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AMTREE PARK, FILEY, NORTH YORKSHIRE: An Assessment of Archaeological Potential

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CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Summary | 4 |
| 1 Introduction | 5 |
| 2 Aims and objectives | 6 |
| 3 Methodology, sources, and report format | 8 |
| 4 The archaeological and historical background | 10 |
| 4.1 Topography and geology | 10 |
| 4.2 Prehistoric period | 11 |
| 4.3 Roman period | 12 |
| 4.4 Medieval and post-medieval periods | 12 |
| 4.5 1809 enclosure | 13 |
| 4.6 Butlins Camp and RAF Hunmanby Moor | 14 |
| 4.7 The present day: the results of the walk-over survey | 15 |
| 5 Assessment of archaeological potential | 19 |
| 5.1 Prehistoric period | 19 |
| 5.2 Roman period | 19 |
| 5.3 Medieval and post-medieval periods | 19 |
| 6 Conclusions and recommendations | 21 |
| 6.2 Conclusions | 22 |
| Acknowledgements | 24 |
| Bibliography | 24 |

List of Figures

(These can be found at the back of the report)

Figure 1 Map of the study area, showing Butlins Camp and principal historic features

Figure 2 The site area prior to 1939, showing enclosure-period field boundaries

Figure 3 Principal features of Butlins Camp, the proposed development and earlier field boundaries

Figure 4 Itinerary of 2001 walkover survey, showing current land-use

List of Plates

(These can be found at the back of the report)

Plate 1 Clifftop area in front of the future Butlins camp, c 1900

Plate 2 The site of the future Butlins Camp, c 1920, from Graffitoe Farm

- Plate 3 Aerial view of Butlins Camp during its first full season, 1946
- Plate 4 Aerial view of Butlins Camp in its final years, c 1986
- Plate 5 Official map of the camp, 1969
- Plate 6 View looking southward along the main street in the 1950s
- Plate 7 Aerial photographs south of the camp, August and December 1940
- Plate 8 Aerial photographs of the camp, August and December 1940
- Plate 9 Aerial photographs north of the camp, August and December 1940
- Plate 10 Chalets in the north-east camp
- Plate 11 Chalets in the north-east camp, from the enclosure-period field on the clifftop
- Plate 12 Enclosure-period hedgerow and clifftop fields
- Plate 13 The 1969 self-catering chalets in the south-east camp on *Warren Hill*
- Plate 14 Two-storey remains of 1969 self-catering chalets
- Plate 15 Excavated services in the south-east camp
- Plate 16 East-west artificial embankment between the original and 1969 chalets, south-east camp
- Plate 17 East-west roadway between the south-east and south-west camps
- Plate 18 Detail of excavated services near the south-west camp
- Plate 19 Detail of typical staff chalet
- Plate 20 Thick rubble dumping east of the staff chalets
- Plate 21 East-west roadway between the main entertainment blocks
- Plate 22 The outdoor swimming pool and fountains
- Plate 23 Rooftop view of the swimming pool and fountains, 1950s

Summary

This archaeological desk-based assessment has been produced by Humber Field Archaeology, and was commissioned by Barton Willmore Partnership on behalf of Crownville Estates Limited, in support of proposals to redevelop Amtree Park, which includes much of the former Butlins Holiday Camp site, Filey, North Yorkshire. The report, which also includes the results of a walk-over survey of the area, seeks to assess the potential importance of any surviving archaeological remains within the area as part of an Environmental Statement requested by the Local Authority, Scarborough Borough Council.

The site itself formerly consisted of fields laid out *c* 1809, but previous to that was open common, part of Hunmanby Moor. It does not include any known archaeological remains, but a burial mound still exists on the south side of Hunmanby Gap lane, with a second (now ploughed out) sited a little further south. A third mound formerly existed on what is now part of Filey golf course, 1.5km north of the site boundary. The presence of these three *tumuli* raises the probability of prehistoric occupation or further ploughed-out mounds within the development area. In addition, late Roman pottery, marked on the 1:25000 Ordnance Survey map of the area, was found 900m north of the site on the south side of Long Whin Gill, Primrose Valley, with 'old walls' recorded on the opposite side of the Gill on the golf course. Within the site, are traces of enclosure period fields (laid out *c.* 1809), including hedges, hedgebanks, ditches, trees, and possibly ridge-and-furrow ploughmarks. *Warren Hill*, marked on the 1855 Ordnance Survey in the south-eastern part of the camp site, is probably the location of a post-medieval rabbit warren, known to have been sited on Hunmanby Moor. Finally, the remains of the camp itself, together with a cliff top concrete pillbox (recently destroyed) and rifle range form part of the wartime RAF Hunmanby Moore, the post-war Butlins Camp.

The importance of the known archaeological remains in the area is assessed, and recommendations are made with regard to further on-site work. The report concludes that features of prehistoric and Roman date may be present, and that other landscape features of post-medieval origin (pre- and post-1939) still exist, as outlined above. It is suggested that a programme of geophysical survey be carried out in open and cleared areas, and that if features of potential archaeological significance are encountered, a programme of evaluation should be undertaken. If necessary, this would be followed by further work.

1 Introduction

Amtree Park occupies a site on the edge of low cliffs of glacial till (boulder clay) and includes areas of demolished buildings, formerly part of Butlins Filey holiday camp, mainly constructed between the 1940s and 1960s, and areas of uncultivated land (Figures 1–4, Plates 1–9). This has not been ploughed since the Second World War, and was historically mainly used as rough pasture. The area has been identified by Scarborough Borough Council as environmentally sensitive, mainly because of areas of undeveloped coastline between Primrose Valley Caravan Park immediately to the north, and Flat Cliff Gill, which forms part of the southern boundary (Figure 1). There is also the issue of visual intrusion, with a potential impact on the existing pattern of open agricultural land. The undeveloped areas along the cliff, within the former Butlins site, and in the form of fields along the Hunmanby Gap road to the south form part of Hunmanby Moor, common land until enclosure c. 1809. Before any redevelopment of the site can take place, it has been recommended that a programme of survey work be undertaken, in order to assess the impact of such works on the landscape, and any historic or archaeological resource, to better inform future management decisions about the site. This document forms part of the assessment, dealing mainly with features of archaeological and historical interest, but where these include fields and hedgerows forming part of the past landscape, there are issues in common with the environmental assessment. These mainly involve the identification of such features for possible retention in the new scheme.

2 Aims and objectives

In commissioning the survey, the planning consultant, Barton Willmore, supplied maps and a copy of the site Planning Statement (July 2000), issued in support of the outline planning application, showing the extent of the planned development. This includes many areas where no development is planned, both to meet the requirements of the local authority, and to enhance the setting of the proposed buildings and other features within the area. This information, and other material collected during a site walk-over, data received from North Yorkshire Sites and Monument Record, libraries and other sources, including the National Monuments Record, have all been used to further the primary aims and objectives of a desk-based assessment. These can normally be categorised as:

- 1 To gather information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits, within and in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area
- 2 To collate the existing written, graphic and technical information, including a site inspection or walk over-survey where appropriate
- 3 To establish the potential for additional, unrecorded archaeological sites, and to highlight areas for which evidence is lacking, either due to the real absence of archaeological material or to the effects of survey bias, past land-use or soil type
- 4 To assess the overall potential and significance of the archaeological remains both known and suspected, within the study areas
- 5 To make recommendations with regard to the future treatment of the archaeological remains, whether mitigation strategies for preservation *in situ*, or preservation by record

In this instance, the specific fourfold purpose of the Environmental Statement (ES), of which this document will form a technical appendix, has been outlined in a letter from North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit (Mr N Campling to Mrs C Maryan, Barton Willmore Partnership, 24/11/00). The main conclusions will be incorporated into the archaeological section of the ES. The four areas of intent can be summarised as follows:

- 1 To address the potential for archaeological remains which may survive
- 2 To assess the impact of the development on such remains
- 3 To identify 20th-century buildings within the former holiday camp which may have architectural or other interest
- 4 To consider the impact of the development on the visual setting of the natural and man-made environment

Consequently, the following study has brought together the archaeological evidence in the vicinity of the study area. The importance of possible archaeological remains is assessed and

projections are made of the likely damage which would be caused to suspected archaeological sites during construction works. A more accurate assessment of the presence, absence, extent and quality of such remains will require fieldwork in the form of archaeological evaluation and geophysical survey. Recommendations are made with regard to the preservation of any archaeological remains which are encountered. The remains of wartime and post-war structures are assessed as to extent, condition and significance, with recommendations as to their interpretation. Finally, there is a brief discussion of aspects of point 4, although this does not form a significant part of the archaeological brief.

3 Methodology, sources, and report format

The information upon which this study is based was collated from existing written graphic and unpublished information on the archaeological and other remains and structures within the study area and its immediate vicinity.

The sources of information consulted are noted below. Additional published and unpublished sources are quoted in the report text and their details are noted in the bibliography:

Archaeological collections

North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (Heritage Unit), provided by Neil Campling, and Ordnance Survey record cards.

Aerial Photographs

Photographs housed in the collection of the National Monuments Record of English Heritage.

Cartographic and Pictorial sources

Ordnance Survey Maps — in particular the 1855 6" and modern 1:10000 and 1:25000 editions

Published information

Relevant published material (see References).

Other sources

Planning Statement (Barton Willmore Partnership). Photographic material from the Cecil Mowthorpe Collection.

Field Inspection

A site inspection or walk-over survey was undertaken by the author of this report (Figure 4). This involved the assessment of land-use that may have affected the survival of known or potential archaeological sites and the present condition of the site. A survey was also made of land immediately around the site to observe and note any archaeological remains which may be currently exposed. A photographic record of the survey was also taken for the assessment archive, several of which are used here.

On the basis of the data compiled and its subsequent evaluation, the report below comprises the following:

- A summary and synthesis of the archaeological evidence in the study area
- Statements of the potential and significance of any remains

- An assessment of the local, regional and national importance of the known and expected archaeological resource in the study area
- A statement of the likely impact of the development proposals and recommendations for preservation of remains *in situ* or preservation by record

4 The archaeological and historical background

4.1 Topography and geology

General area

The drift geology of the proposed study area is glacial till (boulder clay), a soft material of recent geological origin which is prone to slippage, and easily eroded.

Much of the coastal plain in the area, broadly following the line of the main coast road (A165) is characterised by 'swarms' of drumlins, groups of small ovoid mounds of glacial origin; in geological terminology, a 'basket of eggs topography'. The contouring used on modern maps does not accurately reflect this, unless a very small scale is used, but the individual drumlins show well on the First Series Ordnance Survey of the area (1855), which used hachures. The main coast road and lane to Hunmanby Gap therefore have a characteristic 'rollercoaster' appearance.

Development area

The site lies mainly between the 40–50m OD contour interval, with a broadly north–south area of slightly lower ground running through the middle of the site, which otherwise rises gently to the west towards the edge of the Wolds and east towards the sea, also southwards towards an east–west ridge bounded by Wold Farm and Reighton Gill (Plates 1, 2). During the construction of the former Butlins Camp, there was considerable modification of the natural contours within the camp by terracing and excavation (Plates 7–9). No drumlins now survive within the site area, presumably due to ploughing and later terracing. In the south-east corner of the site there was formerly a low hill (*Warren Hill*) used as a trigonometry site for the 1855 and later Ordnance Surveys (Figure 1). This may have been a drumlin, although a rabbit warren is known to have occupied the area prior to the enclosure of the area, and the mound may have been artificial; aerial photography reveals anomalies here in 1940 (Plate 8).

The sea cliff remains as a series of rough, relatively gently falling terraces or steps, mainly covered in vegetation, falling 30m to the beach, although there has been some modification for the construction of beach access points, housing (Flat Cliff), wartime installations, and modern bulldozing or fly tipping. An elongated, slightly brackish pond has existed in a hollow halfway down the cliff since at least the 19th century, protected by a ridge above the final section of exposed clay cliff, which falls more steeply to the beach.

Much of the area occupied by the application site is damp, with vegetation characterised by dense tussocks of coastal grass, which can be seen elsewhere locally, including very good examples on Filey Brigg and the surrounding cliff top. Patches of gorse (furze) and bramble (whin) are also common, particularly along the cliff, and in combination with dense bush — chiefly hawthorn — in Flat Cliff Gill, which leads to Butcher Haven. The area is intersected by spring-fed streams, one of which formerly ran to the head of Flat Cliff Gill from the centre of the application site (Figure 2). The 1940 aerial photographic record suggests that this remains as a straightened concrete culvert (Plate 8). Another stream fed a small pond formerly sited at the south end of what became Butlins boating lake (C Mowthorpe pers comm). Both stream courses may contain deposits of potential interest in reconstructing past environments.

4.2 Prehistoric period

General area

The area was relatively densely occupied throughout the prehistoric period, and there are a number of surviving monuments; many more have been lost to ploughing, although some are visible with the aid of aerial photography (Figure 1).

Linear earthworks characterise the Wolds, the nearest being immediately to the east of Graffitoe Farm, on the high road between Hunmanby and the Dotterel public house, about 1km south of the site boundary (NGR TA 1220 6750). These form the visible part of a series of features which otherwise exist only as cropmarks (N Campling pers comm), extending from near Croom Acre Plantation in the west to Moor House, Reighton (NGR TA 1050 7610 to 1325 7610). Such earthworks, which represent features with a variety of purposes, such as tribal boundaries, field systems, enclosures, and occupation sites, are, however, mainly confined to higher ground, in this area mainly above 80–90m OD, and do not concern the application site.

More common in the area of the site are burial mounds (locally *howes*), either singly or in small groups (if unnamed, these are often marked as *tumulus*, pl *tumuli* on Ordnance Survey maps). Where excavated, these have often been accompanied by other lower status grave burials, forming small cemeteries. Immediately to the south of Moor Farm, near the southern site boundary is a burial mound, formerly known as *Stir Heath Howe* (Plate 7), which seems to have been disturbed, although it is not known to have been excavated (Scheduled Ancient Monument NY 847; NGR TA 1260 7682). A second possible burial mound, *Muscle Howe* (NGR TA 1268 7672), formerly lay c. 140m to the south-east of *Stir Heath Howe*, but has been ploughed out in the last century. A further burial mound, *Eller Howe* (NGR TA 1185 7943) was also marked on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map on what is now Filey Golf Course, beyond Long Whin Gill, Primrose Valley, about 1.5km north of the site. Further mounds cannot be ruled out, particularly in the fields immediately north of the Hunmanby Gap road around Moor Farm, although it is intended that these areas remain open.

There is a possibility that some of the mounds represent other types of feature, such as the sites of medieval or post-medieval windmills, but the fact that barrows are generally common in the area makes this less likely. There is no known documentary or place name reference to the presence of mills in the immediate area, although others are documented further west and north-west on higher ground near Filey and Hunmanby. The mounds could be the remains of small drumlins; these are usually elongated, however, whereas *Stir Heath Howe*, the only surviving example, is circular. Other burial mounds exist in the area, including two at Reighton, 2km to the south, while a ploughed-out, but quite extensive mixed barrow and grave cemetery was excavated 3.5km to the west near Bartindale Row, Hunmanby c. 1980. A late Iron Age chariot burial was also disturbed by quarrying at Hunmanby c. 1906, 1.3km west of the application site (NGR TA 1025 7665), complete with fragments of the cart or chariot, and horse trappings. This form of burial was characteristic of the 'Arras culture': Celts originating in the Marne area of France, known as the *Parisi* during the Roman occupation, and with a territory broadly co-extensive with the modern East Riding.

Development area

There are no known prehistoric features within the development area boundaries, unless anomalies on *Warren Hill* prove to be part of a prehistoric enclosure or field system. The remains of round barrows, burials, or associated occupation may, however, be encountered.

Stream deposits from watercourses on the site may contain preserved material which provides information on the local environment and land-use, as well as artefacts, since these would have been a natural focus for occupation of all periods.

4.3 Roman period

General area

The East Riding was not occupied by the Romans until the army moved north of the Humber into the territory of the *Parisi*, and north-westward into the heartlands of the *Brigantes* (a more powerful Celtic tribe located further north and west), in AD 71–2. There has long been a tradition that Filey was a Roman port, with harbour facilities situated on Carr Naze at the end of the Brigg, but this has not been substantiated. It was, however, connected by road to a large settlement at Malton (*Derventio*). In the late 4th century, a Roman signal station was built on Filey Brigg. Closer to the site, late Roman pottery of the same type found at the signal station was found on the North Moor in modern Primrose Valley in 1923–4, on the south side of Long Whin Gill (NGR TA 1203 7887). This has been marked on 6", 1:10,000, and 1:25000 Ordnance Survey maps of the area since 1929 (Figure 1, also Plate 8), but is no longer traceable in the Scarborough Museum archives. Further extensive scatters of pottery continued to be found by building contractors throughout the 1930s across a wide area of the south side of the gill (Clark 1935, 83). On the north side of the gill on Fowthorpe Closes were 'old walls', on what is now part of Filey Golf Course (NGR TA 1180 7885), which may be of Roman date (Figure 1). Although these are no longer extant, small rectangular features faintly visible on 1940s aerial photographs may be part of structures related to these walls (Plate 9). There is no indication whether these were earlier or later than what appears from the same photographs to be medieval or post-medieval ridge-and-furrow ploughmarks (see below).

Development area

It is likely, given the quantity of pottery referred to, that a settlement or occupied site, probably of fairly high status, existed in the vicinity of the site towards the end of the Roman period, probably attracted by the relatively large Long Whin Gill, which would have given good access to the beach. Although Flat Cliff Gill may also have been exploited, any buildings are more likely to have been located near modern Primrose Valley on balance, although the presence of Romano-British field systems and ancillary buildings on the application site should not be ruled out. A coast road, linking the Filey area and Bridlington may also have passed through the general area, although this is more likely to have followed a route near the present main road, or on high ground further west.

4.4 Medieval and post-medieval periods

General area

The nearest large village, Hunmanby, had sufficient good quality land for arable farming in open fields throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. *Fowthorpe*, a satellite township adjoining the moor, formerly existed c. 300m to the north-west of the site, near the farm of that name and Chapel Hill, site of a modern petrol station (NGR TA 114 781; Plate 8). *Fowthorpe* manor included a toft belonging to the Knights Templar, and a leper hospital dedicated to St Lazarus, probably near the modern Royal Oak Inn, an isolated complex of buildings on the main road a little to the north of its junction with Fowthorpe Lane (Plate 9b). The de la Zouche family, who held the manor, had a manor house and windmill, neither of

which have left any trace. Aerial photography from 1940 appears to reveal extensive ridge-and-furrow ploughmarks on the north side of Long Whin Gill, under the present golf course, suggesting that *Fowthorpe* had its own fields, but presumably shared the common with Hunmanby (Plate 9). The post-1809 enclosed fields on the north side of Fowthorpe Lane seem to overlie a pattern of older irregular fields, partly fossilised by a 20th-century golf course. The name '*Fowthorpe Closes*' applied to the area would therefore refer to older enclosed land, part of a slow encroachment on the common area.

Development area

Despite the proximity of *Fowthorpe*, and possible encroachment on the common from that quarter, there is no evidence for medieval settlements occupying Hunmanby Moor, which seems to have remained the waste or common of Hunmanby until final enclosure around 1809. This was doubtless largely due to the poor quality of the badly drained soil.

Within the area of the former camp, *Warren Hill*, a triangulation point marked on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map may be the centre point of a rabbit warren, known to have existed on Hunmanby Moor about the time of the enclosure in 1809; it lies directly beneath a block of chalets built in the south-east of the development area in 1969 (NGR TA 1236 7757; Figure 1). Aerial photography in 1940 revealed a possible enclosure with outlying ditches on the site of *Warren Hill* (Plate 8). It is unclear whether these represent a prehistoric feature, ditches related to *Warren Hill*, or later drainage ditches associated with the enclosure. One of the dark lines shown heads towards Flat Cliff Gill, but a drainage ditch of any period would follow this route.

The previously secluded nature of Flat Cliff Gill meant that it was formerly used as a smugglers' route from Butcher Haven, certainly in the 17th and 18th centuries, with the last occasion probably in the 19th century (C Mowthorpe pers comm).

4.5 1809 enclosure

General area

The enclosure was undoubtedly the most significant event with regard to changes in the local topography and land use (Figure 2). Work had already begun in rationalising some areas of the medieval open fields of Hunmanby in the 18th century, at the instigation of the lord of the manor, Humphrey Osbaldeston, but the main enclosure did not occur until the parish received a parliamentary Enclosure Award in 1809. As well as the existing open fields, the common waste, Hunmanby Moor, was subdivided into fields with the straight boundaries which typify parliamentary, as opposed to private, enclosure. Farmhouses, including Moor Farm, were built on the fields allotted to the farmers over several decades, slowly replacing original farms situated in Hunmanby village. Because the area was wet, ditched hedgebanks were laid out, many of which still survive in the area. A series of wider drains was also established along the field boundaries, most of which remain today. A track was constructed across the fields to link Moor Farm with the beach, running around the head of Flat Cliff Gill to reach the sands at the same point as the existing concreted path from Butlins Camp/Amtree Park.

Just outside the development area, traces of ridge-and-furrow ploughing remain in part of the former clifftop field, currently used as a minigolf course by the owners of Primrose Valley holiday centre, but formerly part of Butlins Camp. The northern and western side of the field retains the remains of high hedgebanks, which are now grassed over; the northern bank

formed part of the camp boundary until the area was sold to Primrose Valley Caravan Park in 1986.

Development area

Within the development area, the southern part of the same clifftop field to the south of the path between the camp and beach retains a substantial length of mature ditched hedgebank, also part of the enclosure period landscape (Plate 12). Within the built up part of the camp further west, traces of hedge and mature trees mark the line of a hedge which formerly ran from the head of Flat Cliff Gill to the main road (the line can be seen on Figure 3). The hedge survives best at the south end of the chalets in the south-west camp, with a shorter length at the north end of the former car park, near the drive leading from the camp's south entrance. Finally, mature trees on an island in the south-eastern corner of the former boating lake mark the junction of four former fields. The lines of these and a number of now-removed hedges can still be seen on aerial photographs taken during the camp's construction in 1940 (Plate 8).

The streams leading to Flat Cliff Gill, and the former field drains within the camp area were culverted and rerouted in 1939.

4.6 Butlins Camp and RAF Hunmanby Moor

Construction work began on Butlins Camp immediately before the Second World War, in summer 1939. The camp was situated entirely within a block of enclosure period fields, using the field boundaries as the camp perimeter, although the internal hedges were mainly obliterated, with exceptions noted above (Figures 2–3, Plates 1–2). As mentioned above, most of the enclosure period field boundaries can still be seen on aerial photographs taken during the construction of the camp in 1940 (Plate 8).

The camp buildings were still under construction by the time war broke out in September 1939. Along with other Butlins camps, Filey was requisitioned for use as a base for training Royal Air Force Regiment personnel (RAF Filey, later RAF Hunmanby Moor), and the buildings were completed to the pre-war plan in 1941. Some fittings intended for the camp, including a large fountain, bought at Glasgow World Fair, were stored in and around Hunmanby for the duration. Although the pre-war designs, with their large windows, were not really suitable for a military base in wartime, the buildings were in use throughout the war, some, but not all, for similar purposes to their original intention. One theatre was used as a camp cinema, another as a store for army vehicles, for example. The centrally heated chalets with en-suite plumbing, although too spartan for holidaymakers in the 1970s and 1980s, were luxurious barracks for up to 5000 men more used to cold Nissen huts. The concrete base of the boating lake was ideal for use as a parade ground.

There were some military additions, including a domed structure incorporating a biplane flying demonstrator. In front of the camp was at least one concrete pillbox on the cliff top above private housing on Flat Cliff, a brick rifle range, and other ancillary structures; the camp was mainly defended from air attack by mobile 40mm Bofors units, so few other military fixed structures were required. All routes to the beach were blown up to prevent enemy landings, and the area between the coast road and the cliff was subject to military night-time curfew.

Immediately after the end of the war in Europe in May 1945, the southern half of the camp was released back to Butlins, who were able to operate a partial season as a holiday centre for many returned servicemen and families used to wartime austerity and blackouts. The first full season was not until 1946, by which time all of the buildings were converted back to their original purpose (Plates 3, 5); a wall was built around the parade ground, for example, to enable it to be used as a boating lake. The building housing the flying demonstrator became part of the children's amusements, and was retained until demolition after a northern strip of the camp was sold to the owners of Primrose Valley in 1986, possibly the last structure of its type surviving. The chalets were divided into four camps, each with its own dining hall, although these arrangements were altered over the following decades. Self-catering chalets were added in 1969. Further attractions and main buildings, including bars and an indoor swimming pool, were added throughout the 1950s and 1960s, with the camp housing up to 11,000 holidaymakers at its peak. The site was served by its own railway station between 1947–77, reached by a subway beneath the A165, and an aerial ski-lift connected the camp to the cliff top. In the 1950s, staff chalets were constructed in fields to the south of the main camp, altering the site boundary in that area, and the current extent of grazing to the south of the chalets is marked by a fence which lies a little beyond the original hedge. Between 1957–1961, the camp had its own resident elephant, Charlie, which is still buried next to the former purpose-built elephant house, awaiting discovery; the shed is thought to lie near the staff chalets, although this requires confirmation.

Following its heyday in the 1950s and 60s (Plates 6, 23), the 1970s was a period of retrenchment as the domestic holiday market shrank, and there were no major additional projects. In 1983, the camp finally closed, and was sold to a Harrogate demolition contractor, being briefly reopened as Amtree Park between May and July 1986, after 40 acres had been sold along the northern boundary for the extension of Primrose Valley Caravan Park (Plate 4). This led to the demolition of the first 836 chalets and several major buildings to make way for mobile home sites. The remainder of the buildings within the main camp were partially or wholly demolished between January 1989 and June 1990 after the site's sale to Birmingham Estates, and the site has since been largely abandoned (Plates 10–22).

4.7 The present day: the results of the walk-over survey

As part of the specification for this desk-based assessment, a walk-over survey was undertaken by the author on Thursday 22nd February (see Figure 4: discussion points in the text are cross-referenced to numbered elements of the figure). The walk-over involved the assessment of past and present land use within the site, the condition of existing buildings and structures, and the extent of clear areas, disturbance, and spreads of demolition debris. A survey was also made of land immediately around the site to observe and note any remains of archaeological or historical interest which may currently be exposed. A photographic record of the survey was made for the assessment archive, many of which are included in this report (Plates 10–22). The results of the survey are divided below into the area of the former Butlins camp, including those currently forming part of Primrose Valley Caravan Park, and areas outside which are, however, included in the application area, including the cliff.

Former Butlins camp

Chalet areas

With the demolition of the camp, there are few remains either of wartime or post-war installations, with a few exceptions. Many of the chalets in the north-east camp remain standing in unroofed condition (Plates 10–11; Figure 4 [4]), as do many of the staff chalets, constructed in the 1950s immediately to the south of the main camp (Plate 19; Figure 4[8]). In these cases, original fittings, including mirrors, cupboards, and beds still remain *in situ*, although in poor condition; electrical and plumbing appliances and other equipment have mainly been removed. Elsewhere, some of the two-storey self-catering flats in the south-east camp still stand in part (Plates 13–14), and isolated areas of chalet blocks remain in the south-west and north-west camps, although demolition was more complete. The areas between the rows of chalets are still grassed where no paths were laid, and remain largely free of demolition rubble, although their uneven nature suggests disturbance of the soft soil, probably by machines tracking around during demolition. Hard surfaced tracks and pathways are also mainly clear, and appear to rest on relatively thin layers of brick and concrete hardcore (Plates 17, 21).

The chalets in the northern strip sold to Primrose Valley Caravan Park have all been demolished, and a new fence erected to mark the altered boundary. Elements of the old field/Butlins boundary are, however, still visible within the Caravan Park.

Main structures

The buildings forming the western half of the camp, which included reception, dining halls, shopping and amusement areas, bars, theatres, cinemas, laundry and garage, has been almost completely obliterated, with few recognisable remains (Plate 21; Figure 4[10]). The main exception is the internal shell of the indoor swimming pool, which had reinforced walls and thickened windows to allow underwater viewing from the adjoining covered bar and terrace (Figure 4[11]). The outdoor pool, with its cascades (part of the pool filtration system) survives (Plate 22), as does the boating lake, which is thought to include at least one island containing trees pre-dating the camp, and forming part of the enclosure period landscape. The area to the north of the outdoor pool was clearly considerably modified by terracing (figure 4[12]) and the excavation of a sunken roadway between the pool and boating lake, with a large bank between (Figure 4[14]). Drain runs serving the indoor and outdoor pools were also excavated, and have been partly dug out.

The main north–south roads and paths between the buildings are clear, although there are substantial spreads of rubble around and between buildings, blocking access. Surviving vegetation, including ornamental evergreen and deciduous planting, is now spreading, with the result that several former roadways now resemble country lanes (*cf* Plates 6 and 21). There are few clear grassed areas in the western camp. To the south of the main buildings and lake is the former car park and ice skating rink. Both are concreted and tarmacked (Figure 4[9]).

In the former built up area, there has been considerable disturbance of untarmacked areas, and many drains and tanks appear to have been grubbed out, leaving unmarked irregular holes in some areas (Plates 15, 18). Soil exposed in the sections reveals a considerable depth of soil and chalk rubble, which may be artificial makeup or backfill, rather than natural subsoil.

Buildings in the area sold to Primrose Valley Caravan Park, including two former dining halls and a ballroom, were demolished, with the exception of the bungalows at the north gate which formerly housed the commissionaires' (security staff) offices (Figure 4[13]). These and the driveway remain as the entrance to a touring park attached to Primrose Valley.

Open areas

These include areas of former field, which largely survive unaltered. The presence of hedgebanks and former hedges in the field on the eastern side of the camp (Figure 4[1]), and in the south has already been referred to, together with brief mention of the current vegetation cover (Plate 12). To these should be added the former sports field and putting green in the centre of the eastern chalet areas (Figure 4[2]), and a strip of open ground along the southern boundary with Flat Cliff Gill (Figure 4[3]).

Many mature trees remain within the camp, and there are traces of 'earthworks', but with the exceptions noted in the discussion of the enclosure-period landscape, all of these seem to relate to post-1939. There has been a particular concentration of terracing beneath the main camp buildings, around the boating lake, and in the area to the north of the swimming pool, as far as the current boundary with Primrose Valley Caravan Park. Where visible, the terracing material appears to be a mixture of fairly loose soil, chalk, and building rubble. There is also a broad ditched north-south ridge between the east and west chalets which had carried an unsurfaced track leading to the sports fields (Plate 16; Figure 4[5]).

The field to the east of the staff chalets appears to have been buried beneath a large quantity of concrete rubble, which is now soil covered and overgrown with moss, but the rubble is clearly visible along the hedgerow with the adjoining cultivated field behind Moor Farm (Plate 20; Figure 4[7]). The ground level seems to have been raised by several metres near the hedgerow, although this is graded down towards the staff chalets and the existing pasture to the south.

Outside the former Butlins camp

The cliff top, site perimeter, and beyond

Part of the cliff top field outside the fenceline as it currently exists, and containing ridge-and-furrow and hedge banks, has already been referred to (Figure 4[16]). The original site boundaries were largely historical, following enclosure period fields, and traces of hedges, sometimes in the form of mature trees, still survive in some areas, including the A165 frontage as far as the north-west corner, and short stretches within Primrose Valley Caravan Park.

Flat Cliff Gill has not been affected by the development of Butlins Camp and its subsequent history. The beach is still reached at Butcher Haven by unsurfaced paths from north and south, with the gill itself not easily passable due to dense vegetation. The cliff area to the north was modified with the addition of a concrete trackway from the east gate of the camp to the beach, which still remains.

A polygonal concrete pillbox on the clifftop on the former boundary between Butlins and Primrose Valley Caravan Park has unfortunately been destroyed recently, and a track surrounded by broken concrete and soil bulldozed across its site through natural vegetation (chiefly gorse and hawthorn), over part of the otherwise unaltered cliff edge above private housing on Flat Cliff. Immediately to the south of the bulldozed strip, a wartime brick rifle

range still survives (near the circled number [17] on Figure 4). This has a corrugated roof supported by corroding angle iron brackets; the south-facing brick wall of the range is backed by a substantial earth bank on the camp side, now overgrown. Other wartime buildings formerly existed near the camp fence, but have been demolished in recent years; a few traces of brickwork and wartime concrete are all that is visible above ground.

5 Assessment of archaeological potential

5.1 Prehistoric period

There is clear evidence for the exploitation of land in the area during the prehistoric period. Probable burial mounds have been recorded to the north and south, and further burials in the Hunmanby area to the west (Figure 1, Plate 7). It is possible, therefore, that further mounds, presumably surrounded by ditches, existed on the application site. Alternatively, traces of occupation related to the burials, and/or farming enclosures or trackways may be present. The Early and Middle Bronze Age, for example, are thought to have been drier than the Iron Age; Hunmanby Moor may have been more attractive for arable farming, as were many other areas which were abandoned in the Iron Age and often not exploited again until the later Roman period. A ditched feature visible on aerial photographs taken in 1940 may reflect the presence of a small prehistoric enclosure under the self-catering flats at the south-eastern corner of the site (Plate 8), although these could be later (see 5.3). Any prehistoric remains found in the area of the development would be of considerable local importance, although are unlikely to be of regional or national significance.

5.2 Roman period

Late Roman pottery was found nearby in 1923–4 and later, suggesting the presence of a 3rd- to 4th-century settlement or farm, perhaps situated near Long Whin Gill in the area of modern chalets and cliff top car parking at the north side of Primrose Valley Caravan Park (Figure 1, Plate 9). Outlying buildings or farm enclosures may be present, and this may be the origin of 'old walls' noted in the area (Figure 1, Plate 9). The presence of any Roman occupation would have the potential to add greatly to understanding of the development of the Filey area, particularly in view of the uncertain status of Filey during the Roman period. The discovery of a Roman settlement, or traces of occupation would be of local and regional significance, particularly if evidence of 4th-century date came to light.

5.3 Medieval and post-medieval periods

It is unlikely that any medieval remains are present, as records suggest that the area was common waste, used for grazing, unless droveway and stock enclosures were laid out on the moor. It is unclear whether the rabbit warren, if located on *Warren Hill*, as suggested, would leave any discernible traces, such as an external ditch, but a series of ditches or a ditched enclosure are shown in this location in the 1940s aerial photographs taken of the area (Plate 8).

No post-medieval structures associated with the enclosure period are known to have existed on the site: none are shown on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map. The surviving structures associated with Butlins Camp are not of sufficient value in their present condition to require further work, although a more complete photographic record could be made, backed by field notes, to record the area as it currently stands before further demolition and clearance takes place. There are existing hedgebanks, earthworks and drains relating to the enclosure period

and pre-1939 site history, as well as at least one wartime installation on the cliff. Any surviving features or structures of this date are likely to be of purely local importance, although Butlins Camp itself has the potential to occupy a leading place in any study of the domestic holiday industry in the second half of the 20th century. The use of the area as a common and its subsequent enclosure, while of interest, is not rare, and there are many better-preserved examples in the area.

6 Conclusions and recommendations

6.1 Future treatment of the site

Recommendations fall into three separate phases.

Phase 1: Survey

- 1 There are currently several clear areas within the former Butlins Camp, including the current cliff top fields, former sports field and putting green, and areas between chalets. Of these, the cliff top fields to the east of the former extent of the chalets will not be built upon, according to the present proposals for development as outlined in the July 2000 Planning Statement, which forms part of the application. There will, however, be some cliff top planting, new paths leading to a position near the former cliff top camp gate, and an outdoor activity area. This soft landscaping may lead to some disturbance of the existing ground surface, enclosure period hedgebanks and any ridge-and-furrow ploughmarks which may remain beneath the present ground cover. **It is recommended that these be recorded, perhaps as part of an environmental survey, and that they be retained where possible. A geophysical survey should be carried out to check for buried features.**
- 2 Holiday homes, food centre, sports centre, and car parking will occupy the central part of the former camp, which includes the former sports field, putting green, and most of the chalet areas. A length of enclosure period hedgerow crosses the area from the head of Flat Cliff Gill. Included are possible remains of an enclosure beneath the former self-catering blocks. **It is recommended that a geophysical survey of the main open areas is carried out, and any sections of hedgerow be considered for retention.**
- 3 The southern part of the site, currently staff chalets and fields will be the site of a picnic area, and garden centre with car park and outdoor sales area. Most of this part of the site is currently sealed by a former car park, rubble from the staff chalets and the buildings themselves, and an area of dumped rubble. As this area is closest to the possible barrow cemetery behind Moor Farm, **it is recommended that a geophysical survey is carried out when the area is cleared, prior to landscaping and construction.** Two fields facing onto Hunmanby Gap Road are currently to be retained as open areas, although since these approach closer to the two known burial mounds south of Moor Farm, **the option of geophysical survey ought to be considered with regard to future site management.**
- 4 The western part of the camp will be the main area for construction, with restaurants, cinema, hotel and other leisure facilities. This area has probably been too heavily disturbed and terraced since 1939 for the original land surface to remain, with the possible exception of the car park and skating rink near the original south gate, although at least one island with mature trees at the south end of the boating lake may be an original feature, retained in 1939. **It is suggested that the area be examined for its archaeological potential after modern structures have been removed.**

- 5 It is intended that the cliff area outside the current site boundary will be retained as it stands; although some landscaping may be necessary to remove areas of modern tipping, no other work is envisaged, and no new paths will be constructed. **Any historic features, in particular, wartime installations such as the rifle range, and others which may be identified, should be recorded and photographed, if they have not already (eg as part of the Defence of Britain project). Any such structures should be considered for preservation, and perhaps, public interpretation.**

Phase 2: Evaluation

Should the geophysical surveys encounter anomalies which could be interpreted as being of archaeological significance, it is recommended that these are evaluated by trial trenching, particularly in areas likely to be affected by buildings, services, or landscaping. A combination of survey and evaluation work will help in the development of a management strategy for future development of the site, and may be used in support of future applications relating to on-site works. Where features of archaeological or historical significance are identified (eg the discovery of part of a prehistoric cemetery containing human remains), an informed assessment would aid the production of a mitigation strategy. This may require either preservation *in situ* and the modification of proposals (such as the redesign of foundations), or selective excavation, where preservation is not considered to be an appropriate response. This could be integrated with the results of an environmental survey, which might, for example, suggest the retention, enhancement, or restoration of areas of nature habitat or landscape features for ecological, as opposed to historical/archaeological reasons.

Phase 3: Interpretation

Any archaeological work undertaken on the site would be the subject of detailed analysis and specialist reports, placing any findings in their historical and archaeological perspective. Significant remains may be considered suitable for publication and dissemination in period or specialist local and national journals. Such work also has the potential for future interpretation of the site, perhaps for incorporation into temporary or permanent site displays, and promotional material, up to and including the wartime and post-war use of the area.

6.2 Conclusions

To summarise, the original four points to be considered by the assessment are:

- 1 To address the potential for archaeological remains which may survive

There may be remains of both prehistoric and Roman date, either of which would be of considerable significance. Substantial medieval remains are less likely, but elements of the enclosure period and wartime landscape still survive, of archaeological and historical interest.

2 To assess the impact of the development on such remains

Those areas likely to be affected by major buildings, and those which will remain as areas of 'soft landscaping' have been identified. In general, the main area of major impact is that which was also most heavily affected after 1939, basically the zone between the existing boating lake and the western chalet area.

3 To identify 20th-century buildings within the former holiday camp which may have architectural or other interest

Most of the buildings forming the camp have been destroyed, and those which remain are not worth preservation, unless, for example, part of a chalet block was retained or reconstructed as an exhibit. Further survey and a photographic record may be desirable, but is not essential. The camp and its history are of significant local interest, and of potential future interest in the study of the domestic holiday industry in the middle years and second half of the 20th century. Wartime structures on the cliff top, and any others located in the vicinity are of interest, and should be recorded, and if possible, preserved and considered for future public interpretation.

4 To consider the impact of the development on the visual setting of the natural and man-made environment

This issue is mainly a question of environmental impact, but the retention of historical landscape features is of common interest. There are no buildings of historical importance within close proximity whose setting may be affected by the development.

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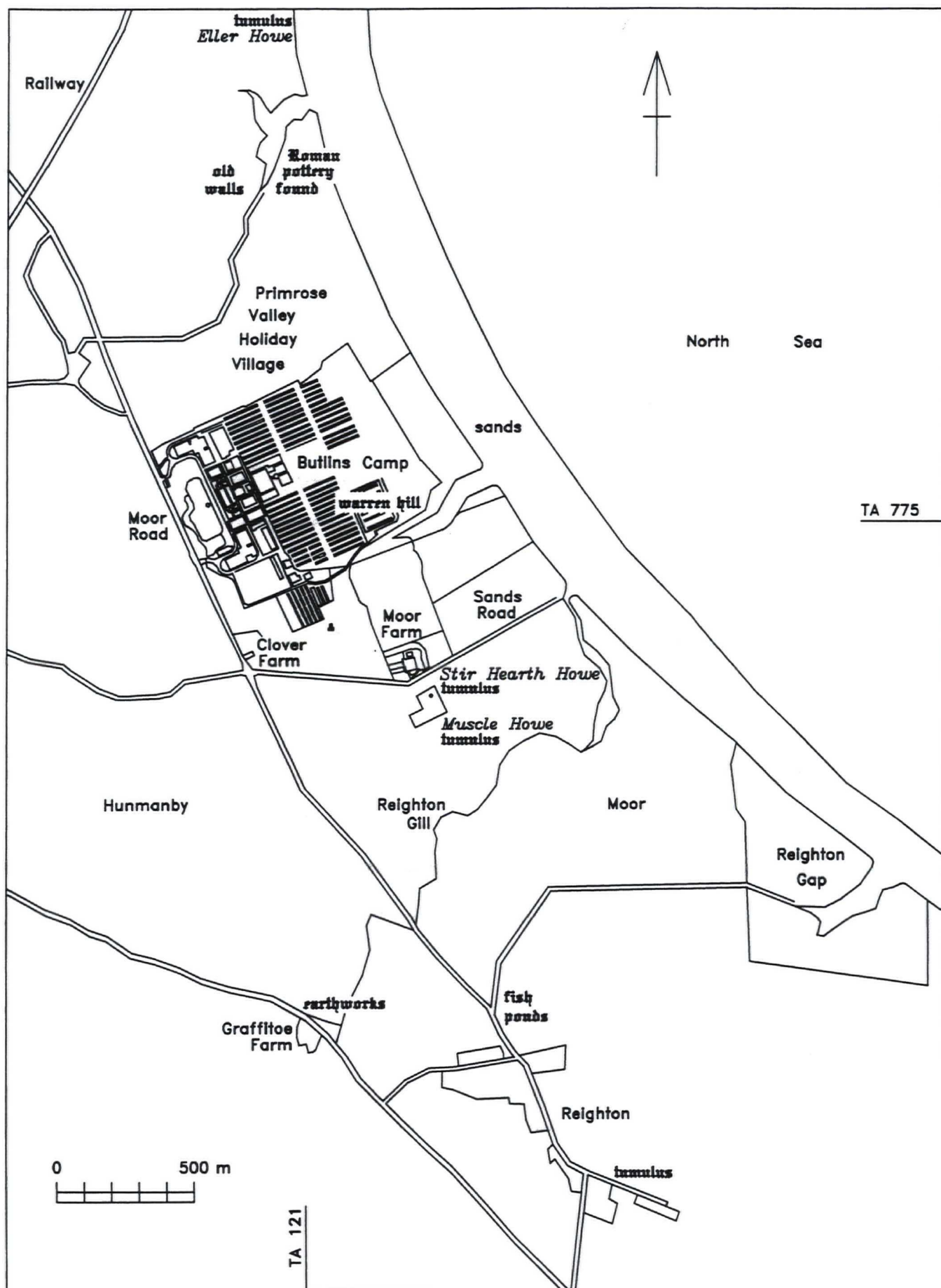


Figure 1: Map of the study area, showing the former Butlins Camp, and locations of historic features

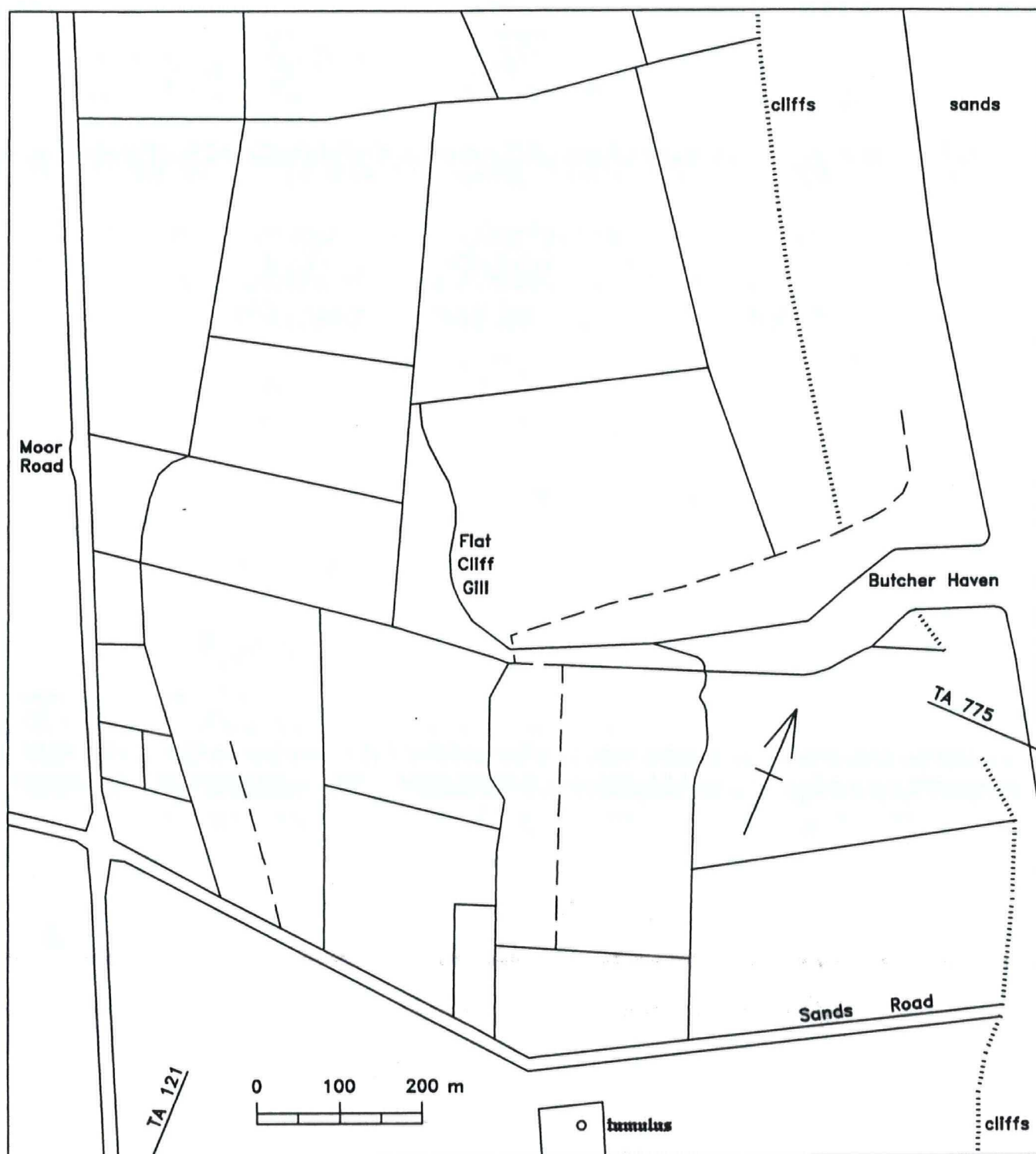


Figure 2: The site area prior to 1939, showing enclosure-period field boundaries