SUTTON BANK THIRSK

North Yorkshire

Archaeological Assessment and Watching Brief Report

Oxford Archaeology North

March 2003

Yorkshire Gliding Club

Issue No:	2002-2003/84
OA North Job No:	L9016
NGR:	SE 518 825

Document Title: **SUTTON BANK, THIRSK, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

Document Type: **Archaeological Assessment and Watching Brief**

Client Name: **Yorkshire Gliding Club**

Issue Number: 2002-3/084

OA Job Number: L9016

National Grid Reference: SE 518 825

Prepared by:	Jamie Quartermaine	
Position:	Project Manager	
Date:	March 2003	
Checked by:	Jamie Quartermaine	Signed…….
Position:	Project Manager	
Date:	March 2003	
Checked by	Carol Allen	Signed…….
Position:	Project Manager	
	March 2003	

Document File Location Jamie/Projects/9016sutt/

Oxford Archaeology North
Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TF
t: (0044) 01524 848666
f: (0044) 01524 848606

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0EA
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

CONTENTS

SUMMARY

A rapid archaeological assessment and watching brief was undertaken in November 2001 and December 2002 of an area of former forestry to the north of Roulston Scar at Sutton Bank, Thirsk, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 518 825) by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North, formerly Lancaster University Archaeological Unit), on behalf of Yorkshire Gliding Club (Pty) Limited in advance of, and during, the widening of a runway.

The desk-based assessment involved a search of records held by the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA) office in Helmsley, which holds a copy of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and examined both published and unpublished records and photographs. The desk-based study recorded 28 sites either within or immediately around the study area which are detailed in the Sites Gazetteer (*Appendix 3*), some of which were visited as part of a walkover survey. The walkover survey also located seven sites where trees had blown over (wind blow sites) and inspected the craters for archaeological features or finds.

The assessment identified a very significant archaeological resource within the environs of the development sites. This included Bronze Age funerary cairns, a promontory hillfort, a Bronze Age / Iron Age territorial boundary system, medieval roads, the site of the Battle of Byland (1322) on or near to the development site, and a white horse constructed on the southerly face of Sutton Bank in 1857.

The watching brief involved the inspection of craters formed when trees were uprooted as part of the ground-levelling process. About 25% of the area was inspected, examining sections covering the north, south, east and west of the development site. The aim of the watching brief was to determine the existence or absence of any archaeological deposits within the specified area.

The archaeological resource in the general area was of considerable importance, but the plantation of the forest in 1955 had caused considerable disturbance to the site, and any monuments or features will have been severely damaged or destroyed as a result. Probably as a consequence, no archaeological features or finds were encountered during the watching brief.

It is recommended that no further archaeological works be implemented, but that care be taken to protect Casten or Cleave Dykes, both at the northern end of the development site, in the course of the groundworks.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Graham Evison of Yorkshire Gliding Club for commissioning the work and Graham Lee, North York Moors National Park Archaeologist, for his assistance during the project, and for making available records held by the National Park Authority. OA North would also like to thank Rupert Drury of Rupert Drury & Co for setting up the clear fell and to Ian Gilbert of Gristwood and Toms for supervising the groundworks.

The documentary research was undertaken by Jamie Quartermaine and the watching brief was undertaken by David Tonks. The report was written by Jamie Quartermaine and David Tonks and was edited by Carol Allen and Jamie Quartermaine. The project was managed by Jamie Quartermaine.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 An area of forestry on Roulston Scar, Sutton Bank, North Yorkshire (SE 518 825, Fig 1) was to be clear felled and levelled in order to provide a width-wise expansion of the runway owned by Yorkshire Gliding Club (Pty) Limited. The site is in close proximity to significant archaeological remains, including a promontory hillfort, and the intersection of two 'prehistoric' boundary dykes all of which are scheduled monuments. Given the considerable archaeological potential of the site it was required by the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA) Archaeologist that an archaeological investigation be undertaken in advance of, and during, the groundworks for the runway construction.

1.1.2 In November 2001, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) produced a project design (*Appendix 1*) in response to a verbal brief by Graham Lee, NYMNPA Archaeologist, to undertake a desk-based study of the area, an initial site investigation, a watching brief during the removal of tree stumps left remaining after the felling of trees, and to collate and interpret the data in a written report.

1.1.4 OA North was commissioned to undertake the archaeological works; the assessment was undertaken in December 2002 and the watching brief was undertaken between 9th and 11th of December 2002. The present report presents the results of all elements of the archaeological programme.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North in November 2001 in response to a request from Yorkshire Gliding Club (Pty) Limited for an assessment and a watching brief in accordance with a verbal brief by Graham Lee of the NYMNPA, in advance of the widening of a glider runway. The project design was approved by Graham Lee of North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA) prior to submission to the client.

2.1.2 The project design provided for an archaeological assessment involving a rapid desk-based study, a site investigation, a watching brief and a written report presenting the results of the investigation in accordance with a verbal brief by Graham Lee (NYMNPA). The project design required a watching brief initially investigating 25% of the tree stumps as they were lifted, but the watching brief was to be suspended at this stage if no significant archaeological resource was identified. In the event no archaeological sub-surface finds were made and so the watching brief was duly suspended once 25% of the craters had been investigated. In all respects the assessment and watching brief has been undertaken in accordance with the project design.

2.2 DESK-BASED STUDY

2.2.1 Existing archaeological information was obtained from the North York Moors National Park Authority office in Helmsley, which retains a copy of the North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (NYSMR) for the extent of the National Park. Historic maps of the study area were obtained from the NYMNPA office; particular emphasis was placed upon the early cartographic evidence, which has the potential to provide information on the medieval and post-medieval occupation and landuse of the area. These maps included the Ordnance Survey 6 inch to 1 mile first edition maps of 1856 (Sheet 88, Fig 2), the first edition of the 25 inch to 1 mile map of 1893 (Sheet 88.15, Fig 3) and its second edition of 1912 (Sheet 88.15, Fig 4). In addition the 1829 plan of Kilburn was examined (NYCRO MIC 1539/382). Also consulted within the National Park Authority offices were the cartographic results of a forestry survey by Forest Enterprise which examined the archaeological sites within and around the forestry plantations of the area.

2.2.2 Secondary sources were also obtained from the NYMNPA office, and the libraries of both the University of York and OA North. A list of the documents which were consulted is given in the bibliography (*Section* 9).

2.2.3 ***Aerial Photographs:*** available aerial photographs from the NYMNPA offices were also consulted, which were mainly vertical air photographs; these, however, were all taken following the planting of the forest and did not reveal any detail within the study area. In addition the National Monuments Record (NMR) was consulted and a list of nationally held photographs was obtained, mostly vertical air photographs; several examples were provided as copies, which included RAF photographs that were taken prior to the planting of the forest. Reference details are in the bibliography (*Section 9*). Present day oblique aerial photographs were also obtained as a result of specially commissioned aerial photographic flight (Plate 4).

2.3 IDENTIFICATION SURVEY

2.3.1 A rapid identification survey was undertaken as part of the site assessment. Its aim was to record the existence, location and extent of any previously unrecorded sites, as well as to check the condition of sites identified by the literature search. The survey was to OA North level 1 standard for the entire study area (OA North 2002). The identification survey represents the minimum standard of record for field investigation, and is appropriate to exploratory survey aimed at the discovery of previously unrecorded sites, its aim is to record the existence, location, and extent of any archaeological site. The emphasis of the record lies on the written description, which in this instance includes comment on character and condition. Sites identified by desk-based study were checked and their descriptions enhanced. A photographic record of the sites was maintained in 35mm black and white print format, colour slides, and also using digital colour photography; the digital photographs were used to accompany the present report.

2.3.2 ***Wind-Blow Holes:*** the opportunity was taken to examine the sub-surface potential of the area by examining the sides of craters created by wind blown trees, and served as a preliminary to the watching brief. In all seven such craters were examined, and, being a result of wind blown trees, they were typically at the edge of the forestry plantation (Fig 5). The sections of the craters were cut back to facilitate examination and the recording of the underlying stratigraphy. Depths of natural sub-soils were measured with respect to the external ground surface.

2.3.3 In order to locate the sites a Global Positioning System (GPS) was used which locates the sites to an accuracy of ± 1m; the resultant site information was then superimposed onto a digital base for the area (Fig 5).

2.4 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.4.1 The watching brief was effected in clear weather over a three day period from 9th to 12th December 2002, investigating a representative sample (*c*25%) of the hollows created by the removal of the tree stumps. The aim of the watching brief was to identify the presence or absence of any archaeological features or finds, to record any such remains by appropriate techniques and to recover any artefacts. The tree stumps were mechanically uprooted and removed by a Volvo EC140, 360° mechanical excavator. Additional clearance of the hollow, where necessary, was effected by hand using a trowel and a shovel. Careful fieldwalking of the disturbed areas was also undertaken. Photographs representative of the disturbance were taken and the relevant details recorded. The recording comprised a full description and preliminary classification of the features and materials revealed, on OA North *pro-forma* sheets. The locations of archaeologically significant tree stump holes were located using GPS, and the extent of the holes examined were depicted on the site map (Fig 5). A photographic record was maintained using black and white, colour slide and digital formats.

2.4.2 No finds were identified in the course of the watching brief.

2.5 GAZETTEER OF SITES

2.5.1 All of the information concerning archaeological sites in the vicinity of the development site has been collated into a gazetteer (*Appendix 2*), which provides details of their location, origin and character. Locations are given as eight-figure National Grid References where possible. A summary description of each site is provided in conjunction with a reference to the source of the information (SMR, cartographic and documentary), and an assessment has been given of the interpretation and archaeological potential of the site. The sites have been marked onto a digital map (Figs 4 and 5).

2.5.2 Other sites beyond the extent of the study area, which were considered to be of background relevance, are mentioned in the text with appropriate SMR references.

2.6 ARCHIVE

2.6.1 A full archive of the desk-based study and watching brief results has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The archive will be deposited in the North Yorkshire Record Office, with a copy to the North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record, and a copy will be available for deposition to the National Monuments Record.

3. PHYSICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1.1 ***General Topography:*** the study area is located on the top of a sheer cliff called Roulston Scar, which defines the western edge of an extensive, elevated limestone plateau that forms the south-western part of the North York Moors (Fig 1; Plate 3). The plateau rises to maximum of 286m AOD and, despite its elevation, is remarkably level, but does have a gradual slope towards the east. Roulston Scar rises 170m above the low-lying, flat Vale of Mowbray to the south and west, which itself is the northern part of the extensive Vale of York. The scar commands very extensive views to the south and west, and itself can be clearly seen, as a promontory, in good weather, from as far south as the Humber.

3.1.2 ***Location:*** the study area comprises a north/south orientated strip of forestry plantation adjacent to a narrow, extant grass runway of the Yorkshire Gliding Club (Plate 4), which is adjacent to north-east/south-west orientated scarp slope of Roulston Scar (Fig 1). The Cleveland Way runs along the edge of Roulston Scar, and the purpose of the proposed runway eastern extension is to increase the separation between the public access route and the gliding activity for health and safety reasons. The study area is to the immediate north of a natural promontory, edged on three sides by cliff edges, or steep scarp slopes, of which the western edge is Roulston Scar. The southern face is the sheer cliff edge of Low Town Brow, which now has a White Horse carved into its face (Site 21), and the eastern edge is defined by a narrow valley called Boar's Gill, which extends north/south cutting into the escarpment. The promontory was the site of a substantial hillfort (Site 01), edged to the north by a box rampart across the narrow neck of the promontory, and is to the south of the study area; the promontory is now occupied by the east/west runway of the Yorkshire Gliding Club. To the north the study area is edged by the intersection of Casten and Cleave Dykes (Sites 04 and 06 (Plates 1 and 2)) which were important ancient boundary markers; they were important boundary divisions in the medieval period and are believed to have prehistoric origins (Spratt 1982). To the east of the study area is an area of flat, former moorland which was subject to parliamentary enclosure in the late eighteenth /early nineteenth centuries; the westernmost strip of this land, including the study area, was forested in 1955 and the easternmost part is now enclosed pasture land.

3.1.3 ***Geology:*** exposed in the Roulston Scar cliff are alternating layers of buff-grey gritstone and fractured oolitic limestone (Staniforth 1993, 33), and on the surface, above the cliffs, the predominant geology is the oolitic limestone, as reflected in the limestone quarries in and around the study area (Sites 08, 09, 11 and 12).

4. DESK-BASED STUDY RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 There were twenty eight known archaeological sites noted by the assessment as being in the vicinity of the proposed development area. They are listed in detail in the Site Gazetteer (*Appendix 3*). Of these, thirteen appear on the North Yorkshire SMR and several (Sites 01-06) enjoy the protection of Scheduled Monument status (Fig 4). The sites demonstrate activity in the environs of the development area from the Bronze Age onwards, although there is currently no evidence for Roman or early-medieval activity. The known sites include an Iron Age promontory fort (Site 01), burial mounds (Sites 02, 03, 05, 07, 19, 20), boundaries (Sites 04, 06, 17, 24, 25), post-medieval quarries (Sites 08, 09, 11-15, 16? 26, 28) and lime kilns (Sites 09, 10, 22). There are no listed buildings recorded within the assessment area.

4.2 PREHISTORY

4.2.1 ***Introduction:*** to a substantial extent the character of the prehistoric resource within the environs of the study area reflects its very distinctive and unusual topographic context, the characteristics being a relatively flat, gentle landscape on top of high vertical crags which overlook the large flat bottomed area of the Vales of York and Mowbray. Because of the upland nature of the terrain the landscape has been subject to little intensive agricultural exploitation since the prehistoric period, up until the parliamentary enclosures of the later eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. As a consequence the prehistoric remains have survived remarkably well. The high elevation, coupled with the extensive western facing vistas from the top of the scar, overlooking areas of potential settlement, provided an ideal location for the siting of Bronze Age funerary monuments, which typically were located in prominent positions where they could be both seen and could command wide views.

4.2.2 The flat, albeit raised, terrain provided the potential for agricultural exploitation and would have provided the potential for expansion out from the better lands below, either for transhumant grazing or for more established settlement. This is reflected in the division of the flat lands on top of the Hambleton Scarp by means of boundaries, which potentially date back to the prehistoric period (Sites 04-06).

4.2.3 Roulston Scar provided a remarkable natural topographic setting for the establishment of a hillfort (Site 01). Not only did it have sheer cliffs on two sides, a steep scarp slope on the third, and only a narrow gentle sloped isthmus to the west, but within these natural features was a remarkably flat terrain ideal for settlement and upland grazing and which overlooked good agricultural land below. With such a topographic form the establishment of a hillfort on the site was not so much fortuitous as inevitable.

4.2.4 ***Funerary Monuments:*** funerary round cairns are a common feature of this landscape; there are at least 20 such monuments between Roulston Scar and Kepwick Bowl (SE 490900), which is the northerly end of this *c*10km long section of ridge. Almost all of them are within 200m of the edge of the westerly facing scarp slope, and most have westerly facing vistas. Within the documentary study area are five round cairns (Sites 02, 03, 05, 19 and 20), and also a cremation burial

(Site 07). All of these cairns, with the exception of Site 02, are within 150m of the scarp slope; Site 02 has a general south facing vista. The largest of the cairns is Site 03 in Kilburn Moor Plantation, which has a regular circular shape and is *c*14m in diameter, while the smallest was Site 20, a degraded mound only c8m in diameter; however, typically they were *c*10-11m in diameter. The height and prominence of the mounds also demonstrates considerable variation, the most prominent is Site 05, which is up to 2.5m in height, although only 10m in length, and the lowest are Sites 19 and 20, which have been subject to considerable plough damage and as a consequence are only 0.2-0.3m high. The prominent round cairn Site 05 is distinctive in that it has been clipped and part truncated by the establishment of the Casten Dyke boundary earthwork, which would indicate that the cairn pre-dates the cutting of the earthwork and is discussed further in *Section 4.2.16*.

4.2.5 A number of the cairns have been subject to antiquarian investigation; Sites 03 and 19 had depressions in the centre as a result of unpublished explorations. However, an exploration of cairn 02 by John Sanders in 1910 has been published (Varley 1979). The excavation was undertaken on the northern side of the mound, which was constructed of an outer capping of gravelly soil (0.9m to 1.2m thick), below which was a layer of soil and gravel. Beneath this was a large decorated Collared Urn, with a heap of stones and clay around it. The urn was broken but contained human cremated remains, together with the bones of a small animal and in addition there were some bronze studs or pin heads. This form of Collared Urn typically falls within the middle Bronze Age date range (Longworth 1984) and would conform with the typical mid-second millennium date for this type of monument (Yates 1984). The finding of a burial urn and associated cremation in the 1860s (Site 07) is reported within the SMR (SMR 2097.02); however, it is poorly provenanced and its location is accurate only to the nearest kilometre.

4.2.6 ***Settlement Remains:*** annotated into the margin of the North York Moors National Park SMR 1:10,000 base map for the area is a description of a site at SE 5229 8190, which is to the east of the study area and High Town Bank Road. The description is as follows: '*When this general area was reclaimed from the moor in 1965 several circular structures were noted - loads of 'pot boilers' removed from the site and large quantities of flint found, including arrowheads*'. The source of the record and the accuracy of the provenance is unknown; however, it would suggest the presence of structural remains, possibly hut circles, associated with both ceramic and lithic artefacts, and may tentatively suggest later prehistoric settlement remains.

4.2.7 ***Roulston Scar Hillfort:*** the hillfort on Roulston Scar exploited a natural, well-defined promontory with vertical cliffs on two sides, a steep valley side on the third and the only easy point of access was a narrow neck between Boars Gill and the Roulston Scar which was closed with a palisade. Until recently it was believed that the only defensive earthwork was across this narrow neck and this earthwork was confused with Casten Dyke South which extended to the east of the hillfort; however, a recent survey by English Heritage (2001) has demonstrated that there was an almost complete, enclosing single vallate defensive rampart around the promontory corresponding with the principle natural defence lines and follows a circuit of almost 2.1kms in length (*op cit*, 16). The large bank across the neck was a massive earthwork, *c*7.2m wide and 3m high, and was surmounted by a dry-stone wall; its external ditch was 5.4m wide and 0.9m deep. It was excavated in 1969 and 1970 (Pacitto 1971) and this was interpreted as a single phase constructed box

rampart; however this has been reinterpreted (English Heritage 2001, 19) as being a multi-phased defensive earthwork, the earlier phase being a narrow bank revetted by posts, with an associated ditch. This subsequently decayed, part filling the ditch, and then a further, more substantial, bank and ditch was constructed faced potentially with a stone revetment.

4.2.8 The large box rampart extended to the east to Boar's Gill where it changed to a broad shallow bank and ditch which followed a line along the western side of the gill. At the south-east corner of the fort is a sharp change of direction inwards towards the forts interior and forms part of a 'U' shaped re-entrant on the top of a spur extending up the slope. It is argued (*op cit*, 22) that this re-entrant reflects the use of the spur as an entry point to the fort; however, as there was considerable disturbance to the rampart in this section by medieval hollow-ways exploiting the same natural topographic spur line, there was found no evidence for an entrance *per-se* across the rampart. Around the southern and western sides of the hillfort there is only patchy survival reflecting its proximity to the present scarp slope and in places the collapse of cliff face has resulted in the loss of sections of rampart.

4.2.9 The now established extent of the hillfort encompasses an area of 24.5ha (*op cit*, 32), making it the largest in Yorkshire and among the largest in Britain. By comparison Traprain Law fort encompasses 16ha, and the well-known hillforts of Mam Tor and Ingleborough have areas of 6.4ha and 6.5ha respectively. There is no absolute dating for the monument but there are parallels for the box rampart at Eston Nab (Vyner 1988, 90-1) which has fifth century BC radiocarbon dates. Despite the large area of the fort there was found no surface evidence for structures within the interior of the fort in the course of the recent survey. While this may in part be attributable to landscaping of the summit of the promontory for the present runways, there are areas, particularly to the south of the site, where relatively little landscaping has been implemented and even here there is little evidence of domestic structures. Given that there were no identified permanently established domestic structures, it is possible that the hillfort served as a refuge in times of crisis rather than as a permanently occupied settlement. Such a refuge would have accommodated stock and would potentially have had temporary buildings which will not have survived as surface evidence.

4.2.10 ***Casten and Cleave Dykes:*** Casten and Cleave Dykes are parts of a system of early boundary markers across the Hambleton Hills; Cleave Dyke runs parallel to the western scarp slope, and Casten Dyke is one of a group of dykes that extend out from the scarp slope to the major east/west water shed valleys on the Hambleton Hills.

4.2.11 ***Cleave Dyke (Site 06):*** this is the south-eastern section of the Cleave Dyke system which runs for *c*9km approximately parallel to the scarp slope of the western edge of the North York Moors. In the environs of the study area it comprises a central ditch with banks on either side; overall it is *c*7m wide and is up to 0.6m deep. It is cut by Casten Dyke (Site 04), and there is a *c*5m gap between Casten Dyke and the terminals of Cleave Dyke, which may reflect later disturbance; it has also been cut and filled for a forestry ride to the south-east of Casten Dyke. To the south-east of the ride the dyke continues for *c*30m before petering out. Cleave Dyke has been suggested as being of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age date on the basis that it has been observed to post-date tumuli, it appears to be contemporary with the Boltby fort (Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age), and is earlier than Hambleton Street,

which was of major importance by the early thirteenth century (Spratt 1982, 49). To the north of the Kilburn Plantation, the Cleave Dyke was subject to excavation (Vyner 1989), which revealed that the present Cleave Dyke is in part the later recutting of an earlier boundary alignment which was originally part embanked and part a pit alignment.

4.2.12 ***Casten Dyke (Site 04):*** this is the line of a major bank and ditch system which extends north-east out from the edge of the Sutton Bank cliff to the head of Flassen Beck. It served as a land division and is comparable to a number of similar boundaries which extend between the cragged western edge of the North York Moors and nearby valley heads, such as Hesketh Dyke, Steeplecross Dyke and Kepwick Dyke to the north; it is also very similar in form and character to Casten Dyke South (Site 17) which extends between Boar's Gill and the head of Hell Hole valley.

4.2.13 The dyke extends to the immediate north of the study area, and survives as a 3.5m wide ditch with banks on either side; it is extremely prominent in places, particularly towards its south-western end where it is sharply defined. Towards the eastern extent of the monument the dyke is visibly less prominent and less well-defined. It very obviously diverts around a substantial Bronze Age barrow (Site 05) (Plate 1) and cuts across the line of the Cleave Dyke (Site 06), which has a similar form but is less well-defined and less prominent. At the intersection with Cleave Dyke there is a marked gap, *c*5m wide, between Casten Dyke and the terminals of Cleave Dyke; however, the OS first edition 25" map shows no gap at this point and this may therefore reflect recent clearance for the forestry ride (Fig 3). The eastern extent of Casten Dyke, at the head of Flasson Gill, has been subject to a detailed topographic survey by West Yorkshire Archaeological Service (1996); the well-defined western section of Casten Dyke terminates at the line of Hambleton Street, and is thereafter heavily truncated by hollow-ways that converge on a crossing point of Flasson Gill. However, its line is followed, in one section, by an ill-defined and apparently degraded ditch (*op cit*, B1), and to the east by the line of a prominent ditch and single bank (*op cit*, C1); this latter section terminates at the steep side of the Flasson Gill gully.

4.2.14 The extant earthwork of Casten Dyke is clearly a later feature than both the Cleave Dyke and the tumulus, and it has been argued (English Heritage 2001) that the better condition of the Casten Dyke indicates that it is of much later date, and possibly of medieval origin. There is undoubtedly documentary evidence that the dykes of the Cleave Dyke system were used as boundaries in the medieval period: Hesketh Dyke is referred to as a northern boundary of the Old Byland township in 1142 (Farrer 1916, 445) and Casten Dyke was involved in a dispute between Cold Kirby and Sutton-under Whitstonecliffe between 1695 and 1795 (Spratt 1982, 36). However, this does not necessarily indicate that the boundaries had their origins in the medieval period. Casten Dyke belongs to a clearly defined group of dykes that link the Scarp edge with the head of valleys at the watershed, and many of these are aligned on, or, in some cases, directly avoid round barrows, notably Hesketh Dyke, Casten Dyke North, Kepwick Dyke and particularly Cleave Dyke; many are also cut by Hambleton Street which '*was of major importance by the early thirteenth century*' (Spratt 1982, 49). Despite this association with Bronze Age funerary monuments, many of them survive in variable conditions; some sections are very prominent and in generally very good condition, while others are very degraded and in sometimes difficult to discern. Only Cleave Dyke has been subject to detailed investigation and this was found to have been subject to both recent and earlier

recuts, which, in sections, were superimposed on pit alignments (Vyner 1989). The differential condition of the east/west dykes will probably, therefore, reflect both differential recutting and also differential erosion of the dykes, the original form of which was probably pit alignments. On this basis the good survival of Casten Dyke South and North can not be regarded as an indication that the original boundary line was of relatively recent origin, but instead provides only an indication of its recutting. It is perhaps significant, therefore, that the well-defined western section of Casten Dyke North terminates at Hambleton Street, an important medieval routeway, and was continued by a much more degraded line (WYAS 1996, B1) which by implication, was not subject to the same recut and was probably a survival of the earlier cut of the earthwork.

4.2.15 Casten Dyke South clearly terminates at the line of Boar's Gill and there is no evidence of it continuing west from the gill; yet, if it indeed post-dated the Iron Age hillfort, it is curious that it was not aligned on the large and prominent earthwork of the hillfort's box rampart and was not extended by as little as *c*40m so as to exploit the line of that earthwork in order to provide a further line of boundary marker which would have taken it up to the line of Roulston Scar. Indeed there is a short section of dyke extending between the box rampart and Boar's Gill and this may have been intended to provide a complete length of boundary marker as an after thought, but there is no correspondence in alignment between this and Casten Dyke South, suggesting that the line of Casten Dyke South, though not its recut, predated both this offset dyke and the hillfort.

4.2.16 It is, perhaps, significant that the earthwork of Casten Dyke North is orientated directly on the centre of the round cairn Site 05, but then dramatically diverts around the northern side of the cairn (Plate 1) from a point just before it. If the original form of the boundary had been a large earthwork, and was required to avoid the cairn then its alignment would have taken it away from the centre of the cairn. The fact that it makes this dramatic deviation indicates that this was not the original form of the boundary, and it is perhaps more probable that the original was a pit alignment that converged on the centre of the cairn and which then continued on the other side.

4.3 MEDIEVAL

4.3.1 ***Territorial Boundaries:*** the assessment area today lies within the modern civil parish of High Kilburn, but historically was an area of disputed unenclosed pasture land between the parishes of Cold Kirby and Sutton-under-Whitestonecliffe. This dispute came to a head between 1695 and 1795, and was centred on the territorial boundaries of Casten Dyke and to a lesser extent Cleave Dyke (Spratt 1982, 35). Despite the unenclosed character of the land the heated nature of the dispute emphasises the value set upon a small area of upland pasture. The land to the north of Casten Dyke was eventually enclosed in 1789, when most of the Cold Kirby parish common and waste land was enclosed (Slater 1907, 312); the area to the south was enclosed by 1829 (NYCRO MIC 1539/382).

4.3.2 Although the area was unenclosed during the medieval period, it would appear that the major territorial boundaries of the prehistoric period, the Hesketh, Cleave and Casten Dyke systems, continued in use through this period (*Section 4.2.14*); Hesketh Dyke served as a boundary of the Old Byland township in 1142 (Farrer

1916, 445) and Casten Dyke was cited in a border dispute in 1795 (Spratt 1982, 36). The archaeological evidence for the recutting of the boundaries (*Section 4.2.14* and Vyner 1989) would appear to support the premise that these boundaries functioned for a considerable period after they were originally established. The fact that the earthworks were important as boundaries between manorial estates and parishes, evidently warranted their renewed preservation by recutting, but does not necessarily indicate that the area was intensively agriculturally exploited, sufficient to warrant enclosure.

4.3.3 ***Communications:*** the most notable medieval communication route through the area was Hambleton Street, which extends north/south to the immediate east of the study area (Fig 4). In a sale of pasture land between the scarp (Roulston Scar) and Hambleton Street, dating to 1209, it was described '*as the main road leading to Cleveland*' (Surtees Soc 1894, 161-2), and served as a major drove route taking stock from Scotland through to the English cattle markets. It was clearly a route '*of major importance by the early thirteenth century*' (Spratt 1982, 49), but may potentially be a route of much greater antiquity. The Hambleton Street ascends the southern face of the North York Moors by means of the Hell Hole gully and thence converges on the modern day Hambleton House. There were, however, further routes up the southern scarp slope to the west of Boars Gill, now surviving as hollow ways (Site 23) (English Heritage 2001). They follow the line of the natural spur onto Sutton Bank, a route also utilised as the principal approach to the hillfort (*Section 4.2.7*). Such hollow ways are typically of medieval date, and were out of use by the time of the earliest mapping; however, their line is approximately followed by that of the Low Town Bank Road, which now extends up this spur on Sutton Bank and was in place by the time of the 1829 enclosure map (NYCRO MIC 1539/382). It would appear, therefore, that this road was the later adopted route that succeeded the hollow ways.

4.3.4 ***Battle of Byland:*** the study area was potentially the site of one of the more important battles on English soil of the fourteenth century. This was the Battle of Byland, on 14th October 1322, when the Edward II's army was overwhelmed by a Scottish Army under Robert the Bruce and Black Diamond, who had followed Edward south from the border. From the chronicled accounts, notably the Lanercost Chronicles (Ashley 1887), it is evident that Edward was quartered on Byland Abbey, awaiting reinforcements, while substantial parts of his army were stationed on a nearby hill commanded by the Earl of Richmond. The Scots attempted both a frontal attack and also, by following a 'secret path' that led up the hill to the rear of the English forces, they were able to rout the Earl of Richmonds forces (*ibid*). The precise location of the battle is unknown, however, the description would accord with Sutton Bank, and most of the secondary accounts (McDonnell 1963, 78) consider that the battle was on Roulston Scar, and that the flanking route taken by the Scots was either by way of Boar's Gill or by Hell Hole. The estimates of the number of combatants involved in the battle vary but may have been upward of 25,000 men between both sides and the fighting is likely to have extended across much of the area between Roulston Scar and Hell Hole, including the study area.

4.3.5 As with many battles of this period, there will be typically few, if any, surviving remains or features from the battle. The most likely physical indicator of the battle would potentially be a distribution of lost weapons, particularly arrow-heads, that would be scattered over the area of the battle. It has been suggested (WYAS 1996), on the basis of very limited evidence, that the earthworks on the line of Casten

Dyke, at the end of Flasson Gill, might be a product of the battle. However, the documentary evidence (Ashley 1887) suggests that the much of the battle was centred to the west of this location; there are references to the use of boulders being cast down the steep scarp slopes implying that the English forces were exploiting the naturally defended Roulston Scar. In any case, the battle was an *impromptu* affair, rather than any planned set piece battle that would have involved the establishment of defended positions. The assessment of these earthworks (WYAS 1996) also fails to recognise that the observed evidence of the line of Casten Dyke, in Flasson Gill, is entirely in accord with the vagaries of the selective and localised recutting of the territorial boundary system during the medieval period.

4.4 POST-MEDIEVAL

4.4.1 ***Enclosure:*** the study area was enclosed by 1829 (NYCRO MIC 1539/382), although the area to the north of Casten Dyke was enclosed in 1789 (Slater 1907, 312). Despite the enclosure only a small part of the area was subject to improvement; the OS 1st and 2nd edition maps (Figs 2 and 3), show two small fields, to the immediate north of the hillfort boundary (Site 01), as improved, the rest was unimproved moorland. Aerial photographs taken in May 1946 (NMR/1069/UK/ 1298/4017), confirm that by this date the development area was unforested and still unimproved moorland. Not long after the photograph was taken the study area was forested in 1955, and then in the early 1960s the adjacent land, to the west, was improved to enable its use as a runway. At this time the enclosure boundaries to the north of Casten Dyke South (Site 17) were removed along with the Hillfort rampart itself (Site 01); the only extant enclosure boundaries within the development area are two sections of enclosure walling (Sites 24 and 25) (*Section 5.2*).

4.4.2 ***Quarries and Lime Working:*** from the archaeological evidence the principal activity within the study area during the post-medieval period was stone extraction for building and lime working. Within the study area there are 10 quarries (Sites 08, 09, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16?, 26 and 28) and three lime kilns (Sites 09, 10 and 22), which, given that the documentary study area is only 2.3km^2 in extent, is a relatively large number. The quarries fall into two basic types: those that were for commercial extraction and those that were for small scale local usage. The former are noticeably larger and are beside roads in order to get the product away, and include quarries 08, 09, 11, 12, 15, 22 and 26. The largest of these, Site 08, straddles Hambleton Street (Site 27), is associated with a lime kiln (Site 10) and they were evidently intended for lime production. Only one site (Site 15) was identified within the immediate vicinity of the development area, and this was a relatively small commercial type quarry (*Section 5.2.2*). The small scale extraction is typified by quarries 13, 14 and 16, which are small scoops set into the face of Roulston Scar; these are in the vicinity of the enclosure walls constructed between Roulston Scar and the Low Town Bank Road, and were probably intended to provide walling material.

4.4.3 ***White Horse of Kilburn:*** probably the most remarkable post-medieval monument within the study area is the White Horse of Kilburn, set onto the south facing scarp slope of Sutton Bank, overlooking the Vale of York. By virtue of its size and its setting the horse is very visible, and can be seen on clear days from as far away as the Humber, and indeed it acts as a welcoming landmark for glider pilots returning

from the south. The horse was conceived by Thomas Taylor in 1857, following a visit to the Uffington White Horse, Berkshire (Grainge 1859). The horse was, according to popular tradition, constructed by the pupils of the Kilburn School; however, Grainge records that 33 men were employed to complete the horse. The base rock is limestone, which is a buff-grey colour, so lime whitewash was used to give the white colour, and since the 1980s chalk chippings have been used to whiten the horse. There are only twenty two white horses in the country, of which all but three are in southern England; the Kilburn horse was the first to be built into non-chalk geology necessitating the use of whitewash (Wiltshire White Horses 2002).

5. IDENTIFICATION SURVEY RESULTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 The identification survey involved two elements an examination of surface features and also a detailed examination of the craters created as a result of trees that have been blown down (Fig 5).

5.2 SURFACE SURVEY

5.2.1 The study area has been subject to deep ploughing for the planting of the forestry, which has resulted in considerable disturbance to the underlying archaeological resource. Possibly as a consequence the surface survey revealed only a limited number of relatively late sites, which comprised two of the parliamentary enclosure boundaries (Sites 24 and 25) and a quarry (Site 15). The southernmost boundary (Site 25) comprised an earthen bank, with a ditch to the north, and sections of dry stone walling extending out from the bank; by contrast the north/south boundary (Site 24) is a simple dry-stone wall in poor condition with no earthen component.

5.2.2 The quarry (Site 15) is only just outside the study area and will not be directly affected by the proposed development, but was examined as part of the present study. It is an oval shaped quarry, and is relatively deep, being up to 3m deep, and has a ramped entrance way on the north side to get the stone out. It is about 25m long and its overall size suggests that it was for commercial production, probably for building stone as no lime kiln has been identified in its immediate vicinity. The nearest road, Low Town Bank Road, is about 40m away from the quarry, but no evidence was found for a track linking it to the road.

5.3 WIND BLOWN TREES SURVEY

5.3.1 The wind blown trees were for the most part near the western edge of the plantation, where the effects of strong wind are the greatest (Fig 5, Plate 5). Seven wind blown exposed craters were examined and were found to be of varied, depth dependent upon the size and type of tree, but were a maximum of 0.6m deep. Localised exploration of the base of the craters was undertaken to establish the character of the soils and to investigate any archaeological features. The natural, where identified, was a distinctive orange-yellow very compacted, coarse-grained sand, being a degraded sandstone; because of the compacted form of this deposit it was very distinct from the redeposited natural, which was loose and uncompacted. This was overlain by a very disturbed overburden comprising a mix of patches of semi-humified peat, a brown loamy subsoil and redeposited natural. Summary descriptions of the wind blown tree craters are presented below:

WB1: a disturbed matrix of peat and brown loam overlay the compacted sandy natural subsoil, which was identified at a depth of 0.5m below surface.

WB2: a disturbed matrix of mainly brown loam and redeposited natural was revealed and was excavated to a depth of 0.54m below surface, but no natural subsoils were revealed. The crater was located on the line of a plough furrow.

WB3: a disturbed matrix of mainly brown loam and redeposited natural, with small patches of peat, was revealed and was excavated to a depth of 0.65m below surface. At this depth a compacted, sandy natural subsoil was revealed. The sondage was located on the line of a plough furrow.

WB4: a disturbed matrix of mainly brown loam was revealed overlying a compacted sandy natural subsoil at a depth of 0.35m below surface. The sondage was located on the line of a plough ridge.

WB5: a disturbed matrix of mainly brown loam with small patches of peat was revealed and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m below surface, but no natural subsoils were revealed. The sondage was located on the line of a plough furrow.

WB6: a disturbed matrix of mainly brown loam and redeposited natural was revealed overlying a compacted sandy natural subsoil at a depth of 0.3m below surface. The sondage was located on the line of a plough ridge.

WB7: a disturbed matrix of mainly brown loam, with small patches of peat and redeposited natural, was revealed and was excavated to a depth of 0.5m below surface, but no natural subsoils were revealed. The sondage was located on the line of a plough furrow.

5.3.2 No archaeological features or deposits were identified. The subsoil overlying the natural subsoils was a very disturbed matrix comprising a mix of loamy subsoil, redeposited natural and peat, which is a result of the deep plough disturbance from the forest planting. The presence of peat would suggest that the upper deposit, prior to the deep plough, was a thin layer of peat, but no intact, undisturbed peat deposits survive in any of the wind-blow craters. Where the sondage in the crater lined up with a plough ridge the level of the natural subsoils was relatively shallow, as little as 0.3m below surface, but where the sondage in the crater aligned with the plough furrow, either no natural was identified or it was identified at depths of 0.5-0.6m. It is evident that the deep plough caused considerable disturbance to the stratigraphy to depths of up to 0.6m below surface, and extended through the natural subsoils, which were generally very shallow. There is a potential for surviving archaeological deposits only within a narrow *c*0.3m wide strip along the centre of each plough ridge, elsewhere any archaeological deposits will have been destroyed by the deep plough.

6. WATCHING BRIEF

6.1 INTRODUCTION

6.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken in clear weather over a three day period from 9th to 12th December 2002. Two mechanical excavators were employed to uproot the tree stumps left following the felling of the trees (Plate 6). In accordance with the project design around 25% of the tree stump craters were inspected for finds or features and the sides of the craters were cleaned by trowel and/or shovel to examine the stratigraphy; in total between 350 and 400 tree stump craters were examined. Careful fieldwalking of the disturbed areas was also effected.

6.1.2 The watching brief was undertaken within two broad areas of the site (Fig 5) comprising approximately 25% of the total area. The first section was excavated along the line of the north-east/south-west enclosure boundary (Site 24) and was extended to cover almost the entire south-west quadrant of the site up to, and including, the north-west/south-east enclosure boundary (Site 25).

6.1.3 Whilst the average bole and root system was relatively shallow (*c*0.2-0.4m) and was *c*1.5m in diameter, it was usually required that the ground either side of the stump be disturbed to loosen it before the extraction took place (Plates 5 and 6). This resulted in ground disturbance generally greater in area, although not depth, than the tree-bole itself. Frequently, the combined hollows left by the removal of two adjacent stumps were left open for examination.

6.2 RESULTS

6.2.1 The area was deep ploughed in 1955 in advance of the planting of the trees for the forest plantation, which left substantial ridge and furrow (oriented north/south) across the entire site; this was more obvious in the northern half of the development area. It was evident that the deep plough had caused considerable disturbance to the stratigraphy and extended into the natural subsoil, which was generally at a relatively shallow depth. There was a potential for surviving archaeological features only within a narrow *c*0.3m wide strip along the centre of each plough ridge. Elsewhere any archaeological deposits would have been destroyed by the deep plough, although there was still the potential for chance finds.

6.2.2 In the south-western quadrant of the site the natural subsoil was a light yellow buff compacted sand, exposed at a depth of between *c*0.2m and *c*0.4m from the surface. For the most this was compact and undisturbed, but in some hollows the upper layers of the natural subsoil was fragmented. The topsoil comprised a mixed matrix of dark, sandy loam, redeposited natural, part composted leaf mulch and decomposed pine needles. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within any of the craters examined, nor were any chance finds made in this area of the site.

6.2.3 A further area at the northern extremity of the site was targeted because of its proximity to Casten Dyke Round Barrow, Casten Dyke and Cleave Dyke (Sites 04, 05, 06). The excavations followed the east/west aligned southern boundary of the 'buffer zone' created between the study area and the known archaeology, and it extended for an area of *c*50.0 x 20.0m (Fig 5)

6.2.4 The ridge and furrow created by the twentieth century ploughing was noticeably more prominent in this area and the depth of topsoil was greater reaching *c*0.60m in places. The subsoil was again a yellow buff compacted sand. Frequently, two stumps were removed leaving a generous area to be cleaned and inspected (Plate 5). Again no archaeological features or archaeological deposits were identified within the many hollows examined, and no chance finds were made in this area of the site.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 SUTTON BANK AND ENVIRONS

7.1.1 ***Archaeological Potential:*** the desk-based study demonstrated that the site lies within an area of considerable archaeological importance. It lies directly between a very large Iron Age promontory fort (Site 01) to the south and territorial boundaries, probably of late Bronze Age / early Iron Age date, to the north (Sites 04-06). A prehistoric territorial boundary system of this character and survival is extremely rare in Britain and is of considerable archaeological importance. The landscape and vistas from the top of the scar have provided an ideal location for the siting of Bronze Age funerary monuments, there being twenty known within this *c*10km stretch of ridge, five of which, including a cremation burial site (Site 07), lie within the documentary study area. Reported finds of flint and ceramic also suggest the potential presence of late prehistoric structural settlement remains in the area (Site 18).

7.1.2 The site is in close proximity to both medieval territorial boundary systems, which reutilize the prehistoric boundaries, and medieval communication routes. Hambleton Street, to the immediate east of the study area, was a major drove route from Scotland to the English cattle markets was particularly important route in the thirteenth century (Spratt 1982, 49). It is possible that this may be a route of far greater antiquity. In addition, the development area was probably within or near to the site of the Battle of Byland in 1322.

7.1.3 There are also numerous and important post-medieval features within the study area, including lime kilns and quarries. However, perhaps the most remarkable post-medieval monument is the White Horse of Kilburn, which was created by Thomas Taylor in 1857 and was the first to be built into non-chalk geology necessitating the use of whitewash (Wiltshire White Horses 2002). This remarkable monument can be seen from as far away to the south as the Humber.

7.1.4 This remarkable concentration of monuments demonstrates that the locale has a very considerable archaeological potential. However, the development site was subject to deep ploughing in 1955 for the plantation of forestry, which has caused extensive disturbance. Given the shallow stratigraphy, the ploughing undoubtedly destroyed anything within the upper soils and would have impacted and destroyed any features cut into the natural subsoils. Any features or deposits that may have remained following the deep ploughing activity would subsequently have been seriously disturbed by the forestry itself, root action being a recognised invasive hazard to archaeological deposits.

7.1.5 The negative results of the wind-blown tree survey and the watching brief have reinforced the initial concerns as to the survival of archaeological deposits. In the course of the watching brief no archaeological deposits or finds were encountered over the 25% of the site that was investigated and, given the observed high level of disturbance caused by the forestry deep plough, it is considered likely that none would have been encountered within the remainder of the development area.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT

8.1.1 Whilst the initial documentary study clearly suggested that the site had some considerable archaeological potential, the results were entirely negative reflecting the extensive disturbance to the site caused by the forestry deep plough and the subsequent planting of forestry. It is therefore concluded that further landscaping activity within the confines of the development area is unlikely to impact an extant archaeological resource within the study area.

8.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.2.1 It is recommended that no further archaeological work be undertaken in advance of the proposed runway widening. It must be reiterated, however, that the Casten and Cleave Dykes (see Fig 5) are of considerable archaeological importance and are immediately to the north of the development area. A wide margin must be maintained between the areas of development and the extant archaeology. Such a margin will afford protection to the archaeology that has not already been disturbed or destroyed and should remain a permanent fixture so as to ensure the preservation of these monuments.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

9.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

9.1.1 *North York Moors National Park Authority*

Forest Survey Forest Enterprise gazetteer of sites within and adjacent to Forestry Plantations

Ordnance Survey, 1856 6": 1 mile map, *Sheet 88*, 1st edn

Ordnance Survey, 1893 25": 1 mile map, *Sheet 88.15*, 1st edn

Ordnance Survey, 1912 25": 1 mile map, *Sheet 88.15*, 2nd edn

9.1.2 *North Yorkshire County Record Office (NYCRO)*

MIC 1539/382 (1829) a plan of the township of Kilburn in the north riding of York

9.1.3 *Aerial Photographs*

NMR/1069/UK/1298/4017 Vertical photograph taken 26th March 1946

NMR 12968/12 Oblique photograph of Sutton Bank taken 28th Jan 1997

9.2 SECONDARY SOURCES

Ashley, WJ (ed), 1887 *Edward III and his wars, 1327-1360, extracts from the Chronicles of Froissart, Jehan le Bel, Knighton, Adam of Murimuth, Robert of Avesbury, and the Chronicle of Lanercost*, London

Banks, F, and Thorpe, J, 1998 *Kilburn's White Horse*, Leeds

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edn, London

English Heritage, 2001 *An Iron Age promontory Fort at Roulston Scar, North Yorkshire*, unpubl rep

Farrer, W (ed), 1916 *Early Yorkshire Charters*, Vol 3, Edinburgh

Grainge, W, 1859 *The Vale of Mowbray: a historical and topographical account of Thirsk and its neighbourhood*, London

Hartley, JB, and Oliver, RR, 1991 *Old Series Ordnance Survey Maps of England and Wales*, **8**, Kent

Longworth, IH, 1961 The origins and development of the primary series in the collared urn tradition in England and Wales, *Proc Preh Soc*, **27,** 300

Longworth, IH, 1984 Collared Urns of the Bronze Age in Great Britain and Ireland

McDonnell, J (ed), 1963 *A history of Helmsley, Rievaulx and District*, Helmsley and area Group, Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Huddersfield

OA North, 2002 *Survey Levels*, Unpubl rep

Pacitto, AL, 1971 Casten Dyke, in Ministry of Works, *Archaeological Excavations 1970: a brief summary of Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval sites throughout the country excavated in advance of destruction*, **14**, London

Page, W, 1923 *The Victoria County History of the County of North Riding*, Vol 2, London

Slater, G, 1907 *The English peasantry and the enclosure of common fields*, London

Spratt, 1982 The Cleave Dyke System, *Yorkshire Archaeol J*, **54**, 33-52

Staniforth, A, 1993 *Geology of the North York Moors, York*, North York Moors National Park Information Service

Surtees Society 44, 1894 *Yorkshire Fines*, Durham

Thomas, N, 1960 *A guide to prehistoric England*, London

Varley, RA, 1979 Bronze Age round barrows and adjacent earthworks on the Hambleton Hills, *Yorkshire Archaeol J*, **51**, 141-5

Vyner, B, 1988 The hillfort at Eston Nab, Eston, Cleveland, *Archaeol J*, **145**, 60-98

Vyner, B, 1989 *The Cleave Dyke, Sutton Bank Car Park*, Unpubl rep

West Yorkshire Archaeological Service (WYAS), 1996 C*asten Dyke, North York Moors: Earthwork Survey*, unpubl rep

Wiltshire White Horses Website, *Non-Wiltshire White Horses*, 12th November 2002, <http://www.wiltshirewhitehorses.org.uk/others.html>

Yates, M J, 1984 *Bronze Age Round Cairns in Dumfries and Galloway: an inventory and discussion*, BAR British Series, **132**, Oxford

APPENDIX 1
PROJECT DESIGN

OXFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY
NORTH

November 2001

YORKSHIRE GLIDING CLUB, SUTTON BANK

THIRSK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND WATCHING BRIEF

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request from Graham Evison, Yorkshire Gliding Club for an archaeological assessment and watching brief at Sutton Bank, Thirsk, North Yorkshire.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 This project design is offered in response to a request by Graham Evison, Yorkshire Gliding Club, for an archaeological assessment and watching brief at Sutton Bank, near Thirsk, North Yorkshire (SE 518 825) in advance of the proposed landscaping of an area of forestry for a runway extension. The programme of works is submitted in accordance with a verbal brief by Graham Lee, North York Moors National Park Archaeologist.

1.2 BACKGROUND

1.2.1 ***Sutton Bank:*** the study area is an area of forestry plantation on Sutton Bank, which is being subject to clear fell and the removal of the stumps to widen an existing adjacent runway. The area is located between an iron age promontory fort, to the south, and a Bronze Age / Iron Age boundary dyke, Cleave Dyke, to the north; both monuments are scheduled monuments (Fort: SM 28298 and Dyke: SM 26926).

1.2.2 ***Hillfort:*** the fort is on a projecting tongue of land naturally defended by a sheer rock face on the western and southern sides, and by a steep sided gully to the east. A rampart extended around most of the circumference of the fort but was most prominent on the naturally undefended northern side of the fort. Excavations in 1969 of this northern rampart revealed a 7m wide flat bottomed ditch and timber box defences built into the bank. The fort has recently been surveyed by English Heritage and was found to be one of the largest hillforts in North Yorkshire in area; however, it has only univallate defences and there are no identified domestic structures. It is suggested that the fort served as a refuge rather than as a defended settlement.

1.2.3 ***Cleave Dyke:*** to the north is the north-west/south-east orientated Cleave Dyke, which runs parallel with the line of the ridge, and is cut by the north-east/south-west Casten Dyke which extends out from the ridge; the Cleave Dyke survives as a shallow bank with flanking ditches. These dykes are part of an extensive system of linear earthworks extending for 9km along the western edge of the Hambleton Hills; with off-shoot dykes linking the main Cleave dyke to valley heads. They date from the late Bronze Age and Iron Age and served to define the land into territorial units and were associated with Bronze Age Round Barrows including one just to the north-west of the Casten Dyke (SM 26925).

1.2.4 The area of landscaping will be no closer than 45m from the edge of any of the scheduled boundaries, and machinery access routes for the proposed clear fell will be designed so as to avoid the scheduled monuments; this will therefore ensure that there will be no impact upon these monuments.

1.2.5 When a nearby area, some 250m to the south-east of the study area, was reclaimed from the moor in 1965 several circular structures and large quantities of flint were recovered, demonstrating a prehistoric presence in the vicinity.

1.2.6 Although there is likely to have been prehistoric activity within the extent of the study area, the land has been severely disturbed as a result of deep ploughing for the forestry plantation and as a result of root action from the trees; it is uncertain, therefore, as to the survival any archaeological remains. The present programme is intended to investigate the potential for monuments within the area prior to the forestry plantation and also if any survive.

1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH (OAN) (FORMERLY LANCASTER UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT)

1.3.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) has considerable experience of the evaluation, survey and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 19 years. One of its particular specialisms is in the sphere of upland landscape recording and assessment. Since 1982 OAN has been undertaking extensive surveys of upland prehistoric landscapes from throughout Northern England which include the Lake District National Park Survey, the Torver Common surveys (Lake District), Haweswater and Thirlmere estate surveys (Lake District), but also numerous archaeological assessments and watching brief programmes from throughout the region.

1.3.2 OAN has the professional expertise and resource to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OAN is registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists (No 17), and its members of staff adhere to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed in accordance with a verbal brief by Graham Lee, North York Moors National Park Archaeologist, to provide an accurate archaeological assessment and watching brief of the designated area, within its broader context. The principal purpose of the assessment is to collate existing information about the archaeology of the site, and to undertake a surface and below ground investigation of the archaeological potential of the site, to determine the significance of the identified archaeological resource and to provide recommendations for any further archaeological investigation. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 ***Desk Top Survey***

To accrue an organised body of data to inform the field inspection.

2.3 ***Identification Survey***

An identification survey to record the character of any extant earthworks or archaeological remains within the study area and provide an assessment of the archaeological significance of the physical remains.

2.4 ***Watching Brief***

To observe and record any surviving archaeological features or deposits within the craters holes following the removal of tree stumps. To record the presence of buried features by appropriate recovery techniques, where applicable.

2.5 ***Assessment Report***

A written assessment report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will advise on the requirements for further evaluation or recording measures as necessary.

3. METHODS STATEMENT

3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the stages and objectives of the archaeological work summarised above.

3.2 **DESK BASED SURVEY**

3.2.1 The following will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material. The level of such work will be dictated by the timescale of the project. As the area has particular potential for prehistoric activity the emphasis in the study will be on sources that have the potential to inform such remains.

3.2.2 ***Documentary and Cartographic Material:*** this work will include an appraisal of the North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record, accessible from the North York Moors National Park Office, and will examine early maps, and such primary documentation (tithe and estate plans etc) as is available from the National Park Office. Published documentary sources will also be examined and assessed. This work will involve visits to the North York Moors National Park Office and libraries in Lancaster University and York University.

3.2.3 ***Aerial Photography:*** although there is a forestry plantation on the site, this was planted in the 1955, and there is the potential for the use of aerial photography taken prior to the planting. One potential source is the RAF vertical photography that was taken over the whole country during the early 1950's. This may indicate the range and survival of archaeological and structural features in the designated area, and if appropriate coverage is available, allow an assessment of the rate and progress of erosion of archaeological features. It will also facilitate the rapid recognition and plotting of archaeological features including those no longer visible at ground level. Of particular use is low level oblique photography, but such photography is unlikely to be

available for the period prior to the forest plantation, one possible source is photographic records held by the Yorkshire Gliding Club. Aerial photographic work will involve examination of records held by the North York Moors National Park, and also photographs held by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments (England), although, within the timescale available, it is unlikely that prints will be forthcoming from this body for inclusion in this report.

3.2.4 ***Physical Environment:*** a rapid desk-based compilation of geological (both solid and drift), pedological, and topographical information will be undertaken. This will not only set the archaeological features in context but also serves to provide predictive data, that will increase the efficiency of the field inspection.

3.3 **IDENTIFICATION SURVEY**

3.3.1 It is proposed to undertake a level 1 survey of the study area which extends over an area of 1.5sqkm. This is a rapid survey undertaken alongside a desk top study as part of a site assessment. It is an initial site inspection which helps the local planning authority to consider fully the archaeological implications of a development and also serves as the basis for undertaking and planning further archaeological work on the site. It represents the minimum standard of record and is appropriate to exploratory survey aimed at the discovery of previously unrecorded sites. Its aim is to record the existence, location and extent of any such site. The emphasis for the recording is on the written description which should record type and period and would not normally exceed *c*50 words. The extent of a site is defined for sites or features greater than 50m in size and smaller sites are shown with a cross.

3.3.2 The reconnaissance will be undertaken in a systematic fashion, walking on approximately 15m wide transects within the extent of the defined study area. There are a number of craters within the study area as a result of wind blown trees, and these will be closely examined for evidence of sub-surface remains. It is proposed to use a combination of Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques and manual survey to locate and record the features. The use of GPS techniques has proved to be an essential and extremely cost effective means of locating monuments, which can achieve accuracy of better than +- 0.5m; however, it does not operate effectively under dense tree cover. It is therefore proposed to place control points around the edge of the plantation and in rides using the GPS and tie into them by manual survey in order to locate the features.

3.3.3 A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously using digital and conventional cameras with 35mm colour slide and black and white print film. The work will result in the production of plans at a scale of 1:2,500 or any other scale required, recording the location of each of the sites listed in the gazetteer. All archaeological information collected in the course of field inspection will be recorded in standardised form, and will include accurate national grid references. This will form the basis of a gazetteer, to be submitted as part of the report.

3.4 WATCHING BRIEF

3.4.1 The watching brief is intended to examine the potential for buried remains within the study area, by examining the craters created by the removal of tree stumps as part of the land improvement operations. Following the removal of the stumps, the craters will be left unfilled and undisturbed until they have been examined by an archaeologist. In accordance with the verbal brief by the National Park Archaeologist, if the watching brief does not reveal a significant archaeological resource within a few days of watching brief, then it will be suspended subject to agreement with the National Park Archaeologist and the client.

3.4.2 A permanent programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features following the removal of the tree stumps, and will examine any erosion scars caused by the forestry operations. Particular emphasis will be undertaken in areas around sites identified as part of the identification survey. The work will comprise the observation of sections and floor of the craters for any subsoil horizons, masonry fabric and finds exposed as result of the removal of the stumps, and will involve the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts.

3.4.3 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid coordinates where appropriate). All archaeological information collected in the course of fieldwork will be recorded in standardised form, and will include accurate national grid references. Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and superimposed on

the large scale plan provided by the Client. Craters that have produced negative results will not be located. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously. The recording techniques and procedures employed by OA(N) represent current best practice.

3.4.4 It is assumed that OA(N) will have the authority to stop works to enable the recording of important deposits, and to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified. This would only be called into effect in agreement with the Client and the National Park archaeologist and will require a variation to costing. In normal circumstances, field recording will also include a continual process of analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of the data, in order to establish the necessity for any further more detailed recording that may prove essential.

3.5 ASSESSMENT AND WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

3.5.1 ***Archive:*** the results of Stages 3.1-4 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. It will include summary processing and analysis of any features and finds recovered during fieldwork. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.

3.5.2 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Central for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCii files, and a synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and the report) will be deposited with the North Yorkshire Record Office.

3.5.3 ***Report:*** two bound copies of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client and a further copy will be submitted to the North York Moors National Park Authority. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It 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, together with appropriate illustrations, including a map and gazetteer of known or suspected sites identified within or immediately adjacent to the study area. It 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, but not examined in detail. It will include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project, with an assessment of the overall stratigraphy, together with appropriate illustrations, including detailed plans and sections indicating the locations of archaeological features. Any finds recovered from the excavations will be assessed with reference to other local material and any particular or unusual features of the assemblage will be highlighted. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.

3.5.4 This report will examine the significance of the landscape within a national and regional context. It will specifically present the evidence for prehistoric activity within the environs. Illustrative material will include a location map, and survey plans; it can be tailored to the specific requests of the client (eg particular scales etc), subject to discussion. The report will be in the same basic format as this project design.

3.5.5 ***Confidentiality:*** 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 this 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.

3.6 OTHER MATTERS

3.6.1 ***Access:*** liaison for basic site access will be undertaken through Yorkshire Gliding Club.

3.6.2 ***Health and Safety:*** full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the excavation of the trenches, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. OA(N) provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All

site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1991) and risk assessments are implemented for all projects.

3.6.3 ***Insurance:*** 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 out of an 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(N), in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of OA(N) 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. WORK TIMETABLE

The phases of work will comprise:

4.1 ***Desk-Based Assessment***

A four day period is required for the extensive survey

4.2 ***Identification Survey***

A two day period is required to undertake the identification survey

4.3 ***Watching Brief***

Subject to the works programme

4.4 OA(N) can execute projects at very short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client.

4.5 STAFF

4.5.1 The project will be under the management of **Jamie Quartermaine BA DipSurv** (OA(N) Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. He will supervise the survey and 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.

APPENDIX 2
GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site number **01**
Site name Roulston Scar
NGR SE 515 815
SMR No 1135
SM No 28298
Site type Promontory Fort
Period Iron Age
Source English Heritage 2001; Pacitto 1971; Thomas 1960; Spratt 1982
Description
A promontory fort located on a natural spur, exploiting natural defences on its southern, western and eastern sides. The most prominent element was a large earthwork across the north-eastern neck of the promontory, but this was partly removed to allow for a runway extension in the 1960's; a further section was lost to allow for the construction of a hangar, but an excavation across the rampart was undertaken in advance (Pacitto 1971), revealing a substantial box rampart. This has been subsequently reinterpreted as being of two phase construction (English Heritage 2001, 16-9). A recent survey of the hillfort was undertaken by English Heritage (2001) in response to the laying of a new path around the southern side of the fort. This provided the first detailed investigation of the site and clarified the extent and form of the hillfort. The fort was artificially defended by a substantial box rampart at the north-eastern neck of the promontory (Pacitto 1971), which extended between Boar's Gill to the east and the cliff face of Roulston Scar to the west, elsewhere the defences comprised a substantial ditch, now surviving as a 'berm' or terrace set into the slope; the line of this lesser defence line follows along the side of Boar's Gill, before extending back up a spur at the south-east side of the promontory, in a broad 'U' shaped re-entrant. This re-entrant provides a logical, easy accessed approach to the fort, and it has been suggested (English Heritage 2001, 22) that there may have been an entrance at its north-western end, however, there was no earthwork evidence to support this. To the west of the re-entrant the rampart takes the form of a prominent break of slope and follows the natural line of cliff around the edge of Roulston Scar, converging back at the west end of the box rampart. A short section at Roulston Scar was not identified (*ibid*), but this may reflect subsequent cliff collapse. The hillfort encompasses an area of 24.5ha, and makes it the largest in north-east Yorkshire.
Assessment
The site lies to the south of the assessment area

Site number **02**
Site name High Town Bank
NGR SE 5213 8179
SMR No 1137
SM No 28225
Site type Round Barrow
Period Bronze Age
Source SMR; Varley 1979; Longworth 1961
Description
A round profiled barrow excavated by John Sanders in 1910 (Varley 1979). The excavation was undertaken on the northern side of the mound. The mound was constructed of an outer capping of gravelly soil (0.9m to 1.2m thick), below which was a layer of selected soil and gravel. Beneath this was a large decorated collared urn, with a heap of stones and clay around it. The urn was found to be broken but contained human cremated remains, together with the bones of a small animal. In addition there were some bronze studs or pin heads. This form of collared urn typically falls within the middle Bronze Age date range (Longworth 1961: 1984).
Assessment
The site lies to the south of the assessment area.

Site number **03**

Site name Kilburn Moor Plantation
NGR SE 5169 8266
SMR No 1139
SM No 26925
Site type Round Barrow
Period Bronze Age
Source SMR; Scheduled Monument Description; Site Inspection
Description
An essentially round profiled round cairn within an area of woodland; it is well-defined and prominent, standing up to 1.5m high. It has a regular, circular shape and is 14m in diameter; it was surrounded by a ditch up to 3m wide, but this is now largely filled in. It has a 1.5m deep and 2.5m wide depression within the centre, reflecting an antiquarian intervention.
Assessment
The site lies to the west of the assessment area

Site number **04**
Site name Casten Dyke North
NGR SE 5169 8258 - 5246 8312
SMR No 1158
SM No 26933
Site type Dyke
Period Iron Age / Medieval ?
Source Site Inspection; English Heritage 2001; WYAS 1996; OS 1st edition 25" map; Spratt 1982
Description
The line of a major bank and ditch system which extends north-east out from the edge of the Sutton Bank cliff to the head of Flassen Beck. It served as a land division and is comparable to a number of similar boundaries which extend between the cragged western edge of the North York Moors and nearby valley heads, such as Hesketh Dyke, Steeplecross Dyke and Kepwick Dyke to the north; it is also very similar in form and character to Casten Dyke South (Site 17) which extends between Boar's Gill and the head of Hell Hole valley. The Dyke extends to the immediate north of the study area, it very obviously diverts around a substantial Bronze Age tumulus (Site 05) and cuts across the line of the Cleave Dyke (Site 06), which was potentially a late Bronze Age / early Iron Age territorial boundary marker. It survives as a 3.5m wide ditch with banks on either side. It is extremely prominent in places, particularly towards its south-western end, and is sharply defined; it is up to 2.2m deep in places (from the base of the ditch to the top of the banks) and the banks are 0.6m above the adjacent ground surface; the overall width of the monuments is up to 11m in places. Towards the eastern extent of the monument the dyke is visibly less prominent and less well-defined. At the intersection with Cleave Dyke there is a marked gap, *c*5m wide, between Casten Dyke and the terminals of Cleave Dyke; however, the OS first edition 25" map shows no gap at this point and may therefore reflect subsequent clearance. A dry-stone wall has been constructed on the south-eastern bank of the dyke.
Assessment
The site lies to the immediate north of the assessment area

Site number **05**
Site name Casten Dyke
NGR SE 5174 8264
SMR No 1158.04
SM No 26933
Site type Round Barrow
Period Bronze Age
Source SMR; Site Inspection; OS 1st edition 25" map
Description
A prominent round barrow, which has an oval shape, having been truncated to the north by the encroachment of Casten Dyke (Site 04); the dyke was diverted to avoid the barrow, but nevertheless clipped the northern edge. It is also slightly truncated to the south by the modern path. The barrow is 10m x 6.5m x 2.5m in size and is both well-defined and prominent, with a rounded upper profile.

Assessment
The site lies to the immediate north of the assessment area.

Site number **06**
Site name Cleave Dyke
NGR SE 5165 8328 - 5198 8282
SMR No 1159
SM No 25564
Site type Dyke
Period Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age
Source SMR; Site Inspection; OS 1st edition 25" map; Spratt 1982; Vyner 1989
Description
This is the south-eastern section of the Cleave Dyke system which runs for *c*9km approximately parallel to the scarp slope of the western edge of the North York Moors. In the environs of the study area it comprises a central ditch with banks on either side; overall it is *c*7m wide and is up to 0.6m deep. It has been cut by Casten Dyke (Site 04); there is a *c*5m gap between Casten Dyke and the terminals of Cleave Dyke, which may reflect that a section of the dyke has been cut and filled for a forestry ride to the south-east of Casten Dyke. To the south-east of the ride the dyke continues for *c*30m before petering out; and there are no indications of truncation of disturbance. Cleave Dyke has been suggested as being of Late Bronze Age / early Iron Age date on the basis that it has been observed to post-date round barrows, it appears to be contemporary with the Boltby fort (Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age), and is earlier than Hambleton Street, which was of major importance by the early thirteenth century (Spratt 1982, 49). To the north of the Kilburn Plantation, 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 which was originally part embanked and part a pit alignment (Vyner 1989).
Assessment
The site lies to the immediate north-west of the assessment area.

Site number **07**
Site name Hambleton Plantation
NGR SE 520 830
SMR No 2097.02
Site type Cremation Burial
Period Bronze Age
Source SMR
Description
The reported location of burial urn and associated cremation. The cremation was identified in a cavity below the urn. Its location is accurate only to the nearest kilometre.
Assessment
The site lies in the environs of the assessment area.

Site number **08**
Site name Shaw's Gate
NGR SE 5225 8235
SMR No 8005
Site type Quarries
Period Post-medieval
Source SMR; OS 1st edition map (1856)
Description
A quarry shown on the OS 1st edition 6" map (1856), where it is captioned 'Limestone Quarries'. The extent of the depicted quarry is smaller than that on the present mapping and clearly the quarry had expanded considerably in the intervening period. A quarry is also shown on the opposite of Hambleton Street and this corresponds with a dashed line shown on modern mapping; this is of similar size on both maps and was probably out of use by the time of the OS 1st edition map (1856).
Assessment

The site lies to the east of the assessment area.

Site number **09**
Site name High Town Bank Road
NGR SE 5213 8235
SMR No 8005.01
Site type Quarry and Lime kiln
Period Post-medieval
Source SMR; OS 1st edition map 6" to 1 mile (1856) ; OS 2nd edition 25" to 1 mile map (1912); Forest Survey No.s 12/56 and 12/58; Site Inspection

Description
A quarry and lime kiln shown on the OS 1st edition 6" map (1856), and is captioned 'Limestone Quarry' and 'Lime Kiln', it is also shown on the OS 2nd edition map (1912), by which time it is captioned as 'old quarry' and 'old lime kiln' and clearly had gone out of use in the intervening period. The quarry is lozenge shaped tapering into an accessway at its northern extent. A 3m wide terrace runs the full length of the quarries eastern side. No spoil heaps were found associated with the structure. The lime kiln was moderately well preserved and was constructed from limestone and was set into the east facing side of the quarry. The surface of the structure was level and flush with the top of the quarry. A shallow bank of earth and broken stone partially blocked the kiln's aperture.

Assessment
The site lies to the east of the assessment area.

Site number **10**
Site name Shaw's Gate
NGR SE 5234 8247
SMR No 8005.02
Site type Lime kiln
Period Post-medieval
Source SMR; OS 1st edition map (1856); OS 2nd edition 25" to 1 mile map (1912)

Description
A lime kiln shown on the OS 1st edition 6" map (1856), where it is captioned 'Limekiln'; it is also shown on the OS 2nd edition map (1912), by which time it is captioned as 'old limekiln' and had evidently gone out of use in the intervening period. The lime kiln is shown on the OS 2nd edition map as an earthwork feature, with a series of quarry scoops to the north, west and east.

Assessment
The site lies to the east of the assessment area.

Site number **11**
Site name Hambleton
NGR SE 5209 8273
SMR No -
Site type Quarry
Period Post-medieval
Source OS 1st edition map (1856); OS 2nd edition 25" to 1 mile map (1912); Forest Survey No 12/15

Description
A quarry shown on the OS 1st edition 6" map (1856), where it is captioned 'Limestone Quarry', although by the time of the OS 2nd edition map (1912) it is captioned 'old quarry'. It is an amorphously shaped shallow quarry, and at its base is a small, rounded spoil mound.

Assessment
The site lies to the east of the assessment area.

Site number **12**
Site name Hambleton
NGR SE 5212 8259

SMR No -
Site type Quarry
Period Post-medieval
Source OS 1st edition map (1856); Forest Survey No 12/16
Description
A quarry shown on the OS 1st edition 6" map (1856), where it is captioned 'Old Quarry'. It is a flask shaped quarry scoop, and was not associated with any spoil mounds. It was accessed from the north.
Assessment
The site lies to the east of the assessment area.

Site number **13**
Site name Sutton Bank
NGR SE 5170 8250
SMR No -
Site type Quarry
Period Post-medieval
Source Forest Survey No 12/87; OS 2nd edition 25" to 1 mile map (1912)
Description
A quarry shown on the OS 2nd edition 25" map (1912), but not on the OS 1st edition map (1856). It is a shallow quarry scoop, with no associated spoil. It is above and close to the scarp cliff edge.
Assessment
The site lies to the west of the assessment area.

Site number **14**
Site name Sutton Bank
NGR SE 5175 8240
SMR No -
Site type Quarry
Period Post-medieval
Source Forest Survey No 12/17; OS 2nd edition 25" to 1 mile map (1912)
Description
A quarry shown on the OS 2nd edition 25" map (1912), but not on the OS 1st edition map (1856). It is a shallow lozenge shaped quarry scoop, with no associated spoil. It is above and close to the scarp cliff edge.
Assessment
The site lies to the west of the assessment area.

Site number **15**
Site name High Town Bank Road
NGR SE 5189 8203
SMR No -
Site type Quarry
Period Post-medieval
Source Forest Survey No 12/18; OS 2nd edition 25" to 1 mile map (1912); Site Inspection
Description
A deep lozenge shaped stone quarry, which tapers towards a 2m wide entrance at the eastern side. The ground slopes up towards the entrance, and it has external, 2.8m wide spoil banks built up around the sides.
Assessment
The site lies to the immediate east of the assessment area.

Site number **16**
Site name Knowlson's Drop
NGR SE 5154 8192
SMR No -
Site type Terrace

Period Post-medieval
Source Forest Survey No 12/85; OS 2nd edition 25" to 1 mile map (1912)
Description
A short length of terraced slope as depicted on the OS 2nd edition 25" map (1912). There is no spoil associated with it but it is possible that it was a quarry feature.
Assessment
The site lies to the south-west of the assessment area.

Site number **17**
Site name Casten Dyke South
NGR SE 5183 8164 - 5214 8159
SM No 26934
Site type Dyke
Period Iron Age / medieval ?
Source OS 2nd edition 25" to 1 mile map (1912); English Heritage 2001
Description
A dyke in a coniferous plantation extending east from Boar's Gill towards the head of Hells Gill. The dyke has a 1m high, flat topped bank flanking a broad 6m wide ditch. It has been disturbed by a quarry near its western end (Site 28). The western section has been surveyed by English Heritage (2001) and comprises a prominent 0.9m high bank, with a steep sided 1.1m deep ditch on its northern side and a counterscarp bank on the northern side of the ditch. It is very similar in form to Casten Dyke North (Site 04). There is no relationship between this bank and the box rampart of the hillfort (Site 01). The bank is in a well-defined, largely un-degraded condition which contrasts with that of the hillfort rampart.
Assessment
The site lies to the south of the assessment area.

Site number **18**
Site name Shaw's Gate
NGR SE 5229 8190
SMR No -
Site type Findspot
Period Prehistoric
Source G Lee pers comm; SMR Map Base
Description
Annotated into the margin of the SMR base 1:10,000 map is the following description: 'When this general area was reclaimed from the moor in 1965 several circular structures were noted - loads of 'pot boilers' removed from the site and large quantities of flint found, including arrowheads'.
Assessment
The site lies to the south-east of the assessment area.

Site number **19**
Site name Low Town Brow
NGR SE 5153 8139
Site type Barrow
Period Bronze Age
Source English Heritage 2001; OS 2nd edition 25" to 1 mile map (1912); OS 1st edition map (1856) 6" to 1 mile
Description
This is a round barrow located at the edge of the cleared area of the gliding club runway. It has been partly truncated and only the southern half survives intact. When recorded as part of the OS survey of 1893 it was recorded as *c*11m across and 1.8m high, and originally had a cup-shaped cavity in the top as a result of antiquarian investigations. Now the southern half survives to only 0.2m height.
Assessment
The site lies to the south of the assessment area.

Site number **20**
Site name Low Town Brow
NGR SE 5159 8128
SMR No -
Site type Barrow
Period Bronze Age
Source English Heritage 2001
Description
A round barrow identified by the English Heritage survey (2001). It is roughly circular, *c*8m diameter and up to 0.3m high. It is within an area described as arable on the tithe map, and may have been degraded by ploughing. The barrow is located on the crest of the hill, overlooking the Vale of York.
Assessment
The site lies to the south of the assessment area.

Site number **21**
Site name Kilburn White Horse
NGR SE 5142 8129
SMR No -
Site type White Horse
Period 1857
Source English Heritage 2001; Grainge 1859; Banks and Thorpe 1998
Description
The white horse was conceived by Thomas Taylor in 1857, following a visit to the Uffington White Horse, Berkshire. The horse was, according to popular tradition, constructed by the pupils of the Kilburn school, however, Grainge records that 33 men were employed to cut the horse. The base rock is limestone, which is a buff-grey colour, so lime whitewash was used to give the white colour; now chalk chippings have been used to whiten the horse.
Assessment
The site lies to the south of the assessment area.

Site number **22**
Site name Low Town Brow
NGR SE 5167 8133
SMR No -
Site type Lime kiln
Period Post-medieval
Source English Heritage 2001; Forest Survey No 12/80; OS 2nd edition 25" to 1 mile map (1912)
Description
An 'old lime kiln' is shown on the OS 2nd edition map (1912). It survives as a slight indentation in the side of a hollow way, with fragments of dry-stone walling around. It is very small and probably provided for small scale agricultural operations.
Assessment
The site lies to the south of the assessment area.

Site number **23**
Site name Low Town Bank Road
NGR SE 5161 8134
SMR No -
Site type Hollow-ways
Period Medieval / Post-medieval ?
Source English Heritage 2001
Description
A series of hollow-ways were recorded by the English Heritage survey (2001); these ascend the natural gully at the south-eastern corner of the promontory, and follow either side of the Low Town Bank Road which itself follows the line of the deepest hollow ways. The line of Low Town Bank Road is shown on the

enclosure map of 1829 (NYCRO MIC 1539/382). The hollow-ways cut through sections of the hillfort rampart.

Assessment

The site lies to the south of the assessment area.

Site number **24**
Site name High Town Bank Road
NGR SE 5177 8214 - 5193 8267
SMR No -
Site type Dry-stone wall
Period Post-medieval
Source OS 1st edition map (1856) 6" to 1 mile; Site Inspection

Description

A dry-stone field wall that lies along the edge of a forestry ride. The wall in the southern part of the plantation is on the western side of the ride, and to the north it is on the eastern side of the ride. The boundary is shown on the OS 1st edition map (1856) where it forms part of a rectangular, field system that was apparently a result of parliamentary enclosure. The dry-stone wall is constructed of undressed limestone blocks, and has a generally poor constructional character. It is generally degraded and many sections of walling have collapsed. In some sections the line of the boundary is defined by an earthen bank. On the opposite side of the 5m wide forestry ride is a further earthen bank which was constructed at the time of the forestry planting to define the edge of the ride.

Assessment

The site is within the assessment area.

Site number **25**
Site name High Town Bank Road
NGR SE 5171 8201 - 5181 8191
SMR No -
Site type Dry-stone wall
Period Post-medieval
Source OS 1st edition map (1856) 6" to 1 mile; Site Inspection

Description

A field boundary that extends along the south-western edge of the forestry plantation. The boundary is shown on the OS 1st edition map (1856) where it forms part of a rectangular parliamentary enclosure. The boundary survives as a prominent, mainly earthen, bank with a ditch to the north, and a further lower bank to the north of the ditch; the overall width of the boundary is 3.1m, and the southernmost bank is up to 0.4m high. There are sections of extant dry-stone walling exposed within the southernmost bank, but these are largely earthfast and in places obscured by vegetation.

Assessment

The site defines the south-western edge of the assessment area.

Site number **26**
Site name High Town Bank Road
NGR SE 5213 8217
SMR No -
Site type Quarry
Period Post-medieval
Source OS 2nd edition 25" to 1 mile map (1912)

Description

A small quarry depicted on the OS 2nd edition map (1912), where it is captioned 'old quarry', but it is not shown on the OS 1st edition map (1856) and evidently had a short operational life between these dates. The quarry tapers towards an entrance in the southern part of the quarry.

Assessment

The site is to the south-east of the assessment area.

Site number	**27**
Site name	Hambleton Street
NGR	SE 5253 8168 - 5239 8318
SMR No	-
Site type	Ancient Road
Period	Medieval
Source	OS 2nd edition 25" to 1 mile map (1912); Surtees Soc 44, 161-2; Spratt 1982, 49)

Description

Hambleton Street extends north/south to the immediate east of the study area. In a sale of pasture land between the scarp (Roulston Scar) and Hambleton Street, dating to 1209 , it was described '*as the main road leading to Cleveland*' (Surtees Soc 44, 161-2), and was clearly a route '*of major importance by the early thirteenth century*' (Spratt 1982, 49); however, it may potentially be a route of much greater antiquity. The road served as a major drove route taking stock from Scotland through to the English cattle markets. The Hambleton Street ascends the southern face of the North York Moors by means of the Hell Hole gully and thence converges on the modern day Hambleton House.

Assessment

The site is to the east of the assessment area.

Site number	**28**
Site name	Low Town Bank Road
NGR	SE 5183 8164
SMR No	-
Site type	Quarry
Period	Post-medieval
Source	OS 2nd edition 25" to 1 mile map (1912)

Description

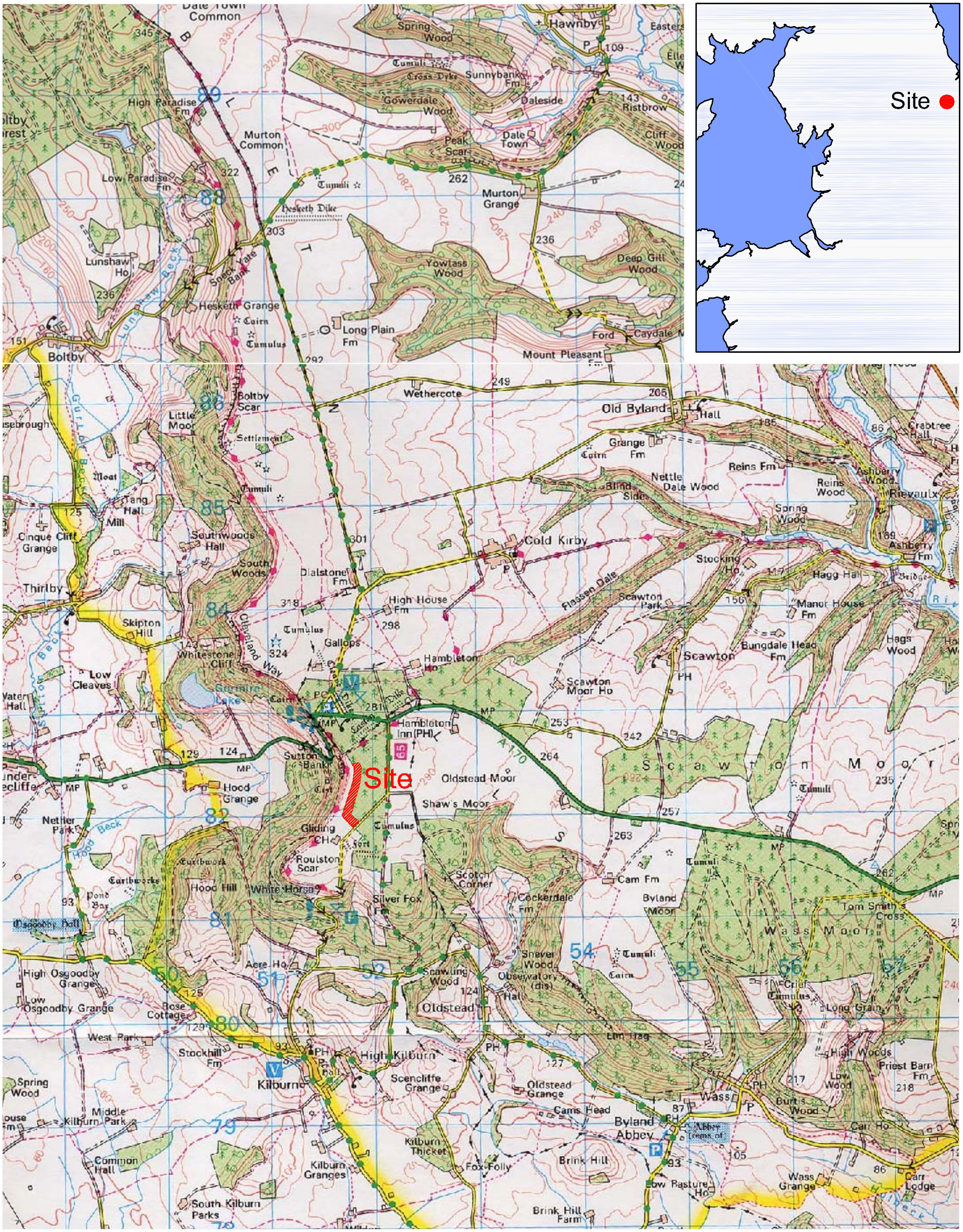
A sub-circular quarry shown on the OS 2nd edition map. The quarry cuts the west terminal of Casten Dyke South (Site 17).

Assessment

The site lies to the south-east of the assessment area.

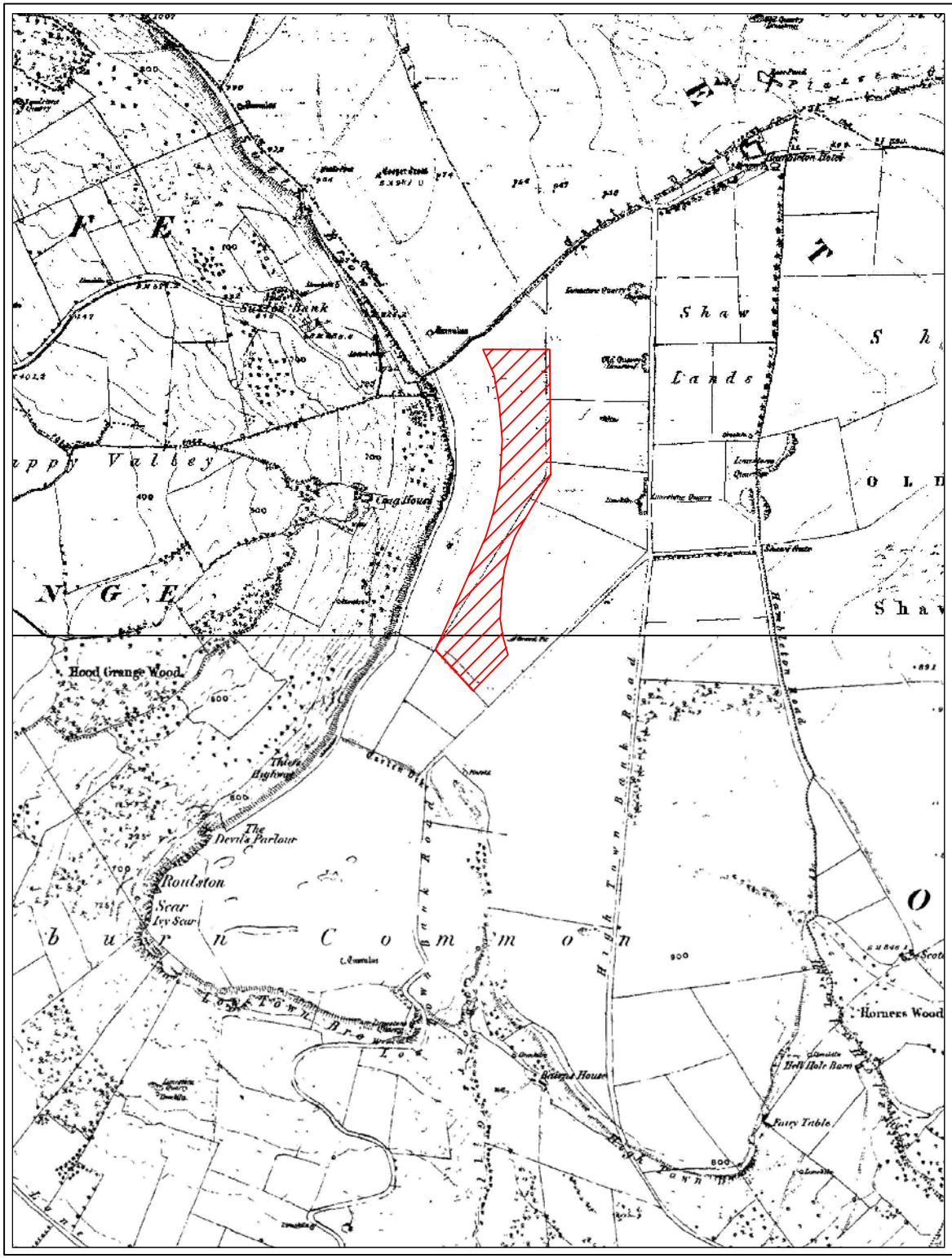
ILLUSTRATIONS

PLATES



0 500m

Figure 1: Sutton Bank Location Map



Oxford Archaeology North
Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TF

Tel 01524 848666
Fax 01524 848606

PROJECT:

Sutton Bank,
Thirsk
North Yorkshire

DRAWING No:

3

Scale 1:5000

DRAWN BY: JQ

DATE: January 2002

LOCATION:

KEY

Development Area

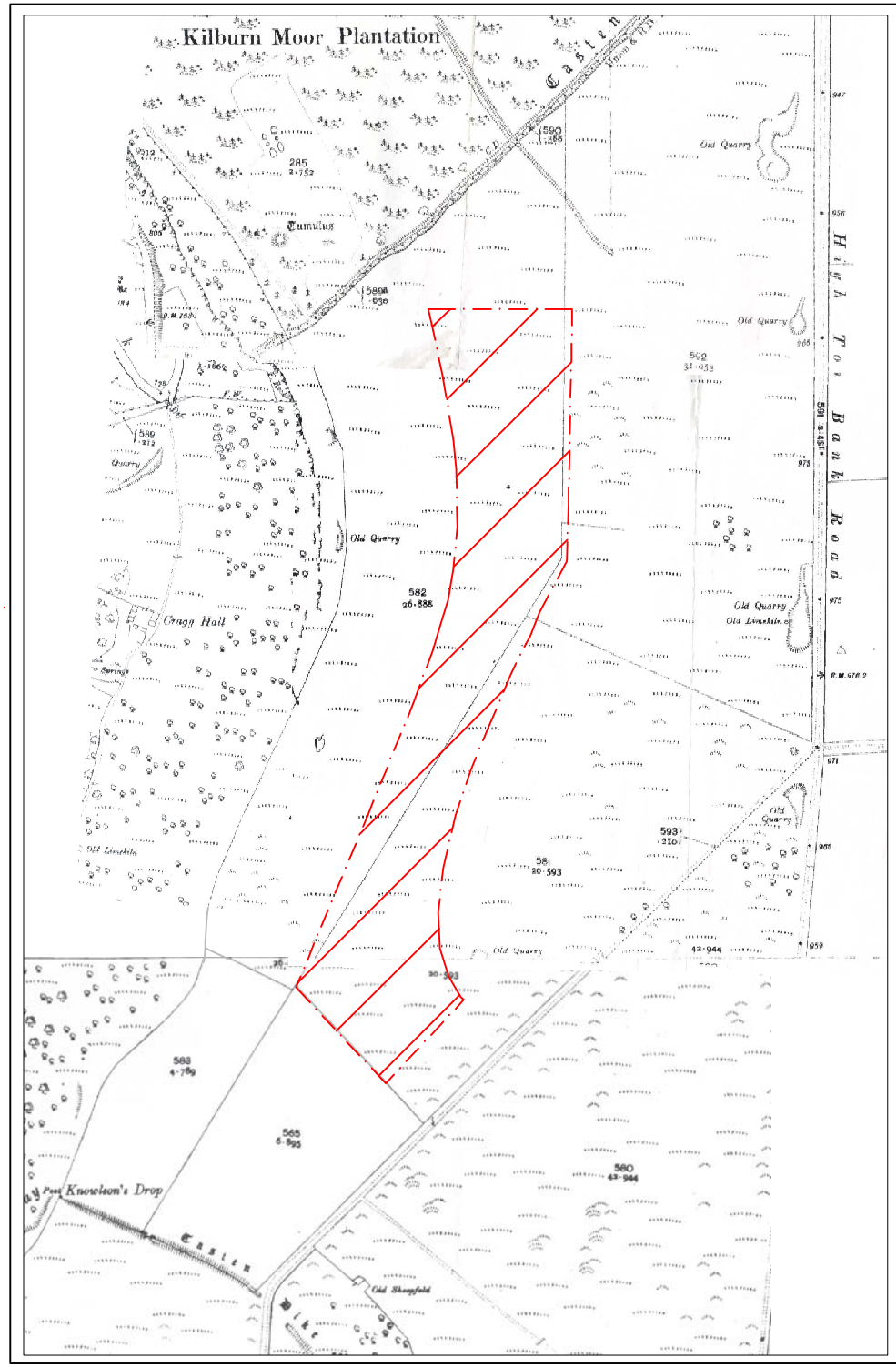
TITLE:

OS 1st edition Map (1856)

COMMISSIONED BY:

Yorkshire Gliding Club

Fig 2: Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" to 1 mile map (1856)



Oxford Archaeology North
Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TF

Tel 01524 848666
Fax 01524 848606

PROJECT:

Sutton Bank,
Thirsk
North Yorkshire

DRAWING No:

3

Scale 1:5000

DRAWN BY: JQ

DATE: January 2002

LOCATION:

KEY

Development Area

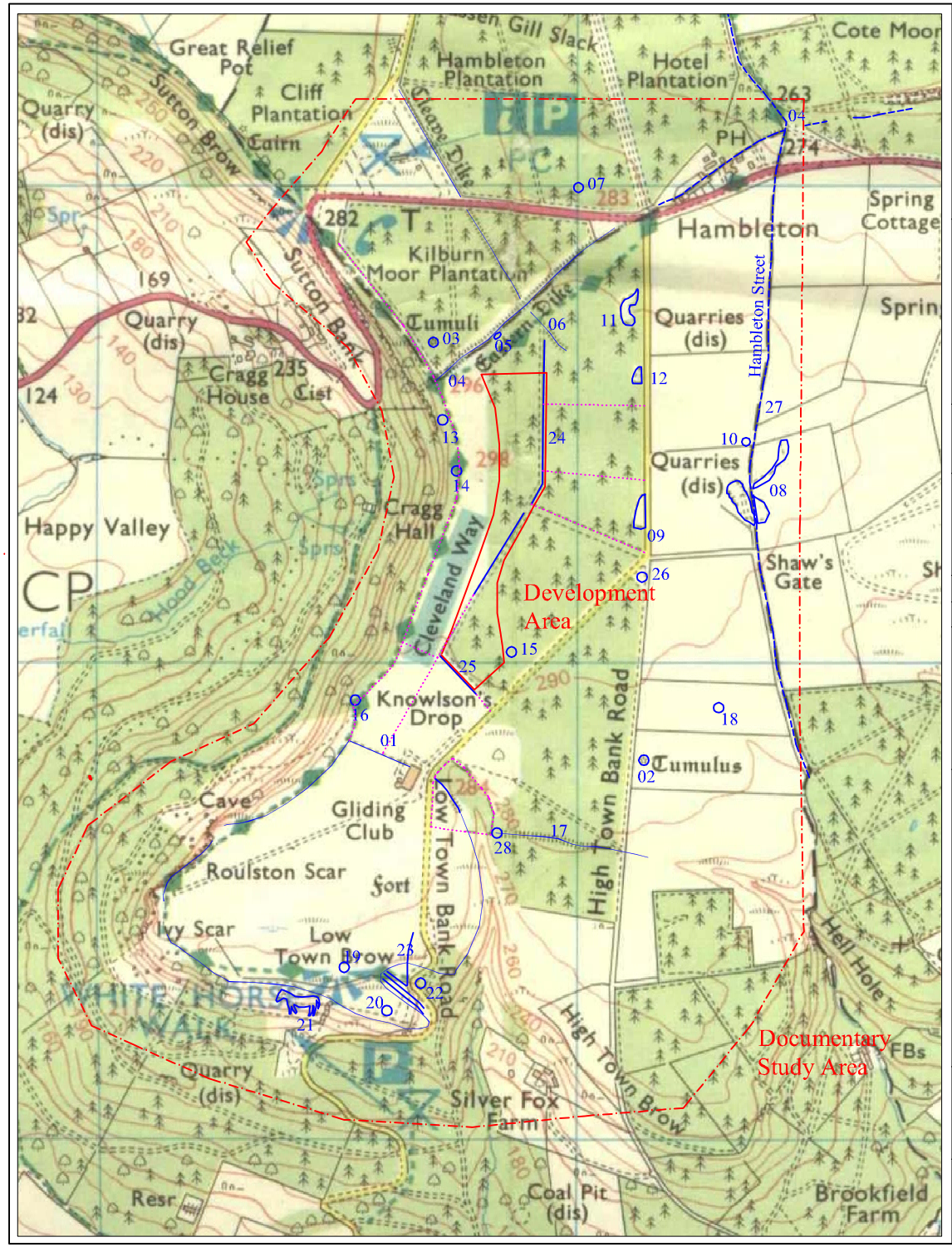
TITLE:

OS 1st edition Map 25" to 1 mile map (1893)

COMMISSIONED BY:

Yorkshire Gliding Club

Fig 3: Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25" to 1 mile map (1893)



Oxford Archaeology North
Storey Institute
Meeting House Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1TF

Tel 01524 848666
Fax 01524 848606

PROJECT:

Sutton Bank,
Thirsk
North Yorkshire

DRAWING No:

4

250m

Scale 1:5000

DRAWN BY: JQ

DATE: December 2001

KEY

Documented Enclosure Boundaries (OS 1st edition map (1893))

18 Sites

Study Area

Development Area

TITLE:

Site Location Plan

COMMISSIONED BY:

Yorkshire Gliding Club

Fig 4: Location of Sites in Gazetteer

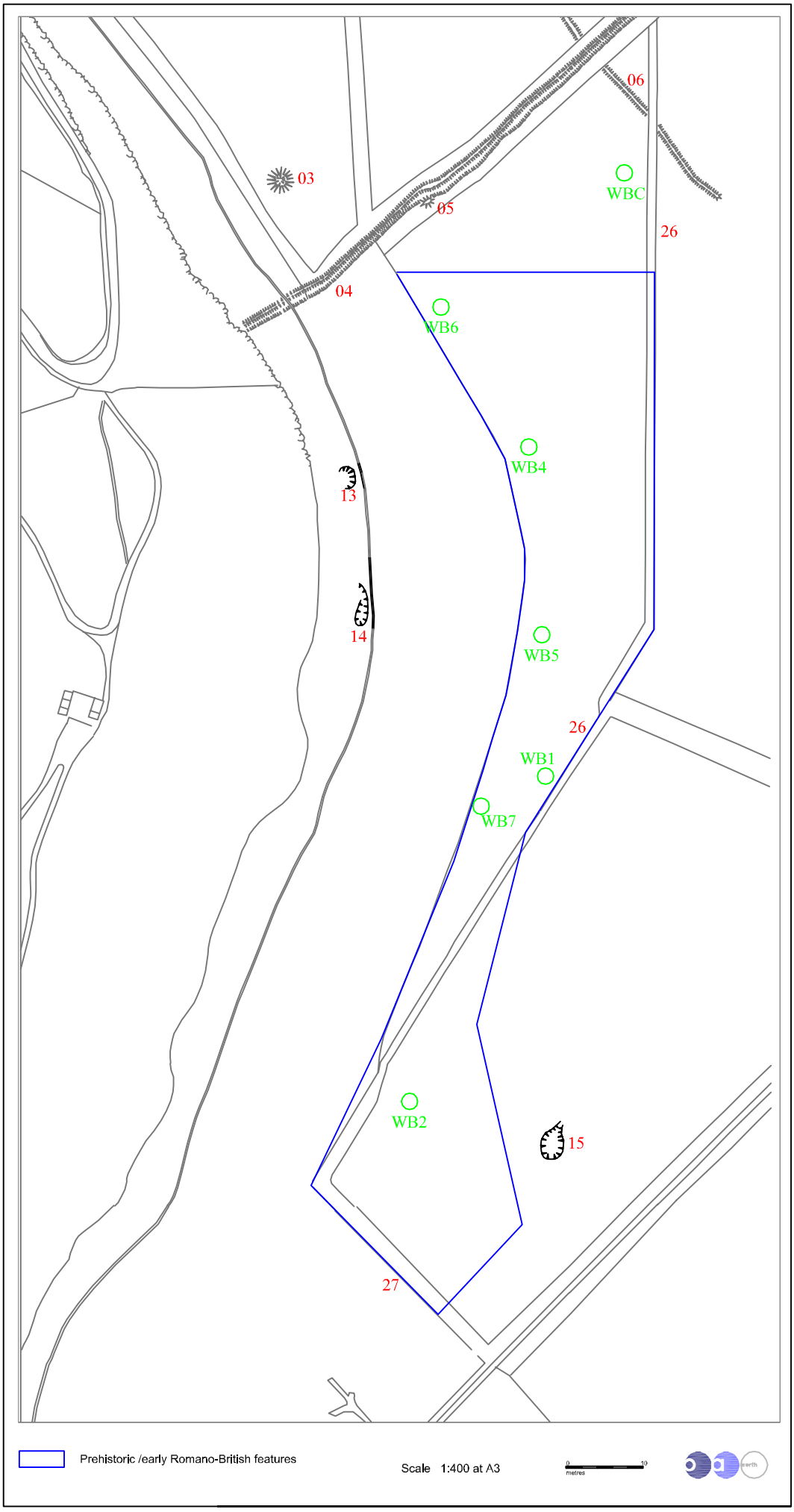


Fig 5: Survey and Watching Brief Plan

Plate 1: Casten Dyke (Site 04) diverts around round cairn Site 05, looking south-west

Plate 2: Casten Dyke (Site 04) looking north-east

Plate 3: General view of Sutton Bank looking North (NMR 12968/12)

Plate 4: Aerial view of the study area looking north-west before the forest clearance

Plate 3: A typical tree bole

Plate 4: Excavation of tree stumps adjacent to the central ride, looking north

oxfordarchaeology

Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848606
e: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: http://oxfordarchaeology.com

Chief Executive Officer
Ken Welsh, BSc, MCIfA
Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^O: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^O: 285627