, were filtering out features which it has been 'tutored' by experience from a young age to regard as not important, not 'salient'.

At another level, a phenomenon known as 'cognitive penetration' was having an impact on my involuntary, instinctive perception of the landscape. Or, to put it another way, if I had reached that point in 1066, my mind would have created an imaginary line across that open space so that I would have 'seen' and 'known' that there was a boundary there. It would have filtered in the prominent mounds, past burial mounds, clearance cairns, which in an open, unfenced, landscape would have been important markers and reference points for people and livestock moving around the landscape. Back to square 1. A modern cartographic (and chronometric) sense of place and time was restricting my ability to 'see' the landscape and attend to what would have been, in the past, the most important 'salient' features which marked out one identifiable place from its neighbours, differentiating Fremington from Marrick.

Second Reconnaissance – Looking for Ancient Salient Features

So out with the GPS and the compass. Forget walking the boundaries. Walk the paths which cross the Storthwaite- Reels Head axis and head up on to Fremington Edge. Storthwaite to Reels Head, as the crow flies, is about 4.0 kilometres. The distance from Arkle Beck and the Swale to Fremington Edge varies. It can be up to 1.0 kilometre but is commonly 800 metres or less. The '1 league by 0.5 league wide' must be in there somewhere.

Challenge myself. What do I see? What do I know from experience and checking imagery I have missed? Shut out the walls, the field barns and cow houses, the metalled roads, the post enclosure plantations. Check the historic footpaths on the earliest Ordnance Survey maps, Tithe Maps and enclosure maps, with their echoes of pacing life and work by 'shanks pony' and the speed of carts and herds on the move. Build back in features like fords, stepping stones, paleochannels, obstacles which would have naturally impeded or re-directed movement on foot or livestock. Check the earliest post Domesday records for clues about what the clerks thought should be recorded.

Results so far

What have I learned so far?

The 1301 Lay Subsidy lists 'Roberto del Heggess', 'Eudone del Castello', 'Thoma del Banck' and 'Nicolau del Banck' as well as a 'Wilelmo del Fremington'. Heggess, Castles and Bank House are dwellings and lands to the west of the Fremington Dyke which suggests that 'Fremington' was at or to the east of the Dyke. A single family is on record, in the manor court rolls, the tithe award and censuses as continuously resident in Fremington, and landlords of West Hagg and Reels Head up until 1848, the Atkinsons. It is likely that 'Wilelmo del Fremington' was an ancestor of the Atkinsons, whose successors included George Atkinson, a leading investor in lead mining in the early modern period.



Figure 4 Possible Medieval Boundaries

There are three small fields on the Tithe Map (whose walls overly the boundaries of earlier fields named 'Atkinson': two called 'Low Atkinson Close', the third named 'High Atkinson Close'. These fields are part of a cluster centred on West Hagg named as closes or intakes. These appellations suggest medieval assarting.

The clerks, writing the Lay Subsidy records, attentive to individual 'taxpayers' not just 'the lord of the manor' included 4 habitations in 'Fremington'.

Their record was made less than 140 years after Crin was recorded at Fremington and less than 120 years after Fremington was recorded as 'wasted'.

So, had Crin's Fremington destroyed to the extent that it had to be re-colonised and won back from nature for pasture, meadow and arable several generations later?

Or, despite the impact of being laid waste, did the land continued to be used for grazing, timber, wood at a level at which, with economic, minimal effort with the tools at their disposal, the tenants of Fremington were able return the land to more intensive grazing and limited cultivation with relative ease when conditions improved?

I believe it was the latter. That conclusion is based on modern day observation of the impact of unmanaged grazing, lack of grassland management, reduced mechanical drainage and diminished general agricultural maintenance coupled with evidence of debris slip on a specific location.

For example, the fields west of Castles are recorded as pasture, meadow (i.e. cut for hay) and arable (crop unknown but more likely to have been barley or oats) in the 1844 Tithe Commutation.



Figure 5 Land utilisation based on 1844 Tithe Commutation

Brown Arable: ploughed
 Dark Green Meadow
 Light Green Pasture
 Some fields mixed use combinations of Arable with Meadow or Pasture



Figure 6 Arable in 1844



Figure 7 Meadow in 1844

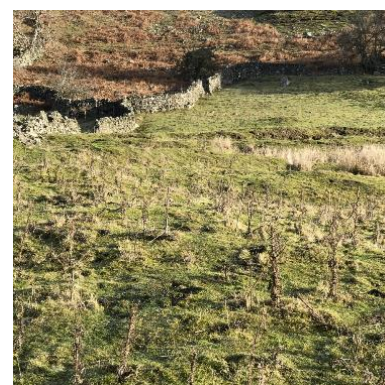


Figure 8 Pasture in 1844



Figure 9 Aerial Image 2002



Figure 10 Aerial Image 2012

Now many of these fields are degraded beyond economic recovery by poaching, encroachment of reed, encroachment of aggressive grasses and bracken as well as by scrub and by landslip. This process has been underway for almost 20 years. Land left unmanaged for a relatively short period of time, less than 2 generations, is beyond recovery even with modern technology.

Crudely put, it looks as if what is 'green' (where the 'green' is mainly grass not reed, scrub and other aggressive species like thistles), has been green for a very long time, probably centuries, possibly more than a millenium. The 'green' land has always been managed at a level from which it was relatively easy to improve the land and intensify grazing and increase areas under cultivation using pre modern agricultural techniques. The 'green' land has never been allowed to get to the point of no recovery like the fields in the modern photographs and images

So what is 'green' now and what was 'green' in 1844? 'Green' means maintained as grassland, for grazing and/or for making hay. It also applies to the areas of terracing and lynchets, particularly visible west of the Fremington Dykes, where LIDAR imagery indicates large areas of ploughing, areas which are now pasture.

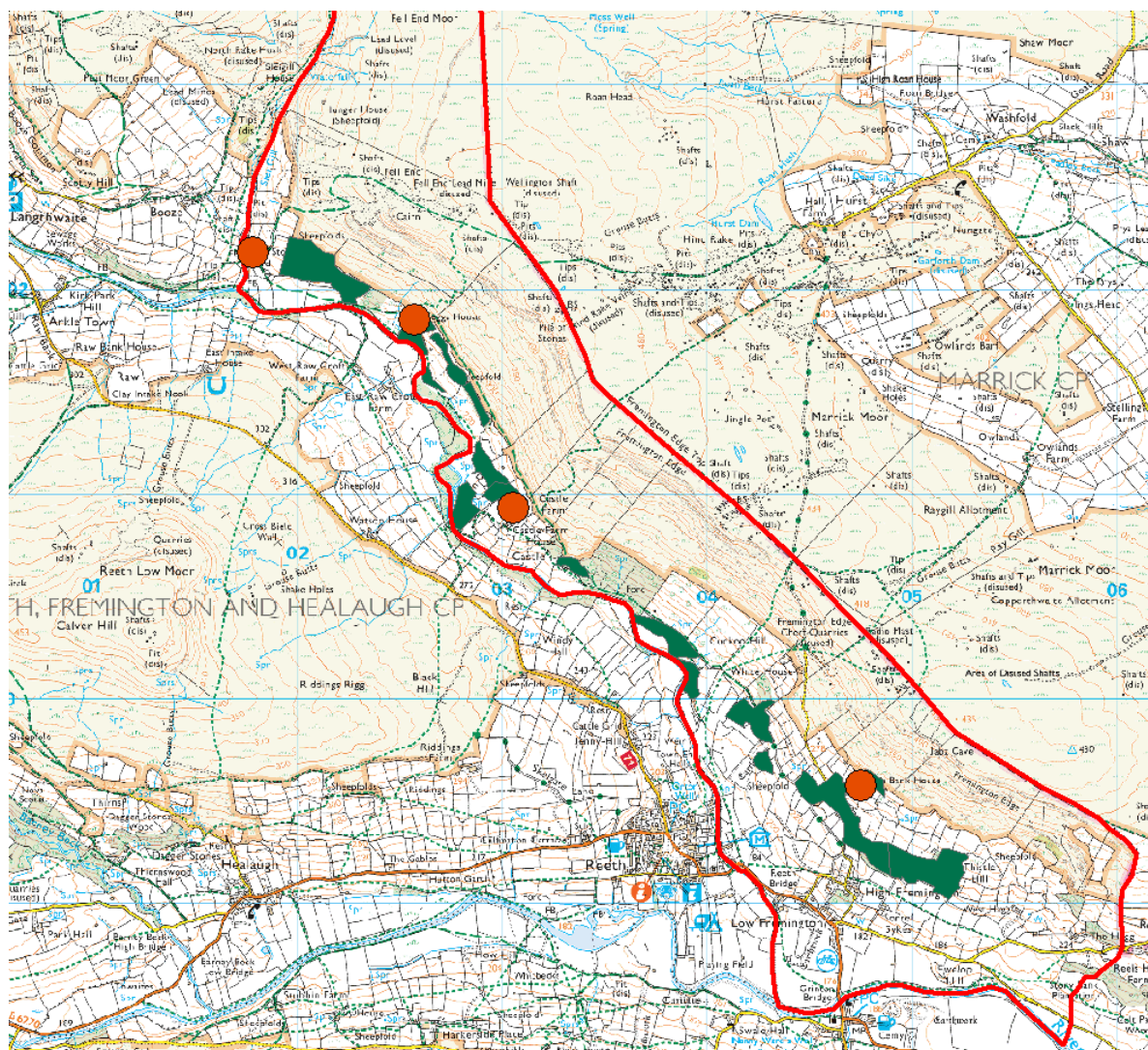


Figure 11 Fields no longer maintained but given over to plantations

The dark green areas are 1844 fields which are either now beyond the point of recovery or which are no longer maintained for grazing or hay because they are now plantations. They represent the least useful, least profitable areas, the areas given up first as farming has become more challenging.

For clarity I have not added the mid slope and upper slope post enclosure allotments which also appear to have reached the point of no recovery.

My argument is that, over the long term, a millennium, the ecology of human activity has been broadly similar. There have been perturbations such as climatic variation which have lasted for relatively short periods but these have not altered the essential characteristics of the topography, habitat and species diversity, geomorphology and settlement/land use decision making. The affordances of this location, perceived from a non-chronometric, non-cartographic point of view have remained broadly the same. Activity has expanded and receded but few if any areas have been reduced to the point of no return, where it would not have been possible to recover the soils and vegetation and restore previous stocking levels, grazing intensities etc.

What changed was the extent, intensity of grazing and cultivation as well as population levels. At the core was 'Crim's Fremington' highlighted in blue below.

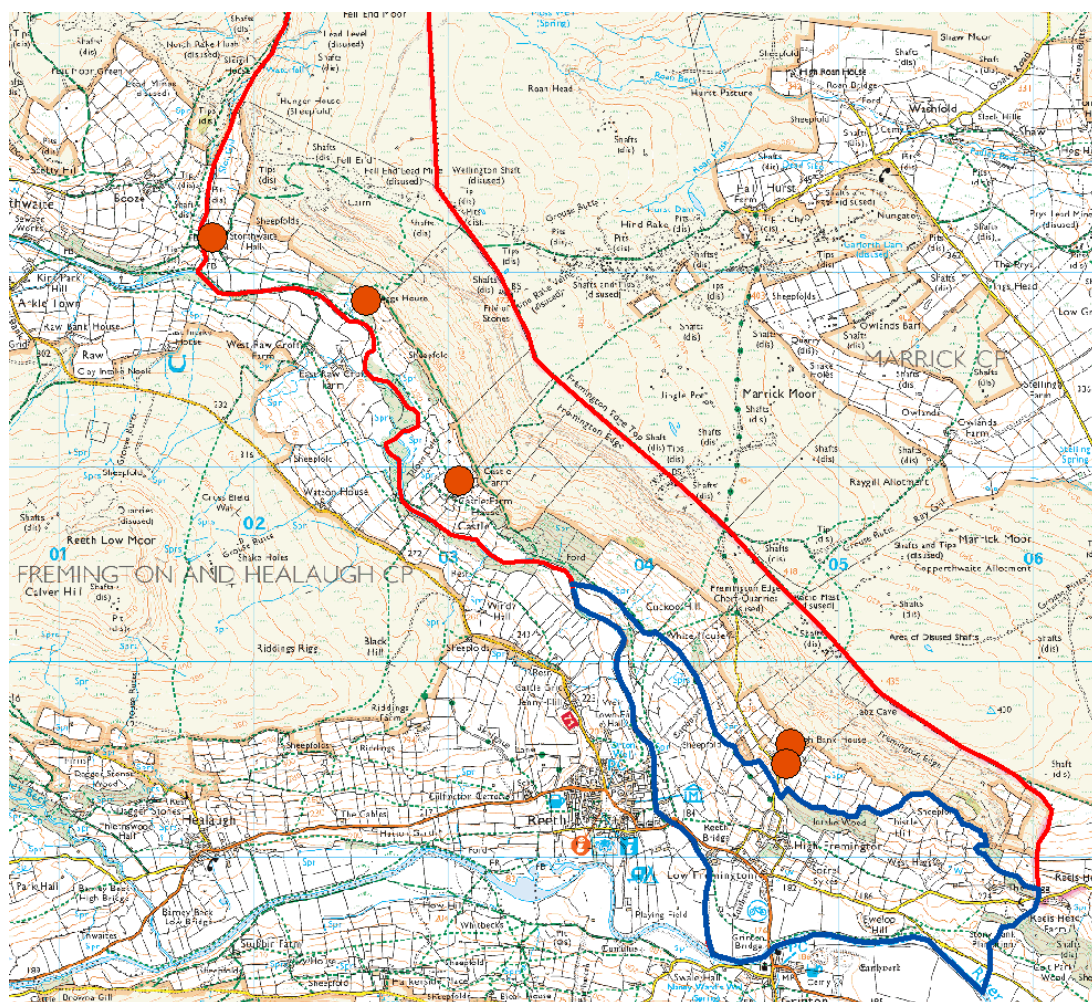


Figure 12 Crim's three zones

Crim's Fremington was made up of three zones.

1. The Arkle Beck and Swale floodplains
2. East of the Fremington Dyke (marked in red) an area of livestock management which has limited signs of ploughing or cultivation terraces and lynchets
3. West of the Dyke an area of extensive terraces, lynchets and evidence of regular ploughing

Further to the west there were two other locations centred on what is now Castles (marked in purple below) and Heggess (marked in black).

I suspect that these were sites used for seasonal horizontal transhumance by the inhabitants of Crin's Fremington. Heggess and Castles became permanent 'farms' in the post Conquest era. There are some signs of cultivation at Castles and none at Heggess. This suggests that these were 'dependent' settlements which were concentrating on livestock rearing and buying/trading staple goods like bread wheat and other cereals from outside.

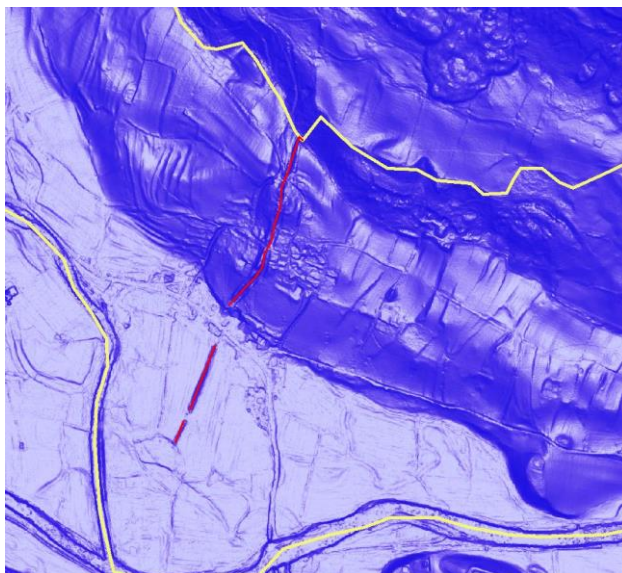


Figure 13 LiDAR Imagery showing Crin's zones.

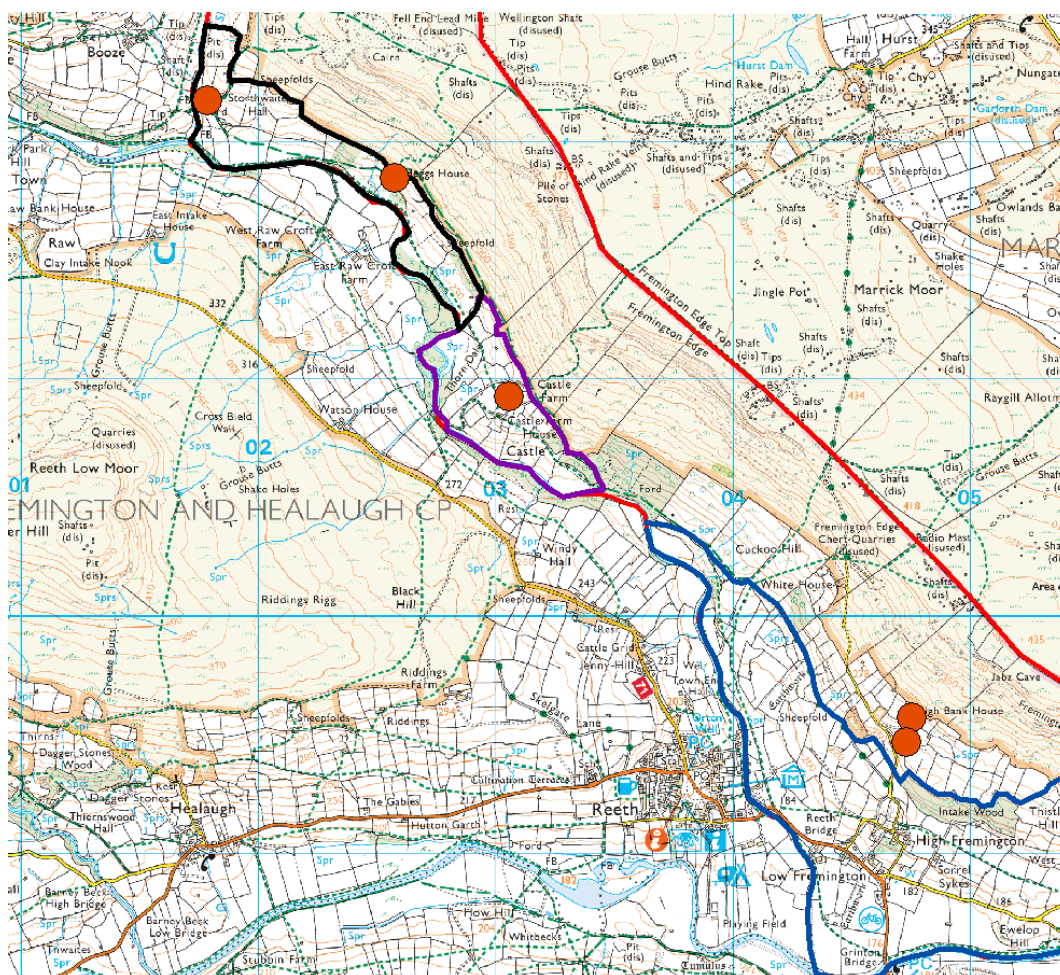


Figure 15 Reeth and Healaugh settlements

Across the Arkle from Crin's Fremington was 'Rie', Reeth. West of Reeth, on to Healaugh, there are extensive field systems of lynchets and the excavated settlement at Healaugh, dated to the late Iron Age. This area was intensively cultivated. Healaugh does not feature in Domesday but 'Helayghe' is recorded in the 1301 Lay Subsidy.

It's tempting to see Crin's Fremington as a Domesday, early medieval iteration of a much earlier pre Roman pattern of settlement and activity connecting Healaugh, 'Rie' and Fremington either side of the Arkle Beck and north of the Swale. That's another, different set of walks, for another time.

Conclusions

So, what's the story of Crin's Fremington? Here's my latest speculation.

Settled, long term occupation north of the Swale begins in the late Iron Age. At that time the area is characterised by dispersed habitation clusters. Some of those clusters are occupied seasonally in a system of horizontal transhumance along the spine of the Arkle Beck. There are specific areas of extensive arable cultivation, notably at Healaugh and along the lower slopes towards Reeth, characterised by lynchets/terracing. Arable cultivation east of the Arkle is concentrated to the west of the line of the Fremington Dyke in the form of localised lynchets and terraces. West of the Dyke land use is characterised by small paddocks/stock enclosures with little evidence of arable cultivation.

Agriculture, particularly stock rearing intensifies in the early Roman period when the paddocks east of the Dyke take forms similar to 'ladder' field systems. This intensification is not sustained. Evidence from the excavations at Hagg Farm suggests that the habitation clusters were occupied in reduced circumstances. However, not so reduced that occupation ceases and the area is depopulated. The Brythonic name 'Crin' in 1066 suggests continuity of occupation and preservation of a non Saxon/Scandinavian identity. The implication of the epithet 'Crin'..... 'Wizened', 'niggardly', 'shrunkened' could be a reference to the nature of living in the area.....tough, impoverished?

It's worth noting at this point that 'Rie', the name for Reeth in Domesday is North Frisian in origin. The neighbouring manor, modern Marrick, is named 'Mange' an Old English term from which the modern 'monger' is derived indicating that at that point modern Marrick had a history identity related to trade. Both Rie and Mange are held by men with Scandinavian names.

Somehow, Saxon 'Fremington' has retained, in part, its historic, non Saxon, identity whilst its neighbouring habitation clusters have embraced Old English identities under Scandinavian, Danelaw overlordship and are demonstrably more valuable in 1066.

Crin's Fremington maintains the zonation either side of the Fremington Dyke, arable to the west, stock rearing to the east alongside transhumance along the lower slopes of the Arkle Beck.

Land use has been maintained to the degree that, once permanent habitation clusters and land holdings are established at Heggs, Castles and Bank by 1301 at the latest, stock rearing and limited cultivation could be intensified with manageable investment of time and resources.

Over the same period (1066-1301)small scale assarting around individual habitation clusters, like West Hagg, has demarcated personal holdings from the open commons/fields of Crin's Fremington. Crin's descendants, probably represented by 'Wilelmo of Fremington', possible ancestor of the Atkinsons, retain a familial link to West Hagg, which is most likely to have been the focal point of Crin's Fremington.

Transhumance, seasonal movement of people and livestock has to be redirected probably on to the mid slopes and on to the upper moors, the area represented most prominently by the Enclosure Act allotments, as mapped on the 1844 Tithe Map.

What's next?

The 'triangle' of land demarcated by Healaugh, Reeth, Fremington needs surveying archaeologically as a single social and economic entity.

A sample of the terraces and lynchets need minimally invasive geoarchaeological and environmental investigation and analysis by coring, by excavation of sections, by micro-morphological and paleoenvironmental analysis.

The occupation sites at Heggs, Castles and Bank need exploratory investigation using test pits and trial trenches.

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FFWAP To Forum – An update

Alison Spencer

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Abstract

FFWAP (Fridaythorpe Fimber Wetwang Archaeology Project) was formed in September 2017 primarily to excavate ladder settlement features identified by a magnetometer survey carried out by James Lyall of Geophiz.biz. Details of this excavation were reported in Forum, Volume 6 Page 115 in 2017. (www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk/forum-archive)

In order to maintain a proactive archaeological presence throughout the year the group now carry out magnetometry surveys mainly in the High Wolds of the East Riding.

Introduction

Our site excavation project at Green Lane Farm, Wetwang, was undertaken in partnership with the Roman Roads Research Association, without whom the project would not have been possible. As an inaugural excavation it was a great success with 64 participants, 30 of whom had never dug before. Here, a great enthusiasm for archaeology was created and it would have been sad not to build upon this newly created 'hub'.

The problem was – how to remain proactive.

James Lyall, as so often, provided the solution – to train a core group to undertake magnetometer surveys. During the winter of 2017/8 five of us braved the cold and wind to learn both the practical and administrative processes of magnetometry. If resilience to adverse weather was one of the tests – we passed with flying colours and have gone on to train others. FFWAP have now completed over 100 hectares of magnetometry as well as facilitating a series of evening lectures.

Our equipment

During our preliminary *training sessions* we were able to use James's equipment. Such was our enthusiasm and the frequency of survey days, that borrowing this equipment was not practical. Again, James provided the solution and knew of a Geoscan Research FM36 magnetometer no longer in use as the owners had upgraded their equipment. FFWAP are very much indebted to David Bunn of Pre-Construct Geophysics for the long-term loan of this instrument. We are also indebted to Roger Walker of Geoscan Research, who donated a working charging unit for the FM36. However, in order to complete 30m x 30m grids in large fields we needed more than just a magnetometer.



Figure 1 FM36 magnetometer in use

An application was made to the CBA Mick Aston Archaeology Fund and we received a grant sufficient for us to purchase rope chains, ranging rods and an optical square so that we were able to survey with a high degree of accuracy.

FFWAP are very fortunate in that we have been able to operate continuously throughout the seasons with no lack of volunteers. The area in which we survey is substantially an arable farming area and we only have access to arable fields to survey between harvest and spring planting (August / September to February / March). Luckily for us there are a few paddocks etc and of course the Wolds Dales.

When the group had completed approximately 60 hectares of survey we were lucky to come to the attention of Professor Dominic Powlesland. On hearing that we use a single probe magnetometer he immediately offered FFWAP the long term use of his seldom used FM36. Having the use of two magnetometers has certainly extended our capacity. A second application was made to the CBA Mick Aston Archaeology Fund and we received a grant sufficient for us to purchase a second set of rope chains, ranging rods and an optical square.

We are now able to undertake our surveys in several permutations:

- As two independent teams – either at separate locations or as an experienced team and a novice or slower team so that one group does not inhibit the other.
- Tandem logging – two adjacent grids surveyed at the same time with one person moving both sets of ropes. In the right conditions 3 people have completed 24 grids of 30m x 30m in one day!
- In poor weather conditions we complete 8 grids without the need for an onsite computer download whilst at other times only one download is required in the field when completing 12 grids.

FFWAP are also indebted to Mike Haken of the Roman Roads Research Association for the periodic use of their five probe magnetometer. This has the advantage of covering a greater area in a day and, more importantly, providing data at a greater detail.



Figure 2 FM36 and the RRRA Cart

FFWAP fieldwork conventions

From inception FFWAP has been, and remain, a community archaeology group. Consequently, we have many people participating in our surveys, some frequently and others less often. In addition, we will have different people overseeing a days surveying and it is therefore essential that there is absolute consistency in both our fieldwork and administrative processes.

The following conventions have been evolved by our team and may be of interest to other community survey groups.

1. Pegs – We use coloured plastic pegs to locate grid corners and secure the 30m rope chains. Corner pegs remain in position until the grid has been satisfactorily downloaded and integrated into the overall field plot and is no longer required for site referencing. Rope pegs are transient. During our early days corner pegs would inadvertently be removed too soon. In order to avoid this problem we now use red pegs to identify grid corners and yellow pegs to retain the rope chains. The phrase ‘NEVER REMOVE A RED PEG’ seems to have resolved this problem as red pegs are now removed only as part of our supervised activities.



Figure 3 Pegs in situ.

2. Balance points – The FM36 has to be ‘balanced’ before each grid and the drift is logged on completion of that grid. The machine is balanced first in a north / south direction, then east / west and finally when all four directions are within the accepted tolerance the magnetometer is ‘zeroed’ in the direction of the primary grid line.

Balancing is perhaps the most difficult facet of magnetometry to master. For community groups this is not made easier as members are frequently unaware of compass bearings and these may be subject to varying degrees of interpretation. To facilitate consistency FFWAP use a Silva compass to set out balance points within manageable distances of the working area.



Figure 4 FFWAP balance points

3. Grid locators – In a very large field (so far just over 20 hectares) returning to the working area takes some searching. We now position flags at our working ‘faces’ and balance points so that relevant points can be sighted from a distance. This is particularly necessary when there are different team members participating.
4. Site Records – Efficient record keeping is necessary for several reasons, the most important being data retrieval and a seamless transition for site supervision. Like many aspects of our work – the system has developed as we have become more experienced. Figures 5 and 6 are an illustration of our current recording process.

FRIDAYTHORPE FIMBER WETWANG ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT (FFWAP)						
SURVEY RECORD FIELD No						
MAGNETOMETER DETAILS	GeoScan FM36 with an ST1 Sample Trigger. We survey 30x30 m grids in a zig-zag walking pattern, with 4 readings per metre and a traverse interval of 1 m. The resolution is 0.1 nT_					
LOCATION						
LANDOWNER / FARMER	Tel :					
FIELD REFERENCE	Farmers : Grid Ref :					
Visit	Date	Weather	Supervisor	Team	D/L Refs	No Grids

Figure 5 Survey Recording sheet

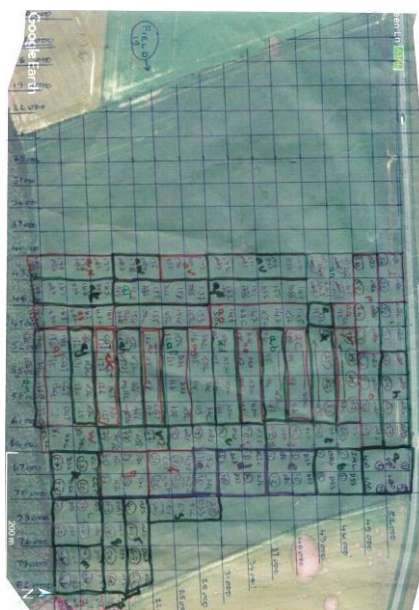


Figure 6 Grid Record

FFWAP and the future

FFWAP has been in existence a little over two years. Magnetometry has been the saviour of the group thanks in the main to James Lyall and all those mentioned above. However, no surveys would have been possible if it had not been for the approval and interest of five of our local farmers. They are finding our results fascinating as, quite often, it is substantiating what they already knew, or felt, about their fields. We are currently talking to two more farmers to enable us to have an even greater area of fields to survey in the future.

The ethos within our group is much to be admired. A negative result is viewed as a positive result. Therefore when a field is surveyed with very few, if any, features visible on the plots we do not get downhearted. Rather, we take the view that it means magnetically there are no features detected, and another small piece of the archaeological puzzle is established.

FFWAP were also thrilled to be awarded the 2018 King Thrubron Award. This enabled the group to hold a series of evening talks in Wetwang village hall. All the talks were well attended and so well received that we are currently planning further talks for 2020.

Our aspiration (to survey more than 1000 hectares) is both ambitious and challenging, but we must bear in mind that we are on the High Wolds. Here, both Mortimer and Beresford carried out their work for 40 years – FFWAP, therefore, are encouraged!!

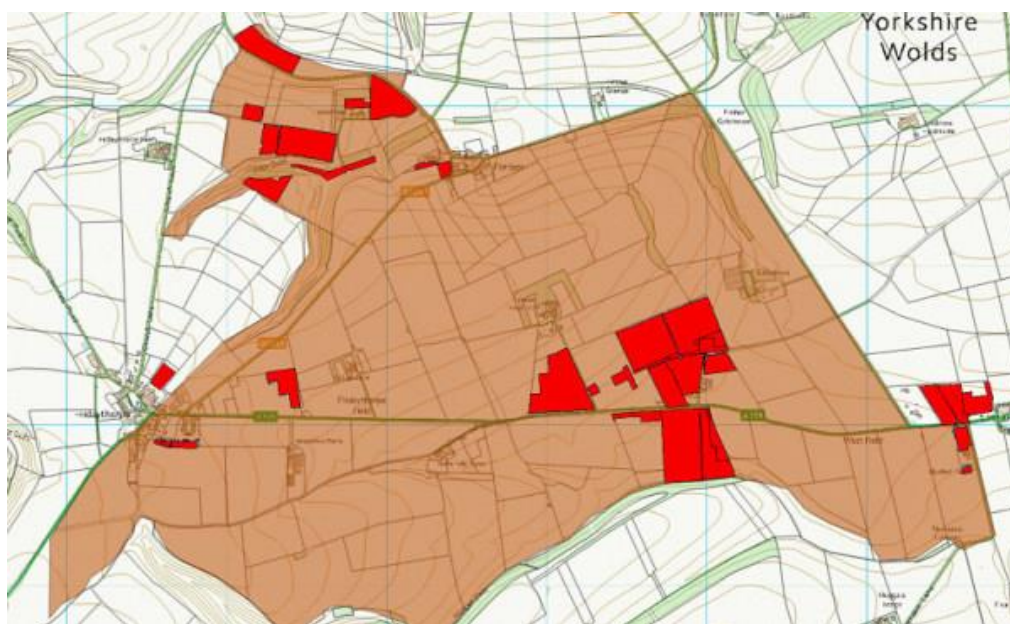


Figure 7 Aspirations v actual

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Finding Iron Age And Romans In Cawood

Margaret Brearley and Jon Kenny

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Abstract

For 16 years our local history group, Cawood Castle Gath Group (CCGG) have been researching the history of the village. This article describes the excavations carried out by community volunteers during 2019 with support including that of CBA (Yorkshire)

Introduction

The village of Cawood sits on the southern side of the river Ouse, 1km below its confluence with the river Wharfe (Blood and Taylor 1992:58). The village became the site of a major river crossing on the road from Sherburn in Elmet to York and is close to the junction with the original road from Selby to Tadcaster. The river was originally crossed by ferry, described as a horse ferry in 1772 and was in use until 1872 a steel swing bridge, now a Grade II listed building was built. The Bishop Dyke, an artificial waterway, flows into the river Ouse at this point and previously marked the south-east boundary of Cawood village. (Figure 1)

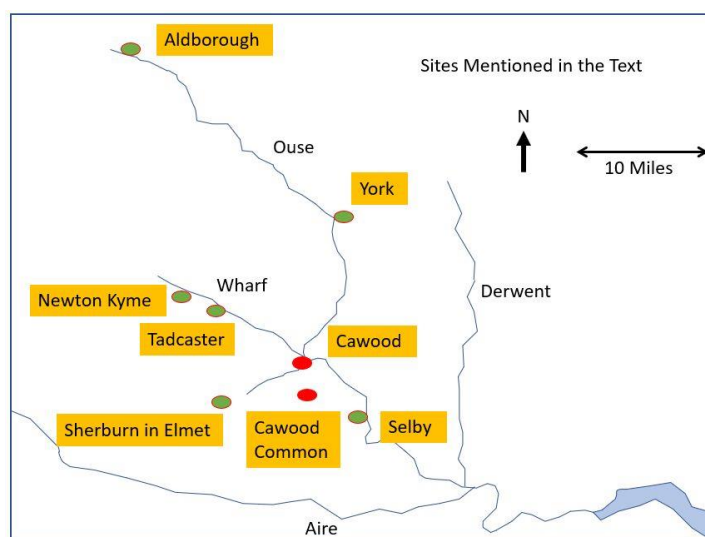


Figure 1 Cawood Location

Historic Background

There is scattered evidence of prehistoric activity in the landscape around the village (Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological Society 1889:324; YAT 2003). Four flint flakes were recovered during field walking from an area centred on SE 575 383, opposite Cawood Castle.

Late prehistoric (Iron Age) sites are suggested by aerial survey in the area, but these enclosures are recorded as Iron Age or Romano British having not been investigated through excavation until very recently.

There is still no definitive evidence of Romano British occupation in Cawood itself although a paved ford (NYM 10883) across the Ouse, possibly Romano British is thought to have been located by the church.

A Romano British site was excavated in 1933-34 at Cawood Brick and Tile works, half mile to the north west of Cawood on the right bank of the Wharfe (Corder 1935:333). Two ditches were excavated, and although it appears that the clay pit had destroyed the majority of the site and any evidence of buildings, the considerable amount of pottery recovered confirms this as a site of occupation.

The pottery suggests an occupation dating from the late second century until the fourth century AD, and the fragments of roof tile and the quern stone fragment considered with the pottery, suggest a building of domestic character (Corder 1935:334-335)

The site may have been established here because of the good transport network, although the clay beds may also have been a factor. There were a very high proportion of wide mouthed bowls recovered amongst the pottery and a pottery 'waster' (a mis-fired piece of rim), suggesting that it was made on site, although no evidence of a kiln was found (Corder 1935:335).

A penannular gold ring, (NYM 10929, NMR UI 56281), referred to as 'gold ring money or a rude earring' and weighing 336g was discovered during the ploughing of an unspecified area at Cawood in 1868. It apparently passed into the hands of a Leeds goldsmith.

A Viking sword was found in the river in 1861 called the Cawood sword. It is now in the Yorkshire museum in York and is said to be the most wonderful example of a Viking Sword in Northern Europe.

Much of the medieval history of the village has been recorded in the Archbishops of York papers held in the Minster Library in York.

The village has been the home of Archbishops of York for centuries. All that remains of the Palace or Castle is a 15th century Gatehouse built by Archbishop Kempe and adjoining brick building locally known as The Banqueting Hall (Figure 2). These are now in the ownership of The Landmark Trust and the Gatehouse is a holiday residence. Cawood castle, lying south east of the village centre, represents a very high-status domestic residence, of high rank and of comparative rarity in Britain. (Blood and Taylor 1992:92; Scheduled Ancient Monument Entry).



Figure 2 Cawood Castle ©Darran Buckley

The presence of the Palace of the Archbishop of York in Cawood meant that the village played host to some of the most prominent figures in England, e.g. Henry VIII, Henry III and his queen, Queen Isabella whom the Scots attempted to abduct from the Castle in 1319 and Thomas Wolsey, earning itself the title 'Windsor of the North' (Bogg 1902: 221 and 223; Niemeyer 1911: 2; Blood and Taylor 1992:91; YAT 2003).

Wolsey is thought to be the origin of the nursery rhyme "Humpty Dumpty" due to his great fall from power in 1530. He had started to restore the rundown building when he was arrested and taken to London. It is believed to have been as grand and important as Hampton Court.

Cawood Castle Garth Group

For 16 years our local history group, Cawood Castle Garth Group (CCGG) have been researching the history of the village. We were encouraged to form a group after a public meeting in 2003.

English Heritage helped and encouraged us to manage our Scheduled Ancient Monument, the Garth, which lies behind the remains of the Castle Gatehouse and Banqueting Hall in the centre of the village.

Cawood Castle Garth

The aims of the group were to make the Garth more accessible for everyone to enjoy, investigate the landscape both for its ecology and history, and produce information through leaflets and Interpretation boards. These 12 acres of untouched grassland is a unique, ecologically and historically sensitive site. Within the site lie the remains of a medieval garden, moats, fishponds and earthworks. It is also the home of the rare and endangered Great Crested Newt.

Keesbury Moated Manor Site

We wanted to know more about the early residents of the village. In 2015, our group were given Scheduled Monument consent to excavate on the site of the de Cawood family home, Keesbury Medieval Manor site close to the centre of the village. This is another Scheduled Ancient Monument, where we found evidence of occupation during the Anglo Scandinavian (Viking Age). This led us to think about researching earlier activity at or near our village. Our first thought was to look for Romano British evidence.

More and more information is being shared with us by local Metal Detectorists who are finding Roman artefacts in the land around the village. These finds are recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme for the British Museum.

The Historic Environment Records from North Yorkshire County Council are also showing more finds in village gardens after building projects.

Looking for Iron Age or Romano British evidence

Our research has highlighted no direct evidence for Iron Age or Romano British buildings, but that finds suggest that Romano British buildings are nearby. Contact with the NYCC Heritage department led to us finding aerial photographs of the village with corresponding crop marks maps. These showed a field of 37 acres (Figure 3) on Cawood Common containing enclosures and round houses that might be Iron Age or a Romano British date.



Figure 3 Map and Aerial Image showing field location

Excavation at Cawood Common 2019

The Cawood Castle Garth Group decided to investigate the largest site located by aerial imagery. The site is located 2 miles from the centre of Cawood on an area known as Cawood Common. It is close to 3 waterways and a large area of woodland later referred to as the Bishops wood, where once Kings of England used to hunt when they visited the castle.

The local farmer who gave permission to use his land agreed to leave the field fallow until March 2020 which has enabled us to have unlimited access to the site (depending on the weather).

With the help of Tony Hunt of YAA Mapping and Chair of Council for British Archaeology Yorkshire (CBA Yorkshire) we flew a drone over the field at regular intervals for a year. These aerial maps produced amazing evidence of multiple round houses and ladder field systems like those often found in the Iron Age and Romano British periods covering the 37 acres of the site.

To finance the project, we applied to the Eastern Community Engagement Forum (CEF) of Selby District Council for a grant of £2,500. This was not quite enough to cover our expenses so our history group will cover any excess. The project was intended to be an evaluation of the site and we hope to return another year and investigate further.

In 2018 our group did some limited field walking across the site and found a mixture of iron smelting products, Romano British pottery and flint pieces. With help from the metal detectorists allowed to use the field, we found many responses to iron in the ground.

CBA Yorkshire have supported our project this year in identifying suitable sites for trenches, using the GNSS expertise and equipment from Historic England, Geophysical survey of 4 hectares over the most interesting features and hands on digging in the trenches. We are very grateful for their help with this project and [Dave Went's article](#) describes how other groups might be helped.

Their support has made a huge difference to our project and enabled us to clearly see features on the ground.

We asked Dr Jon Kenny to work with us as our Archaeologist and help with planning the excavations. The grant has enabled us to reach out into the local community especially to the local schools. Dr Kenny and our group have visited many schools showing the children what they can find on their doorstep, encouraging them to understand their local history and handling the finds from the dig. Two schools came out to the dig and in their own trench they learnt how to trowel and look for changes in the soil colours. A guided tour of the trenches was led by Dr Kenny. This was a unique opportunity for the local community to see a live dig and not just obtain information from the internet. After the excavation we were very pleased to visit the schools that came out to us and two that hadn't managed a visit. We also visited an older group in Selby, helping people to deal with loneliness in later life, explaining what we were going to do. They later came to our end of dig presentation in the village school.

Mike Haken of the Roman Roads Research Association and some of his volunteers came to survey the central area of the field using magnetometry equipment. This showed many responses across the site including one large area which later turned out to be a drain cover in the centre of the site.

We had hoped to start to dig in August but unfortunately the rain came, and the crop was late being harvested and the straw too wet to remove from the field. We decided to delay the dig until October and hope for better weather. This did not materialise though we managed to carry on regardless of the mud and the wet.

The trenches were positioned over field ditches, round house ditches and dark patches which were unknown in the suggested Romano British square.

(See Figure 4 next page)

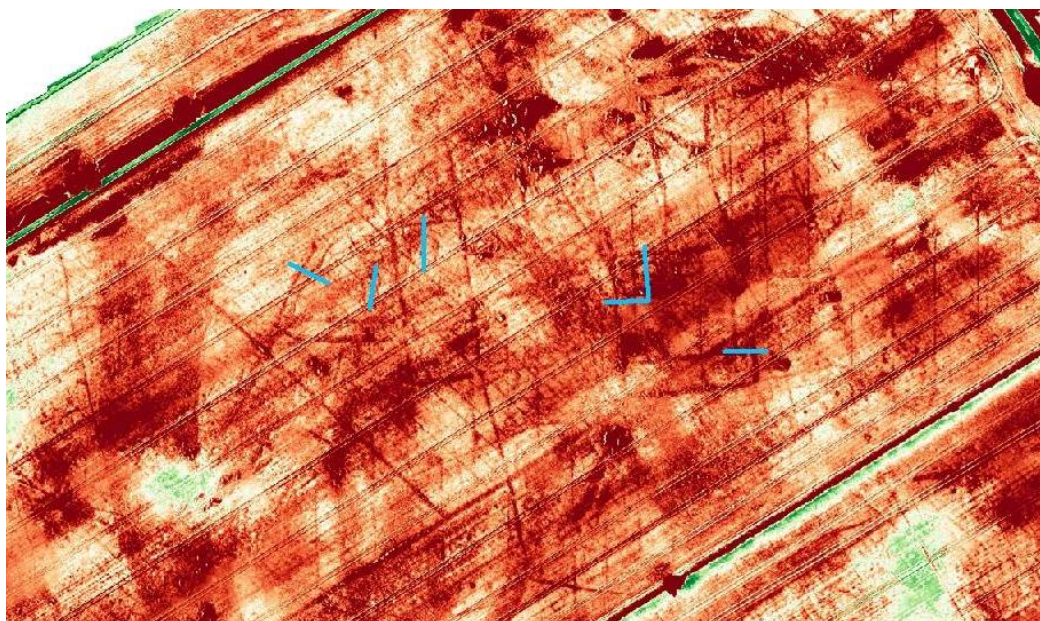


Figure 4 Orthomosaic Drone Image using infra-red technology and showing trench positions in blue ©Tony Hunt

The “big yellow trowel” was employed to open the trenches for us. I am sure the volunteers appreciated not having to remove the stubble from the field. Our driver expertly dug exactly where Tony Hunt, Dave Went and Jon Kenny had suggested would be suitable positions.

We also had an extra trench opened for schools to use. The distance between the trenches was quite a long walk and to save the children from getting too wet in the long grass we positioned one closer to the road.

We also hired portable toilets as the site was quite a walk from the village. A large tent was erected in between the trenches as a base camp and store for the tools. It proved to be very useful when the rain came. We did experience mud in the entrance towards the end of the fortnight. Much of the field was waterlogged but fortunately for us the early residents of the site know where the drier areas were, so we managed to dig relatively easily in the dry.

Over the two weeks we had about a dozen volunteers each day. We were visited by two schools, two home tutored families, twenty-four visitors on the wettest open day and most of the local neighbours came too. They had some interesting information about the area which was very helpful for our project.



Figure 5 Local school children excavating their own trench



Figure 6 Looking at finds in the classroom

Volunteers also brought their own additional skills to the project. Phil Jones from the Pontefract Archaeology Society was able to use his new photogrammetry skills to take a series of photographs of some of the trenches and convert them to 3-D images which can be viewed and manipulated on the internet by following the link:

[CAW 2019 Trench 4](#)

I quickly learnt how to manage in a field of long wet grass this involved wearing large boots, waterproof socks and gaiters. The surface of the field had not been turned over so it still had the barley stubble and grass growing in between the rows. This did not work for field walking but was ideal for the metal detectorists. The finds they found were all given to us as part of our project. As far as we know they did not manage to detect Romano British coins.

The following images show some of the various activities undertaken as part of the community project.



Evaluating the Excavation at Cawood Common (Dr Jon Kenny)

Our excavation was undertaken as an evaluation, our aims were to:

- Get dating evidence for the enclosures, round house ring ditches and the square looking feature identified on the aerial images.
- Understand how much of the archaeological evidence has been removed by ploughing over the years.
- Have some ideas about the use and development of the square feature and possible buildings on site.
- Understand potential preservation of different finds types on the site.

We gave ourselves two weeks to excavate as much as we could and with weather slowing the excavation, we had to leave some features in trench 1 and 5 unexcavated. Set out below are summaries of each trench, describing what we found in them. It should be noted that pottery and animal bone have not been written up by specialists so dating and activity may vary in our later report.

As a community project this work is being undertaken in a piecemeal manner, obtaining funds as we go. We are currently assessing the funds available for specialist input. We are able to make a summary assessment of the date of pottery that has been identified in this article.

Trenches 1, 2 and 3

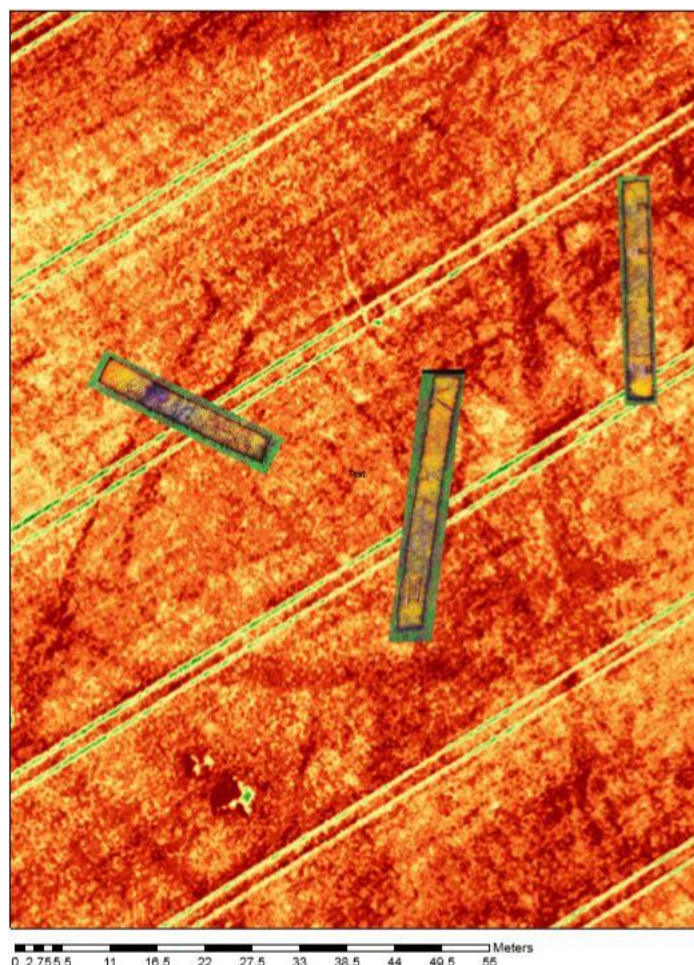


Figure 7 Trench Positions for trenches 1, 2 and 3 ©Tony Hunt

Figure 7 shows the trench positions superimposed on one of Tony Hunt's infra-red drone images.

Trench 1 was excavated on a double enclosure ditch that forms a triangular enclosure at the western end of the site. It was interesting to note in the autumnal weather that areas beyond this enclosure became waterlogged, leaving the area slightly higher above the water levels. The enclosure ditches were exposed and planned, but not excavated. Another section of the enclosure was excavated in trench 2 so as time ran out, we relied upon that as an evaluation of the enclosure ditch.

Trench 2 focussed on the same enclosure as trench 1, taking in a section of the southern boundary of the actual enclosure ditch and smaller round house gullies identified in aerial images.

The enclosure ditch proved to be recut with fill (2006) filling the first cut [2010] and fill (2001) filling the recut [2011]. The first ditch was 0.62m deep with the second being 0.58m deep. The first ditch was also wider 2.20m as opposed to 1.70m for the second version. This enclosure ditch contained a roughly triangular area, the interior suggested faint round houses that the trench sought to reveal.

The round house gullies were shallow in this trench. The round house gully (probably the drip gully surrounding the house) excavated was only 0.14m deep in its southern part fill (2002) and cut [2008]. The northern section of the round house was even more shallow measuring only 0.12m at its very deepest point.

The gully fill (2003) and cut [2012] are also disturbed by modern drains. Despite the fact that the round houses have been mostly removed by ploughing we still have evidence for an enclosure containing at least one round house.

To the north of the round house another feature showed, this appeared to be another round house gully or an internal enclosure. There was no real curve to this gully fill (2004) and cut [2009] so it is most likely to be an internal enclosure.

Trench 3 was excavated to investigate the rectangular enclosure that sat to the east of the triangular enclosure investigated by trenches 1 and 2. Within trench 3 an internal division running from east to west was investigated along with a much larger round house to the south of the enclosure division.

The internal enclosure ditch, fill (3002) and cut [3010], runs east to west, was 0.48m deep and 1.90m wide.

Contained within the southern half of the rectangular enclosure was a large round house that the trench was placed upon. The ring ditch of the round house was cut across by the trench and encountered as (3003) cut [3011] and (3004) cut [3008]. As with the triangular enclosure, the round house had been damaged by ploughing, but it was larger and deeper (0.55m) and wider (0.90m).

These three trenches were cut to get a picture of the enclosures and round houses to the west of the site. The enclosure ditch fills (2001, 2004, 2006 and 3002) contained a little pottery. We had a little handmade pottery that prior to specialist assessment might be Iron Age or Romano British. There was a little Romano British grey ware however that suggests that the enclosures and round house gullies date to the Romano British period at least. This is interesting as we had thought that the enclosures might be Iron Age. However, the way that the enclosures are arranged the site does look like a 'ladder settlement' of the Romano Period, with an unusual squarish enclosure on the southern side of the site. Our trenches 4 and 5 were excavated to investigate the squarish feature.

Trenches 4 and 5

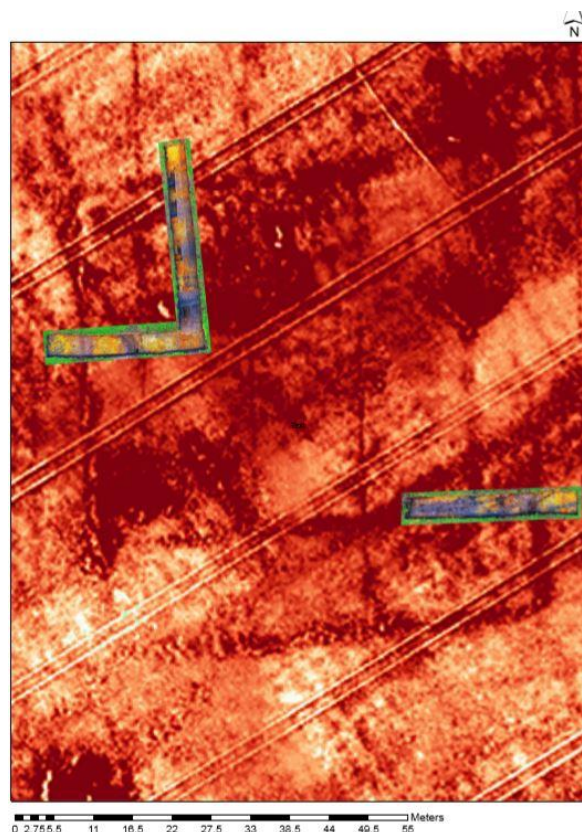


Figure 8 Trench Positions for trenches 4 and 5 ©Tony Hunt

Trench 4 was set out in an L shape to investigate activity in the North West corner of the square. The trench ran north to south for 25m, cutting the boundary ditch of the square and then turning west, heading 20m to cut the west boundary. The north south section of the trench revealed a series of ditches and features running east to west.

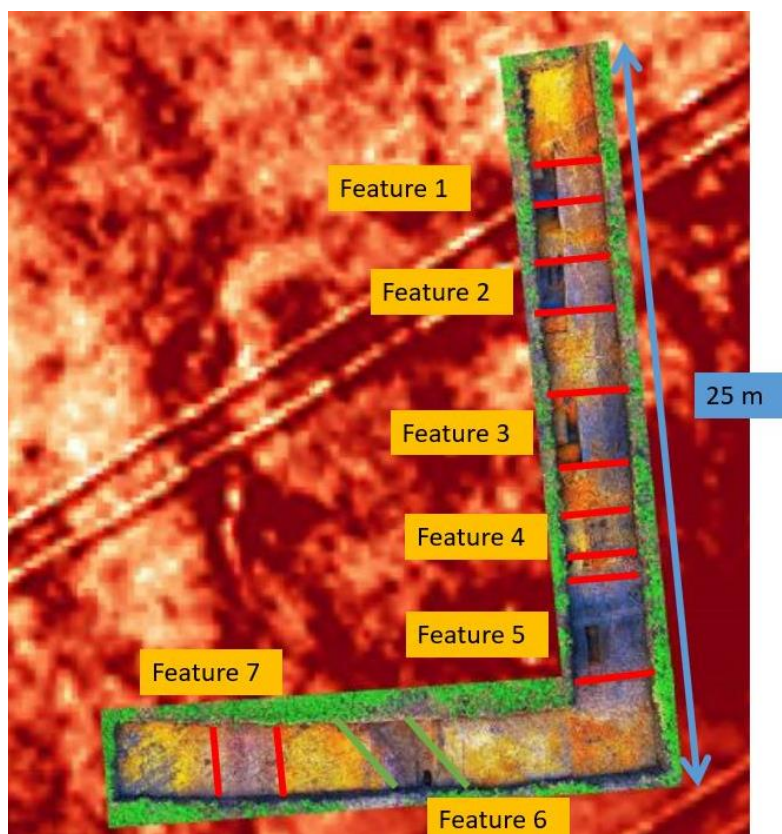


Figure 9 Trench 4 showing features

©Tony Hunt

The trench revealed what appeared as seven ditches:

- Two of these feature 1 and feature 7 appear when related to the aerial photographs to form the final stage enclosure ditch on the North West corner of a square feature (measuring 63.5m east west and 64.5m north south). Feature 1 was excavated fully (within the trench), it was cut by a more modern feature that follows the present-day ploughing, this is probably the result of sub soiling. Otherwise it had no stratigraphic relationship to other features. The ditch was just over 3m wide and 1.10m deep. The fill of the ditch was in three layers and contained Romano British pottery and much of the animal bone from the site. The deposits suggested that they had been laid down slowly and contained snail shell that suggested back fill was gradual. The ditch had been excavated through a sandy natural until they hit solid clay.
- Moving south down the trench the next ditch encountered was Feature 2. This was of similar width (3m) to Feature 1 and was 1.20m deep. As was the case in Feature 1 the depth appears to be determined by hitting more solid natural clay. This ditch was back filled in four layers. The first of these seemed to suggest natural collapse of the sides through time. The clay bottom of the ditch began to fill with water during the excavation and the subsoil is waterlogged enough to preserve the points of two sharpened stakes. Only about 4cm of the stakes survive, but they may suggest an attempt torevet the sandy ditch sides against collapse. The final fill (4002) contained amounts of Romano British pottery that suggest a deliberate back filling with rubbish. This ditch may represent internal divisions inside the square feature, or indeed represent the extension of the enclosure northwards to its present position.

- Heading southwards down the trench the next feature encountered is Feature 3. This ditch is not as deep as A and B, 0.70m, but it was a little wider at 3.5m. There is a possibility that this ditch is earlier than the two Romano British ditches to the north, the small amount of pottery from this context (4004) has not been securely identified at the time of writing. Cutting along the same orientation as the early ditch was a narrow 0.90m ditch that measured 0.40m in depth. The dimensions of this ditch might suggest a beam slot inserted to support a building or fence within the square feature. The upper sections of this feature and many around them were stained dark with charcoal.
- Further south again the next feature was not as deep as the ditches to the north, running to 0.23 at its deepest. This is Feature 4, more of a shallow spread than a ditch. The feature is 1.75m wide. It does not relate to other features in the aerial survey as a ditch and may in fact be a layer of burned material.
- On either side of Feature 4 there were a set of clay patches that during excavation suggested clay pads or floor spreads (4006), (4008) and (4009). On further investigation these seem to be patches of clay that have been redeposited from the digging of the deeper ditches that cut down to the solid clay.
- To the south of Feature 4 is the last feature on the North South arm of trench 4. This is Feature 5; it was characterised by a lot of charcoal in its higher surface. Like the other ditches it measured just over 3m in width, but only 0.44m in depth. This was identified as a Romano British feature as it contained samian ware. Again, this might be described as a spread rather than a ditch, although it was deeper than Ditch (spread) D.
- After trench 4 turns to run east to west a feature (Feature 6) was evident that had a very different, soily fill. This was identified as a grubbed-out hedge put up with the enclosure of the common and taken down as mechanised farming progressed in the 20th century. This feature was not fully excavated, but it proved popular for young people to learn the basics of trowelling and still contained finds of interest.
- At the west end of the trench was Feature 7. The aerial survey suggests that this linked to Feature 1, so it was not excavated as time and the weather restricted completion of all of the features exposed.

The excavation of trench 4 gave us a better picture of the type of archaeology to be expected in the square feature located on the aerial survey. Some of the boundary ditches were dug down to the underlying clay. Others appear to be spreads of burning, containing less charcoal and finds the deeper one excavates. The large amount of charcoal on these features suggests that there had been burning, but we recovered very little evidence for metal processing in any of the features we excavated. Working alongside the local metal detectorists we were able to identify some Iron smelting evidence. Field walking has also recovered iron slag and one piece of copper alloy working slag. None of this is, as yet, sufficient to confirm industrial levels of metal working, but further investigation may reveal more.

The presence of a possible beam slot in trench 4 suggests that there may have been buildings within the square feature. More investigation would be required to locate one or more such buildings.

Trench 5 represented another opportunity to investigate the square feature further.

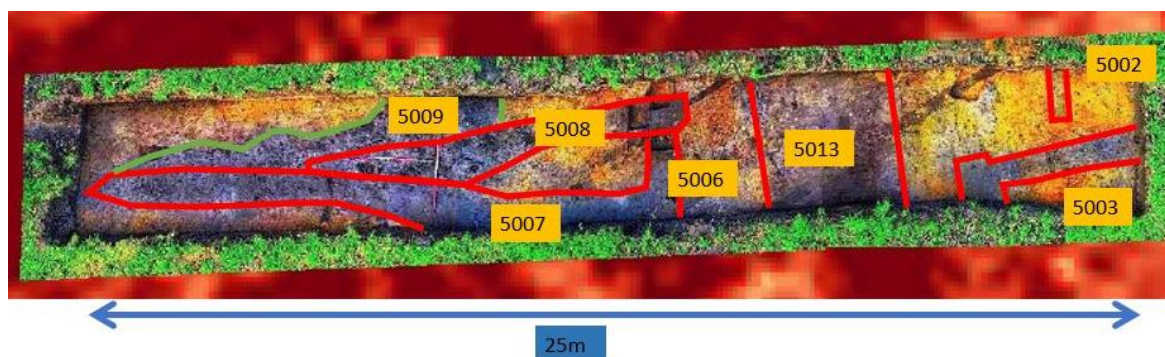


Figure 10 Trench 5 showing features

Trench 5 was located near the south-east corner of the square feature recognised in the aerial surveys. The trench was located to try to relate the enclosure ditch and possible internal features. Sadly, rain and time meant that this trench was not fully excavated. We did however manage to locate several features again.

The enclosure ditch (5013) for the square feature passed from north to south through the trench. On the outside of the enclosure there were two ditch features (5002) and (5003). Only one (5003), narrow ditch (0.30 m wide and 0.25 m deep) was excavated and did not provide dating evidence.

Inside the enclosure a set of narrow ditches, that might represent beam slots (5008), (5006) and (5007) formed a small (5m x 3m) rectangular feature. This might be the footings for a structure but would be rather small for a building or even a room in the corner of a building. The two east west running components of the feature (5008) and (5007) also run on to the west with a curve getting closer together. The two ditches may also have been in use at different times but were probably broadly contemporary. The stratigraphy suggests that (5007) and the north-south component (5006) were contemporary and are cut by (5008). The point that (5008) and (5007) taper to meet at the west suggests they run into each other. This tapering end may represent arrangements to drive animals through rather than a shelter or building.

Trench 5 was not completely excavated but suggested agricultural activities rather than industrial. There may be a suggestion of a building, but this seems more likely to represent a feature used in managing animals. A good deal of pottery was recovered from trench 5 that appears to be domestic and is Romano British. This suggests that although our small trenches did not locate a definite building, there is one nearby.

Conclusions

We believe that our evaluation has given us good dating evidence. Most of the features we have excavated have proved to be Romano British in date. The string of enclosures, containing round houses, along what may be a track, suggest a 'ladder settlement'. There are a small number of features that might prove to date from the Iron Age, (we await pottery analysis) but the majority is Romano British.

As we expected most, if not all, of the occupation layers have been removed by ploughing. This is perfectly normal for sites such as this in a modern farming field. The amount of evidence available in the enclosure ditches, round house gullies, possible beam slots and other spreads cut into the ground give us some idea of what is going on at the site.

The enclosures and round houses seem to reflect domestic occupation from the very little pottery. The square enclosure may sit above earlier activity, possibly of the Iron Age. The exact purpose of the square feature is unclear, metal detecting has located iron and copper smelting debris. So elsewhere on this large site there may be more extensive metal working going on. It currently seems most likely that the square enclosure represents a larger farmstead. Such a site possibly acted as a focus for articulating the agricultural activity in the area before shipping north or south up the river network to sites such as Roman York and Roman Aldborough up the Ouse or Roman Tadcaster of the fort at Newton Kyme up the Wharf.

The soil appears to preserve both pottery and animal bone so any future excavation should anticipate good assemblages. Where the larger enclosure ditches cut down to the underlying clays there is some waterlogging. A future excavation should anticipate possible (we only had two small stake points) wooden remains and should plan for their investigation. There is evidence of burning at the tops of the (truncated) cut features so sampling for micro artefacts should be undertaken.

The evaluations at Cawood Common have been another in a list of community research events that have helped us understand the history of our part of the world. But as usual they have been much more than researching the past and making it relevant to the present. We are very proud that we have managed to involve a wide variety of *community groups from the area, from young to old we have seen them and been helped by them in so many ways.*

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Fieldwork by the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society 2018-19

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Abstract: During the last two years the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society (SAHS) has completed its survey of Raincliffe Woods (reported on in [Forum Volume 6 2017 p85-6](#)) and published a report.

[A pdf copy of the report is available on the SAHS website by following this link.](#)

As a follow on to this project in 2019 the Society has undertaken a more detailed earthwork survey of the site of the 18th century forge which was located on the edge of the woods. At the invitation of English Heritage in 2019 the Society undertook an excavation at Scarborough Castle on a mound of spoil left over from an aborted attempt to construct a playing field in the castle grounds in the 1920s. It turned out that the mound has a more complex history than first thought. In 2018 and 2019 the Society excavated on Castle Hill in the village of Brompton by Sawdon following on from earlier geophysical and earthwork surveys of the hill top. This work has revealed well-preserved medieval remains of a probable fortified manor house. The brief summaries which follow include links to pdf copies of the relevant reports.

Ayton Forge 2019



Figure 1 Engraving of the forge from the south in the 1820s by Francis Nicholson

The forge site is located on the east bank of the river Derwent where it flows through Forge Valley on the west side of Raincliffe Woods. It was active in the 18th century when under the ownership of the Duke of Leeds and some of the buildings survived to be mapped by the Ordnance Survey in the 19th century and to appear in published views but all have disappeared now. In March 2019 the Society undertook a topographic survey of the site to make a large scale plan of what few physical traces survive. Combining the survey results with documentary references and the evidence of the early maps and views it was possible to reconstruct the basic layout of the site. It incorporated a water wheel fed by a leat from the Derwent starting at a dam, the site of which has yet to be conclusively established.

[A pdf copy of the report is available on the SAHS website by following this link.](#)

Scarborough Castle 2019

An earthwork survey of the headland undertaken over twenty years ago by the former RCHME identified the remains of an abandoned project to construct a playing field stretching across the centre of the castle headland in the 1920s.

[A pdf copy of the report is available on the Historic England website by following this link.](#)

The footprint of the scheme is still visible in places on the ground and includes a large flat-topped mound where spoil was being stored at the time the works stopped. Documents held by English Heritage indicate the work began in early 1926 to relieve unemployment in the town but was abandoned later that same year in part due to the realisation of the damage being done to the appearance of the castle and to any buried remains. The proposal for the 2019 excavation was developed in conjunction with English Heritage in order to sample the spoil heap to determine its composition and see if it contained artefacts from the various periods that the headland was occupied that had got caught up in the spoil during the construction work.



Figure 2 Excavation in progress on the 1920s mound in the grounds of Scarborough Castle

The three trenches excavated in May 2019 found that the lowest part of the mound was spoil from the excavation of the nearby Roman Signal Station in the early 1920s. It had then been massively increased by the dumping of spoil from the playing field scheme and as anticipated it contained a range of finds including small fragments of probable Iron Age pottery. Finally, probably in the late 1940s or early 50s, a large pit was dug into the side of the mound to dispose of rubbish left over from clearing war time buildings from the headland, the wide range of object recovered providing an interesting snapshot of life at the time! The excavation and accompanying activities attracted over 700 visitors and featured in the local newspaper and on radio and television.

[A pdf copy of the report is available on the SAHS website by following this link](#)

Brompton Castle Hill 2018 and 2019

The Society has completed two seasons of excavation in the last remaining field on Castle Hill at Brompton-by-Sawdon, 5 miles to the west of Scarborough. The work followed on from a geophysical survey of the field undertaken by James Lyall in 2014 and an earthwork survey by the Society in 2016. As the field is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument the excavation was planned with the agreement of Historic England in order to build on the earlier survey work by establishing the date and character of the earthwork remains. Four trenches excavated in September 2018 found the remains of a medieval stone wall on the west side of the hill overlooking the village which survived to a considerable width and depth and a prominent bank on the south side of the hill contained evidence for several phases of medieval building.

Bolstered by the success of this excavation but with more questions to answer, the SAHS returned for a second season in September 2019 to excavate four new trenches. A further section of massive wall on the west side of the hill came to light helping to establish it was a free-standing perimeter boundary rather than part of a building.



Figure 3 View of the medieval perimeter wall excavated on Brompton Castle Hill in 2019

However on the south side of the hill the wall narrowed considerably suggesting that the main concern had been to make the wall look impressive where it overlooked the village. Two trenches towards the middle of the field encountered further medieval building remains and determined that the earthworks in the same area belong to a later phase of agricultural use after the medieval buildings had been levelled. The pottery suggests the buildings were occupied in the 13th and 14th centuries and it seems likely that this was a fortified manor house of which there are several other examples in neighbouring villages along the north side of the Vale of Pickering. The manor may have been built by the Vesey family who were prominent landholders in Brompton in the 13th and early 14th centuries.

[A pdf copy of the 2018 excavation report is available on the SAHS website by following this link](#)
[The 2019 report is now available by following this link.](#)

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(Re) Introducing the Archaeology Data Service: an Open Access digital archive for Archaeology.

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Abstract

The paper provides an overview of the current and historic work of the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), the only accredited archive for heritage data in the UK. The paper explains the background of the ADS, its current work and examples of the type of data it holds and how it can be used. The paper also provides a brief description of major projects at home and abroad: the redevelopment of the OASIS system for recording of UK heritage projects, and the Ariadne project which links digital records from across Europe.

Introduction

The Archaeology Data Service (ADS) is the United Kingdom's national digital data archive for archaeology and the historical environment, and one of the longest serving digital repositories for heritage data in the world (Richards 2017). The organisation was originally established in 1996, under its Director, Professor Julian Richards, and is located within the Department of Archaeology at the University of York. The rationale behind the service was a reaction to the ever-growing quantities of data being generated by the profession, but with little thought as to its preservation or future use (Richards 1997, 1057). The genesis of the ADS was the formation of five disciplinary data centres, under the auspices of Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS), a body commissioned by the Information Services Sub Committee (ISSC) of the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) of the UK Higher Education Funding Councils (ibid.). The data centres being created to provide specialist advice and expertise during the lifecycle of digital data from its creation through to its preservation, and onward to its potential reuse (Moore and Richards 2015, 36). From the outset the

"... specific brief of the ADS [was] to collect, describe, catalogue, preserve, and provide user support for the re-use of digital data generated in the course of archaeological research by British archaeologists, wherever they are working" (Richards, 1997, 1058).

Following the end of the AHDS, the ADS was the only one of the AHDS service providers retained by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) beyond 2008, in recognition of the fact that most archaeological data are special and are a primary source that, once lost, cannot be recovered (Richards 2017). Whereas most historical sources can be re-digitized, one cannot go back and re-excavate an archaeological site. Since the end of core AHRC funding in 2012, the ADS has continued to be entirely self-funded, and its scope expanded to incorporate not only research data (i.e. the data created by academics) but also increasing amount of data generated by all facets of the heritage sector from large-scale commercial infrastructure to local heritage projects (ibid.). The following short paper aims to provide an accessible overview of the work of the ADS, its holdings and their relevance to those working or researching in the Yorkshire region.

Scope and Services

The geographical remit of the ADS is to provide digital archiving facilities for all areas of the world in which UK historic environment researchers have research interests. Nevertheless, it is recognised that since the ADS is UK-based and given that there is extensive high-quality digital data for the historic environment of the UK that is in demand from UK-based archaeologists, and historic environmental professionals then the ADS should give priority to digital data for the archaeology of the British Isles. It is equally recognised that there is a substantial body of quality digital resources that are created by UK-based archaeologists working overseas.

Accordingly, ADS collections range from the local such as work at Clifford's Tower, York (Miller 2005), to the far-flung site such as rock carvings in Avenal, Brazil (Riris and Corteletti 2015). There are no chronological limits to the ADS collections, which covers the early hominids (Valdes et al 2007) to the more unusual monuments of the present day (Carpenter and Gray 2017).

Over the last 20 years, the ADS has inevitably witnessed some significant changes in the digital preservation landscape. From the outset, ADS set out to preserve all types of digital research data produced by archaeologists. However, since 1996 the types of data being generated has grown considerably, as too has the size of information being deposited. At the time of writing the ADS holds well over 22Tb of data, representing over 3 million individual files, over 800 distinct file formats and undertaken over 30,000 preservation processes (see ADS 2019). The organisation has significantly broadened the type of data it archives, including tabular data, raster and vector images, moving images, 3d models and laser scans, geo-rectified images as well as a multitude of outputs generated by specialised computer programs and recording units. Each of these has brought its own challenges in *how* to preserve in perpetuity, but also to facilitate simple and advanced access and re-use (Evans and Moore 2015; Galeazzi et al 2016; Green et al 2016).

Although primarily a data archive from an early point the ADS has also archived written outputs, including the electronic versions of paper journals and monographs published by UK-based learned societies. This has expanded to include scanning (digitisation) of hard-copy versions of Journal series, which has become increasingly common as many organisations struggle to secure storage space or make to look versions of their publications freely available. Traditionally, publishers deposited such series in isolated sets, each compartmentalised within the ADS catalogue. In recent years the ADS, with support from the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) and Historic England (the national body for archaeology and heritage) have looked to combine the records of all the e-prints (reports, journals and monographs) it holds into a single application: the ADS Library. The basis of this application is a historic CBA dataset known as the British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography (BIAB). The combined resource, which is constantly updated contains over 300,000 bibliographic references, of which 88,000 have additional individual files to download represents the single largest corpus of Open Access archaeological reports in the UK (see ADS 2020b).

One of the core services of the ADS is the IT system known as OASIS, a data capture form through which all archaeological and heritage practitioners can provide information about their investigations to local Historic Environment Records (HERs) and respective National Heritage Bodies. As well as being an information-gathering medium, the OASIS records also allow the practitioner/contractor to upload reports for HERs to access, and for release in the Library of the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The system is currently supported by Historic England, and by Historic Environment Scotland as part of the workflow for reporting to Discovery and Excavation Scotland (DES). Since its rollout in England in 2004, and 2007 in Scotland, there have been over 100,000 records created within the OASIS system and an associated 50,000 reports transferred into the ADS Library. Moving forward, the OASIS system represents a major part of the renewed strategy for enabling access to archaeological information (Trow 2018; Evans forthcoming).

Preservation and Access

Since its inception the ADS has persevered to provide preservation and open access to data, and to the highest standards (Moore and Richards 2015). The underlying philosophy that information should be secure and free to use has underpinned much of the organisations work. This goes far beyond back-ups and basic IT practice into the acronym-heavy world of Digital Preservation, a field which concerns itself with the long-term security of data beyond the scope of a single project or indeed individual (Digital Preservation Coalition 2016). To simplify, how can we do our best to ensure that data is findable, accessible, usable and understandable in 100 years' time? The majority of staff at the ADS are archaeologists, and the notion of an accessible (digital) archive that mitigates any destruction of a resource, or indeed facilitates research and understanding is fundamental (Richards 2017). Accordingly, much of the organisations work is geared towards ensuring that its practices and procedures remain at the highest level (see Green 2014).

As examples, the ADS is compliant with the Open Archival Information Standard (OAIS) ISO 14721 standard for digital repositories. Since March 2011, the ADS has been accredited with the Data Seal of Approval, an international "kite-mark" for digital repositories, becoming one of the first UK repositories to gain this recognition, second only to the UK Data Archive (Mitcham and Hardman 2011). In 2012, it was awarded the Digital Preservation Coalition's first Decennial Award for the most outstanding contribution to digital preservation—in all disciplines—in the last decade (Archaeology Data Service 2012).

Historically, access to data archived with the ADS has been through its website which at the time of writing consists of three elements:

- Archsearch (effectively a catalogue of all records held)
- Archives (collections of material based on an intervention or project)
- The aforementioned Library of reports, journals and bibliographic records.

Access to ADS resources is free; historically this has been defined under a custom licence which enabled any reuse that fell within the broad notion of ‘research’, but in later years has been replaced by the internationally recognised Creative Commons licences (see Archaeology Data Service 2020b). This approach, safeguards the intellectual property and copyright of the original owner, stipulates clear citation, and allows data to be used and re-purposed in a variety of ways. To encourage citation, and persistence of citation of ADS resources, each collection and report is given its own Digital Object Identifier (DOI). A DOI is a permanent and unique identifier, standardized by the International Organization for Standardization. Via the British Library - the UK registration agency for the DOI system - the ADS can create these persistent identifiers, which enable archaeological data to form part of a much wider cross-disciplinary network of resources (see Hardman 2011).

Preserving Yorkshire’s Digital Heritage

The result of this work is an unparalleled resource for all of those working or researching in the heritage sector in the UK. With a strong Yorkshire contingent amongst the staff, the resources from the Yorkshire region are always worth celebrating. The main point of interest to many readers will be the many unpublished works (sometimes referred to as ‘grey literature’) available via the ADS Library, of which over 2500 relate to the historic county of Yorkshire (Figure 1).

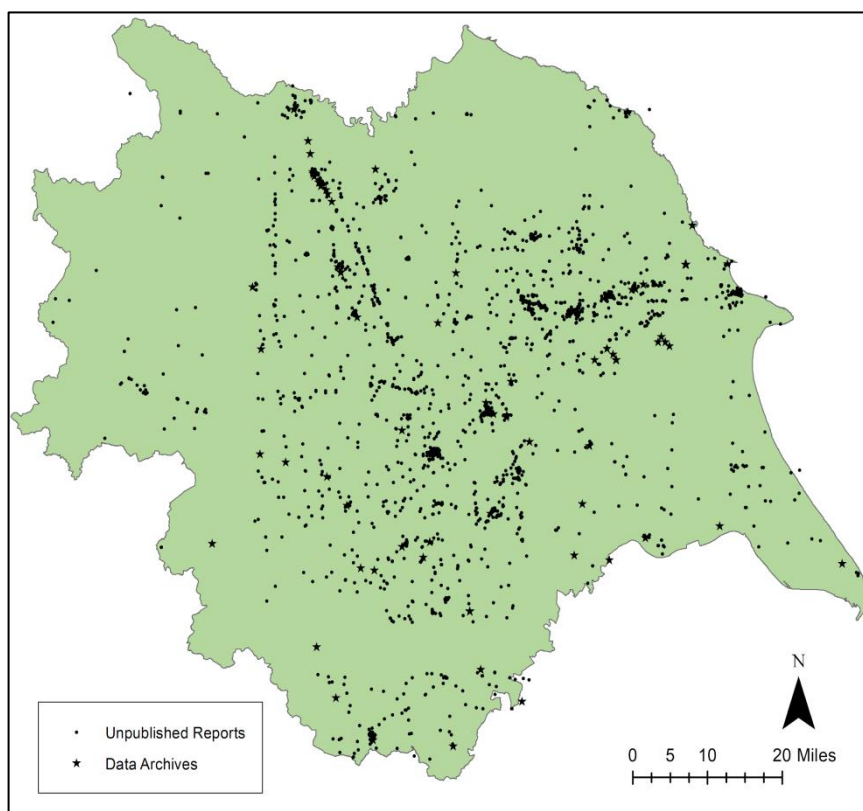


Figure 1 The location of unpublished reports and archives held by the ADS for the Yorkshire region.

At the time of writing the vast majority of these derive from a deposition of reports held by North Yorkshire HER in 2013, but also contain a large number from commercial and research projects reported to OASIS across the wider county. Access to unpublished reports has long been an epistemological crisis of the sector), but one which is rapidly being addressed through the work of OASIS and the HERs, units and community groups that contribute (Evans 2015).

The resulting corpus represents a cross-section across the varied nature and scale of work being undertaken every year, from excavations (for example Burgess et al 2016) to building recording (for example McComish 2019). Of interest to some readers are the deposition of Historic Landscape Characterisation projects that cover the area, and which enable an in-depth understanding of the formation and changing nature of the historic environment (see Dalton et al 2013; Lunn et al 2017; South Yorkshire Archaeology Service 2013).

It is acknowledged that providing access to reports, another significant objective is to ensure that the data collected in the field or laboratory, and which informs the synthesis is also available. At the time of writing the ADS hold over 100 'data archives'; collections which hold more than reports. As with the unpublished reports, these represent a wide spectrum of data types, practitioners and sites (Figures 2 and 3). Highlights of which include the recording of historic graffiti on the tower of St Oswald's Church, Filey (Buglass and Historic England 2019), excavations by the University of York at Cottam and Starr Carr (Richards 2011; University of York 2018), building recording such as the Former Ida Wing, Cookridge Hospital, Leeds (ArchHeritage 2019), and the results of aerial survey (Roberts et al 2010). Archives are being added on a monthly basis, with an increasing number coming from the conditions set as part of development control.

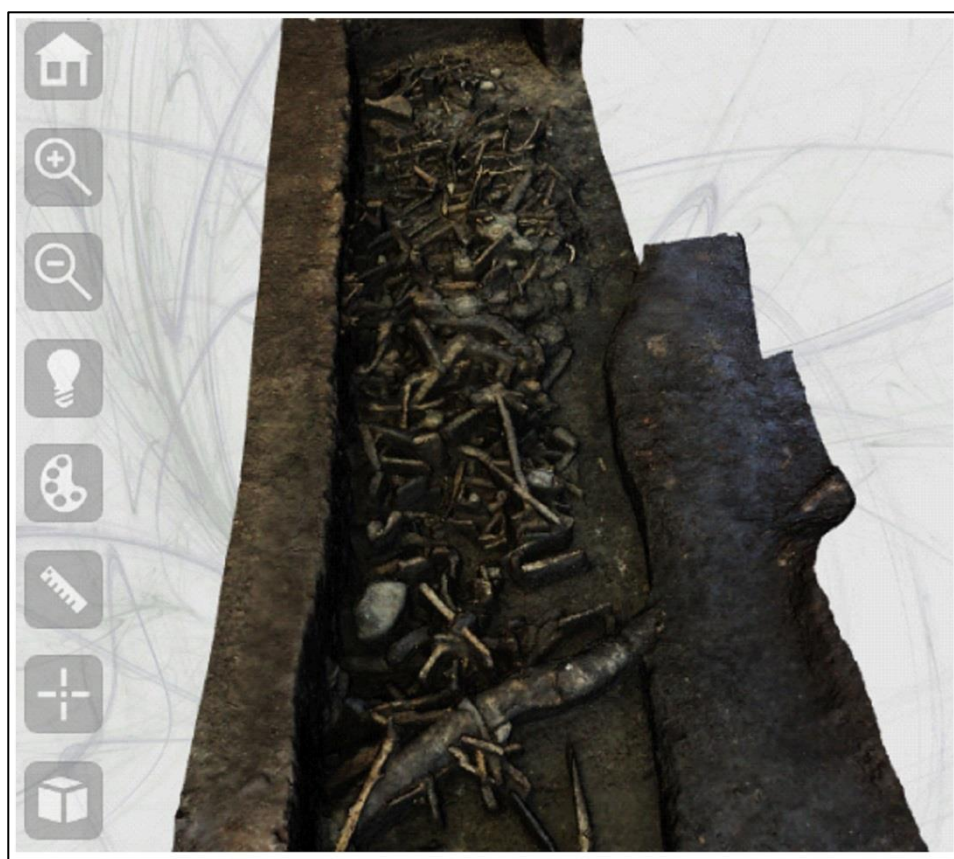


Figure 2 A photogrammetry model of excavations at Star Carr. Copyright University of York. <https://doi.org/10.5284/1041580>

(Click on figure 2 to access the live photogrammetry 3D computer model)



Figure 3 Antler Worked Composite comb from excavations at Burdale. Copyright Julian D. Richards.
<https://doi.org/10.5284/1021540>



Figure 4 Cart-shed and granary, Heath Hall Farm, Wakefield. Copyright Stephen Haigh.
<https://doi.org/10.5284/1057510>

Final thoughts

With longevity, also comes reflection on the future direction of the organisation, especially as ‘data’ and online access is now a fundamental part of modern society. From simple beginnings, the ADS has grown significantly, and its catalogue is now metaphorically bursting with content. A new challenge for the next decade is to identify ways in which this content can more easily be found, especially as much of it lies within very large collections of material. Where once scholars may have dutifully worked through archives to identify material, modern habits are now inclined towards the cross-searching of multiple datasets in an instant. A part of this challenge is, however, to balance expediency with accuracy.

A notable opportunity to work towards this end is the ADS’ historic and current collaboration with international partners who hold similar catalogues of data. The archaeological record often belies modern boundaries, and thus being able to cross-search catalogues from within the UK and beyond for shared themes such as Bronze Age burial monuments is essential. The most recent advance in this endeavour is the Ariadne project, a European collaboration of major data holders from across the continent and beyond (Wright and Richards 2018). The first data portal which combines the metadata records of all partners is now live and freely available to use (see Ariadne 2020). The significance of this cannot be overstated, in a simple interface a user is presented with the records of a continent, and as such the preserved digital records of a region such as Yorkshire become part of a much wider international resource. By signposting the existence of records and resources beyond the ADS website, Ariadne opens more opportunities for researchers to discover data, and hopefully use it within the anticipated next generation of data-based research.

This is not to say the ADS will ignore more local issues. A key focus of the future is the forthcoming redeveloped OASIS form, due for release over the course of 2020. The new OASIS, which is free to use for everyone working within the heritage sector, will focus on reaching out to those working outside of university research or development control and encouraging them to use the system. It should be noted that this focus on the wider sector is combined with a commitment to honouring the scope of the ADS in its broadest form. Consultation with the user community has indicated that those using, and depositing encompass a broad range of research and teaching interests across all aspects of cultural history and heritage. It is hoped that a revitalised OASIS will give anyone that wants to share their work a simple platform to do so and continue to present the varied and valuable work of all those working in Yorkshire and beyond.

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Food for Thought: Creating a research strategy for the Yorkshire Wolds

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Abstract

This article surveys the work completed thus far by York Archaeological Trust in the engagement phase of its Food For Thought project, a commission by Historic England to devise a research strategy for the Yorkshire Wolds. In 2018/19, YAT carried out a range of initiatives to elicit input for the strategy from potential audiences and participants across the Wolds region. These are briefly described, and the planned outcomes for the project summarised. One of these, a comic book designed to capture and represent responses to the engagement work, is discussed in more detail.

Introduction

In 2018 York Archaeological Trust embarked on *Food for Thought*, a project to create an engaging historic environment research strategy for the Yorkshire Wolds on behalf of Historic England. Our project design promised an innovative and non-traditional approach to data gathering, synthesis, analysis output and engagement. The ambition behind this approach was to create an accessible research strategy that is relevant to local residents, workers, business owners and landowners as well as those already associated with the heritage and archaeological industries. The theme of local food production and consumption was chosen as a concept likely to have broad appeal and to capture the imagination of prospective participants.

The Yorkshire Wolds covers a vast area, a detailed study of which would not be feasible with the time available. It was decided that a general overview of the archaeology of the Yorkshire Wolds would underpin the research strategy, but that six study zones would be used as case examples of the different types of landscape present in the region, in which a detailed thematic narrative of the historic environment could be explored. The six study zones were the Birdsall estate, Driffield, Flamborough, Garton on the Wolds, Londesborough and Pocklington, forming a sample totaling just under 9% of the area of the Wolds. The Birdsall estate and Londesborough were both chosen as they represent the designed park landscapes that once covered the Wolds; Driffield provided an urban centre of study, and Flamborough the only coastal part of the Wolds. Garton on the Wolds parish contained a high number of entries on the Heritage at Risk register, representative of the number of monuments on the Yorkshire Wolds affected by agriculture. Pocklington was a later addition, but was included to represent the large amount of developer-led archaeology that is currently being undertaken on the outskirts of Pocklington.



Each study zone was subjected to research which included HER data, aerial mapping, the Heritage at Risk register, Ordnance Survey maps, journal articles, published books, ADS, the Portable Antiquities Scheme database, plus trips to local studies libraries. The data for each study zone was compiled into a spreadsheet, which listed each individual asset by period, co-ordinates, reference, type, name, description, and inclusion on the Heritage at Risk register.

Each asset was then assessed on its potential significance (evidential, historical, aesthetic, communal, as set out by Historic England), its potential to contribute to the understanding, appreciation and future activity of the Yorkshire Wolds, and its level of survival. The data in these spreadsheets, combined with the feedback from the community engagement, was used to draw out the thematic narrative of each study zone.

The principal outcome for *Food For Thought* will be an online platform for the data gathered and the resources produced, forming part of the national suite of online research frameworks. This will be in the form of a ‘wiki’: a database developed collaboratively by a community of users, that allows anyone to add content.

The Engagement Phase

To achieve our aims we created an initial engagement phase to ensure that people had the opportunity to be part of the process and help us shape a strategy that would meet their needs. It used a range of approaches aimed at capturing data from across the Yorkshire Wolds community. We held three initial stakeholder meetings in York and Driffield in July 2018 to gather key insights and feedback on the project design: the second of these was an open event.

A pop-up exhibition followed. Taking Viking-era foodstuffs as its inspiration, it included costumed interpretation, a display of replica material and archaeological evidence for food and farming.

We also worked with the Yorkshire Wolds Cookery School to have samples of Viking-style food available as part of the exhibition. Dr Steve Ashby, from the University of York, attended the events to promote his archaeological science *Melting Pot* project (<https://www.meltingpot.site/>).

This toured to the Driffield Agricultural Show, an open evening at the Elmswell Excavation (by Dig Ventures), and the Malton and Beverley food festivals. The event in Beverley also hosted two storytelling workshops for families, in which participants created their own stories about the Neolithic period in Yorkshire.



Figure 1 Leoba the Viking prepares Viking-era foodstuffs at the Beverley Food Festival 2018

Finally, together with the Council for British Archaeology National team and the CBA Yorkshire group, we delivered a joint discussion day in Malton on 27th October 2018: *The Yorkshire Wolds Heritage Showcase*. The first part of the day saw thirteen speakers give short presentations about their work in the area, 10 of whom attended in a voluntary capacity to talk about their community archaeology work. These presentations inspired Q & A discussions and workshops later in the day.

Methodology

A number of methods were used to record and organise responses from participants in the stakeholder meetings, public events and joint discussion day. One of these was a survey devised in collaboration with colleagues in Historic England, and structured around a set of five open-ended questions to elicit responses based on a participant’s feelings and values in relation to the landscape of the Wolds: what is your favourite thing about the Yorkshire Wolds? If you had friends visiting the Wolds, what would you take them to see? What makes you curious about the Yorkshire Wolds? What do you think people know about the Yorkshire Wolds? What is good to eat in the Yorkshire Wolds?

The results will be made available in full on the project website in 2020, and have been used to inform another of the project outcomes: a short comic that will be printed for distribution to local audiences and hosted on the online platform.



Figure 2 Food For Thought Public Survey Response Wordcloud

The Comic

With this in mind, it was decided that the comic should feature (insofar as the constraints of limited space would allow) a narrative dimension in keeping with the comic book tradition, rather than functioning solely as a vehicle for the transmission of information in the guise of a comic. It features two central characters, Jo the scarecrow and Han the crow, whose names were suggested by a prominent 19th-century headstone in the churchyard in the deserted Wolds village of Wharram Percy: that of Joseph and Hannah Crow. The story is told in 13 panels, together with a centre spread that illustrates the area of the Wolds as defined for *Food For Thought*, and takes the form of a dialogue between Jo and Han, as Han acts as a guide to the Wolds while she and Jo go exploring.

Their exploration of the Wolds takes in visual representations of five of the study zones, some of which are evoked for distinct periods in their history or prehistory, including Neolithic earthworks in Garton parish, the Iron Age chariot burial from Pocklington whose discovery was announced publicly in early 2019 (which was illustrated with advice from archaeologists at MAP Archaeological Practice who had worked on its excavation), and a scene of a medieval canon of Bridlington Priory visiting one of its local windmills. Where possible, archaeological reports and location photographs were referred to by the artist Paul Christopher Bourne. He has worked on previous commissions for York Archaeological Trust to produce artwork in a colourful, child-friendly style. Although evidence of this sort was brought to bear in the artistic process, the emphasis was on producing fun and evocative imagery, rather than attempting accurate reconstructions of the sites under consideration.

As well as introducing the Wolds to non-specialists, the comic will direct readers to the online platform and encourage their active engagement with the research framework. It will also be reproduced in sections to illustrate a forthcoming *Food For Thought* booklet, which will provide a more detailed look at the study zones for anyone looking for a simple introductory guide to visiting and learning about the project and its subjects. Both will be available in full in both printed and online format in summer 2020.



Figure 3 A selection of images from the Food For Thought comic. © Paul Christopher Bourne

Acknowledgements

YAT gratefully acknowledges the support of all who have attended our stakeholder meetings and other events; thanks in particular are due to Neil Redfern and Keith Emerick of Historic England.

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Selected Recent Work by JB Archaeology Ltd

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Introduction

During 2019 JB Archaeology Ltd was involved in a wide range of developer funded and community projects across many parts of the various Yorkshires and beyond. In addition to the brief outlines given below watching briefs were carried out on five sites, a further five sites underwent a basic archaeological assessment and some 17 historic buildings were recorded. All of these projects generally encountered modest archaeological remains and structures. The results of all of these projects can be found in the relevant counties Historic Environment Record whilst below are summaries of the results of some of the more significant projects.

Cooks' Family Cottage, Great Ayton, North Yorkshire (NZ 55717 10643)

As the result of the fortuitous discovery of part of the foundations of Cook's Cottage in Great Ayton, a brief archaeological investigation with volunteers from the local History Society was undertaken on the remains (Figure 1).



Figure 1 Foundations of the western wall of the 1755 cottage, looking south-east scales 0.5&1m © J Buglass

The three day excavation revealed the full width of the surviving foundations of the western end of the 18th century cottage.

The foundations were found to be built of rough stone blocks laid vertically to the rear of the foundation and horizontally to the front. A short section of a probable internal division was also revealed. Part of the construction cut for the northern end of the wall was revealed which showed that the cottage had been built directly into a foundation trench cut into the underlying natural clays.

The cottage was built by Cpt James Cooks' father on his retirement from Aireyholme Farm in 1755 and was probably visited by Cpt Cook on his occasional visits to the area. After the death of his wife Cook senior moved from Great Ayton to Redcar and the cottage passed through a number of owners until it was sold to an Australian businessman in 1933. After the sale the building underwent controlled dismantling and was shipped in crates to Melbourne where it was rebuilt and is a popular attraction. After demolition the site had been levelled and used as a public garden in which stands a replica of the commemorative obelisk which stands on Cape Everard, where Capt. Cook first sighted Australia.

For further information see www.captcook-greatayton.com

Richmond Castle, Richmond, North Yorkshire (NZ 17151 00792)

Two archaeological watching briefs were undertaken at Richmond Castle during the year on the installation of various new services, one of which encountered the substantial remains of both the Barbican and inner curtain walls of the castle. The Barbican wall was found to have an associated stone culvert running through it - presumably to drain the internal yard of the Barbican into the surrounding moat (Figure 2).

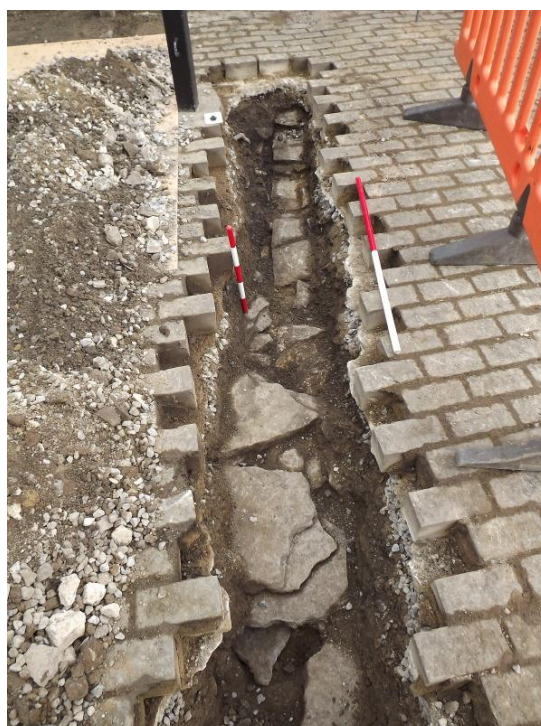


Figure 2 Stone culvert and curtain wall, looking north, scales 0.5 & 1m

Whitby Abbey, Whitby, North Yorkshire (NZ 90254 11218)

A series of archaeological excavations and watching briefs were undertaken on various aspects of the refurbishment works at Whitby Abbey and Cholmley House at Whitby. The main excavation was of ten historic tree pits in the grounds of Cholmley House for the planting of new trees in order to partially replicate the earlier, post dissolution, landscape.

The excavation recorded archaeological features in eight of the new tree pits. All of the features related to the earlier tree pits created in the 18th century as part of the development of Cholmley House. The remaining new tree pits contained buried soil layers that probably represent the earlier garden of the grounds to Cholmley House.

The few finds recovered from the excavation of the earlier tree pits suggest both the re-working of earlier soils and the use of domestic midden material to enrich the soil. The two struck flints dating to the later Mesolithic/early Neolithic from Tree Pit 9 probably derive from the large scale re-working of the area to create the Cholmley landscape.

Mount Misery and Bakers Warren, Wykeham Forest, North Yorkshire (TA 94660 89347)

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the ground works associated with a new water supply to Mount Misery Farm in Wykeham Forest, North Yorkshire. The site is part of the scheduled monument (No. 32077) for the 18th century Mount Misery and Barkers Warren rabbit warrens.

The watching brief recorded a single section through the remains of the encircling earth and stone bank for the warren. The bank had been formed by cutting a 0.3m deep section into the side of the natural slope of the hillside to form a level base for the wall which was some 0.98m wide. This then formed a level base for the dry-stone wall to sit on and would, presumably, have been sufficiently deep and wide to prevent rabbits from burrowing under it. The wall had been built with two outer faces of local, undressed stone with a stone rubble and earth core.

Pratt's House, Peggies and Home Farm, Kearton, Swaledale (SD 99676 98945)

A series of historic building surveys were undertaken by Jen Deadman on behalf of JB Archaeology Ltd on three building complexes near Low Row in the Yorkshire Dales.

The three homesteads are linear in plan form each flanked on either side by agricultural buildings which originally served as cattle byres or hay mews. All are built from millstone grit quarried locally from the high fells to the north. Roofs are of graduated stone slate with a stone ridge at the apex. Coping stones are evident at eaves level. Window and door dressings are a hotchpotch of 17th, 18th and 19th century design. Small irregular enclosures known as potato pieces lie abandoned close by with small yards and gardens neglected and overgrown.

All, at one time, were home to miner farmers with Peggies and Pratt's House abandoned by the turn of the 19th century and their few scattered acres returned to the landlord. Home Farm was last occupied in the 1980s and has stood empty for the past eight years.

In addition to the various structural details dating from the 17th century onwards both Pratt's House and Peggies contained a range of pencil graffiti on plaster. As with the vast majority of graffiti it takes the form of people's names, sometimes along with a date. Here, however, there are a notable number of graffiti that are more than just names and include examples of observations on the weather (e.g. *Stormy Day 1904*); poetry; tallies and even algebra. The presence of this more diverse range of graffiti could allow for a better understanding of who created the graffiti and why. The in depth study of larger collections of graffiti have been shown to shed light on many details of daily and seasonal activities – e.g. Buglass, 2015.

All of the graffiti currently visible is in pencil on lime plaster and as such it has suffered water damage and decay over time and much of it is no longer completely legible.

As both of the buildings are in a very poor state of repair and with access to the ground floor of Pratts House being difficult and the upper floor impossible it is currently not possible to carry out detailed and systematic recording of the graffiti. However, some of the more accessible and unusual examples are reproduced here.

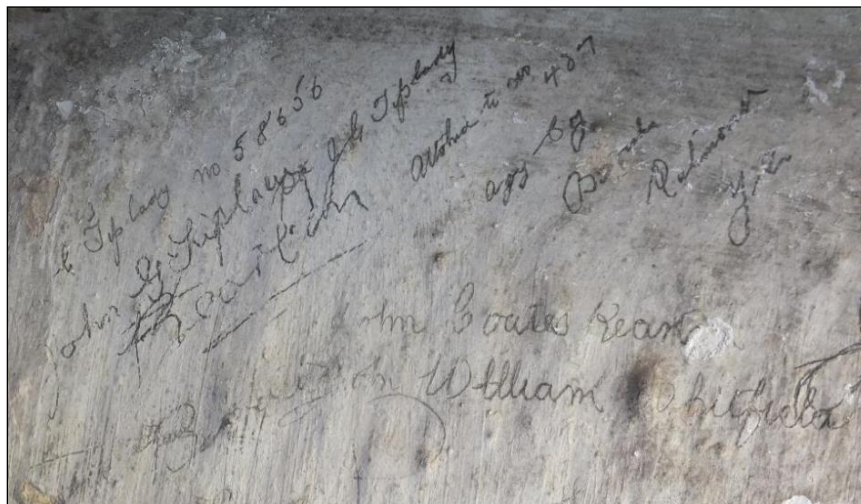


Figure 3 List of local names

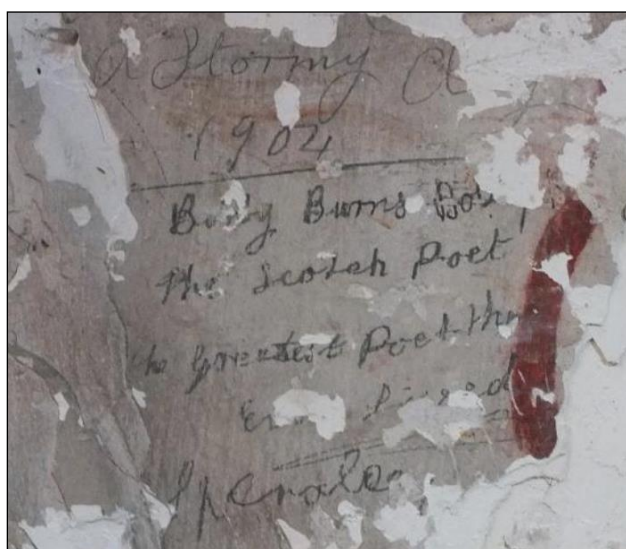


Figure 4 Record of a 'Stormy Day 1904' and a possible tribute to 'Bobby Burns The Scottish Poet'

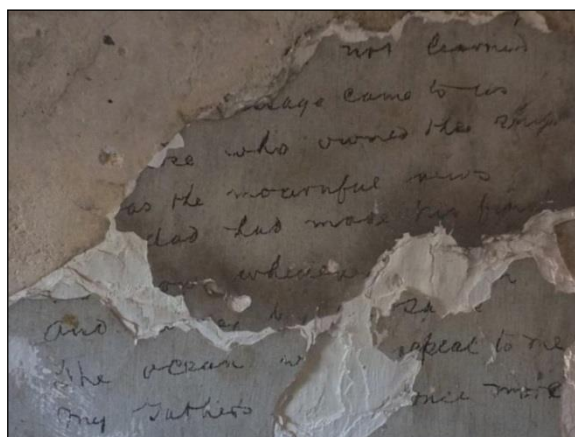


Figure 5 Fragment of poetry

...not learned
 ...?sage came to lie
 ...who owned the

...?as the mournful news

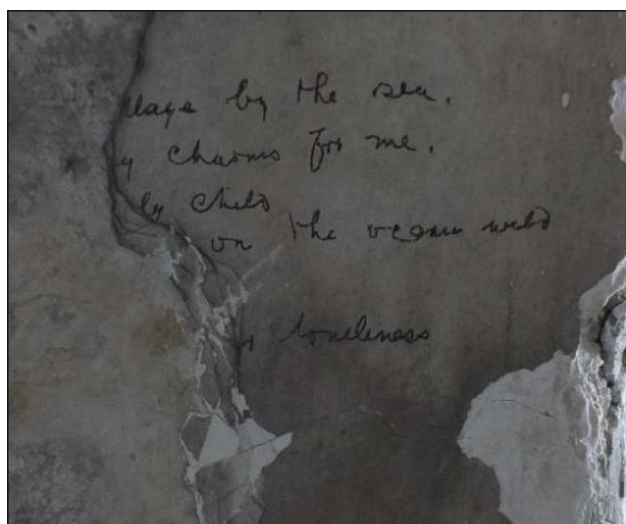
...?dad had made his finest

...wherever...

...and ...by...

The oceans ...repeat to me

My fathersonce more



..village by the sea
...charms for me
....by child
....on the ocean wild
....loneliness

Figure 6 Fragment of poetry



Figure 7 Tally in first floor – possible scoring in a game for G and T

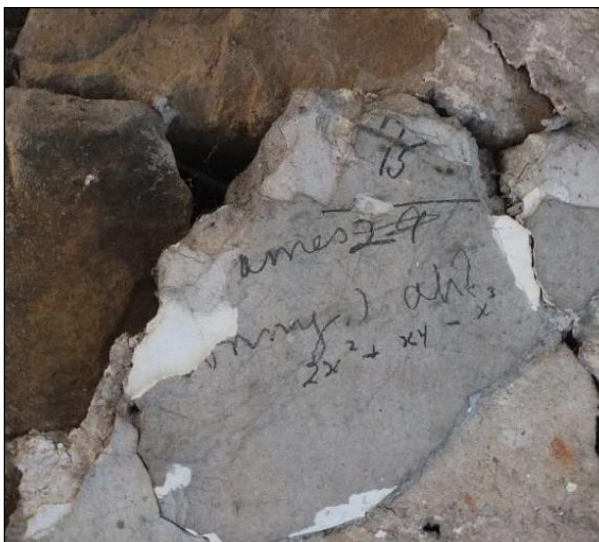


Figure 8 Algebra in Peggies

Reference

Buglass, J., 2015, *The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ, Moves on: Historic Graffiti at St Oswald's Church, Filey, North Yorkshire.* [CBA\(Yorkshire\) Forum Journal, Volume 4 2015 pp 2-18](#)

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Recent Work in West Yorkshire

Stephen Haigh

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I have conducted two programmes of recording work concerning historic buildings in West Yorkshire in 2019

Heath Hall Farm

At Heath Hall Farm, Warmfield-cum-Heath, near Wakefield (SE 35640 20285), the grade II listed cart-shed and granary is a distinctive eighteenth or early nineteenth century building, forming a prestigious component of the home farm. It has previously been attributed to the architect Theophilus Shelton (1645 - 1717), but its omission from a 1745 map suggests otherwise, and rather implies that it is the work of John Carr, who remodelled Heath Hall in the second half of the eighteenth century.



The building is of considerable architectural significance, because of its simple but well-executed exterior with two wide arches to the front, its four upper cruck trusses of oak, a lime ash upper floor, and a small timber crane (also of oak) set within a gable loading doorway. Recording was carried out prior to the building's conversion to residential use and the report, together with the photographic archive, will shortly be available for viewing online at:

<https://doi.org/10.5284/1057510>

123 Smith House Lane

At Lightcliffe, the house known as 123 Smith House Lane (SE 14268 24681), represents the east wing of Smith House, originally a late medieval, timber-framed, single aisled house which was encased in stone in the seventeenth century.



The wing is of two storeys and was extended to the north in the eighteenth or early nineteenth century. Key features recorded through a watching brief, during refurbishment and alterations include a hitherto hidden fragment of the original timber frame, and a fireplace of 1726 inserted in the wing's kitchen.

The report will shortly be available for viewing online via the Archaeology Data Service's Grey Literature Library.

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Selected Recent Work by Jon Kenny -- Community Archaeology

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Introduction

This short article gives an overview of the projects that I have been working on over that last 5 years.

I started working as a community archaeologist on my own project on a Romano British farmstead near Malton. At the time I was working as a project manager at the Archaeology Data Service and this was my route to some field work at weekends.

In 2006 I took the opportunity to become Community Archaeologist at York Archaeological Trust (funded for 5 years by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)). In this role I worked on several projects and made a lot of contacts with communities interested in learning about the history and archaeology of the landscape around them.

In 2015 I took the opportunity to become self-employed, setting up Jon Kenny – Community Archaeology working as an independent community archaeologist. Over the last five years I have built on my contacts to work on a number of projects supporting communities and groups of people with special needs as well as working in partnership with, other community archaeologists, archaeology units and Historic England. These are some of the projects I have worked on:

Archaeology North Duffield

I have worked with Archaeology North Duffield for more than ten years. We have developed and delivered two projects supported by the HLF. We have studied the prehistory of first the village and then the wider landscape around the village. Working in partnership with archaeologist Paul Durdin we have delivered five excavations and a test pit survey in that period.



We have worked with many local primary schools and groups of people with learning difficulties from Selby to Easingwold. From an archaeological perspective we have built up a picture of the Iron Age and Romano British landscape between the rivers Ouse and Derwent and the York moraine to the north. We have excavated round house sites and enclosures as well as enclosed settlements running from the Iron Age into the Romano British.



Cawood Garth Group

I have a similar long-term partnership with the Cawood Garth Group, who had already started their first project on Cawood Castle Garth when I met them. I was able to support the completion of a test pit survey on the Castle Garth (gardens, ponds and working space to the west of the Archbishop of York's palace in the village). We were able to suggest that the gardens stood close by an area for clay extraction and probable pot and tile making as well as stone movement from quarries to the west. Suggesting that views from this medieval garden were as much about seeing economic activity as an aesthetically pleasing garden.



Following on from our work at the Castle Garth we undertook another project (supported by the HLF) aimed at better understanding the site adjacent to the Garth called Keesbury (or more recently 'the Gooseberries'). Here we studied and undertook an excavation on a scheduled ancient monument, a medieval moated site. Owned by the de Cawood family, the second major stake holder in the village of Cawood. We were able to throw light on the activity on the moat and the probable location of the moat. We also worked on the history of the land and the village as a resource for market gardening in the 1800s to the point that a railway was built to move fruit and vegetables out.



In 2019 we moved our attentions to Cawood Common and the extensive crop marks identified there. These suggested an Iron Age and Romano British landscape, possibly a ladder settlement with an interesting square shaped enclosure on its south. We gained support from the Community Engagement Forum at Selby Town Council to deliver a community excavation and engagement with schools and people as risk of loneliness. The archaeology showed a ladder settlement from the Romano British period, possibly containing a large 60m x 60m farmstead that might be acting as a local conduit for agricultural produce heading up the river system to larger settlements.

Other Selected Projects

2016 and 2017 saw a wonderful opportunity to work with the Abbots Staith Partnership in Selby. The partnership has been working hard to develop the medieval warehouse at the Abbots Staith. I have been supporting archaeological investigations to better understand the building of the warehouse. There are differing opinions as to the construction date. The style of the arches suggests an earlier date, but excavation and dendrochronology so far suggest a late medieval date. More excavation is required to get a date for the outer walls of the Staith before we are sure.

In 2017 I started working with an organisation that has now become Howdenshire Archaeological Society. With support from Howden Town Council and in partnership with Karen Adams from PastSearch Archaeology we have been investigating part of the Prince Bishop of Durham's palace in Howden. The site had gone out of use during the 1500s and although it had been described in historical sources it had never been properly understood along the east range. We undertook a geophysical survey and then carried out evaluation trenches on the site. Although we are not completely certain of the layout of the range of buildings, we have shown that earlier plans drawn from the descriptions are inaccurate. We are now keen to excavate more of the range and to better understand its relationship with the waterway to the east (now entirely beneath the town).

In 2016 I started working with Beyond Boundaries in Comondale on the North York Moors. Beyond Boundaries are based on a small farm and offer outdoor activities to people with learning difficulties coming from the Tees valley to the north. We have established an excavation project on an old farmhouse at the top of the village in its own enclosure. The house seems to have been quite large in the early 1800s at the time that the village was growing on the back of iron stone mining and then the brick and tile industry. The excavation is slow moving and is based on one or two weeks every other year. We are slowly putting together a picture of a house in decline, that was rebuilt a number of times, reusing the same stone and finishing up as a very small cottage after WWII. Ultimately being turned into a sheep dip.

As an independent community archaeologist, I have delivered community archaeology as part of larger community projects. One of these projects was on the Pocklington Canal, working with the Canals and Rivers Trust supported by the HLF. Here we undertook geophysics and excavation on a small warehouse building on the canal head. This was a successful opportunity for people to get hands on with archaeology, we showed that this was a substantial building, with very substantial foundations probably extending to three stories. We also gained a much better idea of the history and significance of the canal head, being the point that the canal links to the landscape and town of Pocklington.

I have had the opportunity to work with other archaeological organisations, delivering community outreach for ArcHeritage on excavations at Thorne, with an interest in the castle there and the growing area to the north of the market square. Working with Humber Field Archaeology on community outreach for work on the Tudor Defences, the South Blockhouse has been very rewarding. Keeping the project in the public eye through social media as well as acting as excavation guide and school contact. I am now working with the Jessop consultancy to deliver community outreach at Cannon Hall Museum near Barnsley. Helping to undertake test pit surveys in search of a formal Tudor garden predating the current landscape garden.

In addition to this community work I have been involved in project work with the Workers Education Association and currently run archaeology courses at the Queens Mill in Castleford for the WEA. I also teach on the Community activism course at the University of York.

All in all a varied and busy life as a community archaeologist. The work also involves a lot of free consultancy with community groups. A factor that allows the slow development of projects, but makes my work well suited to an independent, unfettered by the needs of an organisation.

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