



# **SKIPWITH COMMON, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

## **Outline Landscape Survey**



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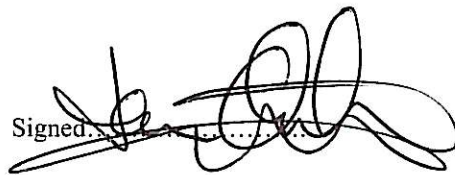
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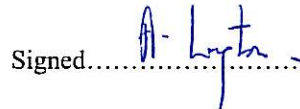
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The primary documentary research was undertaken by Kathryn Blythe. The survey was undertaken by Jamie Quartermaine, Kathryn Blythe and Fiona Gordon. The report was written by Kathryn Blythe and the illustrations were by Anne Stewardson, Alix Sperr and Mark Tidmarsh. The report was edited by Jamie Quartermaine, who also managed the project.

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## SUMMARY

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was invited by Natural England to undertake a programme of archaeological survey of part of Skipwith Common on behalf of Escrick Park Estate (NGR SE 6539 3721, approximate centre). This was intended to inform the appropriate conservation management of the common. The survey was undertaken in April 2008.

The project comprised a documentary study and a landscape survey. The documentary study entailed an investigation of the following sources: the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER); the National Monuments Record (NMR); maps held by the East Riding Record Office; and the OA North Library. The landscape survey was a rapid surface investigation to identify the existence, but not record in detail, the surface archaeological monuments within the study area, which were then located using a differential GPS system. Eighty-seven new sites were added to the gazetteer as a result of the survey.

The earliest activity in the vicinity of the study area is attested by possible Mesolithic microliths found during excavations in 1940s and findspots of Neolithic flints.

Four scheduled Bronze Age barrows are located within the study area and there are a number of other barrows in the wider area. Two additional possible barrows were identified during the walk-over survey. A series of parallel banks has been surveyed across the study area, extending for over 900m. The date of these banks is not known, but it is possible that they represent the line of an historic boundary, which may have its origins with the Bronze Age, although the banks themselves may be a later marker of the boundary.

A scheduled Iron Age square barrow cemetery is located in the north-west portion of the study area at Danes Hill. These barrows have been excavated at various points from the eighteenth century onwards and appear to comprise a main group of approximately twenty barrows and a smaller group of approximately five barrows to its east. Some of these barrows were destroyed by a Second World War airfield, but a number have been identified during the walk-over survey.

A possible Iron Age enclosure is located towards the eastern side of the study area, which was surveyed during the walk-over survey. In addition several, possibly associated, ditches were noted in this area. An extensive area of cropmarks has been identified as part of the National Mapping Programme of the Vale of York to the immediate north of the study area.

Evidence for the medieval and post-medieval use of the common has also been identified during the survey. Sand pits were noted on historic mapping and a number of ponds, noted on both the historic and current mapping, probably originated as sand pits or areas of peat cutting. Two plantations were noted within the study area on the historic mapping, and the remains of the banked boundaries of these plantations were identified during the walk-over survey. Parts of boundaries on the north, south and western sides of the common were recorded during the walk-over, as were possible paths and trackways thought to date to the post-medieval period.

In 1940 part of Skipwith Common was requisitioned for use as Riccall Airfield, an operational bomber base for the No.1658 Royal Air Force Heavy Conversion Unit during the Second World War. The north-eastern part of the airfield is located within the study

area, including part of a runway, a perimeter track with heavy-bomber dispersals distributed around it and a number of buildings. A bomb dump is located towards the central part of the study area, positioned some distance from the airfield in case of enemy bombing or accidental explosions; a number of bomb storage buildings are located in this area. Other buildings are located across the study area and include four air raid shelters, two component stores and several buildings of unknown function, as well as associated features.

Flying stopped at Riccall in November 1945 and from 1948 to 1957 the airfield was used as an RAF storage site. By 1985 the main use of the site was for agricultural purposes and many of the airfield buildings had been demolished, with parts of the runways removed by 2002.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was invited by Natural England to undertake a programme of archaeological survey of part of Skipwith Common (SE 6539 3721 (approximate centre)), on behalf of Escrick Park Estate and Natural England. This was intended to inform the appropriate conservation management of the common and to provide training for the Friends of Skipwith.

### 1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.2.1 **Aims:** the primary purpose of the project was to inform future management decisions with regard to conservation matters relating to the archaeological and historical content of part of Skipwith Common. The proposed study was intended as an initial exploration of the archaeological and historical resource, rather than a definitive and comprehensive study. The intention was to provide a grounding of survey training for the Friends of Skipwith Common, allowing them to undertake more detailed survey, and further research.

1.2.2 **Objectives:** the objectives of the project were:

- To establish sufficient information to establish the location, extent, character, period, condition, fragility and potential of the surviving archaeological features;
- To provide a level 1b survey of all identified monuments (OA North 2002), which would identify and locate all surface monuments and features but not provide a detailed drawn record;
- To provide a basis for the preparation of detailed management prescriptions;
- To provide training to the friends of Skipwith Common in archaeological survey recording.



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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 2*) was submitted in January 2008 by OA North in response to a brief (*Appendix 1*) by Natural England for a programme of desk-based research, and a survey of the archaeological and historical features within part of Skipwith Common, and to undertake a programme of training in survey techniques for the Friends of Skipwith Common. The work was carried out in accordance with the project design.

### 2.2 DESK-BASED RESEARCH

2.2.1 **Introduction:** a limited programme of desk-based research was undertaken of the study area to provide an archaeological and historical background to the area sufficient to inform the field survey, rather than a comprehensive historical study.

2.2.2 **Historic Environment Record (HER and NMR):** an assessment was undertaken of data held in the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER), the National Monuments Record (NMR), and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), which are databases of archaeological sites. A full record of the sites within the study area, including grid reference and description, was obtained.

2.2.3 **Aerial Photography:** the results of the National Mapping Programme (NMP) for the Vale of York were provided by English Heritage, via Natural England (Fig 2). They provided a remarkable indicator of crop marks in the fields surrounding the common.

2.2.4 **East Riding Record Office:** maps available through the Record Office's website were consulted, and a map regression was compiled with Ordnance Survey and other mapping between 1855 and the 1950's (Figs 3-8).

### 2.3 LANDSCAPE SURVEY

2.3.1 **Introduction:** the survey was undertaken as an enhanced OA North Level 1b type survey (OA North 2002). The survey study area was as defined in the project brief and encompassed 120ha. The sites already identified from the HER were checked and recorded at the same level of consistency as other newly discovered monuments. The survey involved four elements: Reconnaissance, Mapping, Description and Photography.

2.3.2 **Reconnaissance:** the reconnaissance was undertaken by field walking, which varied from 30m - 50m line intervals depending on visibility (as affected by tree density), terrain and safety considerations. A limited number of areas (shown on Fig 2) could not be investigated as they were extensively flooded, which was probably a result of mining subsidence. The survey aimed to identify, locate and record all archaeological sites and features on the ground. Those sites already identified by the archival study were checked against their entry and the entry was enhanced, where appropriate.

2.3.3 **Survey Mapping:** the location and extent of identified sites was recorded by differential GPS survey. The GPS used was a Leica GPS 1200 real time differential

survey instrument, which achieve accuracies of  $\pm 0.03\text{m}$ ; however, in areas of tree cover this deteriorated down to  $\pm 0.5\text{m}$  and in areas of very dense cover, it was as poor as  $\pm 1.0\text{m}$ . Despite the extensive tree canopy cover a fix was obtained from the GPS for all sites.

2.3.4 **Photography:** in conjunction with the landscape survey a photographic archive was generated, which recorded significant features as well as aspects of the general landscape. This photographic archive was maintained using black and white 35mm film and also using a digital camera with 6.0mega pixel resolution.

2.3.5 **Description:** the data was directly input on site into a Psion palm computer and subsequently incorporated into an Access 97 compatible database. The input into the system was guided by a proforma to ensure uniformity and consistency of input. The description incorporated a provisional interpretation of the function and purpose of a site, where possible, and provided a provisional interpretation of the site's chronology where possible. Each category of significance was given high, medium or low scores in the field. These values were averaged to provide an overall grade for the site at the data analysis stage.

## 2.4 LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

2.4.1 **Enhancing the mapping:** on completion of the survey, the data gathered was transferred into AutoCAD and superimposed with the historical and current maps. A programme of landscape assessment established the condition of the extant features and attempted to correlate the features from the rapid identification survey with those shown on historic cartographic sources. The results were presented as the landscape history section of the report (*Section 5*).

## 2.5 GAZETTEER OF SITES

2.5.1 All of the information concerning archaeological sites within the assessed area has been collated into a gazetteer (*Appendix 3*), which provides details of their location, period, character and significance. Locations are given as ten-figure National Grid References where possible, and the position of each site is indicated on map of the study area (Fig 2).

## 2.6 ARCHIVE

2.6.1 A full archive has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (1991) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The archive is provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and digitally. The archive will be deposited with the North Yorkshire County Record Office in Northallerton, along with a copy of the report. Digital copies of the archive, report and figures will be submitted to the NMR and ADS. The report will be submitted to North Yorkshire County Council Historic Environment Record, Natural England, Skipwith Estate, and Friends of Skipwith Common. It is proposed to submit the Neolithic flint flake, along with a copy of the report to the Yorkshire Museum in York.

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## 3. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 This section sets out a brief archaeological and historical background of Skipwith Common, within a context by which the discoveries from the desk-based assessment and survey can be compared.

### 3.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.2.1 Skipwith Common is located to the south of the village of Skipwith and *c* 5km to the north-east of Selby. The study area occupies *c* 120ha on the west side of the common. The study area is fairly flat and lies between 10m and 15m OD (Ordnance Survey 1992). The study area is bounded to the north, west and south by agricultural fields, whilst the common extends to the east of the study area boundary. The present day terrain comprises generally poorly drained ground and there are numerous ponds and lakes within the area. In the better drained ground there is a general covering of scrub and immature trees (mainly birch) (Plate 1).
- 3.2.2 Skipwith Common is located within the Vale of York, a low lying area, which has resulted from the erosion of the underlying soft Triassic or New Red Sandstone. During the last Ice Age this area became a large inland lake, which was subsequently partially infilled with material from the surrounding hills (MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd 1994). The solid geology comprises Permian and Triassic Sandstones (BGS 2007) and the superficial geology comprises pelostagnogley soils and gleyic brown sands (Ordnance Survey 1983).

### 3.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.3.1 **Mesolithic:** during the Mesolithic period the inhabitants of the British Isles employed a subsistence strategy traditionally viewed as the exploitation of natural resources by activities based on hunting, gathering, and fishing. Excavations which took place in 1941 by a Miss K Hodgson on four of the Danes Hill square barrows (Site 1), produced a number of flint blades which Miss Hodgson described as 'typical Yorkshire microliths' (Mike Griffiths and Associates 1997, 7).
- 3.3.2 **Neolithic:** approximately commensurate with the adoption of farming, from *c* 4000 BC, the Neolithic period saw an increase in more permanent settlement, and the beginnings of the widespread construction of monumental architecture. Woodland clearance took place in the Neolithic period, evidenced by a fall in tree pollen, replaced by grass and in some cases cereal pollen (Quartermaine and Leech forthcoming). The NMR has two records of findspots of Neolithic artefacts from the vicinity of the study area; a flint axe (NMR SE 63 NW 13, at NGR SE 66 38) was found to the north-east of the study area and two stone axes (NMR SE 63 NE 22, at NGR SE 62 37) were found to the west of the study area. A double ditched enclosure of unknown date (NMR SE 63 NE 41) is visible as a cropmark to the north of the study area. This site has been interpreted as a possible Neolithic (NMR Record Description) or even an Iron Age enclosure. The NMR also offer the suggestion that it may have been a nineteenth century tree plantation; however. There is nothing shown in this location on the OS first edition map (1855), and

there is no correlation between this enclosure and the nineteenth century field system, indicating that it was of a much earlier date.

- 3.3.3 **Bronze Age:** the beginning of the Bronze Age in Britain developed gradually from the preceding Neolithic during the mid third millennium BC. Lithic technology changed and a wider range of flint tools were used including knives and scrapers. Perforated stone objects, such as axe-hammers, and bronze implements also began to be used, pottery styles changed, single burials increase in occurrence in the archaeological record and monumental building changed (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 29).
- 3.3.4 There are probably four Bronze Age barrows (Sites 2-5) that had previously been located within the study area, indicating that by at least this time the area was being utilised and Bronze Age settlements may have been located nearby. The four barrows are concentrated towards the north of Skipwith Common, and to the immediate south of the South Moor Field, they are for the most part still extant, although Site 5, was within a flooded area and could not be investigated, as part of the present study. A possible barrow, which survives as an earthwork (NMR SE 63 NE 40, at NGR SE 6600 3798) is located to the east of this group, just to the north-east of the study area. Further possible barrows survive as cropmarks within South Moor Field (NMR SE 63 NE 38), to the immediate north of the study area and a group of four mounds (NMR 63 NW 35, at NGR SE 6468 3779), which are possible barrows, are located to the south of Adamson Farm.
- 3.3.5 A probable barrow (Site 14) is located towards the south-western extent of the study area (Plate 6). A north-west/south-east alignment of multiple linear banks extending beyond the boundaries of the study area, has been surveyed for a distance of c 1.5km in 2007 and 2008 (Site 18). The date of these banks is unknown although it is entirely possible that they originated in the Bronze Age and are contemporary with the barrows, as there are putative barrows within the boundary bank complex. The banks are aligned with these barrows, implying a relationship, although it is also possible that the barrows were an early form of the territorial boundary, and the banks were a later manifestation of the same boundary line. A notable example of this is on Sutton Bank, where there are also a series of prehistoric territorial boundaries with barrows superimposed (OA North 2003).
- 3.3.6 **Iron Age / Roman:** Site 1 is Danes Hill Iron Age square barrow cemetery, which consisted of more than 20 barrows prior to the construction of Riccall Airfield, which destroyed several of them. The remaining barrows are visible as cropmarks and low mounds. Excavations with reported findings of La Tene burials, cremations and Roman pottery were carried out on the site in 1754, 1849, 1941 and 1998 (Proctor 1851; Stead 1965). Site 21 refers to five of the barrows, located in the north-eastern part of the main Danes Hill group. Site 19 is a square barrow, included in the Danes Hill group (Site 1), which was excavated in 1754; this produced two crouched inhumations. The excavator, J Burton, also excavated other barrows in the group (Stead 1965). The description for Site 20 refers to cremated bone, which is thought to have been recovered from the Site 1 area (*ibid*). An additional group of seven dispersed probable Iron Age square barrows are located to the north and west of the Danes Hill Cemetery (NMR SE 63 NW 33) and outside the study area. Site 23 is the site of an Iron Age square barrow; a find of a piece of woollen cloth (Site 15) was made in this location, and presumably was from this barrow.

- 3.3.7 A number of Iron Age/Romano British sites have been identified through aerial photographs analysed as part of the National Mapping Programme (NMP) for the Vale of York. To the north of the study area are two main complexes of sites. NMR SE 63 NW 8 is located to the north-west of the study area, to the north of the Danes Hill Barrow Cemetery (Site 1). This is a probable settlement site comprising a complex of superimposed rectilinear ditch-defined enclosures and associated trackways, extending over an east/west area of c 850m. Site 22 is a putative Iron Age field system, located south of this, but which is probably part of the same site.
- 3.3.8 NMR SE 63 NE 38 is located to the north of the eastern part of the study area. This is the remains of a field system visible as cropmarks, extending for 750m, with the main axis of the ditches being west to east and north to south. The cropmarks include some double-ditched rectilinear enclosures, some of which contain round houses. A programme of field walking carried out in South Moor Field yielded Roman pottery from the area immediately north of the common (MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd 1994). To the south of the field system, within the woodland of Skipwith Common, are the earthwork remains of a rectilinear enclosure, located within the study area (Site 6), whose date is uncertain. Site 6 has double and triple-ditched elements and has a possible entrance on the western side, as such it has the potential to be an Iron Age defended enclosed settlement (Plates 8-10).
- 3.3.9 Site 12 is the site of an Iron Age rectangular enclosure with two oval ring ditches in its north-east corner, but is now under the perimeter track of the airfield. The HER also has a separate site of an undated enclosure system in this same area (Site 16). Site 17 is the findspot of Roman pottery sherds also from the same area.
- 3.3.10 There are also several more sites interpreted as probably Iron Age/Romano-British in date in the wider area which surrounds Skipwith Common. The paucity of sites from the common itself is likely to be the result of a lack of previous survey or has been obscured by vegetation cover and tree cover, rather than an absence of sites. Both sites NMR SE 63 NW 8 and NMR SE 63 NE 38 contain complexes of ditches which have been noted as far south as the north boundary of the common and are, therefore, likely to extend southwards into this area.
- 3.3.11 **Early Medieval:** the settlement of the Skipwith area in the post-Roman period is not known, although the nearby Rivers Ouse and Derwent were used as entry points by the Anglian settlers who came to the wider area in the sixth century (Mike Griffiths and Associates 1997, 9). Skipwith Church has a late Saxon tower and north nave wall and there is at least one fragment of re-used Anglo-Scandinavian sculptured stone in the fabric of the tower which is considered to be of ninth to eleventh century date (Lang 1991, 215; *op cit*, 14; Taylor and Taylor 1965). The sculpture is incorporated into the earliest pre-conquest phase of the churches construction (Lang 1991, 215), and would appear to suggest that there has been some considerable activity on the site prior to the construction of the church. There also appears to be a semi-circular graveyard, possibly Anglo-Saxon in origin, which can be seen to extend beyond the boundary of the present graveyard (*op cit*, 10).
- 3.3.12 The origin of the name 'Danes Hill', in which the Iron Age square barrows are located is believed to have come from the Battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066. The Viking army, commanded by King Harald Hadrada of Norway is thought to have landed and made camp near Riccall on the River Ouse. The army then marched to

Stamford Bridge where they were surprised and defeated by the English Army, led by King Harold Godwinson, on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 1066. The Viking survivors of the battle then returned to their ships, and it is thought that many of their dead were buried nearby at Riccall. This led to the confused identification of the burial mounds at Skipwith Common as the Viking burial ground, hence the name 'Danes Hill' (*ibid*).

- 3.3.13 **Medieval:** Skipwith is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as '*Schiperwic*' and is described as consisting of three carucates of land, which belonged to Hugh son of Baldric (Faull and Stinson 1986). The estate was held by the d'Avranches family from c 1200 to c 1354, after which it passed to the Skipwith family when Catherine d'Avranche married William Skipwith (Allison 1976). In 1708 the Skipwith estate was sold by Mary Skipwith to Francis Annesley. The estate was sold several times during the nineteenth century and was in the hands of the Forbes Adam family by the end of the nineteenth century (*ibid*; MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. 1994). The common belonged to Skipwith Manor and, consequently, has also been known as Lord's or Hall Moor (ERRO/DDFA/11/9). A Scheduled moated site is located c 500m to the north of the study area (SM 28250). The scheduling description of the monument states that this is considered to be the location of the manor until the seventeenth century, when in 1657 the house or hall was demolished. It was replaced with a cottage named Moat Hall, which stood on the site until the twentieth century. A number of other scheduled moated sites are located in the wider area around Skipwith, including at Riccall to the west of the study area, and at Aughton to the east.
- 3.3.14 Assarting, or woodland clearance for farming, took place throughout the medieval period. A programme of field walking has been carried out in South Moor Field to the immediate north of the study area. Finds of medieval pottery indicate that this land was cultivated from the twelfth century onwards (MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd 1994). Uses of the common during the medieval period would have included grazing, peat extraction, and exploitation of timber (Rackham 2000, 139).
- 3.3.15 The flax industry was an important local industry for Skipwith and Selby with traders in flax mentioned for these areas in the Kelly's Directories of the early twentieth century. Two lime ponds located to the north-east of the study area, at the northern extent of the common on the west side of Blackwood Road, may have been used for retting (MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd 1994, 21).
- 3.3.16 A documentary source mentions that three plantations were established in the early nineteenth century, near the road that crosses Skipwith Common (Allison 1976, 91). A double-ditched enclosure of unknown date (NMR SE 63 NE 41) is visible as a cropmark to the north of the study area and has been interpreted in the NMR description as the remains of a boundary for one of the plantations. However, there is no plantation shown on the OS first edition map and there is no correlation between the shape of the enclosure and the nineteenth century field system, which would suggest that the enclosure is considerably earlier and is therefore more likely to be a possible Neolithic or even Iron Age enclosure.
- 3.3.17 The fields around Skipwith were not enclosed until 1904 and the common was left out of the enclosure, although at this time a Board of Conservators was established who made by-laws concerning the common (Allison 1976).

- 3.3.18 **Second World War:** permission was given in 1940 for the requisition of land at Riccall for a military airfield and work began on it straight away (Delve 2006, 211). The airfield was opened in September 1942 and comprised three runways and a perimeter track with thirty-six standard heavy-bomber dispersals distributed around it. The dispersal bays were particularly concentrated on the south and east sides and a bomb dump was located to the north-east, in Danes Hill Wood. Several hangars, of Type T2 and Type B1 designs, as well as technical and support buildings, were grouped together at the south end of the airfield (*ibid*). During the war, the airfield was an operational bomber base for the No. 1658 Royal Air Force Heavy Conversion Unit (HCU). Riccall was principally used for training and the unit operated Halifaxes, Tiger Moths and Spitfires (*op cit*, 212-3).
- 3.3.19 In September 1943 the airfield became a sub-station of No 41 base, Marston Moor. Training units began to be run down in 1945 and the Riccall HCU was disbanded on April 13th 1945. Riccall was then transferred to Transport Command and No 1332 HCU from Nutts Corner moved onto the site with Liberators, Stirlings and Yorks. This unit moved to Dishforth in November 1945 and flying then stopped at Riccall (*op cit*, 213).
- 3.3.20 From August 1948 to February 1957 the airfield was used as an RAF storage site by No 91 Maintenance Unit, who were concerned with the storage and disposal of bombs (*ibid*). By 1985 the main use of the site was for agriculture and by 2002 many of the airfield buildings had been demolished and the runways had been partly removed.

#### 3.4 MAP REGRESSION

- 3.4.1 **Introduction:** twelve sites (Sites **8-11** and **110-117**) were added to the gazetteer from the map regression. Sites **8**, **9** and **11** are sand pits, Site **10** is a finger post, Sites **110-112** and **114-5** are ponds, Sites **113** and **116** are plantations, and Site **117** is an enclosed area of marshy ground.
- 3.4.2 **Ordnance Survey, 1855, 6" to 1 mile (Fig 3):** at the northern extent of the common several 'tumuli' are marked. A path, aligned north-west/south-east is, marked across Danes Hill, and coincides with the parish boundary, and defines part of the study area; it extends as far south as King Rudding Lane, which is aligned east/west. Approximately six tumuli are marked on the west side of the path and approximately fifteen on the east side (Site **1**); a further three tumuli are marked a short distance to the east of this group and are also incorporated within the Danes Hill Scheduled Monument (Site **1**). Further east again a tumulus is marked, which equates with Site **2**. Barrow **3-5** do not appear on this mapping, although they do on later mapping (*Sections 3.4.6* and *3.4.7*).
- 3.4.3 Two sand pits are marked within the study area, one on the immediate north side of King Rudding Lane (Site **8**) and the other further north (Site **9**), on the east side of the group of barrows that make up part of Site **1** (both are now overlain by an airfield runway). Further sand pits are marked within the common, outside of the study area, to the south-west of King Rudding Field.
- 3.4.4 King Rudding Lane terminates a short distance into the common where it forms a junction with a north-east/south-west track through the common. A finger-post is marked at this junction (Site **10**). The area to the south-west of the study area is named 'Riccall Common'. The southern portion of the study area is marked

‘Skipwith Common’ and ‘Demesne or Hall Moor’. ‘Hall Moor Pit’ (Site **112**) is marked towards the southern extent of the study area and, further south again is a plantation named ‘Fox Covert’ (Site **113**). ‘Horse Shoe Dike’ runs in an east/west direction at the southern extent of this part of the common, is coincident with the parish boundary, and defines part of the south boundary of the study area. ‘Sheep Dikes’ is marked towards the eastern extent of the study area.

- 3.4.5 Outside of the study area to the north and west are numerous small, slightly irregular fields. Some are parallel, curvilinear strip fields, and one or two are very irregular in shape. On the north-east side of the area there is a group of fields radiating from a large sub-circular field, defined to the south by historic boundary Site **40**, and which obviously served as a focus. The overall pattern is evidently pre-parliamentary enclosure. To the south the fields are larger, more regular and tend to be rectangular in shape, aligned north/south and are consistent with enclosure fields.
- 3.4.6 **Ordnance Survey, 1890, 25” to 1 mile (Fig 4):** only one map was available for this date, which covered the north-western portion of the study area. The path, which ran north-west/south-east across Danes Hill, as depicted on the 1855 mapping, has now been replaced with a boundary. This boundary is defined on its south-west side by a wide strip of trees named ‘Mound Plantation’. None of the six barrows (part of Site **1**) depicted on the 1855 mapping in this area are shown on this mapping; however, on the east side of the boundary, approximately eleven barrows are marked, where approximately fifteen were shown on the 1855 mapping (Site **1**). A new track, with four posts marked along it, crosses the west side of the Danes Hill area on a curved but approximately north-east/south-west alignment and then turns south-eastwards towards King Rudding Lane adjacent to the Mound Plantation boundary. Approximately three more tumuli, which are part of Site **1**, are shown to the east of this track. Several small ponds are shown in this area and further south is a larger pond (Site **110**), located on the north side of the north-east / south-west aligned track through the common. An un-named hollow is depicted on the east side of the track. The sand pit to the north of King Rudding Lane, Site **8**, is labelled as ‘old sand pit’ on this mapping, the sand pit further north (Site **9**) is not shown on this mapping, but an additional sand pit (Site **11**) is marked a short distance to its north-west. Sites **2-4** are all shown on this mapping and marked as ‘tumuli’, and the finger post (Site **10**) is labelled ‘G.P’ (guide post). To the north of the study area some field boundaries have been removed to enlarge the fields, and these fields to the north-west have become regular, and rectangular in shape and have taken on the character of Parliamentary Enclosure-type fields.
- 3.4.7 **Ordnance Survey, 1908-9, 25” to 1 mile (Fig 5):** none of the sand pits (Sites **8, 9** and **11**) are labelled on this mapping, and the finger post (Site **10**) is not marked. Sites **2-5** are all shown on this mapping and Site **1** is shown as approximately thirteen tumuli on the east side of Mound Plantation with a further five tumuli to the east of the north-east /south-west aligned track on Danes Hill. Several large ponds (Sites **111** and **114-5**) are shown in the southern part of the study area around the Fox Covert Plantation (Site **113**). A plantation is also shown towards the northern part of the study area, Site **116**.
- 3.4.8 To the south-west of the study area, Riccall Common has reduced in size and new, very regular, rectangular fields can be seen across this area. The north-east/south-west aligned track through the common changes direction as it exits the study area, turning more sharply southwards towards the road between Selby and Market



Weighton. To the south of the study area some of the north/south aligned fields have been sub-divided east/west.

- 3.4.9 **Ordnance Survey, 1909-10, 6" to 1 mile (Fig 6):** this mapping is very similar to the 1908-9 25" mapping. Site 1 comprises approximately twelve tumuli on the east side of Mound Plantation and a further five tumuli to the east of the north-east/south-west aligned track on Danes Hill. An enclosed area of marshy ground is marked towards the north-eastern extent of the study area, Site 117.
- 3.4.10 **RAF Riccall, 1940s (Figs 7 and 8):** comparisons between the current OS mapping, on which the outline of the former airfield can still be seen, and plans of RAF Riccall (Delve 2006, 212; Figs 7 and 8) help to establish the impact of the airfield on the study area. The main part of the airfield was located on Riccall Common, to the south-west of the study area. However the north-eastern extent of one of the three runways was located within the study area, extending across the southern portion of Danes Hill, and effectively cutting it off from the rest of Skipwith Common. A portion of King Rudding Lane was removed to make way for this part of the airfield. A perimeter trackway ran around the outside of the runway and four dispersal bays were located within the study area. Two dispersal bays were located on the north-west boundary, extending to the north-west into the Danes Hill area, and two were located on the north part of the eastern boundary, one extending eastwards into the common and the other extending westwards within the extent of the perimeter track. Two air raid shelters are marked close to these dispersal bays (Sites 30 and 49). A large, roughly rectangular, area extends eastwards from the main part of the airfield into the common, approximately centred on King Rudding Lane. This area was used as a bomb dump (Site 13), and was located well away from the airfield for safety reasons and to prevent disruption to the airfield in the event of a detonation. Four narrow rectangular structures are located around the edge of this area, and are described as bomb stores (Sites 25, 60, 75 and 88). King Rudding Lane also has buildings which were used for bomb storage located on either side of it (Sites 51 and 53-6). Two buildings are marked to the south of King Rudding Lane, close to the west extent of the study area, and are both labelled 'Component Store' (Sites 83 and 84).
- 3.4.11 The footprint of the airfield directly overlies one of the barrows on Danes Hill (Site 1) from the group of approximately twelve and one from the group of five to the east. However other barrows were previously marked in close proximity to the airfield boundary, and it is possible that they were also impacted on. The footprint of the airfield also overlies the three sand pits (Sites 8, 9 and 11) and the site of the finger post (Site 10).
- 3.4.12 **Ordnance Survey, 1952:** the depiction of Skipwith Common on this mapping is very similar to that on the pre-airfield mapping. The area of Riccall Airfield is marked 'Airfield' but no detail of it is shown. The bomb dump area (Site 13) is depicted as an outline, but no detail of the dispersal bays or the runway is shown. Mound Plantation is not shown on this map, instead a dashed boundary is shown on the line of the former eastern side of the plantation, and is marked as a parish boundary.
- 3.4.13 **Current mapping (Fig 1):** Skipwith Common is depicted on this mapping, much as it was on earlier mapping. Some detail of the airfield is shown, with the outline of the former bomb dump, the dispersal bays, the perimeter track and the runway. To the south-west of the study area a portion of the former airfield is labelled 'Camp

Site (disused)', and King Rudding Farm and associated poultry houses now occupy part of the former airfield, to the east of King Rudding Field. To the south of King Rudding Field, Riccall Mine is located within the northern portion of the former airfield. Within the common 'Hall Moor Pit' (Site **112**) is now named 'Hollow Pit Pond'.

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## 4. RESULTS OF THE LANDSCAPE SURVEY

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The landscape survey was conducted throughout the extent of the Skipwith Common study area in order to check the survival of features and structures observed in the documentary study and to identify new, previously unrecorded, monuments. The survey identified 87 new sites (**18** and **24-109**), which are discussed chronologically below, and are shown on Figure 2. In addition, sites identified from documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic sources (Sites **1-17**, **19-23** and **110-117**) were visited in the course of the walk-over.

### 4.2 PREHISTORY

4.2.1 *Undated Probably Prehistoric*: a complex site group, of unspecific but probable prehistoric date was recorded during the walk-over survey (Site **18**).

- Site **18** (Plates 2-4) comprises a series of parallel banks aligned north-north-west/south-south-east, which cross the study area, apparently extending beyond both the south-eastern and northern boundaries of the study area, and thus recorded for a total length of *c* 1.5km. The feature appears to comprise three or four lines of parallel intermittent banks. The individual banks are *c* 3m to 5m in width and range from 3m to 60m in length. Towards the south-east extent of the study area several banks were noted as dividing off from the main alignment to head east-south-east beyond the study area; thereafter the alignment of these was observed to form an approximately parallel line with the principal one. Continuations of both lines were observed as cropmarks in the fields immediately south of the present common boundary (Fig 2). There is a spatial association with a putative barrow (Site **02** (*Section 4.2.3 below*)), although the precise relationship was not evident. These boundary banks would appear to define a long, and very ancient territorial boundary and parallels have been found from the North York Moors (Spratt 1989; 1993; 2005) and the Yorkshire Wolds (Fenton Thomas 2003; 2005; Stoertz 1997) (*Section 5.2.11*). Significantly the National Mapping Project found very few comparable linear boundaries in the course of the Vale of York survey (Y Boutwood *pers comm*), highlighting the rarity and importance of the Skipwith example.
- Site **66** is a possible barrow at the northern end of the multiple bank boundary; it *c* 8m in diameter, and is a roughly circular, low mound. The site is heavily overgrown and is located within the group of multiple banks, Site **18**.

4.2.2 *Neolithic*: Site **41**, at the north-west corner of the study area, is the findspot of a possibly Neolithic heavily-eroded tertiary flint flake, that was found during the walk-over survey. It has possibly been modified for use as a scraper, but alternatively could just be displaying post-depositional damage (Fraser Brown *pers comm*).

- 4.2.3 **Bronze Age:** the four scheduled barrows were located along the northern boundary of the study area, and of these Sites **2** and **4** (Plate 5) were found and surveyed, Site **3** could not be located and Site **5** could not be accessed due to heavy flooding in this area; however, on previous occasions when it had been visited it was reported to have been clearly defined and have a classic round barrow form (M Nieke pers comm). Site **2** comprised a large irregular-shaped, low mound, *c*12-14m in diameter, with considerable animal and tree disturbance and a possible slit trench on its south side. Site **4** comprises a prominent mound with fairly steep sides, *c* 0.5m high and 7m in diameter (Plate 5). It has a slightly rounded top with a hole in the centre, indicative of possible antiquarian disturbance.
- 4.2.4 In addition, Site **14** (Plate 6), just to the north of Moor Lane, was recorded as a mound in the HER, was visited. This is a prominent, regular-shaped probable barrow *c* 0.6m high and 8m in diameter. There are some trees around the edges of the top, but the rest of the top is fairly flat. The mound sides are fairly steep and a shallow ditch runs around the outside. This has the classic form of a filled ring cairn, with a prominent external kerb (Lynch 1972; Quartermaine and Leech forthcoming).
- 4.2.5 **Iron Age:** the Danes Hill group of barrows (Site **1**), at the north-western part of the study area, has been interpreted as being an Iron Age Square Barrow cemetery (Stead 1965) of which there are a number of parallels in North Yorkshire (Stead 1991; Dent 1985). Within the Danes Hill area nine possible barrows were identified by the walk-over survey (Sites **26-8**, **31-2** and **38-9**) and two further barrows were from a smaller group to the east (Sites **46** and **91**).
- Site **26** is roughly rectangular in shape and flat on top, measuring *c* 7m from north-east to south-west, 4.5m in width and up to 0.3m in height;
  - Site **27** (Plate 7) measures *c* 9m in diameter, 0.6m in height and is fairly flat on top;
  - Site **28** is marked by a slight ditch on its south side and a hole approximately in the centre of its fairly flat top, which may be an indication of antiquarian disturbance. The east side is less clear due to tree disturbance and has a less pronounced mound/ditch. It measures *c* 8m from north to south, 13m from east to west and 0.6m in height;
  - Site **31** measures up to 0.4m high, *c* 5m west to east and 9m north to south. The north side is very disturbed with trees and burrows and the top dips down in this area;
  - Site **32** is a large, low round mound covered in bracken, and visible as a slight rise, *c* 13m in diameter;
  - Site **38** is *c* 7m in diameter and a maximum of 0.4 high, with an uneven surface due to animal activity;
  - Site **39** comprises a slight mound, *c* 9m in diameter, most notable to the north and west and rising to *c* 0.3 in height. Of these seven possible barrows, six (Sites **26-8**, **31-2** and **38**) appeared to be located in the same positions as barrows marked on the historic mapping from 1855 onwards. Site **39** was located just to the west of the study area and did not match with the locations of any of the barrows shown on the first edition mapping of

1855. By the time of the 1890 mapping Site **39** was located within the new 'Mound Plantation';

- Sites **46** and **91** were located close to the sites of 'tumuli' as marked on the current OS mapping. Site **46** is *c* 7m in diameter and heavily disturbed with animal burrows. The date of this feature is questionable as brick was noted on its top, although this may be a later dump on top of an earlier mound. Site **91** is a fairly prominent mound, *c* 5m in diameter.

4.2.7 A possible Iron Age enclosure, Site **6** (Plates 8-10), at the north-eastern end of the study area, was surveyed as part of the walk-over survey. The enclosure comprises prominent banks *c* 2m wide and 0.4m high, and had ditches *c* 1m wide. In places there were three parallel banks and ditches defining this enclosure, suggesting that they had a defensive function; as such, it was possibly an Iron Age type of Simple Enclosed Settlement. A possible continuation of the earthworks was recorded to the south as Site **79**, a north-east to south-west aligned ditch, which curves to the north-west at its western end converging on the enclosure. The ditch is up to 0.3m deep and *c* 1.5m wide. A prominent bank, *c* 3m wide, can be seen on its north side and a less prominent bank is located to its south.

4.2.8 Sites **12** and **16** were reported (HER) as Iron Age enclosures and were probably the same site. Site **22** was the reported location of a calcined flint find spot. All three were within the extent of the airfield and likely to have been disturbed by landscaping during its construction, and no earthworks were identified in the vicinity of the reported sites during the walk-over survey.

### 4.3 POST-MEDIEVAL

4.3.1 Eleven features were added to the gazetteer for this period as a result of the walk-over survey (Sites **40**, **42**, **47**, **70**, **74**, **76**, **89**, **93** and **100-102**).

4.3.2 Site **100** (Plate 11), at the southern part of the study area, is a bank aligned south-south-east / north-north-west, 85m long, 1m wide and 0.15m high, with a ditch on its east side, which was *c* 1m wide. The bank turned at both its north and south ends to the west. At the north end it was traced for 23m and at the south end for 35m, beyond which the area was heavily waterlogged and the feature could not be seen. However some 100m to the west of the southern extent a further 67m long stretch of bank and ditch (Site **101**) was recorded, which appears to be a continuation of the same feature. Site **101** comprised a ditch aligned south-west / north-east, *c* 1m wide, with a bank, *c* 0.8m wide and 0.2m high, on its north side. A plantation named Fox Covert (Site **113**), is marked on the 1855 OS map, located within 'Hall Moor', the area of the common owned by Skipwith Manor. The boundaries of the plantation as shown on the historic mapping correspond relatively closely with features **100** and **101** and, therefore, it is probable that they are the remains of the boundary that enclosed the plantation.

- Site **89** is a boundary *c* 200m in length, aligned north-north-west/south-south-east, which forms a boundary between Mound Plantation to the west and Danes Hill to the east. The boundary is first clearly defined on the 1890 mapping, but as it coincides with the parish boundary, it is likely to be of some antiquity.
- Site **76** (Plate 12) is a prominent curved bank, up to 0.5m high and *c* 1.5m wide near the northern part of the study area. The bank appears to

correspond with the north-western corner of a plantation, shown on the 1910 OS map (Site **116**).

- Site **93** (Plate 13) is a shallow ditch, *c* 1.2m wide and aligned north-east / south-west, near the north-eastern corner of the study area. The ditch appears to correspond with the south-eastern boundary of an enclosed area of marshy ground shown on the 1910 OS mapping (Site **117**).
- Site **102** (Plate 14) is a boundary ditch located inside the common along its southern edge, and marked on the current OS map as a drain. Towards its east end, it was over 2m wide. The ditch corresponds with the line of the parish boundary and formerly defined the southern edge of the common.
- Sites **70** and **74** (Plate 15) are sections of a boundary bank, that defined the north edge of the common, with ditches on their southern sides. Site **74** is located to the east of Site **70**, measuring 0.2m high and *c* 2m wide.
- Site **40** is a curvi-linear ditch along the northern boundary of the study area, comprising a shallow ditch, *c* 1m wide, with a bank on the outer edge and a slight bank on the inside. A continuation of the feature was also surveyed to the north-east where it was seen to coincide with the line of a former field boundary.
- Site **47** (Plate 16) is a hollow-way aligned east/west, *c* 1m wide in the northern part of the study area. A possible continuation of this is represented by Site **42**, and comprises parallel banks aligned north-west to south-east, each *c* 1.5m wide and up to 0.3m high. Sites **47** and **42** are both on the line of a path marked on the current mapping; although it would appear that this path has now fallen out of use.

#### **4.4 WORLD WAR TWO (RAF RICCALL) AND LATER**

- 4.4.1 Thirty-one sites were added to the gazetteer which were features relating to the use of part of the common as an airfield during the Second World War (Sites **24-5**, **30**, **33**, **35**, **37**, **44-5**, **48-9**, **51**, **53-6**, **59-60**, **64**, **75**, **83-5**, **87-8**, **90** and **103-8**).
- 4.4.2 Sites **30**, **49** and **108** are air raid shelters, approximately around the edges of the perimeter track; each comprise a concrete tunnel with brick-built entrances at the opposing ends. Site **30** at Danes Hill (Plate 17), for example, has entrances at the west end of its north side and the east end of its south side. A series of brick plinths were evident inside each of the shelters which presumably held wooden benches (Plate 18). Site **105** (Plate 19), at the south-western corner of the study area, is also an air raid shelter, but slightly different from the others. It comprises a concrete tunnel aligned approximately north-west to south-east, with one brick built entrance on its south side at the east end and a concrete air shaft on its north side at the west end. Sites **30** and **49** were marked on the undated plan of the airfield (Fig 8). The plan does not extend as far as the area of Sites **105** and **108**, but shelter **105** was shown on the OS map of the 1940s (Fig 7).
- 4.4.3 Site **44** (Plate 20), near the northern edge of Riccall airfield, is the remains of a rectangular brick structure, aligned north-west to south-east. The south and east walls survive to *c* 1m, the west and north walls are four or five courses high and much tumbled brick can be seen inside. The entrance is located on the west side at the south end. A plinth is marked in this area on the undated map of the airfield (Fig 8). Site **45** (Plate 21) is a drain, which is *c* 1m wide, aligned approximately

- north/south; it turns 90° to the west just north-west of brick structure **44**, and is almost certainly associated with it.
- 4.4.4 Sites **51**, **53** (Plate 22) and **56** are each described as ‘Explosives Laboratory’ on the map of the airfield (Fig 8) and are aligned parallel with King Rudding Lane, which runs through the common from west to east. Site **51** is located to the immediate east of the east side of the perimeter track and is on the north side of King Rudding Lane. To the east of this, on the south side of the King Rudding Lane is Site **56** and east again and on the north side of the lane is Site **53**. Each structure is *c* 25m by 15m and has brick entrances on its east and west sides, with earth banks on its long sides. Sites **56** and **53** have an additional parallel bank to their south and north sides respectively. The banks are likely to be bomb-blast banks, designed to absorb explosions, and their regular extended spacing is intended to prevent a chain reaction of explosions in the event of one detonating. The predicted extent of the blast impact for each of the bomb stores is shown as a circle on the undated Riccal Airfield plan (Fig 8).
- 4.4.5 Further east on King Rudding Lane are Sites **54** (Plate 23) and **55**, which collectively are described as a ‘fuzed and spare bomb store’ on the map of the airfield (Fig 8). Site **55** comprises a square (21m long on each side) of earth mounds, *c* 2m high, with sloping sides, giving them an approximate width of 1.5m on top and 4m at the base. This area is open to King Rudding Lane and a long bank, Site **54**, of similar dimensions to the Site **55** banks, is located on the opposite side of the lane. Each of these sizeable banks was evidently intended as blast banks designed to absorb an explosion.
- 4.4.6 To the east of Sites **54** and **55** were four bomb stores (Sites **25**, **60**, **75** and **88**). Sites **25** and **60** were located on the line of King Rudding Lane, 100m apart, and Sites **75** and **88** are located 106m to the south opposite Sites **25** and **60** respectively. Each structure comprises a brick wall, aligned east/west, with five perpendicular earth banks coming off its north side, making a total length of 75m and creating four bays each *c* 9m wide. The brick wall is two courses wide and 0.8m high. Iron rings hanging on iron pegs are set within the wall (*c* nine rings per bay), and were intended to hold down tarpaulins over a temporary roof structure. The earth banks are *c* 1.5m high, 17m long and 4-5m wide at the base. There was a concrete ramp (Plate 25) from the top of the brick wall into each bay, and each bay has a concrete floor. In some places a raised edge or kerb to the concrete base could be seen at the back of the bays, possibly demarcating the location of a former structure. An earthen bank, aligned east / west, was located to the north of Sites **75** and **88**.
- 4.4.7 Sites **83** and **84**, near to the eastern edge of the airfield, are each described as ‘Component Store’ on the map of the airfield (Fig 8). This shows a circle of predicted blast impact around each structure indicating that the ‘components’ referred to were evidently explosive. Site **83** comprises a brick wall aligned east/west, *c* 3m long, 1.2m high and two courses wide, and located in a hollow between two north/south aligned banks. The banks are both *c* 2m wide, 0.3m high and 8m long. Site **84** (Plate 26) could not be accessed on the walk-over survey due to extensive flooding, but was visible from a distance and appeared to be a very similar structure to Site **83**.
- 4.4.8 Site **103** (Plate 27) is a brick structure, near the south-western corner of the airfield; it measures 27m x 8m, and is aligned approximately north-west to south-east. Parts of the south-east corner of the structure survived to *c* 2m high, but the remainder

stood to only one or two courses high. The structure was heavily overgrown; however, it appeared that it had been divided width ways into approximately five bays, some of which also appeared to have been divided lengthways. The undated plan of the airfield (Fig 8) did not include the area of this structure, but it was depicted on the OS map of the 1940s (Fig 7). Site **104** (Plate 28) is a straight-sided, very regular ditch aligned north-west / south-east, located to the east of structure **103**, and was possibly associated with it. The ditch is *c* 0.8m wide and flanked by a bank on either side, both of which were also *c* 0.8m wide. A drain is marked on this alignment on the current OS mapping; however, the ditch was not in use and no trace of it could be seen to the north of the surveyed area.

#### 4.4.9 Other isolated airfield features include the following:

- Site **106** is an area of brick debris near the south-western corner of the study area; it measures *c* 9m x 3m and is aligned *c* east/west. It may represent the linear footings of a rectangular building, and corresponds with a structure shown on the 1940s OS map (Fig 7).
- Site **35** (Plate 29) is a brick and hardcore surface, located on the south-east side of the north-west extent of the perimeter track for the airfield.
- Site **37** is the line of a drain, located to the north-west of, and perpendicular to, the perimeter track.
- Site **107** is a concrete surface aligned north / south located on the east side of a track, which crosses the common. The surface possibly represents the footings of a former structure, or could just be an area of hard standing for more temporary structures.
- Site **33** (Plate 30) comprises two gun platforms at Danes Hill; they are 90m apart and each comprise a concrete cylinder *c* 1.5m in diameter and 1m in height. The eastern of the two cylinders has a gun mount intact. A brick basin, measuring 1m east-west, 0.75m north-south and 0.25m deep is located 2m to the east of the eastern gun platform.
- Site **48** is a concrete block, near the northern boundary of the study area; it is probably not *in situ*, and has a small piece of metal screwed into its top.
- Site **59** is a possible foxhole, near the northern boundary of the study area. It is rectangular in shape and straight sided, measuring 2m x 1m x 0.5m deep.
- Site **24** (Plate 31) is a drain aligned north-west / south-east, which crosses the northern part of the study area. It is not shown on any of the historic mapping examined and therefore was built sometime after 1910. It first appeared on the 1940's OS map, and extends out from the area of bomb stores (Sites **25**, **60**, **75** and **88**); it was evidently constructed so as to drain the area in advance of their construction. It is shown on the current OS mapping and is still in use. Site **64** is a ditch aligned approximately east/west, which feeds into drain **24** to the west; it is *c* 1.5m wide and up to 0.2m deep.
- Site **85** is the east and south portions of a circular ditch with straight sides, measuring *c* 0.6 wide and 0.4 deep, and *c* 7m in diameter. The



feature appears to be relatively recent and was possibly related to the World War Two airfield.

- Site **87** is a very regular, straight-sided drain, approximately parallel to Moor Lane; it measures 1.5m wide and 0.1 m deep, aligned north-east to south-west. It was possibly a World War Two associated feature.
- Site **90** is an area of spoil and debris likely to be associated with the World War Two airfield, and is located to the immediate north-west of the perimeter track and on the east side of a dispersal bay.

4.4.10 **Modern:** two sites which are likely to post-date World War Two were added to the gazetteer as a result of the walk-over survey (Sites **34** and **61**).

- Site **34** is a trackway, near Danes Hill, shown on the current OS mapping aligned north-east to south-west, measuring *c* 7m in width. A line of trees is present on either side of the trackway. The track post-dates the airfield as it runs over two dispersal bays.
- Site **61** is a fairly modern drain located near the northern boundary of the study area on the current OS mapping. The drain measured 1 m wide and 0.5m deep and has recently been re-cut.

4.4.11 **Undated:** thirty undated sites were added to the gazetteer as a result of the walk-over survey (Sites **29, 36, 43, 50, 52, 57-8, 62-3, 65, 67-9, 71-3, 77-8, 80-2, 86, 92, 94-9** and **109**).

- Site **29** is a bank at Danes Hill, aligned north-east to south-west, with a ditch on its north-west side. It is *c* 2m wide and up to 0.5m high.
- Site **36** is a small, low earthen mound, near the north-western edge of the airfield; it measures *c* 3.5m x 2m with a maximum height of 0.35m. It is located in an area of flat ground and is therefore distinctive; however, it is possibly a natural feature as it is pear shaped.
- Site **43** is the location of a possible mound in the area of one of the Site **1** barrows. However it was not at all clear as a site and was defined only by a slight mound, *c* 11m in diameter, of which there are a number of similar features in the area which are thought to be natural.
- Site **50** is a curvi-linear low bank, on the northern boundary of the study area; it is aligned south-west to north-east and turning to the north at its west end. It is *c* 1m wide and 0.4m high.
- Site **52** is a low circular mound to the north of King Rudding Lane; it is fairly regular in shape, *c* 6m in diameter and no more than 0.2m in height. The mound is flat on top and has trees around the edges.
- Site **57** (Plate 32) comprises two trackways running east/west and east-north-east/west-south-west, to the north of King Rudding Lane and converging to the west. The trackways cut through the heather, creating a gap *c* 3m wide.
- Site **58** is a drain (Plate 33), to the north-west of Moor Lane; it is *c* 1.5m wide and 0.2-0.3m deep, and cut by Second World War drain **24**. An associated bank can be seen in places.

- Site **62** is a linear bank near the northern boundary of the study area; it is aligned north-east to south-west and *c* 1.5m wide. It may be associated with Site **18**.
- Site **63** is a linear bank near the northern boundary of the study area; it is aligned east/west, *c* 2.5m wide and up to 0.4m high. Trees are located on the top of the bank, which appears to divide an area of dry woodland to the north from a much boggy area to the south.
- Sites **65** and **67** (Plate 34) are both ditches near the northern boundary of the study area; they cut across Site **18** on a west to east alignment. Site **65** is *c* 4m wide and fairly shallow, and Site **67** is *c* 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep.
- Site **68** is a drain adjacent to the multiple banked boundary (Site **18**); it is aligned north/south, which cuts drain **69**, to the north. It comprises a narrow, steep-sided ditch *c* 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep. To the north it widens out and is visible as a gap in the heather *c* 2m wide. Site **69** is an east/west aligned ditch, *c* 1m wide and up to 0.1 deep.
- Site **71** (Plate 35) is a bank near the northern boundary of the study area; it is aligned north-east to south-west, and could not be accessed as it was located in standing water.
- Site **72** is a drain adjacent to Moor Lane; it is 1.5m wide and *c* 0.1m deep, aligned north-east to south-west.
- Site **73** is a possible low mound near the northern boundary of the study area; it is *c* 7m in diameter and up to 0.2m high.
- Site **77** is a bank aligned north-east to south-west, measuring up to 0.2m high and *c* 2m wide, running approximately parallel with the northern boundary of the common.
- Site **78** (Plate 36) is a water-filled circular hollow, near to Moor Lane; it is *c* 9m in diameter, has a regular shape and quite steep edges suggesting that it was man made.
- Site **80** is a bank and ditch aligned south-west to north-east, adjacent to the eastern boundary of the airfield. The bank is *c* 4m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.2m high. The parallel ditch is 0.1m deep and 1m wide.
- Site **81** is a bank aligned east/west, extending out from the eastern boundary of the airfield; it turns south at its east end, and measures *c* 3m wide and *c* 0.3 high.
- Site **82** is a section of bank adjacent to King Rudding Lane; it is *c* 4m long south-east to north-west, with a ditch on its north-east side. The bank is *c* 2m wide and 0.4m high. The ditch is *c* 0.5m wide and under 0.1m deep.
- Site **86** is a possible bank, *c* 5m wide, aligned south-east to north-west, running to the north-west from Site **14**. It is not a very distinctive feature, was fairly amorphous and could in fact be a natural ridge of drier land on which the Site **14** is located.

- Site **92** is a shallow ditch at the eastern edge of the study area; it is *c* 0.8m wide and aligned east/west.
- Sites **94-7** are located approximately parallel with, and to the south of Site **79**, which is thought to be part of Site **6**. It is not certain if any of Sites **94-7** are associated with Site **6**. Site **94** is a ditch aligned south-west / north-east, *c* 1.5m wide. It is flanked on either side with a bank, each *c* 0.5m wide and 0.2m high. Site **95** comprises two stretches of a shallow ditch aligned east/west, *c* 1.4m wide. Site **96** (Plate 37) is a pronounced ditch aligned south-west / north-east, *c* 1.5m wide, with slight banks on either side. Site **97** is a ditch which heads north-east from ditch **96**, but was not seen on the south side of ditch **96**. The ditch is *c* 1.2m wide, with a slight bank on either side.
- Site **98** is a ditch, adjacent to Moor Lane; it is *c* 1.5m wide with a slight bank overgrown with trees on either side.
- Site **99** is a ditch adjacent to Moor Lane, aligned south-west/north-east with possible banks on either side. The ditch is *c* 1.6m wide and *c* 0.15m wide.
- Site **109** is a ditch adjacent to Moor Lane, aligned north-east to south-west, *c* 1.5m wide, with banks, *c* 0.15m high, on both sides.

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## 5. LANDSCAPE HISTORY

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### 5.1 MESOLITHIC AND NEOLITHIC

- 5.1.1 Flint blades are reported to have been found during excavations of some of the Danes Hill barrows in 1941; however, the date of these blades is unknown. A probable Neolithic flint was found during the walk-over survey (Site **41**) near the northern boundary of the study area. Other Neolithic find spots are located in the vicinity of the study area and a double-ditched enclosure (NMR SE 63 NE 41) of possible Neolithic date is located to the north of the study area; however, this could also be of Iron Age date.

### 5.2 BRONZE AGE / IRON AGE

- 5.2.1 *Settlement Remains:* there is considerable evidence of settlement activity on the enclosed lands to the north of the study area (based on aerial photographic evidence) and a single settlement feature just within the study area (Site **06**). The aerial photographic features, plotted by the NMP (National Mapping Programme) for the Vale of York, have revealed an enormous complexity of field systems and associated settlements, which are potentially an amalgamation of features over an extended period, and may reflect a certain degree of continuity. On South Moor Field (NMR SE63NE38) there are features that have a direct relationship to boundaries that are extant and depicted on the OS first edition map (1855; Fig 3), for example modern boundary SMa (depicted in blue on Fig 2) is butted by feature SMb, which defines a pair of small fields, but this clearly cuts a boundary of a smaller complex contained within it, and that small complex is linked by a boundary to linear boundaries (SMf) to the north. Similarly, SMc relates to a further modern boundary and to the over-arching linear straight-sided field system, which is clearly superimposed onto an earlier system of very small fields. For the most part the fields of this later system were not depicted on the OS first edition map and, therefore, earlier, but have a link to boundaries on that OS map. It may, therefore, be very tentatively concluded that this later system is of early post-medieval or even medieval date. However, what is particularly interesting is that the earlier field system, while not apparently directly linked to the later field system, does follow a similar orientation, and there is therefore an implication of some degree of continuity. The earlier field system is characterised by very small 'Celtic Type' fields, and within the complex are circular features that have the potential to be roundhouses; on this basis it is tempting to ascribe a later prehistoric or even Roman date to the complex. This is reinforced by a programme of field walking that was carried out in South Moor Field which yielded Roman pottery from the area immediately north of the common (MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd 1994).
- 5.2.2 Around Adamson Farm there is a very similar story. There are boundary features from the aerial photographic plotting (NMR SE63NW8) that extend out from modern boundaries, which are not depicted on the OS first edition mapping, and at the same time cut through elements of an earlier field system characterised by small fields. Again, some elements of this earlier field system are parallel to boundaries depicted on the OS first edition map and, again, there is a single circular feature, a possible roundhouse, within the earlier small fields complex. There is also a group

of four small square features, which may be square barrows (*Section 5.2.8* for further discussion of this).

- 5.2.3 There was a large enclosure (NMR SE63NE41) to the north of the study area, which has been variously interpreted as the outline of a former plantation, or a Neolithic henge-type monument. The former is unlikely as there is no plantation marked on the OS first edition or subsequent maps, and because there is no correlation between it and the field system shown on the OS first edition map and the enclosure. Evidently, the feature has a relatively ancient origin, otherwise there would be some 'memory' of it within the existing field system. The possibility of it being a henge monument cannot be discounted, nor can the possibility that it was an enclosed settlement of later prehistoric date. If it was the latter there may be a reasonable expectation that there would be some form of house structures within it, but no comparable domestic features were revealed by the air photographic plotting.
- 5.2.4 A more reliable interpretation can be ascribed to Site **06**, which is a square multi-vallate enclosure within the common, and near the northern edge of the study area (Plates 8-10). On the western side, there are up to three substantial banks and corresponding ditches, enclosing a level area. The internal area was heavily overgrown and any internal features, such as possible house structures, were not evident. A possible continuation of the earthworks was recorded to the south as Site **79**, a north-east to south-west aligned ditch, which curves to the north-west at its west end. In addition, Sites **94-7**, comprising alignments of banks and ditches, are located on the south side of Site **79**, and may also be associated with it. This would appear to a wider field system in direct association with the enclosure. The fact that there were up to three sets of banks / ditches for the enclosure indicates that it was not simply for the purposes of stock control, and would strongly imply a defensive function. As such, this would suggest that it was a Simple Enclosed Settlement, and most likely from the Iron Age or even Romano-British period.
- 5.2.5 A further indication of a possible Iron Age enclosed settlement is Site **12**, which was reported to be a rectilinear enclosure, with two oval ring ditches in its north-east corner. It was apparently in the northern part of the Riccall Airfield, and may have been damaged or destroyed by the construction of the perimeter track, as no evidence for it was found during the survey. In the same area was the findspot of Roman pottery sherds (Site **17**) which would support an Iron Age / Romano-British date for Site **12**.
- 5.2.6 **Funerary Remains:** the most diagnostic indicator of prehistoric activity from the survey was a group of barrows, which were for the most part located along the northern part of the common/study area on the waste ground at the edge of the prehistoric farmed ground. There were two basic types, the first was a series of generally dispersed round barrows spread along the northern boundary of the common. Secondly, there was a concentrated group (or cemetery) of what have been identified by excavation as square barrows, located at Danes Hill, in the north-eastern part of the area (Stead 1965). Round barrows are typically of Bronze Age date, and typically comprise rounded mounds, with a quarry ditch immediately around the outside; however, often the ditches are filled-in and the only surface indicator is the mound. A second type of round barrow is the filled in ring cairn, again of Bronze Age date, which has steep sides, typically defined by a kerb, with a flat top where the original annular feature has been filled (Lynch 1972).

- 5.2.7 Four of the round barrows were scheduled (Sites 2-5), of which Sites 2 and 4 were located and surveyed near the northern boundary of the study area, but Site 3 could not be found and Site 5 could not be accessed as it is now located in a very wet area of the common to the south of Moor Lane. In addition to these previously known barrows, two more probable barrows were recorded during the walk-over survey: Site 66 was a low mound within the group of multiple banks, Site 18 (Plates 2-4), and Site 14 was a flat topped, steep sided mound, that is typical of the filled in ring cairn type of barrow (Plate 6), and was located adjacent to Moor Lane. With the exception of Site 14 all of the round barrows were located around the margins of the common, and more specifically were near to the identified edge of the settlement remains to the north of the common. The association between settlements and funerary remains has long been attested, with a common scenario of burial mounds either located at the edge of prehistoric field systems or located on high points overlooking settlements (Quartermaine and Leech forthcoming). In the case of Skipwith there were no high points, and it is therefore not unduly surprising that there are burial mounds within the immediate proximity of the putative prehistoric field systems.
- 5.2.8 **Danes Hill Cemetery:** the component monuments of the Danes Hill cemetery (Site 1) has been identified by excavation as square barrows. Square barrows comprise a circular rounded profile mound, surrounded by a square-shaped enclosure ditch, which gives it its name. However, in practice the enclosure is rarely a true square, and is more often rhomboidal or rectangular in shape. The barrows are generally fairly small monuments, the largest of which are only some 15m across, between the outer edges of the ditches (Dent 1985; Stead 1991; Brown *et al* 2007,154). When identified within cultivated land, they have often lost the mound as a result of plough damage, and the only surviving elements are the square ditches. They characteristically are found within groups or cemeteries, and are a general feature of east Yorkshire. They are most often associated with metalwork of the La Tene I period (sixth century BC date), but the later examples have objects of early La Tene III date (first century BC). Radiocarbon dating generally reinforces the artefactual 450BC to 50AD (Dent 1985, 446). The excavations at Rudston, Garton Slack and Wetwang (Stead 1991, 181) indicate a general chronology based on Arras Culture artefacts that extend between the fourth and first centuries BC.
- 5.2.9 The Danes Hill Iron Age square barrow cemetery, Site 1, is a Scheduled Monument (SM 30179), which consisted of more than twenty barrows, prior to the construction of Riccall Airfield. They are in two groups: a main group of approximately twenty barrows on Danes Hill and a further group of up to five barrows to the east. Excavations with reported findings of La Tene burials, cremations and Roman pottery were carried out on the site in 1754, 1849, 1941 and 1998. Site 21 refers to five of the barrows, located in the north-eastern part of the main Danes Hill group. Site 19 is a square barrow, which was excavated in 1754 by Dr John Burton, producing two crouched inhumations; it was destroyed in 1941 for the construction of an airfield dispersal. The excavation produced a fragment of textile, described as coarse sacking, attached to a thigh bone; Sites 15 and 23 also allude to the textile and are probably multiple entries for the same barrow. In 1849 William Proctor excavated ten of the group revealing circular mounds between 6m and 12m in diameter, each surrounded by a square ditch. In 1941, Miss K Hodgson excavated four of the barrows that were to be destroyed for the construction of the airfield. She again revealed central mounds surrounded by square ditches.

- 5.2.9 Nine possible barrows from Site **01** were added to the gazetteer from the walk-over survey, seven within the main Danes Hill group (Sites **26-8**, **31-2** and **38-9**) and two within a smaller group of barrows to the east (Sites **46** and **91**). Of the seven ‘main-group’ barrows, six (Sites **26-8**, **31-2** and **38**) appeared to be located in the same positions as barrows marked on the historic mapping from 1855 onwards. Site **39** was located just to the west of the study area and did not match with any of the barrows shown on the first edition mapping of 1855. However, by the time of the 1890 mapping Site **39** was located within the new ‘Mound Plantation’, and is likely to have been obscured by trees for some time. Sites **46** and **91**, identified to the east, were located close to the sites of ‘tumuli’ as marked on the current OS mapping. Site **46** is *c* 7m in diameter and heavily disturbed with animal burrows; the date of this feature is questionable as brick was noted on its top. Site **91**, however, is a fairly prominent feature and can be interpreted as a barrow with a reasonable degree of confidence.
- 5.2.10 Just to the north-east of the group the air-photographic plotting has identified four small square features, which are to be assumed are further square barrows in close association with the aerial photographic plotted field system NMR SE63NW8. One of these was excavated by Mike Griffiths in 1998, revealing a square ditch, and cremated bone fragments within the interior. A further two square features are in the field to the east of Danes Hill.
- 5.2.11 **Boundary Features:** Site **18** is a series of parallel banks aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, which cross the study area for a total length of 867m, extending beyond both the south-eastern and northern boundaries of the study area (Plates 3 and 4). The feature appears to comprise three or four lines of parallel intermittent banks, averaging a total width of *c* 35m. The individual banks are *c* 3m to 5m in width and range from 3m to 60m in length. At the south-east end, the banks divided into two alignments, although both were traced some distance to the south-east beyond the study area boundary. Interestingly, the aerial photographic plotting did not reveal its continuation to the north of the study area, although all other early field boundaries were revealed. The explanation may be that these were primarily upstanding earthwork features, which, when ploughed out, do not show up well as aerial photographic features, by contrast with the cut features of the field boundaries. It is possibly significant that an extension of the line of the Site **18** boundary coincides with the western edge of the NMR SE83NE38 field system complex, and may therefore have bordered the complex.
- 5.2.12 There are a series of possible cairns aligned within the boundary complex. Site **02** is a large and moderately well-defined mound which has a fairly safe interpretation as a burial mound. However, to the immediate south is the reported location of a further barrow (Site **03**), and, despite extensive searching, no barrow was identified here during the survey. Further south still was a large mound (Site **66**), which appeared larger and evidently distinct from the mounds of the Site **18** boundary, and there is a possibility that it was also a barrow. Despite searching, no further barrows were identified along the rest of the boundary line and, consequently, there is a marked preponderance of the barrows at the northern end of the boundary.
- 5.2.13 **North York Moor Parallels:** this boundary complex has some important parallels, perhaps most notably is the massive multiple-banked Scamridge Dyke, in the south-eastern part of the North York Moors, which has as many as six parallel banks and ditches (Spratt and Harrison 1989, 40). This fits into a pattern of territorial boundaries in the later prehistoric period, which, for the most part, followed the

lines of watersheds and streams, and were originally marked by inter-visible round barrows; then in some instances these boundary lines were superseded by constructed boundaries. This is most notable at the Casten and Cleave Dyke system on the western edge of the North York Moors. Cleave Dyke runs parallel to the western scarp slope of the North York Moors, and Casten Dyke and Hesketh Dyke, amongst others, are cross dykes that link the scarp slope edge to the major east/west watershed valleys on the Hambleton Hills, and incorporated round barrows.

- 5.2.14 *Yorkshire Wolds Parallels*: there are numerous examples of comparable linear monuments from the Yorkshire Wolds, many up to several miles long, which form an extensive complex often following or linking natural topographic features such as valleys. They are often made up of parallel rows of bank and ditch, of two or more and sometimes as much as six in number. A notable example is Huggate Dyke which still has upstanding earthworks, and comprised prominent multiple bank and ditches which linked the heads of two dry valleys (Fenton Thomas 2005, 37; Fenton Thomas 2003).
- 5.2.15 *Dating*: these boundaries are inherently difficult to date, because the boundaries have evidently been in use for thousands of years and the form and character of the boundary markers has changed substantially over that time. Dating the construction of a particular boundary marker, does not necessarily provide a date for the establishment of a boundary which may, in its most primitive form, have had few artificial markers. Typically the long linear earthworks characterised by the North York Moors and the Wolds are defined as being between Bronze Age and Roman in date, because they evidently post-date round barrows and are cut by Roman roads; however, the round barrows are potentially markers and may be an indication that the boundary substantially predates the earthwork linears (Fenton Thomas 2003; 2005). One of the other aspects is the correlation between ancient tracks and the linear boundaries as exhibited on the Yorkshire Wolds, where there is an east/west orientated ancient trackway called the Sledmere Green lane, which survives as field boundaries, extant lanes and medieval township boundaries (Fenton Thomas 2005, 50). This coincides for much of its length with sections of linear boundaries such as Huggate Dykes. Similarly there are round barrows along the length and there is an implication that the early network of boundaries may have been defined by topographic features, tracks and barrows, and that this form of boundary definition pre-dated the development of the earthwork markers.
- 5.2.16 At the Cleave / Casten Dyke complex on the North York Moors there is an interesting relationship between the visible earthworks and earlier manifestations of boundary. A section of the Cleave Dyke was subject to excavation in 1989 (Vyner 1989), which revealed that the present Cleave Dyke is in part the later recutting of an earlier boundary alignment that was originally part embanked and part pit alignment (*ibid*). Casten Dyke, crosses and cuts Cleave Dyke and comprises a 3.5m wide ditch with banks on either side, is extremely prominent in places, and very obviously diverts around a substantial Bronze Age tumulus. Casten Dyke was a documented boundary in the medieval period (Spratt 1982, 36), and, as it evidently post-dated the other dykes and the tumulus, it has been argued (English Heritage 2001) that it was of medieval origin. However, it evidently has had a long, and continuous use as a boundary, even to the present as it now serves as a district boundary. While the present form may well have been created in the medieval period, but it almost certainly followed an earlier line that extended between a line of Bronze Age burial mounds, and, on the evidence of the excavations on Cleave



Dyke (Vyner 1989), may have taken the form of a pit alignment extending directly between the centres of the barrows. Similarly at Fimber Westfield, on the Yorkshire Wolds, JR Mortimer excavated across a complex of banks and ditches and revealed that one of the parallel ditches had started life as a series of pits (Fenton Thomas 2005, 43), and that the earlier phase, for the most part, comprised single ditches that were then overlain by massive banks and ditches. He established that elements of the large, linear banks were constructed in the Late Bronze Age, evidenced by the finding of spearhead moulds, but evidently the single ditches were even earlier (Manby 1980; Fenton Thomas 2003, 36).

- 5.2.17 Further evidence of dated linear earthworks come from the Great Wold Dyke, Thwing, where excavations of the ditches have revealed sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery in the base (Manby 1980; 1986; Fenton Thomas 2003). At Cowlam on the Wolds, a length of ditch and bank was demonstrably later than a group of square barrows, which would suggest a date later than 300BC (Stead 1986; Fenton Thomas 2003), and at Wetwang Slack excavations of linears have revealed material of second century BC date (Fenton Thomas 2005).
- 5.2.18 The implication for the Skipwith example is that these territorial boundaries have had a very long life, and that their first manifestation may have been a line of inter-visible barrows. The boundary was then defined by either earthworks or pit alignments, and continued to be adapted and enhanced in the Iron Age and possibly even into the medieval period. While a territorial boundary line may extend in date back to the Bronze Age, with the construction of the barrows, the earthen banks were inevitably later, but may nevertheless have had a prehistoric origin. The Site 18 bank complex extends across the middle of an area that is now waste, and is likely to have always been; this is comparable to utilising a watershed, being an area of waste dividing areas of good quality agricultural land.

### 5.3 MEDIEVAL TO POST-MEDIEVAL

- 5.3.1 **Early Medieval:** the settlement patterns of the Skipwith area in the post-Roman period is not known, although the nearby Rivers Ouse and Derwent were used as entry points by the Anglian settlers who came to the wider area in the sixth century. Skipwith Church has extant late Saxon elements, in particular the ground and first floor stages of the tower, and the remains of an original aisleless nave are of early Saxon origin (Taylor and Taylor 1965, 550) (Plate 39). At least one fragment of re-used Anglo-Scandinavian sculptured stone can be seen in the fabric of the church tower. Although Skipwith was undoubtedly an important centre of activity in the early medieval period, no diagnostic archaeological features of the period were identified from the survey.
- 5.3.2 **Medieval and Post-medieval:** Skipwith is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as 'Schiperwic'. The estate was held by the d'Avranches family from c 1200 to c 1354, after which it passed to the Skipwith family when Catherine d'Avranche married William Skipwith. In 1708 the estate was sold by Mary Skipwith to Francis Annesley. The estate was sold several times during the nineteenth century and was in the hands of the Forbes Adam family by the end of the nineteenth century. There is likely to have been open fields extending out from the village of Skipwith from this period. A programme of field walking, carried out in South Moor Field to the immediate north of the study area, produced finds of medieval pottery indicating that this land was cultivated from the twelfth century onwards. Analysis of the field

system in South Field, evident from the aerial photographic plotting, indicates that there is more than one phase of field system; the second phase was no longer extant by the time of the OS first edition map (1855), but elements of it were aligned with the field boundaries that were extant at that time. As such, this field system is either early post-medieval or medieval and, given that there has been medieval pottery recovered from the fields, it is tempting to infer that some usage of this field system dates back to the medieval period, even if it was in the form of an open field.

- 5.3.3 The common belonged to Skipwith manor and consequently has also been known as Lord's (Demesne) or 'Hall Moor', which has a bearing upon its usage, particularly during the medieval period. If it had been purely common land, for the use of the commoners, then there would probably have remains of pastoral activity, such as shielings, biolds, stock enclosures, as has been identified on, for example Asby Common (OA North 2004). However, the survey identified no such features, and would suggest that the waste land was not used particularly intensively for pastoral activity. Given that this was apparently demesne land for much of the period, then it is likely that there would have been a less intensive and more extractive usage of the waste land; it would have been used for such purposes as peat cutting, retting for flax production, exploitation of timber, and mineral extraction for the lord of the manor. There are certainly indications of some of these, which for the most part derive from OS first edition mapping (1855), and would indicate post-medieval activity. For example, Sites **8**, **9** and **11** were sand pits (all within the area of the airfield) and Site **113** was a plantation named Fox Covert noted on the OS first edition mapping. Parts of the boundary of this plantation were identified during the walk-over survey (Sites **100** and **101**). Site **76** is a prominent curved bank, identified during the walk-over survey, which appears to correspond with the north-western boundary of a plantation, shown on the 1910 mapping in the northern area of the common (Site **116**) (Plate 12). A documentary source (Allison 1976, 91) mentions that three plantations were established in the early nineteenth century, near the road that crosses Skipwith Common, therefore it is possible that this is one of the plantations. In addition, several ponds (Sites **110-2** and **114-5**) can be seen within the Hall Moor area of the common, including 'Hall Moor Pit' (Site **112**), which probably originated as an area of peat cutting or sand extraction. While the physical and cartographic evidence certainly attest to extractive activity taking place during the post-medieval period, there is no evidence to indicate that it also was practised in the medieval period, but it is logical to presume that there had been comparable activity in the earlier periods. The moorland may have also been used for hunting, but this would not necessarily have been evidenced by any physical remains.
- 5.3.4 **Communications:** an area of waste surrounded by agricultural land would inevitably have been used as communication routes. Drove routes, in particular, utilised, where possibly, unfarmed land where there would be no restriction on their passage and where there would also be grazing for the animals on route. As a consequence, they typically pick out routes across some of the highest and most remote waste land in the landscape so that they can avoid enclosed land (Haldane 2006). In this respect, Skipwith Common would have been ideally suited and there are some long established primary communication routes across the waste land, such as Moor Lane, and, to a lesser extent, King Rudding Lane. While these would probably have initially been drove routes, they became made roads during the post-medieval period. There are other features attesting to the communication usage of the moor. Site **10** refers to a guide post marked at the junction of King Rudding

Lane with Moor Lane, a north-east / south-west aligned track through the common. There were also two narrow hollow ways (Sites **47** and **42**), located on the line of a path marked on the current mapping, which appear to have subsequently fallen out of use.

#### **5.4 RICCALL AIRFIELD (1940s)**

- 5.4.1 In 1940 land at Riccall, including part of Skipwith Common, was requisitioned for use as a military airfield. The airfield, opened in September 1942, comprised three runways (Plate 38) and a perimeter track with thirty-six standard heavy-bomber dispersals distributed around it. The dispersal bays were particularly concentrated on the south and east sides of the airfield and a bomb dump was located to the north-east, in Danes Hill Wood. Several hangars, of Type T2 and Type B1 designs, as well as technical and support buildings were grouped together at the south end of the airfield, outside of the study area. During the war, the airfield was an operational bomber base for the No. 1658 Royal Air Force HCU. There was at least one fox hole recorded (Site **59**) indicating that the wider area of Skipwith Common would have been used for military training.
- 5.4.2 The north-east extent of one of the three runways was located within the study area, extending across the southern portion of Danes Hill (Site **1**), effectively cutting it off from the rest of Skipwith Common. The footprint of the airfield directly overlies one of the barrows on Danes Hill from the group of approximately twelve and one from the group of five to the east. However, other barrows were previously marked in close proximity to the airfield boundary, so it is possible that they were also impacted on by its construction. The footprint of the airfield also overlies the three sand pits (Sites **8**, **9** and **11**) and the location of the guide post (Site **10**). A portion of King Rudding Lane was also removed to make way for this part of the airfield.
- 5.4.3 In September 1943 the airfield became a sub-station of No. 41 base, Marston Moor. Training units began to be run down in 1945 and the Riccall HCU was disbanded on April 13th 1945. Riccall was then transferred to Transport Command and No. 1332 HCU from Nutts Corner came in; however, flying stopped at Riccall in November 1945. From August 1948 to February 1957 the airfield was used as an RAF storage site and by 1985 the main use of the site was for agricultural purposes with many of the airfield buildings having been demolished and parts of the runways removed by 2002.

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## 6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### 6.2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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Ordnance Survey, 1908, 25" to 1 mile Sheet 206.12

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## APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

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**Project Brief for an Outline Survey of the Archaeology of Part of Skipwith Common and the Provision of Training to the Friends of Skipwith Common Group to Continue the Outline Survey**

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6 December 2007

### **1.1 Introduction**

Skipwith Common is a 280ha mosaic of lowland heathland and woodland located between York and Selby. The area has long been known to hold significant archaeological interest ranging from scheduled round barrows to part of a World War II aerodrome. It is clear that the site contains further unrecorded prehistoric features as well other features dating through mediaeval to modern times. Archaeological survey data will be used to direct future management of the site and to enhance the information provided to the site's many visitors.

### **1.2 Objectives of the Project**

- To identify the archaeological remains present on the area of Skipwith Common owned by the Escrick Park Estate, and provide details of their location, and a descriptive and photographic record to aid their management and assess their potential for interpretation.
- To provide training to the Friends of Skipwith Common in order to for the group to continue the outline survey over adjacent areas.

### **1.3 Objectives of this Brief for an Archaeological Survey**

- This brief should be used to obtain at least three itemised quotes for the preparation and production of the archaeological survey. Quotations should be based on the requirements set out in this brief
- The submission must also include:
  - Identification of the proposed consultant to undertake the work and an outline of their professional expertise in survey work of this type (the final decision on the consultant employed will rest with Natural England),
  - A draft project timetable for the completion of the work.

## **2. The Scope of the Survey**

The survey area will include units 4 and 77 of Skipwith Common SSSI c.120ha (see map 1). The survey will record all identifiable earthwork features and historic structures in the survey area in a GIS database format compatible with systems in use by Natural England (ArcGIS and MAPINFO – more information can be got from Natural England). The survey should also provide the basis for a proforma-based system for future recording by the Friends of Skipwith Common (see below).



- A record should be compiled for each feature: all records should be compiled with regard to core database standards (see RCHME 1998 *MIDAS: a manual and data standard for monument inventories*. Swindon: RCHME) and terminology should follow English Heritage guidelines (<http://thesaurus.englishheritage.org.uk>).
- Recording should be to RCHME/English Heritage Level 2 standards (RCHME 1999 – *Recording of archaeological field monuments: a descriptive guide*. Swindon: English Heritage – shortly to be replaced by *Understanding the archaeology of landscapes: a guide to good recording practice*. Swindon: English Heritage, expected early 2008)
- Each feature record will consist of
  1. a short description,
  2. an OS National Grid reference provided to an accuracy of no less than 0.5m. The expectation is that this will be provided using mapping/survey-grade GPS (see Ainsworth and Thomason 2003 *Where on Earth are We? The Global Positioning System (GPS) in archaeological field survey*. Swindon: English Heritage). Linear features will normally require more than one grid reference to show length/direction),
  3. a photographic record must be maintained. For this purpose 35 mm cameras must be used, with silver-based monochrome film (Ilford FP4 or HP5). A set of high-resolution digital images must also be prepared, and may be used as the basis of illustrating the report. All photos must have an appropriate scale visible.
  4. an interpretation of the feature(s) where possible
  5. an assessment of the significance of each feature (local/regional/national)
  6. Identify any threats
  7. Records will be included as a separate report/appendix to the analytical report (see Section 3 below).
- The location of all features will be clearly located on a map, or maps at a scale of 1:2500. Map-based recording should be in the form of points, lines and polygons (shapefiles) compatible with GIS systems outlined above and AutoCAD software.
- The contractor should liaise with the North Yorkshire County Historic Environment Record, English Heritage (National Monuments Record) and Natural England prior to commencing fieldwork to ensure that existing data is used to inform the survey
- Where appropriate historic maps, particularly old editions of the Ordnance Survey and the information provided by parkland plan should be used to aid interpretation.

### **3. Content of the Survey Report**

#### **1. Summary**

A short concise (executive) summary of the aims of the project and the main findings. Including contractor & client details, date work carried out & under what conditions.

#### **2. Site Location and Description**

This section must include a location map of the survey area at a suitable scale to locate the site within the county and a more detailed site location map with surrounding geographic details. A central grid reference to a minimum of 8 figures must be given for the site. A short description of the topography and current land uses must also be included.

#### **3. Analysis**

- Include a brief summary of the main types and periods of archaeological feature recorded and their significance. This should be cross referenced with the maps and the inventory.
- identify the features / subject areas with most potential for public interpretation,
- identify the features most at risk of damage or deterioration and suggest management which would mitigate this,

#### **4. Inventory**

A clear numbered list of features detailing their NGR location to a minimum of 10 figures, description, and interpretation. Where appropriate features in the inventory should be cross referenced with the County Historic Environment Record/National Monuments Record.

#### **5. Maps**

Maps produced by the survey should identify all the features in the inventory. Maps must include geographical details so that locations are easily identifiable. Survey should be to 1:2500 scale and ideally be tied to OS digital mapping (licensing will need to be agreed between Natural England and the contractor) as part of the GIS structure. If digital mapping is not available the survey should include appropriate topographic data to ensure the survey can be overlaid against OS 1:2500 mapping.

#### **6. Photographic record**

There must be a digital photographic record of each feature in the report which must be clearly cross-referenced with the inventory/GIS record. This may be submitted in a digital format, e.g. on a CD, accompanying the hard copy report.

## 7. Reporting Requirements

Natural England will require 2 copies of the Survey in a bound A4 printed and bound format. A digital copy of the report should be on CD in PDF format is also required. A full copy of the report must also be submitted to the Escrick Park Estate and a full copy to the Friends of Skipwith Common.

An additional A4 bound copy of survey must be submitted to the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER) at the County Council. Finally a digital copy of the report in PDF format must also be included for the HER. Both copies must be sent to the following address on completion of the project:

Development and Countryside Unit  
North Yorkshire County Council  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire  
DL7 8AH

**8. OASIS** Upon completion of the work, the archaeological contractor should make their work accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>).

**9. Site Archive:** The site archive comprising the original paper records and plans, photographs, negatives etc, should be deposited in the appropriate museum at the completion of post-excavation. This should be in accordance with County Archaeological Archive policy, a guidance note on which can be obtained from the North Yorkshire County Council HER.

**10. Health and Safety:** Contractors are expected to abide by the 1974 *Health and Safety Act* and its subsequent amendments as stated in the *Construction and Design Management Regulations 1994*. Appropriate provision of first aid, telephone and safety clothing as described in the *SCAUM* manual on archaeological health and safety must be followed. The project must have a nominated safety officer.

**11. Provision of Training to the Friends of Skipwith Common:** The Friends of Skipwith Common will continue the outline survey over the remainder of Skipwith Common. The Contractor will provide three full day training events for up to twelve volunteers on mutually agreed weekend dates between February and mid-April. The training is aimed at enabling the group to gain a basic understanding of the processes involved with the Outline Survey and will cover:

- Identification of features in the field, within woodland and open habitats
- Recording the location of features
- Mapping and photographing features
- Basic interpretation of features likely to be present on Skipwith Common

- Identification of risks to features

This training may be provided within units 4 and 7 of Skipwith Common or elsewhere on the site. Should indoor accommodation be required for part of the two full day sessions, this will be arranged and paid for by Natural England or the Friends of Skipwith Common.

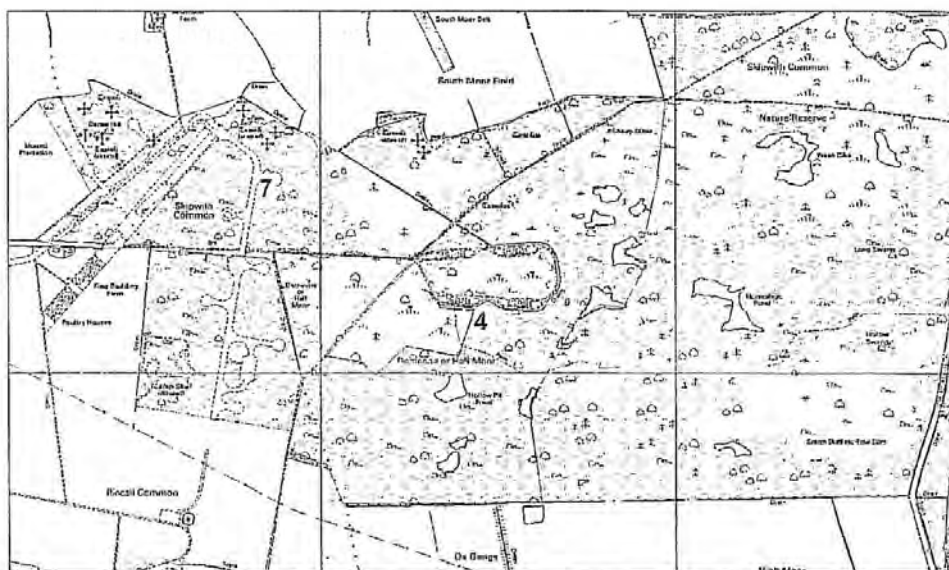
## 12. Project Time-scale

The outline survey and provision of training will take place between 1<sup>st</sup> February and the end of May 2008.

## 13. Copyright

Copyright shall rest with the Escrick Park Estate and Natural England. Reasonable requests from the consultants to reproduce the work will be agreed to. The Escrick Park Estate and Natural England recognise the moral right of identification of originators.

## 14. Map of Survey Area



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## APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 CONTRACT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Julian Small of Natural England has invited Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to submit a project design for a programme of outline landscape survey of part of Skipwith Common, North Yorkshire, owned by Escrick Park Estate and would entail examining an area of 120ha. The proposed programme is in accordance with a project brief by Natural England and is intended to provide for the conservation management of the landscape and its archaeological resource. The survey would entail the enhancement of the North Yorkshire HER data and National Monument Record data.

1.1.2 **Background:** there is evidently a complex of remains across the site and its environs that date back to at least the Bronze Age, in the form of round barrows. There are also in the environs Romano-British / Iron age enclosure settlements, and medieval flax retting ponds. One of the more recent features of the landscape is a second world war airfield, now part overgrown, and there is the potential for associated defensive works associated with this installation. Aerial photographs reveal that the site is partly overgrown with tree and scrub vegetation, but in the clear areas there is clearly a complex of earthwork features which need to be recorded and interpreted.

#### 1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA), which is an educational charity under the guidance of a board of trustees, has over 30 years of experience in professional archaeology, and can provide a professional and cost-effective service. We are the largest independent employer of archaeologists in the country (we currently have more than 200 members of staff), and can thus deploy considerable resources with extensive experience to any archaeological project. We have offices in Lancaster and Oxford, trading as Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), and Oxford Archaeology (OA) respectively, enabling us to provide a truly nationwide service. OA is an Institute of Field Archaeologists Registered Organisation (No 17). All work on the project will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional standards, including:

- IFA's *Code of Conduct*, (1999); *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*, (1999); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*, (1999); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, (1999).
- English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, 1991.
- *The European Association of Archaeologists Principles of Conduct for Archaeologists Involved in Contract Archaeological Work* (1998).

1.2.2 OA North has undertaken a large number of upland landscape surveys for a variety of clients (both private and national agencies such as English Heritage and Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHM(E)) and employs a qualified surveyor (James Quartermaine, BA, DipSurv, MIFA) who has many years (since 1984 in the region) experience of the identification and survey of upland landscapes, having worked closely with the RCHM(E) and the Lake District National Park Authority on a large number of projects.

1.2.4 Since 1982 OA North has been undertaking extensive upland landscape surveys throughout Northern England. Surveys include the Lake District National Park Survey, the Torver Common surveys (Lake District), Haweswater and Thirlmere estate surveys (Lake District), 200sqkm of the Nidderdale AONB (for NYCC), most of the Forest of Bowland AONB (Lancashire), most of the Arnsdale / Silverdale AONB, and a multitude of smaller landscape projects which include the Otterburn Range surveys in the Lake District National Park.

1.2.5 Recently OA North has undertaken a major programme of upland identification survey across the uplands of North Wales, on behalf of the Royal Commission of the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW). This has entailed the survey of 250 sqkm of unenclosed upland, and has recorded over 3,500 monuments.

- 1.2.6 OA North has undertaken numerous upland survey projects for the National Trust, which includes the survey and excavation of the Langdale Axe Factories, the Lyme Park landscape survey (Cheshire), St Catherine's Estate survey (Windermere), Ennerdale Landscape Survey, Addleborough (Wensleydale), Rectory Woods survey (Heysham), a survey around Stickle Tarn, Great Langdale, the Borrowdale Landscape Survey, and the North York Coast Survey (a survey of NT coastal properties on the coast of the North York Moor).
- 1.2.7 To date OA North has undertaken archaeological field surveys of over 850sqkm of upland landscapes and has recorded over 25,000 field monuments. OA North can justifiably claim to be one of the foremost specialists in the field of upland / moorland landscape recording.
- 1.2.8 **Community Involvement:** OA North has considerable experience of working with local communities and amateur groups on landscape projects. In particular OA North has been involved in four Local Heritage Initiative (LHI) projects, which are projects sponsored by the Countryside Commission, and funded by the Lottery, and which entail considerable community involvement. The first is an archaeological and historical survey of Lathom Park, in conjunction with the Lathom Trust and involved training of members of the community to undertake documentary and building surveys. OA North supervised the work and edited the final reports.
- 1.2.9 The second project is an excavation and survey of a complex enclosed settlement at Ingleton in conjunction with the Ingleborough Archaeology Group, and entailed training and supervision to complete an intensive investigation of a rural Roman settlement site. The work was undertaken by the local group and OA North is undertook specialist tasks, such as palaeoenvironmental work, as well as the supervision of all stages of the investigation.
- 1.2.10 The third project is a survey of St Catherine's Park, funded by LHI, but undertaken on behalf of the National Trust and entailed the training and supervision of a group of local volunteers in the techniques of landscape survey and documentary study (OA North 2005). The fourth project is currently in progress and entails working with the Eskdale Local History Society to survey Muncaster Fell in West Cumbria

## 2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The primary purpose of the project is to inform future management decisions with regard to conservation matters relating to the archaeological and historical content of Skipwith Common. The proposed study is intended as an initial exploration of the archaeological and historical resource, rather than a definitive and comprehensive study. The aims of this initial project are broadly as follows:
- to establish sufficient information to establish the location, extent, character, period, condition, fragility and potential of the surviving archaeological features;
  - to provide an accurate level 1b survey of all identified monuments;
  - to provide a basis for the preparation of detailed management prescriptions.
  - to provide training to the friends of Skipwith Common in archaeological survey recording
- 2.3 The following programme has been designed to provide an accurate archaeological survey of the study area, set within its broader landscape context to the historical fabric of landscape character areas within the areas.

## 3. METHODS STATEMENT

- 3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the objectives of the archaeological work summarised above. It is divided into three elements, initial desk based research (including aerial photography), archaeological field survey, and reporting.

### 3.2 INITIAL DESK-BASED RESEARCH

- 3.2.1 A limited search of documentary records will be undertaken sufficient to inform the proposed survey. The study will entail interrogations of the Historic Environment Record (HER) data held by North Yorkshire County Council, and the National Mapping Record. The Ordnance Survey First Edition 6" Mapping will also be acquired digitally from the North Yorkshire Council Record

Office, as well as any estate plans available. It is anticipated that a search will be made of the tithe maps. A further search of the HER will be undertaken to acquire Scheduled Monument descriptions.

- 3.2.2 **Aerial Photography:** although the brief does not specifically require the use of aerial photography, it is strongly recommended that RAF vertical air photography be examined. Given that part of the site is a second world war airfield, and that the area has subsequently become overgrown, it is anticipated that the use of these photographs, taken shortly after the war, will show the area prior to the establishment of the overgrowth and will highlight those earthwork features that related to Second World War defences. To this end a survey of the extant air photographic cover will be undertaken. Aerial photographic collections to be consulted will include obliques and verticals held by the NMR in Swindon, and photographs held by the North Yorks HER.

### 3.3 FIELD SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- 3.3.1 The survey will be undertaken as an enhanced OA North Level 1b type survey (details of OA North's survey levels are contained in *Appendix I*). The survey study area is as defined in the project brief and will encompass 120ha. The sites already identified from SMR will be checked and recorded at the same level of consistency as other newly discovered monuments. The survey will involve four elements: Reconnaissance, Mapping, Description and Photography.
- 3.3.2 **Reconnaissance:** the reconnaissance will consist of close field walking, varying from 10m to 30m line intervals dependent on visibility and safety considerations. The survey will aim to identify, locate and record archaeological sites and features on the ground and thus all sites noted will be recorded. The extent of any areas where there is no access will be defined on maps and depicted on the CAD mapping. All sites identified from the HER/NMR and also the OS first edition maps will be investigated.
- 3.3.3 **Survey mapping:** a Satellite Global Positioning System (GPS) will be utilised to satisfy the Level 1b survey requirements. GPS uses electronic distance measurement along radio frequencies to satellites to enable a positional fix in latitude and longitude which can be converted mathematically to Ordnance Survey national grid. The GPS is a Leica GPS 1200 real time differential survey instrument. The 1200 series GPS obtains corrections from Ordnance Survey GPS base stations, that are all over the country and are never more than 10km from any site. The corrections are transmitted by mobile phone, and as long as there is a mobile phone signal at the point of survey can provide real time accuracies of +/- 0.03m. However, because of the tree cover across the site this can in places be degraded as a result of the loss of satellites. Typically this would still be within the 0.5m specification, but in extreme cover it may not be able to get a fix at all or accuracy would degrade to 2-3m. In this instance the only alternative is to use a total station which would add considerably to time and correspondingly cost. For the present costing it is assumed that in areas of very dense woodland it will be possible to accept a reduction in accuracy down to +/-2m; however, if this is not acceptable then a variation to the costing will be necessary to enable the use of total station traverse to bring control into the woodland. The GPS techniques will be used to record the extent of the site which internally stores the survey data and this is then output as GIS shape files and will be imported directly into a GIS system (ArcMap 9.2).
- 3.3.4 **SMR Site Location:** one advantage of the GPS real time system is that it will display when the unit is on the location of a reported site. This will considerably help to find documented sites. Where the location of a site varies from that defined in the HER the location in the dataset will be refined. In practice, given the accuracy of the GPS in use, this will be appropriate for most of the HER sites.
- 3.3.5 **Site Description and Assessment:** the key to economy of survey is being able to compile a descriptive record for each site in a fast and accurate manner. It is proposed that the data be directly input on site into a Psion palm computer. The data will be incorporated into an Access 97 compatible database, and the data subsequently be backed onto a portable computer running Access 97.
- 3.3.6 The input into the system will be guided by a proforma to ensure uniformity and consistency of input. Each category of significance will be given high, medium or low scores in the field. These values will be averaged to provide an overall grade for the site at the data analysis stage.
- 3.3.7 **Site Interpretation:** the size and intricacy of the description will reflect the complexity of the site and will not be limited by any formulaic restrictions. The description will incorporate a provisional

interpretation of the function and purpose of a site, where possible, and will provide a provisional interpretation of the site's chronology where possible.

- 3.3.8 **Photographic Survey:** a photographic archive will be generated in the course of the field project, comprising landscape and detailed photography. Detailed photographs will be taken of all sites using a scale bar. All photography will be recorded on photographic pro-forma sheets which will show the subject, orientation and date. The photography will be primarily undertaken using a conventional 35mm camera with Black and White (HP4) film which will be maintained to archival standards. In addition a digital camera with 6 megapixel resolution will be used.

### 3.4 PROJECT ARCHIVE

- 3.4.1 **Archive:** the results of the fieldwork will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and digitally.
- 3.4.2 **Digital Presentation:** the digital data will be collated in a GIS, using Esri's ArcGIS 9. This powerful system provides full integration with standard database packages, and can output in a variety of formats compatible with all major GIS and CAD software packages. In particular it can output in MapInfo format and in AutoCAD DXF and DWG formats. The database will be compiled in Access 97 format, as this provides good backwards and forwards compatibility with other versions of the software, and integrates smoothly with ArcGIS 9. Data can easily be imported into Access 97 from a variety of formats, and similarly can be easily exported back into other formats after
- 3.4.3 **Site Gazetteer:** the site descriptions and characterisations input in the field to the site PDA will be processed and combined with the records from the North Yorks HER. Once the digital gazetteer has been collated and edited, it will be output as an Access Report and input directly into a Microsoft Word format. This data will then be formatted and topped and tailed within word to produce the gazetteer volume for the survey project.
- 3.4.4 **Recommendations:** a series of recommendations will be compiled for all the sites within appropriate fields within the Access database. This will define the most appropriate conservation strategy for the individual sites and will be prepared subject to detailed discussions with the National Trust Territory Archaeologist. As with site gazetteer volume the recommendations will be output as a separate Access report, incorporating only those fields pertinent to the conservation management. The data will then be edited within Microsoft Word to produce a separate volume of management recommendations.
- 3.4.5 **Photographic Presentation:** the primary access database will have fields defining the photograph number, type and orientation against the individual site. This will then be output as a database report, in order of photograph number, showing the site number, NGR, orientation and photo type. This will then be output as a word file to form the photographic catalogue.
- 3.4.6 In addition, if required, the digital images will be directly linked into the Access database to facilitate the accessing of the images from within the database. The photographs will be linked to a catalogue pro-forma showing the details, orientation, negative numbers and date. The site gazetteer volume will incorporate high quality prints of digital images.

### 3.5 REPORTING

- 3.5.1 The report will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above, and will include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project. The reports will consist of an acknowledgements statement, lists of contents, summary, introduction summarising the brief and project design and any agreed departures from them. The report will identify the significance of the archaeological and architectural evidence and will include the following:
- An historical background of the estate, examining its origins and development
  - Results of the archaeological survey, presented in conjunction with the survey mapping and documentary data
  - An interpretative account of the archaeology of the landscape presented from its inception to the present.



- 3.5.2 The report will identify areas of archaeological importance, and will examine their level of preservation and fragility. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which the data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work. An appendix gazetteer of sites and designed elements which will be based directly upon the project database.
- 3.5.3 The report will incorporate appropriate illustrations, including copies of the site plans, and landscape survey mapping, all reduced to an appropriate scale. The site mapping will be based upon the GIS and CAD base. The report will be accompanied by photographs and historic illustrations illustrating the principal elements of the landscape.
- 3.5.4 **Editing and submission:** the report will be subject to the OA North's stringent editing procedure and two bound and one unbound copies of the report will be submitted to Natural England, and one to the North Yorkshire HER. In addition to the paper copies of the report digital copies of the report and drawings will be submitted in PDF format. The final drawings will be in ArcView and/or AutoCAD 2004 formats.
- 3.5.5 Primary archival material, such as negatives and historical mapping will be submitted to the appropriate museum.

### **3.6 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- 3.6.1 It is proposed that the survey programme incorporate a training element for members of the Friends of Skipwith Common, in the course of the field survey. Three training events will be established in the course of the field work, and would entail training in survey techniques. The members of the group will be taught how to use the GPS, site recognition skills, archaeological photography and site interpretation. They will also be taught how to record the sites on the palm computer. The value and potential of the documentary sources will also be outlined.

### **3.7 CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 3.7.1 The report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

## **4. OTHER MATTERS**

### **4.1 ACCESS**

- 4.1.1 It is assumed that OA North will have unrestricted pedestrian access to the study area for the duration of the survey, and that access will be negotiated on OA North's behalf by Escrick Estate.

### **4.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 4.2.1 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services) during the survey, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. The OA North Health and Safety Statement conforms to all the provisions of the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Unit Managers) Health and Safety manual, as well as the OA Health and Safety Statement. Risk assessments are undertaken as a matter of course for all projects, and will anticipate the potential hazards arising from the project.

### **4.3 INSURANCE**

- 4.3.1 The insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with the Unit and arising in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of OA North in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of OA North or any of its employees there applies the insurance cover of £10m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.

### **4.4 WORKING HOURS**

- 4.4.1 Survey works will be undertaken on the basis of a five day week, within daylight hours only.

### **4.5 PROJECT MONITORING**

- 4.5.1 Monitoring meetings will be established with the Natural England at the outset of the project. OA North will inform the client of all significant developments, and any potential departures from the agreed programme will be discussed and agreed with them prior to implementation.

## **5. WORK TIMETABLE**

- 5.1 The phases of work will comprise:
- 5.1.1 ***Desk Based Research***  
A 5 day period is required to collate all the available data.
- 5.1.2 ***Field Survey***  
3 days will be required for the field survey
- 5.1.3 ***Archive and Reporting***  
15 days would be required to complete this element.
- 5.1.4 The project can be undertaken at short notice, subject to the requirements of the client.

## **6. OUTLINE RESOURCES**

### **6.1 STAFFING**

- 6.1.1 The project will be under the management of **Jamie Quartermaine BA DipSurv** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. He will monitor the progress of the project ensuring adherence to all agreed programmes and timetables. He will also provide technical back-up, advice, and will have editorial control over the compilation of the full report. He has many years experience of surveying upland landscapes, particularly in the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. Jamie will provide a post-survey assessment of the results in conjunction with the project director.
- 6.1.2 The field survey will be led by **Peter Schofield BA** who has considerable experience of field survey work, including prehistoric landscapes, and has undertaken considerable survey work throughout Cumbria and was a team leader on the recent major survey of the Northern Welsh Uplands. He undertook the recent surveys for the National Trust at Ennerdale in West Cumbria, and also at St Catherine's, Windermere.

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## APPENDIX 3: SITE GAZETTEER

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<b>Site Number</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Danes Hill, Square Barrow Cemetery</b>
<b>NGR</b>	464388 437719
<b>Ref no</b>	NMR SE 63 NW 3; SM 30179; HER MNY21112; MNY 12128
<b>Statutory Designation</b>	Scheduled Monument 30179
<b>Site Type</b>	Barrow Cemetery
<b>Period</b>	Iron Age/Romano-British
<b>Source</b>	NMR; Stead 1965; Proctor 1851
<b>Description</b>	Iron Age square barrow cemetery, consisting of more than 20 barrows prior to the construction of an airfield. A further group of seven dispersed barrows lie to the north and west of this site, outside of the study area (NMR SE 63 NW 33).

**Scheduled Monument Description (SM 30179):** the monument includes the buried and earthwork remains of an Iron Age cemetery located on the north-western side of Skipwith Common and extending into Mound Plantation, which is part of the adjoining Riccall Common. The monument is within three areas of protection.

The barrows on Skipwith Common are traditionally, but erroneously, believed to be the burial mounds of members of the Norwegian army killed, at the battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066. They have been the subject of several small scale excavations in the past. The earliest was conducted by Dr John Burton in 1754, who recorded the find of a near complete skeleton and part of a second in a large barrow in the south-eastern part of the cemetery, one of three destroyed in 1941 during the construction of the airfield. The more complete skeleton was identified as that of a decapitated young man laid out with his skull between his knees facing east. A fragment of textile described as coarse sacking cloth was found adhering to a thigh bone. In 1849 William Proctor and the Yorkshire Antiquaries Club opened at least ten barrows. These were described as being circular mounds between 0.6m-1.2m high and 6m-12m in diameter, each surrounded by a square ditch around 0.4m deep and 1m wide aligned by the cardinal compass points, that is east/west and north/south. At a depth of around 1m in all of the barrows investigated was a layer of 'black sand' 15cm-30cm thick sometimes containing pieces of burnt bone and occasional iron, flint and other fragments. One of the barrows opened was identified as that investigated by Dr Burton. This was described as being 15m in diameter and 1.2m-1.5m high and was described as containing a number of human bones. In 1941, Miss K Hodgeson conducted an unpublished rescue excavation on four barrows due to be destroyed by the construction of the wartime airfield. They were found to be mounds surrounded by ditches, square in plan, with rounded corners and 'V' cut profiles. No central burial pits were identified under the mounds, but ash, charcoal and bones were identified in the excavated layers.

The ditches were infilled with alternating thin layers of clean yellow sand and thicker layers of dark mud containing third to fourth century Roman pottery. This ditch infill is now considered to be evidence of Romano-British farming activity in the area and to postdate the construction of the barrow cemetery. In 1994 the area was surveyed by MAP Archaeological Consultants. In spring 1998 Mike Griffiths excavated one square barrow in an open area excavation in the arable field just to the north-east of Danes Hill. Although plough damaged, this was shown to have been a mound covering a layer containing large quantities of charcoal, described as 'black sand' in 1849, and cremated bone fragments surrounded by a square ditch similar to those described by Hodgeson. The square barrow cemetery survives as three areas of low earthwork mounds. The main area lies to the north-west of the perimeter track on the western side of the runway and is labelled Danes Hill on Ordnance Survey maps. Two smaller areas, each containing at least two mounds, lie to the east of the main area, north-east and east of the north-eastern end of the runway. The barrows survive as earthwork mounds typically 0.2m-0.6m high ranging between 5m in diameter up to 20m in diameter. The ditches around most of the mounds have been largely infilled over the centuries. Depressions marking at least one side ditch can be identified for the majority of the mounds, and in most cases at least two sides can be seen. These ditches, except with one barrow which is orientated at an angle to all of the rest, run north-south and east-west, describing squares around the individual mounds. Early Ordnance Survey maps mark ten barrows within the main area which were not later destroyed by the construction of the World War II airfield. William Proctor's mid-19th century plan marks an additional five barrows and the survey conducted in 1994 identified a minimum of 20 square barrows in the main area. The water tank sited on top of a barrow on the north-eastern side of the main area, and the fence line marking the boundary between Mound Plantation and the Common are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath these features is included.

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<b>Site Number</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Skipwith Common, Round Barrow</b>
<b>NGR</b>	465275 437669
<b>Ref no</b>	NMR SE 63 NE 6; SM 30180; MNY 17567
<b>Statutory Designation</b>	Scheduled Monument 30180
<b>Site Type</b>	Barrow
<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age
<b>Source</b>	NMR; HER; Proctor 1851; Antiquaries J 1961 (41) 48-51
<b>Description</b>	Part of a group (Sites 2-5) of Bronze Age round barrows situated on the northern edge of Skipwith Common. It is a large irregular shaped low mound, c 12-14m in diameter, with considerable animal and tree disturbance was recorded in the area of Site 2 as part of the walk-over survey. A possible slit trench is located on the south side of the mound. This feature is located on the east side of Site 18.

**Scheduled Monument Description (SM 30180):** the monument includes the buried and earthwork remains of a pair of round barrows on the northern edge of Skipwith Common due south of a shelter belt of trees called South Moor Belt. The barrows on Skipwith Common have been investigated on a number of occasions by antiquarians. Their interest was concentrated mainly on the square barrow cemetery to the west, although the centre of the barrow, 800m south-east of Adamson Farm, has a depression which is the result of an antiquarian excavation. No excavations of the four round barrows on the common are recorded. However, Elgee in his 1933 'Archaeology of Yorkshire' notes the find of a Middle Bronze Age cremation urn on Skipwith Common. It is thought that this would have been removed from one of the round barrows, possibly by William Proctor and the Yorkshire Antiquities Club in 1849. The round barrow survives as an 8m-10m diameter mound standing up to a maximum of 0.8m above the bottom of a 2m-3m wide ditch on its western side. It is c 0.6m high compared to the general surrounding ground surface to the east and west. The ditch encircles the mound and survives as an infilled feature around the rest of the circuit.

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<b>Site Number</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Skipwith Common, Round Barrow</b>
<b>NGR</b>	465229 437630
<b>Ref no</b>	NMR SE 63 NE 6; SM 30181; MNY 17568
<b>Statutory Designation</b>	Scheduled Monument 30181
<b>Site Type</b>	Barrow
<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age
<b>Source</b>	NMR; HER; Proctor 1851; Antiquaries J 1961 (41) 48-51
<b>Description</b>	Part of a group (Sites 2-5) of Bronze Age round barrows situated on the northern edge of Skipwith Common, and noted during the walk-over survey

**Scheduled Monument Description (SM 30181):** The monument includes the buried and earthwork remains of the southernmost of a pair of round barrows on the northern edge of Skipwith Common due south of a shelter belt of trees called South Moor Belt. The barrows on Skipwith Common have been investigated on a number of occasions by antiquarians. Their interest was mainly concentrated on small scale excavations on the square barrow cemetery to the west. No excavations of the four round barrows on the common are recorded, although Elgee in his 1933 'Archaeology of Yorkshire' notes the find of a Middle Bronze Age cremation urn on Skipwith Common. It is thought that this would have been removed from one of the round barrows, possibly by William Proctor and the Yorkshire Antiquities Club in 1849. The round barrow survives as 5m diameter mound standing up to a maximum of 0.7m above the bottom of a mainly infilled encircling ditch which is also included within the monument.

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<b>Site Number</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Skipwith Common, Round Barrow</b>
<b>NGR</b>	465565 437711
<b>Ref no</b>	NMR SE 63 NE 6; SM 30177; HER MNY 17569
<b>Statutory Designation</b>	Scheduled Monument 30177
<b>Site Type</b>	Barrow
<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age
<b>Source</b>	NMR; HER; Proctor 1851; Antiquaries J 1961 (41) 48-51

**Description** Part of a group (Sites 2-5) of Bronze Age round barrows situated on the northern edge of Skipwith Common. A possible barrow was recorded in this area on the walk-over survey comprising a prominent mound with fairly steep sides, c 0.5m high and 7m in diameter. It has a slightly rounded top with a hole in the centre. Some tree disturbance and burrows were noted around the edges.

**Scheduled Monument Description (SM 30177):** This survives as a 6m diameter, round topped mound standing up to 1 metre high with evidence of a mainly infilled encircling ditch 2m wide. The mound has a small central depression up to 0.3m deep and is skirted on its northern side by a footpath.

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**Site Number** 5  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Round Barrow  
**NGR** 465543 437500  
**Ref no** NMR SE 63 NE 6; SM 30178; HER MNY 17570  
**Statutory Designation** Scheduled Monument 30178  
**Site Type** Barrow  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Source** NMR; HER; Proctor 1851; Antiquaries J 1961 (41) 48-51  
**Description** Part of a group (Sites 2-5) of Bronze Age round barrows situated on the northern edge of Skipwith Common. Survives as a broad mound 20m in diameter standing up to 1m high.

The area within which this monument is located was heavily flooded at the time of the walk-over survey and consequently the barrow could not be seen or accessed.

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**Site Number** 6  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Rectilinear enclosure  
**NGR** 465650 437720  
**Ref no** NMR SE 63 NE 39  
**Site Type** Earthworks  
**Period** ?Iron Age/Romano-British  
**Source** NMR  
**Description** A rectilinear enclosure of uncertain date survives as earthworks, within woodland on Skipwith Common, and is visible on air photographs. The enclosure has double and triple-ditched elements and has a possible entrance on the western side, visible on 1948 photographs. Later photographs taken in 1999 show a larger network of ditches, but how much this has been modified by modern drainage is uncertain. The date of this enclosure is unknown.

The walk-over survey noted that the earthwork enclosure comprised prominent banks c 2m wide and 0.4m high. The ditches were c 1m wide and filled with water at the time of the survey. A possible continuation of the earthworks was recorded to the south, Site 79.

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**Site Number** 7  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield  
**NGR** 464000 436800 (area)  
**Ref no** NMR SE 63 NW 21; HER 12150  
**Site Type** Twentieth century airfield  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** NMR; HER  
**Description** A World War Two military airfield, opened 1942 and closed in 1957. It had three runways and perimeter dispersal bays. A bomb store lay to the east. Associated dispersed military camps lay mainly to the south and south-east, with two other probable camps further to the north. It was equipped with aircraft hangars of Type T2 and Type B1 designs. During the war it was an operational bomber base for the Royal Air Force (7 Group). By 1985 the main use of the site was for agricultural purposes. By 2002 many buildings had been demolished and the runways removed.

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**Site Number** 8  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, north of King Rudding Lane, Sand Pit  
**NGR** 464458 437391

**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Sand pit  
**Period** Post-medieval  
**Source** OS first edition map (1855)  
**Description** A sand pit noted on the 1855 OS mapping, to the north of King Rudding Lane. It is labelled 'old sand pit' on the 1890 mapping, but is not shown after this date. In the 1940s the location of this sand pit was built over by Riccall Airfield (Site 7). It is no longer extant.

**Site Number** 9  
**Site Name** **Skipwith Common, Sand Pit, east of Danes Hill**  
**NGR** 464665 437676  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Sand pit  
**Period** Post-medieval  
**Source** OS first edition map (1855)  
**Description** A sand pit noted on the 1855 OS mapping, to the east of Danes Hill. A hollow is shown in the approximate position of this sand pit on the 1890 and 1908-9 mapping, but it is not labelled. In the 1940s the location of this sand pit was built over by Riccall Airfield (Site 7). It is no longer extant.

**Site Number** 10  
**Site Name** **Skipwith Common, Finger post marked at the eastern end of King Rudding Lane**  
**NGR** 465253 437319  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Marker post  
**Period** Post-medieval  
**Source** Map regression  
**Description** A finger post, noted on the 1855 OS mapping at the eastern end of King Rudding Lane. It is marked as a guide post on the 1890 25" mapping, but not shown after this date. In the 1940s the location of this finger post was developed as a route to the Riccall Airfield bomb store (Site 25). It is no longer extant.

**Site Number** 11  
**Site Name** **Skipwith Common, Sand Pit, within Mound Plantation**  
**NGR** 464452 437462  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Sand pit  
**Period** Post-medieval  
**Source** OS first edition map (1855)  
**Description** A sand pit noted on the 1890 OS mapping, within Mound Plantation, but not shown on later mapping. In the 1940s the location of this sand pit was built over by Riccall Airfield (Site 7). It is no longer extant.

**Site Number** 12  
**Site Name** **Danes Hill - Rectangular Enclosure**  
**NGR** 464770, 437660  
**Ref no** HER MNY 12133  
**Site Type** Rectangular Enclosure  
**Period** Iron Age  
**Source** HER  
**Description** An enclosure depicted on William Proctor's MS Plan, but not on OS maps. A settlement existing beside the barrows is mentioned, but no details of it are known. The enclosure had two oval ring ditches in its north-east corner. It has possibly been destroyed by the construction of the airfield. It possibly refers to the same site as Site 16, which is located c 30m to the south. No earthworks were noted in this area during the walk-over survey.

**Site Number** 13  
**Site Name** **Riccall Airfield - Bomb Store**  
**NGR** 465450, 437270

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**Ref no** HER MNY 12154  
**Site Type** Bomb Store  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** HER; Riccal Airfield Map  
**Description** A bomb dump was positioned well to the east of the airfield within Skipwith Common. Four buildings (Sites **25**, **60**, **75** and **88**) described as bomb stores were marked on the airfield map in this area (Fig 8).

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**Site Number** **14**  
**Site Name** **Skipwith Common, Mound**  
**NGR** 465080, 437160  
**Ref no** HER MNY 17591  
**Site Type** Mound  
**Period** ? Bronze Age  
**Source** HER; OS first edition map (1855); Walk-over survey  
**Description** A mound shown on the OS map of 1855. A prominent, regular shaped mound c 0.6m high and 8m in diameter. There are some trees around the edges of the top, but the rest of the top is fairly flat. The mound sides are fairly steep and a shallow ditch runs around the outside, some parts of which were filled with water.

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**Site Number** **15**  
**Site Name** **Skipwith Common, Findspot**  
**NGR** 464500, 437700  
**Ref no** HER MNY 17618  
**Site Type** Findspot  
**Period** ?Iron Age  
**Source** HER  
**Description** The findspot of a fragment of woollen cloth, thought to be Iron Age. Found within a stratified context. From the same location as square barrow (Site **23**), and presumed to be associated with it.

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**Site Number** **16**  
**Site Name** **Skipwith Common, Enclosure System**  
**NGR** 464760, 437630  
**Ref no** HER MNY 17643  
**Site Type** Enclosure  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** HER  
**Description** An enclosure system of unknown date, which possibly refers to the same site as Site **12**, which is located c. 30m to the north. No earthworks were noted in this area during the walk-over survey.

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**Site Number** **17**  
**Site Name** **Skipwith Common, Findspot of Roman pottery**  
**NGR** 464760, 437630  
**Ref no** HER MNY 17644  
**Site Type** Findspot  
**Period** Roman  
**Source** HER  
**Description** Findspot of Roman pottery sherds

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**Site Number** **18**  
**Site Name** **Skipwith Common, Multiple Banks**  
**NGR** 465339 437430  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Earthworks  
**Period** Unknown - ?Bronze Age  
**Source** The Friends of Skipwith Common.  
**Description** Earthworks comprising multiple banks, aligned approximately north-west / south-east. This feature extends for c 867m and is c 35m wide. The individual banks are c 3m to 5m in width and range

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from 3m to 60m in length. At the south-east end several banks were noted as dividing off from the main alignment to head east-south-east. This second alignment of banks was traced for 70m before it left the south boundary of the study area. The feature was surveyed by The Friends of Skipwith Common in 2007-8.

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**Site Number** 19  
**Site Name** Danes Hill no. 7 - Crouched inhumation and square barrow  
**NGR** 46452 43763  
**Ref no** HER MNY 12129  
**Site Type** Crouched inhumation and square barrow  
**Period** Iron Age  
**Source** HER; Stead 1965  
**Description** Barrow no. 7 as depicted on Stead's map of 1961 was excavated in 1754, producing two crouched inhumations. The excavator, J Burton, also excavated other barrows in the Danes Hill complex (Site 1). The condition of the barrow is unknown. It was descheduled in 1999.

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**Site Number** 20  
**Site Name** Danes Hill - Cremation  
**NGR** 46460 43765  
**Ref no** HER MNY 12131; SM 30179  
**Statutory Designation** Scheduled Monument (Part of Site 1) SM 30179  
**Site Type** Cremation  
**Period** Iron Age  
**Source** HER; Stead 1965  
**Description** Calcined bones (quantities unknown) were recovered by excavations by Burton and YAC. Location of excavated barrows unknown.

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**Site Number** 21  
**Site Name** Adamson Farm - Square Barrow  
**NGR** 464400 437800  
**Ref no** HER MNY 12135  
**Site Type** Square barrow  
**Period** Iron Age  
**Source** HER  
**Description** Up to five square barrows are visible on aerial photographs adjacent to Danes Hill. Three of these are positioned alongside a trackway. All the barrows lie in the same field beside Danes Hill, which contains a square barrow cemetery, therefore it can be assumed that these are part of the same cemetery (Site 1).

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**Site Number** 22  
**Site Name** Adamson Farm - Field System  
**NGR** 464400 437800  
**Ref no** HER MNY 12143  
**Site Type** Field system  
**Period** Iron Age  
**Source** HER  
**Description** A complex pattern of field systems containing small rectangular and square enclosures. The Iron Age date has been given to the field system due to its association with the square barrows. This field system may be part of an extensive field system to the north of Skipwith Common and Danes Hill (NMR SE 63 NW 8). No earthworks were noted in this area during the walk-over survey.

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**Site Number** 23  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Square Barrow  
**NGR** 464500 437700  
**Ref no** HER MNY 17619  
**Site Type** Square barrow  
**Period** Iron Age  
**Source** HER

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**Description** A square barrow which is part of the Danes Hill group (Site 1). There was a find of woollen cloth (Site 15) from this same location, and is presumed to be associated with this barrow.

**Site Number** 24  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Drain  
**NGR** 465442 437392  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Drain  
**Period** Modern  
**Source** Walk-over survey

**Description** A drain aligned north-west / south-east crosses the northern part of the study area. It was not shown on any of the historic mapping examined and was built sometime after 1910. In actuality it was constructed during the Second World War to drain the bomb storage compound (Site 60). It is shown on the current OS mapping and still in use.

**Site Number** 25  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Bomb store  
**NGR** 465379 437339  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bomb store  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Riccall Airfield Map; walk-over survey

**Description** One of four structures (Sites 25, 60, 75 and 88) described as bomb stores on the airfield map (Fig 8), and is part of Site 13. The structure comprises a brick wall aligned west/east, with five perpendicular earth banks coming off its north side, making a total length of 75m and creating four bays each c 9m wide. The brick wall is two courses wide and 0.8m high. Iron rings hanging on iron pegs were set within the wall (c 9 rings per bay), and served to tie down tarpaulins. The earth banks are c 1.5m high, 17m long and 4-5m wide at the base. There is a concrete ramp from the top of the brick wall into each bay (although this does not survive for each bay). Each bay has a concrete surface. In some places a raised edge or kerb to the concrete base could be seen at the back of the bays, possibly demarcating the location of a former structure.

**Site Number** 26  
**Site Name** Danes Hill, possible barrow  
**NGR** 464468 437756  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Barrow  
**Period** ?Prehistoric  
**Source** Walk-over survey

**Description** A possible barrow, roughly rectangular in shape and flat on top, measuring c 7m from north-east to south-west, 4.5m in width and up to 0.3m in height. There is some tree disturbance around its edges. It is in the same location as one of the Danes Hill group of barrows, shown on the historic mapping from 1855 onwards (Site 1).

**Site Number** 27  
**Site Name** Danes Hill, possible barrow  
**NGR** 464431 437770  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Barrow  
**Period** ?Prehistoric  
**Source** Walk-over survey

**Description** A possible round barrow measuring c 9m in diameter and c 0.6m in height. It is fairly flat on top, although there are some trees on the top towards its south extent and around its edges. It is in the same location as one of the Danes Hill group of barrows, shown on the historic mapping from 1855 onwards (Site 1).

**Site Number** 28  
**Site Name** Danes Hill, possible barrow

**NGR** 464394 437752  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Barrow  
**Period** ?Prehistoric  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A possible round barrow, marked by a slight ditch on its south side and a hole approximately in the centre. The east side is less clear due to tree disturbance and a less pronounced mound/ditch. It is fairly flat on top, though it rises up slightly at the south end. It measures c 8m from north to south, 13m from east to west and c 0.6m in height. It is in the same location as one of the Danes Hill group of barrows, shown on the historic mapping from 1890 onwards (Site 1).

**Site Number** 29  
**Site Name** Danes Hill, Bank and ditch  
**NGR** 464376 437702  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bank and ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A bank aligned north-east to south-west, with a ditch on its north-west side. It is c 2m wide and up to 0.5m high.

**Site Number** 30  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Bomb shelter  
**NGR** 464431 437590  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bomb shelter  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A bomb shelter, comprising a concrete tunnel, aligned north-east to south-west, with brick built entrances at the west end of its north side and the east end of its south side. This was the same type of structure as Sites 49 and 108. This structure is labelled as 'GPH' on the map of the airfield (Fig 8), although it is unclear what this stands for. To the immediate north-east of this building, a building of similar size labelled on the map as an air raid shelter, however this was not located during the Walk-over survey.

**Site Number** 31  
**Site Name** Danes Hill, possible barrow  
**NGR** 464343 437681  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Barrow  
**Period** ?Prehistoric  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A possible barrow, which is substantially disturbed by trees and burrows. It measured up to 0.4m high, c 5m west to east and 9m north to south. The north side is very disturbed and the top dips down in this area. It is in the same location as one of the Danes Hill group of barrows, shown on the historic mapping from 1855 onwards (Site 1).

**Site Number** 32  
**Site Name** Danes Hill, possible barrow  
**NGR** 464364 437807  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Barrow  
**Period** ?Prehistoric  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A large, low round mound covered in bracken, but visible as a slight rise, c 13m in diameter. It is in the same location as one of the Danes Hill group of barrows, shown on the historic mapping from 1908 onwards (Site 1).

**Site Number** 33

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**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Gun platforms  
**NGR** 464483 437776 and 464559 437722  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Gun platforms  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** Two gun platforms, each comprising a concrete cylinder, c 1.5m in diameter and 1m in height. The eastern of the two cylinders has a gun mount intact. A brick basin measuring 1m east-west, 0.75m north-south and 0.25m deep is located 2m to the east of the eastern gun platform.

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**Site Number** 34  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Trackway  
**NGR** 464481 437625  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Trackway  
**Period** Modern  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A trackway shown on the map which is aligned north-east to south-west, measuring c 7m in width. A line of trees is present on either side of the trackway. The track appears to post-date the airfield.

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**Site Number** 35  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Perimeter track  
**NGR** 464487 437572  
**Site Type** Surface related to the perimeter track  
**Ref no** -  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A brick and hardcore surface, located on the south-east side of the north-west extent of the perimeter track for the airfield.

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**Site Number** 36  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, possible mound  
**NGR** 464281 437440  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Mound  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A small, low earthen mound, measuring c 3.5m x 2m with a maximum height of 0.35m, and it is pear shaped. It is located in an area of smooth ground and is therefore distinctive, but could nevertheless be natural in origin.

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**Site Number** 37  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Drain  
**NGR** 464370 437508  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Drain  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** The line of a drain related to airfield operations, that is located to the north-west of the perimeter trackway.

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**Site Number** 38  
**Site Name** Danes Hill, possible barrow  
**NGR** 464427 437746  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Barrow  
**Period** ?Prehistoric

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**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A possible barrow, although heavily disturbed by badger sets. It is c 7m in diameter and is a maximum of 0.4 high, with an uneven surface due to animal activity. It is in the same location as one of the Danes Hill group of barrows, shown on the historic mapping from 1855 onwards (Site 1).

**Site Number** 39  
**Site Name** Danes Hill, possible barrow  
**NGR** 464642 437849  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Barrow  
**Period** ?Prehistoric  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A possible barrow heavily disturbed by badgers, comprising a slight mound, c 9m in diameter, and is most notable to the north and west and rising to c 0.3 in height. It is located within the Danes Hill group (Site 1).

**Site Number** 40  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Curvi-linear ditch  
**NGR** 464736 437754  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Curvi-linear ditch  
**Period** Medieval /Post-medieval  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A curvi-linear ditch comprising a shallow ditch, c 1m wide, with a bank on the outer edge and slight bank on the inside. The feature was also surveyed to the north-east where it was seen to continue as the line of a former field boundary.

**Site Number** 41  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Findspot  
**NGR** 464758 437732  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Findspot  
**Period** Prehistoric  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A flint find spot on surface, ie not *in situ*. It was possibly of Neolithic date, and was a heavily eroded tertiary flint flake, which has possibly modified for use as a scraper, but alternatively this could be post-depositional damage (Fraser Brown *pers comm*).

**Site Number** 42  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, parallel banks  
**NGR** 464773 437717  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Former path  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** Parallel banks aligned north-west to south-east, comprising two low mounds each c 1.5m wide and up to 0.3m high. It was possibly a continuation of Site 47, to the east. Both banks are on the line of a path marked on the current mapping; however, it appears that this path has now fallen out of use.

**Site Number** 43  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, possible barrow  
**NGR** 464772 437759  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Possible barrow  
**Period** ?Prehistoric  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** The location of a possible mound in the area of one of the Site 1 barrows. However it was not particularly clear as a site and was defined only by a slight mound, c 11m in diameter, of which there

are a number of similar features in the area which are thought to be natural.

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**Site Number** 44  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Brick structure  
**NGR** 464907 437600  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Brick Airfield Structure  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** The remains of a rectangular brick structure aligned north-west to south-east. The south and east walls survive to *c* 1m and the west and north walls are 4 or 5 courses high. The entrance is located on the west side at the south end. Much tumbled brick can be seen inside. A plinth is marked in this area on the map of the airfield (Fig 8).

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**Site Number** 45  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Ditch  
**NGR** 464879 437614  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A drain/ditch *c* 1m wide. It is aligned approximately north-south and turns 90° to the west just north-west of brick structure 44.

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**Site Number** 46  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, possible barrow  
**NGR** 464859 437655  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Possible barrow  
**Period** ?Prehistoric  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A possible cairn in the area of one of the Site 1 barrows, shown on the historic mapping from 1908 onwards. It is *c* 7m in diameter and is heavily disturbed with animal burrows. The date of this feature is questionable as brick was noted on its top.

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**Site Number** 47  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Hollow way  
**NGR** 464854 437721  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Former path  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A hollow way aligned west-east, *c* 1m wide. A parallel hollow was located to the south. It was possibly a continuation of Site 42, to the west. Both sites are on the line of a path marked on the current mapping; however, it appears that this path has now fallen out of use.

---

**Site Number** 48  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Concrete block  
**NGR** 464833 437733  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Concrete block  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A concrete block probably of Second World War origin. It did not appear to be *in situ* as it is currently positioned at an angle. A small piece of metal is screwed into its top. It is approximately on the line of the main runway and could therefore relate to it.

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**Site Number** 49  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Bomb shelter  
**NGR** 464774 437532  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bomb shelter  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A bomb shelter, comprising a concrete tunnel aligned north-east to south-west with a brick built entrance on its west side at the south end and on its east side at the north end. This was the same type of structure as Sites 30 and 108. This structure is labelled as 'GPH' on the map of the airfield (Fig 8), although it is unclear what this stands for. To the immediate south of this building is a building of similar size which was labelled as an air raid shelter on the airfield map, however this was not located during the walk-over survey.

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**Site Number** 50  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Curvi-linear bank  
**NGR** 464958 437680  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Curvi-linear bank  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A curvi-linear low bank aligned south-west to north-east and turning to the north at its west end. It is c 1m wide and 0.4m high.

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**Site Number** 51  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Bomb storage area  
**NGR** 464910 437353  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bomb storage area  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A possible bomb storage area, rectangular in shape and aligned approximately west to east with remains of brick walls at the entrances on the west and east ends. The brick survives to three or four courses. The north and south longer sides are very overgrown and appear to only ever have been constructed as earth banks, which now survive as mounds with trees growing on them. Sites 51, 53 and 56 are all described as 'Explosives Laboratory' on the map of the airfield (Fig 8).

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**Site Number** 52  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Mound  
**NGR** 465045 437425  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Mound  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A low circular mound, fairly regular in shape, c 6m in diameter and no more than 0.2m in height. The mound is flat on top and has trees around the edges.

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**Site Number** 53  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Bomb storage area  
**NGR** 465095 437345  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bomb storage area  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A possible bomb storage area aligned west to east with low remains of brick entrances at either end. Also a bank runs parallel to this structure on the north side. Sites 51, 53 and 56 are all described as 'Explosives Laboratory' on the map of the airfield (Fig 8).

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**Site Number** 54  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Bomb store  
**NGR** 465222 437333  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bomb Store  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A long bank, c 2m high, constructed of earth with sloping sides, giving it an approximate width of 1.5m on top and c. 4m at base. It is associated with Site 55, which is located to the south. Sites 54 and 55 are collectively described as 'Fuzed and spare bomb Store' on the map of the airfield (Fig 8).

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**Site Number** 55  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Bomb store  
**NGR** 465221 437310  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bomb Store  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A square bomb store, constructed of earth mounds c 2m high, with sloping sides, giving them an approximate width of 1.5m on top and c. 4m at base. There was some disturbance by trees and bike tracks. It was associated with Site 54, to the north. Sites 54 and 55 are collectively described as 'Fuzed and spare bomb Store' on the map of the airfield (Fig 8).

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**Site Number** 56  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Bomb storage area  
**NGR** 465000 437328  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bomb storage area  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** Bomb blast banks with a brick structure at each end and on either side of the end entrances. The banks stand to 1.0m high. These bays were apparently where the bombs and detonators were combined, and hence the bomb blast banks. To the north of the main structure is another, similar sized bank. The banks are 4.5m in width. Sites 51, 53 and 56 are all described as 'Explosives Laboratory' on the map of the airfield (Fig 8).

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**Site Number** 57  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Trackways  
**NGR** 465161 437436  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Trackways  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** Two trackways running east/west and east-north-east/west-south-west, converging to the west. The trackways cut through the heather, creating a gap c 3m wide.

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**Site Number** 58  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Drain  
**NGR** 465275 437436  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Drain  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A drain, c 1.5m wide and 0.2-0.3m deep, cut by drain 24. An associated bank can be seen in places. Some of this drain is filled with water and some of it is dry.

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**Site Number** 59

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**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, possible slit trench  
**NGR** 465066 437641  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Foxhole  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A possible slit trench, measuring 2m x 1m x 0.5m deep. It is rectangular in shape and has a straight sided cut.

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**Site Number** 60  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Bomb store  
**NGR** 465550 437350  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bomb store  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Map regression; Walk-over survey  
**Description** One of four buildings (Sites 25, 60, 75 and 88) described as bomb stores on the airfield map (Fig 8), and this is part of Site 13. The structure comprises a brick wall aligned west-east, with five perpendicular earth banks coming off its north side, making a total length of 75m and creating four bays each c 9m wide. The brick wall is two courses wide and 0.8m high. Iron rings hanging on iron pegs were set within the wall (c 9 rings per bay), which were intended to hold down a tarpaulin cover over the top. The earth banks are c 1.5m high, 17m long and 4-5m wide at the base. There is a concrete ramp from the top of the brick wall into each bay (although this does not survive for each bay), and each bay has a concrete surface. In some places a raised edge or kerb to the concrete base could be seen at the back of the bays, possibly demarcating the location of a former structure.

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**Site Number** 61  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Drain  
**NGR** 465211 437720  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Drain  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A fairly modern drain, which is located on the current map and therefore was not surveyed. The drain measured 1m wide and 0.5m deep and has recently been re-cut.

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**Site Number** 62  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, bank  
**NGR** 465229 437638  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bank  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A linear bank, aligned north-east to south-west and c 1.5m wide. It was probably associated with Site 18.

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**Site Number** 63  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Bank  
**NGR** 465143 437643  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bank  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A linear bank aligned east/west, c 2.5m wide and up to 0.4m high. Trees are located on the top of the bank, which appears to divide an area of dry woodland to the north from a much boggy area to the south.

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**Site Number** 64

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**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Ditch  
**NGR** 465169 437587  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A ditch, aligned approximately west-east, which feeds into drain **24** to the west. It is c 1.5m wide and up to 0.2m deep.

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**Site Number** **65**  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Drain  
**NGR** 465307 437627  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Drain  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A 4m wide, fairly shallow drain aligned west to east.

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**Site Number** **66**  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, possible barrow  
**NGR** 465331 437584  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Possible barrow  
**Period** ?Prehistoric  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A possible barrow, c 8m in diameter, comprising a roughly circular low mound. The site is heavily overgrown and is located within the group of multiple banks, Site **18**.

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**Site Number** **67**  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Drain  
**NGR** 465334 437598  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Drain  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A linear drain aligned west-east, c 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep.

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**Site Number** **68**  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Drain  
**NGR** 465362 437493  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Drain  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A drain aligned north/south, which cuts drain **69**, to the north. It comprises a narrow, steep sided ditch c 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep. To the north it widens out and is visible as a gap in the heather c 2m wide.

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**Site Number** **69**  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Bitch  
**NGR** 465334 437667  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A west-east aligned ditch, c 1m wide and up to 0.1 deep.

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**Site Number** 70  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Boundary bank  
**NGR** 465421 437690  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Boundary bank  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A boundary bank aligned east/west with a ditch on one side

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**Site Number** 71  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Bank  
**NGR** 465419 437658  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bank  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A bank, aligned north-east to south-west, which could not be accessed as it was located in a bog. It was sketched on a map and photographed.

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**Site Number** 72  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Drain  
**NGR** 465470 437529  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Drain  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A drain, 1.5m wide and c 0.1m deep, aligned north-east to south-west.

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**Site Number** 73  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Mound  
**NGR** 465499 437685  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Mound  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A possible low mound, c 7m in diameter and up to 0.2m high.

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**Site Number** 74  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Boundary bank  
**NGR** 465510 437717  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Boundary bank  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A boundary bank aligned approximately west/east, 0.2m high and c 2m wide.

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**Site Number** 75  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Bomb store  
**NGR** 465390 437209  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bomb store  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Map regression; Walk-over survey  
**Description** One of four buildings (Sites 25, 60, 75 and 88) described as bomb stores on the airfield map (Fig 8). It is part of Site 13. The structure comprises a brick wall aligned west/east, with five perpendicular earth banks coming off its north side, making a total length of 75m and creating four bays each c 9m wide. The brick wall is two courses wide and 0.8m high. Iron rings hanging on iron pegs were set within the wall (c 9 rings per bay), which were intended to hold down a tarpaulin over the structure. The

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earth banks are c 1.5m high, 17m long and 4-5m wide at the base. There is a concrete ramp from the top of the brick wall into each bay (although this does not survive for each bay), and each bay has a concrete surface. In some places a raised edge or kerb to the concrete base could be seen at the back of the bays, possibly demarcating the location of a former structure. An earth bank, aligned east / west was located to the north of the bays.

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**Site Number** 76  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Bank  
**NGR** 465562 437728  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bank  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A prominent curved bank, up to 0.5m high and c 1.5m wide. This bank could be the boundary of a plantation shown on the 1910 mapping (Site 116).

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**Site Number** 77  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Bank  
**NGR** 465600 437748  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bank  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A bank aligned north-east to south-west, which is up to 0.2m high and c 2m wide.

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**Site Number** 78  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Hollow  
**NGR** 465574 437608  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Hollow  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A water filled circular hollow, c 9m diameter. It has a regular shape and quite steep edges suggesting that it is man made.

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**Site Number** 79  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Ditch and banks  
**NGR** 465685 437631  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch and banks  
**Period** ?Iron Age/Romano-British  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A north-east to south-west aligned ditch, which curves to the north-west at the west end to meet with a ditch alongside a track. The ditch tapers out at the east end and there was no sign of it turning to the north. The ditch is up to 0.3m deep and c 1.5m wide. A prominent bank, c 3m wide, can be seen on its north-west side and a less prominent bank is located to the south-east. It was a part of the Site 6 field system.

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**Site Number** 80  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Bank and ditch  
**NGR** 464922 437104  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bank and ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A bank and ditch aligned south-west to north-east. The bank is c 4m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.2m high; the adjacent, parallel ditch is 0.1m deep and 1m wide.

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**Site Number** 81  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Bank  
**NGR** 464923 437198  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bank  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A bank aligned west/east, turning south at its east end, measuring *c* 3m wide and *c* 0.3 high.

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**Site Number** 82  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Bank  
**NGR** 464994 437298  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bank  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A section of bank *c* 4m long south-east to north-west, with a ditch on its north-east side. The bank is *c* 2m wide and 0.4m high. The ditch is *c* 0.5m wide and under 0.1m deep.

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**Site Number** 83  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Component Store  
**NGR** 464889 437305  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Component store  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A Second World War structure, comprising a brick wall aligned east/west *c* 3m long, 1.2m high and 2 courses wide, located in a hollow between two north/south aligned banks. The banks are both *c* 2m wide, 0.3m high and 8m long. Sites **83** and **84** are described as 'Component Store' on the map of the airfield (Fig 8).

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**Site Number** 84  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Component Store  
**NGR** 464898 437258  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Component store  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A structure, which couldn't be accessed on the walk-over survey due to flooding. A photo was taken and its location was sketched on the plan. Sites **83** and **84** are described as 'Component Store' on the map of the airfield (Fig 8).

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**Site Number** 85  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Circular ditch  
**NGR** 465076 437271  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** The east and south portions of a circular ditch with straight sides *c* 0.6 wide and 0.4 deep; the ditch is *c* 7m in diameter. The remainder of the ditch was not well-defined. The feature appears to be relatively recent and was possibly Second World War related.

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**Site Number** 86  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, possible bank  
**NGR** 465058 437202  
**Ref no** -

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**Site Type** Bank  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A possible bank, c. 5m wide, aligned south-east to north-west, running to the north-west from Site 14. It is not a very distinctive feature, was fairly amorphous and could in fact be a natural ridge of drier land on which the cairn is located

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**Site Number** 87  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Drain  
**NGR** 465150 437281  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Drain  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A very regular straight-sided drain, 1.5m wide and 0.1m deep, aligned north-east to south-west. It was possibly a Second World War associated feature.

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**Site Number** 88  
**Site Name** Riccall Airfield, Bomb store  
**NGR** 465566 437198  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bomb store  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Map regression; Walk-over survey  
**Description** One of four buildings (Sites 25, 60, 75 and 88) described as bomb stores on the airfield map (Fig 8), and is part of Site 13. The structure comprises a brick wall aligned west-east, with five perpendicular earth banks coming off its north side, making a total length of 75m and creating four bays each c 9m wide. The brick wall is two courses wide and 0.8m high. Iron rings hanging on iron pegs were set within the wall (c 9 rings per bay), and served to hold down a tarpaulin over the structure. The earth banks are c 1.5m high, 17m long and 4-5m wide at the base. There is a concrete ramp from the top of the brick wall into each bay (although this does not survive for each bay), and each bay has a concrete surface. In some places a raised edge or kerb to the concrete base could be seen at the back of the bays, possibly demarcating the location of a former structure. An earth bank, aligned east - west was located to the north of the bays.

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**Site Number** 89  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Boundary  
**NGR** 464325 437675  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Boundary  
**Period** Twentieth century  
**Source** Walk-over survey; map regression  
**Description** A boundary c 200m in length, aligned north-north-west/south-south-east, which forms a boundary between Mound Plantation to the west and Danes Hill to the east. The boundary first appears on the 1890 mapping.

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**Site Number** 90  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Spoil heaps  
**NGR** 464418 437651  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Spoil heaps  
**Period** Twentieth century  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** An area of spoil and debris likely to be associated with the Second World War airfield, as it is located to the immediate north-west of the perimeter track and on the east side of a dispersal bay.

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**Site Number** 91  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Round Barrow  
**NGR** 464785 437755

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**Ref no** -  
**Statutory**  
**Designation** Part of Site 1, Scheduled Monument 30179  
**Site Type** Barrow  
**Period** Bronze Age  
**Source** HER; Walk-over survey  
**Description** A fairly prominent round barrow, c 5m in diameter. It is part of the scheduled Danes Hill group of barrows, though located to the east of the main group.

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**Site Number** 92  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Ditch  
**NGR** 465942 437640  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A shallow ditch, c 0.8m wide and aligned east/west. The west end is merged with a flooded area, and may have served as drainage.

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**Site Number** 93  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Ditch  
**NGR** 465941 437670  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A shallow ditch, c 1.2m wide and aligned north-east / south-west. This ditch appears to correspond with the southern boundary of an enclosed area of marshy ground shown on the 1912 mapping (Site 117).

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**Site Number** 94  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Ditch  
**NGR** 465653 437570  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A ditch aligned south-west / north-east, c 1.5m wide. It is flanked on either side with a bank, each c 0.5m wide and 0.2m high. In places a raised area running through the centre of the ditch looks like another possible bank, which would make this feature two parallel ditches. The south-west end of the ditch is merged with a flooded area.

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**Site Number** 95  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Ditch  
**NGR** 465728 437610  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** Two stretches of a dry shallow ditch aligned east/west, c 1.4m wide.

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**Site Number** 96  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Ditch  
**NGR** 465678 437604  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey

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**Description** A pronounced water-filled ditch aligned south-west / north-east, c 1.5m wide, with slight banks on either side. The banks are overgrown with trees. The ditch continues slightly further to the north-east of the surveyed line, but then becomes ill-defined and peters out.

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**Site Number** 97  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Ditch  
**NGR** 465714 437631  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A ditch which heads north-east from ditch 96, but was not seen on the south side of ditch 96. The ditch is c 1.2m wide, with a slight bank on either side.

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**Site Number** 98  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Ditch  
**NGR** 465491 437508  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A ditch located on the west side of a large area of water. The ditch is c 1.5m wide with a slight bank overgrown with trees, on either side.

---

**Site Number** 99  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Ditch  
**NGR** 465457 437474  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A dry ditch aligned south-west / north-east with possible banks on either side, and is overgrown with trees. The ditch is c 1.6m wide and c 0.15m wide. The line of the ditch was slightly unclear at the east end where it appeared to be crossed by another possible, though very ill-defined, drainage ditch and then extended into a flooded area.

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**Site Number** 100  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Bank  
**NGR** 465399 436864  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Bank  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A bank aligned south-south-east / north-north-west, 85m long, with a ditch on its east side. Tree stumps could be seen along the line of the bank. The bank is 1m wide and 0.15m high. The associated ditch is c 1m wide, but with no bank to the east it was not well-defined. The bank turned at both its north and south ends to the west. At the north end it was traced for 23m and at the south end for 35m, beyond which the area was heavily waterlogged and the feature could not be seen. However some 100m to the west of the southern extent a further 67m long stretch of bank and ditch (Site 101) was recorded, which appears to be part of the same feature. Both features 100 and 101 correspond with the boundaries of a plantation named 'Fox Covert' (Site 113), shown on the 1855 mapping.

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**Site Number** 101  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Ditch and bank  
**NGR** 465264 436766  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown

**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A ditch aligned south-west / north-east, *c* 1m wide, with a bank on its north side. The bank is *c* 0.8m wide x 0.2m high and heavily overgrown. This feature is likely to be a continuation of Site **100** located 100m to the east, although the ditch is more pronounced in this area. Both features **100** and **101** correspond with the boundaries of a plantation named 'Fox Covert' (Site **113**), shown on the 1855 mapping.

**Site Number** **102**  
**Site Name** **Skipwith Common, Boundary ditch**  
**NGR** 465308 436625  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A boundary ditch located inside the common along its southern edge. Towards the east end this ditch was over 2m wide. It was filled with water and its depth could not be ascertained. It is marked on the current OS map as a drain.

**Site Number** **103**  
**Site Name** **Riccall Airfield, Brick structure**  
**NGR** 465001 436736  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Unknown airfield structure  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A brick structure, measuring 27m x 8m, aligned west-north-west / east-south-east. Parts of the south-east corner of the structure survived to *c* 2m high, but the remainder stood to only one or two course high. The structure was heavily overgrown; however, it appeared that it had been divided width ways into *c* 5 bays, some of which also appeared to have been divided length ways. This structure was not shown on the undated plan of the airfield (Fig 8), although some structures in this area were shown on the OS map of the 1940s (Fig 7).

**Site Number** **104**  
**Site Name** **Riccall Airfield, Ditch**  
**NGR** 465023 436730  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A straight sided, very regular ditch aligned north-west / south-east, located to the east of structure **103**, and was possibly associated with it. The ditch is *c* 0.8m wide and is flanked by a bank on either side, both of which were also *c* 0.8m wide. A drain is marked on this alignment on the current OS mapping. However, the ditch was not in use and no trace of it could be seen to the north of the surveyed area.

**Site Number** **105**  
**Site Name** **Riccall Airfield, Air raid shelter**  
**NGR** 464975 436763  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Air raid shelter  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** An air raid shelter, comprising a concrete tunnel aligned north-north-west to south-south-east with a brick built entrance on its south side at the east end and a concrete air shaft on its north side at the west end. This structure was not shown on the undated plan of the airfield (Fig 8), although some structures in this area were shown on the OS map of the 1940s (Fig 7).

**Site Number** **106**  
**Site Name** **Riccall Airfield, possible brick structure**  
**NGR** 464934 436802



**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Unknown possible airfield structure  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** An area of brick debris, which in one or two areas appear to represent the linear footings of a rectangular building measuring *c* 9m x 3m and aligned *c* east -west. This structure was not shown on the undated plan of the airfield (Fig 8), although some structures in this area were shown on the OS map of the 1940s (Fig 7).

**Site Number** **107**  
**Site Name** **Riccall Airfield, Concrete surface**  
**NGR** 464925 436816  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Concrete surface  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A concrete surface aligned north / south located on the east side of a track, which crosses the common. The surface possibly represents the footings of a former Second World War structure, or could just be an area of hard standing for more temporary Second World War structures.

**Site Number** **108**  
**Site Name** **Riccall Airfield, Air raid shelter**  
**NGR** 464958 436881  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Air raid shelter  
**Period** Second World War  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** An air raid shelter, comprising a concrete tunnel aligned approximately west to east with a brick built entrance on its south side at the west end and on its north side at the east end. This was the same type of structure as Sites **30** and **49**.

**Site Number** **109**  
**Site Name** **Skipwith Common, Ditch**  
**NGR** 464967 436961  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Ditch  
**Period** Unknown  
**Source** Walk-over survey  
**Description** A ditch aligned north-east to south-west, *c* 1.5m wide, with banks on both sides. The banks are *c* 0.15m high and are overgrown with trees.

**Site Number** **110**  
**Site Name** **Skipwith Common, Pond**  
**NGR** 465008 437157  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Pond  
**Period** ?Post-medieval  
**Source** OS 1st edition 1890 (25" to 1 mile)  
**Description** A pond shown on the 1890s mapping, but which is no longer extant. The pond may have originated from an area of peat extraction.

**Site Number** **111**  
**Site Name** **Skipwith Common, Pond**  
**NGR** 465097 436983  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Pond  
**Period** ?Post-medieval  
**Source** OS 2nd edition 1908 (25" to 1 mile)

**Description** A pond shown on the 1910 mapping, but which is no longer extant. The pond may have originated from an area of peat extraction.

**Site Number** 112  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Hall Moor Pit  
**NGR** 465339 436928  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Pit/Pond  
**Period** ?Post-medieval  
**Source** OS 1st edition 1890 (6" to 1 mile)

**Description** A pit marked on the 1855 mapping as Hall Moor Pit and on the current mapping as Hollow Pit Pond. The name suggests that this was originally an extractive pit (possibly for peat), owned and used by Skipwith Manor, as this is the part of Skipwith Common named as 'Demesne or Hall Moor' on the 1855 mapping. The pit has subsequently become a pond and is reduced in size from its depiction on the early mapping.

**Site Number** 113  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Fox Covert Plantation  
**NGR** 465288 436826  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Plantation  
**Period** ?Post-medieval  
**Source** OS 1st edition 1890 (6" to 1 mile)

**Description** A plantation named 'Fox Covert', shown on the 1855 mapping, and located within the area named 'Demesne or Hall Moor' on this mapping and therefore was probably owned and used by Skipwith Manor. The plantation is not shown on the current mapping; however, two ditches which are thought to be part of the plantation boundary were identified during the walk-over survey (Sites **100** and **101**).

**Site Number** 114  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Pond  
**NGR** 465389 436764  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Pond  
**Period** ?Post-medieval  
**Source** OS 2nd edition 1910 (6" to 1 mile)

**Description** A pond located to the south of Fox Covert plantation (Site **113**), shown on the 1910 mapping, and on the current mapping as two ponds. The pond may have originated from an area of peat extraction.

**Site Number** 115  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Pond  
**NGR** 465478 436719  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Pond  
**Period** ?Post-medieval  
**Source** OS 2nd edition 1910 (6" to 1 mile)

**Description** A pond shown on the 1910 mapping, but no longer extant. The pond may have originated from an area of peat extraction.

**Site Number** 116  
**Site Name** Skipwith Common, Plantation  
**NGR** 465577 437689  
**Ref no** -  
**Site Type** Plantation  
**Period** ?Post-medieval  
**Source** OS 2nd edition 1910 (6" to 1 mile)

**Description** A plantation shown on the 1910 mapping, but not on current mapping. A prominent

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curved bank, up to 0.5m high and *c* 1.5m wide (Site **76**) was identified during the walk-over survey and is likely to be the remains of the plantation boundary.

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<b>Site Number</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Skipwith Common, Enclosure</b>
<b>NGR</b>	465902 437696
<b>Ref no</b>	-
<b>Site Type</b>	Enclosure
<b>Period</b>	?Post-medieval
<b>Source</b>	OS 2nd edition 1910 (6" to 1 mile)
<b>Description</b>	An area marked with a dashed boundary on the 1910 mapping, which appears to demarcate an area of marshy ground. A shallow ditch (Site <b>93</b> ) was found in this area during the walk-over survey, which may be the remains of the southern boundary of this enclosed area.

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

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Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: Gazetteer of sites

Figure 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey, 1855, 6" to 1 mile

Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey, 1890, 25" to 1 mile

Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey, 1908-9, 25" to 1 mile

Figure 6: Extract from Ordnance Survey, 1909-10, 6" to 1 mile

Figure 7: Extract from Ordnance Survey, c. 1940s

Figure 8: Extract from Riccall Airfield Site Plan (no date)

### PLATES

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Plate 2: Multiple bank boundary that crosses the study area, Site **18**, looking south

Plate 3: Aerial photograph showing the line of multiple banks (Site **18**) crossing the study area

Plate 4: Lines of multiple banks (Site **18**) in the southern part of the study area

Plate 5: Bronze Age barrow, Site **4**, looking east

Plate 6: Bronze Age barrow, Site **14**, looking south-west

Plate 7: Square barrow, Site **27**, looking south

Plate 8: North bank of enclosed settlement, Site **6**, looking west

Plate 9: West bank of enclosed settlement, Site **6**, looking north

Plate 10: Aerial photograph showing site of the enclosed settlement Site **06**

Plate 11: Boundary bank, Site **100**, looking south-east

Plate 12: Prominent curved bank, Site **76**, looking west

Plate 13: Post-medieval boundary ditch, Site **93**, looking south-west

Plate 14: Boundary ditch, Site **102**, looking east

Plate 15: Boundary bank, Site **70**, looking east

Plate 16: Hollow way, Site **47**, looking west

Plate 17: Air raid shelter entrance, Site **30**, looking south-east

Plate 18: Interior of air raid shelter, Site **49**

Plate 19: Air raid shelter, Site **105**, looking north-west

Plate 20: Brick-built structure, Site **44**, looking west

Plate 21: Modern drain, Site **45**, looking west

- Plate 22: Second World War 'Explosives Factory', Site **53**, looking east
- Plate 23: Second World War 'Fuzed and Spare Bomb Store', Site **54**, looking east
- Plate 24: Bomb store, Site **25**, looking north-west
- Plate 25: Concrete ramp of bomb store, Site **25**, looking west
- Plate 26: 'Component Store', Site **84**, looking south
- Plate 27: West end of brick structure, Site **103**, looking east
- Plate 28: Second World War ditch, Site **104**, looking south
- Plate 29: Surface associated with perimeter track, Site **35**, looking south-west
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- Plate 32: Trackway, Site **57**, looking north-east
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- Plate 34: Ditch, Site **67**, looking east
- Plate 35: Bank, Site **71**, inaccessible because of standing water, looking south
- Plate 36: Water-filled circular hollow, Site **78**, looking south
- Plate 37: Ditch, Site **96**, looking south-west
- Plate 38: Runway, looking south-west
- Plate 39: Aerial view of Skipwith Church

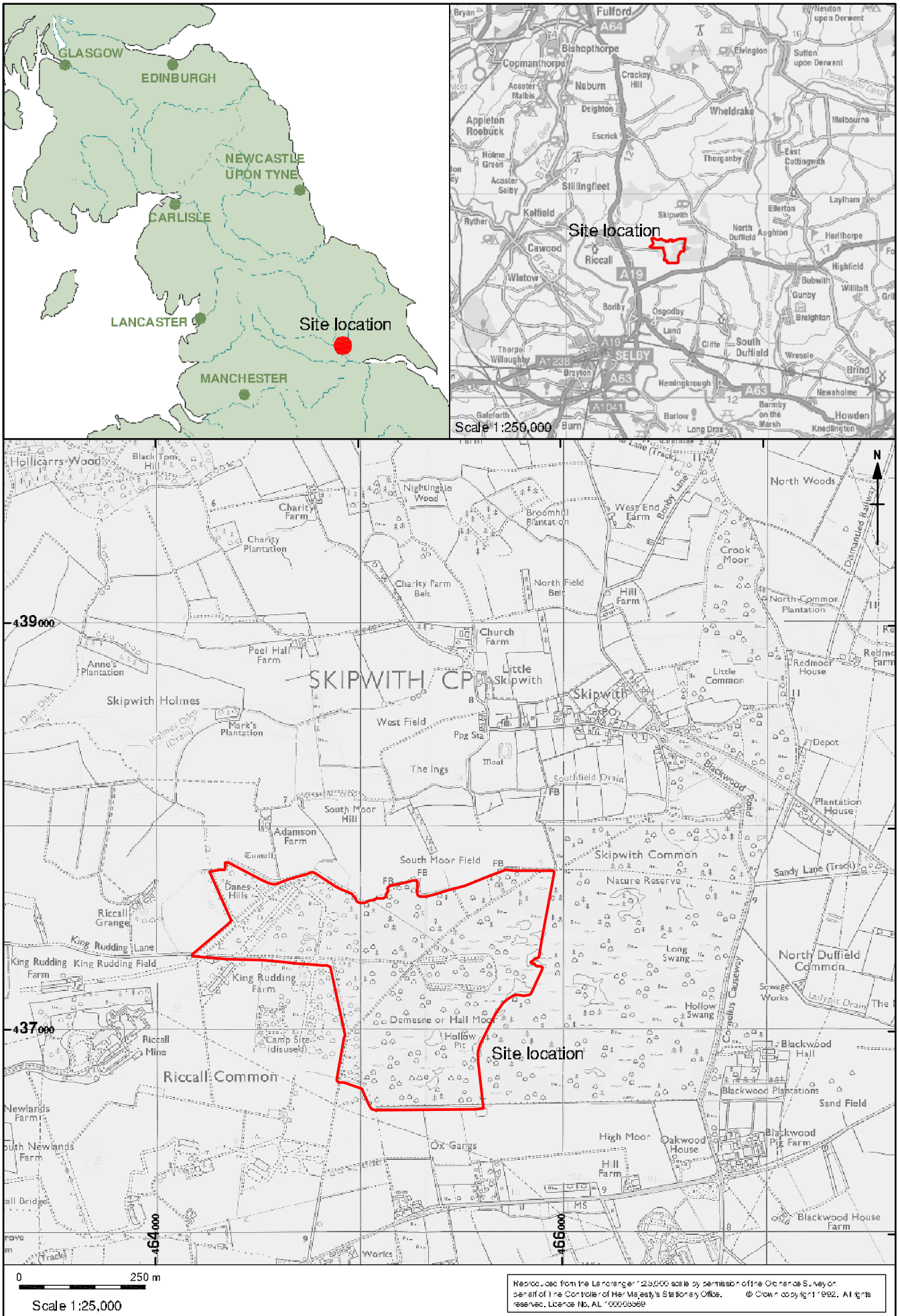


Figure 1: Site location

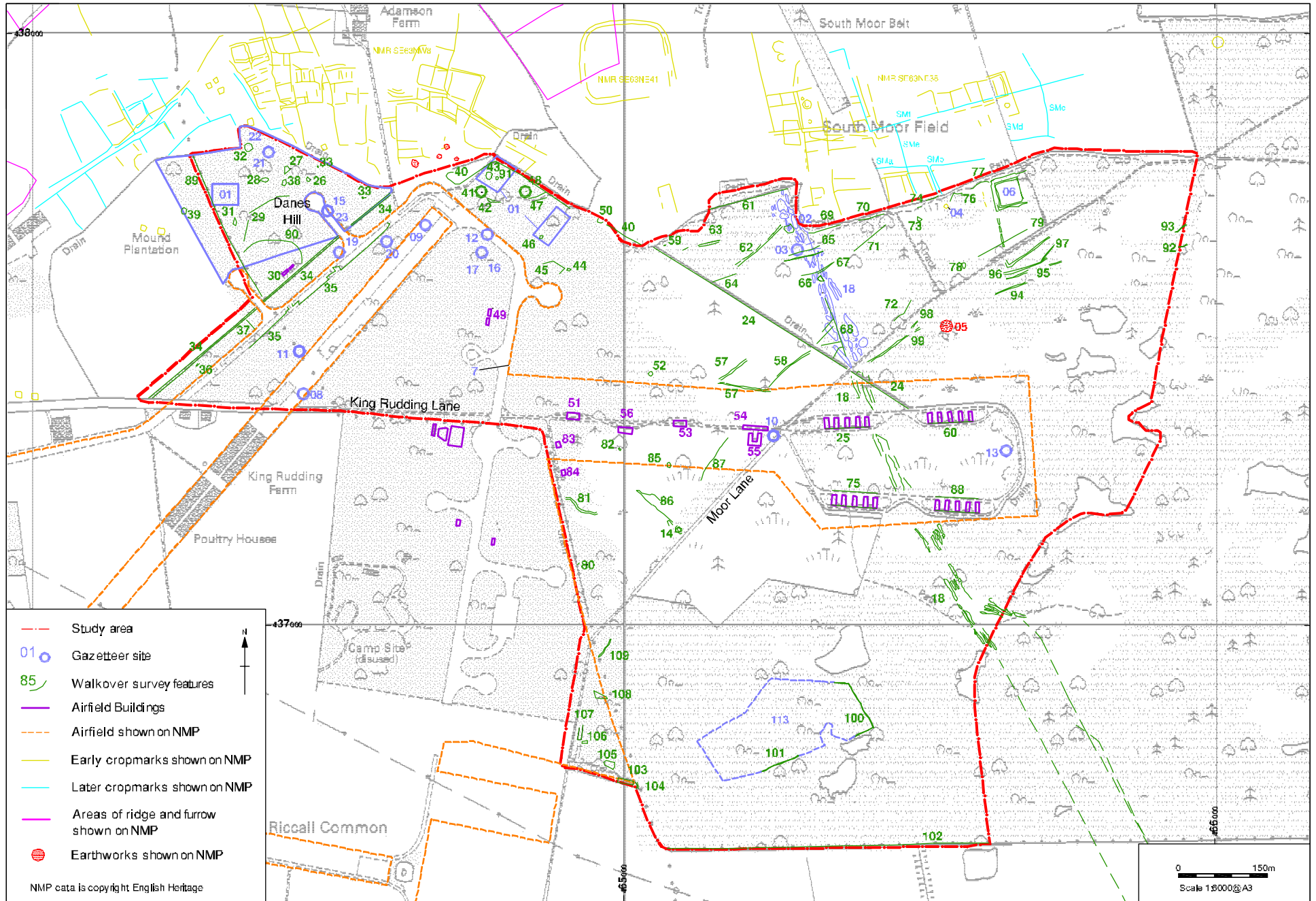


Figure 2: Gazetteer sites plan

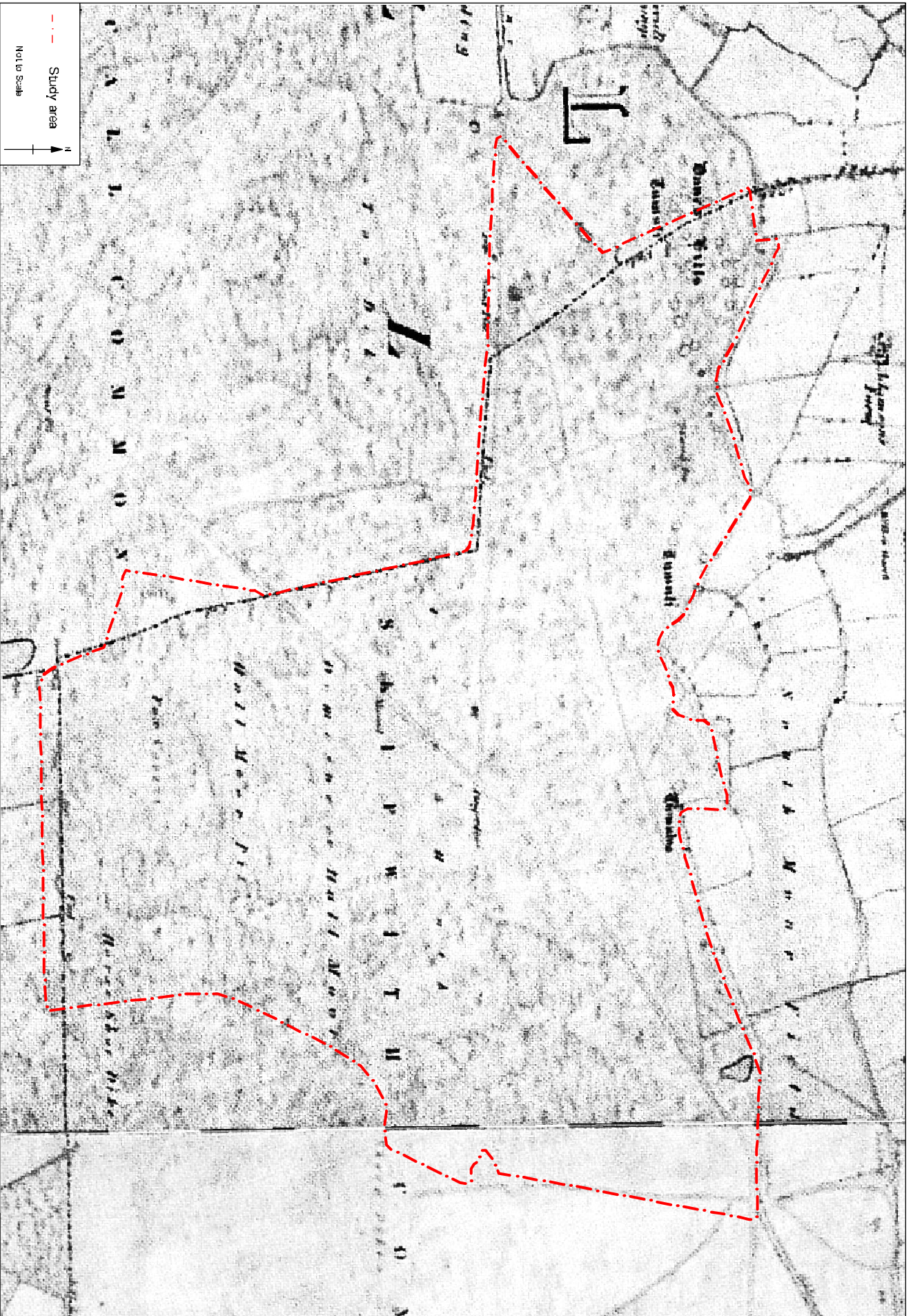


Figure 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1855 mapping 6" to 1 mile



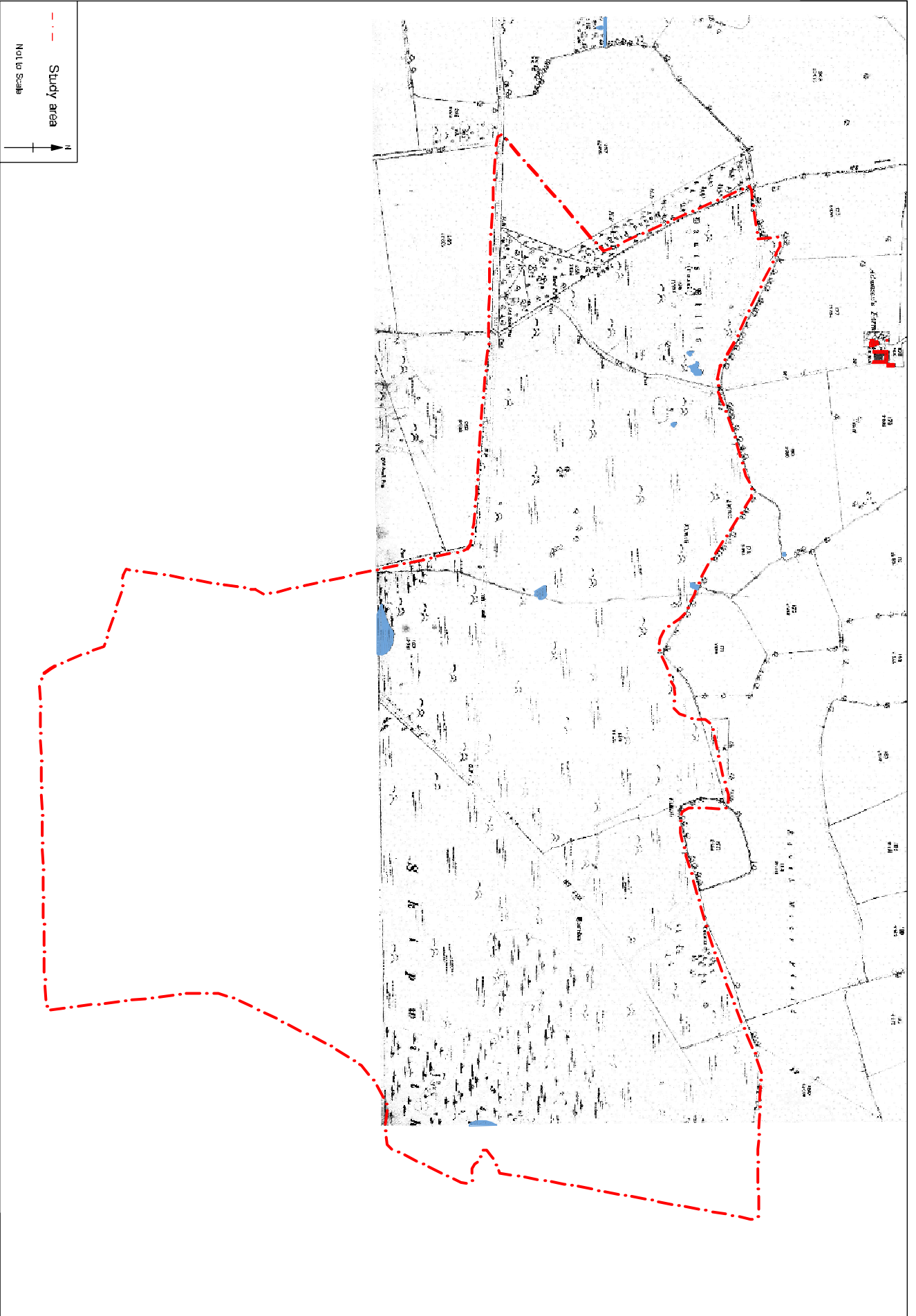


Figure 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1890 mapping 25" to 1 mile

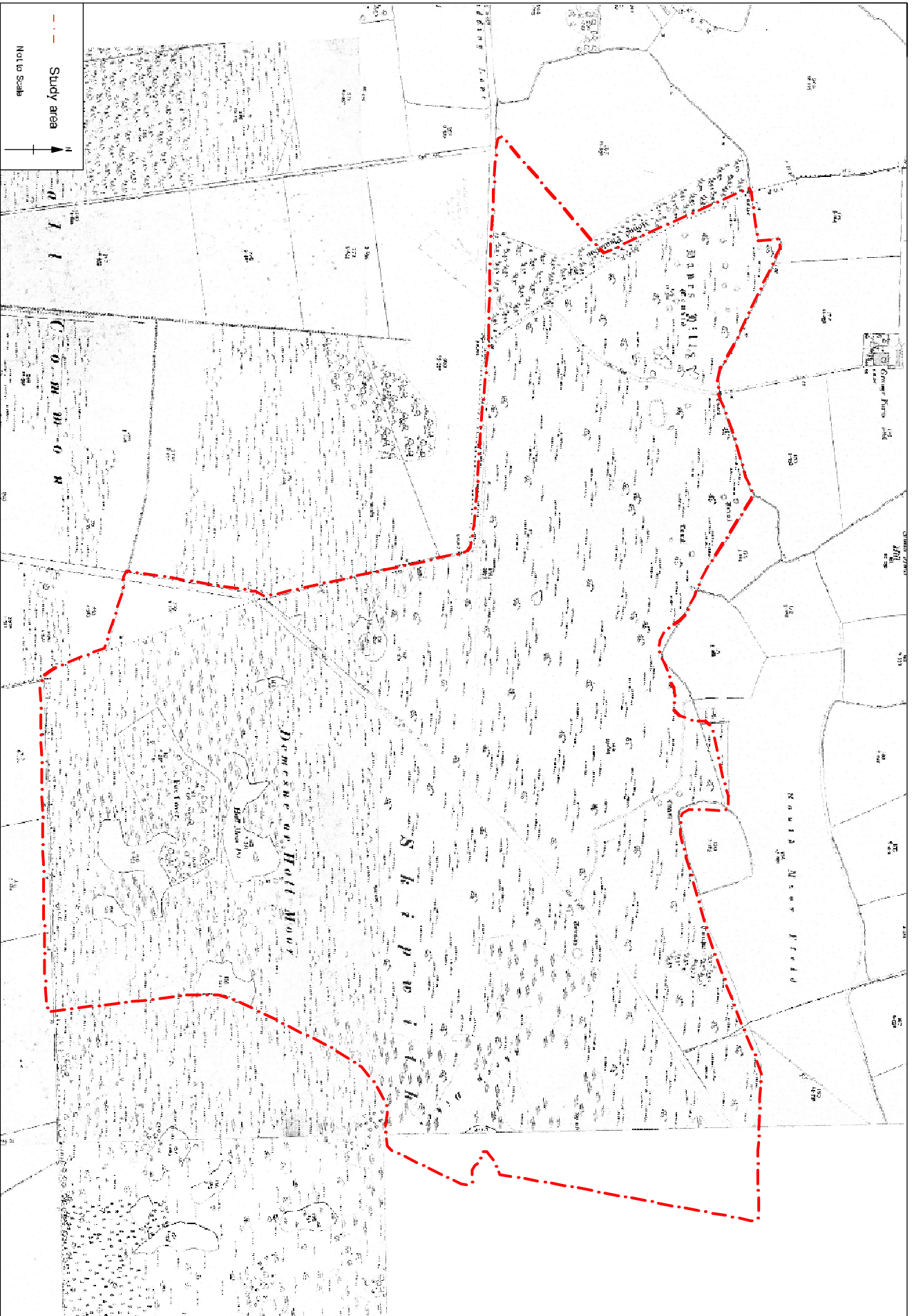


Figure 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1908-9 mapping 25rd 1 mile

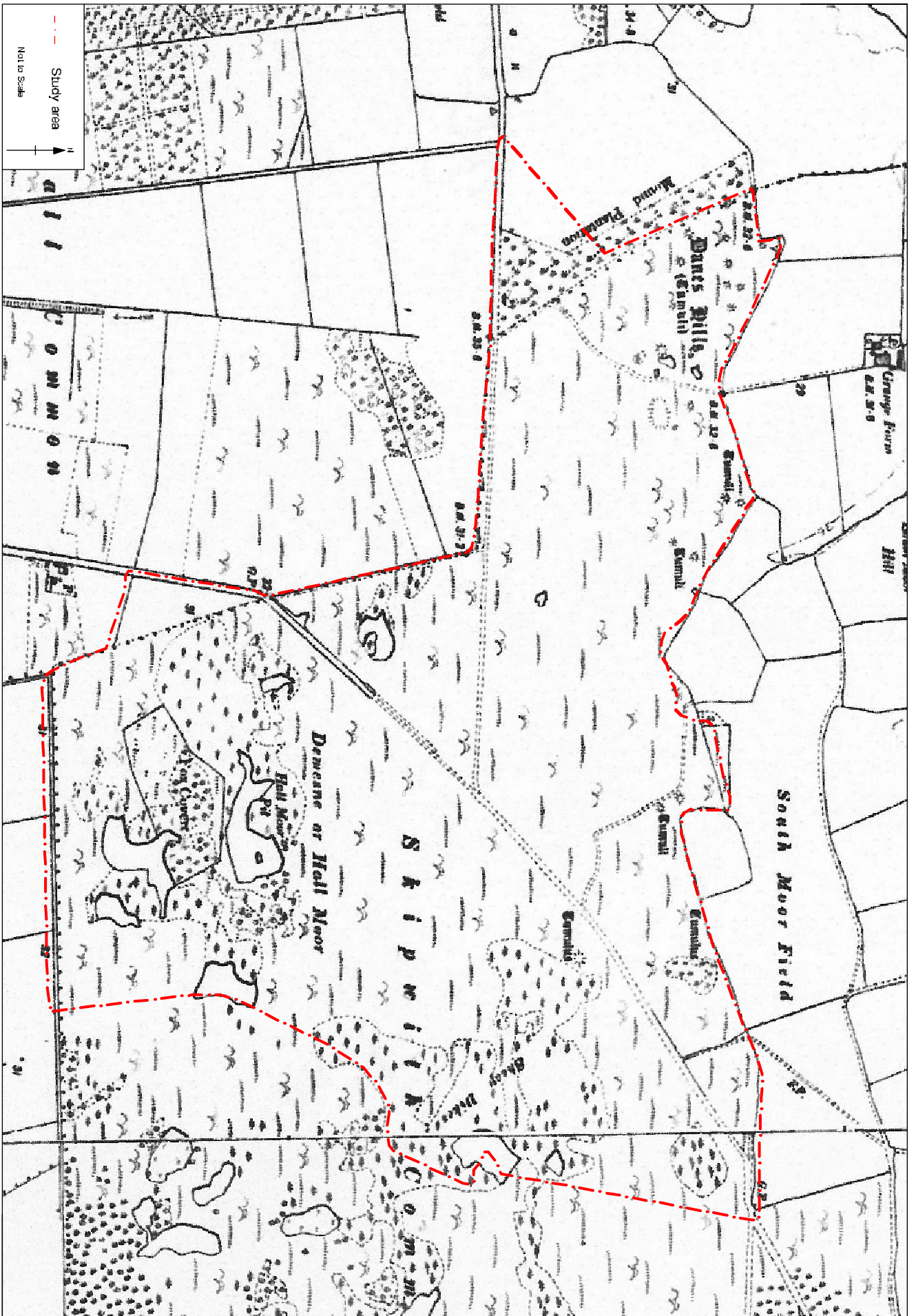


Figure 6: Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1909-10 mapping 6" to 1 mile

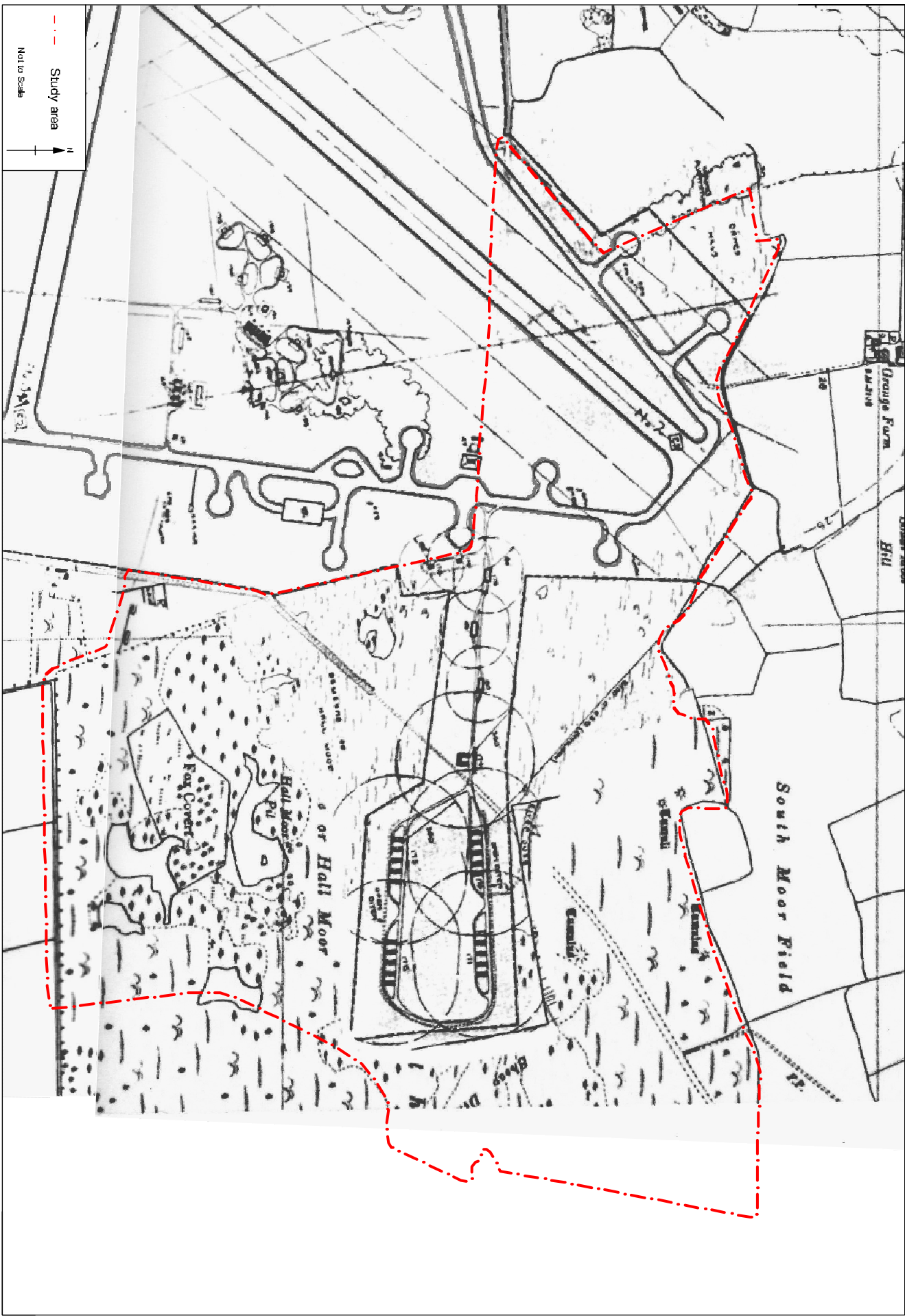


Figure 7: Extract from the Ordnance Survey c.1940s

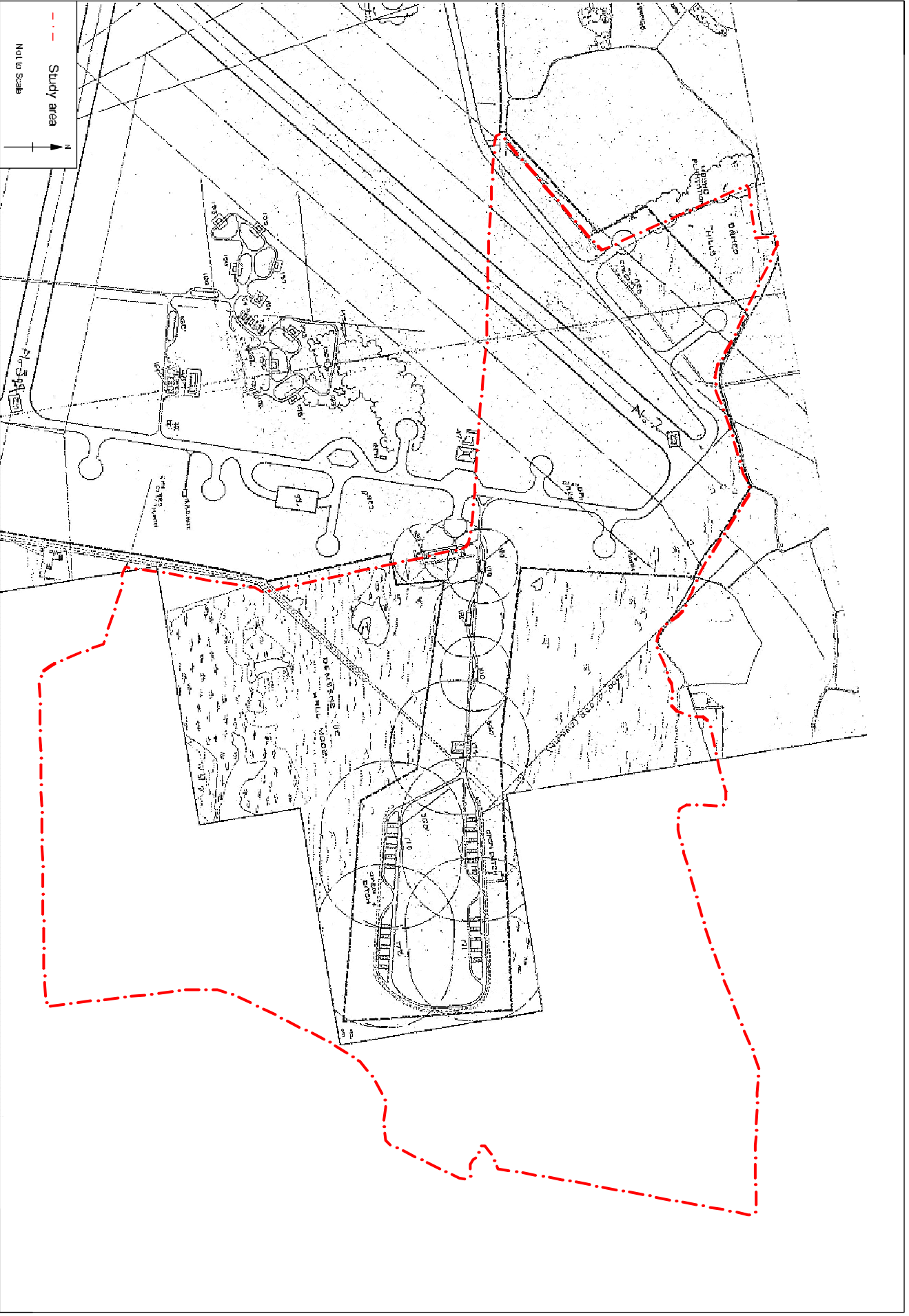


Figure 8: Extract from Riccall Airfield Site Plan (no date)



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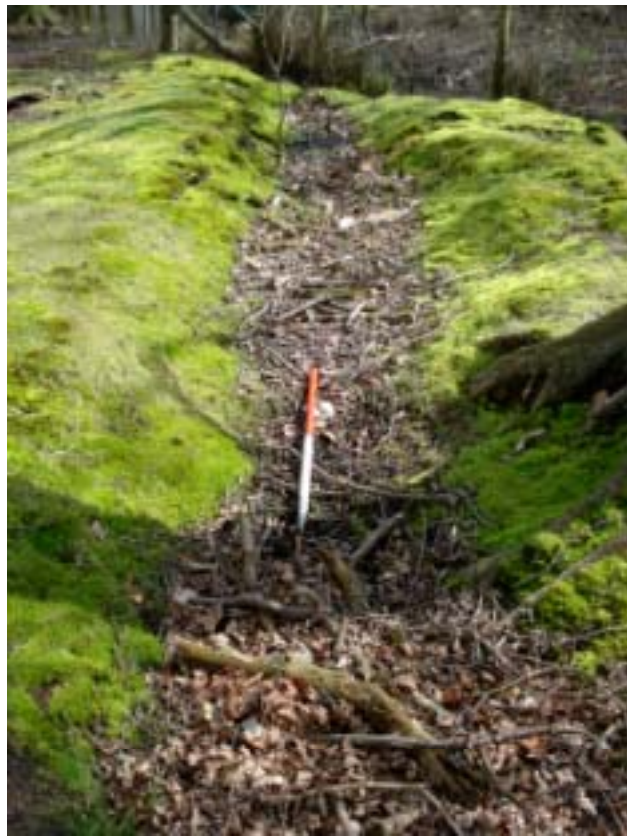


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Plate 36: Water filled circular hollow, Site **78**, looking south



Plate 37: Ditch, Site 96, looking south-west



Plate 38: Runway, looking south-west





Plate 39: Aerial view of Skipwith Church



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