
SEWER WATER OUTFALL, ASSOCIATED WITH
LAND AT DISHFORTH ROAD, BOROUGHBIDGE,
NORTH YORKSHIRE.

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL METAL DETECTOR
SURVEY
OSA REPORT No: OSA19EV02 METAL DETECTOR

February 2019

OSA

ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY LTD

25A Milton Street • York • North Yorkshire • YO10 3EP

telephone • 01904 411673 • fax • 01904 414522

e-mail • mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk

© *On-Site Archaeology, 2019.*

Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA19EV02

SITE NAME: Sewer water outfall, associated with land at Dishforth Road, Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 40050 67500

PLANNING REF NO: 15/04164/OUTMAJ and 18/01153/DISCO

ON BEHALF OF: Miller Homes
Lapwing House
Peel Avenue
Calder Park
Wakefield
WF2 7UA

TEXT: Tim Robinson

GRAPHICS: Kate Langley

FIELDWORK: Tim Robinson
Kate Langley

TIMING: Fieldwork
January
Post excavation & report preparation
January-February

ENQUIRIES TO: Nick Pearson, MCIfA (693)
On Site Archaeology
25A Milton Street
York
YO10 3EP

tel (01904) 411673

fax (01904) 414522

mobile (07767) 385766

e-mail mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk

Table of Contents.

1.0 Abstract	3
2.0 Site Location and Geology	4
3.0 Archaeological Background	5
4.0 Methodology	6
5.0 Results	7
6.0 Bibliography	9
7.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Recorded Finds	10

List of Figures.

Figure 1. Site location plan (SE 40050 67500)	4
Figure 2. Plan of distribution of metal objects	8

1.0 Abstract.

An archaeological metal detector survey was carried out by On-Site Archaeology Ltd. on agricultural land immediately to the north of the town of Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire. The survey was carried out on behalf of Miller Homes.

The survey recovered a total of 36 metallic objects all of which, based on a rapid visual inspection, were predominantly of modern or late post-medieval date. The position of each object was recorded on site using a RTK Lieca RX900 GPS.

2.0 Site Location and Geology.

The outfall route is located in agricultural and set aside land immediately to the east and southeast of the main development. It crosses an irregular shaped agricultural field north of the town of Boroughbridge on the east side of Dishforth Road (Figure 1). It is surrounded on two sides by agricultural land, to the south by a canal and to the west by the current development. It is cut through by the old railway embankment.

The underlying bedrock geology of the site comprises largely Late Permian and Mid-Triassic sandstone of the Sherwood Sandstone Group, beneath superficial deposits of Pleistocene silty clay of the Alne Glaciolacustrine Formation (British Geological Survey N.D.).

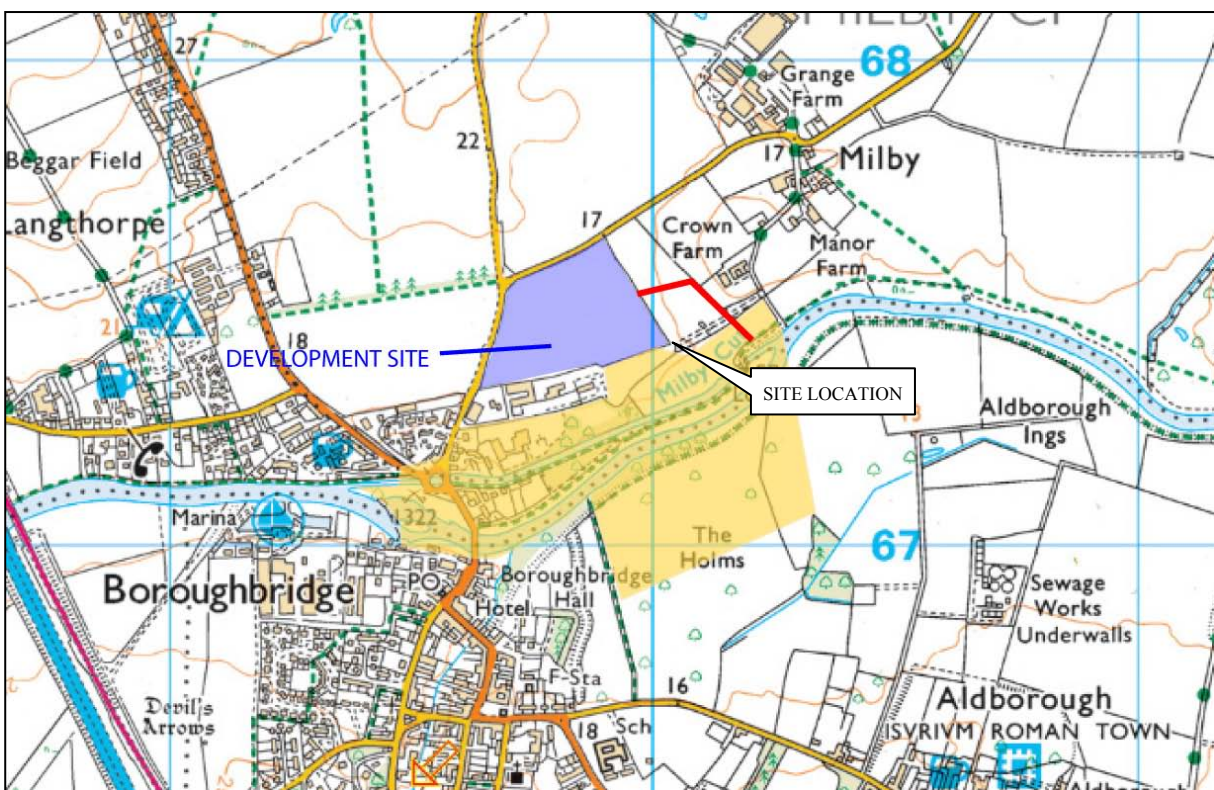


Figure 1. Site location plan (SE 40050 67500). Route of outfall in red relative to the Registered Battlefield site in yellow and the residential development site in blue.

Reproduced from the 2000 Ordnance Survey 1:25 000 maps with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
© Crown copyright. OSA Licence No: AL 52132A0001

3.0 Archaeological Background

The following are selected extracts from the desk-based assessment prepared by CgMs Consulting (Morse 2015). Not all periods are represented in this excerpt.

(4.7.2, p12) During the Roman period, the site lay c.450m west of Dere Street, a major Roman road from York to the Forth Estuary in Scotland. Within the Swale-Ure Washlands, civil settlements developed along Dere Street and around a number of military bases, notably at Aldborough c.1.2km to the south-east and at Catterick on the River Swale c. 35km to the north-west.

(4.7.4, p12) During the Roman period, the study site would have been located within the rural hinterland of the Roman forts and settlements. Overall, a low-nil potential is identified for sub-surface remains evidencing Roman settlement.

(4.8.4, p13) During the Medieval period the site lay c. 500m south-west of the settlement at Milby, and was part of the Open Fields of Milby. Cropmark evidence mapped by the National Mapping Programme indicates evidence of ploughed out ridge and furrow on a northwest to south-east and north-east to south-west alignment across part of the site. In the adjacent field to the east, the HER records ridge and furrow.

(4.8.5, p13) The Battle of Boroughbridge is a Registered Battlefield located immediately to the south of the site (Figure 1). On 16th March 1322, the Barons' rebellion, led by Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, was crushed at the Battle of Boroughbridge. It was a small but dramatic battle, and is recorded in graphic detail in contemporary accounts. The use of a defensive wall of spears and an offensive arrow storm foreshadowed the devastating success achieved years later against the French at Crecy. Older Ordnance Survey maps marked the battle site to the south of the bridge, but the location has subsequently been moved further north. The Battlefields Trust states that the present town has largely engulfed the battlefield, though the site can still be easily appreciated on the ground. The mapped area on the HER shows the fullest extent of the battlefield, and is larger than the Registered area.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 Survey technique.

After an initial walkover to establish the character of, and identify the relevant areas of the site, the metal detector survey was carried out over the course of four days with a team of two archaeologists. A systematic survey methodology was arranged. The site was divided into three segments to simplify walking transects within an irregular shaped field. Once the detectorist began a traverse the starting rod was moved across to provide a target for the return traverse. Each transect had a 2m separation, with an approximate 0.5m overlap.

4.2 Object collection.

When an audio tone returned the spot was marked with a plastic tag. The second team member then began to carefully trowel excavate the location of the response, whilst the detectorist surveyed the excavated columns of earth to quickly zero in on the object. Once found this was numbered sequentially and bagged, the earth and ploughsoil carefully reinstated, and the find spot marked with a flag for later GPS plotting. The detector was set to exclude iron objects as stipulated in the Written Scheme of Investigation, although some larger pieces of ferrous material still produced a signal. The finds from the survey were collected and catalogued. Their nature, likely date and composition were rapidly assessed.

4.3 Equipment and software.

The detector employed was a Bounty Hunter Tracker IV with manual sensitivity and discrimination modes. Finds spots were plotted using a non-cellular differential RTK GPS, in this case a Leica GPS900 (ATX900 antennas and RX900 roving controller) which afforded a nominal accuracy of 0.01m. The base station was initially located against a pre-defined survey station to establish a marriage with Ordnance Survey National Grid and with other development surveys; then from that a new job-specific station was established in the field for further work. AutoCAD 2009 was used for post-processing the survey data. Equipment was used by an appropriately experienced archaeological operative.

5.0 Results.

The survey recovered a total of 36 metal objects or fragments, most are likely to be of modern date. The results are shown in the table below.

Material	Total
Fe	26
Sn	9
Pb	1

The majority of objects were iron, followed by tin and lead; an outcome that is unsurprising given the historic land use south of site as a rail depot.

The distribution of finds is shown in Figure 2. Whilst no distinct distribution pattern is discernible, as a general trend the machine detected more objects within an area several metres wide that ran northwest across the field in alignment with the position of the tunnel under the rail line, perhaps indicating the route of a track. Additionally, more finds were present in the eastern lower half of the field than on the upper western slope. Many of the finds, in particular those of lead, were amorphous in character rather than the remains or fragments of completed objects. These may represent the remains of metalworking, or may be a by-product of the former goods line located to the south of site. The area on the south side of the rail line was covered extensively with concentrations of slag that had eroded off the rail line embankment.

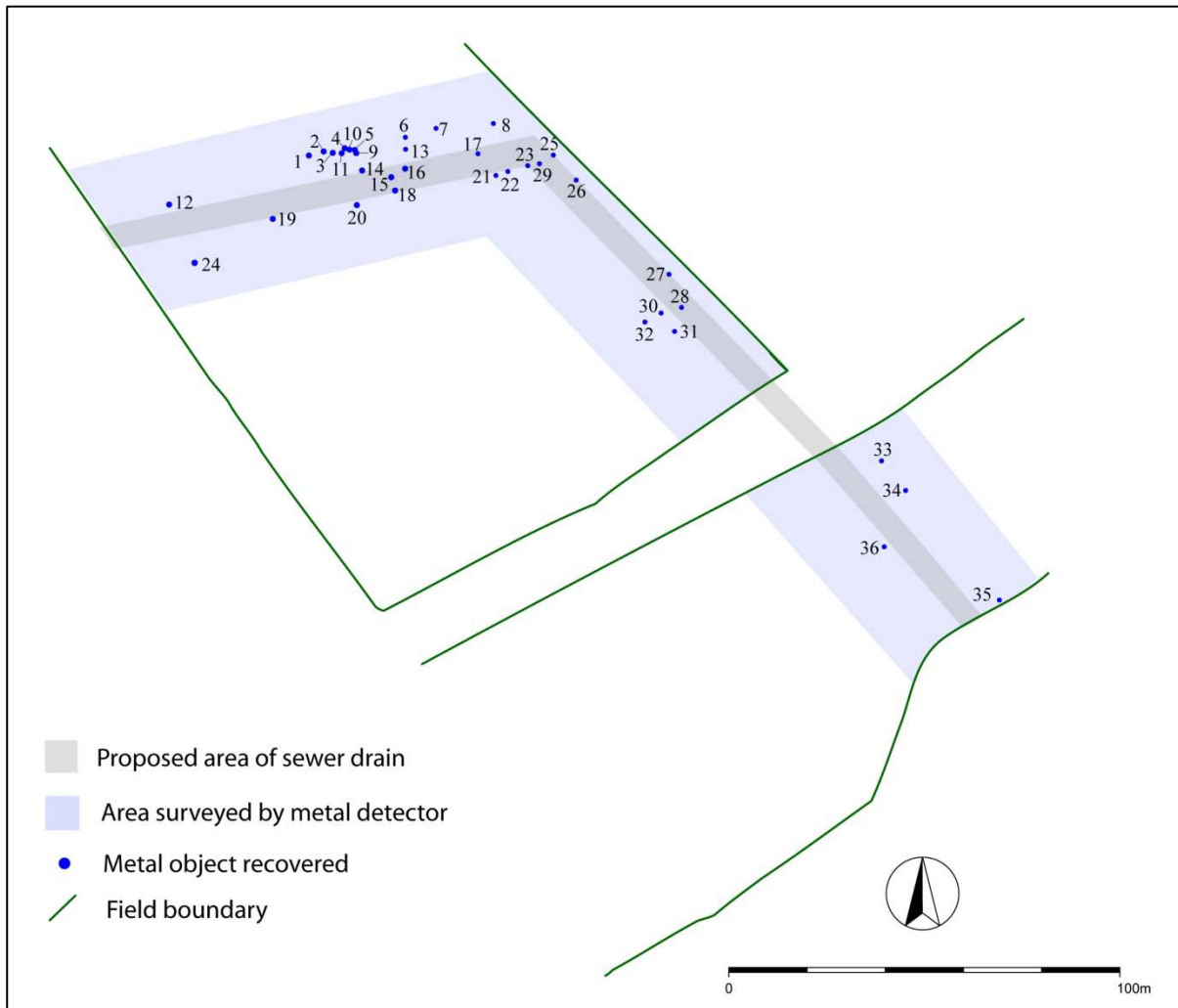


Figure 2. Plan of distribution of metal objects

6.0 Bibliography.

Morse, R. 2015. 'Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. Land Off Dishforth Road, Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire.' CgMs Consulting Report Number: PC/RM/19764.

On-Site Archaeology, January 2019. Sewer Water Outfall, Associated with Land at Dishforth Road, Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation (Geophysics and Metal Detector Survey) and Mitigation (Strip, Map, Record and Sample Excavation).

7.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Recorded Finds.

Object	Easting	Northing	Material	Description
1	440025.68	467538.05	Fe	Pin
2	440029.45	467539.10	Fe	Bolt
3	440031.79	467538.74	Fe	Bracket
4	440034.82	467539.93	Fe	Nail
5	440037.40	467539.49	Fe	Bolt
6	440050.31	467542.71	Sn	Fragment
7	440058.14	467545.00	Fe	Plate
8	440072.79	467546.23	Fe	Half Horseshoe
9	440037.77	467538.68	Sn	Horlicks lid
10	440036.03	467539.56	Sn	Lid
11	440034.05	467538.64	Fe	Fragment
12	439990.00	467525.54	Fe	Rod
13	440050.37	467539.65	Fe	Hinge
14	440039.27	467534.23	Sn	Snuff tin lid
15	440046.71	467532.53	Fe	Bracket
16	440050.27	467534.71	Pb	Fragment
17	440068.86	467538.50	Fe	Fragment
18	440047.71	467529.13	Sn	Advertising sign fragment
19	440016.47	467521.88	Fe	Bolt
20	440037.93	467525.41	Fe	Hinge?
21	440073.44	467532.97	Fe	Crane hook
22	440076.49	467533.98	Fe	Fragment
23	440081.55	467535.46	Fe	Plate
24	439996.51	467510.67	Fe	Fragment
25	440088.10	467538.17	Fe	Rod
26	440093.93	467531.80	Fe	Horseshoe fragment
27	440117.64	467507.74	Fe	Bolt
28	440120.84	467499.30	Fe	Plate
29	440084.56	467535.97	Fe	Bolt
30	440115.61	467497.86	Fe	Disc
31	440119.06	467493.17	Sn	Bucket/Pan fragment
32	440111.49	467495.57	Sn	Advertising sign fragment
33	440171.90	467460.11	Fe	Fragment
34	440178.06	467452.57	Sn	Gin bottle lid
35	440202.00	467424.60	Fe	Buckle?
36	440172.58	467438.20	Sn	Lid