

THE MOOR DIKE, WYKEHAM FOREST
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT



THE MOOR DIKE, WYKEHAM FOREST
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT



Amy Lax

© RCHME Crown copyright

1996

AN EARTHWORK SURVEY OF THE MOOR DIKE, WYKEHAM FOREST NORTH YORKSHIRE

INTRODUCTION

In October 1995 RCHME undertook a detailed survey of two sections of the Moor Dike (centred SE 960 872), part of a largely prehistoric dyke system about 4.5 miles west of Scarborough, North Yorkshire, in the parish of Hutton Buscel.

The site lies within the Downe Estate, parts of which are leased to Forest Enterprise, forming Wykeham Forest. The Moor Dike is a protected monument, scheduled together with a number of other features as SAM 185. The North Yorkshire Moors National Park requested a detailed survey after previous rapid assessments (the Downe Estate Survey and the North Yorkshire Forests Survey (Lee 1994, 145)) highlighted the need for further work in two particular areas.

Topography, geology and the archaeological landscape

The area investigated is situated at the eastern end of the Tabular Hills about 165m above OD, on the south-eastern fringe of Wykeham Forest. From an escarpment that overlooks Troutdale and Langdale, on the north side of the Forest, the land gently inclines in a south-easterly direction until it meets the Vale of Pickering. The moorland is scored by a series of small river valleys; the Moor Dike connects the heads of two of these, Bee Dale, to the west, and Yedman Dale, to the east. The Moor Dike occupies a band of calcareous grit but a little to the south the geology changes to limestone, an area which has supported more intensive agricultural use.

The name 'Moor Dike' actually describes two separate dykes (referred to below as the north and south Moor Dikes), each consisting of two banks and a medial ditch, which extend across the fairly narrow strip of land separating the upper reaches of the two valleys (see fig 1). The two dykes are roughly parallel, both extending in a north-east - south-west direction, and are at least 500m apart. The north Moor Dike should probably be regarded as part of Cradlegrip Dyke which extends from the eastern end of the dyke, along Yedman Dale, up to a point about 60m beyond the end of the south Moor Dike.

There are a number of other features closely associated with the dykes, especially the north Moor Dike, which include enclosures, round and square barrows, other boundaries and trackways. The dykes themselves are part of a more extensive network in the Wykeham area and there are numerous other examples of this type of monument, traditionally regarded as late Bronze Age or early Iron Age, throughout the Tabular Hills (see Spratt 1989).

Survey Area and Methodology

The first of the two areas chosen for detailed survey is at the western end of the north Moor Dike (see fig 1) where there is a group of up to 10 round barrows, a rectilinear enclosure adjoining the dyke and a separate hut circle. The survey covered the 300m length of dyke to the

west of the Great Moor Road; the main focus of interest was the other features. The area is managed by Forest Enterprise and has been felled recently following a wind blow in the plantation. A substantial amount of brash has been left behind although it has been removed from around the barrows and the enclosure. In two small areas on the north edge of the dyke the ground was obscured completely and could not be surveyed; these are shown by a pecked line on the plan. Scrub regeneration also affected ground visibility to some extent. There are a number of broadleaved trees which have colonised the dyke, although it has not been planted with conifers.

The second survey examined the area around the ends of the northern Moor Dike and Cradlegrip Dyke, covering an area with a maximum extent of 250m by 170m. The ground between the ends of the two dykes is scored by numerous hollow ways but despite this substantial remains of the continuing dyke survive. There is a rectangular enclosure attached to the Moor Dike and two other subsidiary boundary earthworks nearby.

Both of these areas were surveyed at 1:500 scale. These two plans were augmented by a 1:2500 survey of the whole dyke system. The two detailed surveys were completed using an electronic theodolite with integral distance measurement to establish control and a self-reducing alidade and plane table to plot soft detail.

The 1:2500 plan is based on Ordnance Survey maps, updated using graphical survey methods.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Survey Area 1

The barrow cemetery (NMR no. SE 98 NE 21)

On the north side of the dyke, at its very western end, are a group of at least eight, possibly ten, small round barrows forming a roughly linear group. Four of the barrows are depicted on the Ordnance Survey (OS) 2nd edition 25"inch map of 1912 but they do not appear on the OS 1854 1st edition 6"inch map.

Three of the barrows show signs of having been opened. Greenwell (1877, 357) excavated a number of barrows in Wykeham during the second half of the 19th century but makes no mention of this group. He does however note that many of the barrows he looked at had already been opened. Brewster (1973, 78) suggests that the Scarborough antiquarian John Tisseman (or Tissiman), who excavated nearby barrows in the mid-nineteenth century (*J Brit Archaeol Ass* 1848), may have been Greenwell's predecessor.

Eight barrows are scheduled as part of the Moor Dike group but it is unclear which individual mounds are referred to in the field monument warden's report and the labelling in this report is not intended to correspond.

Barrow (**a**) is the easternmost of the group and is situated at SE 9552 8748. It survives as a circular mound which has become rather spread, measuring 4.4m by 4.5m at its widest points. It has a maximum height of 0.5m. This barrow, like all the others in the group, does not display any signs of a surrounding ditch.

One metre to the west, barrow (**b**) is a rather better defined mound, measuring 5.2m by 5.7m and 0.5m high. On its top is a small depression but this may be the impression of a log which has since been removed, rather than antiquarian excavation.

Six metres north-west of (**a**) is a small barrow (**c**), 4.3m by 4.2m and 0.6m high. Its shape has been distorted by a large tree stump on its western side. Its northern and eastern sides have a rather squared-off look but this is probably due to logs left in place prior to the clearance of the site.

Barrow (**d**), 7.5m west of (**a**), is a quite substantial, egg-shaped mound measuring 6.8m by 5.6m and up to 0.7m high.

Twenty metres north-west of (**a**) is a relatively slight mound (**e**) with a tree stump in its centre, measuring 4.5m by 4.3m at its widest points. The north-east quadrant of the mound has been flattened but the opposite side is 0.5m high. It is possible that this may not be a barrow but the spoil from barrow (**f**) which has been opened. Barrow (**f**) is a large, turf-covered circular mound measuring 8.1m by 7.9m and is up to 0.7m high. It has a central depression 2.0m in diameter and 0.2m deep. No stonework is visible.

Barrow (**g**) is a very poorly preserved example; it has become very spread and it is difficult to be certain of its true extent. At its widest points it measures 7.2m by 7.0m and it is 0.6m high. Its

northern side is defined by a row of tree stumps.

Barrow (**h**) is situated 35.5m west of (**a**). It is roughly circular and measures 8m by 6.1m with somewhat ragged edges. It too has been opened, having a central hollow about 1.5m in diameter. The mound is only 0.4m high and is rather flat-topped.

The size of mound (**i**) suggests it may be spoil from (**j**) rather than a barrow. It is flat-topped and measures 3.8m by 2.9m and is up to 0.3m high.

The final barrow, (**j**) is the most prominent of the whole group. Slightly oval in shape, it measures 7.9m by 5.7m and is 0.8m high. Its centre has been almost completely removed by excavation which has left a hole 2.9m by 2.5m and 0.7m deep. A number of large stones, up to 0.4m across, are visible around the exterior of the barrow but there seems to be no discernible pattern to them and it is possible that they have been unearthed from the heart of the barrow.

The date of the barrows and their relationship to the dyke are uncertain. Although there are many round barrows in the locality they tend to be much larger and to occur singly or in pairs. A small number of these larger round barrows have been excavated recently and found to date to the early - mid Bronze Age (Brewster 1973, 1984). The majority of Iron Age barrows in the area tend to be square, and although this group have suffered some damage, it seems unlikely that they are the remains of a group of square barrows.

There is no physical relationship between the barrow group and the Moor Dike although comments may be made on their spatial relationship. Mytum (1995, 32,6) asserts that the barrows are later than the dyke since their linear arrangement suggests that they were built along the side of the pre-existing monument. Their linearity is especially emphasized if the two uncertain mounds (**e** & **i**) are disregarded. In view of this a late Iron Age date or Romano-British may seem most likely, especially if the cemetery contains the inhabitants of the rectilinear enclosure (see below).

It is noticeable that 150m before its western terminal, the Moor Dike changes direction, turning southwards by 12 degrees; on plan this gives the impression that the course of the dyke has been altered in order to avoid the barrows, thus implying that the barrows pre-date the dyke. However, viewing the earthworks on the ground, it is apparent that when approaching from the east, the point at which the dyke turns is the point from which a clear view of Bee Dale valley is first obtained and that the dyke may have been slightly redirected here in order to follow the shortest route towards it. Implicit in this suggestion is that the dyke was built or laid out from east to west.

Rectilinear enclosure (SE 98 NE 16)

Adjoining the southern side of the dyke are the L-shaped remains of a rectilinear ditched enclosure, the eastern side of which has been destroyed, measuring 60m by at least 37m internally. The two surviving sides are at 90 degrees to one another but the enclosure itself is not perpendicular to the dyke and is situated at a point where the dyke changes course slightly. The ditch on the western side of the enclosure cuts through the southern bank of the dyke, thus

demonstrating that the enclosure is later.

The western perimeter consists of a shallow ditch with a slight internal bank. The ditch is 1.4m wide and 0.3m deep while the bank is 2.1m wide overall and up to 0.2m high. A line of trees, now surviving as stumps, has caused some damage to the bank at its southern end.

The southern side of the enclosure has an external bank which is also depicted on the 1st edition 6"inch map of 1854. The ditch is 2.5m wide and up to 0.6m deep. The internal bank is 3.1m wide overall and 0.2m high and the external bank is 2.9m wide overall and up to 0.4m high. There is an entrance mid-way along its length, 1m wide, with a causeway across the ditch.

On the 1st edition 6 inch map the enclosure is shown complete; close comparison of the map and the survey plan suggest that part of the eastern edge may survive as a low scarp (**k**). However, the planting furrows are oriented in the same direction so it is possible that it is a recent feature. In 1912 the corner of the enclosure is depicted as mutilated on the OS 2nd edition 25-inch map which may show the remains of scarp (**k**). Both maps show the remains of three hut circles, one inside and two beside the eastern side of the enclosure. Nothing is visible inside the enclosure but one hut circle (**l**) survives outside the enclosure beside the dyke.

The hut circle is a nearly circular ditch with an internal diameter of 6.6m. The ditch is 1m wide and not more than 0.3m deep. There is no discernible entranceway - the break in the ditch that appears on the plan is caused by a tree root. The presence of hut circles associated with the enclosure suggests an Iron Age or Romano-British date. The destruction, in c.1819, of what was apparently another enclosure of similar date is recounted by Knox (1855, 133). It was situated between the two Moor Dykes and yielded a beehive quern.

The north Moor Dike (SE 98 NE 94)

There is a gap of 80m between the western end of the dyke and the side of Bee Dale valley. Although much of the ground between the two has been deep-ploughed recently there is no evidence, physical or documentary, to suggest that the present terminal is not the original one.

A forestry track runs beside the north side of the dyke for part of its length; to the west of where their courses diverge the northern bank of the dyke has been almost completely flattened as a result of tree planting in lines which are parallel to the dyke. The southern bank is rather better preserved; it is 7.0m wide overall and 1.1m high externally. The ditch is 7.0m wide and 1.5m deep. There is a small break in the bank (**m**) 1.5m wide which is accompanied by a slight shallowing of the ditch; this seems to be nothing more than an animal track.

At the end of this section of the dyke is a wide break (**n**) which has caused some mutilation to the earthworks, especially on the western side. A forest road now passes through the gap.

Between the enclosure and the next break through the dyke (**o**) the dyke is completely free of undergrowth and is easily visible. The ditch is

flat-bottomed with steep sides, up to 2m deep, although this profile may have been exaggerated by forestry vehicles driving along it. The southern bank is up to 0.7m high externally but its narrowness along much of its length suggests it has been modified slightly when the enclosure was built. The northern bank reappears beside the forest road but its shape has obviously been distorted by the dumping of earth from the creation of the forest track.

There are three large breaks in the dyke close to each other. The first of these (o) is 7.3m wide and is accompanied by a small causeway over the ditch. The gap is shown on the 1st Edition OS 25-inch map of 1890 but appears to have become slightly enlarged by the passage of vehicles through it; wheel ruts can be seen cutting the banks.

A narrower cut (p) is at a slight angle to the line of the dyke. The cut is 3m wide and has a straight-sided drainage ditch running through it, measuring 1.4m wide and 0.5m deep. Whether the two are contemporary is uncertain. Although the map evidence shows the cut to be later than the event which caused the initial damage to the enclosure, it has probably exacerbated the damage.

A vertical-sided cut at (q) appears to be recent and has been used by vehicles. It is 2.2m deep and has not been cut quite to the base of the southern bank where it is 0.6m deep.

An old drain, now dry, cuts through the dyke at (r). The channel, 2.1m wide and 0.6m deep, which is shown on the 1st edition 6-inch map, has been cleaned of silt which is dumped along its eastern edge forming a bank.

Along the section of dyke between (r) and the Great Moor Road, the ditch is 8.7m wide and 1.1m deep and the banks are both 7.3m wide and 1m high. Midway along the southern bank are a pair of small parallel trenches, (s), measuring 0.8m wide and 0.15m deep. They may well be excavation trenches; the removal of material during excavation and the deposition of spoil may account for the uneven nature of the southern edge of the south bank at this point.

Earth from the cutting of the Great Moor Road has been dumped on the eastern side of the road forming a small bank (t) that overlies the dyke. A separate mound of spoil (u) has been left by the same operations. At this point the ditch is shallower than elsewhere, about 0.7m deep, which is about the same as the external height of the banks, suggesting that the ditch has been partly filled.

Survey Area 2

The enclosure (SE 98 NE 91)

The square enclosure adjoins the northern bank of the north Moor dyke and is situated at the top of the natural slope, overlooking the valley. It consists of a low bank and external ditch which cuts the bank of the dyke, indicating that it the enclosure is the later of the two. It measures 25.5m by 20m internally, within banks 2.7m wide overall and not more than 0.5m high internally. The ditch is 2.4m wide where it is preserved; on the eastern side of the enclosure soil creep has reduced it to slight traces of a terrace, 1.1m wide. There is a

single entrance (1) in the centre of the eastern side, 1.7m wide; there is a concentration of stone on both bank terminals. About 6m south of the entrance is another gap in the bank but this seems to have been caused by a track, now abandoned, passing over it. Beside the north-west corner the bank has been cut into from the inside leaving a well-defined scarp 0.4m high. The inner scarp of the dyke inside the enclosure has become very ragged and uneven.

The function and date of the enclosure are far from certain. There is nothing in the interior to suggest habitation and its relatively small size may also suggest that it is not a settlement. It may be some form of stock enclosure placed here because of the proximity of a well-used drove road.

The north Moor Dike

The dimensions of the dyke do not vary greatly along its length; beside the enclosure the ditch is 7.2m wide and 1.5m deep. The northern and southern banks are 5.1m and 5.8m wide overall respectively. The northern bank is 0.4m high externally while the southern bank, at 0.9m high, has become more pronounced due to ploughing up to its edges.

On the southern bank of the dyke, opposite both corners of the enclosure, a lowering of the bank occurs. Neither of these appears to be due to an extension of the enclosure ditch, rather it seems to be erosion caused by the passage of humans and animals where the enclosure ditch facilitates crossing of the dyke.

On the southern side of the ditch there is a small crescentic scoop (2), 2.2m wide, the spoil from which forms a mound 0.5m high in the base of the ditch. The dyke continues down the natural scarp, where its northern bank has slumped down in steps, to the bottom where it ends. Extending from the end of the ditch into the stream channel is a modern drainage ditch; the apparent mutilation of the end of the southern bank may be an attempt to direct run-off into the drain.

The dyke reappears 30m to the east (3) where it is cut into the bottom of the natural slope just above the flat valley floor. The ditch is 6.9m wide and has a flatter, broader base to it (about 4m) than elsewhere along its length. The external height of the southern bank is 1.1m while the counterscarp of the northern bank is at most 0.3m high because it lies against the natural slope. A small step (4) in the top of the southern bank, 0.6m high, is caused by an animal track which has accentuated the downward slope of the bank as it runs into the valley floor.

The dyke is cut by two later hollow ways (5, 6) both of which cut through the base of the ditch to a depth of 0.5m and 0.9m respectively. Beyond the latter hollow way the remains of the dyke - albeit in a much reduced state - can clearly be seen to turn through 90 degrees towards Cradlegrip Dyke. These earthworks are shown on the 1854 6-inch map but do not appear on any later editions. The inner scarp of the ditch is preserved in the terminals (7) of two ridges left between other hollow ways; they are quite pronounced, 0.6m high, and 'chisel-ended' rather than gradually fading away as might be expected. In addition part of the southern bank seems to survive (8) between the hollow ways; the internal scarp is 0.5m high.

Between these remains and the terminal of Craddelegrip Dyke is a substantial gap of about 12m where there are no discernible earthworks. At least two hollow ways can be seen heading into this gap but it seems likely that this and the other gaps through the dyke were created by deliberately breaching the earthwork rather than through the accumulated erosion of traffic. It is therefore apparent that Craddelegrip Dyke turned to continue the line of the north Moor Dike and while the two may not have been physically joined because of a stream flowing through the valley the implication is that the two were planned and built as one.

Craddelegrip Dyke is built along the eastern crest of the valley, so that like the previous section, it consists of a ditch with a bank on its downslope side. A stone field wall overlies the edge of the ditch. The ditch is 6.6m wide and 1.1m high maximum. The base of the bank is difficult to distinguish from the natural slope that it is built on, but it appears to be about 7m wide overall.

Other boundary features

Adjoining the northern edge of the dyke (SE 98 NE 93) are the intermittent remains of a curvilinear earthen bank (9). The 6-inch 1854 map shows the bank complete and extending east-north-east for a further 165m from its present limit, close the line of a former field boundary; ploughing has destroyed all surface traces of this section.

The bank adjoins the dyke and, although the physical relationship between the two is unclear, the bank is presumably a later addition to the existing boundary or perhaps a secondary part of the overall dyke system. Beside the dyke its maximum width is 5.0m and it is 0.7m high. Its central sector is truncated by a number of hollow ways which have almost completely destroyed it; the terminal of one hollow way, and a scarp 0.6m high (10) may be all that remains. Immediately before the point where the bank is cut by the modern fence and track is a break, 2.6m wide, also caused by a hollow way.

Also shown on the 1854 OS map are an L-shaped pair of parallel ditches, extending in a straight line along the top of the western edge of the valley before turning 90 degrees in a westerly direction. Traces of these banks appear to survive today (11) although a large proportion has been destroyed during cultivation of the adjacent field. The 2nd edition 25-inch map of 1912 does not show the banks abutting the Moor Dike and there is no archaeological evidence to suggest that they did. The eastern bank survives best although it is mutilated in a number of places; it measures 2.5m wide overall and is 0.6m high externally. The ditch is 2m wide and 0.4m deep. As the edge of the arable field encroaches on the ditch it becomes masked by stone clearance and soil disturbance. In addition two adjoining drainage ditches cut through the bank and ditch; other small breaks may have the same origin.

Another short drain cuts through the bank at (12) but although the bank apparently continues along the side of the field, the two ends appear slightly misaligned and the course of the bank is diverging from the straight line depicted on the OS map. It may be that a ridge (13) between two trackways, measuring 3.3m wide and 0.3m high, is the rather flattened remains of one of the banks, and that part of a low scarp (14), marks its turn. The oval mound (15) beside the field boundary is a heap of dumped stones.

Similarly the bank of material bordering the field towards its southern end is also field clearance.

Trackways and hollow Ways

The site is scored by hollow ways and tracks, particularly in the north-eastern corner, which show that it has been part of a longstanding routeway.

The most prominent trackway (16) extends from the edge of the arable field on the western side of the survey to the junction of the current boundaries in the north-eastern corner. Its course is shown on the 1854 OS map where it joins the Great Moor Road beside Northside Plantation. It extends from the edge of the field to the bottom of the valley as a steep sided flat-bottomed hollow way measuring 3.3m wide and 0.6m deep. As the hollow way approaches the stream gully it becomes a raised platform about 0.4m high. It is carried over the gully (now dry) by an arched stone bridge of roughly coursed sandstone, 3.7m wide and about 2.3m long. The gully is evidently extremely silted since there is a gap of only 0.3m from the top of the arch. The presence of the bridge and the levelling of the track on either side - probably 19th century improvements carried out by the Estate - demonstrate that the route saw regular traffic. The 2nd edition 25-inch map shows that (16) originally curved north, cutting through bank (9) for a second time.

As the track climbs the other side of the valley a deep hollow way appears which then shallows as the crest is reached, a phenomenon that repeats itself many times across the slope. At its deepest the hollow way is 1m and it is 3.3m wide. Meeting this hollow way is a later track (17), 0.8m deep; it is partly metalled and has evidently been used by motor vehicles recently. It may have followed the course of an earlier path (18) 0.2m deep. Where (17) turns eastwards to join the main track it cuts across an earlier rather sinuous hollow way, 0.4m deep, (19) which runs parallel to it; at the top of the slope it fades out and turns into a single scarp which is probably not part of the trackway.

There is another pair of hollow ways beside the main track (16). Like the other small U-shaped, rather winding tracks (20), 0.3m deep, could only have been used for pedestrian or horse access. At the bottom of the slope (21) is up to 0.5m deep but it rapidly fades. It appears to have been mutilated in recent times by vehicles leaving the main track where it narrows and driving up the edge of the track; this has created some small scarps, one of which appears to continue the line of the hollow way. A modern footpath diverges from the main through track (16), running alongside the dyke, cutting through the bank and then rejoining the main track via a hollow way (22), 0.3m deep.

The deep hollow way (5) cutting through the base of the dyke ditch has already been commented on. This was evidently continuous with a hollow way (23), 0.6m deep, but at a later date the route has taken a step to the east along a much straighter hollow way (24), 0.6m deep.

A similar sequence of events can be observed at (6) where a deep hollow way cuts through the angle of the dyke and continues in a north-easterly direction (26) to the present boundary junction. The major part of the hollow way, 0.7m deep, has subsequently gone out of use

when the route has again shifted to the east.

The majority of the tracks described so far focus on the entrance through the current set of boundaries and are therefore probably contemporary or later than them. Others however clearly underlie the stone field wall which also delineates the eastern edge of the survey, or underlie the forestry track to the north. For example, a pair of parallel, flat bottomed, hollow ways (25,26) 0.3m and 0.5m deep respectively are both overlain by the wall, thus demonstrating its absence when they were in use. A much smaller v-shaped hollow (27), 0.5m deep and 1.3m wide may be acting similarly.

On the western side of the large bank (9) adjoining the dyke are a myriad of small hollow ways and paths which continually fade and merge with one another. The tracks vary in width but are not more than 0.5m deep. Many have become mutilated by the modern footpath crossing them. There are two phases to the tracks; firstly the paths head north along the side of the bank, respecting its presence, prior to the establishment of a track or boundary along the current fenceline. Secondly, one of the tracks (28) diverts east, cutting across a baulk left between the other paths and then cutting across the bank itself; there is no further evidence of the track beyond the bank - presumably it was little used since there is not much damage to the bank - but it may show a re-routing of the track through the gateway in the north-east corner after new boundaries were established. Further evidence that the main group of north-east - south-west trackways post-date the group of northern paths is evidenced by the cutting of one (29) by another (17). The northern end of this hollow way has been mutilated by traffic coming over the gap in the bank but almost certainly followed the perimeter of the bank. In the same area one of the baulks between paths has been dug through (30) and the spoil blocks the hollow way. Into the terminal of this cut, two further, very slight angular cuts have been made; their origins are uncertain but they appear to be relatively recent.

There are a number of other trackways, mainly, on the western side of the valley; practically no earthworks survive in the valley floor. One of the most prominent of these (31) has a drain cut along its western side and has been partly metalled; it has until fairly recently been used for vehicular access but is now a bridleway and footpath. It continues over the main track/hollow way (16) hugging the bottom of the natural slope. Two short lengths of track (32) straddling the gully suggests that it may have been part of an earlier routeway pre-dating the forestry track.

The natural terrace below (31) (33) also appears to have been accentuated by through traffic, although not to any great degree. Immediately east of this is a v-shaped hollow way (34) which heads in the direction east of the hollow ways cutting the dyke. All of these tracks converge on a straight, flat bottomed, shallow, trackway (35) which continues through a gateway in the stone wall forming the southern edge of the survey area.

A little to the south of this group of trackways is another. The main track (36) forms a terrace cut into the base of the natural slope. Above this is another terraced track (37) whose course is interrupted by soil creep from the slope and which eventually joins the lower path.

Similarly (38) extends from the top of the natural scarp to the valley floor. The last two tracks described certainly predate the stone enclosure wall and it is possible that (36) does also. The current pathway has cut through two of the tracks, pushing out the lower one where it joins it.

Other earthworks

The only other features noted during the survey were two shallow linear ditches (39) which cut through all the other features including the current pathway. The lie of the land precludes them from being drainage ditches; probably they are the remains of a recent but short-lived enclosure, maybe concerned with pheasant rearing.

1:2500 Plan

The Dykes

North Moor Dike

The dyke does not change in character in the sector between the two detailed survey areas. The ditch measures 7.1m wide and is 1.8m deep. The northern bank is 5.0m wide overall and 0.3m high externally. The southern bank is 6.0m wide and 0.5m wide externally; this side has been a little distorted by ploughing close to its edge.

There are two large breaks in the dyke. The first of these (a) is 240m eastwards from the North Moor road; it is 20m wide and is caused by an old forestry track. The other break, (b) 70m east of the road is a more carefully constructed causeway, 4m wide. It is possible that this gap was created to provide access to the large enclosure to the north, whose western boundary lies immediately west of the causeway.

Craddlegrip Dyke

The dyke follows a very straight course along the edge of the valley; it consists of a ditch dug into the crest of the natural slope and a bank thrown up below it. There is no evidence to suggest that there was ever a bank on both sides of the ditch like the Moor Dike; the central sector has not been impinged upon by ploughing and no bank is discernible there.

Near its northern end the ditch is 6.6m wide and up to 2m deep to the east, on the upslope side. The bank is approximately 7.4m wide overall; the bank merges into the natural slope. There are a number of breaks through the dyke; these are mostly later hollow ways. One of these hollow ways (c) is marked on the OS map as an earthwork and was recorded as a possible adjunct of the dyke system. In fact, it is one of a pair of hollow ways that cut the dyke at 45 degrees. The northernmost of this pair is in turn cut by a more recent forestry track which also cuts through the dyke and continues along the ditch of the south Moor Dike.

The relationship between the south Moor Dike and Craddlegrip Dyke is not clear. Only the northern bank of the Moor Dike appears to survive up to the side of the other. However at the point where the two banks should meet, the western bank of Craddlegrip Dyke has been dug away, possibly during the creation of the forestry track. Despite the mutilation of the junction, from the overall layout of the dykes it is

probable that the south Moor Dyke is later.

The southern end of the dyke runs along the edge of the valley stopping where the stream channel swings east. It is possible that erosion of the channel has removed some of the bank but increasing steepness of the valley side at this point means that the dyke could not have continued much further; indeed it seems evident that the dyke was only necessary where natural features would not suffice.

South Moor Dike

The south Moor Dike survives far less well than its northern counterpart. Almost all of the dyke on the western side of the Great Moor Road has been destroyed; this had already happened by 1854 according to the OS maps. A short length of bank, up to 1m high, does survive beyond the southern tip of Moor Closes field, on the lip of Bee Dale.

Immediately to the east of the Great Moor Road is about 40m of the dyke surviving as a low double bank with medial ditch. The ditch is about 8m wide and up to 0.6m deep internally while the banks are about 0.4m high externally. Along the central sector of the dyke, the rest of the southern bank is then overlain by a dirt track although there is some suggestion of the remains of the ditch between the northern bank and the track. The bank is up to 1m high internally along this section. Where the bank turns slightly more to the north about 45m of the dyke has been completely destroyed. Beyond this point, in the most easterly section, both banks survive, although intermittently. However the inner profile of the dyke has been completely altered from its original state because of the dirt track which runs through the ditch; it is clear that it has been widened and deepened mechanically. The ditch is 9m across and up to 1.5m high internally.

Cropmark of Linear Earthwork, Ancat Farm

The remains of what appear to be a third dyke, close to Ancat Farm (see fig. 1) are visible on air photographs (NMR SF1677 15.08.1979; NMR 12561 29.07.1994). A ditch, showing as a positive cropmark, about 5m wide, extends from SE 9618 8600 - SE 9660 8640. It begins on the edge of Bee Dale and crosses two fields in a north-easterly direction but is not visible in the field to the north-east of Ancat Farm. Beside the north-eastern end of the ditch is a single ring ditch (SE 9655 8639) and a double ring ditch (SE 9658 8640), measuring approximately 13.5m and 27m in diameter respectively. It is noticeable that the distance between all three cross-ridge dykes is exactly the same. The presence of the ring ditches close to the dyke (which may have been partly overlain by an accompanying bank) is mirrored by the site of a barrow (SE 98 NE 30) on the south side of the south Moor Dike.

Craddlegrip East Dyke (SE 98 NE 79)

On the eastern side of Craddlegrip Dyke is a small length of dyke, oriented approximately east-west which now separates an arable field from scrub woodland. It too consists of a ditch and two banks, although the northern bank has largely been destroyed by ploughing. The ditch is 6.4m wide and up to 1.5m deep internally. The southern bank is 5.6m wide overall. The western end of the dyke stops at the very top of the valley, just as it begins to fall away gently; there is no surface indication that it was ever joined to the main dyke. To the east it is truncated by a later field boundary and does not survive in

the field beyond. It may well have continued however since Spratt reported (1989, 54) that a remnant of the dyke could be seen in the next field boundary, 50m to the east.

Enclosure (SE 98 NE 92)

There is a large irregular shaped enclosure adjoining the north Moor Dike, which defines an area about 300m by 180m. It is marked on the 1854 OS map as 'Old Inclosure Dike'. The eastern side is defined by a stream or drain which flows into Yedman Dale, while the north and east sides are bounded by either a bank or ditch. The area of the enclosure is now covered by a dense conifer plantation so it was not possible to examine the remains very thoroughly. However, the western side is clearly traceable as a bank, 2.5m wide, which begins beside the north Moor Dike. Halfway along the western side this bank is also accompanied by a ditch which then continues after the bank fades out just before a forestry track.

The middle sector of the northern edge is shown on the 1854 OS map between SE 9590 8722 and SE 9597 8772. This was not found on the ground but is visible on RAF air photos as a crop mark, within the plantation. The eastern end of the northern boundary has apparently been recut as a drain.

Barrows

There are a number of round and square barrow remains which were investigated during the survey.

There is a group of three large Bronze Age round barrows in the centre of the area defined by the three main dykes. Two of these (SE 98 NE 29) have been excavated by Brewster (1973, 1984) in the 1960s and only survive as very broad, low mounds in arable fields on either side of the Great Moor Road. The other (SE 98 NE 63) survives as an earthwork in California Plantation but is so covered in fallen trees as to be almost completely obscured. The group are scheduled as ancient monuments with one other alleged barrow which is in fact an old pond.

Two other round barrows (SE 98 NE 61 & 30), known from OS 1st edition maps, are both completely levelled by ploughing.

On the eastern side of Cradlegrip Dyke is a dispersed group of at least two, probably four, square barrows, probably of early Iron Age date (Dent 1982, 446). A pair of barrows (SE 98 NE 32) is situated about 170m from the southern end of the dyke. Previously covered by conifer plantation, both barrows suffered some damage during a storm in December 1990. Since then the plantation has been felled and the area is covered by scrubby grassland. Despite the fact that brash and vegetation cover the barrows so that they are not clearly visible from the ground, air photos (RAF 58/997//F21 0015-0016//20.01.53, RAF 58/997//F22 0015@0016//20.01.53) clearly show that both are square barrows. The northernmost barrow (SE 9661 8710) is about 9m in diameter and has a ditch 1.8m wide and 0.15m deep. The other barrow (SE 9661 8708) is 11.5m by 13m and also shows traces of a ditch. Both are about 1m high.

About 120m to the north are two more barrows (SE 98 NE 31) whose appearance suggests that they are square barrows but they are not sufficiently preserved to be certain. The first barrow (SE 9652 8722)

measures 11.5m by 10.5m and is 1.3m wide. It is surrounded by a ditch up to 1.4m wide and 0.3m deep. The mound has a broad flat top with a hollow in its centre 0.7m deep.

The other barrow (SE 9657 8725) is 11m by 12m and is 1.2m high; it is not as well preserved but shares the same general appearance.

DISCUSSION

It is generally accepted that the linear earthworks similar to those at Wykeham and which are so common across north-east Yorkshire, are part of territorial land divisions based on the natural divisions in the landscape (Spratt 1989; Vynner 1995, 22). This feature is clearly demonstrated in the Wykeham dykes by the use of Craddegrip Dyke to reinforce Yedman Dale and the use of cross ridge dykes to divide the interfluvium.

Little excavation work has been carried out to clarify dating of this type of earthwork. Traditionally they are assigned a late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date (Spratt 1989) based on observations of relationships with round barrows and prehistoric settlements; certainly such a date would not seem out of place for the north Moor Dike given the presence of the later enclosure. Wherever the dykes demonstrate a physical relationship with another feature the dyke is always earlier.

A date of 1000AD has been obtained from one of the lower ditch fills of a cross ridge dyke on Danby Rigg (Harding and Ostojica-Zagorski 1994, 77) but while this example may act as a caveat against assuming all such monuments to share an early date, the scale and nature of the Danby dyke is somewhat different to the dyke systems of the Tabular Hills.

Spratt (1989) has identified two phases of dyke building across the region; firstly dykes running along the valleys and secondly those transecting the spurs between the valleys. The spatial relationship between Craddegrip Dyke and the other dykes seems generally to conform to this pattern; only the relationship between it and the north Moor Dyke is ambiguous. Spratt has further suggested that Craddegrip Dyke, the north Moor Dike and Craddegrip East Dyke are part of an Iron Age subdivision of a larger area.

Spratt favours a medieval date for the south Moor Dike based on its use as a field boundary in the 17th century and because of the paucity of remains. However, an existing prehistoric dyke could easily have continued in use as a medieval acre dyke. It is interesting to note that a number of dykes maintain their postulated function as a territorial marker by acting as a modern parish boundary; this is the case with Craddegrip Dyke. The presence of a third dyke as a cropmark may suggest that differential preservation due to more intensive land use has caused the physical difference between the dykes, rather than their original form or date. In this instance the same form must mean the same date since there is no compelling evidence to the contrary. The even spacing of the south Moor Dike and the crop mark site suggests that the two are contemporary enclosures.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Access to the sites was granted by the Downe Estate and Forest Enterprise. The survey was completed with the help of Damian Grady, Keith Blood and Mark Bowden.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brewster, TCM 1973 'Two Bronze Age Barrows in the North Riding of Yorkshire' *Yorkshire Archaeol J* **45** (1973). 55-95.

- 1984 'Five Yorkshire Barrows' *Curr Archaeol* **94** Vol **8** (Oct 1984) 327-33.

Dent, J 1982 'Cemeteries and Settlement Patterns on the Yorkshire Wolds' *Proc Prehist Soc* **48** (1982). 437-57.

Greenwell, W 1887 *British Barrows*. Macmillan. Oxford.

Harding, AF & Ostoja-Zagorski, J 1994 'Prehistoric and Early Medieval Activity on Danby Rigg, North Yorkshire' *Archaeol J* **151** (1994). 16-97.

Lee, G 1995 'Managing the Archaeology of the North Yorkshire Moors National Park' in Vyner, B (ed) 1995. 140-154.

Manby, TG 1998 *Archaeology in East Yorkshire : Essays in Honour of Tom Brewster*. JR Collis. Sheffield.

Knox, R 1821 *Descriptions Geological, Topological and Antiquarian in East Yorkshire Between the Humber and the Tees*. London

Mytum, H 1995 'Iron Age Square Barrows on the North Yorkshire Moors' in Vyner, B (ed) 1995. 31-7.

Spratt, D 1989 *The Linear Earthworks of the Tabular Hills of North East Yorkshire*. JR Collis. Sheffield.

- 1993 *Prehistoric and Roman Archaeology of North East Yorkshire*. CBA. London.

Vyner, B (ed) 1995 *Moorland Monuments*. CBA Res Rep **101**.

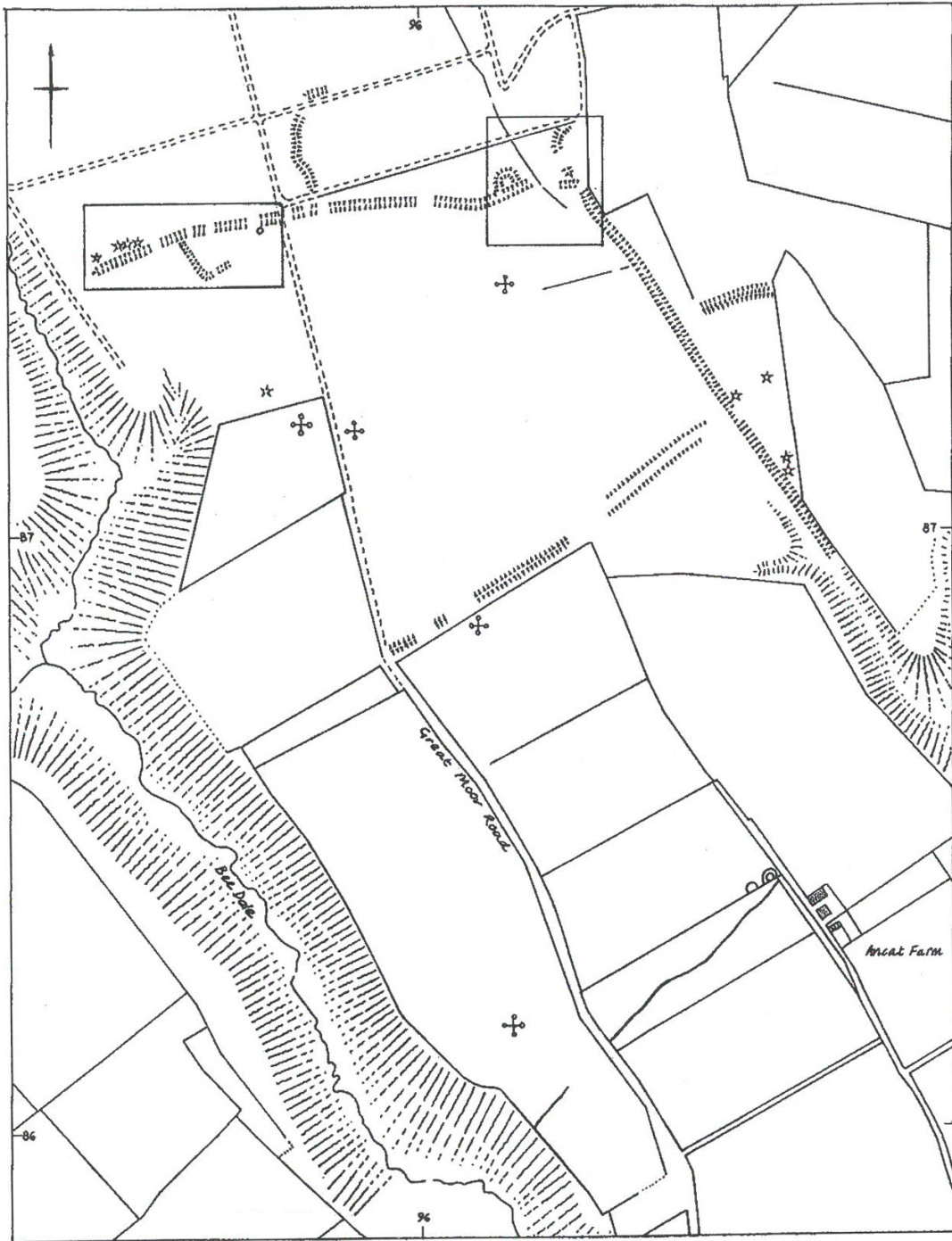

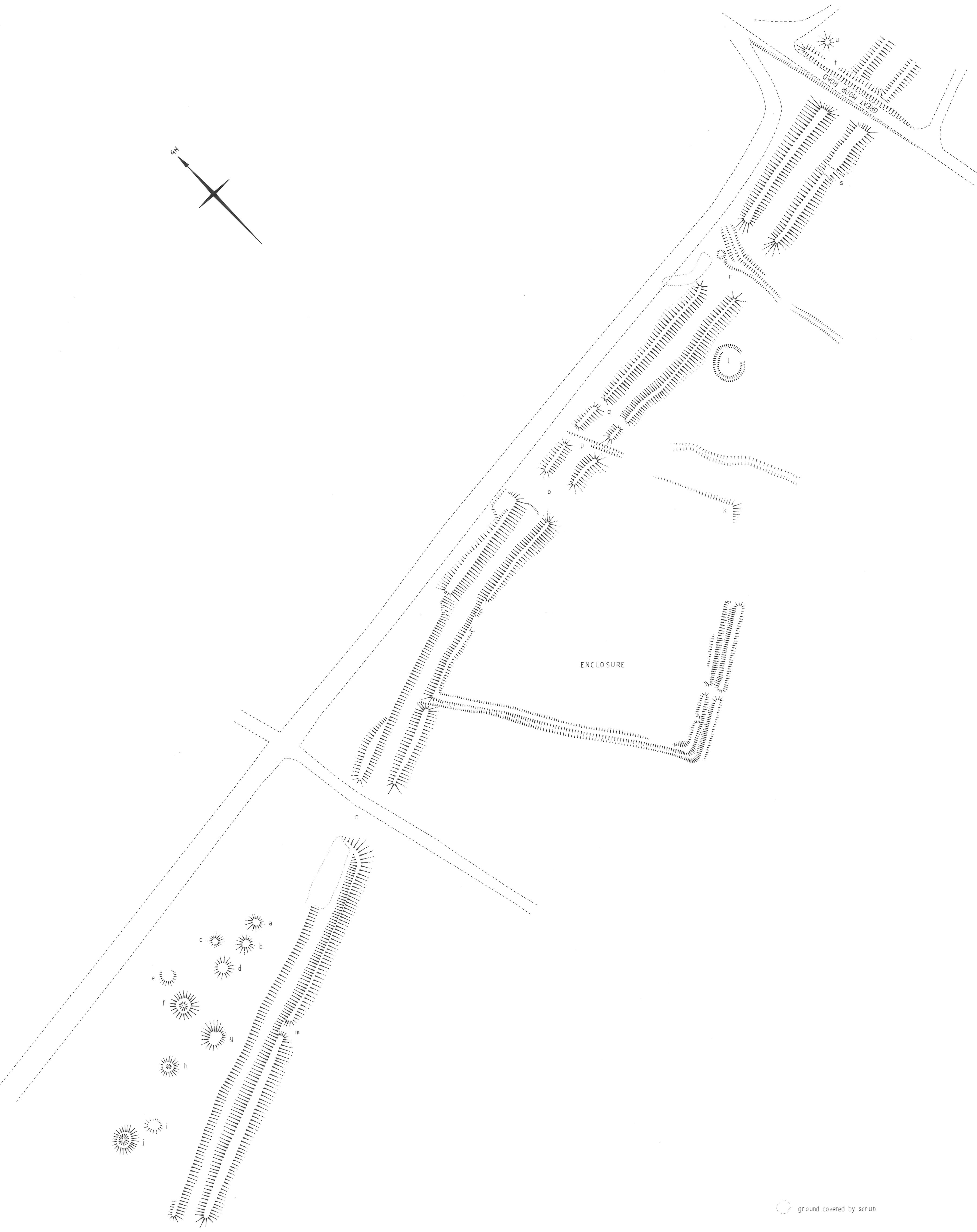
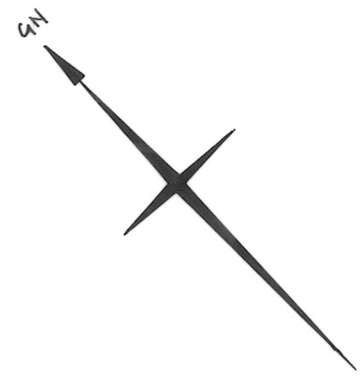



Fig.1 Location map of the Moor Dike with a sketch plan of crop marks beside Ancat Farm which show two ring ditches and a linear ditch, probably a third dyke. Boxes show areas surveyed at 1:500 scale. Antiquity crosses mark the sites of plough-levelled round barrows

 RCHM ENGLAND		ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF ENGLAND		
OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEWCASTLE	COUNTY NORTH YORKS	SCALE OF SURVEY 1:500	METHOD EDM, plane table	OS MAP No SE 98 NE
PROJECT NAME Wykeham Forest Survey	DISTRICT SCARBOROUGH	DATE OF SURVEY Nov-1995	ASSOCIATED PLANS	NAR Nos 16,18,21
SITE NAME Wykeham Forest (Survey Area 1)	PARISH HUTTON BUSCEL	SURVEYOR(S) A.J.L.N.K.B.		SAM No 185
DOCUMENT STATUS ARCHIVE	NGR SE 956 873	© RCHME - Crown Copyright.	SHEET	CATALOGUE No Call 1066933 Fax 1066969

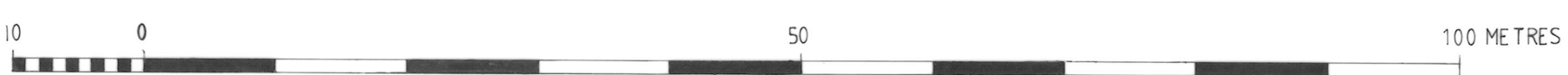
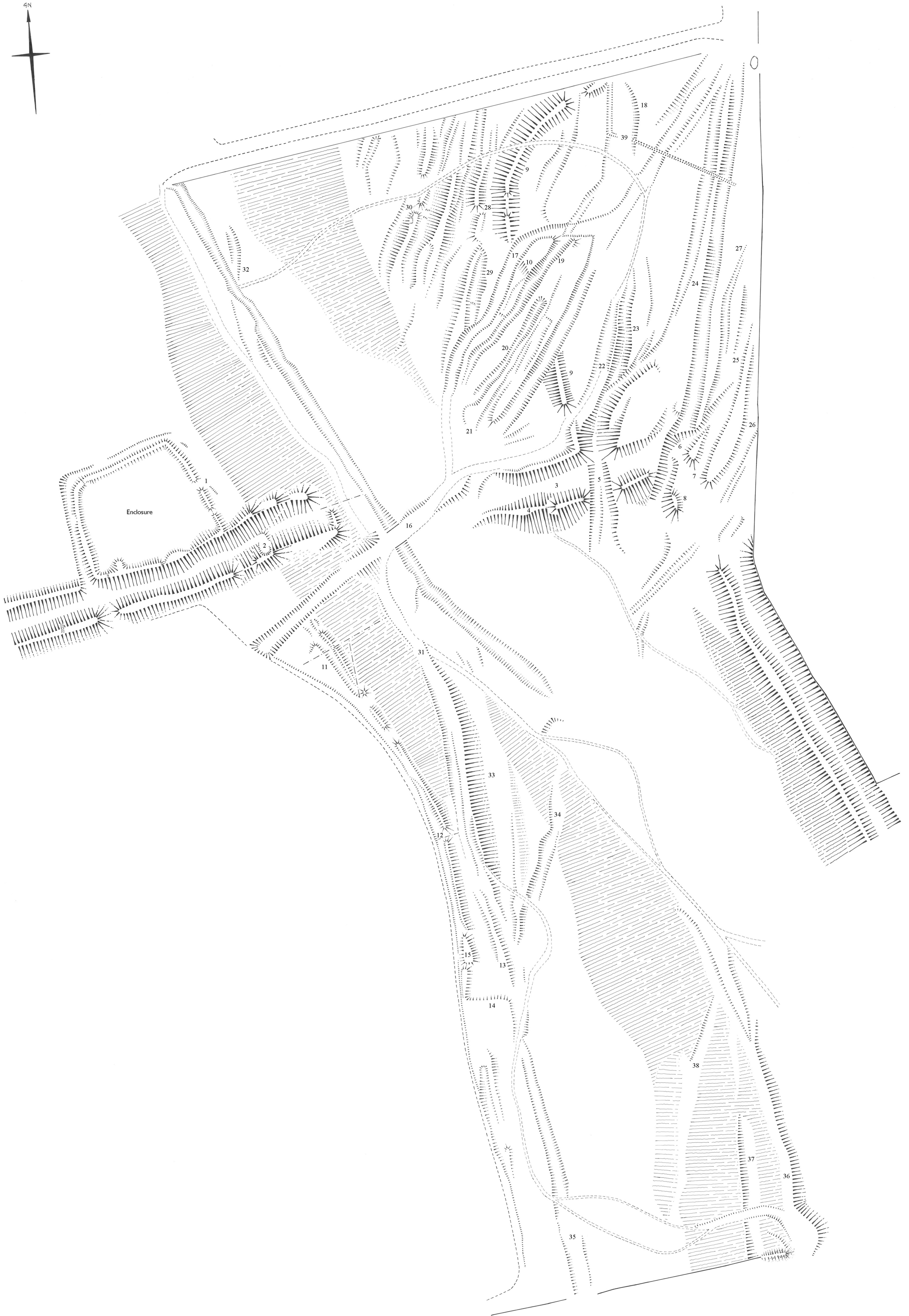


ENCLOSURE

 ground covered by scrub



ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF ENGLAND				
OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEWCASTLE	COUNTY NORTH YORKSHIRE	SCALE OF SURVEY 1:500	METHOD EDM, plane table	OS MAP No SE 98 NE
PROJECT NAME WYKEHAM FOREST	DISTRICT SCARBOROUGH	DATE OF SURVEY JAN-FEB 1996	ASSOCIATED PLANS	NAR No
SITE NAME MOOR DIKE (Survey Area II)	PARISH HUTTON BUSCEL	SURVEYOR(S) A.J.L., D.M.G., M.C.B.B., N.K.B.		SAM No 185
DOCUMENT STATUS	NGR SE 962 875	© RCHME Crown Copyright.	SHEET	CATALOGUE No Cd11 166933 GAM 1066976



ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORICAL MONUMENTS OF ENGLAND				
OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEWCASTLE	COUNTY NORTH YORKSHIRE	SCALE OF SURVEY 1:2500	METHOD graphics	OS MAP No SE 98 NE
PROJECT NAME WYKEHAM FOREST	DISTRICT SCARBOROUGH	DATE OF SURVEY JAN 1996	ASSOCIATED PLANS	NAR No
SITE NAME MOOR DIKE	PARISH HUTTON BUSCEL	SURVEYOR(S) AJL NKB		SAM No 185
DOCUMENT STATUS NGR		© RCHME: Crown Copyright.	SHEET	CATALOGUE No Call 1066933 Fax 1066972



Numbers refer to NMR records (all with prefix SE 98 NE)

