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**CLOUGHTON VILLAGE, SCARBOROUGH,  
 NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**ADDENDUM TO DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT REPORT**

*by Mark Johnson*

**REPORT NUMBER 2010/97**



## YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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## ABSTRACT

Former field boundaries and traces of ridge and furrow field systems were encountered across several of the walkover areas. The ridge and furrow together with the boundaries within Area 4 are probably of medieval date. The boundaries within Area 1 are likely to be of medieval – post-medieval date. The large pond of Area 5 appears to post-date the medieval field systems and was probably created in the later 18<sup>th</sup> or earlier 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. A number of more recent features, of limited archaeological interest, were also encountered.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report is comprised of the findings of a walkover survey of seven blocks of potential development land that were previously unavailable for inspection, at Cloughton, North Yorkshire (Figures 1 and 2). As such, this report forms an addendum to an earlier Desk-based – assessment (York Archaeological Trust report 2010/65). The walkover survey was carried out on the same date as a geophysical survey. Although the geophysical survey is presented as a stand-alone report, geophysical information relevant to the upstanding remains encountered in the walkover survey are mentioned in the text below. This extracted information is considered in the sections presented in italic text.



Figure 1 Cloughton village, site location

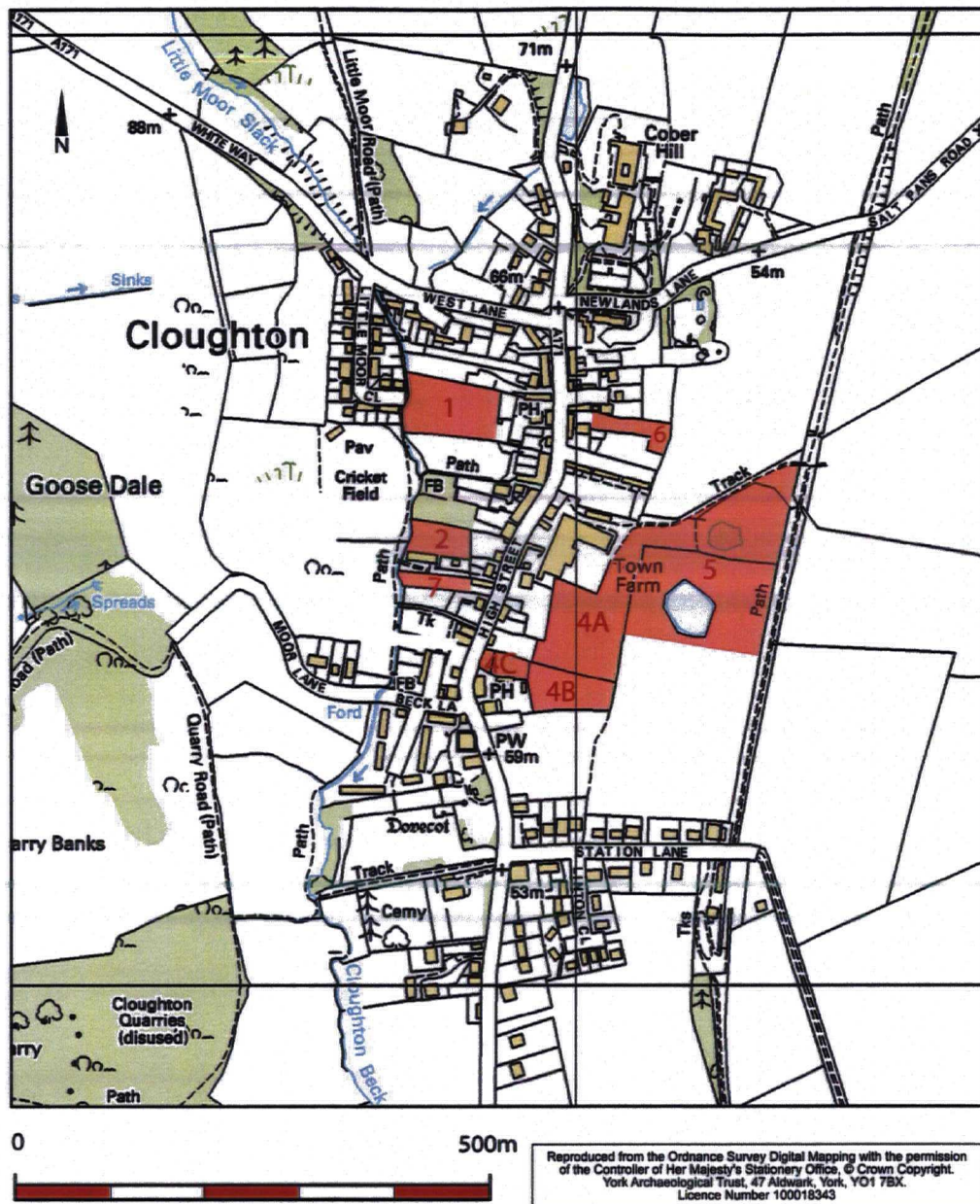


Figure 2 Areas subjected to walkover survey

## 2. METHODOLOGY

Several blocks of land, numbered 1-7 (Figure 2) were inspected at close quarters for surviving surface archaeological remains, or indications of the former presence of such. Findings were recorded as annotations of 1:500 plots of the areas on which features themselves were also sketched.

### 3. WALKOVER SURVEY RESULTS

The findings of the walkover survey are presented under sub-headings corresponding to each of the numbered survey blocks shown in Figure 2.

#### 3.1 AREA 1

Area 1 is comprised of a pasture field in the north-western part of the village in which a gentle east – west fall in ground-slope is evident. The field is bounded on the north side by a hedgerow, by wood and wire fencing to the east side and by a stone wall to the south side. The western boundary is formed of wood and wire fencing with some hedgerow, immediately to the west of which lies Cloughton Beck. A small timber-built stable is located towards the eastern end of the plot.

The remnants of an east – west aligned boundary running centrally through the plot are still evident in a few intermittent stretches of hedgerow. Along much of the length of this boundary the ground drops slightly, but abruptly, by around 200mm to the south. Along this former boundary there are also hints of the former presence of a stone wall. This old land division is indicated on a number of historic maps.

Evidence for further land division is apparent within the north-west corner area of the field. Here a slight north – south aligned ridge extending from the northern boundary of the field to the central former north – south boundary is evident. This former division, which is on the same alignment as a stretch of boundary wall in the plot adjacent to the north, has an abrupt, but slight fall of around 150mm, to the south. Extending from this ridge in a southerly direction is yet a further slight ridge. This again almost certainly represents a former sub-division of this field.

*The geophysical survey identified two of the three boundaries evident in the walkover survey.*



*Plate 1 Area 1, looking E. Note former east – west aligned boundary along intermittent hedgeline, with another parallel to this. A north – south aligned boundary is just visible to the distant left.*

### 3.2 AREA 2

Area 2 is comprised of a small rectangular pasture block in the west central part of the village and has a very slight fall in ground-slope from east down to west. The site is bounded to the north, east and west sides by hedgelines (with Cloughton Beck immediately behind the hedge to the west side), and by a combination of farm buildings and post and wire fencing to the south side. Within the south-western corner of the field a small timber-built animal shed with mono-pitch corrugated iron roof is present.

Slight traces of a ridge and furrow arable field system, probably of medieval origin, are evident within the field. Four ridges and three furrows extend across the field and display centre to centre spacings (ridge to ridge) of around 9m. Although surviving only faintly, this east – west aligned system is interesting in so far as it indicates arable practices in such close proximity to the principal street frontage of the village.



*Plate 2 Area 2, looking ENE. The traces of ridge and furrow in this field are so slight that they are barely apparent in the photograph.*

Laying immediately to the south of this field, but north of the access track, a small allotment area and a range of agricultural buildings are present. The allotment lies to the eastern side and no remains of archaeological interest are apparent within it. At the western end the agricultural buildings are comprised of a small single storey, 'L' shaped range built of brick under a pan tile roof. These appear likely to date to the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*The geophysical survey identified a number of linear magnetic trends which correspond to the ridge and furrow observed in the walkover survey.*





*Plate 3 Area 2, looking E. 'L' shaped range of agricultural buildings located between the pasture field of Area 2 and the access track*

### 3.3 AREA 7

Area 7 is comprised of the long strip-like garden located to the rear of the detached property that lies immediately south of the access track that separates Areas 2 and 7. This area is bounded by a hedgeline to the west (beyond which lies Cloughton Beck), by an ornamental hedge to the south and by a stone wall to the north side. To the east side the area is bounded by a blockwork driveway adjacent to the house.

Area 3 is effectively sub-divided by the use of different spaces of the garden for different purposes. The western end of the plot is laid to lawn whilst in the central portion the south side is an allotment area. The northern side of the central area houses a timber shed and greenhouse whilst sandwiched between this and the blockwork drive is a further area of lawn with flower borders.

No surface indicators of archaeological remains are present within this area.



*Plate 4 Area 7, looking W.*

### **3.4 AREA 4**

Area 4 is comprised of three sub areas: 4A, 4B and 4C.

#### **3.4.1 AREA 4A**

The larger part of Area 4, (4A), is comprised of a single field located immediately to the north of the trapezoidal field of (4B). Field 4A is bounded to the west and much of the east side by stone walling, by post and wire fencing to the north side (with an area of hard standing beyond), and by dilapidated walling with fencing and some hedgerow to the south side. There is a distinct slope from the west down to the east in this pasture field.

Within this area two former field boundaries are evident, both aligned east - west. The southern of these is formed of a ridge that which has a drop in ground level of up to 0.5m to the south. The second lies around 40m to the north and is accompanied by an even more pronounced fall in ground level to the north. The location of this latter boundary coincides with a natural slope in the ground to the north, and its position therefore appears largely to have been determined by the natural topography. Within this field the presence of these two former boundaries effectively creates three spaces. In each of these spaces faint traces of east - west aligned ridge and furrow are present, two ridges being present in the southern

area, three in the central area and at least two in the northern area. The spacing between the ridges is generally in the region of 8m +, though only around 6m in the northern area. Towards the north-west corner of the field, immediately to the north of the northern former boundary, a distinct hollow measuring approximately 4m east – west by up to 10m north – south, was noted. Traces of in-situ brick walling, probably of 20<sup>th</sup> century date, are also visible in this hollow. This may represent a former silage pit. No identifiable features were visible in the north-eastern, projecting, part of this field, though slight, and amorphous, undulations are present.

*The geophysical survey identified a band of elevated response 'B', and it has been suggested that this may represent a headland (the area at the end of the ridge and furrow strips in which a plough team would turn). Such a suggestion would accord well with the evidence for ridge and furrow observed in the walkover survey. A headland such as this could be seen as forming the boundary between an area of settlement to the west and agricultural fields to the east. The short linear anomaly 'C' detected by geophysical survey appears to correspond to the southernmost relict field boundary. That only its eastern part was picked up as a pronounced magnetic response may suggest some differences in composition along its length – for example, quantities of stone.*



*Plate 5 Large field of Area 4A, looking W. showing the southern former boundary (note: this can be best seen by the pronounced ridge on horizon)*



*Plate 6 Northern part of Area 4A, looking S. showing northern former boundary*



*Plate 7 North-western corner of Area 4A, looking E. Note the distinct hollow that may have formed a 20<sup>th</sup> century silage pit*

### 3.4.2 AREA 4B

The southernmost 'trapezoidal' field (4B) has a pronounced west to east slope and is bounded by dilapidated stone walling and hedgerows, with restricted areas of post and wire fencing, to most of the north, south, east and west sides. That part of the western boundary

within Area 4B is formed of post and wire fencing whilst an entranceway into the field is present at the eastern end of the northern boundary. This field is laid entirely to pasture. There are very slight, almost imperceptible, hints in the ground surface of the presence of parts of a ridge and furrow field system. This suggestion is lent weight by the fact that such ridge and furrow can be seen in the pasture field to the immediate south (outside of the proposed development area), as well as in the field adjacent to the north.

*The band of elevated response 'B', detected by the geophysical survey in Area 4A was also identified in Area 4B and may represent a headland (the area at the end of the ridge and furrow strips in which a plough team would turn). This, together with some east – west linear trends supports the tentative identification of barely distinct ridge and furrow in the walkover survey.*

### 3.4.3 AREA 4C

The south-western parts of Area 4 (4C) are comprised of two very small plots of land immediately north of the Blacksmith's Arms public house. The smaller, northern, of these two plots is bounded by stone walls to north and east sides, by stone walling and hedging to the west side and by stone walling and a wooden fence to the south side. The plot itself is of flat cultivated ground currently used as an allotment. The larger southern plot is bounded by a post and wire fence to the east side, by a stone wall and hedge to the north side, by a stone wall to the west side and by the backs of a range of outbuildings (belonging to the public house) and walling to the south side. The area of the plot itself undulates very slightly and is presently grassed.

No surface indicators of archaeological remains are present within these two small areas.



*Plate 8 Eastern part of Area 4 (4B), looking W. Western part of Area 4 lies beyond wall in far distance*

### 3.5 AREA 5

Area 5 is formed of the northern part of the pasture field that incorporates the large pond. The east, northern and north part of the western boundaries are of wooden and post and wire fences. The remainder of the western boundary is of stone walling. The southern limit of the area has no boundary. Slight traces of east – west aligned ridge and furrow are evident in the western part of the field and seem likely to form a continuation of the system seen in Area 4. In the south-eastern corner part of the area at least two slight ridges may again form part of this system. The dominant feature within this field is the large sub-circular pond. This pond is not depicted in the 1771 enclosure map though does appear on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map. To the immediate south of the pond there are a number of irregularly shaped small mounds. The origin of these is uncertain though they may relate to material from the cleared from the pond during periodic cleaning.

A much larger area of mounding is present in the north-east corner of the field. Measuring over 40m across and standing in excess of 1m above much of the surrounding land, this mounding appears largely amorphous, though there are slight indications of east – west

linear tendencies. This mounding does not appear to accord with the surrounding natural topography and it is likely that it is a product of human activity. Two likely scenarios for the origin of the mounding can be tentatively proposed. Firstly, the mounding may be derived from the excavated material when the pond was first dug out. Secondly, the mounding may be associated with the construction of the adjacent railway line in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The slight linear tendencies noted in the mounding may relate to the regular tipping of cart loads of spoil during such processes. To the immediate north-east of the pond three small areas of standing water were present at the time of the walkover survey. Two of these were shallow and may relate to nothing more than slight depressions. The third was seen to be rectangular in shape and in excess of 200mm deep. If this is of archaeological origin its function is not known, though it seems likely to post-date the ridge and furrow and may relate to something like a silage pit.

Immediately north of the above described field there is a triangular area of land, bounded by a track to the north-west, that contains a further pond. The western part of this area is laid to hard standing and is utilised for storage. The remainder of the area is mostly overgrown with dense scrub – including the pond. It was not possible to discern any archaeological features in this area.

The buildings of Town Farm were not inspected in any detail. Whilst the farm contains a number of modern structures it is clear that at least some of the buildings date to the 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

*The geophysical survey identified broad and parallel anomalies to the western side of the pond that appear certain to equate with the observed ridge and furrow and traces of this may also be evident to parts of the eastern side of the pond. The area of mounding towards the north-east corner of the field produced elevated responses and again suggests some linearity in composition.*



*Plate 9 Area 5, looking E.*



*Plate 10 Area 5, mounding from pond clearing? looking W.*





*Plate 11 Mounding in NE part of Area 5, looking ESE.*



*Plate 12 Area 5, hollow with deep water, looking NW.*

### **3.6 AREA 6**

Area 6 is located in the north-eastern part of the village and slopes down very gently from west to east. This area is bounded by stone walling to its north and east sides, is bordered by grassed areas and overgrown vegetation to its south side (with allotments beyond) and by residential land to its west side. Within Area 6 the westernmost part is occupied by a maintained garden area whilst immediately east of this the land is densely overgrown with scrub. The eastern part of the area is occupied by lawn over part of which some young saplings have been planted.

No surface indicators of archaeological remains are present within this area.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

Old field boundaries were seen to be present within Areas 1 and 4 whilst parts of ridge and furrow field systems, all be they not very pronounced, survive in Areas 1, 2, 7, 4 and 5 (as well as Area 3 of the geophysical survey: see YAT report 2010/65). The size and spacing's of these systems suggests that they originated within the medieval period. Whilst the presence of medieval ridge and furrow associated with a village is commonplace it is perhaps something of a surprise that on the western side of the village it was seen in Areas 2 and 3 to extend so close to the street frontage. One might have anticipated that lands between the frontage and Cloughton Beck would have been principally laid over to crofts and tofts and not contain arable land – though clearly this was not the case. Ridge and furrow was not evident in Area 1 and if it ever was so has clearly been lost to later forms of usage. The date of the multiple boundaries in Area 1 are not known though are presumed to lie in the medieval or post-medieval periods. The east – west relict boundaries in Area 4 are almost certainly contemporary with the ridge and furrow and would appear, at least in part, to have been determined by the natural topography of the locality. Apart from a number of farm buildings there do not appear to be many features that can be positively identified as originating within the post-medieval period. The ponds of Area 5 may post-date the land enclosures of 1771 and have been constructed to form attributes of Town Farm which is likely to have been established after this date. The area of mounding in the north-east corner of the pond field may relate to the deposition of up-cast during the construction of the pond. The remnants of the probable ?silage pit in the north-west corner of Area 4 seems certain to be of 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

*The geophysical survey adds a little that is relevant to the above observations, particularly the possible presence of a headland (the area at the end of the ridge and furrow strips in which a plough team would turn) at the western side of Area 4.*

#### 5. RECOMMENDATIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The walkover survey has revealed traces of archaeological remains in several of the inspected areas. These appear to relate almost exclusively to former agricultural usage and practices. Nearly all of these survive 'faintly'. Were development of these areas to go ahead and these remains be lost then rapid metric survey of these, in advance of such loss, would be warranted. During the walkover survey a range of agricultural buildings of some interest were noted in Area 2 with further examples within Home Farm also being present. The fate of these buildings within any development proposals, be that conversion or demolition, for

example, is not known. Some level of building recording, prior to demolition or conversion, would again be warranted.

## 6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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