
LAND TO THE SOUTHEAST OF THE A64,
SAND HUTTON,
NORTH YORKSHIRE.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
OSA REPORT No: OSA20DT05.

March 2020.

OSA

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Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA20DT05

SITE NAME: Land Southeast of the A64, Sand Hutton

COUNTY: North Yorkshire

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 6765 5880

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1.0 Abstract.

This Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared at the request of Westerleigh Group Limited to provide archaeological background information on a site at Sand Hutton, North Yorkshire.

The research undertaken in the preparation of this assessment has indicated that the site has a fairly low potential to contain archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman or medieval date. Although cropmark evidence records the presence of linear archaeological features there is evidence to suggest that these represent modern agricultural landuse. The proposed development is to comprise the construction of a new crematorium. It is likely therefore that the proposed development will require groundworks that would impact upon archaeological deposits if these are present.

Any decisions regarding the need for, and scale of, archaeological investigation of this site will be made by North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Services and the Local Planning Authority. To ascertain if archaeological deposits are present it would be necessary to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation to determine the exact nature of archaeological survival. Geophysical survey would be appropriate as the initial stage of investigation.



Figure 1. Site location (NGR SE 6765 5880).

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2.0 Introduction.

In March 2020 an archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken by *On Site Archaeology* on land Southeast of the A64, Sand Hutton, North Yorkshire. The study area is centred at approximately NGR SE 6765 5880 (Figure 1).

The study was undertaken to support a planning application for the construction of a crematorium.

The historical and archaeological significance of the study area was assessed using a variety of sources including cartographic evidence, the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER), the City of York HER, sources held by Historic England and published archaeological and historical reports.

3.0 Methodology.

The historical and archaeological significance of the study area was assessed using a variety of sources. These include cartographic evidence, records held at the North Yorkshire and City of York Historic Environment Record (HER) offices, the online archaeological catalogues held by The Archaeological Data Service and the Historic England Archive (Pastscape) and published archaeological and historical reports. The assistance of the staff at these records offices is greatly appreciated.

Archaeological and historical data has been collected over an area extending for a distance of 1000m from the centre of the site. Some significant sites which may have an influence on the archaeological potential of the site lie outside the 1000m search area. A selection of these have been included where they are appropriate and informative. Listed buildings have been

included where they lie within 1000m of the site. The locations of the collected data points are indicated on Figures 2.

A site visit was undertaken to enhance the understanding of the modern landuse of the site, especially with regards to its effect upon the archaeological record and to identify any potential archaeological feature. A photographic record was made of the site during this site visit, a selection of these photographs is used to illustrate this report (see Plates 1-5).

Site research notes are currently stored with On Site Archaeology.

4.0. Site Location, Landuse, Topography and Geology.

The study area considered by this report is located approximately 1.7km to the west of the village of Sand Hutton, North Yorkshire, and lies approximately 10km to the northeast of the centre of the city of York, centred at NGR SE 6765 5880. The site lies to the southeast of the A64, and north of the road to Sand Hutton.

The application site comprises a single approximately triangular agricultural field. This is a maximum of 400m long (southwest to northeast) by 220m wide at its widest point at the southern edge of site. The site is currently in arable landuse (Plates 1-3). It is bounded by a combination of mature hedges to the west and south, supplemented in places by timber post and rail fences, and by a mature plantation to the east.

The bedrock geology comprises Sandstone of the Sherwood Sandstone Group, overlain by sand of the Sutton Sand Formation. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk>).

5.0 Gazetteer of Sites and Artefacts.

The following sections list the sites and artefacts of archaeological or historical potential that are recorded in the various sources consulted. Some selected sites and monuments, located beyond the limits of the 1000m search area, are included, where these include implications for the archaeological potential of the site. Where possible the relevant HER (North Yorkshire or City of York Historic Environment Record) number is given, together with other bibliographic references where used. The locations of the recorded sites are plotted on Figure 2. The first sections deal with designated heritage assets (Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields and Listed Buildings), whilst the final section includes non-designated assets included within the Historic Environment Records.

5.1 *Scheduled Monuments*

No Scheduled Monuments are located within the 1000m search area. The closest comprise St Leonard's Church in Sand Hutton, 1.7km to the east (List Entry 10175775), the medieval moated quadrangular castle at Bossall Hall 4.2km to the northeast (List Entry 1008016) and the Roman minor town identified as Derwentio 5.5km to the southeast (List Entry 1416328).

5.2 *Registered Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens*

There are no Registered Battlefields or Registered Parks and Gardens within the vicinity of the site. The registered park of Howsham Hall lies just over 6.5km to the northeast. Stamford Bridge registered battlefield site lies approximately 5.5km to the southeast.

5.3 *Listed Buildings*

A total of 3 Listed Buildings are located within the vicinity of the site. The locations of these Listed Buildings are shown (in green) relative to the site, on Figure 2.

1 *Lobster Cottage, Lobster House. (List Entry Number: 1173295).*

Grade II. House of several builds, now 2 dwellings. C17 origins, largely rebuilt in C18. Brick in English bond, pantile roof, brick stacks. 2 ranges beneath M-shaped roof. C18 facade with C17 staircase turret incorporated into rear range. 2 storeys, 6 first floor windows with straight joints between second and third, and third and fourth windows. C20 half-glazed door beneath infilled overlight. 3 windows to left, 2 to right, all sashes with glazing bars beneath segmental arches and with 3-fielded-panel shutters. Two course first floor band. Sashes with glazing bars beneath brick arches above. Dentilled eaves course. Tumbled-in gable ends with stone coping and kneelers. End stacks and ridge stacks. Interior: staircase turret contains original staircase with late C17-early C18 splat balusters.

2 *Sandburn Cross in Grounds of Sandburn House approximately 100 metres North of The Tanglewood Inn. (List Entry Number: 1149135).*

Grade II. Boundary marker. 1677 inscription, possibly on an earlier cross shaft. Limestone. Square-section base approximately one metre square and 0.25 metres in height, supporting a square-section shaft approximately 0.50 metres square and 1.50 metres in height. Inscriptions to each face. To south: Ebor Monkward Stray. Mat Walls. Jo Blackburn. John Beforth. Edgoforth. Pasture Masters 1677. To east: This cross repaired in the year 1782 by Wm Bamburgh, John Dale, Jos Gorwood, Ricd Pearson. Pasture Masters. To west: This cross was blown down by the great wind on the 7th of January 1839 and replaced by her Grace the Duchess of Sutherland 1840. To north: Restored by John Hetherton in 1912. The ashes of John Hetherton who died Feb 14th 1937 aged 74 years lie around this stone (also recorded in the NYC HER as MNY17877).

3 *Milepost approximately 75 metres South of Hazelbush Café, A64. (List Entry Number: 1296014).*

Grade II. Milepost. Late C19. Made by Mattisons of Bedale. Cast iron. Triangular section with sloping upper face. Inscription. Left face: "Malton 12 miles" below pointing hand. Right face: "York 6 miles" below pointing hand. Reverse: Manufacturer's name.

In addition to the individual identified designated heritage assets within the search area several more are present within Sand Hutton village itself. The majority of the historic core of the village is a Conservation Area. The village lies approximately 1.7km to the east of the proposed development site and is visually separated from it by an extensive historic plantation.

5.4 Non-Designated Assets in NYCC and CYC HERs

The following section includes data on monuments and events obtained through a 1000m search of the North Yorkshire and City of York Historic Environment Records. Additional information has been obtained through a search of catalogues held by The Archaeological Data Service and the Historic England Archive (Pastscape). The data presented here has been allocated gazetteer number starting at 4 to avoid confusion with the Designated Heritage Assets data presented above. The locations of these data points included below are shown in yellow on Figure 2.

4 *Sandburn DMV. (CYC MYO143 and NYCC MNY17883).*

The HER records the presence of the Deserted Medieval Village of "Sandburn". Sandburn is mentioned in Domesday, although the number of households is not given. The location is approximate and has not been identified on the ground.

5 *Sandburn Mill (corn Mill) (CYC MYO2016).*

A mill is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. It was disused by the early 20th century and had been demolished before 1950.

6 *Ridge and furrow, Stockton on the Forest (CYC MYO2854).*

The HER records the presence of Broad, undated Ridge and furrow.

7 *Ridge and furrow, Stockton on the Forest (CYC MYO2864).*

The HER records the presence of Broad, undated Ridge and furrow.

8 *Aircraft Crash Site, Halifax, Serial number JN953 at Claxton Hall (MNY26947).*

On the 12th June 1944 a Halifax, Serial number JN953, crashed after the engine caught fire. This was whilst on a night training flight. The pilot, Flying Officer J. Martin, told the crew to bale out then he succeeded in crash landing at 00:35 hours. However, he received bad injuries, after which the aircraft later burnt out. One crew member was also injured in a rough landing.

9 *Polished stone axe (MNY17878).*

The HER records the discovery of a Neolithic polished stone axe. No information regarding the circumstance of recovery is included.

10 *Milepost on west side of A64, at Brown Hill (MNY36550).*

Unlisted 19th century Milepost on west side of A64 at Brown Hill. Side:- (Pointing hand) / MALTON / 11 / MILES. Side:- (Pointing hand) / YORK / 7 MILES. Milestone Society. 2006. Milestone Society Data. MSS ID 586.

11 *Sand Hutton Light Railway (MNY37548).*

The Sand Hutton Light Railway was constructed in 1920 and demolished in 1932. It served part of the Sand Hutton estate, with lines from Warthill station to the village of Scrayingham and was mainly used for freight transportation.

12 *Cropmark (Pastscape Monument Reference 1165854).*

Two parallel ditches were seen as cropmarks on air photographs. The ditches are widely spaced (20m apart, centre at SE6765 5880). The longer of the two ditches runs for c. 200m from southwest to northeast, parallel to the existing course of the A64. It is unclear if this represents an earlier course of the York to Malton road, prior to the turnpiking of the road in 1752 (MacMahon, 1964), or an earlier feature. It is also possible that it reflects more recent agricultural practice (see Plates 4 and 5 and section 8 below). (The alignment of the ditches shown on Figure 2 as two blue lines is transcribed from National Mapping Programme data held by the NYCC HER).

13 *Historic Landscape Characterisation. (HNY6946).*

The HLC indicates that the site lies within an area described as modern improved fields which consists of large irregular fields defined externally by erratic drains. This area has

fragmentary due to the high degree of boundary loss since the first edition OS and was previously planned.

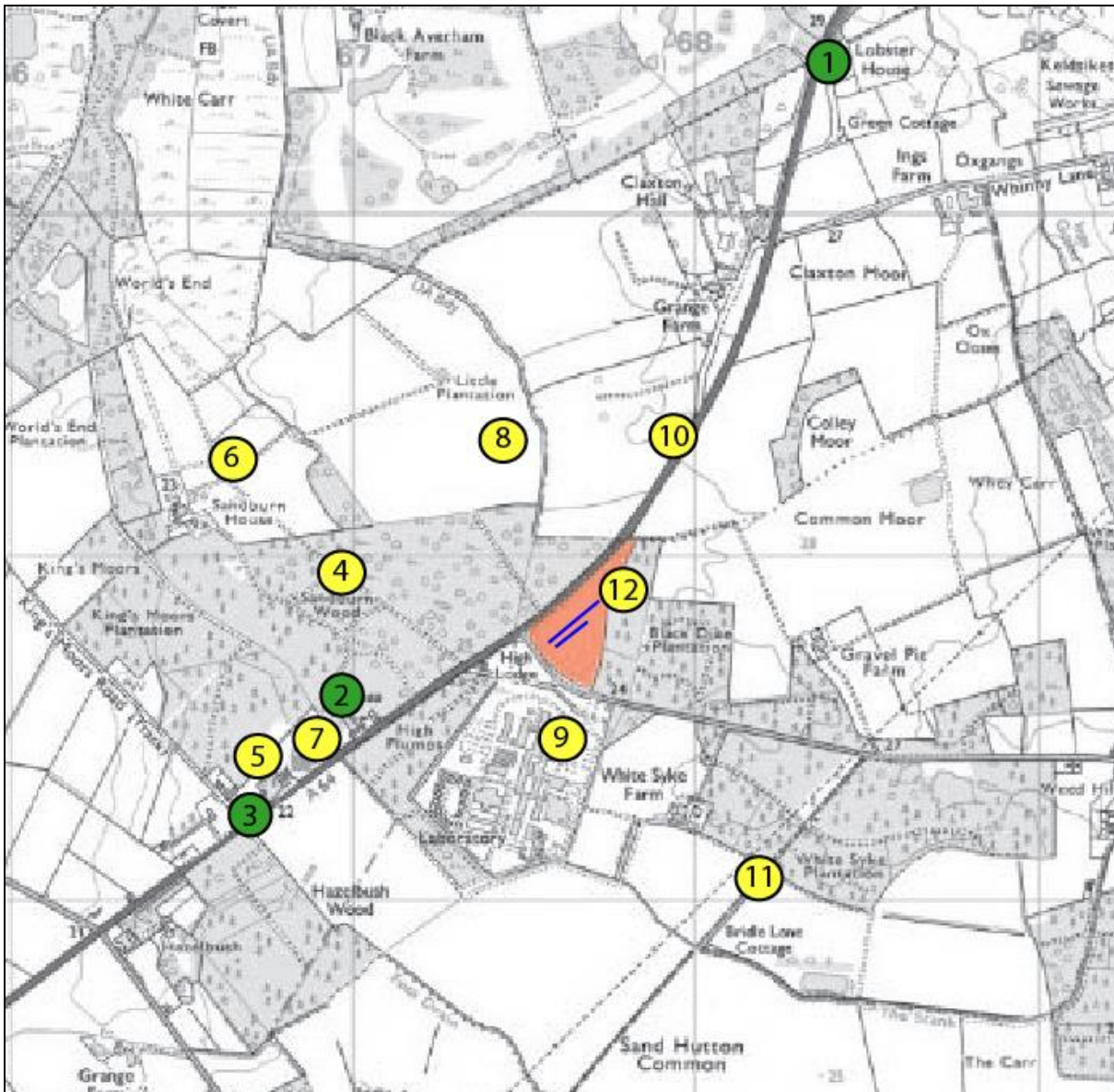


Figure 2. Locations of Listed Buildings (in green) and Non-designated assets (in yellow). Site in red.

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6.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.

6.1 *The Prehistoric Period (to the 1st Century AD)*

The search area only contains a single reference to this period. This comprises the single Neolithic stone polished axe retrieved from White Syke Farm to the south of the site (9). As no other details are available regarding the circumstance of discovery, or to suggest that this forms part of a more extensive area of Neolithic archaeology.

6.2 *The Roman Period (1st to the 5th centuries AD)*

The search area does not contain any clear evidence for Roman period activity. The possible course of a Roman road was depicted by John Warburton in 1722 on his map of Yorkshire (see Figure 3) some distance to the north of the site. Warburton showed what were believed to be Roman roads in the early 18th century but clearly a degree of caution is required with that interpretation.

The absence of detailed archaeological data for this period in the area is to some extent a result of limited opportunities for excavation. However, several linear development schemes have been carried out in this area of the county that have encountered Roman settlement remains. The Harton to Hildenley water pipeline to the northeast of the site recorded Iron Age field systems that were followed by Roman structures including pottery kilns (NAA, 1999). Harton to Elvington water pipeline, which was located to the east and south of the site, revealed further evidence for Romano-British settlement at Kexby (OSA, 1998). The BP Teeside to Saltend Ethylene Pipeline (TSEP) did not reveal any archaeology in the immediate vicinity of the site, but approximately 5km to the north- northwest to the south of the village of West Lilling a previously unknown Roman villa was recorded (OSA, n.d.). This was predominantly dated to the late Roman period. The site lies approximately 5.5km to the northwest of the Roman small town of *Derventio*, identified at Stamford Bridge, and 9km to the northeast of the major Roman fortress and city of York (*Eboracum*). It is therefore reasonable to anticipate that the site lies within the agricultural hinterland of these two larger Roman settlements.

6.3 *Early Medieval periods (5th to 11th centuries AD)*

The search area does not contain any data for this period. The Domesday reference to Sandburn (*Sanbura*) suggests that three carucates (a medieval measure of arable land) were held by the canons of York under The Confessor (King between 1042 and 1066) (VCH, 1923). This would seem to indicate that the area was at least partially utilised for agricultural production before the Norman Conquest. In 1807 an early medieval hoard, contained in a lead box and including a Scandinavian armlet was discovered close to Lobster House to the north of the search area.

6.4 *The Medieval Period (11th to the mid 16th centuries AD)*

As discussed above Sandburn is recorded in the Domesday Book, as was Sand Hutton, where seven carucates were held by Hugh, son of Baldric. (VCH, 1923). Both the North Yorkshire and City of York HERs contain references to the Deserted Medieval Village of Sandburn (4), but there is no clear indication of its location. There is no sign of the village on the 1720 Warburton map of Yorkshire (see below), but presumably the Sandburn Mill (5) was located in the vicinity of the settlement and it lay on the western side of the A64, within Sandburn Wood. Sand Hutton church is of mid 19th century date but it replaced an earlier, medieval church. The remains of the 12th century church dedicated to St. Leonard survive as ruins within the churchyard of the current church and are Scheduled. Other entries in the search area relate to areas of ridge and furrow field systems (6 and 7). Although no ridge and furrow is recorded on the site itself this is likely to be at least partially due to subsequent landuse, when extensive timber plantations were laid out (see below). Alternatively, the site may have been located on part of the uncultivated common land between the villages of Stockton on the Forest, Sand Hutton and Strensall (see Figure 4 below).

6.5 *The Post-Medieval to Modern Periods (mid 16th to 21st centuries)*

As with the medieval period the majority of the site is likely to have been occupied by agricultural or common land during the post-medieval period. The cartographic sources (see below) confirm this undeveloped character of the site. Bossall Enclosure award dates from 1806, which includes Sand Hutton common. From the 19th century the more detailed Ordnance Survey maps illustrate the post-enclosure layout. In the mid 19th century the site formed part of the larger Black Dike Plantation, although it was cleared of trees by the early 20th century. The site appears to have remained in arable use since the clearance, but the plantation survives to the east.

7.0 Cartographic Evidence.

The earliest map illustrated in this assessment dates from the early 18th century. The 1720 map produced by Warburton (Figure 3) gives no detail for the site or for the topography of the village of Sand Hutton to the east. The site can be approximately located alongside the main road from York to Malton. This map has also been included as Warburton illustrated the lines of what, at that time, were believed to be the courses of Roman roads. The straight, discontinuous parallel lines visible to the northeast of the site appear to represent the line of a Roman road heading northwest from Stamford Bridge (Derwentio).



Figure 3. Extract from the 1720 Warburton map (approximate location of the site in red).

The 1772 map produced by Thomas Jefferys (Figure 4), also shows no detail for the site itself. It does show the basic road pattern in the vicinity, including the line of the lane linking the village of Sand Hutton to the main turnpike road. This allows the site to be relatively accurately located. The site lies within the northern part of Stockton Moor. A much greater level of detail is provided by the Ordnance Survey maps dating from the middle of the 19th century to the present day. On the First Edition map, dated 1854 (Figure 5) the site can be accurately located due to the existence by that date of several the boundaries that still form the limits of the site to the present day. The site was entirely occupied by part of the much more extensive Black Dike Plantation.

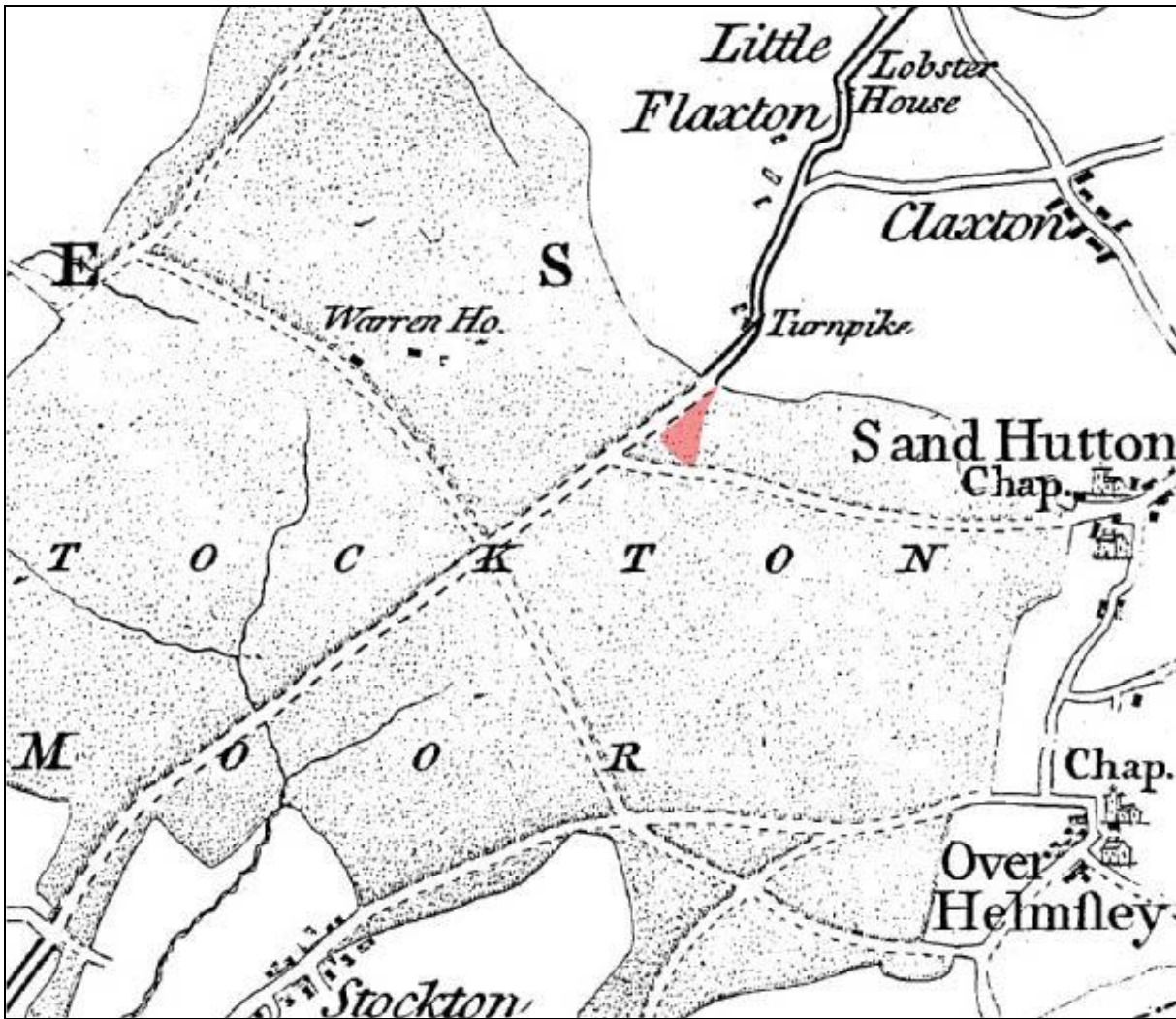


Figure 4. Extract from the map produced by Thomas Jefferys in 1772 (approximate location of site in red).



Figure 5. Extract from the 1851 Ordnance Survey map

By the early 20th century the part of the Black Dike Plantation occupied by the site has been cleared of trees to form the agricultural field that is recognisable to the modern day, as

illustrated by the Ordnance Survey maps of 1912 (Figure 6) and 1950 (Figure 7). The only other change to the layout of the site since the 1950s has been the alteration of the line of the lane to the south to form the modern southern boundary. This was associated with the construction of the Central Science Laboratory (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, now the National Agri-Food Innovation Campus) from 1993.



Figure 6. Extract from the 1912 Ordnance Survey map

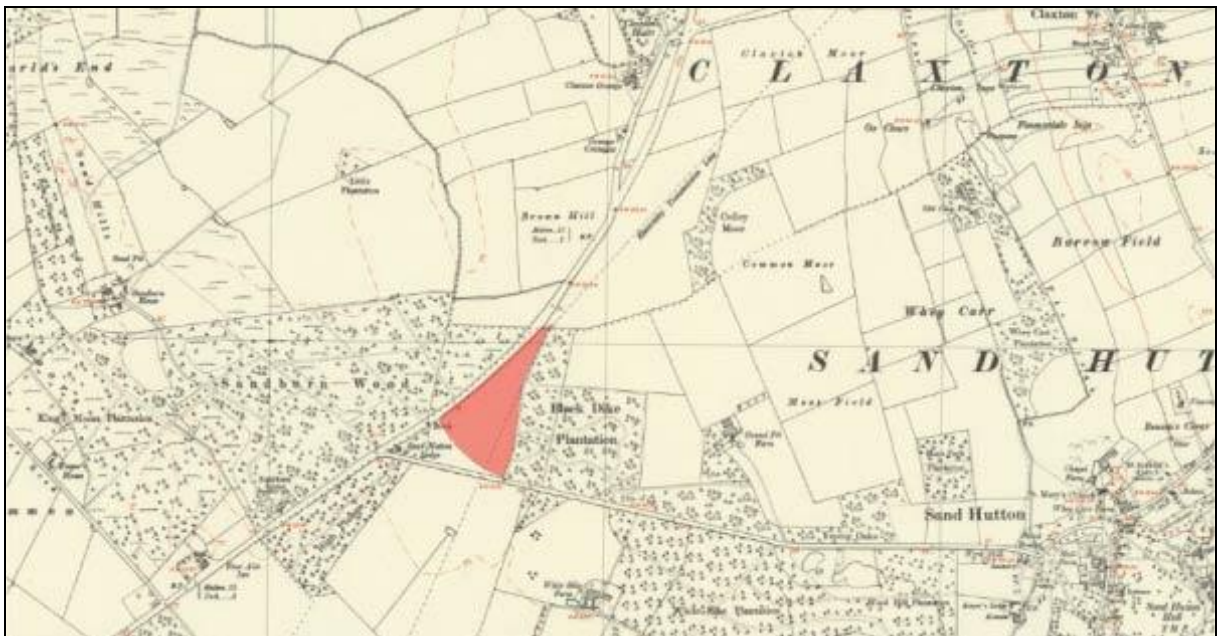


Figure 7. Extract from the 1950 Ordnance Survey map.

8.0 Discussion and Archaeological Implications.

The research undertaken in the preparation of this assessment has indicated that the potential for archaeological remains of late prehistoric or Roman date to be present on the site is considered to be low to moderate. However, the lack of recent archaeological investigations in the vicinity make it difficult to assess the archaeological potential of the site itself with certainty. The postulated line of the Roman road in the vicinity must be viewed with a degree of caution as this has not been tested through intrusive investigation. There is no obvious indication of settlement or field systems on the site. However, the site does lie within a broader landscape, which has been shown to contain such remains, predominantly through cropmarks but also in a number of instances through detailed archaeological excavation.

During the medieval period the site is likely to have lain beyond the limits of the local settlements of Sand Hutton and Sandburn. The uncertainty regarding the location of Sandburn village means that there is a slight possibility that it extended onto the site, although it was probably located further to the west, within Sandburn Wood.

The National Mapping Programme recorded a pair of linear cropmarks within the boundaries of the site (12). These have been assumed to potentially form an archaeological trackway, or boundary. On the basis of cropmarks and interventions along pipeline projects in this area of Ryedale these features appear to form part of the late Prehistoric or Romano-British agricultural landscape. However, the cropmark features are parallel with the A64 to the west and also reflect the predominant direction of ploughing during the modern arable landuse of the site. Examination of the field during a site visit on 11th March 2020 identified surface linear trends, almost certainly reflecting tractor tramlines, in the locations of the recorded cropmarks (Plates 4 and 5). It is therefore considered by the author that these recorded cropmarks may represent modern agricultural features rather than buried archaeological ditches.

Although details of the proposed development are not currently available it is likely to require groundworks that would impact upon archaeological deposits if these are present. As the site has been in arable landuse in the recent (and probably the historic) past if archaeological remains are present they are likely to be limited to features cut into the underlying natural sand, such as ditches. The site is unlikely to contain any surviving horizontal stratigraphy. Any decisions regarding the need for, and scale of, archaeological investigation of this site will be made by North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Services and the Local Planning Authority. If archaeological investigation is required, then geophysical survey would be an appropriate initial method to be employed.

9.0 Bibliography.

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10.0 The Plates.



Plate 1. General view of site looking north.



Plate 2. General view of site looking east.



Plate 3. General view of site looking south.



Plate 4. Agricultural tramlines looking southwest.



Plate 5. Agricultural tramlines looking northeast.