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A Desk-based Archaeological Assessment of
land at Crossroads Farm, Bramham,
North Yorkshire
NGR SE 4340 4022

NYCC HER	
SNY	18600
ENY	5895
CNY	10745
Parish	8070
Rec'd	08/10/1998

Produced by

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for

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Crossroads Farm, Bramham, N Yorks

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Summary

A desk - based archaeological assessment has been carried out on land at Crossroads Farm, Bramham, North Yorkshire by John Samuels Archaeological Consultants on behalf of Hallam Land Management in June 1998

The proposed development area is wholly within the administrative boundary of the County of North Yorkshire, although it borders the county of West Yorkshire

The settlements in the area are generally medieval or earlier in origin. There are a number of possible late prehistoric or Roman period field systems in the area

There are several possible archaeological features which might be affected by the proposed development, although none are of sufficient importance to prevent the granting of planning permission. Given the negligible importance of excavated archaeological remains immediately west of the proposed development area, it is recommended that no further action be taken with regard to archaeology on this site

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** Hallam Land Management commissioned *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* to carry out a desk-based archaeological assessment of land at Crossroads Farm, Bramham, in order to identify any archaeological remains which may be affected by the development proposal
- 1.2** The study area is situated close to the junction of the A1 and A64 roads and is centred on NGR SE 4340 4022. The northern boundary of the site lies on the border between North and West Yorkshire, although the proposed development area lies wholly within the administrative boundary of North Yorkshire
- 1.3** The proposed development area is situated in a shallow valley at between 70 and 75 metres AOD
- 1.4** The wider area contains the remnants of probably Roman period fields which are preserved as cropmarks. Prehistoric, Anglo Saxon and Medieval finds are known from the surrounding area
- 1.5** This report has been written by Dan Slatcher BA in consultation with John Samuels BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 This assessment conforms to Government Guidance to Local Planning Authorities *Planning Policy Guidance Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16), DoE 1990, advice from English Heritage *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage, 1991, *The Hedgerow Regulations 1997*, DoE 1997 and the professional standards *Code of Conduct*, Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994
- 2.2 Desk-top research undertaken by JSAC comprised analysis of relevant information contained in and provided by North and West Yorkshire SMRs and documentary and cartographic searches of sources held in the North and West Yorkshire County Record Offices Information regarding Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) was obtained from North Yorkshire SMR and English Heritage
- 2.3 A site visit and walkover survey was undertaken by JSAC to examine the topography of the site and to identify any previously unrecorded above ground archaeology The current land use was noted in order to determine what, if any, further fieldwork would be appropriate
- 2.4 Following the assessment, conclusions were drawn and an indication provided of the potential and importance of the sites identified
- 2.5 At the time of writing there is no nationally agreed method of measuring the relative importance of archaeological monuments PPG16 (paragraph 8) draws a distinction between nationally important remains and those of lesser distinction On this basis it is possible to distinguish between monuments of national, regional local or negligible importance

National	Monuments that are scheduled and protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), those suitable for scheduling, or considered to be of national importance but not covered by the Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling
Regional	Sites listed in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) or other sources which are of a reasonably well defined extent, nature and date and significant examples in the regional context
Local	Sites listed in the SMR or other sources which are of very low potential or minor importance
Negligible	Areas in which investigative techniques have produced negative or minimal evidence of antiquity, or where large scale destruction of deposits has taken place (eg by mineral extraction)

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The local geology consists of shallow, locally brashy, well drained calcareous fine loamy soils over limestone, of the 511a Aberford soil association (SSEW 1983). There are some deeper soils over colluvium.
- 3.2 The landscape is generally open in aspect and undulating. The proposed development area itself is situated in a shallow valley at between 70 and 75 metres AOD.
- 3.3 Bramham Moor and the surrounding landscape has seen human activity since at least the Neolithic period. Neolithic and Bronze Age tools have been found as stray finds (N Yorks SMR nos. 9583.00010, 9583.00011, 9583.00012, 9583.00013 and 9584.00000), but there is no firm evidence for occupation in the vicinity of the proposed development area and there are few lithic artefacts from the immediate environs of the proposed site area. The North Yorkshire SMR locates prehistoric sites c. 1 kilometre to the south of the proposed development area.
- 3.4 Aerial photographic evidence indicates that the study area was occupied and farmed during the Iron Age and/or Roman periods. No finds of Iron Age material have been made in the area but Roman artefacts have been recovered and it is clear that much of north Nottinghamshire and southern Yorkshire had settlements consisting of small farmsteads set in enclosed fields by the end of the Iron Age, continuing through the Roman period. However, cropmarks on the western side of the A1, immediately west of the proposed development area, have been investigated through trial trenching (Babtie Group 1996). This area produced no evidence for prehistoric activity. There had been agricultural activity, in the form of traces of ridge and furrow, during the medieval period and gilliard quarrying during the nineteenth century.
- 3.5 There seem to have been no major structures associated with occupation in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area during the Roman period. The Roman settlement of *Calcaria*, modern Tadcaster, is the nearest Roman town. The chief features of the Roman period in the area are roads. The proposed development area is perhaps as far as 1.5 km from the junction of 3 major Roman roads. These were the road from Ilkley to Tadcaster and Rudgate, the road linking this with Dere Street, which ran from York north towards Aldborough. Finally, the Roman Ridge (N Yorks SMR no. 9163.01000, Scheduled Ancient Monument, County No. 621) linked Tadcaster to Doncaster, a distance of 29.5 miles. None of these roads appear, from aerial photographic and cartographic evidence to intrude into the proposed site area. A further possible Roman road runs north west - south east and is visible on aerial photographs held by WYAS (Aerial photograph number 44443173) from roughly SE 4320 4119 to SE 4447 4072, c. 500 metres outside the proposed site area.
- 3.6 The settlements in the area are generally medieval or earlier in origin. The Domesday Book of 1086 mentions Tadcaster, Bramham, from the Old English meaning 'homestead amongst the broom', Hazelwood, when it was called (H)esehuode,

meaning 'hazel wood'. Barwick in Elmet, meaning 'a barley farm, an outlying grange or part of an estate retained for the lords use' and Oglethorpe, from the Old English meaning 'Oddkell's outlying farmstead'. The nearby village of Aberford takes its name from the Old English *Aedburford*, meaning 'Eadburg's ford' and clearly refers to the crossing of the Cock Beck. The place names generally indicate a remote area.

- 3 7 The nearby Hazelwood castle (N Yorks SMR number 9583.02000) came into being in around 1290, when William le Vavasour obtained a licence to crenellate his property here (Smith 1961: 75). The only part of the castle to survive complete in its medieval form is the chapel (N Yorks SMR number 9583.02100). There was a medieval deerpark associated with the castle (N Yorks SMR number 9583.02200). A cross of medieval, probably 15th century date, stands close to the chapel (N Yorks SMR number 9583.02101). Immediately north of the castle is an ornamental garden, almost certainly of post medieval date (N Yorks SMR number 9583.02210). Just north of the chapel is an 18th century folly tower (N Yorks SMR number 9583.02220). The area of Hazel Wood (N Yorks SMR number 9589.00000) was probably either part of the medieval parkland or formed its boundary. It has been felled and replanted, however.
- 3 8 The battle of Bramham Moor (WYAS PRN 6115) was fought nearby on 9th February 1408, when the forces of Henry IV defeated a group of rebels led by the Earl of Northumberland. Relatively little else is known about the encounter, other than that its location was somewhere east of the Great North Road, just north of its junction with the A64. Other recent archaeological work has sited the battle around Spennithorne Common Lane.
- 3 9 There are numerous limestone quarries in the area. Most of these appear from cartographic evidence to be post medieval in date. At least two are shown as being in use immediately to the east of the proposed development area on the first edition six inch to the mile OS map of 1881. This map differentiates between 'limestone' and 'galhard', although the two industries were probably identical in technique. There is no direct evidence to suggest that the proposed development area had itself been quarried.
- 3 10 Cartographic evidence for the study area is limited. The area lies in Smtton with Hazelwood, which was enclosed in 1798. The curious shape of the boundary here possibly dates from this event, with the moor being divided among the adjacent townships. The first edition one inch to the mile OS map of 1858 shows the area as open land. There was a building in the north-east corner of the crossroads. This is marked as 'White Hart Inn'. The exact date of the building is unclear, but an external inspection indicated that it was of late eighteenth century date. This does not rule out earlier origins, although it seems likely that the building was originally a coaching Inn on the Great North Road. By the time of publication of the six inch edition of 1909 (revised from the first edition six inch map in 1906), the buildings were called 'Crossroads Farm'. There had been some minor hedgerow removal but other than this, the picture was identical to that of the first edition map. The provisional edition of the

six inch map, revised in 1950, was again identical. It is noteworthy that many of the quarries shown on the first edition six inch to the mile map of 1881 had disappeared by 1950, if not before.

4.0 Archaeological Assessment

- 4.1 Aerial photographic evidence and geophysical survey indicated that there are the remains of field systems of possible prehistoric date in the study area, although none are visible within the site considered here. Field investigation of a group of these linear features immediately west of the proposed development area was carried out by West Yorkshire Archaeological Service on behalf of Babtie (Babtie 1996). Their conclusion was that none of the features "is of special archaeological interest and their potential for providing further information seems low" (Babtie 1996: 4). There seems to be little significant evidence for prehistoric activity in the area.
- 4.2 A further group of linear features to the north of the proposed development area (WYAS ref 44 44 3173) appears on morphological grounds to be a later field system, rather than brickwork or ladder pattern fields of late prehistoric date. Similarly, cropmarks to the east of the site appear to represent evidence for later activity.
- 4.3 The nearest Scheduled Ancient Monument to the proposed development area is the Roman road near Hazeiwood Castle (North Yorks County number 621, SE 439 403 - SE 435 394). The monument is located to the south of the A64 Tadcaster Road and given that the A1/ M1 link road junction is being constructed in the immediate vicinity it is felt that the present development proposal would have a negligible impact on the setting of the scheduled area. The projected line of this road lies c. 500 metres outside the proposed development area. The other possible Roman road in the area, running north-west, south-east, also lies c. 500 metres outside the proposed development area and this too will not be affected by the development.
- 4.4 The remainder of known archaeology lies within Hazel Wood and Hazelwood Park. None of these sites would be affected by the proposed development.

5.0 Site Visit

- 5.1 A site visit undertaken by Dan Slatcher of *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* in June 1998 revealed an area of farmland under rough pasture, with some arable crop. A number of field boundaries have now been removed. No previously unrecorded sites or features were seen.

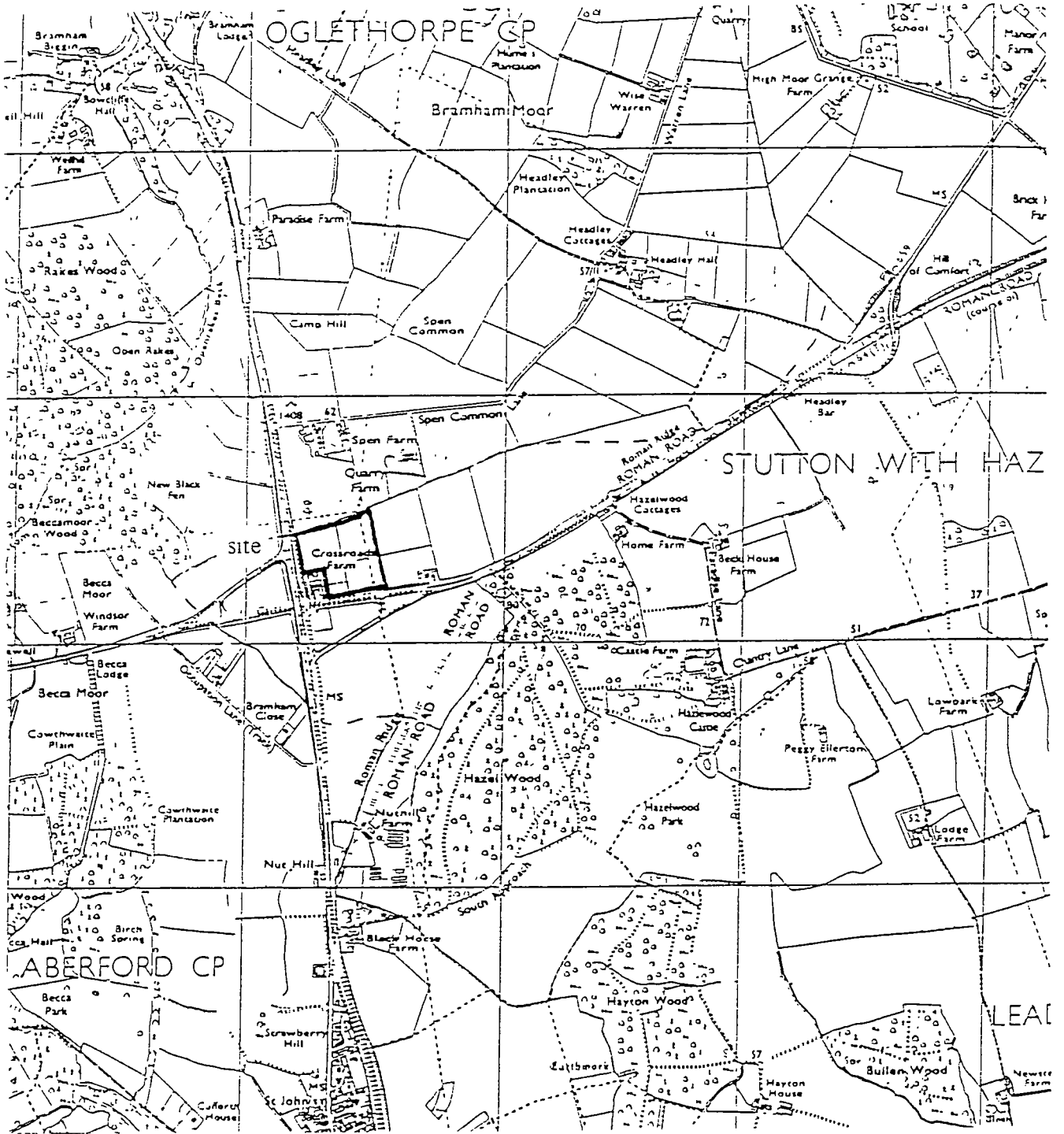
6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The desk-based assessment has indicated that the study area has seen a certain amount of human activity during the past, beginning during the Neolithic period. This has generally been low in intensity. The proposed development area itself contains no evidence for intensive activity, such as occupation of intensive agriculture, until the turn of the nineteenth century.
- 6.2 The study area has been the subject of considerable research in the recent past, including regular aerial photographic reconnaissance by WYAS and studies in connection with the A1/M1 link road. No archaeological remains have been noted within the proposed development area.
- 6.3 Given the negligible importance of excavated archaeological remains immediately west of the proposed development area, it is recommended that no further action be taken with regard to archaeology on this site.

8.0 Figures

Fig 1 Site Location

Fig 2 Relevant SMR Entries



300 x 200
150 x 100

Fig 1 Site Location

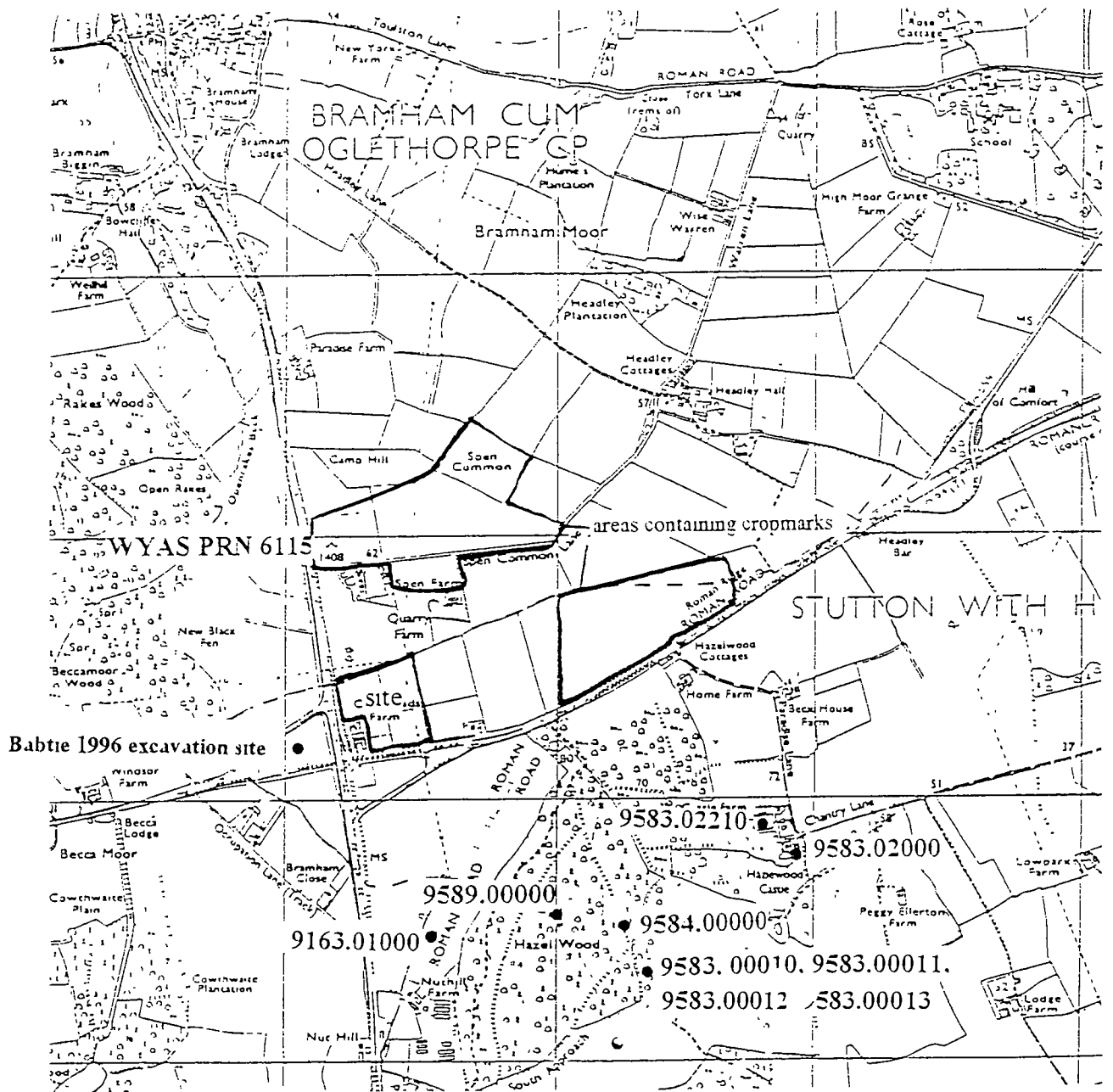


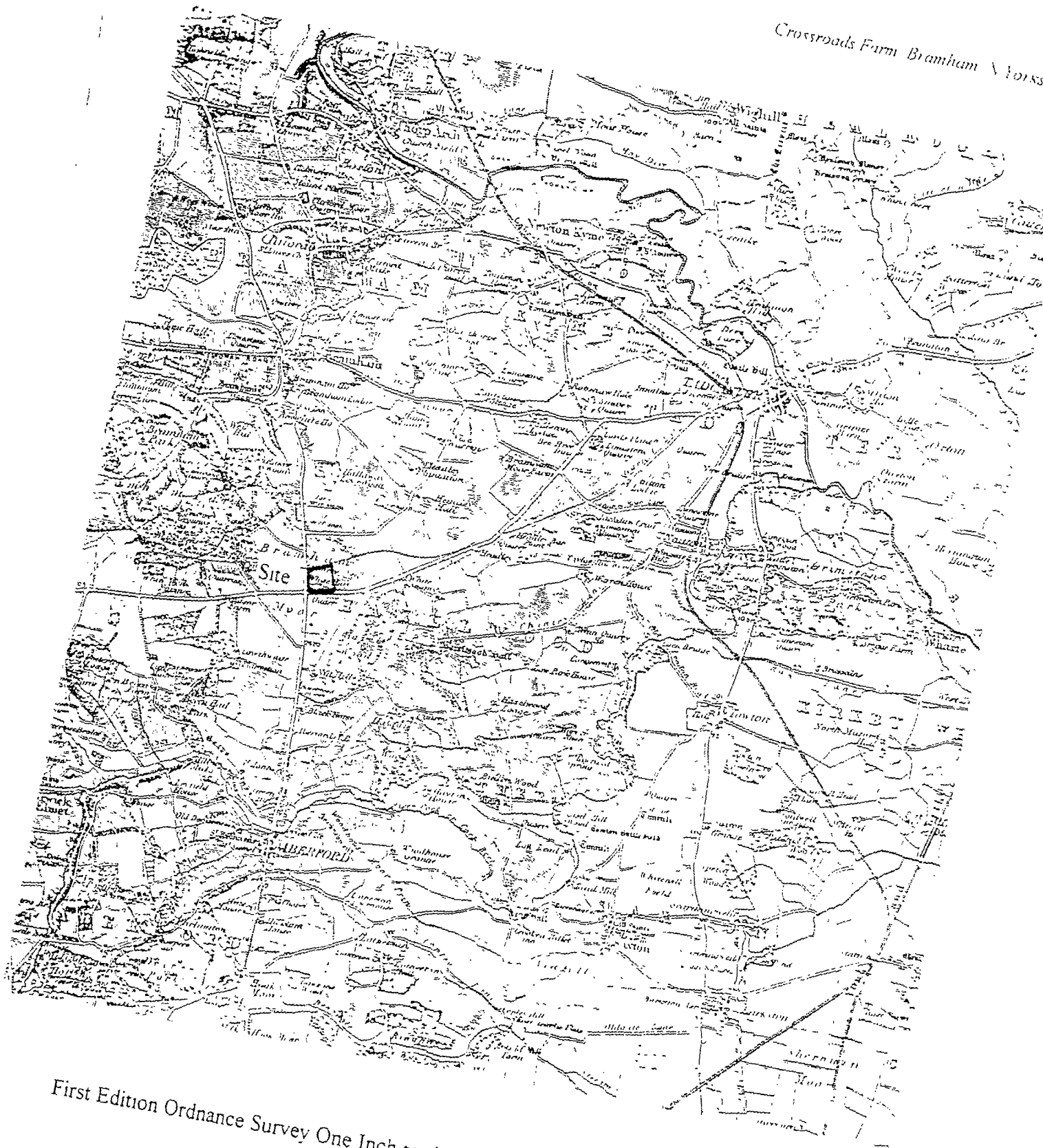
Fig 2 Relevant SMR Entries

8.0 Bibliography and References

Babtie Group	1996	M1 - A1 Link Road (Lofthouse to Bramham) Known Archaeology Report - Known Archaeology Area 24
English Heritage	1996	County List of Scheduled Monuments North Yorkshire
English Heritage	1996	County List of Scheduled Monuments West Yorkshire
English Heritage	1984	Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England Part 32 North Yorkshire
Northern Archaeological Associates	1994	M1 - A1 Link Road Geophysical Results and Recommendations for Archaeological Work
Sawyer PH	1968	Anglo Saxon Charters - Royal Historical Society Guides and Handbooks No 8
Smith, AH (ed)	1961	The Place Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire part 4
Soil Survey of England and Wales	1983	1 250 000 Sheet 1 and Legend

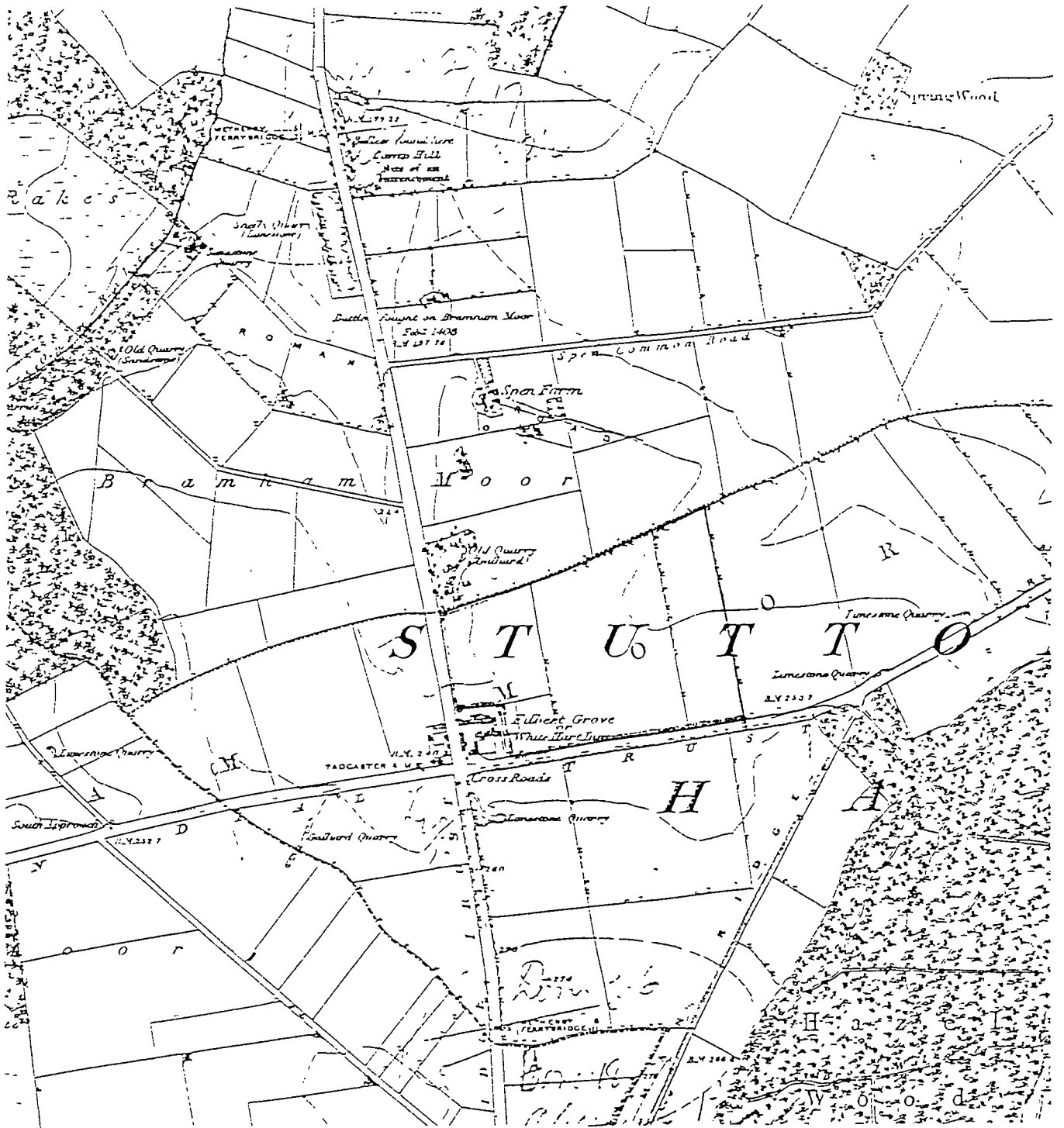
Appendix A: Historic Maps

Crossroads Farm Bramham A 10183



First Edition Ordnance Survey One Inch to the mile of 1858 (David and Charles reprint)

JSAC 422 98 002



Ordnance Survey County Series Six-Inch to the mile first edition