



Planning, Transport
and Environment

INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A65 Improvement	Details Desktop Appraisal
Road Number A65	Date April '93
Contractor W. Yorks Arch. Service	
County Yorkshire	
OS Reference SE05	
Single sided <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double sided A3 <input type="checkbox"/> Colour <input type="checkbox"/>	

**A65 Improvement
Chelker Bends**

Desktop Appraisal

April 1993



**West Yorkshire
Archaeology Service**

Desktop appraisal for A65 improvements Chelker Bends

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A65 Chelker Bends

North Yorkshire

1. Report summary

Client

Martin Popplewell Associates, 156 Fulford Road, York, YO1 4DA.

Site location

The archaeological assessment area lies between SE 045520 and SE 054145 and covers a 1125m stretch of land c. 50m either side of the proposed line of the road. The desktop survey was conducted between 24.3.93 and 1.4.93, fieldwork was undertaken on 5.4.93.

Objectives

To carry out rapid desktop and field appraisals along the proposed Chelker Bends improvement and assess the archaeological potential of the site.

Method

A document search was carried out using the North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the West Yorkshire Archives Service, Yorkshire Archaeology Society and Yorkshire Dales National Park resources. This was followed by a site visit to find further evidence by walking the line of the projected road.

Results

The field survey confirmed the presence of cropmarks shown on existing aerial photographs and located more evidence of field systems. The field system at the western end of the site had three possible phases probably dating from the medieval period.

2. Introduction

Assessment brief

West Yorkshire Archaeology Service was commissioned to carry out a preliminary archaeological assessment along the line of the proposed improvement to the A65 at Chelker Bends.

This report contains the results of a rapid desktop appraisal of the archaeological potential of the site and its immediate environs, together with the results of a field survey along the corridor of the development.

The aim of the assessment is to draw together archaeological information concerning the site and to evaluate the archaeological potential.

Geographical setting

Chelker Bends lies c. 1km east of Draughton. The solid geology is of Skipton Moor Gritstone containing seams of shale. No drift geology is recorded. The area is on the edge of the Wharfe valley and the ground generally slopes down to the northeast. However, the area is bisected by

four small streams whose valleys vary in width and steepness. The land is presently used as pasture. Immediately east of the present A65 is Chelker Reservoir.

3. Results of desktop appraisal

Bronze Age barrows and prehistoric enclosures are known on Counter Hill (Faull and Moorhouse 1981, 104 and 127), 1.5km south of the study area. The Roman road, numbered 72a (Margary 1967, 373), lies c. 1km south of, and is roughly parallel to, the present A65.

Draughton is referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 (Faull and Stinson 1986, 301d) and Berwick is referred to in 1120-47 (Smith 1961, 65). Berwick Intake, the only field named by Ordnance Survey in the survey area, is dated to 1847 (Smith 1961, 66). Between Draughton and Berwick c. 2ha of ridge and furrow is shown on plots taken from aerial photographs for the Dales National Park Survey held in the North Yorkshire SMR. The same survey shows ridge and furrow both west and south of Draughton, indicating considerable medieval activity in the area.

The boundaries shown on first edition 6" to the mile Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1848 are all on the present OS map. However, some boundaries are on the present map which are not on the first edition.

No estate maps were found for the area and there are no references in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*. The only references in the Yorkshire volume of the *Victoria County History* (Page, 1913) are to land ownership copied from Domesday Book; these give no precise location of land holdings.

The positions of the potential archaeological features listed in the following catalogue are shown on Fig. 1.

1. Medieval agriculture SE 05355142

The Dales National Park Survey shows the occurrence of ridge and furrow running roughly north to south, down the slope, in the whole of the present field.

2. Cropmarks SE 04655170

A complex of cropmarks slightly southwest of the area of this report is shown on the Dales Park Survey. It consists of two sets of parallel linear ditches with the two sets at an acute angle.

4. Results of field work

3. Ditch and bank SE 04705190

A ditch and bank is visible running slightly west of north to slightly east of south towards a small stream in the south of the field. There is a height difference of c. 0.4m between ditch and bank. The combined width of ditch and bank was c. 3m and they could be followed for c. 100m. To the north of the A65 is a stone wall on the same alignment.

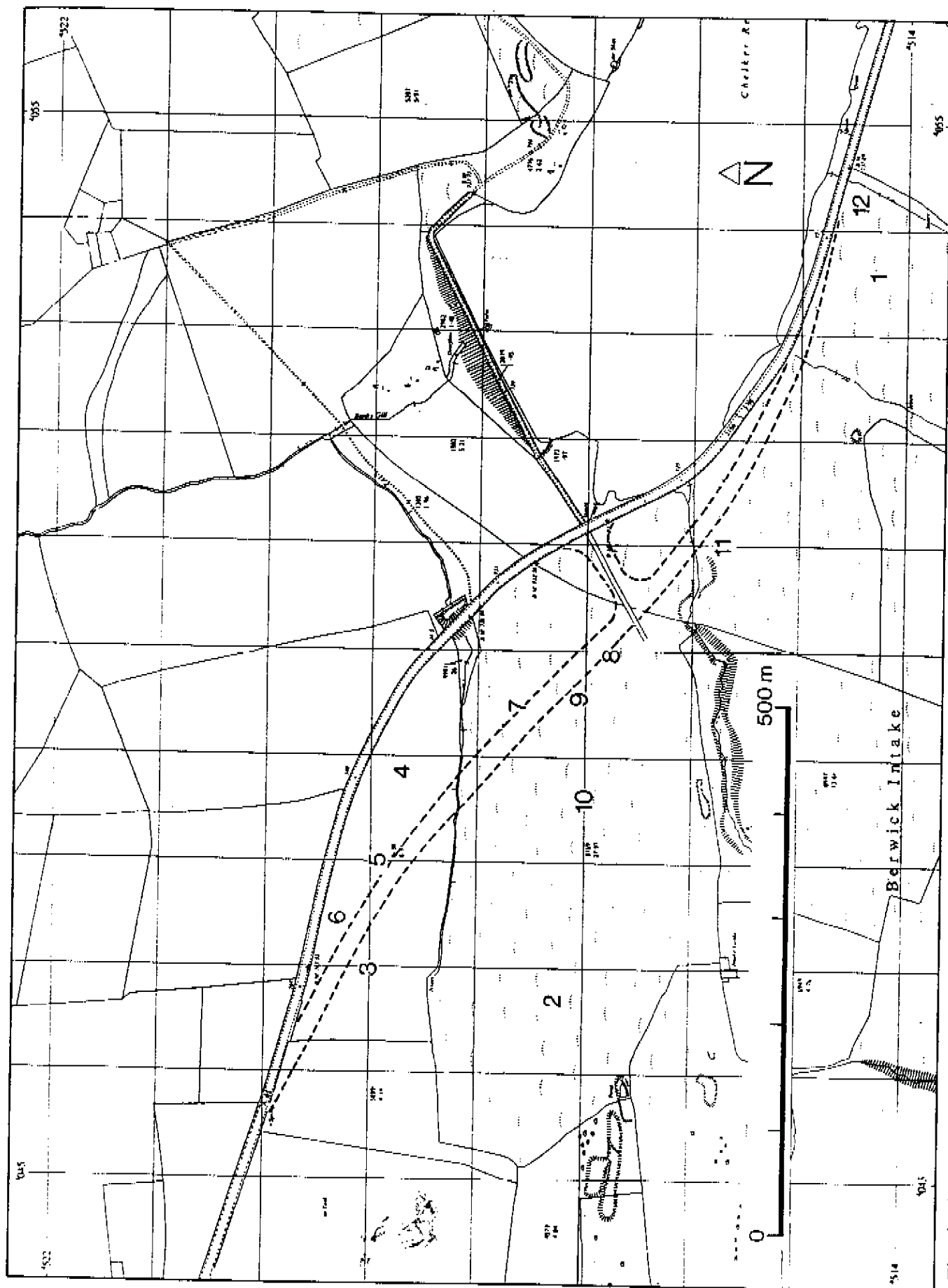


Fig. 1 Chelker Bends: Potential archaeological sites. The proposed road shown by dotted lines.
Scale 1:5000

4. **Ditch and bank SE 04895186**
A ditch and bank similar to 3 and parallel to it ran towards the stream in the south of the field. To the north of the A65 the continuation of this feature showed very clearly as a ditch and bank c. 1m to the west of the present wall.
5. **Medieval agriculture SE 04805190**
A system of ridge and furrow was enclosed by field boundaries 3 and 4. The axis was parallel to these boundaries. The ridge and furrow was not very pronounced with a rise and fall of c. 0.2m. It stopped c. 40m north of the stream that forms the southern boundary of the present field.
6. **Ditch and bank SE 04755193**
A curvilinear ditch and bank, c. 3m across, could be seen to the north of the A65 to run east-north-east to west-south-west, towards Berwick farm. South of the A65 this swung to run in a north to south direction and probably continued south into the adjacent field to be one of the cropmarks described above (2).
7. **Ditch and bank SE 04955176**
A c. 5m length of ditch and bank survives on the same alignment as 4.
8. **Ditch and bank SE 05005168**
A c. 5m length of ditch and bank surviving on the same alignment as 4 and 7. It was c. 60m from 7. The bank of this short section survived to a height of c. 0.5m.
9. **Relict field SE 04955170**
A relict field of a triangular shape was defined by slight negative lynchets on its northern and southern sides. The ploughing which had created these negative lynchets has also created an almost horizontal surface between them. The negative lynchets cut the ditch and bank represented by 7 and 8.
10. **Ditch and bank SE 04865170**
The negative lynchets of field 9 have cut this slight ditch and bank which was probably the continuation of 3.
11. **Ridge and furrow SE 05105157**
South of the small stream forming the northern boundary of this field was an area of less than c. 0.5ha of ridge and furrow. This runs parallel to the stream down a fairly steep slope. The distance from crest to crest of the ridges is c. 2m.
12. **Small quarry SE 05425146**
In the northeastern corner of this field is a possible quarry measuring c. 25m by c. 20m and c. 2m deep. Although this is grassed-over stones were scattered around the slopes. This post dates the ridge and furrow (1) which it seems to have cut.

5. Discussion

Ditch and bank represented by 4, 7 and 8, and ditch and bank represented by 3 and 10, were probably field boundaries. The ridge and furrow earthworks (5) which were parallel to these boundaries were probably contemporaneous with them and of probable medieval date. These boundary ditches predate the present dry stone walls of the area some of which are on the same alignment. In West Yorkshire it is possible that stone walls replaced hedges as boundaries in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (Faull and Moorehouse 1981, 663). The curvilinear ditch and bank (6) was on a different alignment and likely to be of a different period. Without excavation and more detailed surveying it is not possible to determine whether this field boundary was earlier or later than the relict field discussed above.

The area of ridge and furrow (1), which was c. 4m from crest to crest, was probably medieval. The possible quarry (12) could be of any later date. The narrow ridge and furrow (11) could have been caused by using a steam plough and date to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century.

This brief appraisal has identified areas of potential archaeological features within the proposed road corridor. Without the benefit of more detailed documentary or archaeological records for this area it is difficult to make reasonable judgment as to the significance of the potential archaeological features observed. In general the evidence points to features of an enclosed landscape, probably no earlier than medieval in date.

There may be grounds for carrying out more detailed survey work on some of the extant earthworks within the corridor although overall there would seem to be limited implications for the road scheme. The final decision will, however, lie with the North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record Office.

Acknowledgements

Documentary research, field work and report by Jamie Wright B.Sc., Field Officer
Figure by Andy Swann MAAIS, Senior Illustrator and Jon Prudoe, Illustrator

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