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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
WYAS

**Steeton Hall
South Milford
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Strip and Record

Report No. 1693

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Mr C. Wright

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Steeton Hall
South Milford
North Yorkshire

Archaeological Strip and Record

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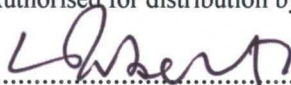
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Summary

A small 20m by 20m strip and record exercise on land to the rear of 10 Steeton Way, was carried out during the creation of a horse arena. The work, within part of the Scheduled area of Steeton Hall, did not reveal any archaeological remains.

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Archaeological Services WYAS

PO Box 30, Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 0UG

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Mr C. Wright to conduct an archaeological investigation during the creation of part of a proposed horse riding arena where construction works had potential to impact upon archaeological remains.
- 1.2 The site lies to the rear of 10 Steeton Way immediately to the west of South Milford (SE4 836 3142; Fig. 1) on undulating pasture the falls away towards the east. The underlying geology is mapped as upper Magnesian Limestone (British Geological Survey 1978) with well drained calcareous, fine loamy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

2. Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The area of the proposed horse riding arena falls within the Scheduled Area of Steeton Hall, a medieval magnate's residence (Monument No. 28240). The hall itself has not been fully documented and has been successively added to and altered over the centuries the oldest parts of which seem to be early 14th century in date with documentary evidence of a renewed licence for a chapel in 1342 (Pevsner 1959). The intact gatehouse is dateable by its architecture and heraldry from the mid to late 14th century (Kitson 1910; Pevsner 1959). The majority of the buildings within the precinct are listed Grade I or II including the standing remains of the enclosing wall.
- 2.2 The area in question was part of a 1.5 hectare area subject to geophysical (magnetometer) survey (Schofield and Webb 2004). The survey revealed parallel intermittent linear anomalies which might represent a former ditched trackway running north-south, with signs of ridge and furrow running east-west. Aerial photography has revealed cropmarks of enclosures and field systems, probably of late Iron Age or Romano-British origin, within 500m to the north and south-east of the site. The area subject to investigation, however, showed little evidence of buried features.

3. Method

- 3.1 The 45m by 20m east-west aligned horse arena was to be situated about 100m to the south-west of Steeton Hall in an area of pasture occupied by horses. The excavation area lay at the northern edge of this field on ground that fell away gradually to the east (Fig. 2). The construction consequently took the form of a cut and fill operation, whereby material was excavated from the western part of the site and used to build up the eastern part of the site. Such was the land profile that only the western 20m of the site was to be subject to the 'cut' process, and it was this area that was subject to archaeological investigation.
- 3.2 Topsoil and part of the subsoil was removed from a square 20m by 20m area at the western end of the site by a machine fitted with a smooth blade under direct archaeological supervision. The resultant surface and sections were inspected for the presence of archaeological remains. A written and photographic record was produced for the excavated area.

- 3.3 The site archive contains all the information gathered during the investigations and is indexed in Appendix I and an inventory of finds is listed in Appendix II. The work was carried out under the conditions of the consent granted by the Department for Culture Media and Sport (HSD 9/2/8674) and in accordance with a method statement agreed with English Heritage and the North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit (Appendix III).

4. Results

- 4.1 The depth of the cut was 0.6m at the western end of the site, reducing to nothing at the eastern end of the investigated area. The stratigraphy consisted of approximately 0.15m of dark brown silt topsoil overlying 0.35m of mid orange-brown silty subsoil.
- 4.2 The natural geology within the stripped area varied from patches of Magnesian Limestone to reddish clay and a light yellowish sandy silt.
- 4.3 No archaeological remains were observed within the investigated area.

5. Artefact Record

- 5.1 A total of seven items were recovered from the topsoil (see Appendix II). All of these seemed to be the product of the scattered deposition of post-medieval waste, probably when the fields were under cultivation, rather than being indicative of former occupation or other localised activity in the area. The items have little to offer in a greater understanding of the site generally and to date have not been subject to specialist analysis.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The area investigated at Steeton Hall did not reveal any archaeological features or deposits. The potential linear features identified by the geophysical survey lie further east in the area of 'fill' and so were not encountered in the course of the works. The lack of archaeological evidence within the excavated area corresponds with an absence of anomalies in geophysical data and would suggest this part of the site has always been in agricultural use.

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Acknowledgements

Project management

Ian Roberts BSc FSA MIFA

Report

Marina Rose BSc

Fieldwork

Marina Rose BSc

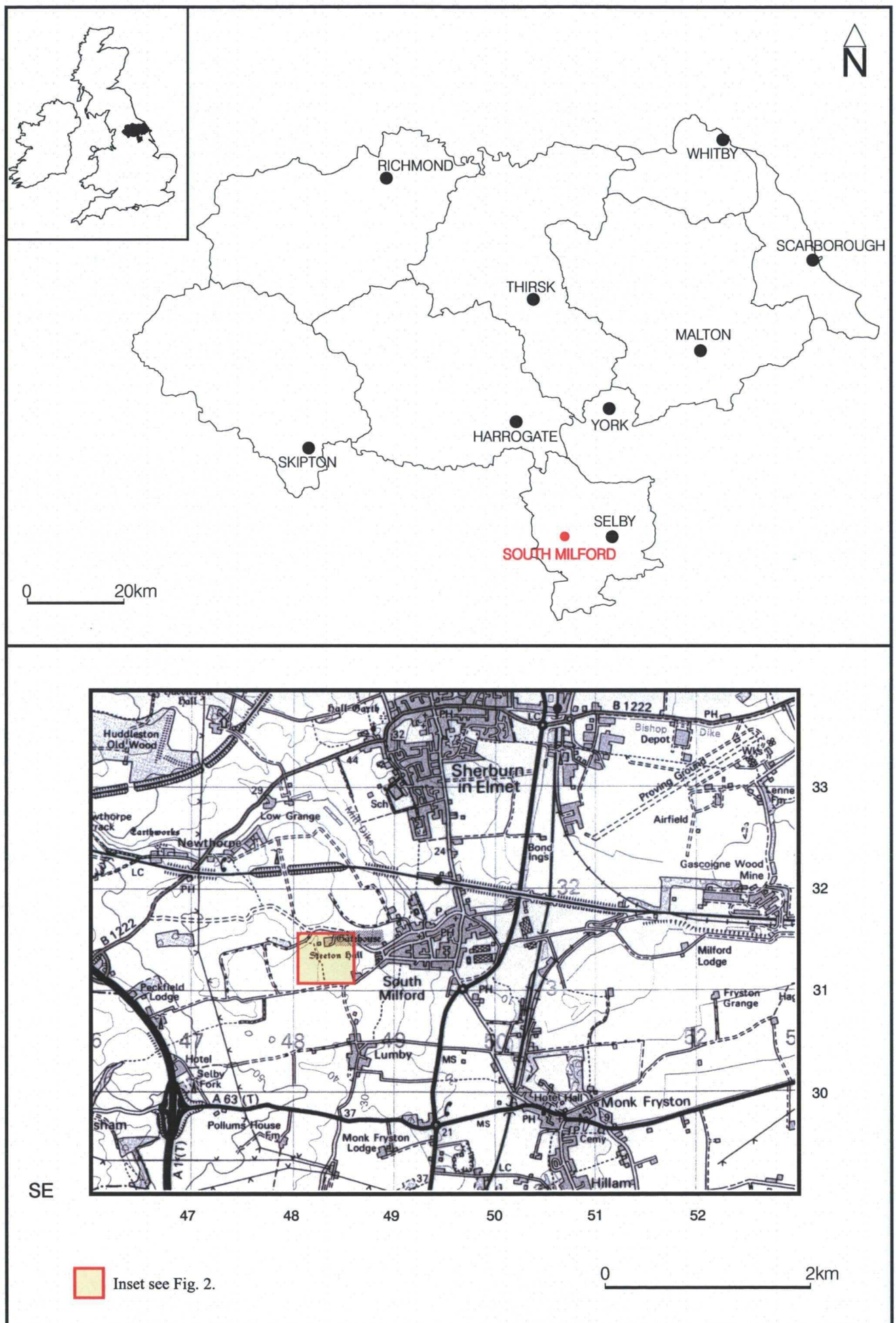


Fig. 1. Site location

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Fig. 2. Excavation location showing greyscale magnetometer data and proposed arena (1:2000 @ A4)

Appendix I**Inventory of primary archive**

File no.	Description	Quantity
1	Trench record sheet	1
1	Watching brief daily monitoring form	2
1	Digital photograph record sheet (Download 0195)	1
1	Digital images on CD (Download 0195)	1
1	Annotated site plans	2

Appendix II**Inventory of artefacts**

Fabric	Context	Quantity	Details
Roof tile	Topsoil	3	Ceramic
Pottery	Topsoil	1	Body sherd of post-medieval stoneware vessel
Slag	Topsoil	3	

Appendix III

Archaeological Investigation: method statement

Land at Steeton Hall, South Milford, North Yorkshire

Archaeological Investigation

Method Statement

1. Introduction
 - 1.1 This method statement is prepared at the instruction of Mr Andrew Howcroft (planning consultant) on behalf of his client Mr Chris Wright. The document describes the means by which the archaeological mitigation works required by English Heritage will be carried out, either in advance of or during the construction of a new horse riding arena to the rear of No. 10 Steeton Way. The site lies immediately to the west of South Milford (SE4836 3142) on undulating pasture that falls gradually away towards the east. The underlying geology is Magnesian Limestone and the soils are described as well-drained, calcareous, fine and loamy.
2. Archaeological Background
 - 2.1 The area of the proposed horse riding arena falls within the Scheduled Area of Steeton Hall, a medieval magnate's residence thought to date the 14th century (Monument No. 28240). The area in question was part of a 1.5 hectare area subject to geophysical (magnetometer) survey (Schofield and Webb 2004). The survey revealed parallel intermittent linear anomalies which might represent a former ditched trackway running north-south, with signs of ridge and furrow running east-west. Aerial photography has revealed cropmarks of enclosures and field systems, probably of late Iron Age or Romano-British origin, within 500m to the north and south-east of the site.
3. Impact of Development
 - 3.1 The proposed location of the riding arena lies in an area that contains an area of geophysical disturbance (?ferrous material) at its eastern end and the area at the northern end of the possible ditched trackway. As the land falls away to the east, only the western two fifths of the arena area will be excavated out, the remainder being made up to create a level area. This equates to an area of disturbance of 20m by 20m, which will be the subject of a strip and record archaeological investigation.
4. Excavation Method
 - 4.1 An archaeological supervisor shall supervise topsoil removal in the 20m by 20m area down to archaeological or natural deposits, the stripping being carried out by a machine equipped with a smooth ditching bucket. Once

stripped all potential archaeological deposits and features within the area will be planned, either electronically and/or at an appropriate drawn scale (1:20 or 1:50).

- 4.2 Typically, linear features, such as ditches, would be excavated as a percentage of their length (usually between 10-20%). Discrete features such as pits and post-holes would receive between 50-100% sampling, whilst special features such as burials, hearths, structures and areas of complex archaeological remains will receive 100% excavation. All archaeological deposits will be fully recorded using Archaeological Service WYASs context record system. A 35mm photographic record in colour and black and white will be made of the work. Registers of all context records, plans, sections and photographs will be maintained. Evidence will take the form of colour, form and textual descriptions of archaeological features and deposits, drawings showing dimensions and depths and the nature of fills and layers, as well as the spatial arrangements of features with respect to one another across the site.

5. Analysis and Reporting

- 5.1 Recovered artefacts will be appropriately packaged and stored. They shall be subject to specialist assessment to ascertain their significance and requirement for further analysis and conservation. A strategy of palaeo-environmental sampling will be undertaken during any excavation work. Samples shall be stored appropriately until assessed for organic preservation and potential for further analysis.
- 5.2 Upon completion of the excavation work an archive of primary records shall be compiled. All finds and samples shall be assessed for analysis on the basis of their provenance and their potential for enhancing the understanding of the site. A programme of post-excavation work, including analysis and reporting shall be devised in consultation with English Heritage, culminating with the production of a report.
- 5.3 The archive, including all records and finds, shall be deposited with an appropriate museum, subject to the transfer of title by the landowner.

Reference

Schofield, T. and Webb, A., 2004, 'Land at Steeton Hall, South Milford, Near Selby, North Yorkshire: Geophysical Survey', ASWYAS Rep. 1216