

Skipton Castle Car Park
Skipton
North Yorkshire

*Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of
Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching*

Introduction

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been produced as part of an archaeological condition attached to planning approval for the creation of a new car park at Skipton Castle. It has been produced by Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) at the request of Mr Sebastian Fattorini, Skipton Castle. Pre-application advice was sought from Lucie Hawkins of North Yorkshire County Council Historic Environment Team, in preparation of a previous scheme of archaeological investigation. Consideration has been paid to the root protection areas around the extant trees, and to the development proposals, when designing this scheme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching. This document supersedes the WSI for archaeological works previously submitted to Craven District Council for approval.

Site Location

The proposed development site is located within Skipton town centre to the immediate north-east of Skipton Castle (SD 9932 5214; Figs 1 and 2). It comprises an irregular parcel of land known as Nearer Storam field, contained within the estate of Skipton Castle. It is bounded to the north by Bailey Cottage, to the east by the estate wall and The Bailey, to the south by the estate wall and the west by low estate fencing and a track (Fig. 2). The site totals 9925m² and is currently under pasture.

Archaeological Background

An archaeological desk-based assessment has recently been undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) of the proposed development site and its surroundings. This report details known archaeological sites, find spots and any previous interventions (Grassam and Martin 2009). The study revealed potential for the survival of sub-surface archaeological remains dating from the medieval period through to the post-medieval period. Of particular interest is the Haw Bank tramway, which was used to transport limestone from the Haw Bank quarry at the north of the town to the terminus of Thanet's Canal, situated to the immediate south-east of the development site. Historic mapping revealed that an earlier route of this tramway (which operated between 1794 and 1836) is known to have traversed the development site on a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig. 3). A site visit revealed that linear earthworks are visible on the same alignment, with those towards the south-east of the site being more prominent. This is presumably where the cutting for the tramway was much deeper, providing an incline for the trucks running southwards towards an extant tunnel and the canal terminus beyond. The earthwork

becomes less clear towards the northern end of the site and it is possible that the tramway merely lay in a shallow cutting at this point. It is of interest that the eastern end of the northern boundary wall may be a later addition, possibly depicting the former entranceway for the tramway.

Given its proximity to Skipton Castle, there is also potential for the development site to contain evidence of land use, by the castle estate, during the medieval period. The desk-based assessment also presented the possibility of evidence and artefacts being recovered from the site, relating to the Civil War Parliamentarian attack on the castle in the 17th century.

A geophysical survey (magnetometer and resistance) has recently been undertaken by GSB Propection Ltd. in support of the planning application submitted by Skipton Castle Ltd. The survey helped to define the line of the former Haw Bank tramway and identified further areas of archaeological potential. To the south-east of the site a range of out-buildings is suggested by the data, with an unusual 'ring-like' anomaly identified in the north of the field (GSB 2010)

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the proposed archaeological investigation are:

- to formulate a better understanding of the significance, potential and character of the heritage assets identified by the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, by means of limited trial trenching;
- to investigate the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any heritage assets likely to be threatened by the proposed development, by means of limited trial trenching;
- to establish the impact of the proposed car park, and associated groundworks, on any heritage assets contained within the development site, by means of limited trial trenching;
- to produce a report detailing the results of the trial trenching, setting any heritage assets exposed in a regional and national framework and;
- to advise if further mitigation is required to ensure any heritage assets are either preserved *in situ* or adequately recorded prior to the development of the site, in accordance with PPS5.

Methodology

Trial Trenching

It is proposed that four trial trenches are to be excavated, three targeting known potential archaeological features and one 'control' trench. The trench measurements and rationale is shown in Table 1 and their locations are shown on Fig. 2. The trenches total 100m², approximately 1.4% of the available area.

Trench	Rationale	Size	Area
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Trench	Rationale	Size	Area
1	Targeting 'ring-like' geophysical anomaly to characterise form and function.	15m by 2m	30m ²
2	'Control' trench. Located to test 'blank area' and determine if geophysical trends continue to the south.	10m by 2m	20m ²
3	To characterise the form of the tramway, indicated by geophysical anomalies.	10m by 2m	20m ²
4	Targeting possible building range identified by geophysical survey, to characterise form and function. To test 'blank area'.	15m by 2m	30m ²

Table 1: Trench rationale

A further 50m² of trenching should be set aside as a contingency should the results of the investigations require further clarification, to meet the aims and objectives outlined in this document (e.g. a feature extends beyond the limit of the trench). This contingency would only be used following consultation with planning officer and the client.

All topsoil and/or modern deposits will be removed by mechanical means under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Machining will stop at the first identifiable archaeological horizon or natural, whichever is the shallower. Thereafter all further investigation will be manual.

All identified archaeological features will be accurately recorded in plan at scales of either 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. Feature sections will be drawn at scales of either 1:10 or 1:20. All plans and sections will include spot heights related to Ordnance Datum in metres. Tie-in information will be undertaken during the course of the evaluation and will be fixed in relation to nearby permanent structures and roads, and to the National Grid.

Unless otherwise determined, all linear features will be subject to a manual sampling regime of 10% of their length within the designated area of investigation, or a minimum of a 1m sample section if the feature is less than 10m long. No section will be less than 1m in length. Where possible one section will be located and excavated adjacent to a trench edge and particular attention will be paid to terminal-ends, corners and intersections. Discrete features, such as pits, post-holes, kilns, hearths and graves, to be subject to a 50% manual excavation in the first instance. With consultation, some features may require full excavation.

A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of all material revealed during the course of the excavation. Context recording will be by ASWYAS standard method. All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them, will be given unique numbers. Bulk finds will be collected by context. Significant small finds will be recorded 3-dimensionally. Colour digital and monochrome negative photographs will be taken at a minimum format of 35mm. All artefacts recovered will be recorded and removed from the site for appropriate storage in controlled environments. All artefacts recovered will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored as detailed in the guidelines laid out in the IFA Guidelines for Finds Work. Conservation, if required, will be undertaken by approved conservators. UKIC

guidelines will also apply. All finds of gold and silver and associated objects shall be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996, after discussion with the client and Craven District Council's planning officer or their representative. Routine soil sampling (bulk samples for artefact recovery, land snails, bones and charred plant remains) will be undertaken. Where appropriate and practicable, soil samples of up to 30-40 litres will be taken from excavated contexts, and larger samples will be taken of any rich carbonised deposits. Particular attention will be paid to the sampling of primary ditch fills, large discrete features (e.g. refuse pits), structural and occupational evidence, and any surviving buried soils. Provision will be made for the recovery of samples suitable for scientific dating (e.g. radiocarbon/AMS, dendrochronological and archaeomagnetic dating).

In the event of human remains being discovered they will be left in situ, and covered and protected. At this evaluation stage, removal of human remains is not anticipated. Should their removal be unavoidable, it will only take place in compliance with the Burial Act 1857 and with an exhumation licence obtained from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

Analysis and Reporting

The site archive will contain all the data collected during the archaeological investigations, including records, finds and environmental samples. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. Adequate resources will be provided during fieldwork to ensure that all records are checked and internally consistent. Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork:

- the site record will be checked, cross-referenced and indexed as necessary;
- all retained finds will be cleaned, conserved and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum;
- all retained finds will be assessed and recorded using pro forma recording sheets, by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Initial artefact dating will be integrated within the site matrix;
- all retained (bulk) environmental samples will be processed by suitably experienced and qualified staff and recorded using pro forma recording sheets.
- Upon completion of the investigations, the artefacts, ecofacts and stratigraphic information shall be assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis. A report will be prepared within an agreed timetable following the completion of onsite archaeological investigations and will include the following:
 - a non-technical summary of the results of the work;
 - a summary of the project's background;
 - the site location, supported by an overall plan of the site and accurate location of all trenches;
 - an account of the method;
 - the results of the archaeological investigations, including phasing and interpretation of the site sequence and spot-dating of artefacts, if recovered
 - specialist analysis of any artefacts or environmental material recovered during the investigations;

- a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location;
- an assessment of the archaeological significance of any archaeological features, deposits, artefacts and/or ecofacts identified, with an interpretation of the results in relation to other sites in the vicinity.

Copies of the report (including digital copies) will be supplied to the client, the planning officer and the County Historic Environment Record. Upon completion of the work ASWYAS will make the results accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data online to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>). It is possible that the excavation findings will warrant wider publication. This shall be effected either through one of ASWYAS's in-house series of publications or through publication with an appropriate archaeological journal.

Archiving and Museum Deposition

Provision will be made for the deposition of the archive, artefacts and environmental material, subject to the permission of the relevant landowner (and if no further archaeological work is to be initiated), in the appropriate recipient museum, in this instance Craven Museum, Skipton. The museum will be advised of the timetable of the proposed investigation prior to excavation commencing. The archive will be prepared in accordance with industry standards.

Copyright, Confidentiality and Publicity Copyright in the documentation prepared by the archaeological contractor and specialist sub-contractors should be the subject of additional licences in favour of the repository accepting the archive and the Historic Environment Record (HER) to use such documentation for their statutory educational and museum service functions, and to provide copies to non-commercial third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2005 (EIR), information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'. Unless the client wishes to state otherwise, the copyright of any written, graphic or photographic record and reports will rest with the originating body (ASWYAS).

Health and Safety

ASWYAS has its own Health and Safety policy which has been compiled using national guidelines such as FAME. These guidelines conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation. In addition each project undergoes a 'Risk Assessment' which sets project specific Health and Safety requirements to which all members of staff are made aware of prior to on-site work commencing. Health and safety will take priority over archaeological matters.

Insurance

ASWYAS is covered by the insurance and indemnities of the City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council. Insurance has been effected with: Zurich Municipal Insurance, P.O. Box 568, 6th Floor, 1 East Parade, Leeds, LS21 2UA (policy number QLA-03R896-0013). Any further enquiries should be directed to: Wakefield MDC Risk and Insurance, Room 67, County Hall, Bond Street, Wakefield, WF1 2QW.

Monitoring

The project will be monitored by the Craven District planning officer to whom written documentation will be sent before the start of the work confirming:

- the date of commencement,
- the names of all finds and archaeological science specialists likely to be used in the evaluation, and
- notification to the proposed archive repository of the nature of the works and opportunity to monitor the works.

Where appropriate, the advice of the Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (Yorkshire and the Humber Region) at English Heritage will be called upon.

Resources and Programming

Project personnel:

Field specialists:

Project Management:	Louise Martin
Project Officer:	TBA
Surveyor:	Mitchell Pollington / Louise Martin

Environmental and post-excavation specialists:

Prehistoric pottery specialists:	Blaise Vyner Terry Manby
Roman pottery specialist:	Ruth Leary Peter Didsbury
Medieval pottery specialist:	Chris Cumberpatch
Flint specialist:	Ian P Brooks
Small finds specialist:	Hilary Cool Gail Hama
Conservator:	Karen Barker
Clay pipe	Peter Hammond Susie White
Environmental specialists:	Diane Alldritt (plant remains) John Carrott (land snails, insects)
Faunal analyst:	Jane Richardson
Human bone specialist:	Malin Holst

It is anticipated that the fieldwork might take up to two weeks with up to two archaeologists on-site. The time-scale for the production of a full report is dependant on the complexity of any archaeological remains found and specialist availability to examine any artefacts/ecofcats recovered from the site. The client will be made known of any unavoidable delays as soon as they are identified. If necessary, and with approval, alternative specialists may be sought. It may be necessary to produce an interim report, prior to the submission of the full report to assist in the development programme.

Bibliography

Grassam, A and Martin, L., 2009, 'Skipton Castle Car Park: Archaeological Desk-based Appraisal', ASWYAS Report. No. 2010

GSB Prospection Ltd. 2010, 'Geophysical Survey of Nearer Storam Field, Skipton Castle', GSB Survey No. 2010/43