



Planning, Transport
and Environment

INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title Hole Moor Fieldwalking project	Details
Road Number	Date
Contractor NAA	
County N. Yorks	
OS Reference SE 37	
Single sided ✓ Double sided	
A3 1 Colour C	

HOWE MOOR FIELDWALKING PROJECT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

An intensive fieldwalking survey of two fields at Howe Moor was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates on behalf of Environmental Consultants Anthony Walker and Partners. The survey formed part of an archaeological assessment of the route corridor undertaken in advance of upgrading a 22km section of the A1 between Dishforth Interchange (SE 368 728) and Holtby Hall north of Leeming (SE 272 924) from a dual two lane carriageway to dual three lane motorway. The route corridor was approximately 50m wide and ran along the eastern side of the current A1.

2.0 LOCATION

The two fields which were surveyed were OS numbers 3800 and 4065 within the Civil Parish of Howe. The fields were situated between the derelict Bedale Hunt Inn (SE 344 791), and a farm called The Croft. The Croft was just under 1km further north at SE 340 800. Both fields lay within the fluvio-glacial deposits of the Vale of Mowbray on the east side of a low ridge dividing the catchment areas of the rivers Swale and Ure.

3.0 OBJECTIVE

The aims of the fieldwalking survey can be defined as follows

- i) to test for the presence of archaeological material associated with those features identified within the road construction corridor through the desk-top survey
- ii) to obtain evidence for the date of features identified within the road corridor through the desk-top survey, where appropriate
- iii) to test for the presence of archaeological material within the road construction corridor not predicted by the desk-top survey
- iv) to provide recommendations for geophysical survey and/or trial excavation as appropriate

Two sets of cropmarks had been identified outside the 50m route corridor, SMR 8274 was a possible prehistoric ring ditch at SE 3434 7956, and SMR 8266 were some irregularly shaped enclosures at SE 344 794.

The third site, further north and on the brow of a south facing slope, was identified as a ploughed down square earthwork. It was situated in the north west corner of field 4065 at SE 3415 7975, inside the 50m route corridor. During an initial walkover survey by Anthony Walker and Partners, a silver denarius of Trajan (98-117) was found inside the enclosure.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Fieldwalking by two surveyors took place in field 3800 during September 1993, and in field 4065 during October 1993. A numbered grid consisting of 10m squares had previously been laid out by surveyors from Anthony Walker and Partners. The survey area in field 3800 measured 210m long by 80m wide, and in field 4065 it measured 450m long by 80m wide.

Each square was carefully walked over for five minutes, and any finds were collected and placed in a plastic self-sealing bag annotated with the relevant grid reference. Weather conditions on both occasions were generally dull and still, with some interruptions of heavy rain showers which caused temporary ponding in field 4065.

After completion of the survey all finds were washed, and when dry placed into clean clearly marked self-sealing plastic bags. Find locations were plotted on a 1:2500 scale plan and tabulated following specialist identification.

5.0 RESULTS

Field 3800		Field 4065	
Flint	17	Flint	31
Roman pottery	3	Medieval pottery	7
Roman/medieval pottery	4	Slag	4
Slag	1	Tile fragments	2
		Glass droplet	1
		Lead fragment	1
TOTAL	25		46

Field 3800 produced a low density, random scatter of mainly flint artefacts and three definite Roman pottery sherds ranging in date from AD 1st century to 3rd century. No pottery was recovered from field 4065 which could positively be identified as being Roman. With the exception of a definite concentration of flints corresponding to the possible squared earthwork in field 4065, finds here also occurred at a low density and were generally randomly scattered. The flint concentration and the lack of Roman pottery may infer a prehistoric context for the earthwork rather than a Roman one as suggested by the coin recovered during the walkover survey.

In general the quantities of flint from both fields was low. Nevertheless the size of the assemblage and the range of tools was not dissimilar from that produced by fields surveyed in the Dishforth area on an adjacent section of the A1. In those cases the flint reflected scattered evidence for Neolithic activity in the form of small pit clusters apparently peripheral to the henges at Hutton Moor and as such were possibly part of a wider ritual Neolithic landscape.

The fieldwalking survey has thrown no light upon the possible nature and extent of the other cropmark sites located within field 4065 but outside the road corridor.

6.0 CONCLUSION

Previous experience would suggest that the area adjacent to the cropmark features identified in field 4065 should not be dismissed without some precautionary geophysical survey, and even if this is unrevealing a watching brief condition should be imposed during topsoil stripping. Certain types of archaeological remains, in particular pits and post holes below 1m in diameter are often not identifiable by geophysical survey and may not be reflected in surface finds scatters.

NAA 93/16

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Text: R. Fraser, J. Lee & F. Stevenson

Appendix 1

A1 Dishforth to North of Leeming: Howe Moor

Finds from Field 3800

Pottery

3F	1	abraded	Roman/medieval?	wall sherd jar or flagon
4H	1	abraded	Roman/medieval?	wall sherd
9F	1	abraded	Roman	rim sherd bowl probably 2nd or 3rd c. AD
15F	1	black surfaces	Roman	wall sherd jar
19D	2	abraded	Roman/medieval?	wall sherds
22B	1	abraded	Roman	flagon handle 1st-2nd c. AD

Slag

7A	1	iron slag?
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Flint

Summary: 8 tools, 9 flakes

2 scrapers
 1 barbed and tanged arrowhead
 3 retouched blades
 1 retouched flake
 1 core

	Tool	Flake
2E		1
3D	ret. blade	
3G	b+t arrowhead	
6E	ret. blade	
7B	ret. flake	
7H		1
14A	scraper	
14G		1
15D	core	1
15G		1
17D		1
17H		1
19D	ret. blade (broken)	
21B	thumbnail scraper	
22E		1

8

8

A1 Dishforth to North of Leeming: Howe Moor

Field 4065

Pottery

15G	1	int. white slip	post-medieval
23E	1	abraded	post-medieval?
24E	1	abraded	medieval?
30C	1	int. & ext. glaze	post-medieval
32A	1	base frag.	medieval
38E	1	abraded	medieval
38G	1	slip dec. red earthenware	post medieval
39H	1	abraded	medieval

8

Tile

10D	1	unglazed	medieval?
26C	1	abraded	post-medieval?

2

Flint

Summary: 10 tools, 21 flakes

3 scrapers

2 retouched blades

5 retouched flakes

	Tool	Flake	
3H		1	
12H		1	
17E	ret. flake		
22A	ret. flake	1	
23A	ret. flake		
25D	ret. flake		
30F		1	
34F	ret. blade		
35D		1	
37C		1	
37D	scraper	1	
38D		2	(burnt)
38F	scraper		
38H	scraper	1	
39B	ret. blade	1	
39F		1	(burnt)
39G		1	
39H		1	
40B		1	
40G		1	
41F		1	
41H		1	
44G	ret. flake		
45E		1	with cortex
45G		1	

10

20

Slag

4F	1	dk. glassy material
12G	1	glass droplet
12H	1	dk. glassy material
25F	1	dk. glassy material
45C	1	kiln furniture?

Lead

1D	1	heavily oxidised frag
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ORIGINAL AT A3

