

SKIPWITH COMMON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Phase 4: Integrated Photogrammetric, LiDAR and Landscape Survey Report



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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was invited in 2008 by Natural England to undertake a programme of archaeological landscape survey of elements of Skipwith Common (NGR SE 6571 3728 (approximate centre)), on behalf of Escrick Park Estate and Natural England. The surveys, which were undertaken on several seasons between 2008 and 2018, were intended to inform the conservation management of the common. The project has comprised a documentary study, an archaeological study of the airfield, a landscape survey of the remaining part of Skipwith Common and a detailed survey of a multiple boundary bank system. This report represents the fourth phase of recording, comprising discussion of LiDAR and photogrammetric survey, undertaken in 2018, the results of which compliment those of previous investigations.

The earliest activity in the vicinity of the study area is attested by possible Mesolithic microliths found during excavations in the 1940s, and findspots of Neolithic flints. Funerary round barrows constructed around the margins of Skipwith Common appear to be on the edge of prehistoric field systems and settlements identified from aerial photographs taken outside the study area. At least one prehistoric enclosed settlement and associated field system has been identified within the common. There were also groups (cemeteries) of Iron Age square barrows at the western end of Skipwith Common and at the northern end of North Common. Examples of square barrows have also been identified from aerial photography around the settlements in the adjoining fields.

Two substantial linear boundary features have been identified crossing Skipwith Common. These have multiple parallel banks which in places have an overall width of c 35m. One, recorded in the 2008 and 2009 field seasons, extends broadly north/south and a second example, recorded in 2010, runs from east to west along the same line as Sandy Lane. These boundary banks, which are of considerable archaeological significance, were major territorial boundaries. There are similar examples in the Yorkshire Wolds and the North York Moors, and are likely to be of prehistoric origin, although they often continue in use into the historic period.

Evidence for the medieval and post-medieval use of Skipwith Common has also been identified, and includes a number of areas of ridge and furrow. This indicates that although the common may have once formed waste land on the periphery of the Skipwith village, parts of it at least, were assarted (or taken out of common use) and turned over to arable cultivation. A map from 1769 shows that by this time, the study area had reverted back from arable land to common.

In 1940, land was requisitioned at Riccall for a military airfield, which was located over the south-western portion of Skipwith Common, some 450m to the south-west of the present study area. From August 1948 to February 1957 the airfield was used as an RAF storage site, but by 1985 the main use of the site was for agriculture and by 2002 many of the airfield buildings had been demolished and the runways had been partly removed. Features associated with this site, within the study area, include bomb stores, part of the runway, the remains of brick-built buildings and two pairs of machine gun pits.

Environment Agency LiDAR coverage of the study area was limited to about three-quarters of the northern and western areas of Skipwith Common. Five new sites were recorded, and several previously recorded features in the heavily-wooded northern common were better-defined on the LiDAR imagery, enabling closer characterisation. These were predominantly associated with possibly prehistoric field boundaries. The scale of sand quarrying on the eastern part of the common was also shown to be more extensive than had previously been identified.

Focussed on the west/east multiple-bank system, in an area relatively free of tree cover (also covered by LiDAR), aerial photographs taken from a UAV were used to generate a photogrammetric ground plan and a detailed DTM (Digital Terrain Model) across the ground

surface. No new sites were recorded, but the photogrammetric modelling provided better definition to many features, including the important multiple-banked boundary along the route of Sandy Lane, that had been identified during the 2010 survey.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was invited to undertake a LiDAR survey of Skipwith Common (NGR SE 6571 3728 (centred); Fig 1), which has substantial areas of woodland cover. Acquisition of the LiDAR data revealed that it was not available for the entire study area, only covering the northern common and the northern half of the southern common. Subsequently OA North were commissioned to undertake a photogrammetric survey of the Wash Dyke area on the eastern part of the southern common which is crossed by Moor Lane and which was not covered by trees. The following combined report incorporates data from the LiDAR analysis and photogrammetric survey along with the three previous field surveys undertaken in 2008, 2009 and 2010.
- 1.1.2 *Background:* there is a complex of remains across the site and its environs that date back to at least the Bronze Age, in the form of round barrows, and also Iron Age Square Barrows. Two multiple-bank boundary features have been identified; one extends north/south across the south-western part of the survey area and the second is orientated east/west and runs parallel with Sandy Lane. Both have the potential to be later prehistoric territorial boundaries and are of considerable regional significance. Surrounding the common are several complex field systems, identified by aerial photography, which are associated with round houses and square barrows; these are potentially of Iron Age or Romano-British date. Within the common are further Romano-British / Iron age settlements surviving as earthworks. One of the more recent landscape features is a Second World War airfield, now part overgrown, and there is the potential for associated defensive works associated with this installation.
- 1.1.3 This is the fourth phase of recording of Skipwith Common (Fig 2). The first phase of work examined the western part of Skipwith Common, including part of Riccall Airfield (OA North 2008). The second phase was the survey of the Northern Common and the northern part of the main Skipwith Common (OA North 2009). This also resulted in the completion of a topographic survey of a multiple-bank boundary system that extends north/south across the common. The third phase of survey followed on from this work, and aided by the Friends of Skipwith Common, covered both a large area at the eastern end of Skipwith Common and a small additional area within the airfield on Riccall Common that had not previously been covered (OA North 2010). The current LiDAR analysis and photogrammetric survey have enhanced these previous investigations.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted in October 2017 by OA North to Natural England. This provided for a programme of LiDAR analysis with optional photogrammetry. This investigation was intended to enhance the results gained from previous programmes of desk-based research, a survey of the archaeological and historical features within further parts of Skipwith Common, and a programme of training in survey techniques for the Friends of Skipwith Common.

2.2 LANDSCAPE SURVEY

- 2.2.1 *Gazetteer of Sites:* all of the information concerning archaeological sites within the areas assessed over the course of the survey project has been collated into a gazetteer (*Appendix 2*). The individual entries provide details of the location, period, character and significance of sites, the references used to identify sites, and photographs where features were identified in the field. Locations are given as ten-figure National Grid References where possible, and the position of each site is indicated on maps of the study area (Figs 3-6). On these maps, sites are marked either as single points, or where possible, defined by lines demarcating the shape and extent of the surveyed features.
- 2.2.2 Desk-based Research: a limited programme of desk-based research of the study area was undertaken. This was intended to provide an archaeological and historical background to the area sufficient to inform the field survey, rather than being a comprehensive historical study. An assessment was undertaken of data held in the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER), the National Monuments Record (NMR), and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). All records for sites recorded on these databases for the whole of the study area were obtained.
- 2.2.3 *Aerial Photography:* the results of the National Mapping Programme (NMP) of aerial photographic interpretation for the Vale of York were provided by English Heritage, via Natural England. They proved to be a remarkable indicator of cropmarks in the fields surrounding the common (Figs 5 and 6). In addition, oblique air photographs, taken as part of the 2008 season of survey (OA North 2008), were studied and the results were incorporated as appropriate.
- 2.2.4 *Field Survey:* the survey was undertaken as an enhanced OA North Level 1b-type survey (OA North 2002) of an area encompassing 1.59km² (Fig 1). The survey involved four elements: Reconnaissance; mapping; photography and description.
- 2.2.5 **Reconnaissance:** the walkover survey element of the project was undertaken by field walking, varying from 30-50m line intervals depending on visibility (as affected by tree density), terrain and safety considerations. The survey aimed to identify, locate and record all archaeological sites and features on the ground. Those sites already identified by the archival study (HER and NMR) were checked against their entry and, where appropriate, the entry was enhanced.
- 2.2.6 *Mapping:* the location and extent of identified sites were mapped by differential GPS survey. The GPS used was a Leica GPS 1200 real time differential survey instrument, which achieve accuracies of \pm 0.03m; however, in areas of tree cover this deteriorated down to \pm 0.5m and in areas of very dense cover, it was as poor as \pm 1.0m. Despite the extensive tree canopy cover, a fix was obtained from the GPS for all sites.

- 2.2.7 **Photography:** in conjunction with the landscape survey a photographic archive was generated, which recorded significant features, as well as aspects of the general landscape. Photographs were in colour digital and 35mm black and white print format; the digital photographs were used to accompany the present report.
- 2.2.8 **Description:** the descriptive data was input directly on site into a Psion palm computer and, subsequently, incorporated into an Access 97 compatible database. The input into the system was guided by a *pro forma* to ensure uniformity and consistency. The description incorporated a provisional interpretation of the function, chronology and purpose of a site, where possible.

2.3 DETAILED SURVEY OF SKIPWITH NORTH

2.3.1 As part of the survey training programme it was agreed with the Friends of Skipwith Common and Natural England to undertake instruction in instrument survey techniques. The detailed survey concentrated on recording the southernmost part of the multiple-bank boundary system, which has been part surveyed in the 2008 season (OA North 2008). To enable a broad training in survey techniques, different instruments were used and where satellite reception allowed, parts of the banks were surveyed using high accuracy GPS. The results from all techniques were combined within a CAD system.

2.4 DETAILED SURVEY OF THE SANDY LANE MULTIPLE BANK BOUNDARY

2.4.1 As part of the survey training programme it was agreed with the Friends of Skipwith Common and Natural England to undertake instruction in survey techniques to Historic England level 3 (2017), on the multiple-bank boundary system identified during the 2009 season (OA North 2009). The results were combined within a CAD system; The survey output consisted of a plan of the earthworks, which was superimposed onto the main identification survey mapping (Figs 3 and 4).

2.5 RICCALL AIRFIELD SURVEY

- 2.5.1 The extent of Riccall Airfield originally covered an area larger than that of the present day common land and, as such, the context of the airfield cannot be understood looking at the present survey area in isolation. The desk-based assessment considered the areas outside of the common and recorded extant features accordingly.
- 2.5.2 **Desk-based Research:** the desk-based research gathered cartographic, documentary and aerial photographic information pertinent to the airfield to provide a basic level of information about the site and its original form. The desk-based research covered the National Monuments Record (NMR); North Yorkshire HER; East Riding Record Office, Beverley; The Royal Air Force Museum, London, and The Defence of Britain database at the Archaeological and Historical Data Service (AHDS).
- 2.5.3 *Site Survey and Aerial Photography:* the primary aim of the field visit was to establish the present-day survival and condition of Second World War features identified by the desk-based research. The area of the airfield that lay outside the common is in private ownership and was not subject to field survey, but was examined by aerial photography, which outlined the land use, and any indications of extant survival of Second World War features.

- 2.5.4 The site survey comprised a comprehensive examination of all airfield-related structures and features on the common within the perimeter of the airfield. It used a combination of historic and more recent plans as a basis for the location and identification of features. The sites were documented through a combination of high quality digital photography and annotated site plans, to produce a level 1 survey of the buildings and earthwork features (Historic England 2016, 2017). More detailed notes were generated as necessary where they assisted with a description of the condition of the site. Locations of structures and features were recorded using a hand-held GPS, accurate to approximately 2m.
- 2.5.5 Second World War features previously identified as part of the original survey (OA North 2008) were assessed for their condition, and a condition report produced for each one. A comparison was made between Second World War mapping of the airfield, 1948 air photographs and current air photographs. This allowed an assessment as to which of the original features have been lost and which remain extant. A record was produced for any feature that survived either as an extant structure or as foundations; records were not compiled for features that had been destroyed.
- 2.5.6 It had been proposed to obtain copies of original building drawings from the RAF Museum for each of the standing buildings identified during the survey within the extent of the common. In the event, it was found that no specific building drawings had survived for any of the identified structures.
- 2.5.7 A series of six display panels (see OA North 2010) celebrating the airfield was compiled to celebrate the opening of the Skipwith Common National Nature Reserve. These examined the history of the airfield, the regeneration of Skipwith Common after the abandonment of the airfield and the archaeology of the airfield.

2.6 PHOTOGRAMMETRY

- 2.6.1 A detailed level 3 archaeological survey (Historic England 2017) was undertaken by a process of photogrammetry using photographs taken from an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) or drone (Fig 7). The drone survey was carried out using a DJI phantom 4 Pro drone fitted with 20-megapixel camera with a 24mm lens. The drone was flown at an altitude up to 70m. A broad range of up to 1500 photographs was taken from multiple locations and altitudes, which provided considerable overlap between each photograph, sufficient to generate 3D models.
- 2.6.2 *CAA Licence:* UAV Pilots need to have a Permission for Commercial Operations (PFCO) from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to undertake commercial work and this necessitates that pilots need to have licenses to fly a Small Unmanned Aircraft (SUA). OA North has two licensed commercial pilots (licence number BNUCS-S 0478-12-02-02) who can fly SUAs up to 7kg in mass.
- 2.6.3 *Survey Control:* survey control is applied by the placement of ground markers that are clearly visible from the UAV camera and are used in the photogrammetric modelling process. Typically, between eight and 15 survey control points are applied to the ground (using spray paint) across the survey area. The position of the markers is located using a survey grade differential Leica GPS which provides accuracies of ± 20mm.
- 2.6.4 **Photogrammetric Modelling:** a ground plan was generated by means of photogrammetry using the aerial photographs taken from the UAV. Photogrammetric processing was undertaken using Agisoft Photoscan software which provided detailed modelling using an overlap of up to 1500 photographs, and created a detailed DTM (Digital Terrain Model). The photographs were then digitally draped over the model to create an accurate

three-dimensional representation of the ground surface. The primary output was an accurate two-dimensional Digital Elevation Model (DEM) in the form of a raster image, which was used to provide plan information. The drawings were created within an industry-standard CAD package (Autocad 2011) and were then enhanced and annotated to show the form and location of all features of historical significance.

2.7 LIDAR

2.7.1 Environment Agency DTM 1m resolution LiDAR tiles were available for around three-quarters of the survey area. LiDAR shows land surfaces beneath woodland cover which can be located precisely and in much more detail than conventional GPS survey. The LiDAR data were processed and subjected to a 3x exaggeration of the vertical axis to enhance the depiction of the earthworks (known as a hillshade view). The geo-referenced hillshade plot was then added to the CAD survey plan for analysis and interpretation.

2.8 ARCHIVE

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

3. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The following comprises brief descriptions of the location and topography of the study area, and its archaeological and historical background. This is in order to provide some interpretative context for the survey results.

3.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.2.1 The village of Skipwith is situated within the low-lying Vale of York, *c* 5km to the northeast of Selby. Skipwith common is located predominantly to the south of the village, but also extends northwards on the east side of the village, in an area known as Crook Moor (or Back Common) (Figs 1 and 2). The bulk of the southern part of the common was the subject of a survey carried out in 2008 (OA North 2008). The area to the north of the common, Crook Moor, was surveyed the following year (OA North 2009). Two further areas; the airfield and the south-east corner of the study area, were surveyed in 2010 (OA North 2010).



Plate 1: Recent Google Earth aerial image of the survey area

- 3.2.2 The survey area, which lies at approximately 10m AOD, is fairly flat. Several minor roads and tracks cross the study area, which is surrounded by agricultural fields. The present-day terrain comprises generally poorly-drained ground with numerous ponds and lakes, surrounded by thick tree cover. In the better-drained ground there is a covering of scrub and immature trees (mainly birch) reflecting that the tree cover is a relatively recent phenomenon.
- 3.2.3 During the last Ice Age, the underlying soft Triassic or New Red Sandstone of the Vale of York was eroded by glacial activity and latterly, as the glaciers retreated, this area was a large inland lake, which was subsequently partially infilled with material from the surrounding hills (MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd 1994). The solid geology comprises Permian and Triassic Sandstones and the superficial geology comprises pelostagnogley soils and gleyic brown sands (BGS 2018). The soils are characterised as low fertility wet lowland heath, with naturally wet, very acid sandy and loamy soils (Landis 2018).

3.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.3.1 *Mesolithic:* during the Mesolithic period the inhabitants of the British Isles employed a subsistence strategy traditionally viewed as the exploitation of natural resources by activities based on hunting, gathering, and fishing (Manby 2003; Milner *et al* 2018). Several flint blades described as 'typical Yorkshire microliths', were recovered from excavations carried out on square barrows located approximately 1.5km to the west of the southern end of the present study area in 1941 (Site 1; OA North 2008; Mike Griffiths and Associates 1997, 7).
- 3.3.2 **Neolithic:** approximately commensurate with the adoption of farming, from c 4000 BC, the Neolithic period saw an increase in more permanent settlement, and the beginnings of the widespread construction of monumental architecture (Cummings 2017). Woodland clearance took place in the Neolithic period, evidenced by a fall in tree pollen, replaced by grass, and in some cases, cereal pollen indicative of arable farming (Manby et al 2003). The NMR records the findspot of a Neolithic flint axe from the vicinity of the study area (NMR SE 63 NE 22, at NGR SE 66 38) and two stone axes (NMR SE 63 NW 13, at NGR SE 62 37) have also been found some distance to the west of the study area. A double ditched enclosure of unknown date is visible as a cropmark to the west of the south end of the study area (NMR SE 63 NE 41, at NGR SE 6500 3795). This site has been interpreted as a possible Neolithic (NMR Record Description) or even an Iron Age enclosure. The NMR also offers the suggestion that it may have been a nineteenth century tree plantation; however, there is nothing shown in this location on the Ordnance Survey (OS) first edition map (1855), and there is no correlation between this enclosure and the nineteenth century field system, indicating that it was of a much earlier date.
- 3.3.3 *Bronze Age:* the Bronze Age in Britain developed gradually from the preceding Neolithic during the mid-third millennium BC. Lithic technology changed, and a wider range of flint tools were used, including knives and scrapers (Edmonds 1995). Perforated stone objects, such as axe-hammers and bronze implements, also began to be used (*ibid*). Pottery styles changed, and burial monuments changed from long, communal barrows to single round barrows most often containing one primary burial (Manby *et al* 2003, 29). A findspot of prehistoric pottery, of unspecific date is recorded in the HER (Site 125).
- 3.3.4 Five probable Bronze Age barrows were located within the 2008 Skipwith Common study area (OA North 2008, Sites **2-5** and **14**), whilst two possible round barrows were identified within the 2009 study area (OA North 2009, Sites **194** and **196**). These latter

sites are located *c* 500m to the north-east of Sites **2-5**. Further possible barrows survive as cropmarks to the north of the 2008 study area within South Moor Field (NMR SE 63 NE 38, at NGR SE 6543 3780), and south of Adamson Farm (NMR 63 NW 35, at NGR SE 6468 3779). For the most part, these large barrows were located along the northern edge of the common, and at the southern limit of early field systems indicated by aerial photography (OA North 2008).

3.3.5 There are two well-defined prehistoric linear territorial multiple-banked boundaries on Skipwith Common. The date of these banks is unknown, although it is entirely possible that they originated in the Bronze Age, as there are putative barrows within the boundary bank complex. The first boundary (Site 18) runs for *c* 1.5km on a north-west/south-east alignment before disappearing into an area of cultivated enclosed land to the south. The boundary was recorded by the Friends of Skipwith Common during the 2008 and 2009 surveys (OA North 2008 and OA North 2009). The second linear bank complex was identified during the 2009 survey along the line of Sandy Lane, on an east/west orientation, and extended for a distance of at least *c* 0.9km; the site was recorded during the third survey season in 2010 (Site 334; Figs 3 and 5).



Plate 2: Aerial photograph showing the line of multiple banks (Site 18) crossing the study area



Plate 1: Lines of multiple banks (Site 18) in the southern part of the study area

- *Iron Age/Roman:* Site 1 is Danes Hill Iron Age square barrow cemetery, located at the western end of Skipwith Common. This cemetery consisted of more than 20 barrows prior to the construction of Riccall Airfield, which destroyed several of them. The remaining barrows are visible as cropmarks and low mounds. An additional group of seven dispersed probable Iron Age square barrows are located to the north and west of Site 1 (NMR SE 63 NW 33, at NGR SE 6437 3785). There is a further Iron Age cemetery, located c 3km to the north-east (SE 6666 3990), which confusingly is also named Danes Hill on the Ordnance Survey maps, and is located to the north-west of the junction between Bonby and Broad Lanes on Crook Moor (Site 118). These burial mounds were investigated in 1850 by the Yorkshire Antiquarian Club, and cremated bone was found within them (Historic England 2018a; NHLE 1018603). The mounds were found to be surrounded by square ditches and were likened to the cemetery at Site 1. The 2008 survey identified seven possible barrows (Sites 135-36, 152, 153, and 155-57). One square barrow recorded in the area on the HER (Site 122) could not be located. One barrow (Site 135) is large (17.5m diameter), circular, up to 1.3m in height, and has a large flat top; it has the characteristics of many of the other suspected round barrows in the Skipwith area; there are several parallels for this complex of sites in North Yorkshire (Stead 1991; Dent 1985).
- 3.3.7 A number of Iron Age/Romano British sites have been identified through aerial photographic analyses undertaken as part of the National Mapping Programme (NMP) for the Vale of York. To the west of the present study area are two main complexes of sites, NMR SE 63 NW 8 (at NGR SE 6429 3792) and NMR SE 63 NE 38 (at NGR SE 6543 3780). NMR SE 63 NW 8 is located north of the Danes Hill Barrow Cemetery (OA North 2008, Site 1). This is a probable settlement site comprising a complex of superimposed rectilinear ditch-defined enclosures and associated trackways, extending over an east/west area of *c* 850m. NMR SE 63 NE 38 is located *c* 250m west of the southern end of the current study area, and comprises the remains of a field system visible as cropmarks, extending westwards for 750m, with the main axis of the ditches being

- west to east and north to south. The cropmarks include some double-ditched rectilinear enclosures, some of which contain round houses. Roman pottery was found in this area during a programme of field walking (MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd 1994).
- 3.3.8 The second phase of survey (OA North 2009) revealed a pair of early enclosures / field systems (Sites **161/219** and **163**) on Crook Moor, which are seemingly earlier than the elements of the extant field system and have the potential to be of late prehistoric or Roman date. Their size and orientation are comparable to those enclosures identified by aerial photography to the east and south of Crook Moor (NMR SE 63 NE 17 and 18).
- 3.3.9 North of Skipwith, and west of the study area is a further extensive probable Iron Age/Romano-British settlement area, which extends east/west for c 1270m (NMR SE 63 NE 14, at NGR SE 657 390). The site includes a field system, trackways and round houses, and appears to comprise more than one phase of activity, as ditches overlap, and the character of the enclosures differ. For the most part, these features have a different orientation to the field system shown on the OS first edition (1855) map, although there are occasional Post-medieval cropmark features. The main alignment of the ditches is north-west to south-east, but there is an east/west boundary at the southern end of the site, which possibly represents a separate phase. Two square barrows lie adjacent to this boundary (NMR SE 63 NE 16, at NGR SE 6609 3892). The settlement site appears to peter out c 125m to the west of the current study area. However, medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow (Sites 184 and 186) was recorded across this part of the study area, which possibly masks or has truncated earlier features. Approximately 100m to the east of this part of the study area was a further area of cropmarks (NMR SE 63 NE 35, at NGR SE 6732 3917), which comprise a probable Iron Age/Romano-British settlement extending over 800m. The main axis of the ditches in this settlement are north/south and east/west, and, again, there appears to be more than one phase of use.
- 3.3.10 To the north, the study area is flanked by further areas of Iron Age/Romano-British settlement, most markedly NMR SE 63 NE 17 (at NGR SE 6634 3965) to the immediate west, and NMR SE 63 NE 18 (at NGR SE 6710 3983) to the immediate east. NMR SE 63 NE 17 extends over 1km, and NMR SE 63 NE 18 extends over 600m, with the main axis of both areas being north/south and west/east. Given the common alignments they are considered to be associated with each other, and NMR SE 63 NE 35 to the south. The Iron Age barrow cemetery (Site 118) is located between these two areas (NMR SE 63 NE 17 and NMR SE 63 NE 18), which possibly suggests a change in the use of the landscape in this area, with the barrows forming a focal point for the surrounding settlement.
- 3.3.11 The lack of other identified Iron Age sites from the study area may be a result of sites being obscured by features such as ridge and furrow, vegetation and tree cover, rather than an absence of activity. Both sites NMR SE 63 NE 17 and NMR SE 63 NE 18 contain complexes of ditches which extend up to the boundaries of the current study area and seem likely to extend into it. Several possible Iron Age field boundaries and enclosures, (Sites 161, 163, 219 and 342), were identified on Northern Common.
- 3.3.12 *Early Medieval:* the nature and extents of settlement of the Skipwith area in the post-Roman period is unclear, although the nearby Rivers Ouse and Derwent were used as entry points by the Anglian settlers who came to region in the sixth century (Mike Griffiths and Associates 1997, 9). Skipwith Church has a late Saxon tower and north nave wall. There is at least one fragment of re-used Anglo-Scandinavian sculptured stone in the fabric of the tower, which is probably of ninth to eleventh century date (*op cit*, 14; Lang 1991, 215; Taylor and Taylor 1965). The sculpture is incorporated into the earliest

- pre-Conquest phase of the church's construction (Lang 1991, 215), and suggests that there was considerable activity on the site prior to the church being built. There also appears to be a semi-circular graveyard, possibly Anglo-Saxon in origin, which extends beyond the boundary of the present graveyard (*op cit*, 10). Work by Hall *et al* (2008) entailed an investigation of the West Tower; this revealed a building earlier than the tower, around which were burials, some in iron-bracketed wooden coffins and a piece of early ninth century sculpture was also found. This building was replaced by a church which incorporated the standing tower (*ibid*).
- 3.3.13 The origin of the name 'Danes Hill', which has been given to the two areas of Iron Age square barrows in the study area (Sites 1 and 118), is believed to have come from the Battle of Stamford Bridge (19km to the north east of Skipwith) in 1066 (Hall *et al* 2008). The Viking army, commanded by King Harald Hadrada of Norway, is thought to have landed and made camp near Riccall on the River Ouse. The army then marched to Stamford Bridge where they were surprised and defeated by the English Army, led by King Harold Godwinson, on the 25th September 1066. The Viking survivors of the battle then returned to their ships, and it is thought that many of their dead were buried nearby at Riccall. This led to the confused identification of the areas of burial mounds at Skipwith Common as Viking burial grounds, hence the name 'Danes Hill' (*ibid*).
- 3.3.14 *Medieval to post-medieval:* Skipwith is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as 'Schiperwic' (Sheep Farm) and is described as consisting of three carucates of land (plough-land), which belonged to Hugh son of Baldric (Faull and Stinson 1986). The estate was held by the d'Avranches family from c 1200 to c 1354, after which it passed to the Skipwith family when Catherine d'Avranche married William Skipwith (Allison 1976). In 1708 the Skipwith estate was sold by Mary Skipwith to Francis Annesley. The estate was sold to Thomas Bradford in 1801, and to JP Toulson in 1802. When JAP Toulson died in 1898, the estate was sold to Lord Wenlock, who held the Escrick Estate, and it then descended through the Forbes Adam family (*ibid*; MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. 1994). The current study area is located in the area of back common for Skipwith Manor, which is also known as 'Crook Moor' (Allison 1976). This area appears to have been part of the Wenlock Estate earlier than the remainder of Skipwith Common, as it is depicted on a map showing the Wenlock estates from 1851 (UHA DDFA/45/19).
- 3.3.15 A scheduled moated site is located *c* 350m to the north-west of the south end of the study area (National Heritage List for England (NHLE) 1015543). The scheduling description states that this is considered to be the location of the manor until 1657, when the house or hall was demolished. It was replaced with a cottage named Moat Hall, which stood on the site until the twentieth century. A number of other scheduled moated sites are located in the wider area around Skipwith, including at Riccall, to the west of the study area, and Aughton, to the east.
- 3.3.16 In the twelfth century, the study area was within the Royal Forest of Between Ouse and Derwent, and was under forest law, which meant that there were restrictions on its use. In particular, assarting, or woodland clearance for farming, was limited as a licence was required to carry this out (Allison 1976; Sheppard 1966, 67-8). In 1234 the area was disafforested, and assarting then took place throughout the later medieval and post-medieval periods. This is attested by the irregular-shaped fields, suggesting piecemeal clearance, and field names recorded in the seventeenth century, such as ridding, rudding and hurst, which all refer to clearance (*ibid*). Assarting appears to have been carried out by groups of people who then shared the land, either as stinted pasture or as open fields, divided into furlongs (Hazel Williams *pers comm*).

- 3.3.17 In the seventeenth century within the study area, there were open fields at Out, Inholme, West-, North- and South Fields, North Tofts, Southmoors and Harthowray (Plate 4). There was also common meadow land in the Ings and pasture in the Holmes, both located on the west side of the village (Allison 1976). A programme of field walking has been carried out in South Moor Field to the west of the south end of the study area. Finds of medieval pottery indicate that this land was cultivated from the twelfth century onwards (MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd 1994).
- 3.3.18 By 1769, estate mapping (Plate 3) reveals that Out and Inholme fields had been either enclosed or incorporated within other fields. Towards the end of the eighteenth century, the Holmes became a stinted pasture, and was shared by several stock-owners who each held beast-gates, permitting a fixed number of stock on to the land (Allison 1976; Sheppard 1966, 64).
- 3.3.19 Uses of the common during the medieval and post-medieval periods would have included pasture, and the taking of peat, whin (gorse), ling (heather), timber and sand (Rackham 2000, 139; Allison 1976). Skipwith Common was specifically referred to as one of three turbaries (along with those at Tillmire and Askham Bog) that were used by the city of York in the fourteenth century (Rotherham 2009a, 25; 2009b). Numerous sand extraction pits have been identified across the study area.

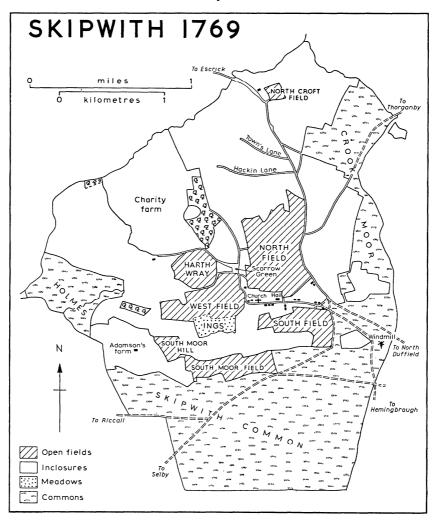


Plate 2: Skipwith 1769. From a map in the Escrick Park Estate Office (after Allison 1976, 90)

3.3.20 Thirty features comprising, or associated with, areas of ridge and furrow cultivation have been identified across Skipwith Common by previous phases of survey. This indicates

- that the area to the north-east of the village was assarted, and subsequently, used for arable cultivation. As such, it may have formed one of Skipwith's open fields. Whilst ridge and furrow can be difficult to date, some areas have ridge separation wider than others (*eg* Site **237**), which is a characteristic of medieval ridge and furrow that was formed by ploughing with teams of oxen (Rackham 2000, 79).
- 3.3.21 The system of open fields and common rights continued through the nineteenth century, with payments being made to the Lord of the Manor for the common rights. In 1807, 14 people paid for 55½ of the Holmes beast-gates, 15 people paid for rights on the common and 11 people paid for the use of the lanes and balks (Allison 1976; UHA DDFA/14/265; UHA DDFA/41/31). The fields around Skipwith were not enclosed until 1904 and, although the common was left out of the enclosure, a Board of Conservators was established who made by-laws concerning the common. This included free access to the common, allowed for the 'playing of games on Little Common' and stated that 'the tumuli shall, so far as is possible, be preserved by the conservators' (Allison 1976; ERRO DDX 165/14).
- 3.3.22 *Plantations:* a documentary source mentioned that three plantations were established in the early nineteenth century, near the road that crosses Skipwith Common (Allison 1976, 91), and Site 113 was a plantation named Fox Covert (covert meaning cover) on the OS first edition mapping (1855). Parts of the boundary of this plantation were identified during the original walkover survey (Sites 100 and 101). A further feature (Site 76), consisting of a prominent curved bank, appears to correspond with the north-western boundary of a plantation, shown on the 1910 mapping in the northern area of the common (Site 116).
- 3.3.23 *Communications:* an area of waste surrounded by agricultural land would inevitably have been crossed by communication routes. Drove routes utilised, where possible, unfarmed/unenclosed land where there would be no restriction on passage, and grazing for the animals on route. The routes of drove roads typically cross some of the highest and most remote waste areas to avoid enclosed land (Haldane 2006). Skipwith Common would have been ideally suited and there are some long established primary communication routes across it, such as Moor Lane, King Rudding Lane and Sandy Lane, which probably originated as drove routes and were formalised as roads during the post-medieval period. One section of Moor Lane survives as a disused earthwork (Site 284), as the current road was diverted in the late nineteenth century, presumably when Riccall Common was enclosed. There are other features attesting to the communication usage of the moor. Site 10 refers to a guide post marked at the junction of King Rudding Lane with Moor Lane, a north-east / south-west aligned track through the common. There were also two narrow hollow ways (Sites 47 and 42), located on the line of a path marked on the current mapping, which appear to have subsequently fallen out of use.
- 3.3.24 *Flax Industry:* the flax industry was an important local industry for Skipwith and Selby with flax traders listed in the Kelly's Directories of the early twentieth century (MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd 1994, 21). Flax is a member of the linseed family, extracted fibres are called line (from the Old English *lin*) and provide the raw material for linen (Higham 1989, 42). To extract the fibres the plant had to be pulled, not cut, from the ground, as the fibres run the full length of the plant. The plants would then be tied with string into bundles, or beets, and transported to a specially constructed or adapted pond to rot down, which would release the fibres from the rest of the plant matter. The bundles were alternately soaked and dried and turned over. This process of rotting, or retting, took between 10-15 days, after which the bundles would be cut open and the plants spread out to dry. In order to dry the plants properly they had to be frequently

- turned. Once this was complete, the plants would be re-tied into bundles and stored until they were needed. The stalks were then broken to release the internal fibres, which were drawn out by pulling handfuls of the plants over sharp spikes, or hackles. The size of these spikes would become smaller as the process went on, so as to ensure that even the finest of fibres was extracted. The fibres could then be spun (Higham 1989, 40).
- 3.3.25 Commonly, flax retting ponds are on flat land, close to a river, and utilised small streams so that a controlled water supply could be used. Raised banks are frequently found surrounding the pond, which were used to dry the flax. The ponds were typically located away from settlements so as not to pollute the water supply, and also because the process of retting produces a strong unpleasant smell. Higham notes a frequent link between the linen industry and the woollen industry, so that retting ponds are often found in association with fulling mills, tenter banks and potash pits (Higham 1989, 38 and 51). The provision of watercourses, sluices and raised banks, was relatively costly and retting pools tend to be found in areas held by major landowners, who could meet the expense of setting up the ponds and then profit from renting them out (*op cit*, 50).
- 3.3.26 The OS first edition shows two ponds (Site 246) c 250m to the south of the eastern end of Skipwith village, labelled 'line ponds', and the name strongly suggests a link with flax processing and linen production. The ponds are situated on the edge of the common, immediately south-east of the open fields, and tracks linked the area to Skipwith to the north, and to the Skipwith / North Duffield road to the east. A detailed survey of the ponds by the Friends of Skipwith Common has indicated that they are highly likely to have been retting ponds (OA North 2009), not only because of the name, but because of the complex of artificial water channels feeding the ponds and the corresponding ones draining the ponds. The south pond is irregular in shape but appears to comprise a main area, with two narrow compartments extending to the west and south-east. It is possible that the water levels in these areas were further controlled with sluices. A narrow channel was located between the south and north ponds, again probably controlled with a sluice. The north pond is smaller than the south, and is approximately S-shaped. Again, it is possible that the narrow bends in this pond were areas where water flow was controlled between compartments. A channel at the north end of this pond joins with the Southfield Drain, which runs east/west to the south of Skipwith village. A further pond is located to the south-east, and was linked to the southern end of the line ponds with a channel. This appears to have been the water source for the ponds, which would have been controlled by one or more sluices. A further possible retting pond was identified located to the north of the Southfield Drain (Site 202), however, this pond was not depicted on the OS first edition map of 1855, and was probably earlier than the line ponds.
- 3.3.27 *Corn Mills:* a windmill was recorded in Skipwith in 1536 and is thought to be the mill shown on the first edition OS map of 1855 on the south side of the road from Skipwith to North Duffield (Allison 1976). The site of a second windmill (Site **231**) is located on the north side of the North Duffield Road, in an area named 'Old Mill Hill'. It comprised a large semi-circular ditch, 2.5m wide and 0.5m deep, defining a raised platform. The latter site is shown as an earthwork on the first edition OS map of 1855, whilst the former mill to the south is labelled as a corn mill, and was evidently still functioning. A further possible windmill site (Site **233**) was identified and recorded near to windmill Site **231**, and has been tentatively interpreted as the possible site of a former windmill base; however, this feature is not marked on any historic mapping.
- 3.3.28 *Sand Extraction:* numerous areas comprising one or more probable sand pits were recorded across Skipwith common during the earlier phases of survey and/or marked on the historic mapping (Sites 8, 9, 11, 110-112, 114, 115, 134, 140-43, 150, 167, 169, 171-

- 73, 189-90, 199, 204, 207-12, 213-16, 220-23, 227-30, 232, 234, 235, 242-45 and 249). Although many of these look like ponds in the present day, it is presumed that all relate to sand extraction sites.
- 3.3.29 *Airfield:* in 1940, land was requisitioned on Riccall and Skipwith Commons for a military airfield. The site was constructed by 1942 as a RAF satellite airfield, used for bomber training. Its north-east corner crosses over the south-western portion of the current Skipwith Common. In the post-war period, from August 1948 to February 1957 the airfield was used as an RAF storage site, but by 1985 the main use of the site was for agriculture and by 2002 many of the airfield buildings had been demolished and the runways had been partly removed.

4. RICCALL AIRFIELD SURVEY

4.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1.1 Permission was granted for the land that was to become RAF Riccall to be requisitioned for a military airfield on 1st June 1940 (Delve 2006, 211). Construction of a bomber airfield began immediately on the large flat area on the eastern side of the current alignment of the A19 road, covering parts of Skipwith, Barlby and Riccall commons, along with surrounding farmland (Otter 1998, 210; Plates 4 and 5). The site was just one of a dense cluster of bomber airfields in the Vale of York; there were a dozen major airfields within a ten-mile radius of Skipwith (Delve 2006, 211). The grouping was part of the wider build-up of training and operational bomber capabilities on the east coast of England, designed to be able to strike at targets on mainland Europe.

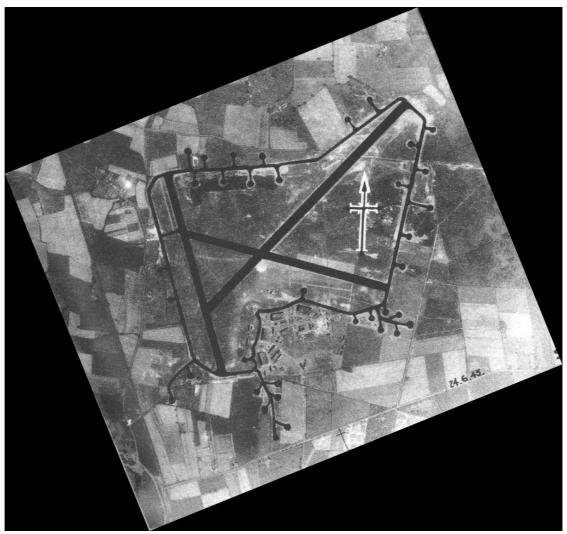


Plate 3: Riccall Airfield Layout (in Delve, 2006, 211)

4.1.2 The airfield opened in September 1942, in an unfinished state, and comprised a standard concrete and asphalt three hard runway layout. The main runway was 5940ft long with subsidiary runways of 4290ft and 4620ft respectively (Halpenny 1982, 157). A surrounding perimeter track, with thirty-six standard heavy-bomber dispersal bays, was laid out around the runways (Plate 6). The dispersal bays were concentrated on the south and east sides of the airfield. The initial phase high explosive bomb dump and stores for

small arms and incendiary ammunition was placed within the perimeter track on the east side of the airfield (Site **314**). A second, later phase of high explosive bomb storage areas was constructed at a safe distance to the north-east of the airfield, on the open common (Sites **315** and **316**). The main technical site, consisting of clusters of maintenance buildings and seven hangars (six of Type T2 and one of Type B1 designs), were located in the central/southern side of the airfield. Thirteen dispersed hut accommodation and communal sites, along with the wireless station, were constructed to the south of the airfield (Plate 9).

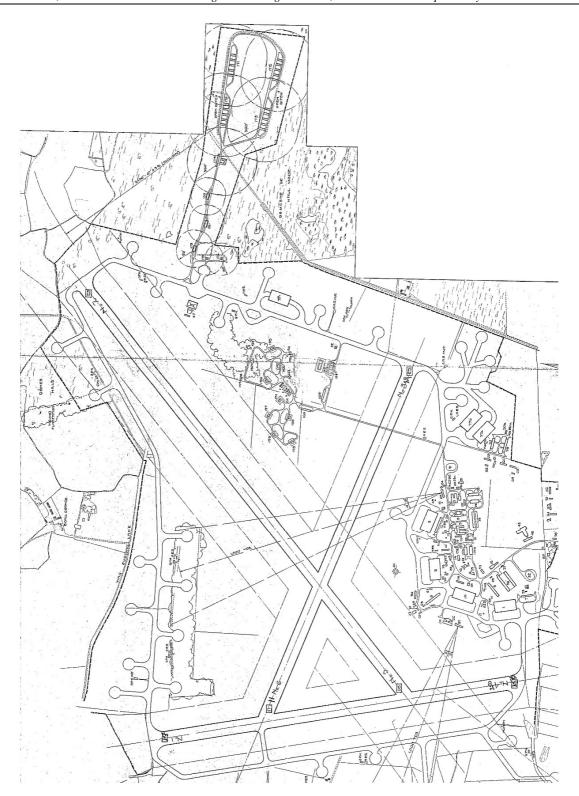


Plate 4: Riccall Airfield Layout Plan – 1945 (Drawing No. 5116/45)

4.1.3 During the remainder of the war, the function of RAF Riccall was primarily a non-operational training bomber base of RAF Bomber Command 4 Group, housing RAF No. 1658 Heavy Conversion Unit (HCU), the sole active unit to be based there during the war. The unit did not form until 7th October when it absorbed two squadron Conversion Flights (76 CF and 78 CF), which had been in place on the airfield since mid-September (Delve 2006, 212-3). The same day 10 CF from Melbourne and 102 CF from Pocklington arrived and were amalgamated into the HCU. On the 1st November the HCU expanded

further when it absorbed 158 CF from Rufforth (Halpenny 1982, 157). RAF Riccall was to be used for training with the 1658 HCU mainly operating Halifax bombers, but with support aircraft of Tiger Moths and Spitfires for general training and air combat training duties (*ibid*). From September 1943, the airfield was a satellite attached to the nearby RAF Marston Moor, the headquarters of RAF Bomber Command 4 Group, which specialised in heavy bomber training and conversion (Otter 1998, 207). RAF Riccall's 1658 HCU took RAF crews from twin-engined Wellington bombers and trained them on the more complex four-engined Halifax heavy bombers. At full strength, the HCU was formed into four flights A-D, each commanded by a Squadron Leader, making a total of 32 Halifax aircraft (Delve 2006, 211; Halpenny 1982, 157). As the aircraft used in training were 'war weary' ex-active squadron aircraft, there were many accidents and casualties during training, leading to a high turnover of both hardware and personnel (the unit lost 72 aircraft in training) (*ibid*).



Plate 5: Riccall Airfield and Skipwith Common, 17th May 1948 (RAF/541/30 Frame 4041)



Plate 6: Riccall Airfield and Skipwith Common, 3rd May 1971 (OS/71147 Frame 76)

In November 1944, 1658 HCU at Riccall, along with all other HCU's, were transferred over to the command of 7 Group Training Command (Otter 1998, 213), and it became No 74 Base-Sub-Station to Marston Moor, although the role and function of the airfield and its HCU remained the same. All training units began to be run down in early 1945 as victory in Europe looked assured. Subsequently, 1658 HCU was disbanded on 13th April 1945, close to the end of the war. The airfield was transferred to Transport Command, briefly forming the base for 1332 (Transport) Heavy Conversion Unit. This unit flew Avro Yorks and a few Stirling IV's that had been converted for freight work (Delve 2006, 214). Flying at the airfield ceased in November 1945 when 1332 (T)HCU moved north to RAF Dishforth. The RAF retained the airfield and it was used for storage from August 1948 to February 1957 as a sub-site of No 91 Maintenance Unit (MU), with the primary aim of storing, and then disposing, of surplus bombs and ordnance (*ibid*). When the RAF vacated the site the facilities were dismantled, the majority of the runways were grubbed up, and much of the land was turned back over to agriculture. Many of the buildings, particularly on the dispersed communal and accommodation sites, were adapted for farm use (Halpenny 1982,159).

4.2 EXTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES – DOCUMENTARY STUDY

4.2.1 *Introduction:* the area of RAF Riccall that is within the present survey area of Skipwith Common is roughly 1/6th of its original extent (Plate 9). Whilst walkover survey was undertaken of this portion of the site (Plate 10) the context of the airfield as a whole would be lost unless desk-based analysis was undertaken of the entire airfield. The distribution of airfield infrastructure and buildings at RAF Riccall was identified through a combination of contemporary airfield layout plans, of both the airfield and dispersed accommodation (Plans 5117/45 and 5116/45; Plate 6), and aerial photographs from the 1940s to 1980s (Plates 9 and 10). The historic extents of the airfield were identified, in

part through the NMP aerial photo interpretation polygons and partly via the airfield layout plans. Within those areas outside Skipwith Common, an investigation of aerial photographic sources and Google Earth mapping was undertaken to identify the extant of the archaeological resource in these areas.

4.2.2 Airfield Complex, Technical and Dispersed Accommodation Sites: the extant airfield infrastructure on the airfield site consists of small portions of runway, perimeter track and aircraft hard-standings. In addition, there are three dispersed sites on the technical site, with five small extant buildings (Sites 317a-e) and a possible hangar building (Site 317f) that has subsequently been extended (Plates 6 and 9). The dispersed accommodation and communal sites located to the south of the airfield on Osgodby Common contain thirteen discrete areas of development (Sites 318-30; Plates 6 and 9). Within these areas there is a total of 71 potentially extant buildings and structures that were evident through the documentary sources. Most of the surviving structures on the dispersed sites would though, if not becoming derelict, have been turned over to agricultural/storage use. Many of the areas are depicted as piggeries on the current OS mapping and of note is the presumed survival of the wireless transmitting station at Dutch Pig Farm (Site 327).

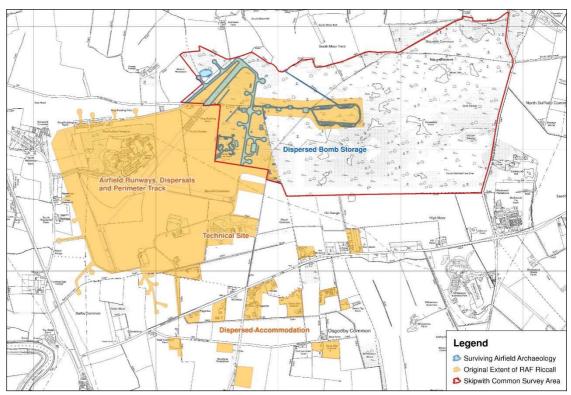


Plate 7: Distribution of original Airfield layout in relation to walkover survey area

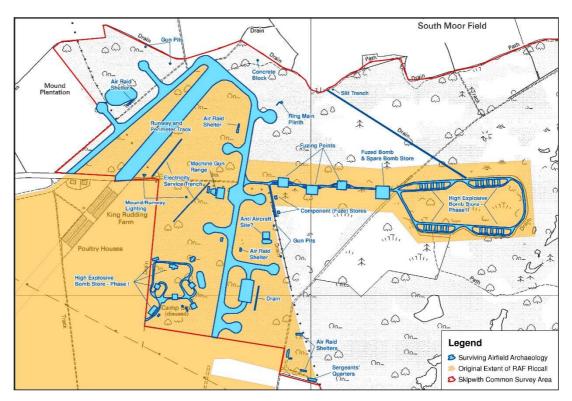


Plate 8: Distribution of extant airfield sites identified by walkover survey

- 4.2.3 **Regeneration of Skipwith Common:** since the end of its use by the RAF, many parts of the airfield have been cleared and have been reclaimed for agricultural use, whilst much of Skipwith Common has remained as lowland heath. The north-western portion of the airfield was disturbed by the construction of Riccall Mine, part of the Selby coalfield (OS/82027 Frame 6), a short-lived coal mine that was decommissioned in 2004. The construction of the airfield has had a localised destructive impact upon the common itself, but only directly within the footprint of the dispersed bomb storage areas and perimeter tracks. The drainage of these areas may in addition have affected the sub-surface archaeological resource, although subsequent subsidence caused by the mining operations of Riccall Mine resulted in the flooding of large parts of the common.
- 4.2.4 It would appear that only the land in areas skirting the main runways was systematically cleared to any great extent. Subsequently, Skipwith Common has been encroached upon by scrub and trees, in particular surrounding the Second World War structures and runway (Plates 7, 10 and 11).



Plate 9: Runway, looking south-west

4.3 EXTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES – WALKOVER SURVEY

- 4.3.1 *Introduction*: the walkover survey on Skipwith Common identified a small but significant archaeological resource of Second World War infrastructure and buildings in the north-eastern area of the airfield that was within the common. The survey area contained the very northern tip of the main runway and perimeter track (Site 24). Unsurprisingly, as this area lay outside the farmed agricultural land, it formed the best-preserved section of runway hardstanding (Plate 10). The archaeological survey identified a range of sites, including both buildings and earthworks, primarily associated with three bomb storage and management complexes.
- High Explosive Bomb Store Complex Phase I: the original explosives storage area lay 4.3.2 inside the perimeter track of the airfield, in a small wooded area (one of originally two adjacent storage areas and a separate fusing area), and functioned as a complex for storage for high explosives, small arms ammunition and incendiaries (Site 314). The complex consists of a mixture of standing brick-built buildings and open, earthen, blastbanked stores where the internal huts have been demolished. There are three extant permanent brick-built small arms ammunition stores (one Type E, two Type F) on the north end of the complex (Sites 268-70). To the south, are four identical square earthen blast-bank protected stores. Three examples constructed as high explosive stores have no extant hutted store within them, only concrete foundation bases (Sites 267, 272 and 273). The fourth example has an extant permanent brick-built component store surviving within it (Site 276; Plate 139). Other structures include a series of earthen blast banks and concrete foundation bases relating to six hutted 'SBC Stores' (Small Bomb Container huts) (Site 266), and two further concrete bases and a scooped area relating to further demolished store buildings (Sites 265, 274 and 275).
- 4.3.3 *High Explosive Bomb Store Complex Phase II:* at some point the airfield appears to have been upgraded, which included the installation of more efficient bomb storage areas.

These were located at a safe distance to the east of the airfield, on the open common (Site 315). The predicted extent of the blast impact for each of the bomb stores is shown as a circle on the airfield layout plan (Plate 5), and this determined the separation between each store to prevent the blast of one setting off its neighbour. This complex consisted of four open storage areas with surrounding earthen blast walls, concrete loading ramps and a road circuit (Sites 25, 75, 60 and 88). The stores were located on the line of King Rudding Lane, 100m apart, and Sites 75 and 88 are located 106m to the south opposite Sites 25 and 60 respectively. Each structure comprises a brick wall, aligned east/west, with five perpendicular earth banks coming off its north side, making a total length of 75m and creating four bays, each c 9m wide. The brick wall is two courses wide and 0.8m high. Iron rings hanging on iron pegs are set within the wall (c nine rings per bay), and were intended to hold down tarpaulins over a temporary roof structure. The earth banks are c 1.5m high, 17m long and 4-5m wide at the base. There is a concrete ramp from the top of the brick wall extending into most of the bays, which have concrete floors. In some places, a raised edge or kerb to the concrete base could be seen at the back of the bays, possibly demarcating the location of a former structure. An earthen bank, aligned east/west, was located to the north of Sites 75 and 88.

- 4.3.4 These types of open bomb stores were designed for efficiency in loading and unloading and were typical of temporary bomber airfields constructed from late 1941 (Francis 1996, 42). The unloading ramp was used to fill the store with bombs from lorries via gravity down the slope. The bomb stores were then emptied onto trolleys pulled by motorised tractors and were carried towards the airfield (*op cit*, 41).
- 4.3.5 **Phase II Fusing Complex:** the route onto the airfield from the Phase II bomb store complex ran through an area of temporary bomb stores and fusing points located nearer to the airfield where the bombs were fused and armed (Site 316). The fusing would have taken place in drive-through Nissen Huts (ibid), but the fusing points do not have surviving huts and only the surrounding earthen blast banks survive (Sites 51, 53, and **56**). Similarly, the spare fused and bomb store, the easternmost structure on the complex, also only has its earthen blast banks surviving (Site 54/55). Each structure is c 25m by 15m and has brick entrances on their east and west sides, with earth banks on their long sides. Sites 56 and 53 have an additional parallel bank to their south and north sides respectively. The complex also has two ruinous fuse stores located a little distance to the south, and each were marked as 'Explosives Laboratory' on the airfield layout plan (Sites 83 and 84). Both structures only survive as ruinous foundations with a brick-built internal partition wall. Site 83 comprises a brick wall aligned east/west, c 3m long, 1.2m high and two courses wide, and located in a hollow between two north/south aligned banks. The banks are both c 2m wide, 0.3m high and 8m long. Site 84 could not be accessed during the walkover survey due to flooding, but was visible from a distance and appeared to be similar to Site 83.
- 4.3.6 *Other structures on the airfield:* most of the concrete surfaces of the main runway, perimeter track and surrounding aircraft hardstanding dispersals survive within the study area on Skipwith Common (Site 35), although largely masked by the encroachment of woodland. The hangar within the study area has been demolished, but its concrete foundation base and a drain on its eastern side survive (Sites 282 and 283). Amongst the other surviving structures are several Stanton-type air raid shelters (Sites 30, 49 and 279); each has a part-sunken, semi-circular elevation, and comprises a two-part concrete-panelled structure with opposing brick-built entrances. They would have originally been earth-covered but this has been lost in some cases. Brick plinths were evident inside the shelters, which presumably held wooden benches. Each shelter had an associated guard

post hut, although these have now been demolished (Sites 263, 331 and 332). Further air raid shelters, of the same type, were recorded in a small dispersed accommodation site located immediately adjacent to the airfield at its eastern end (Sites 105 and 108). The accommodation site was poorly preserved with concrete foundation bases surviving for only two hutted structures (Sites 106 and 107) and part of a ruinous temporary-brick built hut, marked as a Sergeant's Quarters on the dispersed sites layout plan (Site 103). On the airfield itself several other structures were evident, the most imposing of which was a large earthen embankment of a machine gun range (Site 261). It measured approximately 65m by 25m and was up to 8m high. There was also evidence for the electrical supply on the airfield with a service trench running towards a ring main plinth building (Sites 44, 45 and 262), a possible runway light structure and a disturbed concrete block (Sites 48 and 260).

- Airfield Defences: the identified perimeter defences of the airfield include a single possible slit trench on the northern edge of Skipwith Common (Site 59), and two pairs of machine gun pits located on the north-eastern and northern perimeter of the airfield (Sites 33, 285, 287 and 288; Plates 57, 147 and 149). The pits consist of a cylindrical sunken pit, with either a concrete drainage pipe or a brick-built structure, containing the bracket for mounting a machine gun. Access to the structure was from underneath through a separate brick-built access hatch. The machine gun pits do not conform to typical defensive turret designs, such as the Alan Williams or Tett-designed turrets (Francis 1996, 60-4), indeed it is likely that there would have been no upper defensive armour/protection for the inhabitant. The gun pits are likely to be *ad hoc* regional variants of established defensive structures. A now-demolished platformed structure may have had an anti-aircraft function (Site 280), although this remains conjectural as it is not marked on the layout plans, and can only possibly be seen on the 1948 and 1951 aerial photographs before undergrowth masked the site (Plate 8). The demolition rubble from the site, located in a spoil heap to the south of the structure, contained concrete-filled sandbags (Site 281). There are two areas of spoil heaps that may relate to either the clearing of the land prior to the construction of the airfield, or its subsequent demolition (Sites 90 and 271).
- 4.3.8 **Drainage Features:** drainage for the airfield, within the still open common, would have been a major undertaking to keep the site dry and viable. Other than the deep manhole-covered drain recorded on the east side of the hangar footprint (Site **283**), there were two further examples of open drainage ditches clearly associated with the airfield. One drain (Site **24**) extends out aligned north-west/south-east from the high explosive bomb stores (Site **315**) and another drain runs parallel with the northern end of the perimeter track on the west side of the runway (Site **34**).
- 4.3.9 **Skipwith North Survey:** this survey identified a group of three features on Crook Moor that were suggested as possible features associated with the airfield (OA North 2009). The group consists of a rectangular brick platform, five brick courses high and topped with a band of concrete 0.15m thick (Site 148). The platform lay at the south end of a pair of parallel linear earth banks orientated south-west/north-east (Sites 147 and 162). No features are marked on the either airfield layout plan at this location; however, the sites may have had a Second World War function.

5. RESULTS OF THE LANDSCAPE SURVEY

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The landscape survey covered the full extent of the study area (Fig 1) and was undertaken in order to identify previously unrecorded sites and ascertain the survival of features highlighted by the documentary study (*Section 4.2*). At the outset of the survey, historic OS maps were also examined to identify possible features and to provide a chronological context.
- 5.1.2 The landscape survey undertaken in 2008 (OA North 2008; Figs 3 and 4) identified 87 new sites (18 and 24-109) in addition to sites identified from documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic sources, which were also visited (Sites 1-17, 19-23 and 110-117). During the 2009 survey, sixteen sites identified from the HER and NMR (Sites 118, 122, 124-25, 134-35, 152-55, 189-90, 196, 223, 231 and 234) were visited, and the survey identified 103 new sites (136-51, 156-88, 191-95, 197-222, 225-30, 232-33 and 235-49). A detailed survey was also undertaken of the southern part of the multiple-bank boundary system (Site 18), that had been part recorded during the 2008 season (OA North 2010 figs 3 and 5). In 2010, three site groups identified from the HER and NMR as sand pits, peat extraction or ponds (Sites 294, 296 and 312) were visited, and the survey identified 78 new sites (Sites 259-337), of which 41 related to the Second World War Airfield (Sites 260-63, 265-276, 279-83, 285, 287-88 and 314-32). Most new sites were post-medieval extractive or drainage features, including sand pits/ponds, tracks, drains, ditches, boundaries, peat cuttings and plantations (Figs 3 and 4). A detailed survey was also undertaken of the multiple-bank boundary system adjacent to Sandy Lane (Site 334). The LiDAR analysis (Figs 5 and 6) identified five new trackways and field boundaries (Sites 338-342), and provided more detailed information regarding features recognised in earlier surveys, particularly under woodland on the northern common.

5.2 HISTORIC MAPS

- 5.2.1 *Introduction:* the first edition OS of 1855, and the OS map 1910 were examined, to identify potential archaeological sites prior to the landscape surveys being undertaken. The maps also provided invaluable indications of changing land-use in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- 5.2.2 *Ordnance Survey, 1855, 6" to 1 mile:* the 1855 map indicated that other than the enclosure of Riccall Common on the south-west corner of the study area, the landscape has not changed significantly over the last 150 years. The 2009 walkover survey identified several areas of ridge and furrow, but the 1855 map indicated that the land had reverted from arable to common by the mid-nineteenth century. At the western extent of the study area, the maps show that two former areas of ridge and furrow (Sites 195 and 198) are crossed by tracks (Sites 200 and 201), and a track crosses a former area of ridge and furrow (Site 287) east of Skipwith village.
- 5.2.3 The first edition map of 1855 marks the probable Bronze Age barrow (Site 196), towards the western extent of the study area, as are five tumuli near the Iron Age barrow cemetery (Site 118). Numerous features identified during the walkover survey were also illustrated, including sand pits (Sites 141-43, 150, 167, 171, 173, 215-16 and 249); a possible line pond (Site 202); ponds/pits (Sites 189-90); the probable site of a windmill (Site 231) and tracks, banks, ditches and drains (Sites 137, 139, 144-45, 149, 151, 165-66, 174-77, 181-82, 185, 188 and 248).

- 5.2.4 Perhaps the most pertinent detail identified on the open common was the original alignment of Moor Lane (Site 284), the boundary between Riccall and Skipwith commons (Site 80), and the Swang Plantation (Site 300). Place-names in the study area indicate that peat and sand extraction had been undertaken for a considerable time on the common. For example, Hall Moor Pit (close to Fox Covert; Site 113) was probably the demesne extractive area on Skipwith Common. Other place-names with Dike, and possibly also Swang in them, suggest areas of extraction; these include Tow Dike (on Riccall Common), Horse Shoe Dike, South Duffield Tow Dike, Sheep Dikes, Long Swang and Hollow Swang. The areas often relate to ponds and/or peat cutting identified during the walkover survey.
- 5.2.5 Ordnance Survey, 1910, 6" to 1 mile: by 1910, the study area was much more wooded than illustrated in 1855, outwith the nineteenth century plantations, and especially in the south-east corner of Skipwith Common. Most of the extractive sand pits/ponds are depicted and, along with areas defined as boggy ground, show the extents of turbaries and extraction areas on the common. Several of the sand pits marked in 1855 are not shown in 1910 (Sites 141-43, 150, 167, 173, 215 and 202) but there are three new sand pits (Sites 222, 228 and 229). In addition, a drain (Sites 137 and 139), a ditch (Site 149), a possible hollow way (Site 176), a track (Sites 200 and 201) and a bank (Site 248) shown on the 1855 OS first edition map were no longer extant by 1910. Site 118 is shown as comprising approximately five tumuli, although the depiction of these sites is not clear, as they are marked in amongst the trees in the area. A new trackway (Site 236) is shown running north/south over Old Mill Hill. Riccall Common had been also been enclosed by 1910. As a result, Tow Dike is no longer named on the map and Moor Lane has been diverted to the south.
- 5.2.6 The subsequent 1954 map edition is a redrafting of the 1910 map, with the area of Skipwith common essentially unchanged. The outline of Riccall Airfield is shown but has no more detail. The subsequent aerial photographic evidence points to the common being gradually encroached upon by woodland in the latter half of the twentieth century.

5.3 LIDAR AND PHOTOGRAMMETRIC MODELLING

5.3.1 Analysis of photogrammetric DTM and LiDAR data took place following the analysis of historic maps and the completion of the landscape survey. The LiDAR analysis (Figs 5 and 6) identified five new trackways and field boundaries (Sites 338-42) particularly under woodland on the northern common. LiDAR data from this area illustrated that several of the individual features recognised in the landscape survey were more closely associated than was visible on the ground; some made up a series of possibly prehistoric field boundaries and others provided more detailed information regarding the layout and relationship between features illustrated on historic mapping. The scale of sand quarrying on the eastern part of the common was also shown to be more extensive than had previously been identified. Although no new sites were recorded on the photogrammetric DTM (Fig 7), this also provided better definition to many features, including the important multiple-banked boundary along the route of Sandy Lane (Site 334).

5.4 Prehistoric Sites

- 5.4.1 **Bronze Age Barrows:** there are four scheduled barrows along the northern boundary of the study area; of these, Sites 2 and 4 (Plate 16) were found and surveyed. Site 3 could not be located, and Site 5 was inaccessible due to heavy flooding; however, previous visitors reported that the feature is clearly defined and of classic round barrow form (M Nieke pers comm). Site 2 is a large irregular-shaped, low mound, c 12-14m in diameter, with considerable animal and tree disturbance and a possible slit trench on its south side. Site 4 is a prominent steep-sided mound with a rounded top, c 0.5m high and 7m in diameter (Plate 16). It has a hole in the centre, suggesting antiquarian disturbance.
- 5.4.2 Site **14**, just to the north of Moor Lane, recorded as a 'mound' in the HER, was visited and is a prominent, regular-shaped barrow surrounded by a shallow ditch. It is *c* 0.6m high and 8m in diameter and is flat-topped, reminiscent of an infilled kerbed ring-cairn (Lynch 1972; Quartermaine and Leech 2012).
- 5.4.3 Site **194** (Plate 94) has clearly defined edges, a flat top and an external ditch *c* 1m wide. It has a diameter of *c* 20m and is 0.5m high. Similarly, Site **196** (Plate 95), previously identified by the NMR as an earthwork, has clearly defined edges, an external ditch 1.25m wide and is fairly flat-topped. It has a diameter of *c* 18m in diameter and is 0.5m high. Site **66** is a possible barrow at the northern end of the multiple-bank boundary; it *c* 8m in diameter, and is a roughly circular, low mound. The site is heavily overgrown and is located within the group of multiple banks (Site **18**).
- 5.4.4 *Linear Bank Systems:* Site **18** (Plate 2) comprises a series of parallel banks aligned north-north-west/south-south-east, which cross the study area for a length of *c* 1.5km, apparently extending beyond its south-eastern and northern boundaries. The feature is made up of three or four lines of intermittent parallel banks. The individual banks are *c* 3m to 5m wide and range in length from 3 to 60m. Towards the south-eastern extent of the study area, several banks divide from the main alignment and head east-south-east beyond the study area; thereafter their alignment forms an approximately parallel line with the principal one. Continuations of both lines were observed as cropmarks in the fields immediately south of the present common boundary (Figs 3 and 5).
- 5.4.5 Site **334** is made up of discontinuous sections of multiple-banked and ditched boundaries running along the alignment of Sandy Lane on a roughly east/west orientation. The boundary survives in four distinct groupings along the lane, the easternmost to the north of Sandy Lane, with the remainder to the south. The surviving remains of the boundary extend c 920m along the common; in places there are at least four parallel banks running in line, with the combined banks being up to 25m wide. The individual banks are c 3m to 5m in width and the sections range from 3m to 170m in length.
- 5.4.6 In places, the boundary (Site **334**) has been impacted upon by the route of the lane. The orientations of the banks and the lane are slightly divergent; at their eastern end, the lane cuts the line of the banks and on the eastern side of Blackwood Road the continuation of Sandy Lane appears superimposed upon them. The boundary complex is also crossed in numerous places by drainage gullies. There is no visible evidence of the boundary continuing either outside of the common to the east or within the common to the west. The western end of the boundary may originally have followed the present northern edge of the common, and could have curved slightly to the south, possibly to join Site **18**.
- 5.4.7 These boundary banks appear to define a long, and very ancient, territorial boundary and there are parallels on the North York Moors (Spratt 1989; 1993; 2005) and the Yorkshire Wolds (Fenton Thomas 2003; 2005; Stoertz 1997). Excavations in these areas suggest the banks, also known as dykes or entrenchments, which are often aligned on, or in some

- cases truncate Bronze Age barrows, were first constructed in the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age, at the beginning of the first millennium BC (Fenton-Thomas 2005, 29-46). Site **66** is a possible barrow at the northern end of the multiple bank boundary, situated within the group of multiple banks (Site **18**) and there is a spatial association with a putative barrow (Site **2**), although the precise relationship was unclear.
- 5.4.8 Where identified in other areas of Yorkshire, linear dykes/entrenchments are often traceable for several miles and appear to have acted as land boundaries, dividing and enclosing huge swathes of the landscape (*ibid*). The National Mapping Project found very few comparable linear boundaries in the course of the Vale of York survey (Y Boutwood pers comm), highlighting the rarity and importance of the Skipwith examples.
- 5.4.9 *Iron Age Enclosures:* at the north-eastern end of the study area, a possible Iron Age enclosure (Site 6, Plate 12) was surveyed during the walkover survey. It comprises prominent banks c 2m wide and 0.4m high, and ditches c 1m wide. In places there were three parallel banks and ditches defining this enclosure, suggestive of a defensive function. A possible continuation of the earthworks was recorded to the south as Site 79, a north-east to south-west-aligned ditch, which curves to the north-west at its western end converging on the enclosure. The ditch is up to 0.3m deep and c 1.5m wide. A prominent bank, c 3m wide, is visible on its north side and there is less prominent bank to its south.
- 5.4.10 Two further features recorded as Iron Age enclosures on the HER (Sites **12** and **16**) recorded by William Proctor's MS Plan of the mid-nineteenth century (Proctor 1951; Site **1**) and could not be located. Like Site **6**, these were recorded in the airfield area, and may have been disturbed or destroyed by landscaping during its construction.



Plate 10: West bank of enclosed settlement, Site 6, looking north

- 5.4.11 *Putative Early Enclosures / Field Systems:* analysis of aerial photographic evidence to the north of the study area and close to the settlement enclosure (Site 6) has revealed a multi-vallate rectilinear enclosure linked into a series of fields defined by earthen banks. Investigation of further aerial photographs and Google Earth imagery (but no further field investigation) has revealed distinct linear banks and/or ditches (Site 333) which form a part of the multi-phased field-system on South Moor Field (NMR SE63NE38) and elements of the same complex within the common (*eg* Sites 6, 96-7). The easternmost linear of Site 333 continues the alignment of an early field boundary in South Moor Field in a roughly north-north-west/south-south-east orientation for *c* 300m. The other identified boundaries may form enclosed fields surrounding settlement Site 6. The highly defended form of the enclosure is suggestive of a probable Iron Age date.
- 5.4.12 *Early Enclosures / Field Systems:* there are a pair of enclosures / field systems (Sites **161/219** and **163**) on Crook Moor which are seemingly earlier than the elements of extant field system and have the potential to be of late prehistoric or Roman date. LiDAR analysis revealed three intersecting linear features (Site **342**), probably ditches, joining the three enclosures identified on the ground. Sites **161/219** (Plates 74 and 112) comprise a probable enclosure bank or banks *c* 1.5-2m wide and up to 0.5m high, with an external

- ditch. The features or feature lie on the western side of the Crook Moor plot, adjacent to but independent from its large western drain (Site 205).
- 5.4.13 Site **163** is a round-profiled bank with a ditch on the outside forming a clearly defined rectangular feature, possibly an enclosure. The most definite part is the south-west corner, where the bank stands to 0.6m above the base of the associated ditch. The southern and western sides are well-defined, but the eastern side simply comprises a slight drop towards the base of an ill-defined ditch. The ditch and bank are both 2m wide and the area within the enclosure is reasonably well-drained and fairly level. Although it is not possible to date these banks, similarities between their form and that of Sites **161/219** suggests the possibility of a prehistoric date. The size and orientation of the enclosure **163**, plots **161/219** and associated linear features **342** is comparable with field layouts identified by aerial photography to the east and south of Crook Moor (outside the survey area; NMR SE 63 NE 17 and 18); the implication is that this is an extant element of the early field system. That these are *c* 250m to the north of the Crook Moor Iron Age barrow cemetery (Site **118**) may further suggest a prehistoric date.
- 5.4.14 *Iron Age Barrows:* in the north-western part of the study area, the Danes Hill barrow group (Site 1), has been interpreted as being an Iron Age Square Barrow cemetery (Stead 1965) of which there are several parallels in North Yorkshire (Stead 1991; Dent 1985). Within the Danes Hill area nine possible barrows were identified by the walkover survey (Sites 26-8, 31-2 and 38-9). These appeared to be in the same positions as barrows marked on the historic mapping from 1855 onwards; Site 39 was just to the west of the study area and did not match the locations of any of the barrows shown on the first edition OS map of 1855. By the time of the 1890 mapping Site 39 was located within the new 'Mound Plantation'. Two further barrows (Sites 46 and 91), located close to the sites of 'tumuli' marked on modern OS mapping, form a smaller group to the east of the main cemetery. Site 46 is c 7m in diameter and heavily disturbed by animal burrows. The date of this feature is questionable as brick was noted on its top, although this may be a later dump.
- 5.4.15 Site 118 includes the buried and earthwork remains of a group of possible Iron Age burial mounds north-west of the junction between Bonby and Broad Lanes on Crook Moor. In 1850 the Yorkshire Antiquarian Club investigated several mounds found to be surrounded by square ditches and were likened to the larger group of barrows 3km to the south-west at Danes Hill (Site 1). Confusingly, both areas are labelled 'Danes Hill' on the Ordnance Survey mapping. The southern ground (Site 118) comprised four possible barrows, which corresponded to examples marked on historic OS maps (Sites 135, 152, 153, and 155). One of these (Site 135), has a uniform circular shape; it may be better interpreted as a Bronze Age round barrow.
- 5.4.16 Three further possible barrows were identified in the area, which were not previously recorded in the HER (Sites **136**, **156** and **157**). One site that was recorded by the HER, as it is marked on the OS first edition map of 1855 (Site **122**), could not be located.

5.5 MEDIEVAL/POST MEDIEVAL RIDGE AND FURROW

5.5.1 Features comprising, or associated with, ridge and furrow numbered 30 (Sites 145, 164-65, 177-79, 181-86, 188, 191-93, 195, 197-98, 237-38, 247-48, 250-54 and 257-58). Despite the land being held in common in the medieval period, this indicates that the area to the north-east of the village was assarted, and subsequently used for arable cultivation. Whilst ridge and furrow can be difficult to date, some areas have ridge separation wider than others (*eg* Site 237); many of the sites identified had ridge-to-ridge measurements

of c 6m, which is a characteristic of medieval ridge and furrow formed by ploughing with teams of oxen (Rackham 2000, 79). Several areas of the ridge and furrow (Sites **195**, **198**, **200**, **201** and **287**) were crossed by nineteenth century trackways, indicating the land was not used as arable at this time.

5.6 POST-MEDIEVAL AND MODERN SITES

- 5.6.1 Not including features associated with the twentieth-century airfield, nearly 80 post medieval and modern features were identified over the course of the surveys (Sites 40, 42, 47, 70, 74, 76, 89, 93, 100-102, 134, 137-44, 146, 149-51, 158-60, 166-69, 171-76, 189-90, 199-202, 204-17, 220-23, 227-236, 242-45 and 249). These included sand pits, ponds, tracks including a hollow way, drains, ditches, boundaries, mounds, and a windmill platform.
- 5.6.2 **Boundaries:** several different types of field boundaries were identified, the majority of which were banks and associated ditches which may have had a drainage, as well as a boundary function (*eg* Sites **70** and **74**, **158**). Some were marked on historic OS mapping and others could be associated with, or were on the same alignment as, former features such as post-medieval field boundaries (*eg* Sites **40**, **146**, **166**). There were also several, often substantial, boundary features, including common and parish boundaries, which may have older origins (Sites **89**, **159**, **160**).
- 5.6.3 **Drainage Ditches:** long linear drainage ditches (Sites **137**, **144**, **149**), many shown on the first edition OS map, were identified, some of which are cut by more modern examples (*eg* Site **102**). Some are large ditches probably central to drainage systems (Site **144**) and others are smaller side-ditches (Site **66**).
- 5.6.4 **Sand Extraction:** over 60 areas comprising one or more probable sand pits were recorded. Of these, 28 corresponded to sites of sand pits shown on the historic OS mapping. The remainder were shallow dried hollows identified through the analysis of aerial photography and Google Earth imagery.
- **Ponds and Drainage on the Common:** many of the small, regular-shaped ponds or pits 5.6.5 marked on the first edition OS map (1855) were identified (eg Sites 189-90 and 220-22); most were identified as possible former sand extraction pits which later filled with water or were intentionally converted to drainage use. Although the post-medieval drainage regime on the common was difficult to identify on the ground, analysis of Google Earth imagery revealed a pattern of intricate drainage gullies. The surviving evidence of now shallow, mostly infilled, linear gullies were found to have originally drained the water-filled extraction pits all the way across Skipwith Common, with an overall trend to run the water towards Southfield Drain on the north side of the common. The exception was at the very eastern edge of the common, where extant drains were recorded running into Ladypit (Sites 301 and 302). One extant drain, previously identified, demarcated the boundary between Skipwith and Riccall Commons (Site 80), and was recorded on the 1769 Escrick Estate plan (Plate 2) and on early OS mapping. Other drains recorded in the present survey were clearly of nineteenth/twentieth century origin as they drained the small portion of Riccall Common recorded on the airfield side of the common (Sites 259 and 278). The drains pre-dated the construction of the airfield and may have been dug when Riccall Common was enclosed (c 1884-1907). It is evident that the drainage regime has not been in use for a considerable period, and was unable to drain the water off the common following the mining subsidence.

- 5.6.6 *Line Ponds:* line ponds, used for retting (*Sections 3.3.24-26*), are marked on the first edition OS map (1855). Site **312**, probably originally a sand pit, is attached to line pond **246** via a well-defined drainage leat (Site **313**) and was clearly related to the water management of the line pond used for retting. Several irregular hollows (Site **202**) to the immediate north of the main area of retting ponds may also have been used for retting. These are not depicted on the OS first edition and may pre-date the line ponds.
- **Peat Cutting:** the eastern half of Skipwith Common has numerous, and extensive areas 5.6.7 of peat cutting, with eight being recorded by the present survey (Sites 290, 298, 303, 305, 308, 310, 335 and 336). The pattern of peat cutting would suggest that most, if not all, of the deep peat was cut from the common in the post-medieval period, even though the common was one of the turbaries used to supply York in the medieval period (Section 3.3.19). The surviving evidence for the cuttings comprises slightly raised areas of ground with the lines of corduroy ridges of linear peat cuttings surviving on the surface; these are the surviving areas where only part of the peat has been extracted. These islands of denuded peat are within a much larger area of ground where the peat has been completely cut and this is particularly evident around Site 290. The peat would have been stacked for drying prior to it being removed from the common, and there is possible evidence for seven areas of peat stacks. Single small examples of peat stacks (Sites 304, 307 and 309) were located on/near separate peat cutting areas (Sites 303, 306 and 311). The peat cutting on the south-east of the common, at South Duffield Tow Dike (Site 290), contained five circular/sub-circular islands which may also have functioned as peat drying areas (Sites 289 and 292), as well as two small peat stacks (Sites 291 and 293). The peat cutting identified to the north of Sandy Lane (Site 335) is bounded on the south by a curvilinear banked and ditched boundary.
- 5.6.8 *Plantations:* a documentary source (Allison 1976, 91) mentions that three plantations were established in the early nineteenth century, near the road that crosses Skipwith Common. The first, Site 113, was a plantation named Fox Covert noted on the OS first edition mapping (1855); parts of its boundary were identified (Sites 100 and 101). The second (Site 116) is shown on the 1910 mapping, but only the northern edge of the boundary survived as a prominent curved bank (Site 76). The third nineteenth century example, was depicted as Swang Plantation on the OS first edition mapping (Site 300) and was found to be extant, with an earthen bank and ditch boundary and internal subdivisions.
- 5.6.9 Site **151** is a long linear bank, 4m wide, defined by ditches on either side. There are some substantial trees growing out of it and it is evidently of some antiquity. The bank is parallel to, and about 10m north of the current boundary, and appears to correspond with the southern boundary of 'Nursery Wood', shown on the OS first edition map (1855). Site **76** is a prominent curved bank, up to 0.5m high and *c* 1.5m wide near the northern part of the study area. The bank appears to correspond with the north-western corner of a plantation, shown on the 1910 OS map (Site **116**). A further possible plantation survives to the north of Horseshoe Pond (Site **311**); it does not have a formal boundary and was not shown on the OS first edition mapping (1855) or 1910 mapping. The area is *c* 150m square, and survives as remnants of plantation containing mature Scots pines.
- 5.6.10 *Windmills:* Site **231** is the site of a former windmill, comprising a large semi-circular ditch, 2.5m wide and 0.5m deep, defining a raised central platform. Most of the platform has been cut away by a later sandpit (Site **230**). The platform and ditch are shown on the OS first edition map (1855), and the area is named 'Old Mill Hill'. Site **233** is

- tentatively interpreted as the site if a former windmill. It is a large elongated mound up to 3m high, with an associated ditch, but is not illustrated on any historic maps.
- 5.6.11 *Trackways:* several former tracks have been identified (Sites 174-76), including two hollow ways. Site 47 is a hollow-way aligned east/west, c 1m wide in the northern part of the study area. A continuation of this (Site 42) comprises parallel banks aligned northwest to south-east, each c 1.5m wide and up to 0.3m high. Sites 47 and 42 are on the line of a path marked on the current mapping, which appears to have fallen out of use. Bounding the south-western extent of 'North Common Plantation', Site 175 is a track shown on the first edition OS map (1855). It is approximately 6m wide and is banked above the surrounding land, with a roadside ditch 1m deep on the field side. A possible hollow way (Site 176), 4m wide, was noted on the plantation side of this track, and may have been an earlier phase of this route. Both features are shown on the OS first edition map of 1855. Site 174 is a track marked on the first edition OS map (1855) cutting off the corner of Bonby Lane and Site 175; although the trackway itself is indistinct, mature trees on either side of it mark out its former route.
- 5.6.12 A portion of Moor Lane was recorded (Site **284**), running on a north-west/south-east orientation from the boundary between Riccall and Skipwith Commons. The extant section measures *c* 175m long by 9m wide and is up to 0.5m high. The re-routing of the lane from its original position, shown on the OS first edition (1855), was undertaken following the enclosure of Riccall Common (*c* 1884-1907).
- 5.6.13 *Modern Sites:* eight sites which are likely to post-date World War Two were recorded (Sites **34**, **61**, **147-48**, **162**, **239** and **256-57**). These include a trackway (Site **34**) which is shown on current OS mapping and runs over two dispersal bays on the airfield, and a brick-built platform (Site **148**), also marked on modern mapping, on Crook Moor, which is probably linked with the Riccall RAF base. The platform seems to be associated with a pair of parallel-running ditched banks (Sites **147** and **162**). Sites **255** and **256**, on Little Common, relate to the site of an early twentieth-century cricket ground and the turf-covered concrete foundations of a pavilion.
- 5.6.14 *Undated:* there were 40 sites of unknown date recorded by the survey (Sites 29, 36, 43, 50, 52, 57-8, 62-3, 65, 67-9, 71-3, 77-8, 80-2, 86, 92, 94-9, 109, 170, 180, 187, 203, 218, 225 and 226). These include several mounds, some possibly natural (Sites 36, 43, 73, 170, 180), some possibly denuded barrows (52, 203). There are many stretches of banking (Sites 29, 50, 62, 63, 71, 77, 80, 81, 82, 86, 187, 226, 218), trackways (Site 57) and drainage ditches (Sites 58, 65, 67, 68, 69, 72, 92, 94-99, 109).

5.7 WORLD WAR TWO (RAF RICCALL) AND LATER

5.7.1 In addition to the runway itself (Site 271), 73 sites were recorded which relate to the use of part of the common as an airfield during the Second World War (Sites 24-5, 30, 33, 35, 37, 44-5, 48-9, 51, 53-6, 59-60, 64, 75, 83-5, 87-8, 90, 103-8, 147-8, 162, 260-88, 318-330). There were six gun-pits/platforms and shooting butts identified (Site 33, 261, 285, 287, 288) and a possible foxhole (Site 59). Sites 30, 49, 108 and 279 are air raid shelters, sited approximately around the edges of the perimeter track. There were several bomb stores (Sites 25, 54, 55, 60, 75, 88, 265-270, 272, 273, 275, 276, 314-316) and Sites 51, 53 and 56 were described as explosives laboratories on the map of the airfield (Plates 8 and 9); all of these brick-buildings had associated blast-banks. Blast banks were also associated with former buildings labelled as component stores on the map (Sites 83 and 84). Buildings associated with ancillary camps, some of which remain extant, were identified from dispersed site plans of the airfield, and aerial photographs (Sites 318-

330). There was also evidence for numerous demolished buildings and building (or other) platforms, some identified on mid-twentieth century aerial photographs and OS mapping (Sites 35, 44, 103, 106, 107, 263, 274, 331, 332, 280 and 282). Some of these were associated with drains and service trenches (Sites 24, 37, 64, 87, 262, 283), mounds and spoil (Sites 90, 260, 271, 281).

6. SKIPWITH COMMON LANDSCAPE HISTORY

6.1 MESOLITHIC AND NEOLITHIC

6.1.1 Flint blades are reported to have been found during excavations of some of the Danes Hill barrows in 1941 and a probable Neolithic flint flake, modified for use as a scraper, was found during the 2008 survey (Site 41). Other Neolithic findspots are known in the vicinity of the study area (NMR SE 63 NE 22 and NMR SE 63 NW 13) and a possibly prehistoric double-ditched enclosure is visible as a cropmark to the west of the south end of the study area (NMR SE 63 NE 41).

6.2 Bronze Age / Iron Age

- 6.2.1 Settlement / Agricultural Remains: there is considerable evidence of settlement activity on the enclosed lands to the north of the study area (based on aerial photographic evidence) and a putative field-system (Site 333) extends into the area of South Moor Field (NMR SE63 NE38). The boundaries appear to be multi-phased with the westernmost boundary probably being the earliest. The eastern boundaries contain an area surrounding a single multi-vallate settlement feature that is just within the study area (Site 06). Sites 79 and 94-7, alignments of banks and ditches, would appear to be a wider field system in direct association with the enclosed settlement. That the enclosed settlement was edged by three sets of banks and ditches suggests the enclosure was not simply for the purposes of stock control, but may have been a defended settlement, probably of Iron Age or even Romano-British date.
- 6.2.2 A further indication of a possible Iron Age enclosed settlement is Site 12, which was reported to be a rectilinear enclosure, with two oval ring ditches in its north-east corner. It was apparently in the northern part of the Riccall Airfield, and may have been damaged or destroyed by the construction of the perimeter track, as no evidence for it was found during the survey. In the same area was the findspot of Roman pottery sherds (Site 17) which would support an Iron Age / Romano-British date for the site.
- 6.2.3 The aerial photographic features, plotted by the NMP (National Mapping Programme) for the Vale of York, have revealed an enormous complexity of field systems and associated settlements, a picture which is most likely an amalgamation of features from different periods. On South Moor Field (NMR SE63NE38) there are features that have a direct relationship to extant boundaries depicted on the OS first edition map of 1855. The features relate to an over-arching linear, straight-sided, field system, which is clearly superimposed onto an earlier system of very small fields. Most fields of this later system were not depicted on the OS first edition map and therefore pre-date 1855. Some however, do relate to boundaries extant in 1855. It may, therefore, be tentatively suggested that the later system is of early post-medieval or medieval date.
- 6.2.4 The earlier field system identified by the NMP, while not apparently directly linked to the later field system, follows a similar orientation. The earlier field system is characterised by very small 'Celtic'-type fields, and within the complex are circular features that have the potential to be roundhouses; on this basis it is tempting to ascribe a later prehistoric or even Roman date to the complex. This is reinforced by a programme of field walking that was carried out in South Moor Field which yielded Roman pottery from the area immediately north of the common (MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd 1994).

- 6.2.5 Around Adamson Farm, boundary features from the aerial photographic plotting (NMR SE63 NW8) extend out from modern boundaries; these features are not depicted on the OS first edition mapping of 1855, but at the same time cut through elements of an earlier field system characterised by small fields. Some elements of this earlier field system are parallel to boundaries depicted on the OS first edition map and, again, there is a single circular feature, a possible roundhouse, within the earlier small fields complex. There is also a group of four small square features, which may be square barrows.
- 6.2.6 To the north of the study area, a large enclosure (NMR SE63 NE41) has been variously interpreted as the outline of a former plantation, or a Neolithic henge-type monument. The former is unlikely as there is no plantation marked on the OS first edition (1855) or subsequent maps. Also, there is no correlation between the enclosure and the field system shown on the OS first edition map. Given there are no signs of it on historic mapping, the feature probably has a relatively ancient, possibly prehistoric origin. The possibility of it being a henge monument cannot be discounted, or it may have been an enclosed settlement of later prehistoric date.
- 6.2.7 The northern barrow cemetery at Danes Hill surveyed in the 2009 study area (Site 118) is flanked by two (probably associated) Iron Age/Romano British settlement sites on the west (NMR SE 63 NE 17) and east (NMR SE 63 NE 18) sides of the study area, identified through aerial photographs analysed as part of the NMP for the Vale of York. The location of the cemetery between these two areas might suggest it was in a border zone; if so, the barrows may have marked an area of waste or common ground between two settlement areas. The association between settlements and funerary remains has long been attested, with a common scenario of burial mounds located at the edge of prehistoric field systems (Quartermaine and Leech 2012). On the northern edge of the western part of Skipwith Common, the funerary cairns seem to be situated on waste at the edge of the prehistoric farming.
- 6.2.8 Further settlement sites lay in the vicinity of the 2009 study area. NMR SE 63 NE 35 is a site extending over 800m, to the south-east of NMR SE 63 NE 18, and thought, from the alignment of the ditches, to be associated with it, and with NMR SE 63 NE 17. South of NMR SE 63 NE 17 is a further extensive probable Iron Age/Romano-British settlement area, which extends east/west for *c* 1270m (NMR SE 63 NE 14). The main alignment of the ditches is north-west to south-east, but there is an east/west boundary at the southern end of the site, which possibly represents a separate phase, potentially even of medieval date. Two square barrows lie adjacent to this boundary (NMR SE 63 NE 16). Settlement site NMR SE 63 NE 38 is located *c* 250m west of the southern end of the current study area, extending westwards for 750m, with the main axis of the ditches being west to east and north to south. Roman pottery was found in this area during a programme of field walking (MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd 1994).
- 6.2.9 There are two sites within the Crook Moor area that have the potential to be elements of this wider-scale settlement area. Sites 161/219 appear to be the banks of a small rectilinear field system, aligned approximately with the boundaries of the NMR SE 63 NE 18 field system, and comparable in size. Site 163, an irregular enclosure defined by prominent earthfast banks, is close to the 161/219 plots. It is not evident however, if Site 163 is an isolated enclosure, or an extant plot within a larger field system which has been denuded by later landuse. It seems probable that the relative paucity of prehistoric agricultural / settlement sites in the area may have been obscured by ridge and furrow, vegetation and tree cover. Both settlement sites NMR SE 63 NE 17 and NMR SE 63 NE 18 contain complexes of ditches which run up to the boundaries of the study area and, despite not being picked up by the survey, would seem likely to extend into it.

- 6.2.10 *Funerary Remains:* the most diagnostic indicators of prehistoric activity on Skipwith Common were groups of barrows, located predominately along the northern part of the common to the south of Adamson Farm, and also north of Skipwith Village on Crook Moor. As discussed (*Section 6.2.7*) these seem to be grouped on the waste ground at the edge of the prehistoric fields and settlement areas. The barrows were two basic types; the generally dispersed round barrows spread along the northern boundary of the common, and concentrated groups (or cemeteries) of square barrows, in two locations, both (confusingly) called Danes Hill (Stead 1965; 1991).
- 6.2.11 Round barrows are typically of Bronze Age date, and comprise rounded mounds, often surrounded by a quarry ditch; however, the ditches are often in-filled, the only surface indicator being the mound. Other round barrow forms include in-filled ring cairns, typically defined by a kerbed monument with a flat top (Lynch 1972). Four of the round barrows within the study areas are Scheduled Monuments (Sites 2-5); Sites 2 and 4 were located but Site 3 was not identified, and Site 5 could not be accessed due to flooding. Five more probable barrows were recorded and comprised Site 66; a low mound within the group of multiple banks, and Sites 14, 18, 194 and 196; flat-topped, steep-sided mounds typical of in-filled ring cairns adjacent to Moor Lane. With the exception of Site 14, all of the round barrows were located around the margins of the common. These were near the identified edge of the settlement remains to the north of the common; a context commonly used for burial. A further putative round barrow with a similar flat-topped profile (Site 135) is spatially associated with the group of square barrows at the western Danes Hill.
- 6.2.12 *Danes Hill Cemetery Skipwith Common:* the component monuments of the Danes Hill cemetery (Site 1) have been identified by excavation as square barrows, which comprise a circular rounded profile mound, surrounded by a square-shaped enclosure ditch. In practice, the enclosure is rarely a true square, more often being rhomboidal or rectangular. The barrows are generally small, the largest being only 15m between the outer edges of the ditches (Dent 1985; Stead 1991; Brown *et al* 2007,154). When identified within modern cultivated land, the mounds have often been lost to plough damage, the ditches being the only surviving elements. Relatively common in east Yorkshire, square barrows are characteristically found in cemetery groups (Stead 1991). They are most often associated with La Tene I metalwork (sixth century BC), with later examples associated with La Tene III finds (first century BC). Radiocarbon dates generally reinforce the artefact-based chronology, spanning between 450BC and 50AD (Dent 1985, 446).
- 6.2.13 The Danes Hill Iron Age square barrow cemetery (Site 1; NHLE 1018603), consisted of more than 20 barrows, prior to the construction of Riccall Airfield. They are in two groups: a main group of approximately twenty barrows on Danes Hill and a further group of up to five barrows to the east. Excavations with reported findings of La Tene burials, cremations and Roman pottery were carried out on the site in 1754, 1849, 1941 and 1998. Site 21 refers to five of the barrows, located in the north-eastern part of the main Danes Hill group. Site 19 is a square barrow, which was excavated in 1754 by Dr John Burton, and produced two crouched inhumations; it was destroyed in 1941 for the construction of an airfield dispersal. The excavation produced a fragment of textile, described as coarse sacking, attached to a thigh bone; Sites 15 and 23 also allude to the textile and are probably multiple entries for the same barrow. In 1849 William Proctor excavated ten of the group, revealing circular mounds between 6m and 12m in diameter, each surrounded by a square ditch. In 1941, Miss K Hodgson excavated four of the barrows that were to

- be destroyed for the construction of the airfield. She again revealed central mounds surrounded by square ditches.
- 6.2.14 Nine possible barrows from Site 1 were identified, seven within the main Danes Hill group (Sites 26-8, 31-2 and 38-9) and two within a smaller group of barrows to the east (Sites 46 and 91). Of the seven 'main-group' barrows, six (Sites 26-8, 31-2 and 38) are located in the same positions as barrows marked on historic mapping from 1855 onwards. Site 39 did not match with any of the barrows shown on the first edition map (1855). However, by the time of the 1892 mapping, Site 39 was within the new 'Mound Plantation' and is likely to have been obscured by trees for some time. Sites 46 and 91, to the east, were close to the sites of 'tumuli' marked on the current OS maps. Site 46 is c 7m in diameter and heavily disturbed with animal burrows; the date of this feature is questionable as brick was noted on its top. Site 91, however, is a prominent feature and can be interpreted as a barrow with a reasonable degree of confidence.
- 6.2.15 Just to the north-east of the group, air-photographic plotting has identified four small square features, which are assumed to be further square barrows, associated with the field system NMR SE63NW8. One of these was excavated by Mike Griffiths in 1998, revealing a square ditch, and cremated bone fragments within the interior. A further two square features are in the field to the east of Danes Hill.
- 6.2.16 **Danes Hill Cemetery Crook Moor:** the second Iron Age cemetery called Danes Hill (Site **118**) is also a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1016619). It was investigated in 1850, and cremated bone was discovered within the barrows. The mounds were found to be surrounded by square ditches and were likened to the cemetery at Site **1**, *c* 3km to the south-west. The survey identified seven possible barrows associated with the complex (Sites **118**, **135-36**, **152**, **153**, and **155-57**).
- 6.2.17 *Linear Boundary Features*: the survey revealed that there are two linear complexes of probably prehistoric linear multiple-banks (also known as dykes or entrenchments) running across the open land of Skipwith Common. Site 18 is a series of parallel banks aligned north-north-west/south-south-east, which cross the study area for 867m, extending beyond the south-eastern and northern boundaries of the study area. The feature appears to comprise three or four lines of parallel intermittent banks, averaging a total width of *c* 35m. The individual banks are *c* 3 to 5m in width and range from 3 to 60m in length. At the south-east end, the banks diverge, apparently reflecting two courses around a former pond. According to the aerial photography, they continue as parallel alignments beyond the study area to the south-east, but not to the north, although other early field boundaries were revealed. The explanation may be that these were primarily upstanding earthwork features, which, when ploughed out, by contrast with the cut features of the field boundaries, do not show up well on aerial photographs. It may be significant that an extension of the Site 18 boundary coincides with the western edge of a field-system complex (NMR SE 83 NE 38).
- 6.2.18 There are a series of possible cairns / barrows aligned within the boundary complex (Site 18). Site 2 is large and moderately well-defined and a second large barrow (Site 66) was identified further south. Nothing was found at the reported location of a further barrow (Site 3). Most barrows are located near to the edge of the common and at the northern edge of the Site 18 boundary. In some cases in East Yorkshire, linear dykes or entrenchments follow the lines of earlier, broadly linear barrow cemeteries (Fenton-Thomas 2005), but at Skipwith, there are insufficient barrows to confirm a former alignment.

- 6.2.19 The second multiple-banked boundary system (Site **334**) extends east/west across the northern part of Skipwith Common. It consists of at least four parallel multiple banks and ditches banks running in at least four discontinuous sections, along the alignment of Sandy Lane, on a roughly east/west orientation. The surviving remains extended *c* 920m along the common with the areas of the banks being up to a maximum of 25m wide. The individual banks are *c* 3 to 5m wide and range from 3 to 170m in length. Further ephemeral parallel banks may survive to the south of those recorded in the central section of the boundary; however, these were difficult to discern. There is no evidence, at present, of the boundary continuing either outside of the common to the east or within the common to the west. The western end of the boundary may originally have followed the present northern edge of the common to the west, and could have curved slightly to the south possibly to merge with the other territorial boundary surviving on the common (Site **18**).
- 6.2.20 The Site 18 boundary complex fits well with established examples of territorial boundaries in Yorkshire in the later prehistoric period. These often followed the lines of watersheds and streams, and were originally marked by inter-visible round barrows; in some instances, linear barrow cemeteries were superseded by constructed boundaries. The massive multiple-banked Scamridge Dyke, in the south-east North York Moors, has as many as six parallel banks and ditches (Spratt and Harrison 1989, 40). The Casten and Cleave Dyke system, on the western edge of the North York Moors, link the scarp slope edge to the major east/west watershed valleys on the Hambleton Hills, and incorporated many round barrows along their routes.
- 6.2.21 There are numerous examples of comparable linear monuments from the Yorkshire Wolds, many up to several miles long, which form extensive complexes often following, or linking, natural topographic features, such as valleys. They are often made up of parallel rows of two or more, and sometimes as many as six, banks and ditches. A notable example is Huggate Dyke, which retains upstanding earthworks, and comprised prominent multiple bank and ditches which linked the heads of two dry valleys (Fenton Thomas 2003; Fenton Thomas 2005, 37). John Mortimer, antiquarian excavator, noted the relationship between barrows and the Wolds entrenchments: "When planning these earthworks it would seem that in many instances certain barrows had been chosen as points to mark the direction the entrenchments should take; hence the not infrequent collision of the two and the mutilation of the barrow" (1905, 379).
- 6.2.22 The multiple-bank boundaries are inherently difficult to date, because they have been in use for millennia, and the form and character of the boundary markers changed substantially over that time. Typically, the long linear earthworks of the North York Moors and the Wolds are defined as being between Bronze Age and Roman in date, because they evidently post-date round barrows and are cut by Roman roads; however, the round barrows are potentially markers and may be an indication that the boundary substantially pre-dates the linear earthworks (Fenton Thomas 2003; 2005). A correlation has been noted between ancient tracks and the linear boundaries on the Yorkshire Wolds, where there is an east/west orientated ancient trackway called the Sledmere Green Lane, which survives as field boundaries, extant lanes and medieval township boundaries (Fenton Thomas 2005, 50). This coincides for much of its length with sections of linear boundaries, such as Huggate Dykes. Similarly, there are round barrows along the length and there is an implication that the early network of boundaries may have been defined by topographic features, tracks and barrows, and that this form of boundary definition pre-dated the development of the earthwork banks and ditches.

- 6.2.23 At the Cleave / Casten Dyke complex on the North York Moors there is an interesting relationship between the visible earthworks and earlier manifestations of boundary. A section of the Cleave Dyke was subject to excavation in 1989 (Vyner 1989), which revealed that the present Cleave Dyke is in part the later re-cutting of an earlier boundary alignment that was originally part embanked and part pit alignment (ibid). Casten Dyke crosses and cuts Cleave Dyke and comprises a 3.5m wide ditch with banks on either side, extremely prominent in places, which very obviously diverts around a substantial Bronze Age barrow. Casten Dyke was a documented boundary in the medieval period (Spratt 1982, 36), and, as it evidently post-dated the other dykes and the tumulus, it has been argued that it was of medieval origin (English Heritage 2001). However, it evidently has had a long, and continuous use as a boundary, even to the present day. While the present form may well have been created in the medieval period, it almost certainly followed an earlier line that extended between a line of Bronze Age burial mounds, and, on the evidence of the excavations on Cleave Dyke (Vyner 1989), may have taken the form of a pit alignment extending directly between the centres of the barrows. Similarly, at Fimber Westfield, on the Yorkshire Wolds, JR Mortimer excavated across a complex of banks and ditches and revealed that one of the parallel ditches had started life as a series of pits (1905; Fenton Thomas 2005, 43). The earlier phase comprised single ditches that were then overlain by massive banks and ditches. He established that elements of the large, linear banks were constructed in the Late Bronze Age, evidenced by the finding of spearhead moulds, but evidently the single ditches were even earlier (Manby 1980; Fenton Thomas 2003, 36).
- 6.2.24 Further evidence of dated linear earthworks come from the Great Wold Dyke, Thwing, where excavations of the ditches have revealed sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery in the base (Manby 1980; 1986; Fenton Thomas 2003). At Cowlam, on the Wolds, a length of ditch and bank was demonstrably later than a group of square barrows, which would suggest a date later than 300BC (Stead 1986; Fenton Thomas 2003), and at Wetwang Slack excavations of linears have revealed material of second century BC date (Fenton Thomas 2005).
- 6.2.25 The implication for the Skipwith examples is that these territorial boundaries have had a very long life, and that their first manifestation may have been a line of inter-visible barrows; however, the barrows associated with the multiple banks are only at the northern end. The boundary may then have been defined by either earthworks or pit alignments, and continued to be adapted and enhanced into the Iron Age and possibly even the medieval period. While a territorial boundary line may extend in date back to the Bronze Age, the earthen banks were inevitably later, but may, nevertheless, have had a prehistoric origin. Both multiple-banked boundaries at Skipwith (Sites 18 and 334) extend across the middle of an area that is now waste, dividing areas of better-quality agricultural land. The presence of Bronze Age and Iron Age barrows there also indicates that the Skipwith landscape lay between two prehistoric settlement areas (*Section 6.2.7*).

6.3 MEDIEVAL TO POST-MEDIEVAL

6.3.1 *Early Medieval:* the settlement patterns of the Skipwith area in the post-Roman period are not known, although the nearby Rivers Ouse and Derwent were used as entry points by the Anglian settlers who came to the wider area in the sixth century (Mike Griffiths and Associates 1997, 9). Skipwith Church has extant late Saxon elements, in particular the ground and first floor stages of the tower, and the remains of an original aisleless nave are of early Saxon origin (Taylor and Taylor 1965, 550). At least one fragment of

re-used Anglo-Scandinavian sculptured stone can be seen in the fabric of the church tower. Recent work by Hall *et al* (2008) entailed an investigation of the West Tower; this revealed a building earlier than the tower, around which were burials, some in iron-bracketed wooden coffins and a piece of early ninth century sculpture. This building was replaced by a church which incorporated the standing tower (*ibid*). As such, this confirms the early origin of the church, its significance and the implication of an early settlement at Skipwith.

- 6.3.2 *Medieval and Post-medieval:* Skipwith is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as 'Schiperwic'. The estate was held by the d'Avranches family from *c* 1200 to *c* 1354, after which it passed to the Skipwith family when Catherine d'Avranche married William Skipwith. In 1708 the estate was sold by Mary Skipwith to Francis Annesley. The estate was sold to Thomas Bradford in 1801, and to JP Toulson in 1802. When Toulson died in 1898, the estate was sold to Lord Wenlock, who held the Escrick Estate, and it then descended through the Forbes Adam family by the end of the nineteenth century.
- 6.3.3 By the seventeenth century, there were open fields immediately surrounding the village, meadows to the west, woods to the north-east and the common, or waste ground to the south and east. A programme of field walking, carried out in South Moor Field, provided evidence that parts of the Skipwith field system are likely to date back to the medieval period, as twelfth century and later pottery was found in this area. Analysis of the field system in South Field, evident from the aerial photographic plotting, indicates that there is more than one phase of field system; the first phase was no longer extant by the time of the OS first edition map (1855), but elements of it were aligned with the field boundaries that were extant at that time. As such, this field system is either early post-medieval or medieval and, given that there has been medieval pottery recovered from the fields, it is tempting to infer that some usage of this field system dates back to the medieval period, even if it was in the form of an open field.
- 6.3.4 Several areas of ridge and furrow were identified across the north of Skipwith Common (Sites 164, 178-79, 184, 186, 191, 193, 195, 198, 237-38 and 247). This indicates that at some point, the area to the north-east, and possibly some to the south-west of the village, was assarted (improved from waste or common land) and used for arable cultivation; as such, it may have formed part of Skipwith's open fields. It is not known when, or for how long, this area was under cultivation. However, by the time of the 1769 map (Plate 4), the area was described as common and had therefore fallen out of arable use. The system of open fields and common rights continued through the nineteenth century, with the fields finally being enclosed in 1904. At this time, a Board of Conservators was established who made by-laws concerning the common.
- 6.3.5 The common belonged to Skipwith manor and has also been known as Lord's (Demesne) or 'Hall Moor'. As a consequence, Skipwith common was never subject to sustained Parliamentary Act Enclosure, although Riccall Common, located on the south-west edge of, and partly within, the survey area was enclosed *c* 1884-1907. The land here was drained and improved during the late nineteenth/early twentieth century and the course of Moor Lane was changed to avoid the new enclosed land.
- 6.3.6 The demesne (or manorial home farm) status of the common will have had a bearing upon its usage, particularly during the medieval period. Instead of its use as common pasture, the survey evidence is suggestive of relatively non-intensive exploitation of the 'waste' land; peat cutting, retting for flax production, exploitation of timber, and mineral extraction on behalf of the lord of the manor.

- 6.3.7 Sand Extraction: numerous sand pits/ponds and some line ponds (for retting) have been identified within the study area, from both physical and cartographic evidence, which indicate their presence during the post-medieval period. Although there is no direct evidence to indicate that these activities were also practised in the medieval period, it is logical to presume that there had been comparable activity in the earlier periods. Over 60 areas comprising one or more probable sand extraction pits were recorded during the survey; many of which corresponded to extant water-filled ponds. Google Earth imagery has revealed a pattern of intricate drainage gullies and the now shallow or infilled linear gullies were found to have originally drained the water-filled extraction pits across Skipwith Common. One extant drain demarcated the boundary between Skipwith and Riccall Commons (Site 80), and was recorded on the 1769 Escrick Estate plan. Other drains recorded in the present survey were clearly of nineteenth/twentieth century origin, as they drained the small portion of Riccall Common and pre-dated the construction of the airfield and, presumably, were dug when Riccall Common was enclosed c 1884-1907.
- 6.3.8 **Peat Cutting:** the eastern half of Skipwith Common has numerous, and extensive areas of peat cutting (Sites **290**, **298**, **303**, **305**, **308**, **310**, **335** and **336**). The pattern of peat cutting would suggest that most of the deep peat was cut from the common in the post-medieval period, even though the common was one of the turbaries used to supply York in the medieval period (Section 3.3.19). Both peat and sand extraction had been undertaken for a considerable time on the common and is reflected in the place-names in the study area, eg Hall Moor Pit and other place-names with Dike and Swang in them. The archaeological evidence for the cuttings suggests that most of the area has been cut for peat and that there is little undisturbed peat left. The peat would have been stacked for drying prior to it being removed from the common, and there is evidence for areas of peat stacks or islands of raised ground (Section 5.6.7).
- 6.3.9 *Plantations:* a documentary source (Allison 1976, 91) mentions the establishment of three plantations in the early nineteenth century on Skipwith Common, and four further examples were identified; at Fox Covert (Site 113); in the northern part of the common (Site 116); Swang Plantation, which was shown on the OS first edition mapping of 1855 (Site 300), and to the north of Horseshoe Pond (Site 311). All of these have been clear-felled but retain remnants of plantation including numerous mature oaks and several Scots pines within the modern birch scrub.
- 6.3.10 *Communications:* an area of waste surrounded by agricultural land would inevitably have been used by communication routes. Drove routes, in particular, utilised, where possible, unfarmed land where there would be no restriction on their passage and where there would also be grazing for the animals on route. As a consequence, they typically pick out routes across some of the most remote waste land in the landscape so that they can avoid enclosed land (Haldane 2006). In this respect, the common or waste ground surrounding Skipwith would have been ideally suited and there are some long established primary communication routes across this area, such as Moor Lane, which marks the southern extent of the study area and, to a lesser extent, King Rudding Lane. The roads running from Skipwith south-east to North Duffield, and north towards Thorganby also cross the study area and may initially have been drove routes, subsequently becoming roads during the post-medieval period. A portion of Moor Lane was recorded on Riccall Common (Site 284), running in a north-west/south-east orientation from the boundary between the common and Skipwith Common. The re-routing of the lane from its original position was undertaken subsequent to Riccall Common being enclosed (c 1884-1907). Sandy Lane crosses the common in an east/west orientation, which significantly closely

- follows the line of a multiple boundary line (Site **334**; *Section 5.1.2*). As discussed above, the multiple linear bank systems and barrow cemeteries identified within and in the environs of the survey area illustrate some of the same concerns as the roads, and are commonly also associated with long-distance routeways (*Section 6.2.24*; Fenton-Thomas 2005).
- 6.3.11 Other features attesting to the communication usage of the moor include Site **10**, a guidepost marked at the junction of King Rudding Lane with Moor Lane. There were also two narrow hollow ways (Sites **47** and **42**), which appear to have subsequently fallen out of use.
- 6.3.12 *Cricket Ground:* a relatively short-lived cricket ground and pavilion (Sites **255-6**) were constructed on Little Common in the early twentieth century. Although not depicted on the OS 1910 mapping, it is shown, as a sub-circular cleared area within the woodland on the *c* 1919-41 mapping. It is not depicted on subsequent OS mapping.

6.4 RICCALL AIRFIELD (1940-57)

- 6.4.1 *Riccall Airfield Construction:* in 1940 land at Riccall, including part of Skipwith Common, was requisitioned for use as a military airfield. The site was just one of a dense cluster of bomber airfields in the Vale of York, with a dozen others within a ten mile radius. The airfield, opened in September 1942, comprised three hard runways, and surrounding perimeter track with 36 standard heavy-bomber dispersals distributed around it, concentrated on the south and east sides of the airfield. The initial phase high explosive bomb dump and stores for small arms and incendiary ammunition was placed within the perimeter track on the east side of the airfield (Site 314). A second later phase of high explosive bomb storage areas were constructed placed at a safe distance to the north-east of the airfield on the open common (Sites 315 and 316). The main technical site, consisting of clusters of maintenance buildings and seven hangars (six of Type T2 and one of Type B1 designs), was located in the central/southern side of the airfield. Dispersed hut accommodation and communal sites, along with the wireless station, were to the south of the airfield.
- 6.4.2 The construction of the airfield impacted upon the archaeological resource of Skipwith Common, but only the land around the main runways was systematically cleared. The north-eastern extent of one of the three runways was located within the study area, extending across the southern portion of Danes Hill (Site 1), effectively cutting it off from the rest of Skipwith Common. The footprint of the airfield directly overlies one of the barrows on Danes Hill from the group of approximately 12 and one from the group of five to the east. However, other barrows were previously marked in close proximity to the airfield boundary, so it is likely these were also impacted upon by its construction. The footprint of the airfield also overlies three sand pits (Sites 8, 9 and 11) and a guide post (Site 10). A portion of King Rudding Lane was also removed to make way for this part of the airfield. The High Explosive Bomb Store running onto the west side of the common has truncated the alignment of one of the putative prehistoric multiple-bank boundaries (Site 18), but the boundaries survive between the two lines of bomb stores.
- 6.4.3 *Surviving Airfield Archaeology:* although only roughly one-sixth of the original extent of the airfield lies within Skipwith Common, the study area contains a small but significant archaeological resource of Second World War infrastructure and buildings in the north-eastern end of the former airfield. The survey area contained the very northern tip of the main runway and perimeter track (Site 35) and, unsurprisingly, this area formed the best-preserved section of runway hardstanding. The archaeological survey identified

- a range of sites, including both buildings and earthworks, which were primarily associated with three bomb storage and management complexes.
- 6.4.4 *Phase I Explosive Storage:* the original explosives storage area lay inside the perimeter track of the airfield in a small wooded area (one of originally two adjacent storage areas) and functioned as a complex for storage for small arms ammunition and incendiaries (Site 314). The complex consists of a mixture of standing brick-built buildings and stores surrounded by open blast-banks, where the internal huts have been demolished. There are three extant permanent brick-built small arms ammunition stores on the north end of the complex (Sites 268-70). To the south are four identical square earthen stores surrounded by blast-banks (Sites 267, 272, 273 and 276). Other structures include a series of earthen blast banks and concrete foundation bases relating to six hutted 'SBC Stores' (Small Bomb Container huts) (Site 266), and two further concrete bases and a scooped area relating to further demolished store buildings (Sites 265, 274 and 275).
- 6.4.5 Phase II Explosive Storage: the airfield was presumably upgraded and a new main storage for high explosive bombs was located at a safe distance away from the airfield, to the east on the open common (Site 315). The complex consisted of four open storage areas with surrounding earthen blast walls, concrete loading ramps and a road circuit (Sites 25, 75, 60 and 88; Plate 14). The route onto the airfield along King Rudding Lane from the Phase II bomb store complex ran through an area of temporary bomb stores and fusing points located nearer to the airfield where the bombs were fused and armed (Site 316). The fusing would have taken place in drive-through Nissen Huts, but the fusing points do not have surviving huts and only the surrounding earthen blast banks survive (Sites 51, 53, 54/55, and 56). The complex also has two ruinous fuse stores located a little distance to the south, and each were marked as 'Explosives Laboratory' on the airfield layout plan (Sites 83 and 84).
- 6.4.6 Other Structures: a hangar located within the study area has been demolished, but its concrete foundation base and a drain on its eastern side, survive (Sites 282 and 283). Amongst the other surviving structures are several Stanton-type air raid shelters (Sites 30, 49 and 279). Further air raid shelters, of the same type, were recorded in a small dispersed accommodation site located immediately adjacent to the airfield at its eastern end (Sites 105 and 108). The accommodation site was poorly preserved with concrete foundation bases surviving for only two hutted structures (Sites 106 and 107) and part of a ruinous temporary-brick built hut, marked as a Sergeant's Quarters on the dispersed sites layout plan (Site 103). On the airfield itself several other structures were evident, the most substantial of which was a large earthen embankment of a machine gun range (Site 261).
- 6.4.7 The identified perimeter defences of the airfield include a single possible slit trench on the northern edge of Skipwith Common (Site **59**). Two pairs of machine gun pits were also identified, on the north-eastern and northern perimeter of the airfield (Sites **33**, **285**, **287** and **288**).
- 6.4.8 *Drainage:* drainage for the airfield, in particular within the still open common, would have been a major undertaking to keep this site dry and viable. There were two examples of open drainage ditches clearly associated with the airfield. One drain (Site 24) extends out north-west/south-east from the high explosive bomb stores (Site 315) and another drain runs parallel with the northern end of the perimeter track on the west side of the runway (Site 34).
- 6.4.9 *Closure of the Airfield:* flying ceased in November 1945 and the RAF retained the airfield for storage from August 1948 to February 1957. When the RAF vacated the site

- the facilities were dismantled, the majority of the runways were grubbed up, much of the land was turned back over to agriculture and many of the buildings, particularly on the dispersed communal and accommodation sites, were adapted for farm use.
- 6.4.10 *Regeneration of Skipwith Common:* since the end of its use by the RAF, many parts of the airfield have been cleared and have been reclaimed for agricultural use, whilst much of Skipwith Common has remained as lowland heath. The north-western portion of the airfield was disturbed by the construction of Riccall coal mine, in the early 1980s as part of the Selby coalfield; it was a short-lived and was decommissioned in 2004. The construction of the airfield has had a localised destructive impact upon the common itself, but only directly within the footprint of the dispersed bomb storage areas and perimeter tracks. In addition, subsidence caused by the mining operations of Riccall Mine has resulted in flooding of large parts of the common. Over subsequent years, Skipwith Common has been increasingly encroached upon by scrub and trees, especially surrounding the Second World War structures and runway.
- 6.4.11 *Condition and Significance of the Airfield Archaeological Resource:* the group of Second World War aviation structures and buildings on Skipwith Common consist of a small, yet important, resource within the immediate locale and the larger region of the Vale of York. Riccall Airfield is not unique in the survival of airfield features. Even when it was built, it was not unique in its role or sufficiently rare to be regarded as nationally significant. At a more local level, the resource on Skipwith Common does form a cohesive collection of inter-related airfield features that often have been subsequently removed outside of the open common. The documentary investigation revealed small numbers of possible buildings and structures surviving on the technical site, along with fragments of runway and dispersal. The 13 dispersed accommodation and communal sites appear to have at least 71 surviving buildings and structures within them. This kind of survival is relatively common within such contexts; although a large proportion of similar buildings have been lost to modern development, typically, Second World War airfield layouts could have had many hundreds of buildings.
- 6.4.12 Within the common the survival of airfield sites is mixed. Runways, perimeter track and dispersals survive particularly well, as often do the earthen blast banks that surrounded bomb storage areas. One particular problem appears to be rabbit burrowing on these sites, in particular within the Phase I bomb storage area (Site 314), and also visitor/motorcycle erosion elsewhere (Sites 54/55 and 261). What have not survived particularly well have been the standing buildings, be they the original Nissen huts or temporary-brick structures. Typically, only a concrete foundation pad survives, or at best low foundation walls or even a gable end of a structure. Air raid shelters, particularly because of their more substantial construction have survived in a better state, but often they have lost their earthen superstructure. Some buildings have survived in moderate/good condition on the common at the Phase I bomb store, probably in part because they were permanent-brick rather than temporary brick structures (Sites 268-270 and 276). The structures are being impacted upon in places by tree growth and undermining. The airfield perimeter defence has survived particularly well on the common with two pairs of gun pits and a possible slit trench, as have various drainage lines and structures associated with electrical supply and possible lighting.

6.5 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

6.5.1 It is recommended that selected standing buildings be stabilised to make them safe to the general public, and to give them some longevity; in advance of such works an

- archaeological building survey should be undertaken. The sites that are in greatest need of consolidation for safety purposes are Sites **268-270** and **276**. Vegetation clearance and rabbit control may be required, particularly on the earthen blast banks. Volunteer input could be used during the building surveys and further topographic survey could also be undertaken on selected blast banks.
- 6.5.2 A further phase of archaeological investigation could usefully be undertaken on the putative multiple-bank boundaries, following on from the topographic surveys undertaken in previous seasons of investigation. A small-scale scheme of archaeological intervention, consisting of one or more keyhole excavations could be undertaken, with volunteer assistance, upon each of the banks (Sites 18 and 334). The excavations would identify the surviving sub-surface archaeological resource from both within and beneath these boundaries and could also provide dating evidence for their construction. It is clear that these boundaries form an important record of archaeological survival on the common and dating them could place their importance alongside other such potential prehistoric boundaries in the wider region.

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1.1 Introduction to the Project

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has been invited to put forward proposals to undertake a LiDAR survey of Skipwith Common, which has substantial areas of woodland cover. This survey will enhance the earlier surveys of Skipwith Common undertaken by OA North.
- 1.1.2 OA North has a very experienced project manager who has specialised in digital landscape survey projects (Jamie Quartermaine) and will provide the overview for the project.
- 1.1.3 The archaeological services tendered will comprise LiDAR processing and analysis, with options to undertake ground truthing and the corresponding survey analysis. OA North has a large team of specialist archaeologists based at our Lancaster office, and we can draw upon specialists from our other offices in Oxford and Cambridge. Collectively the organisation has over 280 archaeologists and has the skills and equipment to undertake all the elements of the proposed programme in house.
- 1.1.3 The present proposal provides costs and approaches that OA North would provide in order to undertake the project and also provides the level of experience of the OA North team.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of the archaeological survey of sites and monuments of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large projects during the past 30 years. OA North employs a qualified archaeological and landscape surveyor (Jamie Quartermaine BA DipSurv MIFA) who has over 30 years' experience of surveying buildings and landscapes, having worked closely with the National Trust and the Lake District National Park Authority on numerous projects. OA North has particular experience in the recording and analysis of park landscapes and formal gardens, and also general landscape survey.
- 1.2.2 **Skipwith Common:** OA North has undertaken extensive survey work on Skipwith Common (OA North, 2008; 2009; 2010) as part of community surveys and also as targeted professional survey work. This was undertaken using total station survey techniques and entailed systematic ground investigation of the study area. Much of the study area is covered in trees which limited effectiveness of the survey. The proposed LiDAR survey would be intended to enhance the earlier surveys and to generate a revised report that incorporates the new data generated from the LiDAR survey.
- 1.2.3 Projects have been undertaken to fulfil the different requirements of various clients and planning authorities, and to very rigorous timetables. OA is accustomed to undertaking projects to strict timetables, and to fulfil a wide variety of requirements. OA North is one of the bodies endorsed by the CIFA (Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists; No. 17) and has both the expertise and resources to undertake this project to the highest standards

2. METHOD STATEMENT

2.1 TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

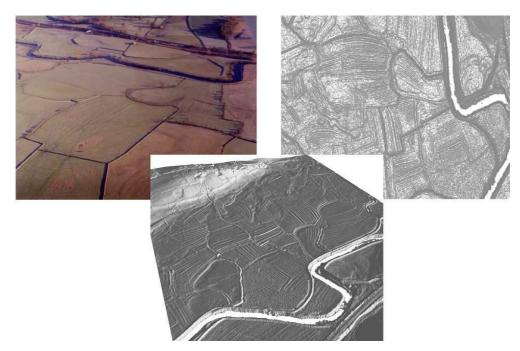
- 2.1.1 **LiDAR:** in theory the LiDAR survey is proposed to extend across the common (c 2.3 sqkm); however, the Environment Agency only has 1m resolution DTM LiDAR for the northern part of the area, covering about ¾ of the common. The DTM (Digital Terrain Model) LiDAR is appropriate for the recording of land surfaces beneath woodland canopy. The LiDAR will provide detailed topographic mapping and will identify archaeological features not evident from aerial photography and by virtue of the high resolution LiDAR will, in many instances, be better at highlighting features than from ground investigation. OA North has considerable experience of processing LiDAR tiles and these will be output as contours and also as hill-shade views; in the case of the latter they will be subject to a 3x exaggeration of the vertical axis in order to enhance the depiction of the earthworks. They will then be georeferenced and incorporated into the GIS system.
- 2.1.2 **LiDAR Analysis:** a process of detailed analysis of the LiDAR data will be undertaken and would entail examination of the data in multiple digital formats, which would entail the use of detailed contour models, with 0.1m to 0.4m contour separations. The hillshade views typically incorporate 3x vertical exaggeration to enhance the earthworks, but 5x exaggeration can also be used for localised areas. The hillshade views are effective at bringing out surface features, but their effectiveness depends upon the orientation of the light source. Some earthworks stand out substantially with some light sources, but then be almost invisible

when the direction of the light source is rotated by 90°. It is therefore proposed to output the models with multiple light source orientations and to analyse them using all the varied models.

2.1.3 Aerial Photography (Optional): given that the southern part of the survey area does not have LiDAR cover, it would be worth-while considering the use of photogrammetry based on aerial photographs from a drone, to provide an assessment of the archaeological features in those areas where there are no trees (photogrammetry cannot record the ground beneath extensive canopy cover). Those areas to the south of the LiDAR coverage, and where there is little tree cover can be recorded quickly (typically in the course of a single days survey). The technique entails capturing photography from a UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (drone) and would take multiple, very detailed photographs from an altitude of c200ft. These would be combined within a photogrammetric survey package that would generate a three dimensional model of the area, upon which the photographs would be draped, and would generate very detailed hillshade and contour mapping. This can be used to generate detailed survey results. The costs for the photographic element are presented as an option.



Example of a hill-shade view revealing numerous mine shafts of a coal mining landscape across the upland summit of Fountains Fell, North Yorkshire



Two views of hill-shade views of LiDAR data compared with an aerial photograph (left) of a medieval field system in the upper Ribble, North Yorkshire

- 2.1.4 The outlines of all putative and more-definite archaeological features will be drawn in outline within the CAD environment, and each will be ascribed a site number for cross referencing to a gazetteer within a database. A provisional gazetteer will be compiled and will be abstracted from all the available sources, which will include aerial photography, historical sources, LiDAR and photogrammetry.
- 2.1.5 *Ground Truthing Survey (Optional):* it is suggested that it would be worth-while to undertake a targeted ground truthing survey of the features identified by the LiDAR survey within the extent of the common. Experience of similar surveys has shown that while the LiDAR can identify surface features within woodland, it cannot provide sufficient detail to enable a reliable interpretation, and indeed it can in some instances not be able to confirm whether a feature is natural or anthropogenic. The solution is to undertake a targeted ground truthing survey so as to examine the identified features, provide an assessment of interpretation, and to generate ground photography. The results of the ground truthing will then be used to augment the database record. The accuracy of the LIDAR is such that there will be no need to obtain additional locational survey (such as GPS) during the ground truthing, and means that it will be possible to undertake the ground truthing relatively quickly.
- 2.1.6 **Site Description and Assessment:** the existing records will be enhanced on site, and will entail the preparation of additional fields, such as the condition fields, and there will be an enhancement of the description and the interpretation. The input into the system will be guided by a proforma to ensure uniformity and consistency of input.
- 2.1.7 Database: a detailed description will be provided for all identified monuments for subsequent transcription into an access database. Although individual monuments will be recorded, where they are clearly part of a group (for example a cairnfield) then the site for entry into the gazetteer will be the wider group. Sites identified from documentary sources and LiDAR, but not confirmed on the ground will be incorporated into the gazetteer as a provisional entry, although the site will be omitted if confirmed as being a natural feature. The recording of the archaeological sites will incorporate a written description, including an accurate ten figure National Grid Reference.
- 2.1.8 Each category will be categorised for their significance as defined below:
 - Grade 1: Archaeological sites of the highest importance, and will include Scheduled Ancient Monuments and sites of national importance.
 - Grade 2: Archaeological Sites of regional significance
 - Grade 3: Archaeological Sites of local significance
 - Grade 4: Non extant sites or sites which are not authentic
- 2.1.9 The description will incorporate a provisional interpretation of the function and purpose of a site, where

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

2.1.10 **Photographic Survey:** a photographic archive will be generated in the course of the field project, comprising landscape and detailed photography. Detailed photographs will be taken of all sites using a scale bar. All photography will be recorded on photographic pro-forma sheets which will show the subject, orientation and date. The photography will be primarily undertaken with a digital camera (at least 16 megapixels).

2.2 REPORTING

- 2.2.1 **Report:** three reports have already been compiled for Skipwith Common, comprising the main area of Common, the Northern area and the Riccall Airfield (OA North 2008; 2009; 2010). It is proposed to combine these reports and to enhance them in the light of the present LiDAR survey. The resultant survey results and discussion will therefore provide the definitive account of the heritage of the Skipwith Common based upon all available survey data. The combined report will incorporate the following elements:
 - Introduction, aims and objectives,
 - Methodology, documentary sources, and previous fieldwork and research,
 - Results of the archaeological survey, presented in conjunction with survey mapping. This will
 incorporate a process of analysis which will examine the relationship between sites, monuments
 and the wider topography.
 - An assessment of the development of the study area based on the survey evidence.
- 2.2.2 The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which the data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work. There will be an appendix gazetteer of sites which will be based directly upon the project database.
- 2.2.3 The report will incorporate appropriate illustrations, including copies of the site plans, landscape survey mapping, all reduced to an appropriate scale. The site mapping will be based upon the CAD base. The report will be accompanied by photographs and historic illustrations illustrating the principal elements of the landscape.
- 2.2.4 **Archive:** a digital copy of the report in word and pdf formats, along with cad drawings, the digital database, all photographs and digital copies of documentary mapping will be submitted on a data-stick.

3. RESOURCES

3.1 OA NORTH PROJECT TEAM

- 3.1.1 The field survey will be undertaken by Andy Phelps (Project Officer), Debbie Lewis (Project Supervisor), under the guidance of the project manager, Jamie Quartermaine (who will also undertake survey work). The OA North element of report production will be split between Andy and Jamie.
- 3.1.2 **Project Management:** the project will be under the project management of **Jamie Quartermaine**, **BA Surv Dip MIFA** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. Jamie is a very experienced landscape surveyor, who has undertaken or managed literally hundreds of surveys throughout Northern England since 1984, and has considerable experience of working on similar projects to that proposed. He has managed a major recording programme of Lyme Park, Cheshire, and also a survey of the Rectory Wood Gardens, Heysham Head, both for the National Trust. He has also undertaken surveys of Lowther Park, Cumbria, Rufford Park, Lancashire and also a structural survey of Rufford Old Hall, he has also managed the recording programme of Lathom Hall and Park, Lancashire. He has managed the Sizergh Park survey, for the NT, and also the Chatsworth House evaluation and survey. He has been a project manager since 1995 and has managed over 800 very diverse projects since then, which are predominantly survey orientated, but of all periods from Palaeolithic to twentieth century.
- 3.1.3 Anne Stewardson Illustrator and LiDAR Specialist: Anne is a very experienced illustrator who has a strong foundation in all of the traditional techniques of both archaeological and general illustration, graphical publicity material and specialising in small find illustration. As well as formal training and experience in AutoCad/Map3D, both 2 and 3 dimensional, but also has extensive experience in realtime survey software such as ArcGIS, Pointools, PointCab, Cloud Compare, In Design, Agisoft, photoshop and other mainstream graphics packages. In particular she has considerable experience of working in 3d environments with Point cloud data be it derived from photogrammetry data, or laser scanning, and has

also considerable experience of working with LiDAR and DTM data to create and manipulate contour and hill-shade views within a GIS environment.

3.1.4 *Field Survey Project Officer:* the ground truthing survey and the LiDAR analysis will be directed by **Andy Phelps** (OA North Project Officer) who has considerable experience of the survey of landscape survey recording, and has undertaken numerous upland surveys across the Pennine uplands. He also has considerable experience of recording buildings, and particularly medieval structures. He is familiar with the use of LiDAR and photogrammetry modelling and their use.

APPENDIX 2: SITE GAZETTEER

Site Number 1

Site Name Danes Hill, Square Barrow Cemetery

NGR 464388 437719

Ref no NMR SE 63 NW 3; SM 30179; HER MNY21112; MNY 12128

Designation Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1018603)

Site TypeBarrow CemeteryPeriodIron Age/Romano-BritishSourceNMR; Stead 1965; Proctor 1851DescriptionIron Age square barrow ceme

Iron Age square barrow cemetery, consisting of more than 20 barrows prior to the construction of Riccall airfield, which destroyed several of them. The scheduling boundary (Historic England 2018b) covers three separate areas, defined by areas around the edge of the airfield where the barrows survive. A further group of seven dispersed barrows lie to the north and west of this site, outside of the study area (NMR SE 63 NW 33).

Scheduled Monument Description (NHLE 1018603): the monument includes the buried and earthwork remains of an Iron Age cemetery located on the north-western side of Skipwith Common and extending into Mound Plantation, which is part of the adjoining Riccall Common. The barrows survive as earthwork mounds typically 0.2m-0.6m high ranging between 5m in diameter up to 20m in diameter. The ditches around most of the mounds have been largely infilled over the centuries. Depressions marking at least one side ditch can be identified for the majority of the mounds, and in most cases at least two sides can be seen. These ditches, except with one barrow which is orientated at an angle to all of the rest, run north-south and east-west, describing squares around the individual mounds. Early Ordnance Survey maps mark ten barrows within the main area which were not later destroyed by the construction of the World War II airfield. William Proctor's mid-19th century plan marks an additional five barrows and the survey conducted in 1994 identified a minimum of 20 square barrows in the main area. The water tank sited on top of a barrow on the north-eastern side of the main area, and the fence line marking the boundary between Mound Plantation and the Common are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath these features is included.

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

The ditches were infilled with alternating thin layers of clean yellow sand and thicker layers of dark mud containing third to fourth century Roman pottery. This ditch infill is now considered to be evidence of Romano-British farming activity in the area and to postdate the construction of the barrow cemetery. In 1994 the area was surveyed by MAP Archaeological Consultants. In spring 1998 Mike Griffiths excavated one square barrow in an open area excavation in the arable field just to the north-east of Danes Hill. Although plough damaged, this was shown to have been a mound covering a layer containing large quantities of charcoal, described as 'black sand' in 1849, and cremated bone fragments surrounded by a square ditch

similar to those described by Hodgson. The square barrow cemetery survives as three areas of low earthwork mounds. The main area lies to the north-west of the perimeter track on the western side of the runway and is labelled Danes Hill on Ordnance Survey maps. Two smaller areas, each containing at least two mounds, lie to the east of the main area, north-east and east of the north-eastern end of the runway.

Site Number 2

Site Name Skipwith Common, Round Barrow

NGR 465275 437669

Ref no NMR SE 63 NE 6; SM 30180; MNY 17567 **Designation** Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1018604)

Period Bronze Age

Source NMR; HER; Proctor 1851; Antiquaries J 1961 (41) 48-51

Description Part of a group (Sites **2-5**) of Bronze Age round barrows situated on the northern edge of Skipwith Common. It is a large irregular shaped low mound, *c* 12-14m in diameter, with considerable animal and tree disturbance was recorded in the area of Site **2** as part of the

walkover survey. A possible slit trench is located on the south side of the mound. This feature

is located on the east side of Site 18.

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

Site Number 3

Site Name Skipwith Common, Round Barrow

NGR 465229 437630

Ref no NMR SE 63 NE 6; SM 30181; MNY 17568 **Designation** Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1018605)

Site Type Barrow Period Bronze Age

Source NMR; HER; Proctor 1851; Antiquaries J 1961 (41) 48-51

Description Part of a group (Sites 2-5) of Bronze Age round barrows situated on the northern edge of

Skipwith Common, and noted during the walkover survey.

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

Site Number 4

Site Name Skipwith Common, Round Barrow

NGR 465565 437711

Ref no NMR SE 63 NE 6; SM 30177; HER MNY 17569

Designation Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1018601)

Site Type Barrow
Period Bronze Age

Source NMR; HER; Proctor 1851; Antiquaries J 1961 (41) 48-51

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

noted around the edges.

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



Plate 11: Bronze Age barrow, Site 4, looking east

Site Number 5

Site Name Skipwith Common, Round Barrow

NGR 465543 437500

Ref no NMR SE 63 NE 6; SM 30178; HER MNY 17570

Designation Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1018602)

Site Type Barrow Period Bronze Age

Source NMR; HER; Proctor 1851; Antiquaries J 1961 (41) 48-51

Description Part of a group (Sites 2-5) of Bronze Age round barrows situated on the northern edge of

Skipwith Common. Survives as a broad mound 20m in diameter standing up to 1m high. The area within which this monument is located was heavily flooded at the time of the

walkover survey and consequently the barrow could not be seen or accessed.

Site Number 6

Site Name Skipwith Common, Rectilinear enclosure

 NGR
 465650 437720

 Ref no
 NMR SE 63 NE 39

 Site Type
 Earthworks

Period ?Iron Age/Romano-British Source NMR; walkover survey; LiDAR

Description A rectilinear enclosure of uncertain date survives as earthworks, within woodland on

Skipwith Common, and is visible on aerial photographs. It is also illustrated as a square earthwork on the first edition OS. The enclosure has double and triple-ditched elements and has a possible entrance on the western side, visible on 1948 photographs. Later photographs

taken in 1999 show a larger network of ditches, but how much this has been modified by modern drainage is uncertain. The date of this enclosure is unknown. The walkover survey noted that the earthwork enclosure comprised prominent banks c 2m wide and 0.4m high. The ditches were c 1m wide and filled with water at the time of the survey. A possible continuation of the earthworks was recorded to the south, Site 79. LiDAR clearly illustrates the enclosure and associated banks. Visible on the LiDAR is an additional linear, extending from the eastern edge of the enclosure. It is oriented north-east/south-west and is c 100m long.



Plate 12: North bank of enclosed settlement, Site 6, looking west

Site Number 7

Site Name RAF Riccall, Bomber Airfield

NGR 464178 436804 (area)

Ref no NMR SE 63 NW 21; NMR 1313568; HER 12150

Site TypeRoyal Air Force BasePeriodSecond World War

Source NMR; HER; Riccall Airfield Layout Plans 5116/45 and 5117/45

A World War Two military airfield, opened in 1942 and closed in 1957. It had three runways and perimeter dispersal bays. A Bomb Store lay to the east. Associated dispersed military camps lay mainly to the south and south-east, with two other probable camps further to the north. It was equipped with aircraft hangars of Type T2 and Type B1 designs. During the war it was an operational bomber base for the Royal Air Force (7 Group). By 1985 the main use of the site was for agricultural purposes. By 2002 many buildings had been demolished and

the runways removed.

Site Number 8

Site Name Skipwith Common, north of King Rudding Lane, Sand Pit

NGR 464458 437391

Ref no -

Site Type Sand pit Period Post-medieval

Source OS first edition map (1855)

Description A sand pit noted on the 1855 OS mapping, to the north of King Rudding Lane. It is labelled

'old sand pit' on the 1890 mapping, but is not shown after this date. In the 1940s the location

of this sand pit was built over by Riccall Airfield (Site 7). It is no longer extant.

Site Number

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit, east of Danes Hill

NGR 464665 437676

Ref no

Site Type Sand pit Period Post-medieval

Source OS first edition map (1855)

A sand pit noted on the 1855 OS mapping, to the east of Danes Hill. A hollow is shown in **Description**

> the approximate position of this sand pit on the 1890 and 1908-9 mapping, but it is not labelled. In the 1940s the location of this sand pit was built over by Riccall Airfield (Site 7).

It is no longer extant.

Site Number

Site Name Skipwith Common, Finger post marked at the eastern end of King Rudding Lane

NGR 465253 437319

Ref no

Site Type Marker post Period Post-medieval Map regression **Source**

Description A finger post, noted on the 1855 OS mapping at the eastern end of King Rudding Lane. It is

marked as a guide post on the 1890 25" mapping, but not shown after this date. In the 1940s the location of this finger post was developed as a route to the Riccall Airfield bomb store

(Site 25). It is no longer extant.

Site Number

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit, within Mound Plantation

NGR 464452 437462

Ref no

Site Type Sand pit Period Post-medieval

Source OS first edition map (1855)

Description A sand pit noted on the 1890 OS mapping, within Mound Plantation, but not shown on later

mapping. In the 1940s the location of this sand pit was built over by Riccall Airfield (Site 7).

It is no longer extant.

Site Number 12

Site Name Danes Hill - Rectangular Enclosure

NGR 464770 437660 Ref no **HER MNY 12133** Site Type Rectangular Enclosure

Period Iron Age Source HER

Description An enclosure depicted on William Proctor's MS Plan, but not on OS maps. A settlement

> existing beside the barrows is mentioned, but no details of it are known. The enclosure had two oval ring ditches in its north-east corner. It has possibly been destroyed by the construction of the airfield. It possibly refers to the same site as Site 16, which is located c

30m to the south. No earthworks were noted in this area during the walkover survey.

Site Number 13

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store I

NGR 465450 437270 Ref no **HER MNY 12154** Site Type **Bomb Store** Period Second World War

Source HER; Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; Walkover survey

This is a general site group comprising a bomb store that was positioned well to the east of **Description**

the airfield within Skipwith Common. This site was derived from documentary sources and includes the individual four buildings (Sites 25, 60, 75 and 88) that were recorded by field survey.

Site Number 14

Site Name Skipwith Common, Mound

NGR 465080 437160 Ref no HER MNY 17591

Site Type Mound Period ? Bronze Age

Source HER; OS first edition map (1855); walkover survey

Description A mound, off Moor Lane to the east of Riccall airfield, shown on the OS map of 1855. A

prominent, regular shaped mound c 0.6m high and 8m in diameter. There are some trees around the edges of the top, but the rest of the top is flat. The mound sides are fairly steep and a shallow ditch runs around the outside, some parts of which were filled with water.

Site Number 15

Site Name Skipwith Common, Findspot

NGR 464500 437700 **Ref no** HER MNY 17618

Site Type Findspot
Period ?Iron Age
Source HER

Description The findspot, from Danes Hill (west), of a fragment of woollen cloth, thought to be Iron Age.

Found within a stratified context. From the same location as a square barrow (Site 23) and

presumed to be associated with it.

Site Number 16

Site Name Skipwith Common, Enclosure System

NGR 464760 437630 **Ref no** HER MNY 17643

Site TypeEnclosurePeriodUnknownSourceHER

Description An enclosure system of unknown date, which possibly refers to the same site as Site 12,

which is located c 30m to the north. No earthworks were noted in this area, which was heavily

disturbed by airfield construction, during the walkover survey.

Site Number 17

Site Name Skipwith Common, Findspot of Roman pottery

NGR 464760 437630 Ref no HER MNY 17644

Site Type Findspot Period Roman Source HER

Description Findspot of Roman pottery sherds, close to enclosures 12/16.

Site Number 18

Site Name Skipwith Common, Multiple Banks

NGR 465339 437430 Site Type Earthworks

Period Unknown - ?Bronze Age

Source Friends of Skipwith Common; Google Earth;

Description Earthworks comprising multiple banks, aligned approximately north-west / south-east. This

feature extends for c 867m and is c 35m wide. The individual banks are c 3m to 5m in width

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



Plate 13: Multiple-bank boundary that crosses the study area, Site 18, looking south

Site Number 19

Site Name Danes Hill no. 7 - Crouched inhumation and square barrow

NGR 46452 43763 **Ref no** HER MNY 12129

Site Type Crouched inhumation and square barrow

Period Iron Age

Source HER; Stead 1965

Description Barrow no. 7 as depicted on Stead's map of 1961 was excavated in 1754, producing two

crouched inhumations. The excavator, J Burton, also excavated other barrows in the Danes Hill complex (Site 1). The condition of the barrow is unknown. It was de-scheduled in 1999.

Site Number 20

Site Name Danes Hill - Cremation

NGR 46460 43765

Ref no HER MNY 12131; SM 30179

Designation Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1018603); part of Site 1

Site Type Cremation
Period Iron Age
Source HER; Stead 1965

Description Calcined bones (quantities unknown) were recovered by excavations by Burton and YAC.

Location of excavated barrows unknown.

Site Number 21

Site Name Adamson Farm - Square Barrow

NGR 464400 437800
Ref no HER MNY 12135
Site Type Square barrow
Period Iron Age
Source HER

Description

Up to five square barrows are visible on aerial photographs adjacent to Danes Hill. Three of these are positioned alongside a trackway. All the barrows lie in the same field beside Danes Hill, which contains a square barrow cemetery, therefore it can be assumed that these are part of the same cemetery (Site 1).

Site Number 22

Site Name Adamson Farm - Field System

NGR 464400 437800
Ref no HER MNY 12143
Site Type Field system
Period Iron Age
Source HER

Description A complex pattern of field systems containing small rectangular and square enclosures. The

Iron Age date has been given to the field system due to its association with the square barrows. This field system may be part of an extensive field system to the north of Skipwith Common and Danes Hill (Fig 1; NMR SE 63 NW 8). No earthworks were noted in this area

during the walkover survey.

Site Number 23

Site Name Skipwith Common, Square Barrow

NGR 464500 437700
Ref no HER MNY 17619
Site Type Square barrow
Period Iron Age
Source HER

Description A square barrow which is part of the Danes Hill group (Site 1). There was a find of woollen

cloth (Site 15) from this same location, which is presumed to be associated with this barrow.

Site Number 24

Site Name Skipwith Common, Drain

NGR 465442 437392

Site Type Drain

Period Second World War

Source Map regression; walkover survey,

Description A drain aligned north-west / south-east. It was not shown on any of the historic mapping

examined and was built sometime after 1910. It was probably constructed during the Second World War to drain the bomb storage compound (Site 60). It is shown on the current OS

mapping and is still in use.



Plate 14: Second World War drain, Site 24, looking south-east

Site Number 25

Description

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store II

NGR 465376 437342 Site Type Bomb Store Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; Walkover Survey

One of four structures (Sites 25, 60, 75 and 88) described as temporary brick-constructed Bomb Stores on the airfield layout plan (Building drawing number 3104/42) and is part of the Site 13/315 group description for the bomb store. The structure comprises a brick wall aligned west/east, with five perpendicular earth banks coming off its north side, making a total length of 75m and creating four bays each c 9m wide. The brick wall is two courses wide and 0.8m high. Iron rings hanging on iron pegs were set within the wall (c 9 rings per bay) and served to tie down tarpaulins. The earth banks are c 1.5m high, 17m long and 4-5m wide at the base. There was a concrete ramp from the top of the brick wall into each bay (although this does not survive for each bay). Each bay has a concrete surface. In some places a raised edge or kerb to the concrete base could be seen at the back of the bays, possibly demarcating the location of a former structure.



Plate 15: Bomb store, Site 25

Site Name Danes Hill, Possible Barrow

NGR 464468 437756

Ref no

Site TypeBarrowPeriod?PrehistoricSourceWalkover survey

Description A possible barrow, roughly rectangular and flat on top, measuring c 7m from north-east to

south-west, 4.5m in width and up to 0.3m in height. There is some tree disturbance around its edges. It is in the same location as one of the Danes Hill group of barrows, shown on the

historic mapping from 1855 onwards (Site 1).

Site Number 27

Site Name Danes Hill, Possible Barrow

NGR 464431 437770

Ref no -

Site Type Barrow
Period ?Prehistoric
Source Walkover survey

Description A possible barrow measuring c 9m in diameter and c 0.6m in height. It is fairly flat on top,

although there are some trees on the top towards its south extent and around its edges. It is in the same location as one of the Danes Hill group of barrows, shown on the historic mapping

from 1855 onwards (Site 1).



Plate 16: Square barrow, Site 27, looking south

Site Name Danes Hill, Possible Barrow

NGR 464394 437752

Ref no -

Site Type Barrow
Period ?Prehistoric
Source Walkover survey

Description A possible round barrow, marked by a slight ditch on its south side and a hole approximately

in the centre. The east side is less clear due to tree disturbance and a less pronounced mound/ditch. It is fairly flat on top, though it rises up slightly at the south end. It measures c 8m from north to south, 13m from east to west and c 0.6m in height. It is in the same location as one of the Danes Hill group of barrows, shown on the historic mapping from 1890 onwards

(Site 1).

Site Number 29

Site Name Danes Hill, Bank and ditch

NGR 464376 437702

Ref no

Site Type Bank and ditch Period Unknown Source Walkover survey

Description A bank aligned north-east to south-west, with a ditch on its north-west side. It is c 2m wide

and up to 0.5m high.

Site Number 30

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Air Raid Shelter I

NGR 464438 437605 Site Type Air Raid Shelter Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; Walkover survey

Description A Stanton-type air raid shelter, comprising a concrete tunnel, aligned north-east to south-

west, with brick-built entrances at the west end of its north side and the east end of its south side. This was the same type of structure as Sites 49 and 108. This structure is labelled as 'ARS' on the airfield layout plan. To the immediate south-west of this building is a building of similar size labelled on the map as 'GPH', however this was not located during the

Walkover survey (Site 317).



Plate 17: Air raid shelter, Site 30

Site Number 31

Site Name Danes Hill, Possible Barrow

NGR 464343 437681

Ref no -

Site TypeBarrowPeriod?PrehistoricSourceWalkover survey

Description A possible barrow, which is substantially disturbed by trees and burrows. It measured up to

0.4 m high, c 5m west to east and 9m north to south. The north side is very disturbed and the top dips down in this area. It is in the same location as one of the Danes Hill group of barrows,

shown on the historic mapping from 1855 onwards (Site 1).

Site Number 32

Site Name Danes Hill, Possible Barrow

NGR 464364 437807

Ref no -

Site Type Barrow
Period ?Prehistoric
Source Walkover survey

Description A large, low round mound covered in bracken, but visible as a slight rise, c 13m in diameter.

It is in the same location as one of the Danes Hill group of barrows, shown on the historic

mapping from 1908 onwards (Site 1).

Site Number 33

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Gun Pit I

NGR 464559 437722 **Site Type** Gun Pit

Period Second World War Source Walkover survey

Description A gun pit, one of a pair, protecting the northern perimeter of the airfield. Each comprises a

concrete cylinder, c 1.5m in diameter and 1m in height. This example has a gun mount intact and a brick basin measuring 1m long by 0.75m wide and 0.25m deep is located 2m to the

east of the gun pit.



Plate 18: Gun pit, Site 33

Site Number 34

Site Name Skipwith Common, Trackway

NGR 464481 437625

Ref no -

Site Type Trackway Period Modern

Source Walkover survey

Description A trackway shown on the map which is aligned north-east to south-west, measuring c 7m in

width. A line of trees is present on either side of the trackway. The track appears to post-date

the airfield.

Site Number 35

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Runway and Perimeter Track

NGR 464644 437403

Site Type Runway and Perimeter Track

Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description The surviving brick and hardcore/concrete surfaces of the runway and perimeter track,

located on the north-west extent of Riccall airfield.



Plate 19: Runway and perimeter track, Site 35

Site Name Skipwith Common, possible mound

NGR 464281 437440

Ref no -

Site Type Mound Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey

Description A small, low earthen mound, measuring c 3.5 x 2m with a maximum height of 0.35m, and it

is pear-shaped. It is located in an area of smooth ground and is therefore distinctive but could

nevertheless be natural in origin.

Site Number 37

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Drain

NGR 464370 437508

Ref no -

Site Type Drain

Period Second World War Source Walkover survey

Description The line of a drain related to airfield operations, that is located to the north-west of the

perimeter trackway.

Site Number 38

Site Name Danes Hill, Possible Barrow

NGR 464427 437746

Ref no -

Site TypeBarrowPeriod?PrehistoricSourceWalkover survey

Description A possible barrow, although heavily disturbed by badger sets. It is c 7m in diameter and is a

maximum of 0.4 high, with an uneven surface due to animal activity. It is in the same location as one of the Danes Hill group of barrows, shown on the historic mapping from 1855 onwards

(Site 1).

Site Number 39

Site Name Danes Hill, Possible Barrow

NGR 464642 437849

Ref no -

Site TypeBarrowPeriod?PrehistoricSourceWalkover survey

Description A possible barrow heavily disturbed by badgers, comprising a slight mound, c 9m in

diameter, and is most notable to the north and west and rising to c 0.3 in height. It is located

within the Danes Hill group (Site 1).

Site Number 40

Site Name Skipwith Common, Curvilinear Ditch

NGR 464736 437754

Ref no -

Site TypeCurvilinear ditchPeriodMedieval /Post-medievalSourceWalkover survey

Description A curvilinear ditch comprising a shallow ditch, c 1m wide, with a bank on the outer edge and

slight bank on the inside. The feature was also surveyed to the north-east where it was seen

to continue as the line of a former field boundary.

Site Number 41

Site Name Skipwith Common, Findspot

NGR 464758 437732

Ref no -

Site Type Findspot
Period Prehistoric
Source Walkover survey

Description A flint findspot on surface, i.e. not *in situ*. It was possibly of Neolithic date, and was a heavily

eroded tertiary flint flake, which has possibly modified for use as a scraper, but alternatively

this could be post-depositional damage (Fraser Brown pers comm).

Site Number 42

Site Name Skipwith Common, parallel banks

NGR 464773 437717

Ref no -

Site TypeFormer pathPeriodUnknownSourceWalkover survey

Description Parallel banks aligned north-west to south-east, comprising two low mounds each c 1.5m

wide and up to 0.3m high. It was possibly a continuation of Site 47, to the east. Both banks are on the line of a path marked on the current mapping; however, it appears that this path

has now fallen out of use.

Site Number 43

Site Name Skipwith Common, Possible Barrow

NGR 464772 437759

Ref no -

Site Type Possible barrow
Period ?Prehistoric
Source Walkover survey

Description The location of a possible mound in the area of one of the Site 1 barrows. However it was

not particularly clear as a site and was defined only by a slight mound, *c* 11m in diameter, of which there are a number of similar features in the area which are thought to be natural.

Site Number 44

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ring Main Plinth

NGR 464906 437601

Site Type Airfield Building Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey **Description** The remains of a rectangular brick structure aligned not

The remains of a rectangular brick structure aligned north-west to south-east. The south and east walls survive to c 1m and the west and north walls are 4 or 5 courses high. The entrance is located on the west side at the south end. Much tumbled brick can be seen inside. A ring main plinth is marked at this location on the airfield layout plan and an electrical service trench runs towards it from the south-west (Sites **45** and **262**).



Plate 20: Ring main plinth, Site 44

Site Number 45

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch/Service Trench

NGR 464879 437614

Site Type Ditch

Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

 $\textbf{Description} \hspace{1cm} \textbf{A drain/ditch } c \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{1m wide.} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{It is aligned approximately north-west/south-east on the western} \\$

end and turns 90 degrees and runs to the south-west adjacent to the ring main plinth (Site 44). At least part of the feature consists of a small portion of electrical service trench, part of a

longer trench shown on the airfield layout plan (Site 262).



Plate 21: Modern drain, Site 45, looking west

Site Name Skipwith Common, Possible Barrow

NGR 464859 437655

Ref no

Site Type Possible barrow
Period ?Prehistoric
Source Walkover survey

Description A possible cairn in the area of one of the Site 1 barrows, shown on the historic mapping from

1908 onwards. It is c 7m in diameter and is heavily disturbed with animal burrows. The date

of this feature is questionable as brick was noted on its top.

Site Number 47

Site Name Skipwith Common, Hollow way

NGR 464854 437721

Ref no -

Site Type Former path
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A hollow way aligned west/east, c 1m wide. A parallel hollow was located to the south. It

was possibly a continuation of Site 42, to the west. Both sites are on the line of a path marked

on the current mapping; however, it appears that this path has now fallen out of use.



Plate 22: Hollow way, Site 47, looking west

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Concrete Block

NGR 464833 437733
Site Type Concrete Block
Period Second World War
Source Walkover survey
Description A concrete block pr

A concrete block probably of Second World War origin. It did not appear to be *in situ* as it is currently positioned at an angle. A small piece of metal is screwed into its top. It is approximately on the line of the main runway and could be a stanchion for a landing light.

Site Number 49

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Air Raid Shelter II

NGR 464773 437528 Site Type Air Raid Shelter Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey **Description** A Stanton-type air raid shelter, comprising a concrete tu

A Stanton-type air raid shelter, comprising a concrete tunnel aligned north-east to south-west with a brick-built entrance on its west side at the south end and on its east side at the north end. This was the same type of structure as Sites 30 and 108. This structure is labelled as 'ARS' on the airfield layout plan. To the immediate south of this building is a building of similar size labelled on the map as 'GPH', however this was not located during the walkover

survey (Site 318).



Plate 23: Air raid shelter, Site 49

Site Name Skipwith Common, Curvilinear bank

NGR 464958 437680

Ref no -

Site Type Curvilinear bank
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A curvilinear low bank aligned south-west to north-east and turning to the north at its west

end. It is c 1m wide and 0.4m high.

Site Number 51

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store III

NGR 464912 437352 Site Type Bomb storage area Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description A bomb storage area, one of four located on a linear dispersal (Site 316) located on the east

side of Riccall airfield. It is marked as an 'Explosives Lab' and was a Nissen hut protected by earthen blast walls (Building drawing number 4735/42) on the airfield layout plan. There is no surviving evidence of the hut, but the blast wall survives. It is rectangular and aligned approximately west to east with remains of brick walls at the entrances on the west and east ends. The brick survives to three or four courses. The north and south longer sides are very overgrown and appear to only ever have been constructed as earth banks, which now survive

as mounds with trees growing on them.



Plate 24: Bomb store, Site 51

Site Name Skipwith Common, Mound

NGR 465045 437425

Ref no -

Site Type Mound
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A low circular mound, fairly regular in shape, c 6m in diameter and no more than 0.2m in

height. The mound, north of Site 316, is flat on top and has trees around the edges.

Site Number 53

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store IV

NGR 465095 437343 Site Type Bomb Store Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description A bomb storage area, one of four located on a linear dispersal (Site **316**) located on the east

side of Riccall airfield. It is marked as an 'Explosives Lab', and was a Nissen hut protected by earthen blast walls (Building drawing number 4735/42) on the airfield layout plan. There is no surviving evidence of the hut, but the blast wall survives. It is rectangular in shape and aligned approximately west to east with low remains of brick walls at the entrances on the west and east ends. A bank also runs parallel to this structure on the north side. The brick survives to three or four courses. The north and south longer sides are very overgrown and appear to only ever have been constructed as earth banks, which now survive as mounds with trees growing on them.



Plate 25: Bomb store, Site 53

Site Number Site Name NGR Site Type Period Source Description

54 and **55** Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store V 465222 437321 Bomb Store

Second World War

Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

A bomb storage area, one of four located on a linear dispersal (Site **316**) located on the east side of Riccall airfield. It is marked as a 'Fused and Spare Bomb Store' and was a Nissen hut protected by earthen blast walls (Building drawing number 4780/42) on the airfield layout plan. There is no surviving evidence of the hut, but the blast wall survives. It is square in shape and is constructed of earth mounds c 2m high, with sloping sides, giving them an approximate width of 1.5m on top and c 4m at base. There was some disturbance by trees and bike tracks. To the north is a linear bank, 42m long by c 2m high, constructed of earth with sloping sides, giving it an approximate width of 1.5m on top and c 4m at base.



Plate 26: Bomb store, Site 54/55

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store VI

465002 437329 **NGR Site Type** Bomb Store Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description

A bomb storage area, one of four located on a linear dispersal (Site 316) located on the east side of Riccall airfield. It is marked as an 'Explosives Lab (Heavy/Light)' and was a Nissen hut protected by earthen blast walls (Building drawing number 4778/42) on the airfield layout plan. There is no surviving evidence of the hut, but the blast wall survives. It is rectangular in shape and aligned approximately west to east with low remains of banks up to c 1m high and with brick walls at the entrances on the west and east ends. A bank also runs parallel to this structure on the north side.



Plate 27: Bomb store, Site 56

Site Number

Site Name Skipwith Common, Trackways

465161 437436 **NGR**

Ref no

Site Type Trackways Period Unknown **Source** Walkover survey

Description Two trackways, north of Site 316, running east/west and east-north-east/west-south-west,

converging to the west. The trackways cut through the heather, creating a gap c 3m wide.



Plate 28 Trackway, Site 57, looking north-east

Site Name Skipwith Common, Drain

NGR 465275 437436

Ref no -

Site Type Drain
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A drain, c 1.5m wide and 0.2-0.3m deep, cut by drain **24**. An associated bank can be seen in places. Some of this drain is filled with water and some of it is dry.



Plate 29: Drain, Site 58, looking north-east

Site Number 59

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Slit Trench

NGR 465068 437641 Site Type Slit Trench Period Second World War **Source** Walkover survey

Description A possible slit trench located on the northern perimeter of Riccall airfield. It is rectangular

with straight-sided cut edges and measures c 2m long by 1m wide and is up to 0.5m deep.

Site Number

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store VII

NGR 465550 437351 **Bomb Store** Site Type Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description

One of four buildings (Sites 25, 60, 75 and 88) described as temporary brick-constructed Bomb Stores on the airfield layout plan (Building drawing number 3104/42), and is a part of Site 13/315. The structure comprises a brick wall aligned west/east, with five perpendicular earth banks coming off its north side, making a total length of 75m and creating four bays each c 9m wide. The brick wall is two courses wide and 0.8m high. Iron rings hanging on iron pegs were set within the wall (c 9 rings per bay), which were intended to hold down a tarpaulin cover over the top. The earth banks are c 1.5m high, 17m long and 4-5m wide at the base. There is a concrete ramp from the top of the brick wall into each bay (although this does not survive for each bay), and each bay has a concrete surface. In some places a raised edge or kerb to the concrete base could be seen at the back of the bays, possibly demarcating the location of a former structure.



Plate 35: Bomb store (Site 60)

Site Number

Site Name Skipwith Common, Drain

465211 437720 **NGR**

Ref no Site Type Drain Period Unknown Source Walkover survey

Description A fairly modern drain, which is located on the current map. The drain measured 1m wide and

0.5m deep and has recently been re-cut.

Site Number

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank **NGR** 465229 437638

Ref no Site Type Bank
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A linear bank, aligned north-east to south-west and c 1.5m wide. It is close to the probable

location of a junction between Site 18, the north-west/south-east-aligned multiple bank

system and Site 334 the west/east oriented example, and may be associated.

Site Number 63

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

NGR 465143 437643

Ref no Site Type Bank
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A linear bank aligned east/west, c 2.5m wide and up to 0.4m high. Trees are located on the

top of the bank, which appears to divide an area of dry woodland to the north from a much boggier area to the south. It is close to the probable location of a junction between Site 18, the north-west/south-east-aligned multiple bank system and Site 334 the west/east oriented

example, and may be associated.

Site Number 64

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch

NGR 465169 437587

Ref no -

Site Type Drainage ditch
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A ditch, aligned approximately west-east, which feeds into a drain (Site 24) to the west. It is

c 1.5m wide and up to 0.2m deep.

Site Number 65

Site Name Skipwith Common, Drain

NGR 465307 437627

Ref no Site Type Drain
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A 4m wide, fairly shallow drain aligned west to east.

Site Number 66

Site Name Skipwith Common, Possible Barrow

NGR 465331 437584

Ref no -

Site Type Possible barrow
Period ?Prehistoric
Source Walkover survey

Description A possible barrow, c 8m in diameter, comprising a roughly circular low mound. The site is

heavily overgrown and is located within the group of multiple banks, Site 18.

Site Number 67

Site Name Skipwith Common, Drain

NGR 465334 437598

Ref no - Site Type Drain

Period Unknown Source Walkover survey

Description A linear drain aligned west-east, *c* 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep.



Plate 30: Ditch, Site 67, looking east

Site Number 68

Site Name Skipwith Common, Drain

NGR 465362 437493

Ref no Site Type Drain
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A drain aligned north/south, which cuts drain **69**, to the north. It comprises a narrow, steep-

sided ditch c 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep. To the north it widens out and is visible as a gap in

the heather c 2m wide.

Site Number 69

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch

NGR 465334 437667

Ref no Site Type Ditch
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A west/east aligned ditch, c 1m wide and up to 0.1 deep. Lines up with Sites **70** and **74**. Site

74 appears to form the southern edge of an enclosure plotted by the NMR (Fig 1; SE63NE38).

Site 333, possible field boundary, runs at right-angles and may be associated

Site Number 70

Site Name Skipwith Common, Boundary bank

NGR 465421 437690

Ref no -

Site Type Boundary bank Period Unknown

Source Description Walkover survey

A boundary bank aligned east/west with a ditch on one side. Lines up with Sites **69** and **74**. Site **74** appears to form the southern edge of an enclosure plotted by the NMR (Fig 1; SE63NE38). Site **333**, possible field boundary, runs at right-angles and may be associated.



Plate 31: Boundary bank, (Site 70), looking east

Site Number 71

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

NGR 465419 437658

Ref no Site Type Bank
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A bank, aligned north-east to south-west, which could not be accessed as it was located in a

bog. It was sketched on a map and photographed.



Plate 32: Bank (Site 71), looking south

Site Name Skipwith Common, Drain

NGR 465470 437529

Ref no Site Type Drain
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A drain, 1.5m wide and c 0.1m deep, aligned north-east to south-west.

Site Number 73

Site Name Skipwith Common, Mound

NGR 465499 437685

Ref no -

Site Type Mound
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A possible low mound, c 7m in diameter and up to 0.2m high.

Site Number 74

Site Name Skipwith Common, Boundary bank

NGR 465510 437717

Ref no -

Site TypeBoundary bankPeriodUnknownSourceWalkover survey

Description A boundary bank aligned approximately west/east, 0.2m high and c 2m wide. Lines up with

the southern edge of an enclosure plotted by the NMR (SE63NE38). Also lines up with Sites **69** and **70**. Site **333**, possible field boundary, runs at right-angles and may be associated.

Site Number 75

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store VIII

NGR 465388 437209 Site Type Bomb Store Period Second World War

Source Description

Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

One of four buildings (Sites 25, 60, 75 and 88) described as temporary brick-constructed Bomb Stores on the airfield layout plan (Building drawing number 3104/42), and is part of Site 13/315. The structure comprises a brick wall aligned west/east, with five perpendicular earth banks coming off its north side, making a total length of 75m and creating four bays each c 9m wide. The brick wall is two courses wide and 0.8m high. Iron rings hanging on iron pegs were set within the wall (c 9 rings per bay), which were intended to hold down a tarpaulin over the structure. The earth banks are c 1.5m high, 17m long and 4-5m wide at the base. There is a concrete ramp from the top of the brick wall into each bay (although this does not survive for each bay), and each bay has a concrete surface. In some places a raised edge or kerb to the concrete base could be seen at the back of the bays, possibly demarcating the location of a former structure. An earth bank, aligned east / west was located to the north of the bays.



Plate 33: Bomb store, Site 75

Site Number 76

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

NGR 465562 437728

Ref no Site Type Bank
Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey; OS 1910

Description A prominent curved bank, up to 0.5m high and c 1.5m wide. This bank could be the boundary

of a plantation shown on the 1910 OS mapping (Site 116).



Plate 34: Prominent curved bank (Site 76), looking west

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

465600 437748 NGR

Ref no Site Type Bank Period Unknown Source Walkover survey

Description A bank aligned north-east to south-west, which is up to 0.2m high and c 2m wide.

78 Site Number

Site Name Skipwith Common, Hollow

NGR 465574 437608

Ref no Site Type Hollow Unknown Period **Source** Walkover survey

Description A water filled circular hollow, c 9m diameter. It has a regular shape and quite steep edges suggesting that it is man-made



Plate 35: Water-filled circular hollow (Site 78) looking south

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch and Banks

NGR 465685 437631

Ref no

Site Type Ditch and banks

Period ?Iron Age/Romano-British

Source Walkover survey

Description A north-east to south-west aligned ditch, which curves to the north-west at the west end to

meet with a ditch alongside a track. The ditch peters out at the east end and there was no sign of it turning to the north. The ditch is up to 0.3m deep and c 1.5m wide. A prominent bank, c 3m wide, can be seen on its north-west side and a less prominent bank is located to the

south-east. It was a part of the Site 6 field system.

Site Number 80

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank and Ditch

464922 437104 **NGR**

Ref no

Site Type Bank and ditch Period Unknown **Source** Walkover survey

Description A bank and ditch, on the eastern edge of the airfield, aligned south-west to north-east. The

bank is c 4m long, 1.5m wide and up to 0.2m high; the adjacent, parallel ditch is 0.1m deep

and 1m wide.

Site Number

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

NGR 464923 437198

Ref no Site Type Bank Period Unknown

Walkover survey **Source**

Description A bank aligned west to east, on the eastern edge of the airfield, turning south at its east end,

measuring c 3m wide and c 0.3m high.

Site Number 82

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

464994 437298 **NGR**

Ref no Site Type Bank Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey

Description A section of bank on the eastern edge of the airfield south of Site 316. It is c 4m long, aligned

south-east to north-west, with a ditch on its north-east side. The bank is c 2m wide and 0.4m

high. The ditch is c 0.5m wide and under 0.1m deep.

Site Number 83

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Component Store I

NGR 464889 437305 Site Type Component Store Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description A building located on the eastern end of Riccall airfield. It is described as one of a pair of

> Nissen huts marked as 'Component Store' (Building drawing number 4753/42) on the airfield layout plan. The surviving structure comprises a central brick partition wall aligned east/west, measuring c 3m long by 1.2m high and 2 courses wide. It is located in a hollow between two

north/south aligned earth banks. The banks both measure c 8m long by 2m wide and are up to 0.3m high.



Plate 36: Component store, Site 83

Site Number Site Name NGR Site Type Period Source Description

84

Riccall Airfield, Component Store II

464897 437257 Component Store Second World War

Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

A building located on the eastern end of Riccall airfield. It is described as one of a pair of Nissen huts marked as 'Component Store' (Building drawing number 4753/42) on the airfield layout plan. The surviving structure could not be accessed because the surrounding area is flooded. It comprised a central brick partition wall aligned east/west, located in a hollow between two north/south aligned earth banks.



Plate 37: Component store, Site 84

Site Name Skipwith Common, Circular Ditch

NGR 465076 437271

Ref no Site Type Ditch
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description The east and south portions of a circular ditch with straight sides c 0.6 wide and 0.4 deep; the

ditch is c 7m in diameter. The remainder of the ditch was not well-defined. The feature

appears to be relatively recent and was possibly Second World War related.

Site Number 86

Site Name Skipwith Common, Possible Bank

NGR 465058 437202

Ref no Site Type Bank
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A possible bank, c 5m wide, aligned south-east to north-west, running to the north-west from

Site 14. It is not a very distinctive feature, was amorphous and could in fact be a natural ridge

of drier land on which the cairn is located.

Site Number 87

Site Name Skipwith Common, Drain

NGR 465150 437281

Ref no Site Type Drain
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A very regular straight-sided drain, 1.5m wide and 0.1m deep, aligned north-east to south-

west. It was possibly a Second World War associated feature.

Site Number 88

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store IX

NGR 465563 437200 Site Type Bomb Store Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description One of four buildings (Sites 25, 60, 75 and 88) described as temporary brick-constructed

Bomb Stores on the airfield layout plan (Building drawing number 3104/42) and is part of Site 13/315. The structure comprises a brick wall aligned west/east, with five perpendicular earth banks coming off its north side, making a total length of 75m and creating four bays each c 9m wide. The brick wall is two courses wide and 0.8m high. Iron rings hanging on iron pegs were set within the wall (c 9 rings per bay) and served to hold down a tarpaulin over the structure. The earth banks are c 1.5m high, 17m long and 4-5m wide at the base. There was a concrete ramp from the top of the brick wall into each bay (although this does not survive for each bay), and each bay has a concrete surface. In some places a raised edge or kerb to the concrete base could be seen at the back of the bays, possibly demarcating the location of a former structure. An earth bank, aligned east /west was located to the north of the bays.



Plate 38: Bomb store, Site 88

Site Name Skipwith Common, Spoil Heaps

NGR 464404 437623
Site Type Spoil Heaps
Period Second World War
Source Walkover survey

Description An area of spoil and debris on Danes Hill. It is likely to be associated with clearance at Riccall

airfield, as it is located to the immediate north-west end of the perimeter track and on the east

side of a dispersal bay.

Site Number 91

Site Name Skipwith Common, Round Barrow

NGR 464785 437755

Ref no -

Designation Part of Site 1, Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1018603)

Site Type Barrow
Period Bronze Age

Source HER; Walkover survey

Description A fairly prominent round barrow, c 5m in diameter. It is part of the scheduled Danes Hill

group of barrows, though located to the east of the main group adjacent to Site 43 at the

north-east end of the airfield.

Site Number 92

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch

NGR 465942 437640

Ref no Site Type Ditch
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A shallow ditch, c 0.8m wide and aligned east/west. The west end is merged with a flooded

area, and may have served as drainage. It is south of Sandy Lane on the edge of Site 294 a

sandpit.

Site Number 93

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch

NGR 465941 437670

Ref no Site Type Ditch
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A shallow ditch, c 1.2m wide and aligned north-east / south-west. This ditch appears to correspond with the southern boundary of an enclosed area of marshy ground shown on the

1910 mapping (Site **117**).



Plate 39: Post-medieval boundary ditch, Site 93, looking south-west

Site Number 94

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch

NGR 465653 437570

Ref no Site Type Ditch
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A ditch aligned south-west / north-east, c 1.5m wide. It is flanked on either side with a bank,

each c 0.5m wide and 0.2m high. In places a raised area running through the centre of the ditch looks like another possible bank, which would make this feature two parallel ditches.

The south-west end of the ditch is merged with a flooded area.

Site Number 95

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch

NGR 465728 437610

Ref no Site Type Ditch
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description Two stretches of a dry shallow ditch aligned east/west, c 1.4m wide.

Site Number 96

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch

NGR 465678 437604

Ref no -

Site TypeDitchPeriodUnknownSourceWalkover survey

Description A pronounced water-filled ditch aligned south-west/north-east, *c* 1.5m wide, with slight banks on either side. The banks are overgrown with trees. The ditch continues slightly further

to the north-east of the surveyed line, but then becomes ill-defined and peters out.



Plate 40: Ditch, Site 96, looking south-west

Site Number 97

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch

NGR 465714 437631

Ref no Site Type Ditch
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A ditch which heads north-east from ditch **96**. The ditch is c 1.2m wide, with a slight bank

on either side.

Site Number 98

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch

NGR 465491 437508

Ref no Site Type Ditch
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A ditch located on the west side of a large area of water (Site 294). The ditch is c 1.5m wide

with a slight bank overgrown with trees, on either side.

Site Number 99

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch

NGR 465457 437474

Ref no Site Type Ditch
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A dry ditch aligned south-west / north-east with possible banks on either side, and is

overgrown with trees. The ditch is c 1.6m wide and c 0.15m wide. The line of the ditch was slightly unclear at the east end where it appeared to be crossed by another possible, though

very ill-defined, drainage ditch and then extended into a flooded area.

Site Number 100

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank, Hollow Pit

NGR 465399 436864

Ref no
Site Type
Bank
Period
Unknown
Source
Walkover survey
A bank aligned s

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



Plate 41: Boundary bank, Site 100, looking south-east

Site Number 101

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch and bank, Hollow Pit

NGR 465264 436766

Ref no Site Type Ditch
Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey

Description

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

Site Number 102

Site Name Skipwith Common, Boundary ditch

NGR 465308 436625

Ref no
Site Type
Period
Source
Description

Ditch
Unknown
Walkover survey
A boundary ditch

A boundary ditch located inside the common along its southern edge. Towards the east end this ditch was over 2m wide. It was filled with water and its depth could not be ascertained. It is marked on the current OS map as a drain.



Plate 42: Boundary ditch, Site 102, looking east

Site Number 103

Description

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Barrack Block I

NGR 465003 436736
Site Type Barrack Block
Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5117/45; walkover survey

A building located on the eastern end of Riccall airfield in a dispersed camp. It is described as a temporary brick-built hut marked as 'Sergeants' Quarters' (Building drawing number 5217/40) on the airfield dispersal plan. The surviving ruinous structure comprised a brick structure, measuring $27 \times 8m$, aligned west-north-west / east-south-east. Parts of the south-east corner of the structure survived to c 2m high, but the remainder stood to only one or two courses high. The structure was heavily overgrown; however, it appeared that it had been divided width ways into c 5 bays, some of which also appeared to have been divided length ways.



Plate 43: Barrack block/ sergeants' quarters, Site 103

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ditch

NGR 465023 436730

Ref no - Site Type Ditch

Period Second World War Source Walkover survey Description A straight sided, ve

A straight sided, very regular ditch aligned north-west / south-east, located to the east of structure 103, and was possibly associated with it. The ditch is c 0.8m wide and is flanked by a bank on either side, both of which were also c 0.8m wide. A drain is marked on this alignment on the current OS mapping. However, the ditch was not in use and no trace of it could be seen to the north of the surveyed area.



Plate 44: Second World War ditch (Site 104) looking south

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Air Raid Shelter III

NGR 464975 436764
Site Type Air Raid Shelter
Period Second World War
Source Walkover Survey
Description A Stanton-type air

A Stanton-type air raid shelter, comprising a concrete tunnel aligned north-north-west to south-south-east with a brick-built entrance on its south side at the east end and a concrete air shaft on its north side at the west end. The shelter is not marked on the airfield dispersal plan.



Plate 45: Air raid shelter, Site 105

Site Number 106

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Latrine

NGR 464934 436802 Site Type Demolished Building Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5117/45; walkover survey

Description A building foundation located on the eastern end of Riccall airfield in a dispersed camp. It is described as a temporary brick-built but marked as 'Airmens Latrines (For 3 Huts)' (Building

described as a temporary brick-built hut marked as 'Airmens Latrines (For 3 Huts)' (Building drawing number 5215/40) on the airfield dispersal plan. The ruinous structure comprised an area of brick debris, which in one or two areas appear to represent the linear footings of a

rectangular building measuring c 9m x 3m and aligned roughly east /west.

Site Number 107

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Barrack Block II

NGR 464925 436816 Site Type Demolished Building Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5117/45; walkover survey

Description A building foundation located on the eastern end of Riccall airfield in a dispersed camp. It is described as a temporary brick-built hut marked as 'Airmens Quarters' (Building drawing

described as a temporary brick-built hut marked as 'Airmens Quarters' (Building drawing number 5217/40) on the airfield dispersal plan. The ruinous structure comprised a concrete

surface aligned north/south.

Site Number 108

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Air Raid Shelter IV

NGR 464958 436881 Site Type Air raid shelter Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5117/45; walkover survey

Description A Stanton-type air raid shelter, comprising a concrete tunnel aligned approximately west to east with a brick-built entrance on its south side at the west end and on its north side at the

east end. The shelter is not marked on the airfield dispersal plan.



Plate 46: Aid raid shelter, Site 108

Site Number 109

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch

NGR 464967 436961

Ref no Site Type Ditch
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A ditch aligned north-east to south-west, c 1.5m wide, with banks on both sides. The banks

are c 0.15m high and are overgrown with trees.

Site Number 110

Site Name Skipwith Common, Pond

NGR 465008 437157

Ref no - Site Type Pond

Period ?Post-medieval

Source OS 1st edition 1890 (25" to 1 mile)

Description A pond shown on the 1890s mapping, but which is no longer extant. The pond may have

originated from an area of peat extraction.

Site Name Skipwith Common, Pond

NGR 465097 436983

Ref no - Site Type Pond

Period ?Post-medieval

Source OS 2nd edition 1908 (25" to 1 mile)

Description A pond shown on the 1910 mapping, but which is no longer extant. The pond may have

originated from an area of peat extraction.

Site Number 112

Site Name Skipwith Common, Hall Moor Pit

NGR 465339 436928

Ref no Site Type Pit/Pond
Period ?Post-medieval

Source OS 1st edition 1890 (6" to 1 mile)

Description A pit marked on the 1855 mapping as Hall Moor Pit and on the current mapping as Hollow

Pit Pond. The name suggests that this was originally an extractive pit (possibly for peat), owned and used by Skipwith Manor, as this is the part of Skipwith Common named as 'Demesne or Hall Moor' on the 1855 mapping. The pit has subsequently become a pond and

is reduced in size from its depiction on the early mapping.

Site Number 113

Site Name Skipwith Common, Fox Covert Plantation

NGR 465288 436826

Ref no -

Site Type Plantation
Period ?Post-medieval

Source OS 1st edition 1890 (6" to 1 mile)

Description A plantation named 'Fox Covert', shown on the 1855 mapping, and located within the area

named 'Demesne or Hall Moor' on this mapping and therefore was probably owned and used by Skipwith Manor. The plantation is not shown on the current mapping; however, two ditches which are thought to be part of the plantation boundary were identified during the

walkover survey (Sites 100 and 101).

Site Number 114

Site Name Skipwith Common, Pond

NGR 465389 436764

Ref no - Site Type Pond

Period ?Post-medieval

Source OS 2nd edition 1910 (6" to 1 mile)

Description A pond located to the south of Fox Covert plantation (Site 113), shown on the 1910 mapping,

and on the current mapping as two ponds. The pond may have originated from an area of peat

extraction.

Site Number 115

Site Name Skipwith Common, Pond

NGR 465478 436719

Ref no - Site Type Pond

Period ?Post-medieval

Source OS 2nd edition 1910 (6" to 1 mile)

Description A pond shown on the 1910 mapping, but no longer extant. The pond may have originated

from an area of peat extraction.

Site Name Skipwith Common, Plantation

NGR 465577 437689

Ref no -

Site Type Plantation
Period ?Post-medieval

Source OS 2nd edition 1910 (6" to 1 mile)

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

bank, up to 0.5m high and c 1.5m wide (Site **76**) was identified during the walkover survey

and is likely to be the remains of the plantation boundary.

Site Number 117

Site Name Skipwith Common, Enclosure

NGR 465902 437696

Ref no -

Site Type Enclosure Period ?Post-medieval

Source OS 2nd edition 1910 (6" to 1 mile)

Description An area marked with a dashed boundary on the 1910 mapping, which appears to demarcate

an area of marshy ground. A shallow ditch (Site 93) was found in this area during the walkover survey, which may be the remains of the southern boundary of this enclosed area.

Site Number 118

Site Name Danes Hills, Square Barrow Cemetery on Crook Moor

NGR 466660 439900

Ref no NMR SE 63 NW 2; SM 30176; HER MNY17552

Designation Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1018603)

Site Type Barrow Cemetery

Period Iron Age

Source HER; walkover survey

Description Scheduled Monument description: The monument includes the buried and earthwork

remains of a group of prehistoric burial mounds surviving to the north west of the junction between Bonby and Broad Lanes on Crook Moor. In 1850 the Yorkshire Antiquarian Club investigated a number of mounds, containing what was described as calcareous matter, which is now identified as cremated bone. The mounds were found to be surrounded by square ditches and were likened to a larger group of barrows 3km to the south west on Skipwith Common (OA North 2008, Site 1). Early editions of the Ordnance Survey mark a group of five mounds on Crook Moor. More recent maps only mark the best-preserved example. This survives as a 10m diameter mound standing up to 0.6m high with evidence of a surrounding ditch (Site 153). The rest of the barrows can be seen as breaks of slope at the edges of level areas standing up to 0.5m high, with the mounds of individual barrows merging into one another to form larger raised areas.

The walkover survey identified four possible barrows, which corresponded to barrows recorded in the HER from historic OS maps (Sites 135, 152, 153, and 155). In addition the HER records a barrow in this area which was not noted on the walkover survey (Site 122) and the walkover noted two possible barrows in the area, which were not previously recorded in the HER (Sites 156 and 157). A further possible barrow (Site 136), marked on the OS first edition (1855), was identified as a mound on the walkover survey.

119-121 NOT ISSUED

Site Number 122

Site Name Danes Hills, Square Barrow

NGR 466590 439920

Ref no NMR SE 63 NE 2; HER MNY 17556 **Designation** Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1016619)

Site Type Barrow Period Iron Age

Source HER

Description A possible barrow marked on the OS first edition map of 1855 as part of an Iron Age barrow

cemetery (see description for Site 118). See also Sites 135, 152, 153, 155, 156 and 157. This

feature was not noted during the walkover survey.

123 NOT ISSUED

Site Number 124

Site Name Little Common, Ring Ditch

NGR 466610 438720

Ref no NMR SE 63 NE 12; HER MNY 17574

Site TypeRing DitchPeriodUnknownSourceHER

Description A ring ditch on Little Common of unknown date. This feature is not shown on the historic

OS mapping.

Site Number 125

Site Name Skipwith Common, Findspot

NGR 466000 438000 Ref no HER MNY 17587

Site Type Findspot
Period Prehistoric
Source HER

Description A findspot of prehistoric pottery. The zeros on the NGR suggest this is not accurately located.

126-32 NOT ISSUED

Site Number 133

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

NGR 466874 440122

Ref no -

Site Type Earthen Bank Period Post-medieval

Source Walkover survey, OS 1890

Description An earthen bank and associated ditch orientated east/west crossing the line of a drain (Site

137). This feature coincides with the line of a track shown on the OS mapping of 1890.

Site Number 134

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 465900 437980 Ref no HER MNY 25904

Site Type Sand Pit

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval

Source HER

Description A sand pit, with dimensions of approximately 10 x 15m. This feature is not shown on the

historic OS mapping.

Site Number 135

Site Name Danes Hill Barrow NGR 466740 439877

Ref no NMR SE 63 NE 2; MNY 17554 **Designation** Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1016619)

Site Type Barrow

Period Iron Age

Source HER; walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A large earthen mound, which is

A large earthen mound, which is up to 1.3m in height. It has a large flat top and there is adjacent flat ground suggesting that it is a tumulus. The mound is heavily bracken covered but has a slightly irregular shape. The mound corresponds with a tumulus marked on the first edition OS map, and is part of an Iron Age barrow cemetery (see description for Site 118). See also Sites 122, 152, 153, 155, 135 and 157).



Plate 47: Site 135, barrow

Site Number 136

Site Name Skipwith Common, Mound

NGR 466789 439989

Ref no -

Site Type Mound

Period Unknown - ?Prehistoric

Source Walkover survey **Description** A large, very irregular

A large, very irregular shaped, flat topped mound. The mound is approximately 1.3m high and has very well-defined edges. The northern side appears to have been cut by a former stream (Site 137). The mound is shown on the 1855 OS mapping, and appears to be included as one of the Danes Hill tumuli (Site 118); however, it is not marked as such on the current OS map.



Plate 48: Site 136, mound

Site Name Skipwith Common, Drain

NGR 466842 440075

Ref no -

Site Type Boundary Ditch/drain_Post-medieval

Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A long, linear north-east/south-west drain/ditch that is now largely earthfast. It is approximately 1.2m in width and cuts the edge of mound **136**. The drain is shown on the first

edition OS map.



Plate 49: Site 137, drain

Site Name Skipwith Common, Drain

NGR 466958 440266

Ref no -

Site Type Drain - ?Post-medieval

Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A long, linear drainage ditch that is very earthfast with silver birch trees growing along its

length. The ditch is approximately 1.4m wide. This feature is not shown on the historic OS

mapping.



Plate 50: Site 138, drain

Site Number 139

Site Name Skipwith Common, Drain

NGR 466947 440222

Ref no - Site Type Drain

Description

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

A long linear drainage ditch that is very earthfast with some immature birch trees growing in it. This feature, which appears to be the northern continuation of drain 137, is cut by modern drainage ditches. A drain is shown in the southern area of this feature on the OS first edition

map, but its northern extent is not depicted.



Plate 51: Site 139, drain

Site Name **Skipwith Common, Sand Pits**

NGR 466963 440299

Ref no

Site Type Sand pits

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval

Source Walkover survey

Description Two sand pits which are 0.4m deep and 0.35m deep. The second has small pools of standing

water in it. These features are not shown on the historic OS mapping.



Plate 52: Site 140, Sand pits

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

467038 440339 NGR

Ref no

Site Type Sand pit

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval

Source Walkover survey

A sandpit that is 0.6m deep. This feature is not shown on the historic OS mapping. **Description**



Plate 53: Site 141, Sand pit

Site Number 142

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 467056 440350

Ref no

Site Type Sand pit

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval

Walkover survey **Source**

Description A sandpit, 0.4m deep, which has very indistinct edges in places. This feature is not shown on

the historic OS mapping.



Plate 54: Site 142, Sand pit

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 467018 440329

Ref no -

Site Type Sand pit

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description An irregular-shaped sand pit that is 0.4m deep. It is almost a continuation of sand pit **142** and

continues in a series of scoops along the road edge, terminating in a larger hollow. The sand pit is heavily overgrown with trees. A sand pit is marked in this location on the OS first

edition mapping.

Site Number 144

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch

NGR 466947 440349

Ref no -Site Type Ditch

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855; LiDAR

DescriptionA drainage ditch that is becoming earthfast and overgrown with trees. It is approximately 0.4m deep and appears to have functioned as a central drainage channel as a small drainage ditch joins it from the nearby road. This feature is marked on the first edition OS map. LiDAR

analysis shows that this feature continues, on the same line, to the south of Bonby Lane and joins with the northern end of another drain (Site 137).



Plate 55: Site 144, ditch

Site Number 145

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank and Ditch

NGR 466800 440319

Ref no -

Site Type Bank and ditch

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A boundary bank and ditch with large trees growing along its course, attesting to its age. It

merges with a large linear ditch to the west. The bank is approximately 1.5m high and 2.5m wide. The ditch is approximately 1m wide and 0.5m deep. The bank and ditch are marked on the first edition OS mapping. The bank and ditch appear to bound the southern edge of an

area of ridge and furrow (Site 164). A similar feature (Site 165), heads south to the modern road from this one, and is possibly associated with it.



Plate 56: Site 145, bank and ditch

Site Number 14

Site Name Skipwith Common, Boundary Bank and ditch

NGR 466955 440345

Ref no

Site Type Unknown - ?Post-medieval

Period Bank and ditch Source Walkover survey

Description A boundary bank and ditch with the emphasis on the bank. The bank is approximately 2.5m wide and 0.6m high; the ditch is approximately 1.5m wide and 0.2m deep. This feature is not shown on the historic OS mapping.



Plate 57: Site 146, boundary bank and ditch

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

NGR 466758 440053

Site Type Bank

Period ?Second World War Source Walkover survey

Description A broad bank that is edged by ditches on either side of it which peter out to the south. It is approximately 6m wide and 0.7m high. The bank is possibly linked to feature **148** and runs

parallel to a similar bank (Site **162**). This feature is not shown on the historic OS mapping.



Plate 58: Bank, Site 147

Site Number 148

Site Name Skipwith Common, Brick Platform

NGR 466729 440036
Site Type Brick platform
Period ?Second World War
Source Walkover survey

Description A rectangular brick platform that is five brick courses high and is topped with a band of

concrete 0.15m thick. The structure is possibly linked to the WWII RAF base Riccall

Airfield.



Plate 59: Brick Platform, Site 148

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch

NGR 466707 439958

Ref no Site Type Ditch

Period Unknown - possibly WWII Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

A drainage ditch on a north/south alignment that is becoming earthfast and contains standing **Description**

water. This feature is marked on the first edition OS map.



Plate 60: Site 149, ditch

Site Number 150

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466623 439813

Ref no

Site Type Sand pit

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A large hollow adjacent to

A large hollow adjacent to a modern track. It is shown on the first edition OS mapping as a sandpit. It is now water filled and the waterline is 1.55m below the top edge of the sandpit.



Plate 61: Site 150, sand pit

Site Number 151

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank and Ditches

NGR 466546 439724 Site Type Bank and ditches

Ref no -

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855; LiDAR; Google Earth

Description A long linear bank, 4m wide, that is defined by

A long linear bank, 4m wide, that is defined by ditches on either side. There are some substantial trees growing out of it and it is evidently of some antiquity. The bank is 1.2m above the base of the ditches. It has a uniform profile and the interior of the ditches are wet. The bank is parallel to, and about 10m removed, from the modern boundary and appears to correspond with the southern boundary of 'Nursery Wood', shown on the OS first edition. LiDAR analysis illustrated two stretches of west-east aligned bank and one stretch of a north-south-aligned bank which clearly define the remainder of the Nursery Wood enclosure shown on the OS first edition. Within the boundary, in the western part of the enclosure, LiDAR showed a series of west-to-east-aligned ridges, also visible on Google Earth, which may be the remains of cultivation ridges.



Plate 68: Site 151, bank and ditches

Site Name NGR

Ref no Designation Site Type Period

Source Description

152

Danes Hills, Barrow 466570 439961

NMR SE 63 NE 2; HER MNY 17557 Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1016619)

Barrow Iron Age

HER; walkover survey

A putative tumulus that is a large rounded profiled mound 0.7m high which from the west has a very well-defined boundary, but it is very ill defined to the east. It has an irregular almost u-shape and as such does not have the plan or physical appearance of a barrow. It is however in the reported position of a barrow from the 1892 OS map and subsequent editions, which is part of an Iron Age barrow cemetery (see description for Site 118). See also Sites 122, 135, 153, 155, 156 and 157). There is some doubt as to whether this site is archaeological, however, and it has only been included because it was identified as such by antiquarians.



Plate 62: Site 152, possible barrow

Site Name Danes Hills Barrow NGR 466624 439922

Ref no NMR SE 63 NE 2; MNY 17553 **Designation** Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1016619)

Site Type Barrow Period Iron Age

Source HER; walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A classic round shaped and very definite barrow. It has a circular shape, very well-defined edges and a flat top. There is also a probable ditch around the outside, which is approximately

1.4m wide. It is 0.75 m high and corresponds with the location of a tumulus identified from OS first edition mapping, which is part of an Iron Age barrow cemetery (see description for

Site 118). See also Sites 122, 135, 152, 155, 156 and 157).



Plate 70: Site 153, barrow

154 NOT ISSUED

Site Number 155

Site Name Danes Hills, Barrow NGR 466653 439919

Ref no NMR SE 63 NE 2; HER MNY 17555 **Designation** Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1016619)

Site Type Barrow Period Iron Age

Source HER; walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A substantial flat-topped mound, 1.1m high, which in places has very well-defined edges,

particularly to the west but the shape is irregular, elongated and extremely large. A tumulus is marked in this location on the OS first edition mapping, and as such it is part of an Iron Age barrow cemetery (see description for Site 118). See also Sites 122, 135, 152, 153, 155, 156 and 157). However, the irregularity of shape and extended size may imply that it was a

natural feature.



Plate 71: Site 155, barrow

Site Number Site Name

Site Name NGR

Ref no

Site Type Period Source Description 156

Danes Hills, Possible Barrow

466509 439956

-

Possible barrow Unknown Walkover survey

A large rounded profile mound which is near to the present-day boundary. It has a moderately defined edge, which is circular to the north, but is straight sided to the south. It is 0.75m high and there is a possibility of ditch around the southern side. It is more definitive in shape and form than some of the others in the barrow cemetery (Site 118); however, there is no tumulus depicted in this location on the historic OS mapping. See Site 118, for a description of the scheduled group of barrows, of which this site may be a part, and also Sites 122, 135, 152, 153, 155 and 157, which are within this group.



Plate 63: Site 156, possible barrow

Site Name Skipwith Common, Possible Barrow

NGR 466656 439961

Ref no -

Site Type Mound

Period Unknown - ?Prehistoric Source Walkover survey Description A sub circular mound w

A sub circular mound with a flat top. It has well defined edges to the west but rather poorly defined edges to the east. It is 0.5m high and, because of its sub-circular shape, looks reasonably convincing as a barrow. It has a sub-circular depression in the western side which may reflect antiquarian disturbance. There are some substantial trees growing from the top of it. This site may be part of the barrow cemetery (Site 118), although it was not marked on the historic OS mapping. See Site 118, for a description of the scheduled group of barrows, of which this site may be a part, and also Sites 122, 135, 152, 153, 155 and 156, which are within this group.



Plate 64: Site 157, possible barrow

Site Number 158

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch and Bank

NGR 466551 440009

Ref no -

Site Type Ditch and bank

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval Source Walkover survey; LiDAR Description A ditch and associated bank

A ditch and associated bank, oriented west-east, with a corner at its eastern end suggesting a north-south return. The ditch is water-filled with a decayed earthen bank on the southern side. The bank is ill-defined, and has some substantial trees growing from it, so is not of recent origin. There is also a slight bank on the northern side. This feature is not shown on the historic OS mapping. LiDAR analysis illustrates the presence of a north-south aligned linear, of uncertain form, continuing northwards from the corner for c 200m and crossing the western boundary of the survey area. There is a similar north-south-aligned feature running parallel c 75m to the west (outside the survey area). The feature is on the same orientation and fields plotted by the NMR further to the north west; it is possible therefore that the feature is the remains of prehistoric field systems (or drainage).

Site Number 159

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch and Bank

NGR 466605 440106

Ref no -

Site Type Ditch and bank

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval Source Walkover survey; LiDAR

Description A degraded earthen ditch, 2m wide, and associated bank on its western side. This feature

appears to continue approximately 40m to the north (Site **160**). It is not shown on the historic OS mapping. It is continuation of Site **160**, which was identified to 40m to the north. LiDAR analysis illustrates the join, in the form of a possible ditch. The feature is close to the western edge of the study area, to the west of which several linear features on a similar broadly north/south alignment have been plotted by the NMR; it is possibly therefore that these are

the remains of prehistoric field systems (or drainage).

Site Number 160

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch and Bank

NGR 466613 440185

Ref no -

Site Type Ditch and bank

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval Source Walkover survey; LiDAR

Description A degraded earthen ditch and associated bank on its western side. The bank is very substantial

in places, up to 2m wide and may have some reasonable antiquity). This feature is not shown on the historic OS mapping. LiDAR analysis illustrates the join between this feature and Site **159**, 40m to the south, in the form of a possible ditch. The feature is close to the western edge of the study area, to the west of which several linear features on a similar broadly north/south alignment have been plotted by the NMR; it is possibly therefore that these are the remains

of prehistoric field systems (or drainage).

Site Number 161

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank and Ditch - Possible Enclosure

NGR 466685 440236

Ref no -

Site Type Bank and ditch Period Unknown Source Walkover survey

Description A U-shaped bank and ditch, which area both 2m in width. The bank is substantial, very

weathered and earthfast. It has a slightly raised platform although the western part of this ends in a wet mire. It has a very pronounced south-east corner, but the north-east corner is almost non-existent. There is the possibility that this feature formed a partial enclosure. This

feature is not shown on the historic OS mapping.

Site Number 162

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

NGR 466741 440059

Site Type Bank

Period ?Second World War Source Walkover survey

Description A broad, low lying bank extending towards brick platform **148** and parallel to a similar bank

(Site 147). It has a flattened but slightly rounded profile and there are ditches on the western

and eastern sides. This feature is not shown on the historic OS mapping.



Plate 65: Bank, Site 162

Site Name Skipwith Common, Possible Enclosure

NGR 466776 440152

Ref no -

Site Type Possible enclosure

Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey; LiDAR

Description An earthfast round-profil

An earthfast round-profiled bank with a ditch on the outside forming a clearly defined rectangular feature, possibly an enclosure. The most definite part is the south-west corner, where the bank stands to 0.6m above base of ditch. The southern and western sides are fairly definite, the east less so. The ditch and bank are both 2m in width. The area within the enclosure is reasonably well drained and fairly level. This feature is not shown on the historic OS mapping. LiDAR shows a north-south linear and possibly more enclosures to the north (Site 342) and sites 161 and 219 to the west, suggesting a possible prehistoric field system.

Site Number 164

Site Name Skipwith Common, Broad Ridge and Furrow

NGR 466832 440459

Ref no -

Site Type Broad ridge and furrow

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description An area of very broad ridge and furrow that is edged to the south by a bank and ditch

boundary (Site **145**). The ridge and furrow is 6m wide and up to 0.5m high. It is edged by a modern drain boundary to the north where there is a headland. Much of the area is dominated by scrub vegetation which has developed since the ridge and furrow. There is also a large mire in the middle, and the ridge and furrow disappears into it. The mire is shown on the OS

first edition map.



Plate 66: Site 164, ridge and furrow

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank and Ditch

NGR 466927 440337

Ref no

Description

Site Type Bank and ditch Period Unknown - ?Medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855; LiDAR

A bank and ditch that is possibly a continuation of Site 145. This feature heads south from Site 145 and has similar dimensions, forming a straight linear feature as far as the modern road. Both features are shown on the OS first edition mapping. The bank is approximately 1.2m high and up to 3m wide. The ditch is 1m deep and 1m wide at its base. LiDAR illustrates that the feature continues to the north, where Bonby Lane dog-legs to the east. Whilst not shown on OS mapping as the feature seems to respect a medieval boundary it could be a former lane, perhaps over Thorganby Common, to Thorganby Grange. The line appears fossilised in later field boundaries.



Plate 67: Site 165, bank and ditch

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

NGR 466250 440040

Ref no - Site Type Bank

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A short section of bank the

A short section of bank that has been badly damaged by modern vehicles and is heavily overgrown with bracken so it was difficult to discern its shape. The bank is approximately 1m high and 2.5m wide. The bank appears to correspond to a field boundary shown on the first edition OS map.



Plate 68: Site 166, bank

Site Number 167

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pits

NGR 466259 440125

Ref no -

Site Type Sand Pits

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval **Source** Walkover survey; OS 1855

DescriptionTwo sand pits shown on the first edition OS map, one of which appears to be a deep and formerly substantial pit, but is now water-filled. The second is not as flooded and has a heavy growth of silver birch in it. The edges of the two pits are only 3.5m apart at one point. The

pits lie to the rear and close to Manor farm, so their use could be connected to this building.



Plate 69: Site 167, sand pits

Site Name Skipwith Common, Alignment of Mature Trees

NGR 466231 440099

Ref no -

Site Type Mature trees

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval Source Walkover survey; LiDAR

Description An alignment of three mature trees. The first tree has been pollarded. The tree alignment does

not appear to correspond with any features shown on the historic OS mapping, but may be an historic boundary. An extension of this line to the east (outside the survey area) does show up on LiDAR and appears to be a drainage ditch. The feature, above ground, may then be a

grown-out hedge.

Site Number 169

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466215 440113

Ref no -

Site Type Sand Pit

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval

Source Walkover survey

Description A sand pit adjacent to an alignment of trees (Site 168). The sandpit is 0.8m deep and is not

flooded. This feature is not shown on the historic OS mapping.

Site Number 170

Site Name Skipwith Common, Possible Mound

NGR 46628 440199

Ref no -

Site Type Mound
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A possible mound that does not have definitive edges and is heavily covered with bracken

but stands out from the surrounding area. This feature is not shown on the historic OS

mapping.



Plate 70: Site 170, possible mound

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466680 439741

Ref no -

Site Type Sand Pit

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A small sand pit that is 0.5m deep and is located by the modern roadside, south of Site 173.

Sand pits are shown in this area on the first edition OS map.



Plate 80: Site 171, sand pit

Site Number 172

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466693 439827

Ref no -

Site Type Sand Pit

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval

Source Walkover survey

Description A small sand pit that is 0.5m deep and is located by the modern roadside adjacent to Site 150.

It does not appear to be marked on the historic OS mapping, but it is in an area depicted as

containing several sand pits (Sites 150, 171 and 173).

Site Number 173

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466695 439772

Ref no -

Site Type Sand Pit

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval **Source** Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A sand pit that is 1.2m deep and is located by the modern roadside. Sand pits are shown in

this area on the first edition OS map (Sites 150, 171 and 173).

Site Number 174

Site Name Skipwith Common, Trackway

NGR 466677 439669

Ref no -

Site Type Trackway

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval **Source** Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A track that is marked on the first edition OS map, which cuts the corner between Bonby Lane and the lane (Sites **175** and **176**) on the south-west side of North Common Plantation.

Indistinct edges remain but mature trees show the former line of the track.



Plate 71: Site 174, trackway

Site Number 175

Site Name Skipwith Common, Trackway

NGR 466797 439611

Ref no -

Site Type Trackway

Period Source Description Unknown - ?Post-medieval Walkover survey; OS 1855

A trackway that is shown on the first edition OS map, bounding the south-western extent of 'North Common Plantation'. The track is embanked above the surrounding land. It is approximately 6m wide and 1m deep on the field side which has a roadside ditch. The track is raised 0.3m high on the wood/plantation side. A possible hollow way (Site 176) was noted on the wood side of this track, and may have been an earlier phase of this route, although both features are shown on the OS first edition map.



Plate 72: Site 175, trackway

Site Number 176

Site Name Skipwith Common, Possible Hollow Way

NGR 466916 439435

Ref no -

Site TypePossible hollow wayPeriodUnknown - ?Post-medievalSourceWalkover survey; OS 1855DescriptionA possible hollow way that

A possible hollow way that is approximately 4m wide and forms the south-western boundary

of a track shown on the first edition OS map. The north-eastern boundary of this feature is

Site 175.



Plate 83: Site 176, possible hollow way

Site Number Site Name

NGR

Ref no

Site Type Period

Source Description 177

Skipwith Common, Boundary Bank and Ditch

466807 439214

Boundary Bank and Ditch

Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Walkover survey; OS 1855

A boundary bank and ditch, which appears to bound an area of ridge and furrow to its north (Site 178). The bank is approximately 2.5m wide and 0.3m high. The ditch is approximately 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep. The bank has mature trees growing along it and the ditch is flooded in places. The bank and ditch are located in area of woodland with standing water in places. This feature is marked on the OS first edition map.



Plate 73: Site 177, boundary bank and ditch

Site Name Skipwith Common, Broad Ridge and Furrow

NGR 466821 439294

Ref no

Site Type Broad Ridge and Furrow

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description An area of broad ridge and furrow which is 6m wide ridges to ridge; the ridges are 0.4m high.

> The ridge and furrow appears to be bounded to the south by a bank and ditch (Site 177), which is shown on the OS first edition map. This ridge and furrow is very similar to ridge and furrow 179, which runs at right-angles to 178 on its north side; it therefore is possible

that the two areas are contemporaneous.

Site Number 179

Site Name Skipwith Common, Broad Ridge and Furrow

NGR 466831 439251

Ref no

Site Type Broad ridge and furrow

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description An area of broad ridge and furrow. The ridges are 6m wide and 0.4m high and the furrows

are 1m wide. The furrows are waterlogged making it difficult to distinguish between the ridges. The alignment of 179 is at right angles to Site 178. The two areas appear to be the same in terms of measurements of ridge and furrow and are possibly contemporaneous. Site

179 is bounded to the north by Site 181, a bank and ditch.



Plate 74: Site 179, broad ridge and furrow

Site Number 180

Site Name Skipwith Common, Possible Cairn

NGR 466826 439245

Ref no

Site Type Possible Cairn Period Unknown Source Walkover survey

A possible cairn or mound that is a sub oval shape and is approximately 0.5m high. This **Description**

feature is not shown on the historic OS mapping. It is amongst an area of ridge and furrow

(eg Sites 177, 178) and may be field clearance stone.



Plate 86: Site 180, possible cairn

Site Name Skipwith Common, Boundary Bank and Ditch

NGR 466823 439371

Ref no

Site Type Boundary bank and ditch

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A boundary bank and ditch that is marked on the first edition OS map, and is located on the northern edge of an area of ridge and furrow (Site 179). The bank is 2.5m wide and 0.6m

high with mature trees growing along it. The ditch is 1m wide.



Plate 75: Site 181, boundary bank and ditch

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank and Ditch

NGR 466970 438874

Ref no -

Site Type Bank and ditch

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A substantial compacted earthen bank with substantial trees growing along it and a ditch on

the southern side. Both the bank and the ditch are 2m wide. There is in places a 1m difference in height between the bank and the base of ditch. It is shown as a boundary on the first edition OS map. This feature runs parallel with the southern edge of an area of ridge and furrow (Site

184).



Plate 76: Site 182, bank and ditch

Site Number 183

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank and Ditch

NGR 467033 438871

Ref no -

Site Type Bank and ditch

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey

Description A bank complimenting Site 182. To the south, the bank is level with the ground and has a

ditch on the northern side. There is then a broad rounded bank separating Site 182 from Site

183. Site **182** similarly has a top level with the external ground. Site **183** is very pronounced and has 0.75m fall between bank and base of ditch. The bank is well compacted and is possibly an earlier version of Site **182**. Site **183** is not depicted on the historic maps.



Plate 77: Site 183, bank and ditch

Site Number 184

Site Name Skipwith Common, Broad Ridge and Furrow

NGR 466667 440298

Ref no -

Site Type Broad ridge and furrow

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey

Description An area of broad ridge and furrow, which is approximately 6m wide from ridge to ridge. It is orientated east to west and parallel to Site **182** but does not extend as far as the eastern

is orientated east to west and parallel to Site 182 but does not extend as far as the eastern boundary bank. It is c 0.8m in height from base of furrow to top of bank. There is an area of what appears to be headland against the embanked track at the eastern edge of the wood. This

is edged by bank 185 to the west.



Plate 90: Site 184, broad ridge and furrow

Site Name Skipwith Common, Boundary Bank and Ditch

NGR 466159 438002

Ref no -

Site Type Boundary bank and ditch

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A substantial bank, c 2m width, with a ditch on its eastern side. The bank defines the edge of

an area of ridge and furrow to the east (Site 184). There is a difference of 0.4m height between ditch and bank. The boundary is shown on the first edition OS map. It was traced on both

sides of a large mire located in this area.

Site Number 186

Site Name Skipwith Common, Broad Ridge and Furrow

NGR 466734 439038

Ref no -

Site Type Broad ridge and furrow

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description An area of broad ridge and furrow that is c 6m ridge to ridge. It is not particularly prominent

or substantial by comparison with Site 184 on the other side of bank 185. It extends east to west from Site 185 to the drain defining the west edge of the common. There is water filling the base of some of the furrows. There is a possible headland at the west side of the area

against the modern drain boundary.

Site Number 187

Site Name Skipwith Common, Probable Boundary Bank

NGR 466203 438024

Ref no -

Site Type Probable boundary bank

Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A probable boundary bank. A substantial bank with a ditch on the northern side, the top of

the bank is approximately level with the external ground slope. It is very short and appears

to extend from the line of a modern boundary bank. This feature is not shown on the historic mapping.

Site Number 188

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

NGR 466918 438463

Ref no - Bank

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A large very broad bank. It extends from Bonby Lane east-to-west and has a ditch on the

northern side but there is no obvious ditch on the southern side, although there is a line of a break of slope. It is 0.35m high on the northern side. It has a flat top and is 5m wide across. It is ill-defined on the southern side. It is shown on the first edition OS map and there is ridge

and furrow on the southern side (Sites 237 and 238).

Site Number 189

Site Name Skipwith Common, Probable Sand Pits/Ponds

NGR 466242 438041

Ref no HER MNY 25873 (NGR 466240 438040) and HER MNY 25874 (NGR 466240 438050)

Site Type Sand pits/ponds Period Unknown

Source HER; walkover survey

Description A large area of probable former sand pits or ponds, of very irregular shape. The area varies in depth from 1m to 2m and is tree covered. The HER records two retting ponds in this area,

however the lack of associated watercourses suggests that this interpretation is unlikely.



Plate 78: Site 189, sand pits/ponds

Site Number 190

Site Name Skipwith Common, Pit/Pond

NGR 466270 438049 Ref no HER MNY 25872

Site Type Pit/Pond Period Unknown

Source HER; walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A large square depression with clearly defined edges, approximately 1.5m deep, located

against a modern field boundary. The location of the depression corresponds to a pond

recorded in the HER, shown on the first edition OS map.

Site Name Skipwith Common, Broad Ridge and Furrow

NGR 466366 438029

Ref no -

Site Type Broad ridge and furrow

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey

Description An area of ridge and furrow that measures 5m from ridge to ridge. Irregular survival has

meant that in some places the ridge and furrow is distinct, but in others very indistinct with the edges of the ridge and furrow ill defined. The ridge and furrow is possibly bounded by a

ditch and bank to the north (Site 192).



Plate 79: Site 191, broad ridge and furrow

Site Number 192

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ditch and Bank

NGR 466193 437944

Ref no -

Site Type Ditch and bank

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey

Description A possible boundary defined by a substantial ditch with a marked bank on the southern side.

The ditch is 2m wide and 0.25m deep. The boundary is aligned east to west and possibly defines an area of ridge and furrow (Site 191) that is aligned east to west. Site 192 cuts an area of north/south aligned ridge and furrow (Site 193). This feature is not shown on the

historic mapping.



Plate 80: Site 192, ditch and bank

Site Name Skipwith Common, Broad Ridge and Furrow

NGR 466168 437985

Ref no -

Site Type Broad ridge and furrow

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey

Description An area of broad ridge and furrow that is aligned north to south and measures 6m from ridge

to ridge. The orientation is ill-defined and the area of broad ridge and furrow is in poor condition and is cut by later ridge and furrow (Site 192). Site 193 continues to the west as

Site 195.

Site Number 194

Site Name Skipwith Common, Mound

NGR 466125 437993

Ref no -

Site TypeMound / Barrow ?PeriodPrehistoric ?SourceWalkover survey

Description A prominent circular platform mound with clearly defined edges and a flat top. It measures

20m across and 0.5m high with an external ditch that is 1m wide. It has all the characteristics

of a round barrow. This feature is not shown on the historic mapping.



Plate 81: Site 194, mound

Site Name Skipwith Common, Broad Ridge and Furrow

NGR 466079 437994

Ref no -

Site Type Broad ridge and furrow

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey

Description A continuation to the west of an area of broad ridge and furrow (Site 193) that is 6m from

ridge-to-ridge. The ridge and furrow is erratic and ill-defined but is aligned north/south.

Site Number 196

Site Name Skipwith Common, Cairn

NGR 466005 437983 Ref no NMR SE 63 NE 40

Site Type Cairn

Period ?Bronze Age

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A very large well defined flat-topped round cairn. The cairn is a regular circular shape that

measures 18m across and is 0.5m high. It is surrounded by a clearly defined ditch that is 1.25m wide. This feature is shown on the OS first edition map, and is recorded by the NMR as a possible Bronze Age barrow, which may be associated with the barrows located to the

east (Sites 02-05).



Plate 95: Site 196, cairn

Site Number Site Name 197 Skipwith Common, Boundary Bank and Ditch

NGR 466091 437936

Ref no

Site Type

Period Unl

Source Description Boundary bank and ditch

Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Walkover survey

A linear boundary bank and ditch that cuts through a boggy area. The bank is 3m wide with a rounded profile and is 0.25m high. It is a probable field boundary and, separates two areas of ridge and furrow (Sites **193** and **195**) at its north end, and forms the western boundary of a further area (Site **191**), south of area **193**. This feature is not shown on the historic mapping.



Plate 82: Site 197, boundary bank and ditch

Site Name Skipwith Common, Broad Ridge and Furrow

NGR 465957 437989

Ref no -

Site Type Broad ridge and furrow

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey

Description An ill-defined area of broad ridge and furrow that is ill defined in places. It measures 6m

from ridge to ridge. The ridge and furrow has been cut by extraction pits (Site 199) that are

now ponds. It is perpendicular to ridge and furrow 195, which lies to the east.



Plate 97: Site 198, broad ridge and furrow

Site Number 199

Site Name Skipwith Common, Possible Extraction Pit

NGR 465927 437991

Ref no -

Site Type Possible extraction pit

Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A pond that was possibly an extraction area. It is up to a metre deep and cuts an area of ridge

and furrow (Site 198). This feature is not shown on the historic mapping.



Plate 83: Site 199, possible extraction pit

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank and Ditch System

NGR 466002 437850

Ref no -

Site TypeBank and ditch systemPeriodUnknown - ?post-medievalSourceWalkover survey; OS 1855

Description A bank and ditch system, apparently associated with Site **201**. A track is shown on this alignment on the first edition OS map.



Plate 99: Site 200, bank and ditch system

Site Number 201

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank and Ditch System

NGR 466011 437842

Ref no -

Site TypeBank and ditch systemPeriodUnknown - ?post-medievalSourceWalkover survey; OS 1855

Description A bank and ditch system, apparently associated with Site 200. A track is shown on this

alignment on the first edition OS map.

Site Number 202

Site Name Skipwith Common, Possible Line Pond

NGR 466535 438157

Ref no -

Site Type Line pond Period Post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description Several hollows, located to the immediate north of an area of line ponds, are shown on the first edition OS map. They are slightly irregular and there is the implication of a feeder drain.

There is the possibility that these are also elements of the retting ponds.



Plate 84: Site 202, possible line pond

Site Number 203

Site Name Skipwith Common, Platform and Ditch

NGR 466104 437876

Ref no -

Site Type Platform and ditch

Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A flat topped circular platform that is edged by a ditch on the outside. The platform is

approximately 0.2m to 0.3m above the surrounding ground. The circular feature is cut by a roadside ditch to the east and by a linear drain, Site 197, that is associated with ridge and furrow (Sites 193 and 195). There is the remote possibility that this platform is a burial mound but, perhaps, more likely, it is a landscape feature because it is extremely large. This feature

is not shown on the historic mapping.



Plate 85: Site 203, platform and ditch

Site Name Skipwith Common, Probable Sand Pits

NGR 466570 438201

Ref no -

Site TypeProbable sand pitsPeriod?Post-medieval/ModernSourceWalkover survey

Description A group of small, irregular pits set in a line. The pits are no deeper than 0.5m and some have

steep sided edges which would suggest they are not old. The pits cover an area of approximately 100 by 30m and are probably sand extraction pits. These pits are not shown

on the historic maps.

Site Number 205

Site Name Skipwith Common, Drain

NGR 466590 438233

Ref no Site Type Drain
Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey

Description A linear, relatively straight drain with no associated bank. It is 0.4m deep by 2m wide and is

possibly the line of a field boundary. This feature is not shown on the historic maps.



Plate 102: Site 205, drain

Site Name Skipwith Common, Mound

NGR 466563 438240

Ref no

Site Type Mound Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey **Description**

A large irregular mound with a large oak tree in the middle. The mound is very close to the village and possibly comprises dumped material, as the area in which it sits is very undulating. The mound is approximately 0.3m to 0.4m high. This area was bulldozed approximately 15 years ago and the mound evidently survived because of the oak. This feature is not shown on the historic maps.



Plate 86: Site 206, mound

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pits

NGR 466603 438208

Ref no -

Site Type Sand pits
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A group of irregular sand pits that are 0.3m to 0.4m deep. These features are not shown on

the historic maps.

Site Number 208

Site Name Skipwith Common, Probable Sand Pits

NGR 466609 438245

Ref no -

Site TypeProbable sand pitsPeriodUnknownSourceWalkover survey

Description A group of approximately 14 irregularly-shaped hollows that are 0.3m to 0.4m deep. Some

of the hollows are water-filled and are probably related to sand pits.



Plate 87: Site 208, probable sand pits

Site Number 209

Site Name Skipwith Common, Probable Sand Pit

NGR 466626 438257

Ref no -

Site Type Probable sand pit Period Unknown Source Walkover survey

Description A large irregular water-filled pit, approximately 0.1m deep. It is part of a group of hollows

(Site 208). This feature is not shown on the historic maps.



Plate 88: Site 209, probable sand pit

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pits

NGR 466657 438234

Ref no -

Site TypeSand pitsPeriodUnknownSourceWalkover survey

Description A group of irregular-shaped sand pits, none are water-filled but they are very similar to those

observed to the immediate west (Site 208). These features are not shown on the historic maps.

Site Number 211

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466705 438245

Ref no -

Site Type Sand pit
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A large, isolated sand pit that is approximately 0.3m to 0.4m deep but is not water filled. This

feature is not shown on the historic maps.

Site Number 212

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466705 438245

Ref no -

Site Type Sand pit
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A large sand pit that is approximately 0.3m to 0.4m deep but is not water-filled. It is similar

to Site 211, which is located to the immediate south-west but is slightly smaller. This feature

is not shown on the historic maps.



Plate 89: Site 212, sand pit

Site Name Skipwith Common, Extraction Pit

NGR 466591 438051

Ref no -

Site TypeExtraction pitPeriodUnknownSourceWalkover surveyDescriptionA large water-fill

A large water-filled pond formed by large scale extraction. It is located near the main road, it has a very irregular shape and is set down a little. It is fairly deep, being 0.3m to 0.4m deep. There are sand pits close by (Sites **207-211**). This feature is not shown on the historic maps.



Plate 90: Site 213, extraction pit

Site Number 214

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pits

NGR 466591 438051

Ref no

Site Type Sand pits
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A large number of sandpits in a small cluster. They are a little shallower than previously

recorded pits (Sites 207-211), being approximately 0.2m deep. These features are not shown

on the historic maps.

Site Number 215

Site Name Skipwith Common, Probable Extraction Pits

NGR 466671 438341

Ref no -

Site Type Probable extraction pits

Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description An extremely large pond and several smaller interconnected ones. All are very irregular-

shaped and are clearly extraction pits. The large pond has several mounds in the middle with one being particularly large. The water in the pits is stagnant with no flow. A sand pit is

marked in this area on the OS first edition map.



Plate 91: Site 215, probable extraction pits

Site Number 216

Site Name Skipwith Common, Probable Sand Pit

NGR 466625 438395

Ref no -

Site Type Probable sand pit
Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A large irregular-shaped extraction hollow that is water-filled. It is extensive and is up to

1.5m deep. The pit probably relates to sand extraction, as a sand pit is marked in this area on

the OS first edition map.



Plate 92: Site 216, probable sand pit

Site Name Skipwith Common, Slit Trench

NGR 466680 439915

Ref no -

Site Type Slit trench Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A rectangular slit trench on Crook Moor that is 0.15m deep and has a spoil mound to the west that is 0.1m high. This feature is not shown on the historic maps.



Plate 93: Site 217, slit trench

Site Number 218

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

NGR 466625 440015

Ref no -

Site TypeBankPeriodUnknownSourceWalkover survey

Description A rectangular bank feature on Crook Moor that is 1.5m wide. The east side is very prominent, being 0.2m to 0.25m high although the west side is ill-defined. Nothing is shown in this area

on the historic maps.



Plate 94: Site 218, bank

Site Number 219

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

NGR 466641 440274

Ref no
Site Type
Bank
Period
Period
Source
Walkover survey
A bank that is a

A bank that is a continuation of an existing complex and runs parallel to a main drainage ditch. It appears to be associated with Site **161** and may be an Iron Age field boundary. It has a rectilinear pattern with a ditch on the outside. The height is variable, up to 0.5m, and it is 1.5m to 2.0m wide. This feature is not shown on the historic OS mapping. It seems to be associated with enclosures **161** and **163** and linears (Site **342**) identified by LiDAR.



Plate 95: Site 219, bank

Site Name Skipwith Common, Probable Sand Pit

NGR 466147 438006

Ref no -

Site Type Probable sand pit **Period** Unknown

Source Walkover survey

Description A probable sand pit of irregular shape. The pit is approximately 1.7m deep. The pit lies

adjacent to a track and is not shown on the historic maps.



Plate 96: Site 220, probable sand pit

Site Number 221

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ridge

NGR 466175 438010

Ref no

Site Type Ridge

Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey
Description A small erratic ric

A small erratic ridge between two probable sand pits **220** and **222**. This feature is not shown on the historic OS mapping.



Plate 97: Site 221, ridge

Site Number 222

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit/Pond

NGR 466203 438024

Ref no HER MNY 25887 (NGR 466200 438030) and HER MNY 25888 (NGR 466190 438020)

Site TypeSand pit/pondPeriodUnknownSourceWalkover surveyDescriptionA probable sand part of the part of the probable sand part of the probable sand part of the probable sand part of the part of the probable sand part of the part

A probable sand pit of irregular shape which contains standing water. There are trees growing in the base of the pit and some of these are old. Two possible ponds are noted in this area by

the HER, shown on the historic OS mapping.



Plate 98: Site 222, sand pit/pond

Site Name Skipwith Common, Probable Sand Pits/ Ponds

NGR 466213 438035
Ref no HER MNY 25886
Site Type Probable sand pits/ ponds

Period Unknown

Source HER; walkover survey

Description Two probable sand pits/ponds that are irregular in shape and are against the boundary of an

adjacent field. The features are tree-covered and there is a large, old oak tree growing on their west edge. A pond is located in this area on the HER, and shown on the historic OS map.

Site Number 224

Site Name Skipwith Common, Prominent Banks

NGR 466213 438035
Ref no HER MNY 25886
Site Type Linear banks
Period Unknown

Source HER; walkover survey

Description A rectilinear bank enclosure that is evident on the ground and, being within a clearing, is also

evident from aerial photography. It is orientated east/west and has a linear boundary extending from either end of it. A further bank is immediately to the south. It is parallel to

the ridge and furrow (Site 184) on either side of it.

Site Number 225

Site Name Skipwith Common, Mound

NGR 466986 438514

Ref no Site Type Mound
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A raised earthen mound, slightly irregular in shape, with a large oak tree in the centre. There

is an obvious sharp break of slope at 0.75m high. The function of the mound is unknown, but

it is of human origin. This feature is not shown on the historic maps.

Site Number 226

Site Name Skipwith Common, Boundary Bank

NGR 467015 438510

Ref no -

Site Type Boundary bank
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A boundary bank measuring 0.5m in height and 2.5-3m in width. It runs for at least 80m and

has no ditches. It curves at its eastern end, and links in and curves around mound 225. This

feature is not shown on the historic maps.



Plate 99: Site 226, boundary bank

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466894 438559

Ref no -

Site TypeSand pitPeriodUnknownSourceWalkover survey

Description An irregular sand pit, measuring 1-1.5m in depth. Several spurs lead from its edge towards

the centre. This feature is not shown on the historic maps.



Plate 100: Site 227, sand pit

Site Number 228

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466863 438552

Ref no -

Site Type Sand pit Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey; OS 1910

Description An irregular sand pit, measuring 1-1.5m in depth, with no unusual features. It has sharp edges

and the western edge peters out. An old sand pit is marked in the vicinity of Sites 228 and

229 on the OS map for 1910.

Site Number 229

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466836 438520

Ref no -

Site Type Sand pit Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey; OS 1910

Description An irregular sand pit, measuring 1.5 metres in depth. The western edge slopes and the northern edge is quite sharp. An old sand pit is marked near Sites **228** and **229** on the OS map

for 1910.



Plate 101: Site 229, sand pit

Site Number 230

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466837 438485

Ref no -

Site Type Sand pit

Period Post-medieval/Modern Source Walkover survey

Description An irregular sand pit, 1.5m deep, which cuts mill platform (Site 231). This feature is not

shown on the historic maps.

Site Number 231

Site Name Skipwith Common, Site of Windmill

NGR 466837 438474
Ref no MNY 17590
Site Type Building platform
Period Post-medieval

Source HER; Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A large semi-circular ditch defining a raised platform. The ditch is 2.5m wide and 0.5m deep.

Most of platform has been cut away by sand pit 230. This feature is shown on the OS first edition map, and the area is named 'Old Mill Hill'.



Plate 102: Site 231, site of windmill

Site Number 232

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466777 438463

Ref no -

Site Type Sand pit
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description Sand pit. This feature is not shown on the historic maps.

Site Number 233

Site Name Skipwith Common, Mound (possible former mill)

NGR 466708 438486

Ref no -

Site TypeMoundPeriodUnknownSourceWalkover survey

Description A large, slightly elongated mound, which does not have a flat top, but does have a ditch; it is

up to 3m high. This could possibly be the site of a former mill. This feature is not marked on

the historic mapping.



Plate 103: Site 233, mound (possible former mill)

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pits

NGR 466659 438453 Ref no HER MNY 25894

Site Type Sand pits Period Unknown

Source HER; walkover survey

Description A large area shown on the 1855 OS map as sand pits. One of these pits, which measures c 10m in diameter, is recorded in the HER (MNY 25894 at NGR 466680 438420). The pits are

1.5m deep in places.



Plate 104: Site 234, sand pits

Site Number 235

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pits

NGR 466801 438421

Ref no -

Site Type Sand pits Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey; OS 1910

Description A large area of sandpits, 1.5m deep in places within a very amorphous area of similar works.

This area is marked on the OS 1910 map as old sand pits.

Site Number 236

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

NGR 466887 438399

Ref no - Site Type Bank

Period Unknown - ?Post-medieval

Source Walkover survey

Description A very slight linear bank that runs parallel to that shown on the OS mapping from 1910

onwards. The bank is continuous, approximately 3m wide, 0.2m high and does not appear to

have a ditch. The bank peters out to the north.

Site Number 237

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ridge and Furrow

NGR 466983 438391

Ref no -

Site Type Ridge and furrow

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; LiDAR

Description An area of ridge and furrow, of possible medieval date. The ridge and furrow, orientated

east/west, is 6m wide and extends as far as boundary bank 188. It is clearly visible on the

LiDAR imagery.

Site Number 238

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ridge and Furrow

NGR 466963 438279

Ref no -

Site Type Ridge and furrow

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; LiDAR

Description An area of ridge and furrow, 5m wide and orientated north/south. It is located on the south

side of boundary bank 188. It is clearly visible on the LiDAR imagery.

Site Number 239

Site Name Skipwith Common, Modern Square Hole

NGR 467025 438465

Ref no Site Type Hole
Period Modern

Source Walkover survey

Description A straight-sided square hole of very recent date and unknown function.



Plate 105: Site 239, modern square hole

Site Name Skipwith Common (Riccall Airfield), Linear Bank

NGR 464553 437434

Ref no -

Site Type Linear bank Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey; LiDAR

Description A long linear bank 3m wide and 0.25m high, located close to (and on the same alignment as)

Riccall Airfield. LiDAR analysis has illustrated a similar feature, c 300m long and on the same alignment. It is not clear from the LiDAR whether the feature is a bank or a ditch. This feature is not shown on the historic maps and it seems likely that it is associated with the air

strip, possibly drainage-related.

Site Number 241

Site Name Skipwith Common (Riccall Airfield), Sub-circular Bank

NGR 464479 437374

Ref no -

Site Type Sub-circular bank

Period WWII

Source Walkover survey

Description A sub-circular bank surrounding a slit trench which was evidently part of the airfield

defences. This site is located in the Skipwith Common survey area.

Site Number 242

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466713 438354

Ref no -

Site Type Sand pit
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A sand pit, which is not shown on historic mapping.

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466703 438315

Ref no -

Site Type Sand pit
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A sand pit, which is not shown on historic mapping.

Site Number 244

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466591 438414

Ref no -

Site TypeSand pitPeriodUnknownSourceWalkover survey

Description A sand pit, which is not shown on historic mapping.

Site Number 245

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466584 438358

Ref no -

Site Type Sand pit
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A sand pit, which is not shown on historic mapping.

Site Number 246

Site Name Skipwith Common, Line Ponds

NGR 466511 438067 Site Type Line Ponds Period Post-medieval

Source Detailed survey by Friends of Skipwith Common; OS 1855

Description The OS first edition (1855) shows two ponds c 250m to the south of the eastern end of

Skipwith village, labelled 'line ponds', and the name strongly suggests a link with flax processing and linen production, where 'line' is the name of the extracted flax fibres. A detailed survey of the ponds by the Friends of Skipwith Common has indicated that they are highly to have been retting ponds, not only because of the name, but because of the complex of artificial water channels feeding the ponds and the corresponding ones draining the ponds. A reservoir is located to the south-east of the line ponds, and was linked to the southern end of the line ponds with a channel. This appears to have been the water source for the ponds, which would have been controlled by one or more sluices. The south pond is irregular in shape but appears to comprise a main area, with two narrow compartments extending to the west and south-east. It is possible that the water levels in these areas were further controlled with sluices. A narrow channel was located between the south and north ponds, again probably controlled with a sluice. The north pond is smaller than the south, and is approximately S-shaped. Again, it is possible that the narrow bends in this pond were areas where water flow was controlled between compartments. A channel at the north end of this pond joins with the Southfield Drain, which runs east/west to the south of Skipwith village.

Site Number 247

Site Name Skipwith Common, Ridge and Furrow

NGR 466916 438164

Ref no -

Site Type Ridge and furrow

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey

Description An area of very prominent ridge and furrow, 5m in width. A bank (Site 248) is located to the

south of this area, and probably represents the headland for this ridge and furrow.

Site Name Skipwith Common, Bank

NGR 466996 438065

Ref no -

Site Type Bank/headland

Period Unknown - ?Medieval-post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A long, prominent bank with ditches on either side. It is probably a headland as there is an

area of ridge and furrow (Site 247) immediately to the north. The ditches appear to have subsequently expanded as drains. This boundary is marked on the OS first edition map.

Site Number 249

Site Name Skipwith Common, Sand Pit

NGR 466924 438082

Ref no -

Site Type Sand pit Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A square sandpit, which appears to be shown on the OS first edition map, although it is not

labelled.

Site Number 250

Site Name Little Common, Linear Bank and Ditch

NGR 466667 438613

Ref no -

Site Type Linear Bank Period Unknown

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description The southernmost of three parallel linear banks and ditches running along the southern limit

of Little Common. This feature is the faintest of the three and is located on the grassy verge

on the edge of the common.

Site Number 251

Site Name Little Common, Linear Bank and Ditch

NGR 466667 438621

Ref no -

Site Type Linear Bank and Ditch

Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description The central example of a series of three parallel linear banks and ditches running along the

southern limit of Little Common. This feature is the most evident example and was visible from almost the south-western corner of the common and runs most of the way along and

almost to the south-east corner of the survey area.

Site Number 252

Site Name Little Common, Linear Bank and Ditch

NGR 466666 438629

Ref no -

Site Type Linear Bank and Ditch

Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description The northernmost of a series of three parallel linear banks and ditches running along the

southern limit of Little Common. This feature runs parallel with the other banks for most of

its length before curving to the north-east on the eastern end.

Site Name Little Common, Linear Bank and Ditch

NGR 466672 438728

Ref no -

Site Type Linear Bank and Ditch

Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey

Description A linear bank and ditch running along the eastern limit of Little Common. It runs the entire

length of the boundary and has several old trees growing along its length.

Site Number 254

Site Name Little Common, Linear Bank and Ditch

NGR 466586 438797

Ref no -

Site Type Linear Bank and Ditch

Period Unknown Source Walkover survey

Description A linear bank and ditch running along the northern limit of Little Common. It runs the entire

length of the boundary and continues to the west (outside of the survey area) as a field

boundary. It has several old trees growing along its length.

Site Number 255

Site Name Little Common, Concrete Base

NGR 466623 438705

Ref no -

Site Type Concrete Base Period Modern

Source Walkover survey

Description The possible turf-covered remains of a concrete base for a cricket pavilion, which was

associated with the now disused cricket pitch on Little Common (Site 256).

Site Number 256

Site Name Little Common, Cricket Pitch

NGR 466617 438682

Ref no -

Site Type Cricket Pitch Period Modern

Source OS one-inch Popular Edition map *c* 1919-1941; walkover survey

Description The now disused remains of a cricket pitch located in the centre of Little Common. Local

knowledge asserts that the pitch was in use c 50 years ago. The pitch is associated with the possible remains of a pavilion. After Little Common became wooded in the early twentieth century a sub-circular cleared space is depicted in it on the OS one-inch Popular Edition mapping (c 1919-1941). The OS one-inch New Popular Edition mapping (1947) does not

show this feature.

Site Number 257

Site Name Little Common, Linear Bank and Ditch

NGR 466566 438694

Ref no -

Site Type Linear Bank and Ditch

Period Unknown Source Walkover survey

Description A fragmentary linear bank and ditch running along the western limit of Little Common. It

possibly runs the entire length of the boundary and it has old trees growing along its length.

Site Name Little Common, Ridge and Furrow

NGR 466570 438754

Ref no -

Site TypeRidge and FurrowPeriodPost-MedievalSourceWalkover survey

Description A small area of potential shallow ridge and furrow cultivation located in the north-west corner

of Little Common.

Site Number 259

Site Name Riccall Common, Drainage Ditch

NGR 464504 437138
Site Type Drainage Ditch
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A linear drainage ditch and bank, measuring over 450m long by 3m wide and embanked up

to 0.5m high. It is orientated roughly north/south and is located to the south of King Rudding Lane. It drains the area between the runway and the perimeter track on the east side of Riccall

airfield.



Plate 106: Drainage ditch, Site 259

Site Number 260

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Mound

NGR 464610 437307

Site Type Mound

Period Second World War Source Walkover survey Description A small circular ear

A small circular earthen mound measuring 4.5m in diameter by up to 0.3m high. There is a

cylindrical metal-sheathed concrete cylinder set into the top measuring 0.5m in diameter by 0.25m high. The cylinder has three pins protruding from it and the structure may have been

a stanchion for a runway light.



Plate 107: mound, Site 260

Site Number Site Name NGR

Site Type Period

Source Description 261

Riccall Airfield, Firing Butt

464708 437321 Firing Butt Second World War

Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

A building located on the eastern end of Riccall airfield. It is described as a temporary brickbuilt structure marked as 'Harmonisation Range and M.G. Range (Building drawing number 9093/40) on the airfield layout plan. The three surviving elements of the site consist of a large rectangular earthen mound measuring 65m long by 25m wide and 8m high. To the west of the mound is a water-filled depression approximately 20m square and behind this further west are the rectangular concrete footings for a hut.



Plate 108: machine gun firing range, Site 261

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Electrical Service Trench

NGR 464625 437289

Site Type Electrical Service Trench
Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description A linear depression probably functioning as an electrical service trench shown on the airfield

layout plan. The trench is orientated south-west/north-east, running parallel with the runway. It measures approximately 165m long by 1m wide and is 0.4m deep. The trench runs towards

a ring main plinth to the north-west (Site 44).

Site Number 263

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Demolished Building

NGR 464720 437173
Site Type Demolished Building
Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description A hutted building located on the north-west side of Riccall Airfield. It is marked as 'GPH'

on the airfield layout plan. The ruinous structure comprised a rectangular concrete surface measuring 10.5m long by 4.5m wide. It has an area of bricks on the northern end and

demolition rubble to the west.



Plate 109: demolished building, Site 263

Site Number 264

Site Name Riccall Common, Boundary Bank

NGR 464669 436895
Site Type Boundary Bank
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A linear boundary bank oriented roughly north/south and measures approximately 40m long

by 0.4m high.



Plate 110: boundary bank, Site 264

Site Name

Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store X

NGR 464523 436937 Site Type Demolished Building Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey **Description** One of a group of buildings and structures located in a

One of a group of buildings and structures located in a dispersal on the east side of Riccall Airfield (Sites **265-70**, **272-76**). The building is described as a Nissen hut 'fusing point building (light)' on the airfield layout plan (Building drawing number 15964/40). The ruined structure comprises a rectangular concrete foundation base measuring 8m long by 4m wide.



Plate 111: bomb store, Site 265

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store XI

464505 436952 **NGR Site Type** Bomb Store Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description

One of a group of buildings and structures located in a dispersal on the east side of Riccall Airfield (Sites 265-70, 272-76). The building is described as a group of six Nissen hut 'S.B.C. Store (6 No.)' (Small Bomb Container) on the airfield layout plan (Building drawing number 2169/40). The ruined structure comprises a row of rectangular concrete bases, corresponding to the hut positions with the first course of temporary brick surviving. There are four linear earth blast banks placed between the huts. The site measures 29m long by 12m wide and the banks are up to 0.6m high.



Plate 112: small bomb container store, Site 266

Site Number 267

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store XII

NGR 464519 437026 Bomb Store Site Type Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description

One of a group of buildings and structures located in a dispersal on the east side of Riccall Airfield (Sites 265-70, 272-76). The building is described as a steel and temporary brickconstructed 'bomb store' on the airfield layout plan (Building drawing number 5410/40). The rectangular concrete base of the hut survives surrounded by earthen blast walls. The banks measure 18m square by 6m wide and are up to 1.4m high. There are a pair of opposing offset entrances with brick retaining walls on the north and south ends.



Plate 113: Bomb store, Site 267

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store XIII

NGR 464514 437112 Site Type Bomb Store Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey **Description** One of a group of buildings and structures located in a

One of a group of buildings and structures located in a dispersal on the east side of Riccall Airfield (Sites **265-70**, **272-76**). The building is described as a temporary brick-constructed 'S.A.A. Stores (Type E)' on the airfield layout plan (Building drawing number 16075/40). The building is extant and is a two-celled rectangular temporary-brick structure measuring 26m long by 6m wide. It has a flat reinforced concrete roof and the walls have air vents near roof level. There are entrances on opposing gable ends with iron doors and external blast walls. There is a small permanent brick-built annex on the south side with wires and a conduit running into it.



Plate 114: Bomb store, Site 268

Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store XIV **Site Name**

464570 437088 **NGR** Site Type Bomb Store Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description

One of a group of buildings and structures in a dispersal on the east side of Riccall Airfield (Sites 265-70, 272-76). The building is described as temporary brick-constructed 'S.A.A. Stores (Type F)' (Small Arms Ammunition) on the airfield layout plan (Building drawing number 16075/40). The building is extant and is a three-celled cross-shaped temporary-brick structure measuring 26m long by 6m wide. It has a flat reinforced concrete roof and the walls have air vents near roof level. There are entrances on opposing gable ends with iron doors and external blast walls. There is a small permanent brick-built annex on the side with wires and a conduit running into it.



Plate 115: Bomb store, Site 269

270 **Site Number**

Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store XV **Site Name**

464430 437111 **NGR** Site Type **Bomb Store** Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description One of a group of buildings and structures located in a dispersal on the east side of Riccall Airfield (Sites 265-70, 272-76). The building is described temporary brick-constructed 'S.A.A. Stores (Type F)' (Small Arms Ammunition) on the airfield layout plan (Building drawing number 16075/40). The building is extant and is a three-celled cross-shaped temporary-brick structure measuring 26m long by 6m wide. It has a flat reinforced concrete roof and the walls have air vents near roof level. There are entrances on opposing gable ends with iron doors and external blast walls. There is a small permanent brick-built annex on the

side with wires and a conduit running into it.



Plate 116: bomb store, Site 270

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Spoil Heap

NGR 464715 436802
Site Type Spoil Heap
Period Second World War
Source Walkover survey
Description An amorphous area

An amorphous area of spoil heaps/clearance located on the east side of Riccall Airfield, adjacent to a bomb storage area (Site 314) The ground has either been bulldozed to clear it prior to the construction of the airfield or has contributed to post-war demolition. The area measures approximately 53m long by 20m wide.



Plate 117: Spoil heap, Site 271

Site Number 272

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store XVI

NGR 464519 437026

Site Type **Bomb Store** Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey **Description**

One of a group of buildings and structures located in a dispersal on the east side of Riccall Airfield (Sites 265-70, 272-76). The building is described as a steel and temporary brickconstructed 'bomb store' on the airfield layout plan (Building drawing number 5410/40). The rectangular concrete base of the hut survives surrounded by earthen blast walls. The banks measure 18m square by 6m wide and are up to 1.4m high. There are a pair of opposing offset entrances with brick retaining walls on the north and south ends.



Plate 118: bomb store, Site 272

Site Number 273

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store XVII

NGR 464574 436993 Site Type **Bomb Store** Period Second World War

Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey **Source**

Description

One of a group of buildings and structures located in a dispersal on the east side of Riccall Airfield (Sites 265-70, 272-76). The building is described as a steel and temporary brickconstructed 'bomb store' on the airfield layout plan (Building drawing number 5410/40). The rectangular concrete base of the hut survives surrounded by earthen blast walls. The banks measure 18m square by 6m wide and are up to 1.4m high. There are a pair of opposing offset entrances with brick retaining walls on the east and west ends.



Plate 119: bomb store, Site 273

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Scoop

NGR 464601 436960

Site Type Scoop

Period Second World War Source Walkover survey Description A rectangular wate

A rectangular water-filled scoop measuring 5m long by 3.5m wide and 0.5m deep. It is possibly the site of a demolished building associated with a bomb store (Site **275**).



Plate 120: Scoop, Site 274

Site Number 275

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store XVIII

NGR 464613 436955 Site Type Demolished Building Period Source Description Second World War

Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

One of a group of buildings and structures located in a dispersal on the east side of Riccall Airfield (Sites **265-70**, **272-76**). The building is described as a Nissen hut 'Incendiary Bomb Store' on the airfield layout plan (Building drawing number 4734/42). The ruined structure comprises a rectangular concrete foundation base measuring 13m long by 3.5m wide.



Plate 121: bomb store, Site 275

Site Number 276

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store XIX

NGR 464633 436966
Site Type Bomb Store
Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description One of a

One of a group of buildings and structures located in a dispersal on the east side of Riccall Airfield (Sites 265-70, 272-76). The building is described as a temporary brick-constructed 'Component Store' on the airfield layout plan (Building drawing number 5384/40). The rectangular brick building is extant and survives surrounded by earthen blast walls. The banks measure 20m square by 6m wide and are up to 1.7m high. There is a single entrance with large brick retaining walls up to 2.4m high on the north side of the blast walls. Internally, there is a small square permanent brick-built building, the two cells inside consist of an L-shaped larger room surrounding a smaller room. The structure has a flat reinforced concrete roof covered with a bitumin- and grit- coated surface. There are concrete lintels and cills to the windows and doors with a pair of entrances with iron doors on the west wall elevation. The other wall elevations contain pairs of small wire-framed windows, some still with grills upon them and there are vents at the base of the walls.



Plate 122: bomb store, Site 276

Site Number Site Name NGR Site Type Period

Source Description 277

Riccall Common, Boundary Bank

464760 436861 **Boundary Bank** Post-medieval Walkover survey

A short linear section of earthen boundary bank. It demarcates the current south-eastern edge of the common. It is orientated roughly east/west and measures approximately 50m long by 1m wide and is up to 0.3m high. The bank is of some antiquity as it has veteran trees growing on top of it.



Plate 123: boundary bank, Site 277

Site Name Riccall Common, Drainage Ditch

NGR 464788 436880
Site Type Drainage Ditch
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A short, linear, section of drainage ditch. It is orientated roughly north/south and measures

approximately 44m long by 1m wide.



Plate 124: drainage ditch, Site 278

Site Number 279

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Air Raid Shelter V

NGR 464779 437141 Site Type Air Raid Shelter Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description A Stanton-type air raid shelter, comprising a concrete tunnel aligned north to south. It

measures 10m long by 5m wide and is 1.8m high. It has brick-built entrances on its west side at the north end and on its east side at the south end. This was the same type of structure as



Plate 125: air raid shelter, Site 279

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Platform

NGR 464859 437185 Site Type Platform

Period ?Second World War Source Walkover survey Description A disturbed site prob

A disturbed site probably associated with the use of Riccall Airfield but not shown on the airfield layout plan. It consists of a square water-filled scoop on the northern end, to the south of which is a square platform with surrounding ditch that measures 21m square by up to 0.7m high. The site may have been the location of an anti-aircraft battery as there is much disturbance and spoil to the south (Site 281). The site is unlikely to be a square barrow.



Plate 126: platform, Site 280

Site Number 281

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Spoil Heap

NGR 464860 437165

Site Type Spoil Heap
Period Second World War
Source Walkover survey
An amorphous area

An amorphous area of spoil heaps/clearance located on the east side of Riccall Airfield, adjacent to a disturbed mound (Site **280**). The ground has either been bulldozed to clear it prior to the construction of the airfield or has contributed to post-war demolition. The area measures approximately 26m long by 10m wide. There are some concrete-lined sand bags evident.



Plate 127: spoil heap, Site 281

Site Number 282

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Building Platform

NGR 464798 437013
Site Type Demolished Building
Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey

Description A large building foundation located on the eastern end of Riccall airfield. It is described as a steel constructed hangar marked as 'Storage Shed (Building drawing numbers 11776/42 and

steel constructed hangar marked as 'Storage Shed (Building drawing numbers 117/6/42 and 11853/42) on the airfield dispersal plan. The ruinous structure comprised a concrete surface

aligned north/south.



Plate 128: building platform, Site 282

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Drain

NGR 464830 436991

Site Type Drain

Period Second World War Source Walkover survey Description A linear section of s

A linear section of subterranean drain located on the east side of a storage hangar (Site **282**) on Riccall Airfield. The site consists of a series of open brick-topped manholes running in a north/south orientation for at least 75m.



Plate 129: drain, Site 283

Site Number 284

Site Name Riccall Common, Moor Lane

NGR 464884 436910

Site Type Trackway

Period Medieval-Post-medieval Source Walkover survey; OS 1855

Description A south-western continuation of Moor Lane on Riccall Common. The turf-covered section

of a defunct lane measures approximately 175m long by 9m wide and is up to 0.5m high. There is a drainage ditch on the west side. This section of lane was in use on the 1855 OS mapping but was subsequently diverted in the late nineteenth century when the southern half

of Riccall Common was improved.

Site Number 285

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Gun Pit II

NGR 464905 437120 **Site Type** Gun Pit

Period Second World War Source Walkover survey Description A gun pit, one of a

A gun pit, one of a pair protecting the north-eastern perimeter of the airfield. Each comprises a small earthen mound measuring approximately 4m long by 3m wide. This example has a concrete cylinder, c 1.5m in diameter and 1m in height and a brick basin measuring 1m long by 0.75m wide and 0.25m deep is located 2m to the south.



Plate 130: gun pit, Site 285

Site Number 286

Site Name Riccall Common, Boundary Bank and Ditch

NGR 464906 437154

Site Type Boundary Bank and Ditch

Period Post-medieval Source Walkover survey

Description A linear boundary bank and ditch orientated roughly north-north-west/south-south-east and demarcating the boundary between Riccall and Skipwith Commons. The surviving section

demarcating the boundary between Riccall and Skipwith Commons. The surviving section measures approximately 275m long and predates the construction of Riccall Airfield as the

gun pits are built into it (Sites 285 and 287).



Plate 131: gun pit, Site 286

Description

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Gun Pit III

NGR 464883 437216

Site Type Gun Pit

Period Second World War Source Walkover survey

A gun pit, one of a pair protecting the north-east perimeter of the airfield. Each comprises a small earthen mound measuring approximately 4m long by 3m wide. This example has a brick-built cylinder, c 1.5m in diameter and 1m in height and a brick basin measuring 1m long by 0.75m wide and 0.25m deep is located 2m to the north.



Plate 132: gun pit, Site 287

Site Number 288

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Gun Pit IV

NGR 464483 437775 **Site Type** Gun Pit

Period Second World War Source Walkover survey

Description A gun pit, Danes Hill, one of a pair protecting the northern perimeter of the airfield. Each

comprises a concrete cylinder, c 1.5m in diameter and 1m in height. This example has a gun mount intact and a brick basin measuring 1m long by 0.75m wide and 0.25m deep is located

2m to the east of the gun pit.

Site Number 289

Site Name South Duffield Tow Dyke, Peat Stand I

NGR 466488 436798
Site Type Peat Stand
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey
Description A series of four

A series of four circular or sub-circular mounds of relict peat located within an area of otherwise total peat extraction in the south-east corner of the survey area. They were possibly used as peat drying stands. The mounds are raised 0.5m above the current ground level, the largest measures approximately 60m long by 38m wide and the smallest is 12m in diameter.



Plate 133: peat stand, Site 289

Site Number 290

Site Name South Duffield Tow Dyke, Peat Cutting I

NGR 466377 436865
Site Type Peat Cutting
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description An amorphous area of peat cutting measuring approximately 325m long by 125m wide, in

the south-east corner of the survey area. The area is raised 0.5m above the surrounding landscape which has been completely cut of peat and lay to the east of a boggy gully. The peat cutting has surviving corduroy ridges indicative of cutting that are orientated north-

north-west/south-south-east and are up to 6m apart.

Site Number 291

Site Name South Duffield Tow Dyke, Peat Stand II

NGR 466326 436793 Site Type Peat Stand Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey
Description A possible sub-re

A possible sub-rectangular peat stand located within an area of peat cutting in the south-east corner of the survey area. It measures approximately 12m long by 8m wide. On top is a pair of possible relict peat stacks, each measuring 1.3m high.



Plate 134: peat stand, Site 291

Site Number 292

Site Name South Duffield Tow Dyke, Peat Stand III

NGR 466332 436915
Site Type Peat Stand
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey
Description A sub-circular m

A sub-circular mound of relict peat located within an area of otherwise total peat extraction and adjacent to the west side of a boggy area. It was possibly used as a peat drying stand and measures approximately 15m in diameter by 0.5m high.



Plate 135: peat stand, Site 292

Site Name South Duffield Tow Dyke, Peat Stand IV

NGR 466230 436853
Site Type Peat Stand
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A possible oval peat stand in the south-east corner of the survey area. It is steep-sided and

measures approximately 6m long by 5m wide and is up to 0.4m high.



Plate 136: peat stand, Site 293

Site Number 294

Site Name Skipwith Common, Extractive Pits

NGR 466167 437214 (area)

Ref no MNY 25706, MNY 25708, MNY 25878, MNY 25896 and MNY25901

Site Type Extractive Pit Period Post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855, 1910; Google Earth

Description A series of at least thirty extraction pits scattered across Skipwith Common. Twenty

examples survive as water-filled pits and were identified by the walkover survey. The other pits were identified through desk-based analysis. The pits are probably associated with the extraction of sand or marl, and possibly post-date the main phases of peat extraction on the

common.



Plate 137: extractive/sand pits, Site 294

Skipwith Common, Extractive Pit I

Site Name
NGR
465716 436848
Site Type
Period
Source
Description
Skipwith Comm
465716 436848
Extractive Pit
Post-medieval
Walkover survey
A sub-oval pit wi

A sub-oval pit with external bank located on the north side of a dried-out pond and between two sections of the multiple-banked boundary system (Site 18). The pit measures approximately 4m long by 3m wide and is 1m deep, whilst the surrounding bank measures 3m wide by up to 0.4m high.



Plate 138: extractive pit, Site 295

Site Number 296

Site Name Skipwith Common, Extractive Pit II

NGR 465792 436753

Ref no MNY 25875

Site Type Pond / Extraction Pit

Period Unknown Source Walkover survey

Description An extractive pit or dried-out pond located on the surviving southern end of the putative

Bronze Age multiple-banked boundary system (Site **334**). It measures approximately 220m long by 100m wide and is up to 0.7m deep. The pit may predate the boundaries as the easternmost of the banks skirts the edge of the pit, although the precise relationship is hard

to interpret.

Site Number 297

Site Name Skipwith Common, Peat Stand

NGR 465962 436900
Site Type Peat Stand
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A sub-oval mound of relict peat located within an area of otherwise total peat extraction in the south-eastern part of the survey area. It was possibly used as a peat drying stand and

measures approximately 110m long by 40m wide and is up to 0.5m high.



Plate 139: peat stand, Site 297

Site Number 298

Site Name South Duffield Tow Dyke, Peat Cutting II

NGR 466362 437049
Site Type Peat Cutting
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A small amorphous area of peat cutting north of Site **294**, measuring approximately 62m long

by 25m wide. The cuttings are a series of long linear steep-sided hollows that are cut into the

peat up to 0.4m deep.



Plate 140: peat cutting, Site 298

Site Name Horseshoe Pond, Boundary Bank

NGR 466217 437297
Site Type Boundary Bank
Period Unknown
Source Walkover survey
Description A section of slig

A section of slightly curvilinear earthen boundary bank located on the north-east side of Horseshoe Pond. It measures approximately 70m long by 3m wide and is up to 0.5m high.



Plate 141: boundary bank, Site 299

Site Number 300

Site NameSwang, PlantationNGR466724 437553Site TypePlantationPeriodPost-medieval

Source Walkover survey; OS 1855 **Description** A relict plantation located

A relict plantation located on the eastern side of Skipwith Common, and named as Swang Plantation on the OS first edition mapping. It survives as an earthen-banked enclosure with external ditch measuring approximately 115m long by 50m wide. The banks and ditches each measure up to 2m wide and are 0.4m high and 0.4m deep respectively. The plantation was presumably clear-felled but retains remnants of plantation including numerous mature oaks and several Scots pines and modern birch scrub.

Site Number 30

Site Name Long Swang, Drainage Ditch I

NGR 466793 437447
Site Type Drainage Ditch
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey
Description A linear section of

A linear section of drainage ditch located on the eastern end of Skipwith Common at Long Swang. The ditch measures approximately 103m long by 2m wide and is up to 0.3m deep.



Plate 142: drainage ditch, Site 301

Site Number 302

Site Name Long Swang, Drainage Ditch II

NGR 466743 437325
Site Type Drainage Ditch
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A linear section of drainage ditch located on the eastern end of Skipwith Common at Long

Swang. The ditch measures approximately 130 m long by 1.5-2 m wide and is up to 0.3 m deep.



Plate 143: drainage ditch, Site 302

Site Name Long Swang, Peat Cutting I

NGR 466737 437280
Site Type Peat Cutting
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A rectangular area of peat cutting on the eastern edge of the common, measuring

approximately 120m long by 75m wide. The area is raised 0.5m above the surrounding landscape which has been completely cut of peat and lay adjacent to a drainage ditch. The peat surface has surviving corduroy ridges indicative of cutting orientated east-north-

east/west-south-west and which are up to 6m apart.

Site Number 304

Site Name Long Swang, Peat Stand I

NGR 466759 437235
Site Type Peat Stand
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description An oval mound of relict peat located to the south of an area of peat cutting. It was possibly

used as a peat-drying stand and measures approximately 10m long by 4.5m wide and is up to

0.4m high.



Plate 144: peat stand, Site 304

Site Name Long Swang, Peat Cutting II

NGR 466407 437291
Site Type Peat Cutting
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A single rectilinear peat cutting measuring approximately 49m long by 2m wide. The cutting

is steep-sided and is cut into the peat up to 0.5m deep.



Plate 145: peat cutting, Site 305

Site Number 306

Site Name Long Swang, Extractive Pit

NGR 466438 437265 Site Type Extractive Pit Period Post-medieval Source Description

Walkover survey

A possible sub-oval extractive pit. It is shallow-sided and measures approximately $15 \, \text{m}$ long by $5 \, \text{m}$ wide and $0.3 \, \text{m}$ deep.



Plate 163: extractive pit, Site 306

Site Number 307

Site Name Long Swang, Peat Stand II

NGR 466414 437420
Site Type Peat Stand
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey
Description A circular mount

A circular mound of relict peat located near the centre of an area of peat cutting. It was possibly used as a peat-drying stand and measures approximately 12m in diameter by up to 0.4m high. There is a shallow scoop in the top of the mound.



Plate 146: peat stand, Site 307

Site Name Long Swang, Peat Cutting III

NGR 466405 437435
Site Type Peat Cutting
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey
Description A sub-rectangula

A sub-rectangular area of peat cutting measuring approximately 145m long by 105m wide. The area is raised 0.5m above the surrounding landscape which has been completely cut of peat. The peat surface has surviving corduroy ridges, indicative of cutting, that are orientated north-north-west/south-east and are up to 6m apart. The northern end of the area contains well-defined single water-filled cuttings orientated at various angles. Each of these cuttings measure approximately 40m long by 2m wide.



Plate 147: peat cutting, Site 308

Site Number 309

Site Name Horseshoe Pond, Peat Stand

NGR 466139 437364
Site Type Peat Stand
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A small circular mound of relict peat located near the centre of an area of peat cutting. It was

possibly used as a peat-drying stand and measures approximately 4m in diameter by up to

0.4m high.

Site Number 310

Site Name Horseshoe Pond, Peat Cutting

NGR 466099 437338
Site Type Peat Cutting
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description An amorphous area of peat cutting located on the north side of Horseshoe Pond. It measures

approximately 270m long by 155m wide. The area is raised 0.5m above the surrounding landscape which has been completely cut of peat. The peat surface has surviving corduroy ridges, indicative of cutting, that are orientated north-north-west/south-south-east and are up

to 6m apart. Part of the area is covered by later plantation woodland.

Site Name Horseshoe Pond, Plantation

NGR 466139 437331
Ref no MNY 25895
Site Type Plantation
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A possible relict plantation located on the northern side of Horseshoe Pond. It is not marked on the historic mapping. There are no external boundaries marking the plantation, although

on the historic mapping. There are no external boundaries marking the plantation, although the area corresponds in part to an area of relict peat cutting. The overall area measures approximately 150m square and survives as remnants of plantation containing mature Scots pines. The ridges in the area are peat cutting and are not evidence of machine cultivation for

tree planting.

Site Number 312

Site Name Skipwith Common, Reservoir

NGR 466737 437963 Site Type Reservoir Period Post-medieval

Source Walkover survey; Google Earth

Description A water-filled pond/pit located on the north-east end of Skipwith Common. The pond was

presumably excavated as an extraction pit, but was then latterly used as the water source for

a series of line pits (Site 246) located further to the west.

Site Number 313

Site Name Skipwith Common, Drainage Ditch

NGR 466565 437903
Site Type Drainage Ditch
Period Post-medieval

Source Walkover survey, Google Earth

Description A curvilinear drainage ditch that would have originally connected a reservoir to a series of

line pits (Site 246) located on the north-east end of Skipwith Common.

Site Number 314

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store Dispersal I

NGR 464562 437022 **Site Type** Complex

Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey; aerial photograph RAF/541/30

Frame 4039 – dated 17 May 1948; Google Earth,

Description An extant bomb store dispersal located within the perimeter track on the east side of the

airfield. This is one of the small arms ammunition and incendiary store areas.

Site Number 315

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store Dispersal II

NGR 465463 437282 **Site Type** Complex

Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey; aerial photograph RAF/541/30

Frame 4039 - dated 17 May 1948; Google Earth

Description An extant bomb store dispersal located on the east side of the airfield. This is the high

explosives bomb storage area.

Site Number 316

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Bomb Store Dispersal III

NGR 465037 437342 **Site Type** Complex

Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; walkover survey; aerial photograph RAF/541/30

Frame 4039 - dated 17 May 1948; Google Earth

Description An extant bomb store dispersal located on the east side of the airfield. This is the fused bomb

storage area. The trackway running through the area is on the original alignment of King

Rudding Lane.

Site Number 317

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Runway and Dispersal

NGR 464178 436804 **Site Type** Runway

Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; aerial photograph RAF/541/30 Frame 4039 – dated 17

May 1948; Google Earth

Description The currently extant remnants of Riccall Airfield runway, perimeter track and technical area

dispersals. These are only recorded from documentary research. Seven buildings survive in

their original positions.

Site Number 318

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ancillary Camp I

NGR 464232 435983 Site Type Military Camp Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027 – dated

30 July 1951; Google Earth

Description The currently extant remnants of a dispersed camp at Riccall Airfield. The site was only

recorded from documentary research. The camp comprised part of the 'technical area' and

six buildings survive in their original positions. This site is outside the survey area.

Site Number 319

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ancillary Camp II

NGR 464302 435619
Site Type Military Camp
Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Dispersed Sites Plan 5117/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027

- dated 30 July 1951; Google Earth

Description The currently extant remnants of a dispersed camp at Riccall Airfield. The site was only

recorded from documentary research. The camp was named the 'WAAF Site No. 2' and four

buildings survive in their original positions. This site is outside the survey area.

Site Number 320

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ancillary Camp III

NGR 464159 435392 Site Type Military Camp Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Dispersed Sites Plan 5117/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027

- dated 30 July 1951; Google Earth,

Description The currently extant remnants of a dispersed camp at Riccall Airfield. The site was only

recorded from documentary research. The camp was named the 'Sick Quarters Site' and two small structures survive in their original positions. This site is outside the survey area.

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ancillary Camp IV

NGR 464560 435371
Site Type Documentary Evidence
Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Dispersed Sites Plan 5117/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027

- dated 30 July 1951; Google Earth

Description The remnants of a dispersed camp at Riccall Airfield. The site was only recorded from

documentary research. The camp was named 'Site No. 5' and no buildings survive in their

original positions. This site is outside the survey area.

Site Number 322

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ancillary Camp V

NGR 464717 435134
Site Type Documentary Evidence
Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Dispersed Sites Plan 5117/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027

- dated 30 July 1951; Google Earth

Description The remnants of a dispersed camp at Riccall Airfield. The site was only recorded from

documentary research. The camp was named 'Site No. 7' and no buildings survive in their

original positions. This site is outside the survey area.

Site Number 323

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ancillary Camp VI

NGR 464514 435669 Site Type Military Camp Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Dispersed Sites Plan 5117/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027

- dated 30 July 1951; Google Earth

Description The extant remnants of a dispersed camp at Riccall Airfield. The site was only recorded from

documentary research. The camp was named the 'WAAF Site No. 1' and seven buildings

survive in their original positions. This site is outside the survey area.

Site Number 324

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ancillary Camp VII

NGR 464826 435768
Site Type Military Camp
Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Dispersed Sites Plan 5117/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027

- dated 30 July 1951; Google Earth

Description The currently extant remnants of a dispersed camp at Riccall Airfield. The site was only

recorded from documentary research. The camp was named the 'Communal Site No. 1' and twenty buildings survive in their original positions. This site is outside the survey error

twenty buildings survive in their original positions. This site is outside the survey area.

Site Number 325

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ancillary Camp VIII

NGR 465122 435732
Site Type Military Camp
Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Dispersed Sites Plan 5117/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027

- dated 30 July 1951; Google Earth

Description The currently extant remnants of a dispersed camp at Riccall Airfield. The site was only

recorded from documentary research. The camp was named the 'Communal Site No. 2' and

five buildings survive in their original positions. This site is outside the survey area.

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ancillary Camp IX

NGR 465404 435360
Site Type Military Camp
Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Dispersed Sites Plan 5117/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027

- dated 30 July 1951; Google Earth

Description The currently extant remnants of a dispersed camp at Riccall Airfield. The site was only

recorded from documentary research. The camp was named 'Site No. 6' and four buildings

survive in their original positions. This site is outside the survey area.

Site Number 327

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ancillary Camp X

NGR 465539 435724 Site Type Military Camp Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Dispersed Sites Plan 5117/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027

- dated 30 July 1951; Google Earth

Description The currently extant remnants of a dispersed camp at Riccall Airfield. The site was only

recorded from documentary research. The camp was named the 'WT' [Wireless Telegraphy Station], and one building survives in its original positions. This site is outside the survey

area.

Site Number 328

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ancillary Camp XI

NGR 465398 435807 Site Type Military Camp Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Dispersed Sites Plan 5117/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027

- dated 30 July 1951; Google Earth

Description The currently extant remnants of a dispersed camp at Riccall Airfield. The site was only

recorded from documentary research. The camp was named 'Site No. 4' and nine buildings

survive in their original positions. This site is outside the survey area.

Site Number 329

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ancillary Camp XII

NGR 465222 436157 Site Type Military Camp Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Dispersed Sites Plan 5117/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027

- dated 30 July 1951; Google Earth

Description The currently extant remnants of a dispersed camp at Riccall Airfield. The site was only

recorded from documentary research. The camp was named 'Site No. 2' and eight buildings

survive in their original positions. This site is outside the survey area.

Site Number 330

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Ancillary Camp XIII

NGR 465620 436245 Site Type Military Camp Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Dispersed Sites Plan 5117/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027

– dated 30 July 1951; Google Earth

Description The currently extant remnants of a dispersed camp at Riccall Airfield. The site was only

recorded from documentary research. The camp was named 'Site No. 3' and nine buildings

survive in their original positions. This site is outside the survey area.

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Building

NGR 464428 437596
Site Type Documentary Evidence
Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027 – dated

30 July 1951; Google Earth

Description A hutted building located on the north-west side of Riccall Airfield. It is marked as 'GPH'

on the airfield layout plan. The building has since been demolished and no existing evidence

can be found on the ground.

Site Number 332

Site Name Riccall Airfield, Building

NGR 464770 437513
Site Type Documentary Evidence
Period Second World War

Source Riccall Airfield Layout Plan 5116/45; aerial photograph RAF/540/572 Frame 4027 – dated

30 July 1951; Google Earth

Description A hutted building is shown on the Second World War airfield layout plan and located on

Skipwith Common inside the runway perimeter near Site 49. The building has since been

demolished and no existing evidence can be found on the ground.

Site Number 333

Site Name Skipwith Common, Field Boundaries

NGR 465421 437567, 465493 437630, 465691 437731, 465750 437750 and 465747 437674

Site Type Documentary Evidence

Period Unknown

Source Aerial photograph OS/71147 Frame 76 – dated 3 May 1971; Google Earth

Description A series of possible field boundaries associated with the southern end of a complex

cropmarked field system on the northern edge of Skipwith Common (NMR SE63NE38). The

boundaries run a perpendicular or at right-angles to the axis of the field-system.

Site Number 334

Site Name Skipwith Common, Multiple Banks

NGR 466426 437747 Site Type Earthworks

Period Unknown; probably Bronze Age/Iron Age

Source The Friends of Skipwith Common; walkover survey; Google Earth; LiDAR

Description Earthworks comprising a series of discontinuous sections of linear multiple banks, aligned

approximately east/west. This feature extends along the route of Sandy Lane for c 920m and is c 25m wide. The individual banks are c 3m to 5m in width and range from 3m to 170m in

length. The feature was surveyed by The Friends of Skipwith Common in 2009-10.

Site Number 335

Site Name Sandy Lane, Peat Cutting

NGR 466359 437960
Site Type Peat Cutting
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A rectangular area of peat cutting located on the northern edge of Skipwith Common, to the

north side of Sandy Lane. It measures approximately 140m long by 70m wide. The peat cutting has surviving cordurory ridges indicative of cutting that are orientated north-north-west/south-south-east and are up to 6m apart. The area is demarcated on the north and south

sides by earth banks and drainage ditches.



Plate 148: peat cutting, Site 335

Site Name Blackwood Road, Peat Cutting

NGR 466845 437984
Site Type Peat Cutting
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A rectangular area of peat cutting located on the eastern edge of Skipwith Common adjacent

to the west side of Blackwood Road. It measures approximately 95m long by 45m wide. The peat surface has surviving corduroy ridges, indicative of cutting, that are orientated north-

north-west/south-south-east and are up to 6m apart.

Site Number 337

Site Name Blackwood Road, Drainage Ditch

NGR 466692 438048
Site Type Drainage Ditch
Period Post-medieval
Source Walkover survey

Description A curvilinear drainage ditch and bank, measuring over 345m long by 3m wide and embanked

up to 0.5m high. It is orientated roughly east/west and is located to the on the northern edge of Skipwith Common, following the southern boundary of an enclosed field on Blackwood

Lane. It drains the area on the north edge of the common into Southfield Drain.



Plate 149: drainage ditch, Site 337

Site Name Field Boundary, Skipwith North Common

NGR 466552 439908
Site Type Field Boundary
Period Post-medieval
Source LiDAR; OS 1854

Description Field boundary, running west-to-east, with a short length of north-to-south-aligned field

boundary lining up with the western edge of the 'Nursey Wood plantation' (Site **151**) on the first edition OS map of 1854. The west-to-east boundary also delineates the southern extent of the field which formerly contained the Danes Hill (Crook Moor) barrow cemetery (Site

118).

Site Number 339

Site Name Trackway, Skipwith North Common

NGR 466806 439497 **Site Type** Trackway

Period Unknown; ?Post-medieval Source LiDAR; OS 1854

Description A trackway that is shown on the first edition OS map, running on a broadly north-east/south-

west orientation. It runs from Bonby Lane over the common, to fields to the west of 'North Common Plantation' (outside the survey area). It is equidistant from and probably associated with Sites 175 and 175, a trackway and a section of hollow way shown on the same map.

Site Number 340

Site Name Trackway, Skipwith North Common

NGR 466984 438552
Site Type Trackway
Period ?Medieval
Source LiDAR; OS 1854

Description A trackway clearly delineated on LiDAR and shown on the first edition OS map, running on

a broadly west/east alignment between Common Road and York Road. It crosses the common passing a series of sand pits, (Sites 227, 228) and the Old Mill (Site 231) before arriving just

south of Skipwith village centre.

Site Name Bank, South of Skipwith Mill

NGR 467124 438009 Site Type Earthwork

Period Medieval/Post-medieval Source LiDAR; OS 1855

Description Linear bank, c 100m long, picked up by LiDAR survey. It is oriented north-east/south-west,

at right angles to another bank of similar dimensions (Site 248). Site 248 was a long, prominent bank with ditches on either side, interpreted as a possible headland due to the presence of ridge and furrow (Site 247) immediately to the north. As with Site 248, this boundary is marked as a trackway on the OS first edition map; the bank must have delineated

the route. The trackway runs between Skipwith Mill and the line ponds (Site 246).

Site Number 342

Site Name Linear earthworks, North Common

NGR 466741 440205 Site Type Field System Period ?Iron Age Source LiDAR

Description Three intersecting linears to the north of enclosure 163 and to the east of two partial

enclosures formed of substantial banks and ditches (Sites 161 and 219). The longest, at c 130m, is oriented north/south. Towards its southern extent it intersects with a west/east oriented linear which is c 150m long and may be associated with Site 146, a substantial bank and ditch. The western edge of the west/east linear lies to the immediate east of Sites 161 and 219. The third linear runs north from a rectangular enclosure (Site 163) and intersects with the west/east linear before continuing for a further c 10m to the north. The linears have been identified from LiDAR; they appear to be ditches but may have associated banks. Similar features in their environs (including the three enclosures 161, 163, 219) have banks c 2m wide and ditches c 0.5m deep. NMR plots outside the survey area illustrate the presence of large areas of probably Iron Age field systems, and Sites 158, 159, 161, 163, 219 and 342 appear to be of similar form and orientation, but remain largely extant and in apparently good condition. Their location c 260m to the north of the Crook Moor Iron Age barrow cemetery

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