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Land at Close Farm, near Northallerton North Yorkshire

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment September 2008

Report No. 1863

CLIENT

Arcus Renewable Energy Consulting Limited

Land at Close Farm, near Northallerton, North Yorkshire

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

Summary

An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment was undertaken on land at Close Farm, near Northallerton, North Yorkshire. The remains of three possible Bronze Age barrows have been recorded within the study area and a Roman Road runs through the west of the proposed development site. The remains of a deserted medieval settlement are located to the east of the proposed development site. The cartographic evidence indicates that the proposed development site has been in agricultural use throughout the post-medieval period and the present field boundaries were established from the early 18th century. The proposed development site contains a number of buildings which date to the late 18th to 19th century.



Report Information

Client:

Arcus Renewable Energy Consulting Limited

Address:

Suite 2F, Swinegate Court East, 3 Swinegate, York, YO1 8AJ

Report Type:

Desk-based Assessment

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North Yorkshire

Grid Reference:

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Report Number:

1863

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Project Management:

Mitchell Pollington BA MA

Report:

Alexandra Grassam MSc

Illustrations:

Mitchell Pollington and Alexandra Grassam

Photography:

Mitchell Pollington

Research:

Mitchell Pollington and Alexandra Grassam

Produced by:

Archaeological Services WYAS, PO Box 30,

Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 0UG

Telephone: 0113 383 7500 Email: admin@aswyas.com

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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Arcus Renewable Energy Consulting Limited to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Close Farm, near Northallerton, North Yorkshire. The assessment was undertaken in advance of a proposed development on the site.

The proposed development site is located approximately 1.5km to the north-east of Northallerton, close to the eastern edge of the Vale of York, centred at SE 399 955 (Figs 1 and 2). The northern boundary of the site is defined by the line of the A684, and its south-western side by Banks Road. Three farms lie within the site; Winton Manor Farm to the north, Close Farm to the west and Stank Farm to the south-west.

The site consists of approximately 198 hectares of largely arable land, together with an area of mixed woodland known as Fox Covert (Plates 1 to 4). The site comprises undulating hills varying in height between about 100m and 110m above OD, sloping more steeply down to about 80m above OD on its northern side, cut by a number of small streams.

The study area comprises all the land within 1km of the boundary of the proposed development site.

Geology and soils

The underlying solid geology within the study area comprises Triassic Mudstones to the west and Jurrasic Lower Lias formations to the east (BGS 2001). The overlying soils vary across the study area. The western and northern parts comprise reddish glaciolacustrine drift and till, and carboniferous and Jurassic clay and shale. The soils on the eastern and north-eastern side comprise till from Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sandstone and shale (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1980).

2 Methodology and Sources

The following sources of information have been consulted in order to meet the requirements of the desk-based assessment and are in line with guidelines laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001).

Archaeological archives and databases

Information on previous archaeological finds and investigations within the study area was consulted in the North Yorkshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER), Northallerton, and from the Archaeology Data Service website (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk). The North Yorkshire County Record Office (NYCRO), Northallerton, and York Central Library were consulted for historic maps and plans, antiquarian histories and other relevant documentary sources.

Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments

Details of Listed Buildings were obtained from the North Yorkshire County Council HER and English Heritage's 'Images of England' website (www.imagesofengland.org.uk). Information on Scheduled Monuments was obtained from the North Yorkshire HER and the government's 'MAGIC' website (www.magic.gov.uk).

Published and unpublished sources

A range of published and unpublished material has been researched and consulted. This includes academic articles together with general sources on the area and its wider archaeological and historical background. These are listed in the bibliography.

Geological and soil surveys

Information on the underlying geology and soils within the study area was taken from data collected by the British Geological Survey (2001) and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (1980).

Walkover survey

A walkover survey was undertaken on the 4th June 2008, in order to assess the survival of previously recorded and documented features, to identify any further archaeological sites visible on the ground and to determine the potential for any future archaeological investigations.

3 The Study Area

Identified archaeological sites, buildings and features

A total of 48 archaeological sites, features and historic buildings have been identified within the study area. These sites are discussed below and have been catalogued in Section 4.

Designated sites and areas

The study area contains two Scheduled Monuments (36 and 42) and three Listed Buildings (A to C).

Previous archaeological investigations

In 2004 and 2005, Archaeological Services University of Durham, carried out a series of archaeological investigations as part of the Brompton, Northallerton, Romanby Flood Alleviation Scheme around Ing Beck (4) and Winton Beck (11, 12 and 20). This work produced evidence of a possible Roman roadside settlement, as well as identifying the remains of trackways, ditches and medieval ridge and furrow (Hale 2004; Adamson and Hale 2005; Hale 2005).

In 2002, Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA) carried out a watching brief at the site of Winton medieval settlement (**38**; Fraser 2002). In 2007 NAA undertook a watching brief at Bullamoor as part of reservoir improvements, but no archaeological features were discovered (**5**; NAA 2007).

Archaeological background, sites and features

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic period (c. 10,000 - 4400 BC)

The earliest human activity within northern Britain probably followed the retreat of the ice sheets around 10,000 BC, as small nomadic groups moved north with the improving climate. Evidence of Palaeolithic activity remains scarce, and is largely restricted to upland cave sites, and no archaeological remains of this date have previously been found in the study area.

The post-glacial landscape largely comprised treeless tundra, but by the early Mesolithic period, about 7600 BC, this gave way to woodland as the climate improved. Such environmental change increased the potential for human activity as the spread of woodland led to an expansion in animal and plant resources. The nomadic nature of Mesolithic groups mean that they have left few remains and archaeological evidence for this period is largely limited to finds of flint implements, such as microlithic blades. No sites or finds of a Mesolithic date have previously been recorded within the study area.

Neolithic and Bronze Age period (c. 4400 – 2500 BC)

The Neolithic period is marked by the introduction of farming, as nomadic hunter-gatherer subsistence gave way to agriculture and the domestication of animals. This appears to have had a dramatic effect on the landscape with a marked change in the character of forest vegetation and a major decline in woodland coverage from about 3000 BC (Smith 1970). The later Neolithic and early Bronze Age periods are also characterised by the introduction of large ritual and funerary monuments, such as barrows. The earthwork remains of a probable Bronze Age barrow lie on Rabbit Hill, to the north-east of the proposed development site (42). Other possible barrows have been identified near Winton House (33) and a further possible barrow has been recorded near Hill House Farm (7).

Iron Age and Roman periods (c. 800 BC – c. AD 410)

Extensive areas of Iron Age settlement, including enclosures, farmsteads, trackways and fields systems have been identified across the western edge of the Vale of York (Vyner 2003, 45), although no evidence for Iron Age occupation has been identified in the study area.

During the late Iron Age the study area came within the tribal territory of the Brigantes, who were Roman allies under their queen, Cartimandua, from at least AD 52. However, Cartimandua was deposed by her consort Venutius in about AD 69/70, provoking a Roman invasion and subsequent annexation of the tribal territory. This lead to the establishment of a number of Roman forts throughout the North Yorkshire, including Healham Bridge,

approximately 14km to the south-west and at Catterick, approximately 17km to the north-west. The forts were linked together by an extensive network of roads, and the course of the Roman road between Thirsk and Durham runs on a north-south alignment through the western side of the proposed development site (8). Part of this road was identified at Pilrigg Lane, to the south of the proposed development site, during excavations in 1948 (13). Further possible Roman period features have been identified through geophysical survey near Winton Beck (12), approximately 700m to the north of the proposed development site, and to the north of Brompton Beck (Hale 2004).

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods (c. AD 410 to c. 1500)

Following the end of Roman rule in AD 410, the former province fragmented into a number of smaller kingdoms. By the late 6th century, the study area lay within the territory controlled by the kingdom of Deira, which formed the southern part of the Northumbrian kingdom (Hooke 1998).

No evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity has been recorded in the study area, although the settlements of Winton and Kirby Sigston are probably late Saxon in date, and both appear in the Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2003).

After 1066, Winton formed part of the lands of the Bishopric of the Palatinate of Durham, which held property throughout the north-east of England and Yorkshire before and after the Norman Conquest. The Domesday Book describes both the settlements of Sigston Kirby and Winton as waste in 1086 (Williams and Martin 2003). This is probably a result of the 'Harrying of the North' which took place between 1069-70 in response to a rebellion by the Northern Earls against the Norman invasion, leading to the destruction of extensive areas of farmland and hundreds of settlements. The layout of the now deserted medieval village of Winton is typical of a planned settlement introduced to the region in the post-Conquest period, with a row of houses (37) located within individual enclosures (40). The remains of a substantial set of fishponds have also been identified within the site (32), along with evidence for arable cultivation (35).

The Bishopric of the Palatinate of Durham held the manor in Winton until the 14th century, when it passed to the de Sigston family. Around the same time, the de Sigston's also acquired land in Kirby Sigston and constructed a castle, the remains of which lie immediately to the east of the study area (45; Scheduled Monument Ref. 20533).

During the medieval period much of the land was under arable cultivation, as attested by the extensive remains of ridge and furrow identified throughout the area (1 - 3, 6, 15, 18, 21, 25 - 26, 28, 30 - 31, 39, 41 and 44). The name 'Bulla Moor', which encompasses much of the western part of the proposed development site, may indicate that this was an area of common land not in cultivation at this time. In the late medieval period many settlements, including Winton (36) and Kirby Sigston (45), shrunk in size or were deserted, due in part to the impact

of the plague, but also due to shifts in agricultural practice, including a rise in sheep rearing (Goldberg 2003).

Post-medieval and modern period

The area called Bulla Moor was enclosed by award in 1702, and the 'Plan of the Township of Northallerton' of 1797 shows the layout of the fields at this time (Fig. 4; Anon. 1797). This plan also shows a building on the site of Close Farm, indicating that the site had been occupied since at least the late 18th century (10).

The eastern side of the proposed development lay in the parish of Winton. No enclosure award was found for this area which may suggest that it was enclosed through private agreement. The 1845 Winton Tithe map shows the properties on the site of Winton Manor Farm (17) and Stank Farm (23), indicating that these buildings date from at least the mid-19th century (see Fig. 5). The 1845 Tithe map also shows a building to the north of Stank Farm (19), which is shown on later maps as 'Stank' (see Fig. 6; Ordnance Survey 1857) or 'Ladyfield House' (see Fig. 9; Ordnance Survey 1930a).

The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1857 shows few changes in the layout of the landscape within the proposed development site (Fig. 6). At least two barns had been erected alongside the house at Close Farm, known then as Bullamoor Close. A brick and kiln works, associated with a clay pit, is also shown to the north-west of the proposed development site (9). The Ordnance Survey maps of 1895 (Fig. 7), 1914 and 1919 (Fig. 8), and 1930 (Fig. 9), show few changes within the proposed development site. A number of the field boundaries were removed to create larger parcels of land, and Fox Covert wood was established in the southern end of the proposed development site by 1914 (14, Fig. 8).

4 Catalogue of Archaeological Sites and Buildings

Archaeological features

Catalogue entries have been ordered geographically from west to east, and given a numerical identifier, with their locations shown on Figure 2. The catalogue entry includes a National Grid Reference (NGR) number. Where an archaeological feature has an associated 'ENY' number or 'MNY' number the information has been obtained from the North Yorkshire County Council HER. All further information is referenced in the bibliography.

1. Ridge and furrow

MNY20462

SE 3825 9558

The remains of ridge and furrow have been identified to the north of Bank House Farm.

2. Ridge and furrow

MNY20431

SE 3832 9575

The remains of ridge and furrow have been identified to the west of Thorntree Farm, to the south of Banks Road.

3. Ridge and furrow

MNY20461

SE 3867 9583

The remains of ridge and furrow have been identified to the north-east of Thorntree Farm, on the north side of Banks Road near The Banks.

4. Geophysical Survey, Ing Beck

ENY3128

SE 3899 9713

In 2004, Archaeological Services, University of Durham, carried out a geophysical survey of nine areas of land to the east of Ing Beck and north of Brompton Beck in connection with a proposed flood alleviation scheme. The survey identified a number of anomalies, including ditches and ridge and furrow. A possible Roman roadside settlement was also identified to the north of Brompton Beck (Hale 2004).

5. Watching brief, Bullamoor

ENY3941

SE 3907 9422

In 2007, Northern Archaeological Associates carried out a Watching Brief at Bullamoor as part of reservoir improvements. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered (NAA 2007).

6. Ridge and furrow

MNY20352

SE 3934 9432

The remains of ridge and furrow have been identified on the north side of Bullamoor road.

7. Possible round barrow or rabbit warren

MNY12811

SE 3935 9646

A mound was recorded near Hill House Farm, to the west of the Roman road, in 1952. It is thought to have been either the remains of a round barrow or a rabbit warren.

8. Roman Road

MNY190

SE 389 985

The Roman road from Thirsk to Durham (Margary No. 80a) runs through Bullamoor and past Close Farm (Margary 1973). The road may have been based on an earlier route (RCHME 1996).

9. Brick and Tile Works and Clay Pit

SE 3940 9620

A brick and tile works and a clay pit are shown on the First Edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1857 to the south of Hallikeld (Fig. 6). The works had fallen into disuse by 1895 (Fig. 7).

10. Close Farm SE 3947 9529

A building is shown on the site of Close Farm on a Plan of the Township of Northallerton from 1797 (Fig. 4). The building is named on the First Edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1857 as Bullamoor Close (Fig. 6), although its name was changed to Close Farm after 1930.

11. Winton Beck Areas (Area 8C)

ENY3122

SE 3958 9712

In 2005, Archaeological Services, University of Durham, carried out a watching brief during the excavation of six test pits to the north and south of Winton Beck, north-east of Brompton, in connection with a proposed flood alleviation scheme. No archaeological features or finds were encountered (Adamson and Hale 2005).

12. Winton Beck Areas

ENY3122

SE 3968 9730

In 2004, Archaeological Services, University of Durham, carried out a geophysical survey of five areas of land to the north of Winton Beck in connection with a proposed flood alleviation scheme. The survey identified several anomalies, concentrated in the westernmost survey area, which are though to represent enclosure ditches, which may be part of a Roman roadside settlement. Other anomalies were interpreted as being caused by a ditched trackway, ditches and ridge and furrow (Hale 2004).

13. Pilrigg Lane

MNY192

SE 3970 9395

An excavation in 1948 revealed a section of Roman Road which follows the line of Pilrigg Lane.

14. Fox Covert SE 3985 9514

An area of plantation or woodland had been established to the east of Close Farm by 1914 (Fig. 7).

15. Ridge and furrow

MNY5684

SE 4006 9655

Small blocks of ridge and furrow have been identified through aerial photography to the west of Winton Manor Farm.

16. Ridge and furrow

MNY5683

SE 4012 9690

A small single block of ridge and furrow has been identified through aerial photography to the west of Winton Grange Farm.

17. Winton Manor Farm

SE 4017 9655

A building is shown on the site of Winton Manor Farm on the 1845 Tithe Map (Fig. 5). The building is named as Stank Grange on the First Edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1857 (Fig. 6). The name of the building had been changed to Winton Manor by 1930 (Fig. 9) and now is known as Winton Manor Farm.

18. Ridge and furrow

MNY25022

SE 4018 9663

The remains of ridge and furrow have been identified to the north of Winton Manor Farm (Cardwell, 1986-7).

19. Stank/Ladyfield House

SE 4019 9557

A building is shown to the west of Stank Hall on the 1845 Tithe Map (Fig. 5). The building is named as Stank on the First Edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1857 (Fig. 6). Its name had been changed to Ladyfield House by 1930 (Fig. 9). It is not shown on the modern Ordnance Survey Maps.

20. Geophysical survey, Winton Beck

ENY3123

SE 4023 9747

In 2004, Archaeological Services, University of Durham, carried out a geophysical survey of six areas to the north of Winton Beck in connection with a proposed flood alleviation scheme. The survey identified a number of anomalies, interpreted as a probable field boundary, ditches, possible palaeochannels and former stream alignments (Hale 2005).

21. Ridge and furrow

MNY5682

SE 4028 9732

Small blocks of ridge and furrow have been identified through aerial photography to the north of Winton Grange, near Winton Beck.

22. Ridge and furrow

MNY5688

SE 4029 9531

An area of ridge and furrow has been identified through aerial photography to the north of Stank Farm.

23. Stank Farm SE 4031 9524

A building is shown on the site of Stank Farm on the 1845 Tithe map (Fig. 6). The building is named as Stank on the 1930s Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 9). It is now called Stank Farm.

24. Medieval strip fields

SE 4038 9602

The layout of the strips within the medieval open fields have been fossilised in the field boundaries to the north of Stank Hall.

25. Ridge and furrow

MNY5685

SE 4043 9667

Small blocks of ridge and furrow have been identified through aerial photography to the north of the A684 road, near Winton Manor Farm.

26. Field systems and ridge and furrow

MNY509

SE 405 953

Earthworks representing old field boundaries, enclosures and traces of ridge and furrow, plus several old headlands, have been recorded to the south of Stank Hall.

27. Site of Manor House

MNY508

SE 4053 9557

The remains of a large Manor House are located under the site of Stank Farm. The foundations of the original house were discovered under the adjoining yard (Page 1914).

Earthworks of ridge and furrow and headlands have been identified in the area through aerial photography.

28. Ridge and furrow

MNY536

SE 4070 9715

A small area of ridge and furrow has been identified through aerial photography to the north of the A684 road, north-east of Winton Grange.

29. Drainage system

MNY535

SE 407 973

The remains of a medieval or post-medieval drainage system have been identified through aerial photography to the north of the A684 road, south of Winton Beck.

30. Ridge and furrow

MNY5735

SE 4083 9416

A small area of ridge and furrow has been identified through aerial photography around Sowerby House, approximately 500 metres west of Chester Lane.

31. Ridge and furrow

MNY5734

SE 4088 9455

A single area of ridge and furrow has been identified through aerial photography near Green Acres, to the south of Bullamoor road.

32. Winton Fishpond

MNY473

SE 409 964

The remains of four fishponds have been identified within the area of the deserted medieval village of Winton. Three of the ponds are linked together, while the fourth is isolated. The isolated pond is the largest, measuring 35m in length and between 17m to 5m wide, and its southern side was formed by a natural slope. They lie within a designated Scheduled Monument (Monument No. 34825).

33. Mound MNY25026 SE 4094 9663

A mound was identified in 1986/7 to the east of buildings at Winton House (Cardwell, 1986-7).

34. Remains of a floor or pavement

MNY507

SE 41 95

The remains of pavement or floor was discovered below the topsoil near Sigston Castle in 1859 (Whellan 1859).

35. Ridge and furrow earthworks

MNY474

SE 410 964

An extensive area of ridge and furrow earthworks, along with the remains of the headlands, lie to the south of the remains of Winton deserted medieval village. These lie within the designated scheduled area (Monument No. 34825).

36. Winton medieval settlement

MNY471

SE 4103 9641

The remains of a deserted medieval settlement are located to the south of Winton House and includes the remains of buildings, a group of fishponds and parts of the surrounding field

system. A settlement at Winton is first mentioned in the Domesday Book when it was part of the lands of the Bishopric of Palatinate of Durham, who held the manor until it passed to the de Sigston family in the 14th century. It is designated a Scheduled Monument (Monument No. 34825).

37. House Platform

MNY475

SE 4106 9653

Earthworks of house platforms have been identified within Winton deserted medieval village. The house platforms are positioned within individual enclosures (tofts), typical of a late 11th century planned settlement. They lie within the designated scheduled area (Monument No. 34825).

38. Watching Brief, Winton

ENY1018

SE 41130 96322

A watching brief was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates in 2002 at the site of Winton medieval settlement during the construction of an access track (Fraser undated).

39. Ridge and furrow

MNY5733

SE 4115 9481

Two adjacent blocks of ridge and furrow have been identified through aerial photography near The Hollows in Kirby Sigston.

40. Toft Boundaries

MNY476

SE 4116 9650

Earthworks of possible toft boundaries, which enclosed the house platforms, have been identified within Winton deserted medieval village. They lie within the designated scheduled area (Monument No. 34825).

41. Ridge and furrow

MNY477

SE 4129 9607

Earthwork remains of ridge and furrow have been identified from aerial photographs to the south of the Winton deserted medieval village site.

42. Rabbit Hill Barrow

MNY479

SE 4142 9686

The remains of a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age bowl barrow are located on Rabbit Hill, to the north of the A684. It comprises an earth and stone mound standing 0.9m high and was originally surrounded by a quarry ditch up to 3m wide, although this has now been filled in. Its size and shape have been altered through agricultural activity. It is a Scheduled Monument (Monument No. 31537).

43. Sigston Castle

MNY506

SE 4147 9530

A house called 'Sigston Castle' was built during the post-medieval period close to the site of the medieval castle.

44. Ridge and furrow

MNY505

SE 4151 9547

Earthworks of ridge and furrow have been identified from aerial photographs to the north-north-west of Sigston Castle.

45. House platform

MNY504

SE 4153 9528

Aerial photographs have revealed the remains of what appears to be a rectangular house platform approximately 200m to the east of the house called Sigston Castle.

Listed Buildings

The Listed Buildings catalogue entries have been ordered geographically from west to east, and given an alphabetical identifier (Fig. 2). The catalogue entry includes a National Grid Reference (NGR), and the North Yorkshire HER Number and Images of England Number where applicable.

A. Stank Hall IoE No. 332525 MNY510 SE 4052 9552

Stank Hall was built in the 16th century and altered in the 19th century. It was built for the Lascelles family before they moved to Harewood. It is Grade II listed (ref. 2/92).

B. Winton House IoE No. 332524 MNY478 SE 4098 9662

A late 18th to early 19th century farmhouse is located on the south side of the A684. It is Grade II listed (ref 2/91).

C. Kirby Sigston Manor House IoE No. 332445 MNY549 SE 4150 9479 An early 19th century manor house, with 20th century additions, is located to the east of Chester Lane in Kirby Sigston. It is Grade II listed (ref. 4/13).

5 Conclusions

Apart from a Bronze Age bowl barrow on Rabbit Hill, and two possible barrows at Winton Moor Farm and Hill House Farm, little evidence for activity during the prehistoric period has been identified within the study area. This may be due to the limited number of archaeological investigations undertaken within the study area, as there is extensive evidence for prehistoric occupation throughout the Vale of York.

A Roman road is recorded on the western side of the proposed development site and there is a potential that the remains of the road are preserved below the modern ground surface. There is also a potential for sub-surface deposits associated with some form of settlement or agricultural activity, such as field boundaries, from the Roman period alongside the road within the proposed development site.

The remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation have been recorded throughout the study area and within the proposed development site, indicating that much of the area was in arable cultivation during the medieval period. The western part of the proposed development site was enclosed in 1702 and the cartographic evidence demonstrates that the eastern side was

enclosed before 1845. A number of properties had been built within the proposed development site by the mid-19th century, with Close Farm possibly dating to the 18th century.

There is a potential for sub-surface archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period through to the post-medieval period within the proposed development site. In particular, there is a high potential for evidence for Roman activity in the west of the site along the route of the Roman Road. Further archaeological investigation, possibly geophysical survey, if ground conditions are suitable, and evaluation excavation may be required to determine the nature and extent of any sub-surface remains within the site. Such work should form part of an overall archaeological strategy to be agreed with the North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Section.