



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



**CLIFTONGATE DEVELOPMENT,
YORK**

DESK BASED ASSESSMENT REPORT

by M. Johnson & J.M. McComish

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Abbreviations

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
DBA	Desk Based Assessment
YAT	York Archaeological Trust
RAF	Royal Air Force
BGS	British Geological Survey

1. SUMMARY

This desk-based assessment has been prepared in order to determine the impact of potential development on likely archaeological remains on a large site north of Clifton Moor at Rawcliffe Moor, to be called Cliftongate in future. The document has been drawn up in support of an outline planning application for the construction of housing within the 134 hectares of Strategic Housing Site ST14 of the City of York Local Plan.

The site fits neatly within a Study Area with a 1km radius from the centre of the site. The results of the searches of a number of archaeological and historical data sets suggest that the proposed development site has considerable potential to yield features of archaeological interest. The bulk of these relate to activity of the prehistoric periods, particularly the Iron Age, as well as of the Romano-British period. These features, which includes Iron Age settlement, are comprised of ring-ditches, some possibly barrows, others round-houses; enclosures, ditches and field systems, together with features of smaller scale. These remains represent a considerable archaeological resource of greater significance than the evidence for subsequent ploughed out remains of medieval field systems that are also known. A number of former RAF remains of World War II are also present within the proposed development area.

The prehistoric, Romano-British and RAF remains all merit further investigation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

York Archaeological Trust has been commissioned by Commercial Estates Projects Ltd and Hallam Land Management to undertake a desk-based archaeological and cultural heritage assessment (DBA) to determine the potential for archaeological and historical remains at a site immediately north of the A1237 ring road, York, North Yorkshire. This is intended to support an outline planning application to develop an area for housing, which is currently under agricultural use.

2.2 SITE LOCATION

The proposed development site is located immediately north of the A1237 ring road to the north of the Clifton Moor Retail Park, York, North Yorkshire, centred on NGR SE 58643 56300, (Figure 1, location map; Figure 2, Site and Study Area) The A19 lies less than 1km to the west of the site boundary and the B1363 slightly over 300m to the east of the boundary. The plot of land encompasses an area of approximately 134 hectares, is somewhat

irregularly shaped and measures a maximum of 1.35km (east-west) by just in excess of 1.4km (north-south). The nearest postcode is YO30 4XZ.

The site lies approximately 600m east of the village of Skelton and around 4km from the centre of York. The proposed development site is bordered by fields and by small areas of woodland to the southern and eastern sides. Two arrangements of buildings are situated in the southern part of the land block, Rawcliffe Moor Farm to the west and Clifton Gate to the east. One of the few surviving remnants of the former Clifton Airfield is located immediately adjacent to the south-west corner of the site whilst the buildings of Wiggington Lodge and Wiggington Cottage also lay within the eastern part of the wider study area.

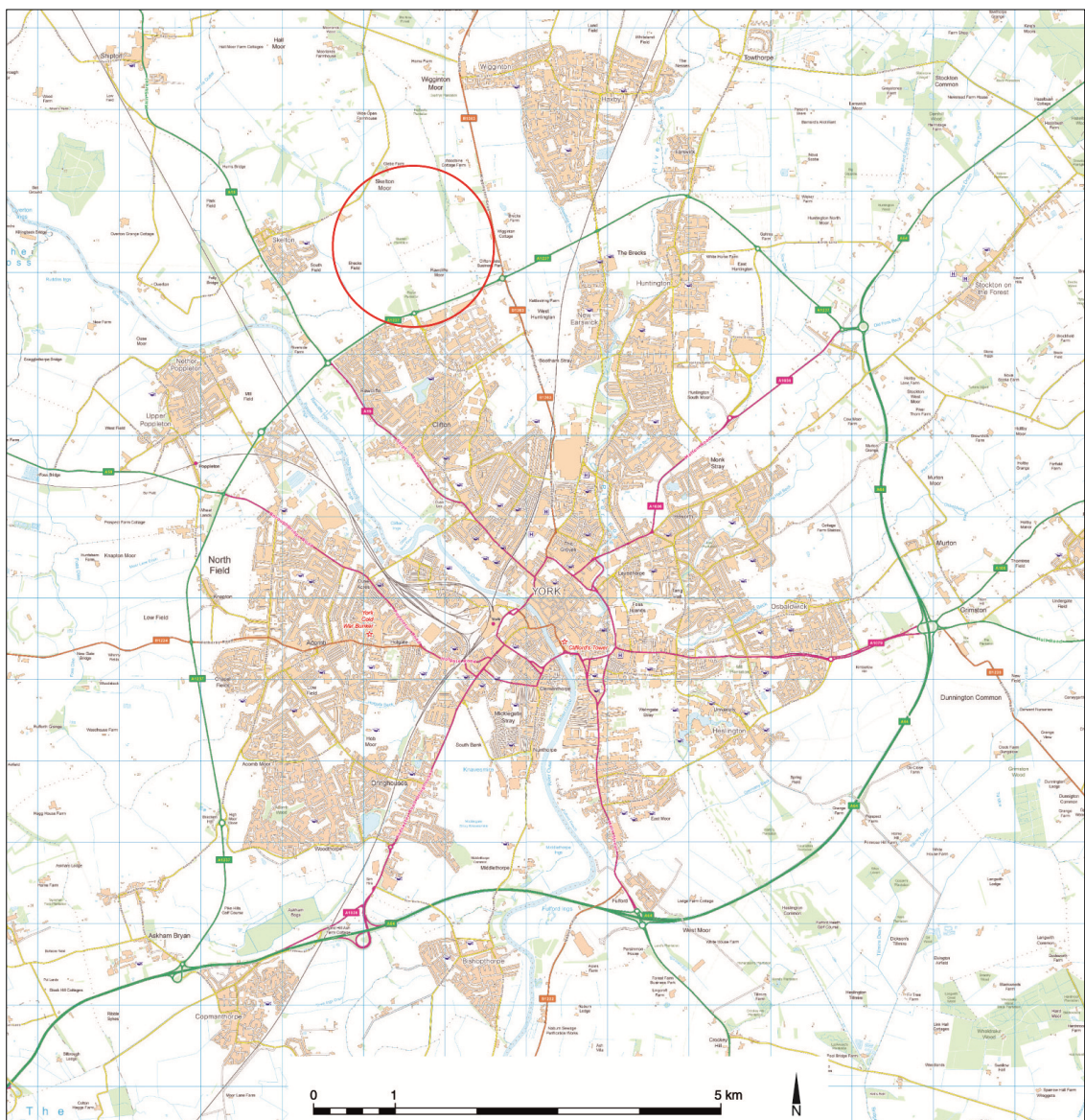


Figure 1 Location map, with study area outlined in red

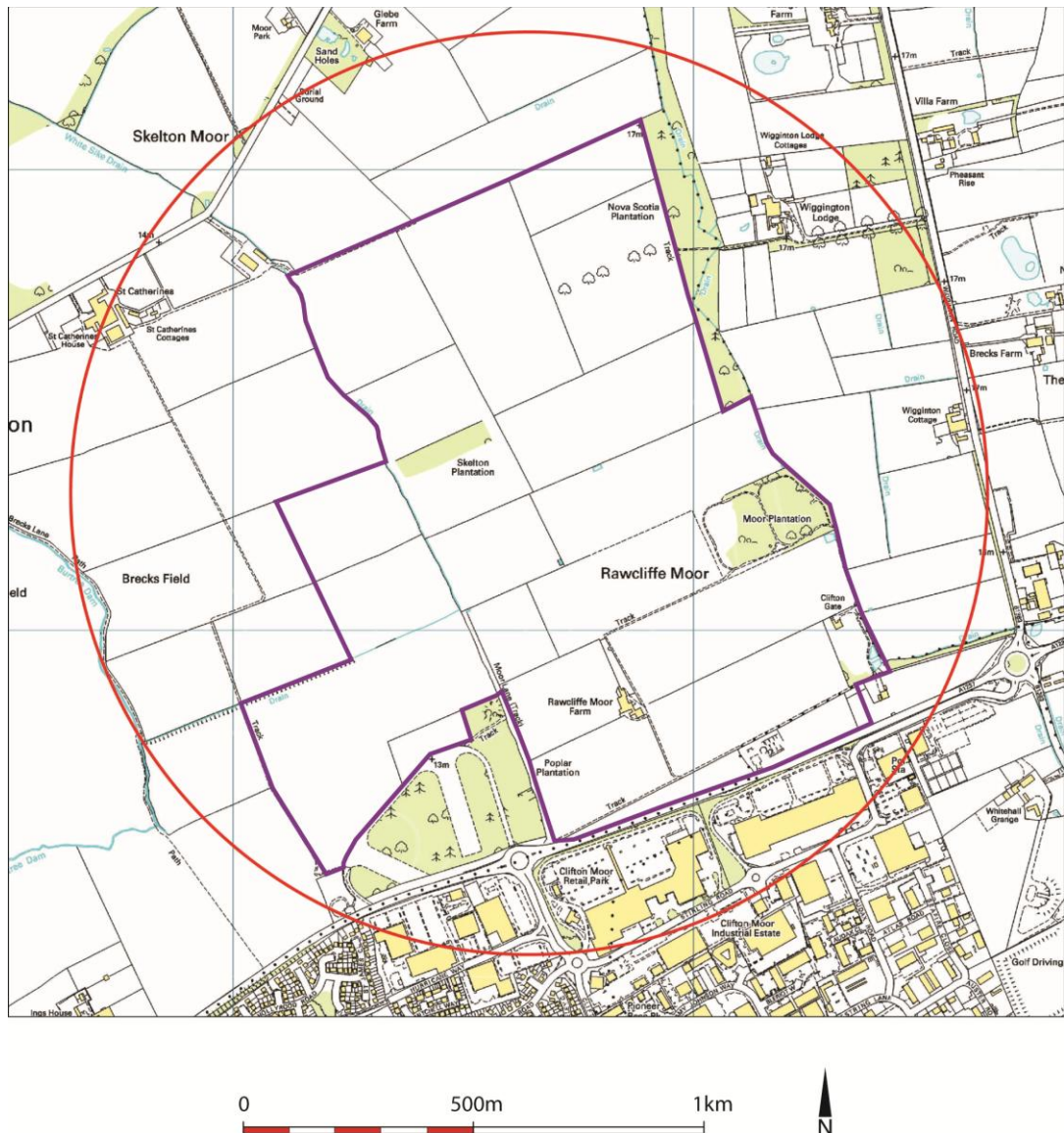


Figure 2 Proposed development site (outlined purple), within the Study Area (outlined red)

3. METHODOLOGY

This assessment represents a commitment to provide early advice concerning the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Resource of the site and surrounding study area.

The assessment was conducted with regard to standards set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standards and Guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment* (IfA, revised 2011). The general approach and methodology has been to consider the archaeology in terms of the archaeological sites and monuments present within the study area. These resources may be nationally or locally designated (by registration, listing or

scheduling), may appear in the national or local archaeological record, or may be identified here from specialist scrutiny of the landscape and historic records.

In summary the work has involved:

- identifying the client's objectives;
- identifying the sources available for consultation;
- assembling, consulting and analysing the available resources within a wider study area surrounding and including the site.

This information is drawn together to produce a report and deposit model which:

- Describes the evidence
- Assesses the evidence
- Assesses the potential impacts development might have on the site

A search area with a radius of 1km from grid point NGR SE 58643 56300, which is central to the proposed development site, was selected as the study area (Figure 1). The results of the searches have been compiled into a Gazetteer and a map (Appendix 1), and each site has been given a Unique Identifier (UI) which is used as a reference throughout this text. In addition to the searches a walkover survey of the site was undertaken on 16/07/13. All original records pertaining to this report are held by York Archaeological Trust under the project code 5715. Map data in the report is reproduced with permission of the OS on behalf of HMSO (Licence number 100018343).

4. PLANNING AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

This section gives a brief guide to national, regional and local policies with regard to archaeological and cultural heritage remains. It is not intended to be comprehensive but the major relevant policies will be indicated.

4.1 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

In March 2012 the Government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in an effort to make the overall planning system less complex and more accessible. In this document Chapter 12: "Conserving and enhancing the historic environment" deals with archaeological and historic issues. This section supersedes the previous planning legislation, Planning Policy Statement 5: "Planning for the Historic Environment" (PPS5). However, in a revision note published by English Heritage in June 2012 it is stated that "the PPS5 Practice Guide remains a valid and Government endorsed document pending the results of a review

of guidance supporting national planning policy". It also states that "the policies in the NPPF are very similar and the intent is the same, so the Practice Guide remains almost entirely relevant and useful in the application of the NPPF".

4.2 REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

Regional planning used to be covered by the Yorkshire and Humber Plan (2011), but this was revoked by the Secretary of State in February 2013. Since then, planning matters have been dealt with at a more local level.

Local planning is dealt with in the York Local Plan (City of York, Draft Local Plan incorporating the 4th set of changes), prepared in April 2005. Within this document archaeology and historic matters are dealt with in Chapter 4: Historic Environment, which describes policies HE1 to HE12 and archaeology is specifically covered by Policy HE10, though many of the other policies, such as Policy HE:9 which relates to Scheduled Ancient Monuments, can be relevant depending on the location of the proposed development site. The City of York Council is currently preparing a new Local Plan for York, (http://www.york.gov.uk/info/200396/planning_policy/428/planning_policy) which will cover development to at least 2030.

The City of York Local Plan Preferred Options (June 2013), which is available online at http://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/7325/local_plan_preferred_options_pdf, states in section iii that the plan is designed to deliver "sustainable economic growth, prosperity and housing" at a local level. The proposed development site is named as ST14 within this plan, and is identified as a Strategic Housing Site. The report also notes, in section 2.35, that demand for housing in York is higher than had previously been thought, with a need for the construction of 790 new houses per year from 2013-2018, while Policy SS3 iii states that up to 42% of the new housing requirements are to be in the form of extensions to the main built up area, including site ST14.

In conjunction with Local Plan Preferred Options plan, the City of York Council has also produced a Heritage Impact Appraisal (April 2103), which is available online at http://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/7324/heritage_impact_appraisal_pdf. This notes the value of York's historic environment, and with specific reference to Policy SS3, that "There is potential for harm to historic character and significances through the development of the identified allocations", noting that design briefs should be used to inform on any specific development proposals. The present study represents part of the process of informing on the historic environment in question.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE BASELINE DATA

5.1 STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY PROTECTED FEATURES

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, World Heritage Sites, Historic Gardens or Registered Battlefields within the study area.

5.2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

A search was commissioned from the City of York Council Historic Environment Record (HER) on the 05/07/13. Archaeological data was also consulted online via the City of York Council website and the results of these searches are listed in the Gazetteer (Appendix 1).

5.3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The bulk of the superficial geology of the potential development land is of Glaciolacustrine deposits of clay and silt resultant from the last Ice Age. A number of smaller areas of Aeolian sand, many in isolated pockets, are also recorded across the area, particularly the eastern parts. The solid geology of the area is exclusively of sandstones of the Sherwood Sandstone Group (British Geological Survey). The British Geological Survey holds records pertaining to a small number of boreholes located within the proposed development and study areas, though the data of all of these is presently confidential.

Encompassing an area of approximately 134ha the land block is somewhat irregularly shaped and measures a maximum of 1.35km (east-west) by just in excess of 1.4km (north-south). Land within the potential development block is divided into a number of rectilinear fields, many with hedgerows, and is utilised overwhelmingly for arable agricultural purposes. Two relatively small areas of woodland are present within the land block, one adjacent to the eastern boundary, the other towards the western boundary. Land across the site is fairly flat and level. The Ordnance Survey record heights of 17m OD close to the north-eastern corner of the land block and 13m OD close to the south-western corner. A watercourse known as the Burtree Dam flows some 250m to the west of the site. A drain, or dyke, forms part of the south-eastern boundary of the land block whilst the White Sike Drain bounds the north-western part of the site. This latter dyke extends into the western part of the site whilst a further drain runs from the southern limit of this towards the Burtree Dam. The road, or track, known as Moor Lane, which is believed to have medieval origins and served to provide access from the main body of the township of Rawcliffe to the pastures of Rawcliffe Moor, extends from the right angled bend of White Sike drain to the A1237 ring road.

5.4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

The English Heritage Geophysical database does not list any surveys within the proposed development site or wider study area. The nearest two geophysical surveys relate to Rawcliffe Manor (NGR: SE 580 551) and Manor Lane, Rawcliffe (NGR: SE 578 550). Both these sites lay some distance to the south. The survey of the medieval manor at Rawcliffe revealed anomalies that may relate to a buried field system and ditches adjacent to a causeway whilst that at Manor Lane provided no conclusive evidence for archaeological features.

No archaeological watching briefs are recorded within the study area. Only two excavations are known to have taken place within the site and study area. The earlier of these (UI 1) was an investigation of a partially surviving round cornered earthwork originally thought to be part of a Roman camp. This is likely to have been a small-scale excavation though there are no published records relating to it. The second excavation was of much larger scale (UI 2), and was carried out in advance of the laying of a Yorkshire Water pipeline in 1996. These excavations revealed part of an extensive complex of Iron Age remains, predominantly circular enclosures interpreted as hut circles, and a series of larger ditches, a number of which appeared to delineate the settlement. Approximately 1500 sherds of Iron Age pottery, together with fired clay weights and evidence for metal-working were recovered (Pearson 1996, 50-63).

5.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

This section provides an overview of the archaeological and historical background of the study area, based on the HER and Monuments Events data, which will aid in understanding the likelihood of encountering currently unrecorded resources within the application site. The data is listed in more detail in the Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage features and Figure 6 (Appendix 1).

5.5.1 PREHISTORIC (TO 43 AD)

A possible Bronze Age barrow (UI 15) is known from aerial photography, as is a ring-ditch (UI 18). The latter ring-ditch is of some size and possibly relates to a large Bronze Age barrow.



Plate 1 Aerial photograph showing the ring-ditch of Site (UI 18) (centre left of photograph), looking N. Note that part of Skelton Wood visible at top has been felled since the date of this photograph (1984)

© Peter Addyman

Confirmed and extensive remains of the Iron Age were found in the 1996 excavations at Rawcliffe Moor, within the area of proposed development (UI 2). These remains were of settlement activity and comprised of probable hut circles and complexes of ditches. Although the excavation was of some extent it is clear that prehistoric remains extended beyond the limits of excavation. A large assemblage of artefactual material was also recovered, including evidence for metal-working.



Plate 2 Aerial view of excavation in progress, Site (UI 2), looking NW

© Anthony Crawshaw

Other potentially prehistoric remains seen on aerial photographs, include a circle and enclosure (UI 20), trackways (UI 21), faint traces of a double ditched track and rectilinear enclosure (UI 26) and two areas of brick-work patterns of field boundaries (UI 17, 22-5). There are also faint rectilinear cropmarks of what may be an enclosure/s (UI 27). An indistinct series of cropmarks near Wiggington Lodge (UI 19), which lie within the study area but exterior to the proposed development site, could also be of prehistoric date.



Plate 3 Aerial photograph of a network of former ditched boundaries, (UI 17,25).

Moor Plantation is to the left, looking S

© Peter Addyman



Plate 4 Aerial photograph showing detail of the network of former ditched boundaries, (UI 23, 25), looking WSW

© Peter Addyman



Plate 5 Satellite imagery showing double ditched track with rectilinear enclosure above, (UI 26), N to top

© Google (historical imagery, 2005)

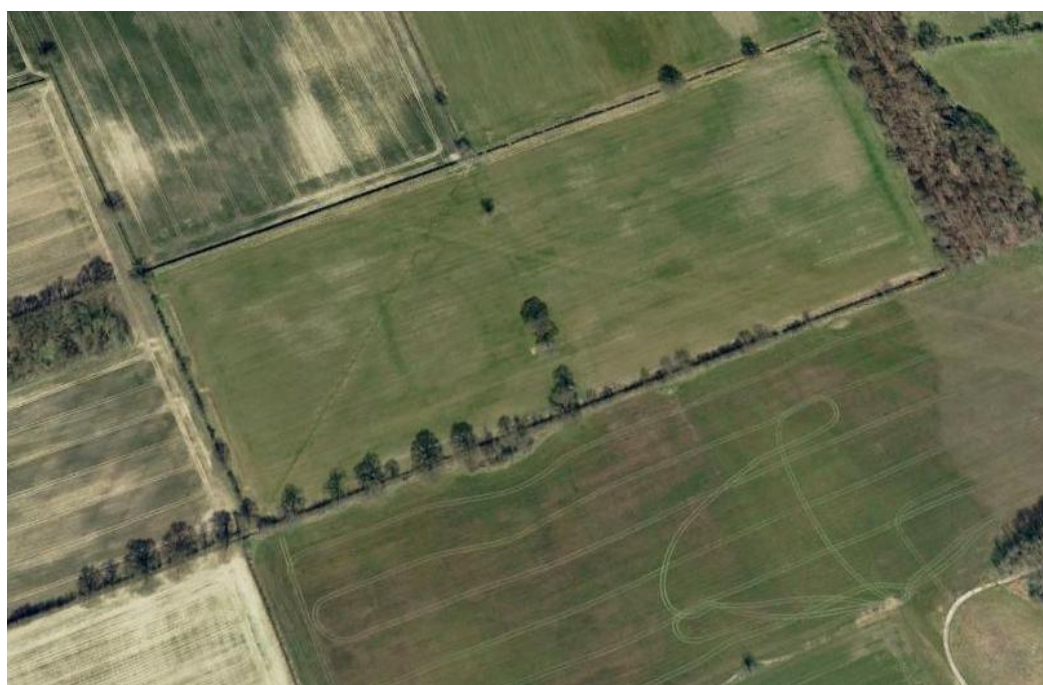


Plate 6 Satellite imagery showing rectilinear cropmarks of possible enclosure/s (UI 27). Directly above can be seen the diagonal stripe of the Yorkshire Water pipeline of 1996, N is to top

© Google (historical imagery, 2005)

5.5.2 ROMANO-BRITISH (43 – 410 AD)

Evidence that is likely to relate to the Romano-British period is all derived from air photographic evidence. HER Monuments data relating to cropmarks of a possible Romano-British settlement, comprised of an enclosure and other features (UI 14), whilst a further small rectilinear enclosure (UI 16) may also be associated with this. Given the uncertainty of dating cropmark features from aerial photographs alone, it is possible that elements of UIs 20, 21, 26, 24 and 25 could be of Romano-British, rather than prehistoric, date.

The remains of an earthwork with a rounded corner (UI 1) were in the past thought as possibly relating to a Roman practice camp. However, excavation at this site revealed only medieval pottery together with some brick and tile and the site was rejected for inclusion within the Royal Commission's volume on Roman Camps. It is possible that this feature relates to either the later medieval or post-medieval periods. This site does not appear to survive as a cropmark.

5.5.3 EARLY MEDIEVAL (410 – 1066 AD)

There is no known data pertaining to this early historic period.

5.5.4 LATER MEDIEVAL (1066 – C.1540 AD)

Extensive areas of broad ridge and furrow, relating to medieval arable agriculture, are recorded across large swathes of both the proposed development site and wider study area (UIs 3-12). Little of this survives as upstanding earthworks within the development block, save for indications in the south-east corner area. The broad character of the ridge and furrow argues for this being a product of the medieval, rather than post-medieval, period. The earthwork remains (UI 1) could have related to a livestock enclosure of this period, particularly in light of the pottery recovered during excavations at the site.

5.5.5 POST-MEDIEVAL AND MODERN (C.1540 – PRESENT)

The network of fields, many bounded by hedgerows, that currently occupy the proposed development site and study area have an origin in the 18th and 19th century enclosing of what was formerly Rawcliffe and Skelton Moors. It is believed that all the plantations, as well as the isolated farmstead and few other buildings that occupy the development block relate to the later part of this period. The loss of boundaries to these fields has been around 30% since the 1850s.

Within the southern part of the study area and immediately south of the proposed development area lie the remains of one of the few surviving fragments of the former Clifton Airfield (UI 13). These are comprised of the north-western ends of two of the runways. A civil

airfield was established in the vicinity of what is now the Clifton Moor Estate in 1936. This was commandeered by the RAF in 1939 who built a multi-runway airbase of heavy bomber type that occupied a considerably larger area. At various times throughout World War II the RAF station played host to a variety of aircraft and squadrons. Its most prolonged role was as a maintenance unit for the service and repair of Halifax heavy bombers. From the 1950's onwards parts of the former RAF station have been dismantled and given over to other uses including residential housing, retail and industrial units as well as to networks of roads, including the A1237 ring road.



Plate 7 Plan of the northern elements of the wartime Clifton RAF airfield. The structures in the north central rectangle are those within Moor Plantation. The area to the top left occupied the entire block that formerly was formerly Skelton Wood. The small structures in the centre still exist, as do remains immediately to the west of the northern ends of the runways, though the latter could not be accessed in the walkover survey

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5.6 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The study area has been subject to Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) for the local authority. Six entries relate to the proposed development block and wider study area, HNY 6207, 7025, 6198, 7727, 7728, 7088.

HNY 6207 relates to the south-western part of the site and study area. This is considered an area of large, irregular, modern, improved fields. Part of this area was planned enclosure that has seen a large degree of boundary removal

HNY 7025 encompasses an area of modern, broad-leaf plantation, known as Moor Plantation, that lies within the development block adjacent to its eastern boundary.

HNY 6198 relates to the northern part of the development site and study area. This is comprised of a large area of parliamentary enclosure consisting of medium sized fields defined by straight hedgerows. The enclosure dates between 1806-7 and took in areas of commons, waste and open fields. Field boundary loss has been estimated at around 30% since the 1850s.

HNY 7727 relates solely to the area of Nova Scotia Wood, which bounds the north-eastern part of the development block. This is considered to be a later post-medieval broad-leaf plantation.

HNY 7728 is a further area of broad-leaf modern plantation adjacent to the south-western corner of the development site and part of the former Clifton Airfield. This is named Poplar plantation on Ordnance Survey maps.

HNY 7088 is today represented by the Clifton Moor trading Estate which is a mixture of commercial and industrial units. The subject of parliamentary enclosure in 1763-4 much of this land was taken in by Clifton Airfield during the early and mid 20th century. Few remains of this airfield now survive.

There is a further area of broad-leaf woodland within the west central part of the proposed development area, not listed by the HLC, and known as Skelton Wood. Presently restricted to the northern third of what is now an arable field, 1850s Ordnance Survey mapping indicates that this wood formerly occupied the entire field. Air photographic evidence indicates that this situation of a larger wood remained the case until at least 1984, the majority of the wood seemingly being felled after this date.

5.7 SITE WALKOVER

The proposed development site and study area were subject to a walkover survey on 16th July 2013. Vegetation is at its highest around this time of year and this served to make access problematic and to restrict viewing in a number of areas, particularly within deciduous woodland and in the area of the former Clifton Airfield. The overwhelming bulk of the land within the development area was seen to be either under active arable cultivation or lying fallow. No above ground archaeological remains were evident within these areas, the area appearing relatively featureless save for hedgerow boundaries.



Plate 8 Arable field in central part of area of proposed development, looking NNW

A few restricted areas of pasture are present in the southernmost part of the proposed development area. A rapid inspection of these again showed little obvious surface archaeological remains excepting for faint hints of ridge and furrow at the site of UI 11. It should be noted that in the narrow field immediately west of UI 11 could not be accessed, though it is known that structural remains of the wartime airfield survive in this location.



Plate 9 Narrow field of pasture immediately W of A1237/B1363 roundabout, looking E

The southern end of Moor Lane at its point of junction with the A1237 ring road is inaccessible. North of this point it survives as a rough track before terminating at the right angled bend of the drain known as White Sike.

Inspection of the remains of Clifton Airfield at the south of the study area showed the end of the easternmost stretch of runway to be intact but supporting a profusion of plant growth along the seams of the cast concrete base. The western arm was less overgrown though the southern part of this has been systematically covered over by the large-scale dumping of soil and building debris. Much of the airfield's perimeter road in this area is better preserved, though the former fuel store at the extreme west of this complex, which is believed to be largely ruinous, was inaccessible due to the height of the surrounding vegetation.



Plate 10 N end of E part of runway complex, looking SSE



Plate 11 Looking S down the W part of runway complex towards dumping



Plate 12 Part of perimeter road around N end of runway complex, looking NE

Whilst accessing the track immediately east of the residence of Clifton Gate it was noted that this was constructed in the same fashion as the RAF runways and perimeter track, namely of cast concrete patchily overlain with a thin bituminous coating. It was also noted that this road surfacing extended fully to, and fully around the circuits of the two trackway loops indicated by the Ordnance Survey within Moor Plantation. Further, set immediately adjacent to the plantation tracks were a number of brick-built facades with earth banking behind. These appeared to occur in off-set pairs. Dense undergrowth precluded a more detailed inspection of these structures. Subsequent to the walkover survey a plan of RAF Clifton (Plate 7), believed to date to the immediate post-World War II years, has been located and this confirms that the structures and tracks to and around Moor Plantation did belong to the wartime airfield. The structures are referred to on this plan as 'Danger Buildings'. Buildings survey combined with deeper archival investigation should shed more light on these historic structures.

The same map of the wartime airfield indicates that the entire field in which Skelton Plantation is situated was also a part of the RAF complex. Whilst no upstanding remains were evident in this arable field Skelton Plantation would benefit from a fuller walkover survey once the seasonal vegetation has died back.



Plate 13 Part of RAF perimeter road to NW side of Moor Plantation, looking S



Plate 14 Part of RAF road in Moor Plantation with pair of off-set brick fronted structures, looking ENE



Plate 15 Brick façade of one of the RAF structures within Moor Plantation, looking NE

6. ADDITIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE DATA

The various web sites consulted were searched using the term “Rawcliffe Moor”, or by selecting the relevant area on a map, or by selecting the nearest postcode, dependent upon the criteria requested by the particular web site. As would be expected for a largely rural area, most of the web site searches failed to yield any results relating to the study area. The historic trade directories also contained no information on Rawcliffe Moor, though some limited information on Skelton was present.

6.1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The English Place-name society website states that the place-name Clifton is derived from the Old English words for an escarpment (*clif*) and an enclosure or farmstead (*tūn*). Nearby place-names contain a mixture of Anglian, Old English and Norse elements, suggesting that most of the current settlements were created in the early medieval period. Skelton is a combination of the Anglian for shelf (*scelf*) and the Old English for enclosure or farmstead (*tūn*), while Rawcliffe is an Old Norse name meaning Red (*raudr*) Cliff (*kliif*), and Haxby is from the Old Norse for Hakr’s farm (*by* meaning farm).

In the Domesday Survey of 1086 Rawcliffe is described as having 2 ploughlands, and 3 acres of meadow, and the lords in 1066 being Saxfrith the deacon and Thorbiorn, but by 1086 the lords were King William and the canons of St Peter, York (<http://domesdaymap.co.uk/place/SE5855/rawcliffe/>).

Skelton church is in the early English style, and there is a tradition that the church was built with stones that remained after the south transept of York Minster, commenced by Walter de grey in 1227, had been completed (Kelly 1893a, 290). The church had been completed by 1247 (Kelly 1893a, 290) and it is an excellent example of the Early English style of architecture.

Throughout the medieval period the bulk of the land within the proposed development area appears to have lain within the township of Skelton. The area known as Rawcliffe Moor formed an outlying part of the township of Rawcliffe connected to the main body by a neck of land and a road, the northern arm of which still survives as Moor Lane. The Moor appears to have served as pasture for the livestock of Rawcliffe.

Skelton had a national school built in 1873 for 120 children, but the average attendance in 1893 was just 51 children (Kelly1893a, 290).

Clifton airfield (U1 13) was originally built in 1936, and converted to military use from 1939-45. Halifax bombers were repaired at the site, and there were three runways. The site was attacked by the Luftwaffe in 1942 which destroyed part of a hangar. Population increase in the post-war era led to the building of 6,600 houses between 1945 and 1958, including formerly rural areas such as Clifton Without and Rawcliffe (Victoria County History 1961, 308-10). Most of the former Clifton airfield had been built over by 1985.

6.2 HISTORIC MAP SOURCES

The earliest Ordnance Survey map of the area dates to 1854 (Figure 4), and this shows a largely rural landscape, with the proposed development area comprising 38 rectangular fields arranged with their long-axes on a south-west to north-east alignment. The only road depicted is Moor Lane the northern end of which is on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment within the proposed development area, but which turns through a right angle at the southern end to run in a south-west to north-east alignment. The line of Moor Lane continues at the northern end in the form of a drainage line. Moor Lane is believed to have origins in the medieval period and provided access to the pasture land of Rawcliffe Moor from the main body of Rawcliffe Township.

The pattern of fields seen in 1854 suggests that the land within the proposed development site was enclosed in three stages seen by three differing groups of field layouts. For ease of reference these fields have been allocated numbers as shown in red on Figure 4. The first group of fields (Group A, Fields 1-18) comprises those in the northernmost portion of the proposed development site, and these fields are in a grid pattern three fields wide (west-east) and six fields deep (north-south), with all the fields being bordered by hedges/trees. The southernmost row of fields (Fields 6, 12 and 18) is almost double the breadth (north-south) of the other fields in this group. These fields are bordered to the west by a drainage ditch to the east by a strip of woodland, with a slightly broader strip of woodland to the north of the north-easternmost portion of the study area, and to the north and south by fields. The letters 'ON' from the label for Skelton are partly on top of these fields.

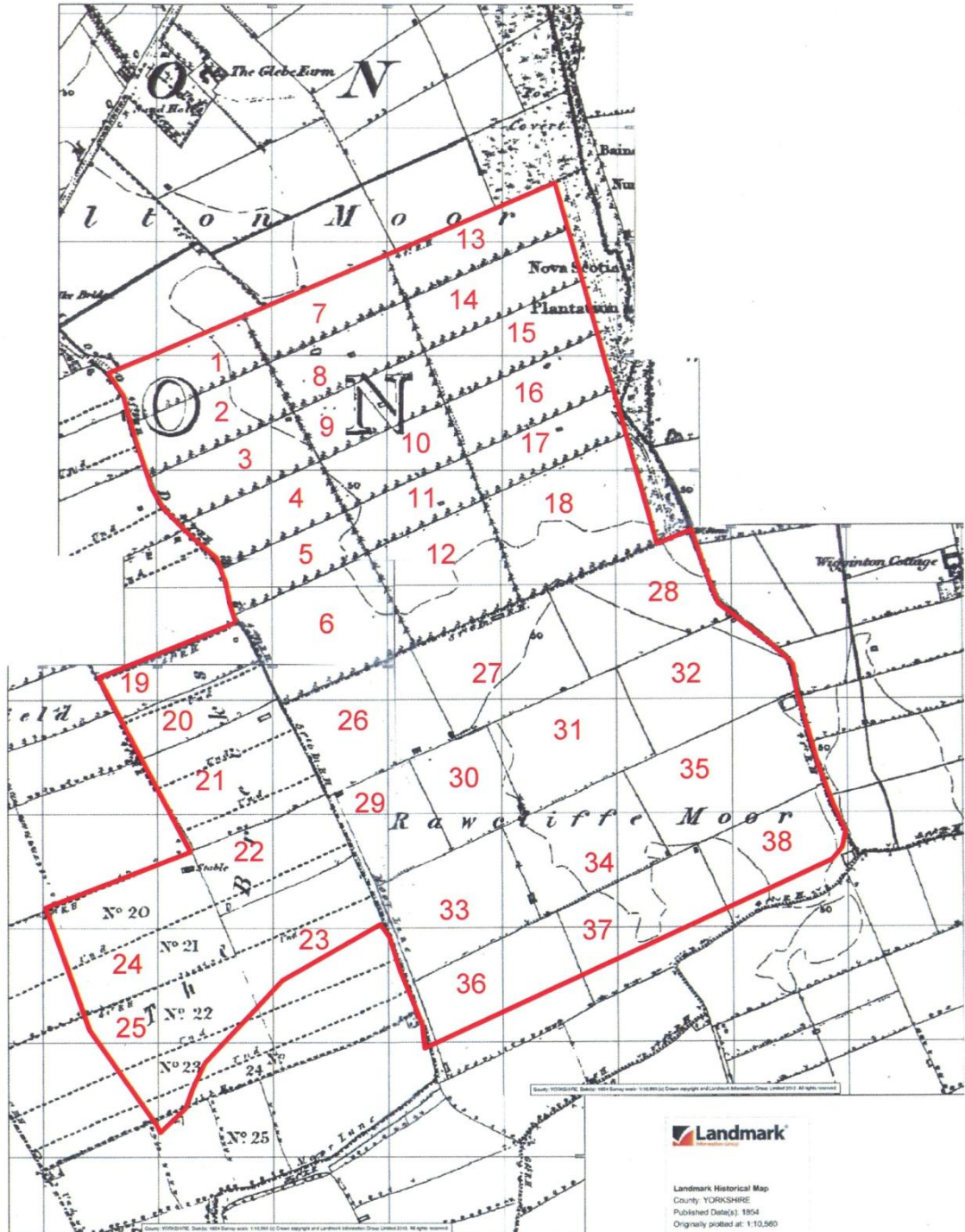


Figure 3 1854 OS 1:10,560 map with the proposed development site in red, and the field numbers allocated in the text in red

The second group of fields present in 1854 (Group B, Fields 19-25) were located to the west and north of Moor Lane and comprised rectangular fields of varied size, across which ran a series of dashed lines some of which are associated with numbers that may relate to an

earlier enclosure award. No hedges or trees are depicted within these fields. These fields are labelled "The Brecks".

The third group of fields seen in 1854 (Group C fields 26-38), forming the south-eastern portion of the proposed development area, are located to the east of Moor Lane. These comprise rectangular fields, arranged in four rows (north-south) with up to four fields per row. This parcel of fields is labelled "Rawcliffe Moor". These fields are noticeably broader than those in the Groups A or B, and no hedges or trees are depicted within these fields, but a small building is present on the border of Fields 33 and 34, and two small square features, possibly pens are shown in the easternmost side of Fields 35 and 38, though in the latter case this lies outside the proposed area of development.

The 1893 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map (Figure 4) shows that many of the Group A fields had been merged to create larger fields with Fields 1-3, 4-5, 10-11 and 16-17 being merged into the larger fields (Fields 39-42). The narrow fields 7-15 were replaced by four wider rectangular fields (Fields 43-46, of which 43 and 45-6 are shown on Figure 4) and the south-west to north-east aligned boundary between these Fields 43-6 lacked hedges. Field 6 (as shown on Figure 3) had been planted with trees. The Group B and C fields were unaltered from the 1854 map, but Field 32 had been planted with trees and named Moor Plantation. The small building at the junction of Fields 33-34 on the 1854 map had increased in size by 1893, and was labelled Moor Farm.

The 1910 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map showed an identical patterns of fields to that seen in 1893, but there were some additional areas planted with trees. The first of these was a rectangular area with the long axis north-north-west to south-south-east located in the eastern portion of Field 23, immediately to the west of Moor Lane. There was a second thin strip of trees along the boundary of Fields 33-34 to the immediate north of Moor Farm, and the third area of trees in the eastern half of Field 38.

The field layout depicted on the 1938 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map is identical to that seen in 1910, except that Fields 19-20 and Fields 37-8 had been merged into Fields 47 and 52 respectively (see Figure 6). In addition, no hedges or trees are shown on any of the field boundaries.

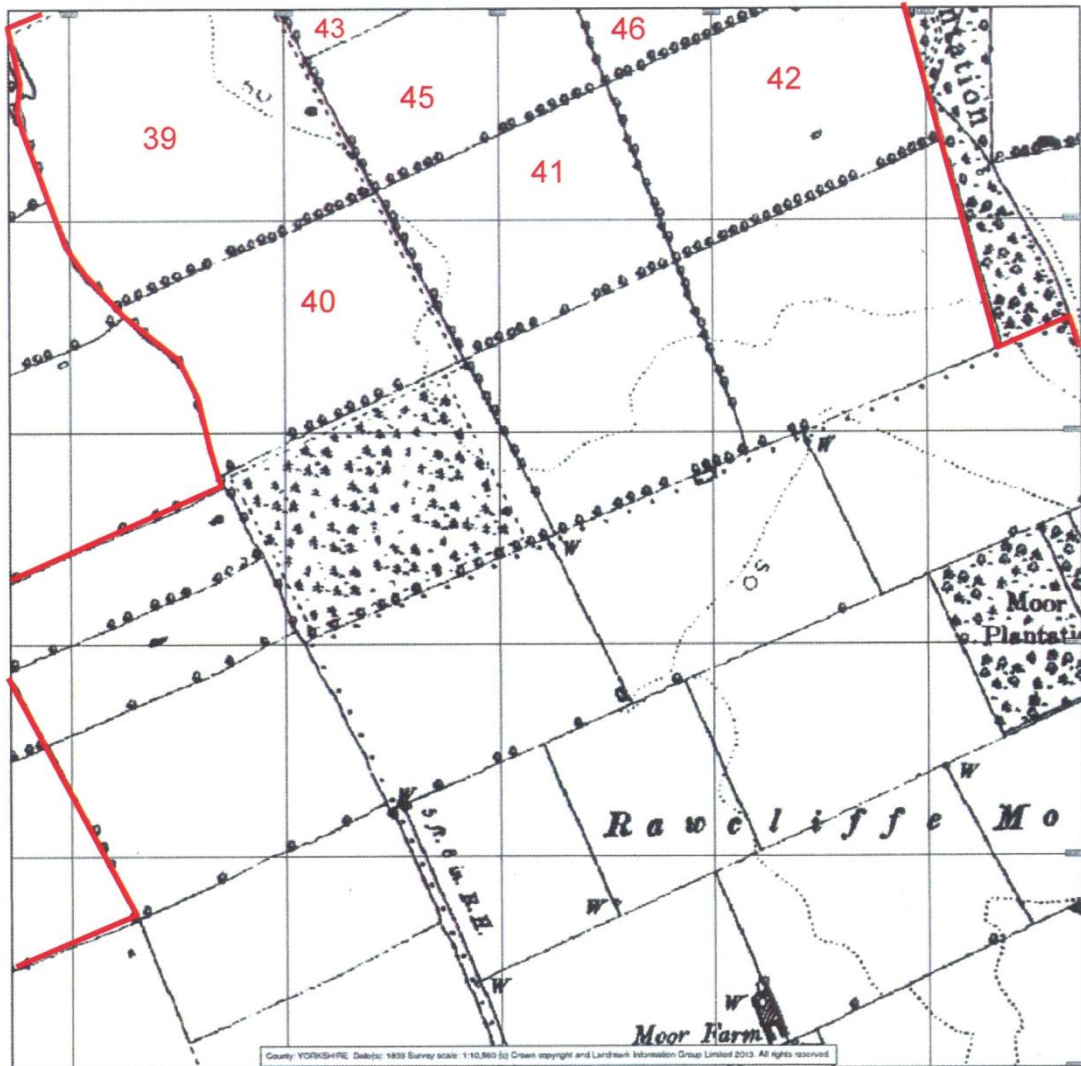


Figure 4 1893 OS 1:10,560 map showing the central portion of the proposed development site, with portions of the proposed redevelopment site boundary in red and new field numbers in red.

The 1952 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map depicts the runways of Clifton airfield, to the immediate south of the proposed development area, Fields 25 and 23 (as seen on Figure 3) were part of this airfield. Field 21 (as seen on Figure 3) had merged with the field to the west, while Field 52 had reverted to its 1910 layout as Fields 37-8. Otherwise the field boundaries remained the same as those depicted in 1910. Tracks had been laid within Moor Plantation. The 1958 1:10,560 map was identical to that of 1952.

The 1967-69 1:2,500 map showed that Fields 42 and 46 had merged to form Field 49 (shown on Figure 6), though a line of tress along the former boundary were preserved. Fields 30-1 had merged to form Field 50 (shown on Figure 6) and Fields 34-5 has merged to form

Field 51 (shown on Figure 6). Fields 37-8 had been merged into Field 52, but the easternmost portion of this field had been separated off to form a small rectangular plot, Field 53, with buildings in the south-easternmost corner (shown on Figure 6). These buildings lie just outside the proposed area of development. In addition, the trees in the eastern portion of Field 52 had been cleared. The 1967-69 map also shows the start of suburban development to the south of the proposed development site. The layout seen in 1967-9 is depicted on the 1971, 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 6), the only change being the merger of Fields 22 and 24 to form Field 48 (Figure 6).

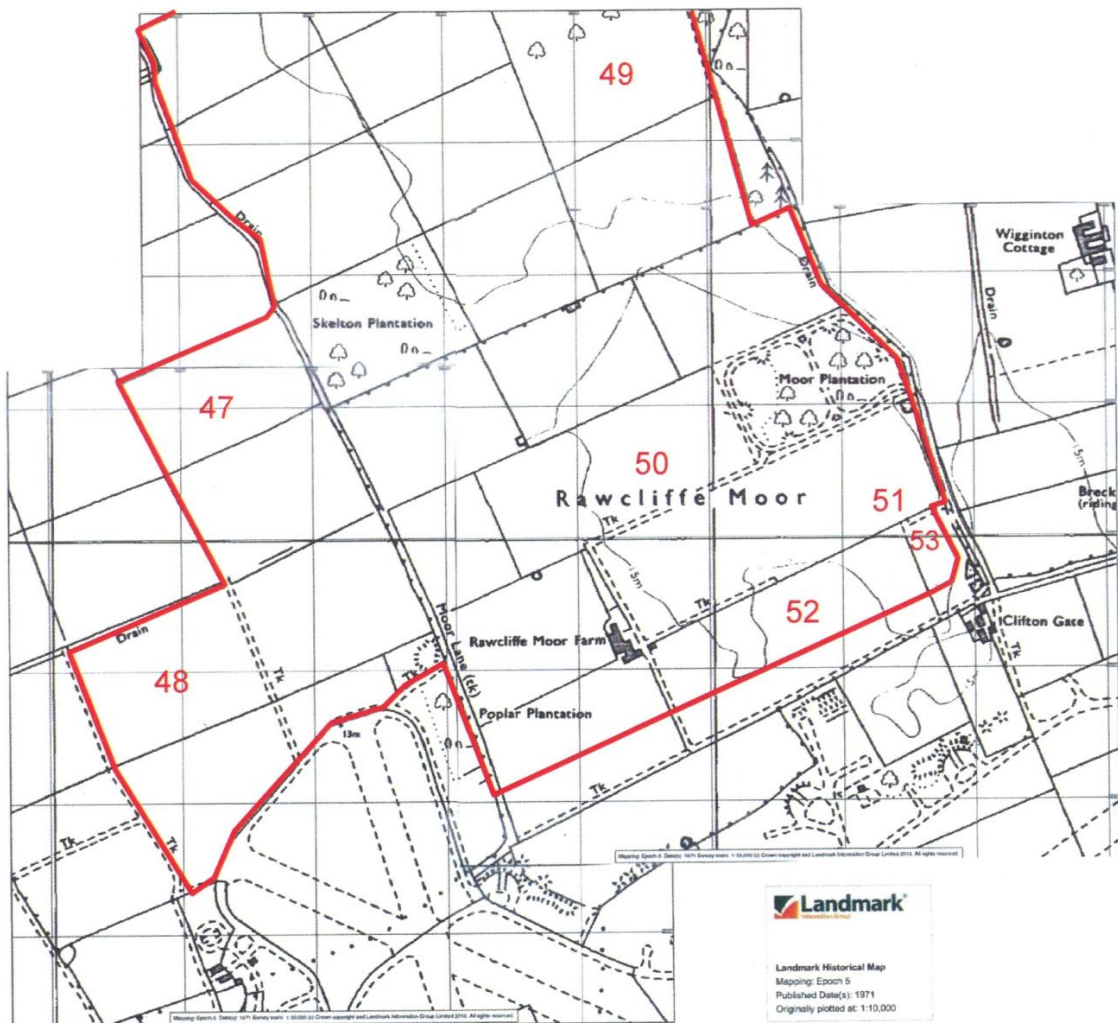


Figure 5 1971 OS 1:10,560 map with the proposed development site boundary in red and new field numbers in red

The 1984 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map shows that Fields 41, 43 and 45 (as shown on Figure 5) had been merged into one larger field, while Field 48 had merged with the remnants of Field 25 to its immediate south.

Coverage of the area on the 1988-90 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map is incomplete, but York's outer ring road is partly shown, and the construction of this road led to the formation of much of the southern boundary of the proposed development site. In addition, some of the massive residential development to the south of the ring road is depicted on this map.

6.3 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOURCES (NON LOCAL SOURCES)

A search of the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography web site and the Britain from Above website yielded no photographic images.

Satellite imagery available from Google Earth date from 2002, 2005 and 2007; all of these show a similar layout, the fields are depicted as being under crops on all these images. These show sites (UI 26 and 27) as well as the course of the Yorkshire Water Pipeline of the 1990s.

6.4 PHOTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Searches of the various English Heritage photographic collections were made on the term "Skelton". The English Heritage Viewfinder site contained no photographs, neither did the English Heritage Images of England web site, nor the English Heritage Prints web site.

7. ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

7.1 PAST IMPACTS

There is considerable evidence of activity of prehistoric date within the proposed development site and wider study area. This includes a possible Bronze Age barrow (UI 15) as well as an extensive complex of ring ditches and linear ditches that seemingly relate to Iron Age settlement (UI 2). Cropmark evidence in aerial photographs suggests that there is also a wealth of archaeological remains that may date to the Romano-British period rather than the Iron Age (UI 14, 16, 20, 21, 26, 24, 25, 19), though the precise dating of these is likely to be determined only by excavation. The presence of such extensive remains of the prehistoric and Romano-British periods in the proposed development site and wider study area fits into an emerging picture of complexes of features of this date being located in the immediate hinterland of York.

Land use in the area throughout the medieval and earlier post-medieval periods appears to be restricted entirely to the practice of agriculture. The evidence for former ridge and furrow field systems suggests that for at least part of the medieval period this agriculture was dominated by arable cultivation (UI's 3-12). Following enclosure of Skelton and Rawcliffe

Moors the area was parcelled up into blocks of hedge enclosed fields, providing the study area with the outline appearance that it largely retains. The area continued in agricultural usage and a handful of small plantations were planted. The few buildings that are present also relate to post-enclosure development.

The 20th century has seen the considerable impact on the southern part of the study area. An early element of this was the former Clifton Airfield and its massive wartime expansion, with outlying elements. Subsequent to the demise of the airfield the A1237 ring road has been constructed and the area of much of the airfield turned over to a combination of residential, retail and industrial usage. North of the ring road and northern end of the airfield the overall pattern of the landscape has been little altered though has sustained a boundary loss of around 30% since the First Edition Ordnance map of the 1850s.

7.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The assembling of archaeological and historical data pertaining to the area of proposed development indicates the survival of an extensive prehistoric, and probably Romano-British, landscapes. Little evidence has been found to suggest significant usage of the site, save for agricultural purposes, through later historic periods until parts of the area were utilised by the RAF during World War II.

On the basis of available information the earliest remains may be of the Bronze Age, (UI 15, 18). Extensive Iron Age settlement, with associated boundaries is attested by UI 2. A complex of boundaries, including field boundaries, of Iron Age/Romano-British date are represented by UI 14, 16, 20, 21, 26, 24, 25, 19, 27. The prehistoric and Romano-British landscapes are of local and regional significance and represent a considerable archaeological resource.

Many of these early elements are known only from aerial photographs and find some parallel with complexes of features known from aerial photographs on areas of sand and gravel around York, particularly to the south of the city. The distribution of such early cropmark complexes is directly correlated to the presence of sand and gravel rather than the underlying Lacustrine clays and silts within the Vale of York. In the case of the cropmark photographs within the area of proposed development, these tend to concentrate in the eastern and central parts of the site where, according to the BGS, areas of windblown sand overlay the Lacustrine deposits. What is not certain is whether the features represented by the cropmarks also extend away from the areas of windblown sand to the Lacustrine deposits elsewhere – in other words are we just seeing elements of a wider network in areas of sand that generally provide the conditions conducive to the development of cropmarks.

Some support for the existence of early features within the Lacustrine deposits may be provided by the example of the Rawcliffe Manor site which uncovered areas of Romano-British field systems within clays and silts rather than overlying sands (K. Hunter Mann, pers com).

Examination of the prehistoric and Roman-British remains is likely to produce a significant quantity of new archaeological information. Although there is evidence for ploughed out medieval field systems within the area of proposed development, in-depth examination of these is unlikely to produce information of the same significance as the earlier archaeological remains will.

The outlying elements of the World War II RAF airfield are little known or understood. Should these require removal in any future development then opportunity to plan and record the standing structures, together with archival research, should enhance our knowledge of these.

7.3 POTENTIAL IMPACTS FROM PROPOSED SCHEME

Archaeological remains that have previously been examined in the area of proposed development (UI 2) were encountered immediately below the topsoil that was generally a little over 250mm deep. It seems clear therefore that foundations of buildings and roads, together with drain networks, will impact directly on below ground archaeological remains. Where such modern intrusion takes place, in most instances, this is likely to result in total destruction. Additionally, any areas covered by building development will effectively render inaccessible for the foreseeable future any archaeological remains that may survive between areas of disturbance.

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APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF CULTURAL HERITAGE FEATURES

Those items in bold lie within the proposed development area.

UI	SOURCE	GRID REF	DESCRIPTION
1	HER MYO164 HER MYO370 Pastscape 56542	SE 5794 5604	Aerial photograph - Earthwork remains of a rounded corner interpreted as a possible Roman practice camp. The site was investigated by Herman Ramm in 1954, but only medieval pottery, brick & tile was recovered. Ramm felt there was insufficient evidence to imply a Roman camp, and this was therefore rejected by RCHME as Roman practice camp.
2	HER MYO2036 NMR excavation index (unnumbered)	SE 59042 56427	Rawcliffe Moor Yorkshire Water Pipeline. Excavation of an Iron Age settlement. Excavation found hut circles & larger ditches delineating the site. (410m by 147m). Excavations by YAT, Site Code 1996.391
3	HER MYO3056	SE 5951 5605	Aerial photograph - Broad ridge and furrow
4	HER MYO3058	SE 5948 5668	Aerial photograph - Broad ridge and furrow
5	HER MYO3059	SE 5934 5695	Aerial photograph - Broad ridge and furrow
6	HER MYO3063	SE 5903 5722	Aerial photograph - Broad ridge and furrow
7	HER MYO3087	SE 5880 5683	Aerial photograph - Broad ridge and furrow
8	HER MYO3088	SE 5862 5658	Aerial photograph - Broad ridge and furrow
9	HER MYO3089	SE 5829 5576	Aerial photograph - Broad ridge and furrow
10	HER MYO3090	SE 5742 5584	Aerial photograph - Broad ridge and furrow
11	HER MYO3402	SE 5958 5583	Aerial photograph - Broad ridge and furrow

12	HER MYO3403	SE 5955 5589	Aerial photograph - Broad ridge and furrow
13	HER MYO3586 Pastscape 1200256	SE 5906 5490	Clifton Airfield – A pre-war airfield and World War II military airfield (only parts of this lies within the development and study areas).
14	HER MYO3603 Pastscape 1323730 Pastscape 1326371	SE 5896 5603	Aerial photograph – cropmarks of a possible Romano British settlement. A network of intersecting lines covering an area of 150m x 150m. Seen on RAF 540/520 3208-09 03 Jun 1951. In addition aerial photographs - YAT PVA 4/5, 13 1979 show this Romano-British field system with north-south linear boundary, two east-west boundaries and a small enclosure
15	HER MYO3604 Pastscape 1326397	SE 58800 55900	Aerial photograph – probable Bronze Age round barrow 9m in diameter (YAT PVA 4/5, 13 1979)
16	HER MYO3605 Pastscape 1326952	SE 5884 5599	Aerial photographs of small rectilinear enclosure, poss. Associated with UI 14. (YAT PVA 4/5, 13 1979)

Table 1 HER Monument data

UI	SOURCE	AP GRID REF	DESCRIPTION
17	HER EYO1502	SE 5900 5600	Field boundaries (1977)
18	HER EYO1506	SE 5850 5600	Ring ditch (1977)
19	HER EYO1536	SE 5930 5700	Indistinct marks (1977)
20	HER EYO1537	SE 5870 5690	Circle & enclosure (1977)
21	HER EYO1706	SE 5890 5590	Trackways (1979)
22	HER EYO1707	SE 5930 5590	Field boundaries, old airfield runways (1979)
23	HER EYO1755	SE 5900 5600	Field boundaries (1984)
24	HER EYO1780	SE 5870 5610	Brick-work pattern of field boundaries (1984)
25	HER EYO1781	SE 5900 5590	Brick-work pattern of field boundaries (1984)
26	HER EYO1882	SE 5870 5700	Double ditched track & rectilinear enclosure (1984)
27	Google Imagery	SE 5870 5640	Faint rectilinear cropmarks (2005)

Table 2 Additional HER data from aerial photographs

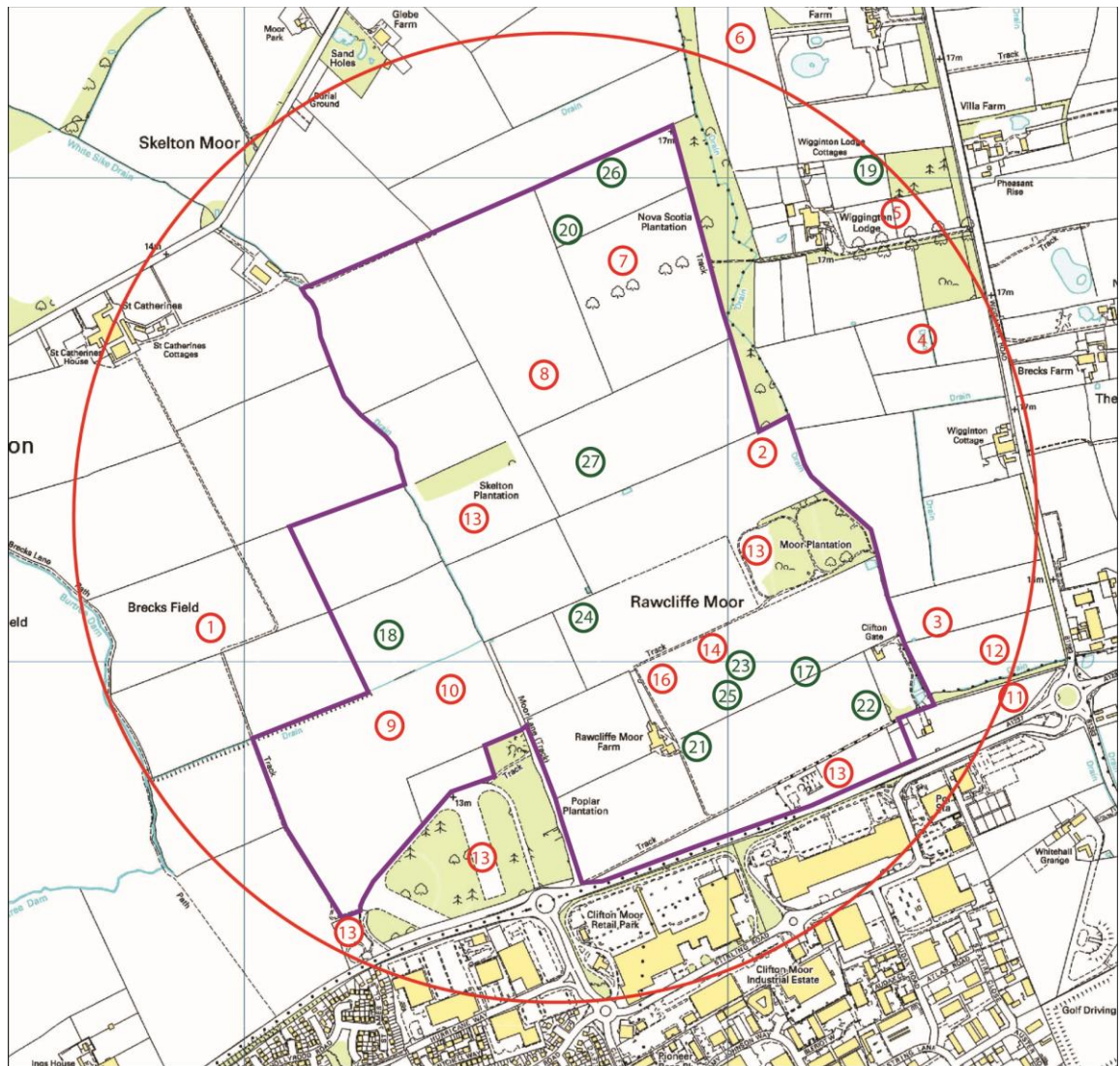


Figure 6 Archaeological sites within the proposed development (purple boundary) and Study Areas (red).

Red circled numbers = HER Monument data (Table 1),

Green circled numbers =HER Events data & Google Imagery (Table 2) - (air photos)