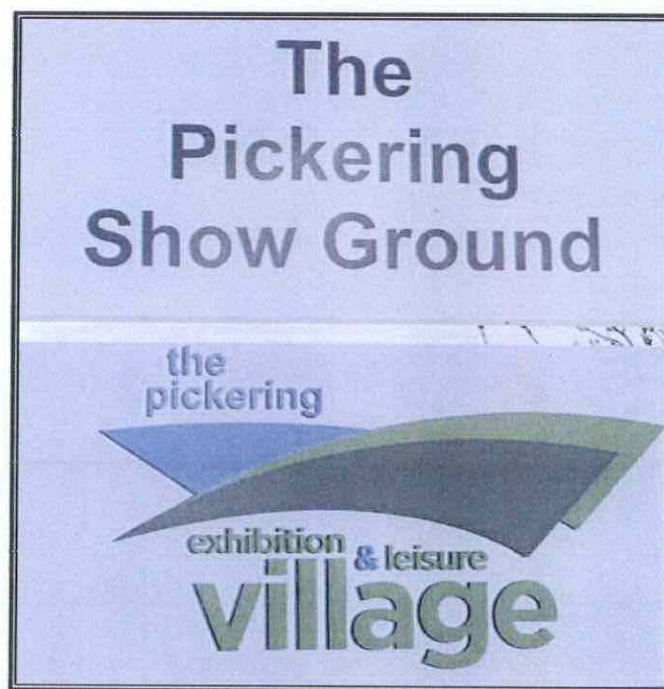

PICKERING SHOWGROUND, MALTON ROAD,
PICKERING, NORTH YORKSHIRE.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
OSA REPORT No: OSA13DT09

May 2013.



OSA

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Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA13DT09

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COUNTY: North Yorkshire

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 7970 8220

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1.0 Abstract.

This Desktop Assessment has been prepared at the request of Castlevale Group to provide information regarding the archaeological potential of a site at Pickering Showground, Malton Road, Pickering, North Yorkshire. Development is proposed which would involve the erection of 133 holiday lodges, managers lodge, restaurant building, site shops, reception building, other services buildings, conversion of part of the site to a touring caravan park, use of part of the site as a park and ride facility with passenger shelter and formation of a lake.

The site lies in an area with the moderate to high potential to contain evidence for settlement and landuse dating from the late prehistoric and Romano-British periods. The site also has moderate potential to contain medieval archaeological remains. These are most likely to comprise the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation and field boundaries as the site lay beyond the limits of the medieval settlement of Pickering. A programme of archaeological evaluation will be necessary to determine if archaeological remains are indeed present within the limits of the site. The requirement for such an evaluation could be made a condition of planning consent.

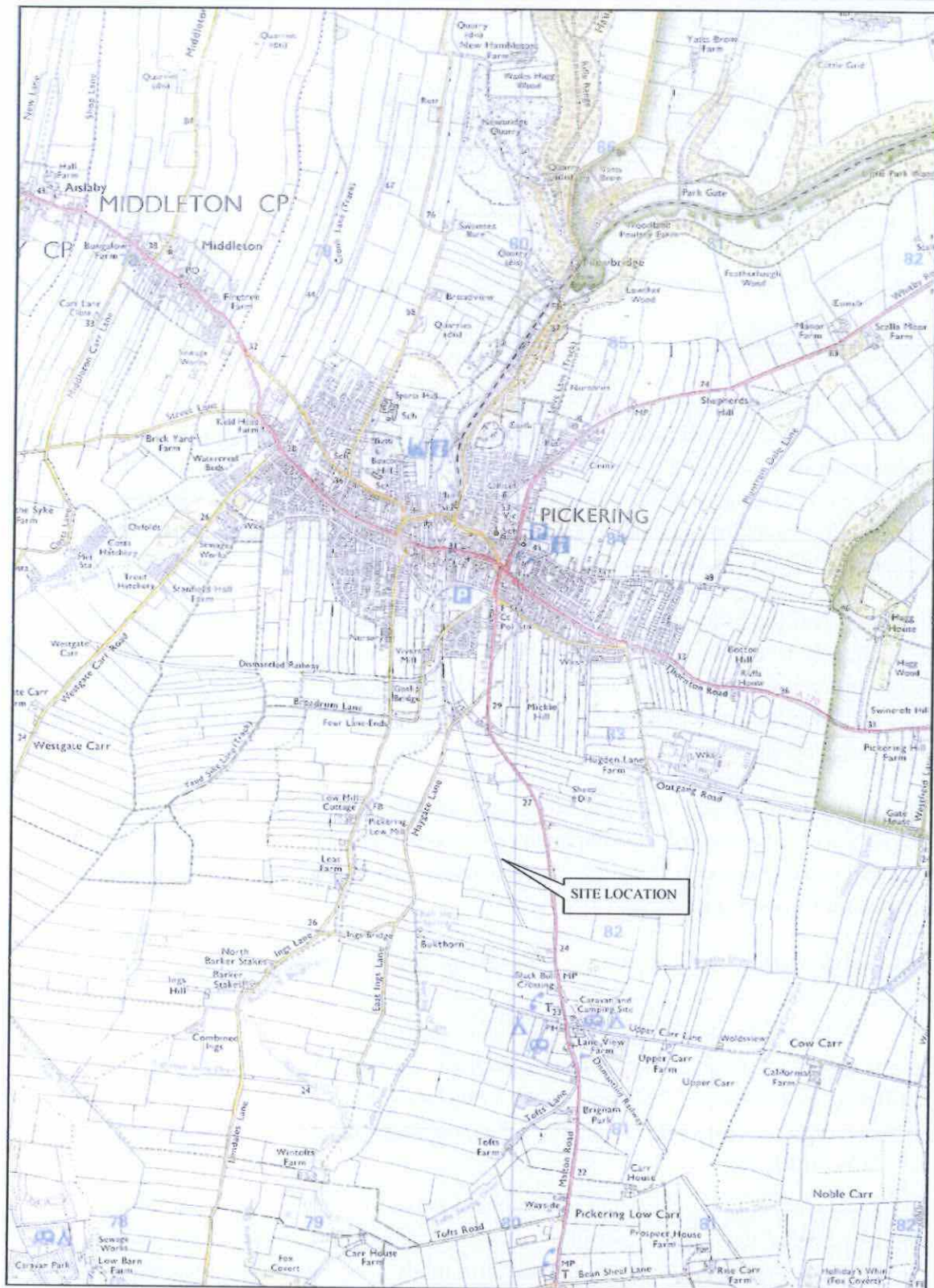


Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 7970 8220)

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2.0 Introduction.

In April 2013 an archaeological desktop study was undertaken by *On Site Archaeology* on the site of Pickering Showground, Malton Road, Pickering, North Yorkshire. It is centred at approximately NGR SE 7970 8220 (Figure 1). The study was undertaken to support a planning application for redevelopment of the site. The historical and archaeological significance of the study area was assessed using a variety of sources including cartographic evidence, the North Yorkshire Heritage Environment Record (HER), sources held by the North Yorkshire County Record Office and published archaeological and historical reports.

3.0 Methodology.

The historical and archaeological significance of the site was assessed using a variety of sources. These include cartographic evidence, records held at the North Yorkshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) office, North Yorkshire County Record Office, the online archaeological catalogues held by The Archaeological Data Service and the English Heritage National Monument Record, and published archaeological and historical reports. The assistance of the staff at these records offices is greatly appreciated.

Archaeological and historical data has been collected over an area extending for a distance of approximately 1000m from the site. The locations of these data points are indicated on Figure.2. Some significant sites, which may have an influence on the archaeological potential of the site, lie outside the 1000km search area. A selection of these have been included where they are appropriate and informative.

A site visit was undertaken to enhance the understanding of the modern landuse of the site, especially with regards to its effect upon the archaeological record. A photographic record was made of the site during this site visit, a selection of these photographs are used to illustrate this report (see Plates 1-13).

Site research notes are currently stored with On Site Archaeology.

4.0. Site Location, Landuse And Geology.

The site considered by this report is located on the west side of Malton Road, approximately 1.20-1.8Km to the south of Pickering, North Yorkshire. The centre of the site is located at National Grid reference SE 7970 8220, and the modern ground level lies at approximately 25m – 27m AOD.

The site is currently in use as a showground and events centre. The majority of the site comprises grassed fields, predominantly with hedged boundaries. Within the southern part of the site these are narrow east west orientated strip fields, which incorporate historic hedged boundaries, together with a small number of more recent north south hedged divisions. The majority of the western portion of the site is occupied by a single large flat grassed field, which fronts onto Haygate Lane along the western boundary. The southeast corner of this field contains a gas well site, which is separated by chain link fencing and surrounded by a

substantial earth bank. The eastern part of the site contains the main events arena, and field. The field is also laid predominantly to grass but includes substantial numbers of tarmac drives, which, around the arena form a closely spaced grid pattern. This area also contains occasional stands of trees, a pond, a parking area of crushed stone and the main access road. For much of its length the access road follows the course of the former railway line, which is visible as a raised linear bank towards the northern edge of the site.

The bedrock geology comprises Mudstone of the Ampthill Clay Formation and Kimmeridge Clay Formation -, overlain by Quaternary deposits of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey maps accessed via <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

5.0 Gazetteer Of Sites And Artefacts.

The following section lists the sites and artefacts of archaeological or historical potential that are recorded in the various sources consulted. This does not include every single entry found within the 1000m search area, only those that are likely to contribute to the archaeological potential of the site being studied. In addition some selected sites and monuments, located beyond the limits of the 1000m search area, are included, where these include implications for the archaeological potential of the site. Where possible the relevant Sites and Monuments Record (North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record) number is given, together with other bibliographic references where used. The locations of the recorded sites are plotted on Figure 2. The gazetteer is presented in approximately geographical order, from southwest to northeast.

5.1 Pickering Well site Development Earthwork Survey and Archaeological Monitoring Report.

Between June and September 2001 Northern Archaeological Associates undertook archaeological monitoring and earthwork survey as part of utility works. The works recorded a palaeochannel, the line of a former river terrace and ridge and furrow cultivation. (ENY4078).

5.2 Ings Bridge.

Probably early C19. Steeply-arched parapet to stone footbridge. Segmental arch with voussoirs over water. Grade II Listed.(MNY23521).

5.3 Leas Farmhouse.

Early C19. 2 storeys in painted brick with pantile roof. 3 windows, 2 of 3 lights, 1 of 2 lights, sliding sashes with glazing bars. Ground floor has 2 windows of 3 lights, sliding sashes, segmental-arched heads, as to doorway with plain door. Storage section to right of 2 storeys with windows with wood shutters above plain doors, wood lintels. Stone coped gable ends with kneelers. Grade II Listed.

5.4 *Pickering Low Mill.*

Early C19, 3 storeys in coursed stone with pantile roof with stone coped gable ends with kneelers. 2 windows, stone lintels with keystones, hung sashes with glazing bars. Blocked doorway and doorway with door of 6 panels, blocked rectangular fanlight, lintels with keystones. Stone perron to door. Extension to left of 2 storeys with 1 modern window to each, the upper having a stone lintel with keystone. Lower extension of 1 storey to left of this with modern door and window. Grade II Listed. (MNY24942).

5.5 *Medieval strip fields.*

An area of medieval strip fields with fragmentary legibility and up to 75% boundary loss since 1850. It is defined by regular external and internal hedgerow boundaries and consists of medium sized fields in a semi-irregular pattern (HNY21496).

5.6 *Medieval strip fields.*

An area of medieval strip fields consisting of medium sized fields in a semi-irregular pattern. It is defined by regular external and internal hedgerow boundaries and has significant legibility with approximately 50% boundary loss since 1850 (HNY21495).

5.7 *Medieval strip fields.*

This is an area of unknown planned enclosure consisting of medium sized fields in a regular pattern. It is defined by regular external and internal hedgerow boundaries and has fragmentary legibility with reorganised boundaries since 1850. The previous HLC was amalgamated medieval strip fields and these have been removed sometime since the 2nd edition of 1890 and replaced with some straight boundaries. The fields have been made in to the Pickering showground and include parking areas, and the hedge lined disused Pickering & Whitby railway line runs through the record. A fragment of one strip field has survived in the south of the record (HNY21497).

5.8 *Medieval strip fields.*

An area of medieval strip fields consisting of medium sized fields in a semi-irregular pattern. Defined by regular external hedges and internal overgrown hedgerow boundaries. It has significant legibility with approximately 40% boundary loss since 1850. (HNY21481).

5.9 *Barr Farmhouse and Farm Buildings to the north of Barr Farmhouse.*

Late C18 or early C19 farmhouse of 2 storeys in brick with pantile roof with stone coped gable ends with kneelers. Gable end part rendered. Brick eaves cornice. 3 windows, centre blocked, wood lintels, modern glazing. 2 windows to ground floor, modern glazing. Half-glazed door. Brick stacks at gable ends. Farm Buildings to the north comprise Late C18 or early C19, Farm buildings of coursed stone with pantiled roofs, in courtyard. Barr Farmhouse and buildings at Barr Farm form a group.

5.10 Archaeological Investigations on Land South of Crossgates Lane, Malton Road.

Between the summer of 2012 and Spring 2013 a series of archaeological evaluations were undertaken at this site in advance of a proposed development.

Initially a desk-based assessment was carried out (MAP, 2012). The assessment identified the remains of medieval ridge and furrow earthworks, and concluded that further archaeological evaluation was required. The potential for prehistoric, Roman and early medieval archaeological remains to be present was considered to be low, on the basis of the information available at the time that the assessment was carried out. The ridge and furrow earthworks were the subject of an earthworks survey (MAP, 2013), which suggested that the form was indicative of a late medieval date. A programme of geophysical survey was also carried out (Phase Site Investigations, 2013). The geophysical survey encountered several anomalies consistent with the medieval and later landuse of the site, in the form of north south aligned ridge and furrow. However, the survey also revealed the presence of a hitherto unknown ladder settlement, focused along an east west aligned trackway, located in the southern part of the development area. Ladder settlements, such as this, comprise interlinked rectangular enclosures, often covering several hundreds of metres. Many such ladder settlements have been identified through aerial photography. They are generally dated to the later Iron Age to Romano-British periods. (For examples see Stoertz, 1997, Figure 26). Detailed excavation of ladder settlements shows that many of the enclosures contained features that may not show up through geophysical survey techniques, including roundhouses, square and rectangular post-holes structures, burials, pits and fence-lines (see Fenton-Thomas, 2011). A final phase of evaluation carried out on the site comprised the excavation of fourteen trenches to test the nature, date, extent and degree of preservation of the features suggested by the geophysical survey (MAP, 2013a). The trenching confirmed the presence of the enclosure and trackway ditches, which were a maximum of 0.80m deep. In some cases the ditches had been re-cut on at least two separate occasions, suggesting that the settlement was occupied for a substantial period of time. Within the trackway some evidence for pebble surfacing was revealed. There was also some evidence for an earlier pit alignment, further indicating the longevity of the settlement. Finds included Late Iron Age / Romano-British type handmade coarseware pottery, 1st-2nd century AD Roman pottery, and flint tools and waste flakes.

5.11 Pickering.

The town of Pickering lies on the Scarborough to Helmsley road, where it crosses the Pickering Beck, with a street pattern predominantly formed during the medieval period. Before the Conquest the 'manor' of Pickering was held by Earl Morcar, but following the rebellion of 1071 it passed to the king. Borough status was confirmed by the early 13th century, although this may reflect formalisation of earlier rights. The market was certainly in place by 1206. The earliest surviving parts of the parish church of St. Peter and St. Paul are dated to the 12th century, although the presence of fragments of a Saxon cross, suggest that an earlier church stood on its site. The castle, located in the northern part of the town, was

erected probably early in the 12th century, by Henry I, when he visited Pickering and dated a charter there, possibly in 1122, at which date he kept Christmas at York (Page, 1923).

The town contains a large number of designated and undesignated heritage assets with the majority of the centre lying within a Conservation Area. The southern limit of the Conservation area lies just over 1 Km to the north of the site considered by this assessment. Two Scheduled Monuments, Pickering Castle and Beacon Hill ringwork siege castle and Observer Corps post, lie within the core of the town, whilst a third, St Nicholas medieval hospital, lies to the west of the town on Street Lane. The major historic streets within the town, such as Castlegate, Burgate, Market Place, Hungate, Potter Hill, Westgate and Eastgate are lined with listed buildings. The majority of these dated from the 18th and 19th centuries.

In addition to the entries located on Figure 2 several other significant sites are known from the wider area.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries a series of excavations were carried out on the banks of the Costa Beck, approximately 2.5Km to the southwest of the site considered by this report. These excavations revealed the remains of an Iron Age occupation site described as a lake dwelling. Wooden piles were seen 4' or 5' apart at a depth of 6' and tops of piles also protruded above the bed of the stream. Finds in 1893 including nearly 60 different patterns of jars and urns, bones of animals and of four humans one being a child associated with a perfect RB jar "small and beautifully shaped of fine black clay". The later finds included animal bones (mostly domestic); one human bone; pot boilers; and about 20 or 30 sherds of gritty ware of a blackness probably due to the surrounding mud.

To the north and northeast of Pickering more recent archaeological investigations have revealed Iron Age and Romano-British settlement activity at Newbridge Quarry (see Richardson, 2012, for details), and a late Roman villa complex, including a probable bath-house, at Blansby Park (Watts, Jones & Rahtz, 2003). Slightly further afield lay the Roman practice camps at Cawthorne to the north, and the much larger, permanent fort at Malton to the south (Wilson, 2006).

During the 19th century a large number of Bronze Age barrows were excavated by antiquarians in the Pickering area, although none of these lay in the vicinity of the site. They were predominantly located to the north of Pickering.

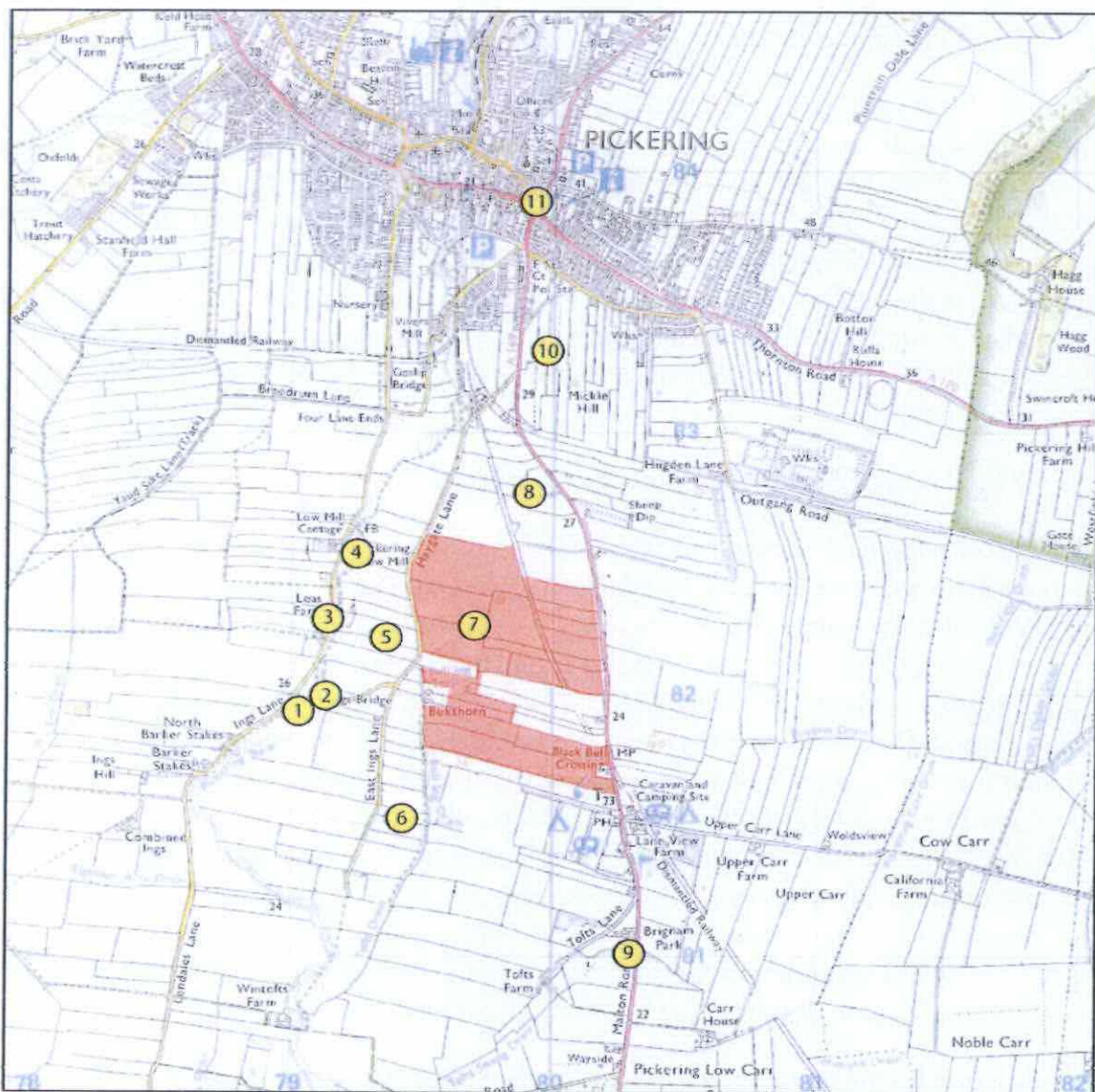


Figure 2. Locations of sites and artefacts mentioned in the gazetteer (site in red).
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6.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.

6.1 *The Prehistoric Period (to the 1st Century AD).*

Within the 1000m search area there is relatively little evidence for the prehistoric period. This evidence is all centred at the site investigated to the south of Crossgates Lane (5.10), and comprises evidence for a late Iron Age ladder settlement, which continued into the Romano-British period (see below). Further evidence for Iron Age settlement has been found slightly further afield, to the southwest at Costa Beck, in the late 19th and early 20th century, and more recently at Newbridge Quarry, to the north of Pickering. Earlier prehistoric periods in the surrounding area are dominated by antiquarian excavations of barrows, of probable Bronze Age date, which are generally concentrated on the higher ground to the north of Pickering, onto the edge of the Moors.

6.2 *The Roman Period (1st to the 5th centuries AD).*

The archaeology of the Roman period in the 1000m search area is also only represented by the investigations carried out to the south of Crossgates Lane (5.10). The ladder settlement first identified through geophysical survey comprises several rectilinear enclosures, laid out along an east west aligned trackway. The evaluation trenches were predominantly located to test the presence of the enclosure ditches, which proved to be a maximum of 0.80m deep. Several phases of re-cutting of ditches was observed, which, together with the presence of both Iron Age and Romano-British artefacts, suggests that the settlement was occupied for several generations, potentially even several centuries. Excavations of ladder settlements within the region often reveal complex structural remains within the enclosures, including such features as roundhouses, square and rectangular post-holes structures, burials, pits and fence-lines. The full southern and western extents of the ladder settlement lay beyond the limits of the Crossgates Lane site, and it is possible that a continuation of this settlement, or, possibly more likely, an associated field system, extends onto the showground site.

As with the prehistoric period the wider area also contains further evidence for Romano-British activity. The Newbridge Quarry site included settlement evidence of Romano-British date. To the northeast of Pickering a late Roman villa has also been investigated. These settlements clearly sit within a much broader Romano-British landscape. The major settlement in the area is the Fort and its associated civilian settlement at Malton, lying approximately 10km to the south of the site. Further military camps were established at Cawthorne, to the north of Pickering. It is likely that a road linked these two military sites, the line of which may run close to the modern route of the A169. Such a road is suggested by Patrick Ottaway (Ottaway, 2003, Fig 35), and its northward continuation is well preserved to this day at Wheeldale Moor.

6.3 *Early Medieval periods (5th to 11th centuries AD).*

This period is, as is often the case, very poorly represented in the gazetteer. Whilst fragments of Saxon cross have been found associated with the medieval church, suggesting the presence of some form of earlier settlement, the nature and extent of this is little understood. The manor of Pickering is mentioned in the Domesday Survey, which, at the conquest had been held by Morcar, the earl of Northumbria. Despite numerous small scale archaeological investigations having taken place within Pickering, no additional evidence has come to light to help understand the nature of occupation during this period.

6.4 *The Medieval Period (11th to the mid 16th centuries AD).*

Whatever the nature of settlement at Pickering was during the pre-Conquest period it was clearly surpassed during the medieval period. The establishment of the castle, and the associated settlement, which had certainly achieved borough status by the beginning of the 13th century, created a significant settlement.

The Showground site lies outside the core of the medieval settlement, forming part of its agricultural hinterland. Much of the site (5.7) and the surrounding areas (5.5, 5.6 and 5.8) contain recognisable medieval strip fields. Whilst some of the potentially medieval field boundaries still appear to be present on the site others have clearly been removed to allow amalgamation into larger agricultural fields. In contrast to some of the other medieval fields in the vicinity (such as to the south of Crossgates Lane, 5.10) the Showground site does not contain any surviving earthwork evidence for medieval ridge and furrow. It is likely that this has either been ploughed out during the early modern period, or deliberately levelled to allow the use of the site as the Showground..

There is therefore a moderate potential for the site to contain medieval remains, relating to agricultural landuse.

6.5 *The Post-Medieval to Modern Periods (mid 16th to 21st centuries).*

Throughout the post-medieval and the majority of the modern period the site has remained predominantly unchanged as agricultural land. The 1789 enclosure map simply shows the area within which the site lies as Ancient Enclosures, and the subsequent Ordnance Survey maps of the 19th and early 20th centuries confirm the continued presence of the medieval strip fields. All of the earlier field boundaries were still in place into the late 1950s. From the mid 19th century the site was crossed by the Whitby and Pickering Branch railway line, which was closed in 1965.

A substantial proportion of the sites that lie within the 1000m search area date to this period. These include designated assets, comprising the Grade II listed buildings of Ings Bridge (5.2), Leas Farmhouse (5.3). Pickering Low Mill (5.4) which are all located several hundred metres to the west of the site, and Barr Farmhouse and associated buildings (5.9), located several hundred metres to the south.

7.0 Cartographic Evidence.

The earliest maps consulted both date to the late 18th century. That produced by Thomas Jeffries in 1772 (Fig. 3), included the entire county and gives relatively little detail for the site itself. This map shows the location of the site between the Malton Road and Pickering Beck, but with no internal detail.



Figure 3. Extract from the map produced by Thomas Jeffries in 1772

The 1789 Enclosure Map (Figure 4), shows rather more detail for the surrounding area, but the site itself is blank. It is indicated as lying within an area of Ancient Inclosures.

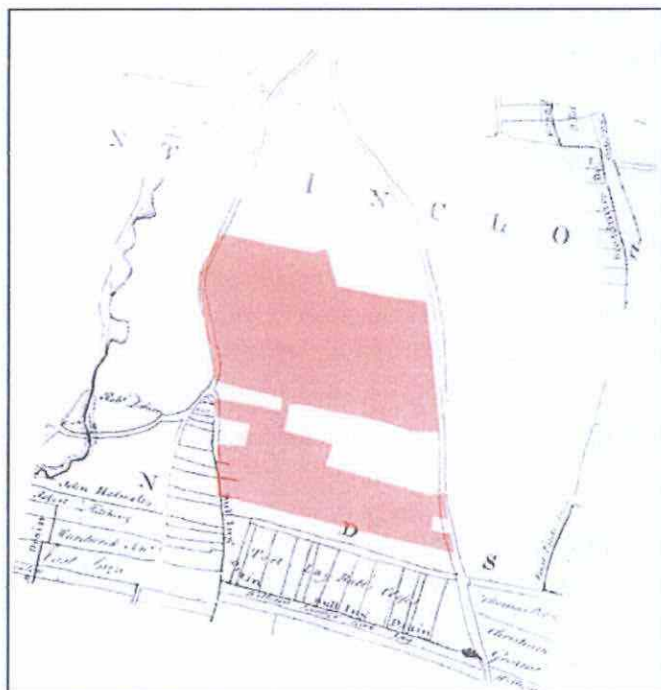


Figure 4. Extract from the 1789 Enclosure Map.

Much more detailed is provided from the Ordnance Survey maps dating from the mid 19th century. The First Edition map of 1854 shows the site divided into a large number of narrow, east west orientated strip fields. By this time the railway line has also been constructed. No changes are visible on the 1892 Ordnance Survey (Figure 6), or by the 1913 Ordnance Survey (Figure 7).

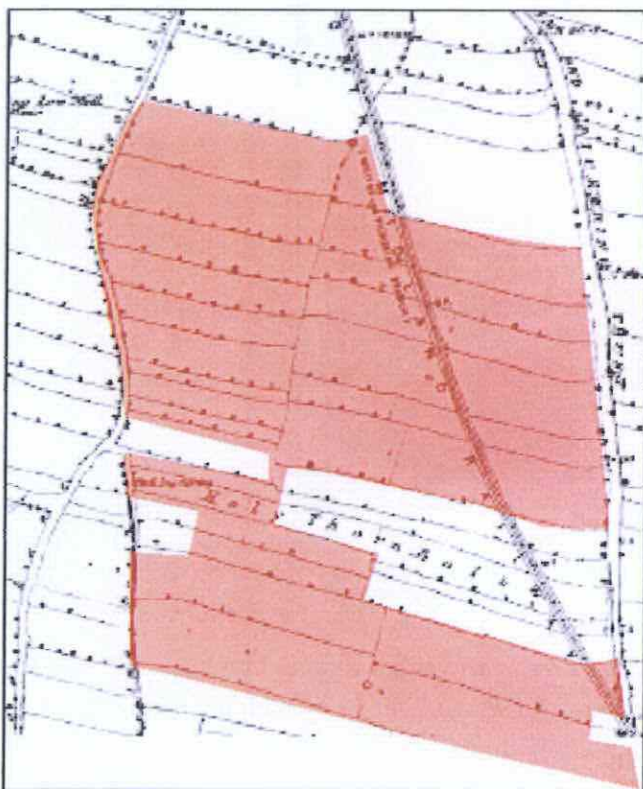


Figure 5. Extract from the 1854 Ordnance Survey Map.

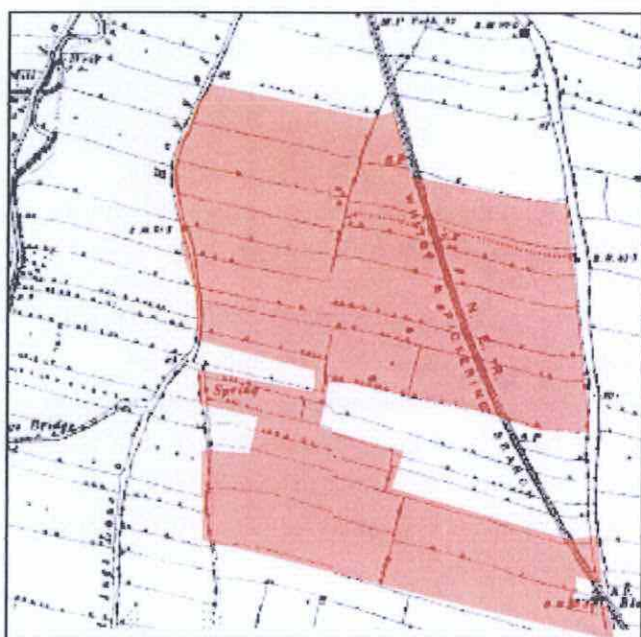


Figure 6. Extract from the 1892 Ordnance Survey Map.

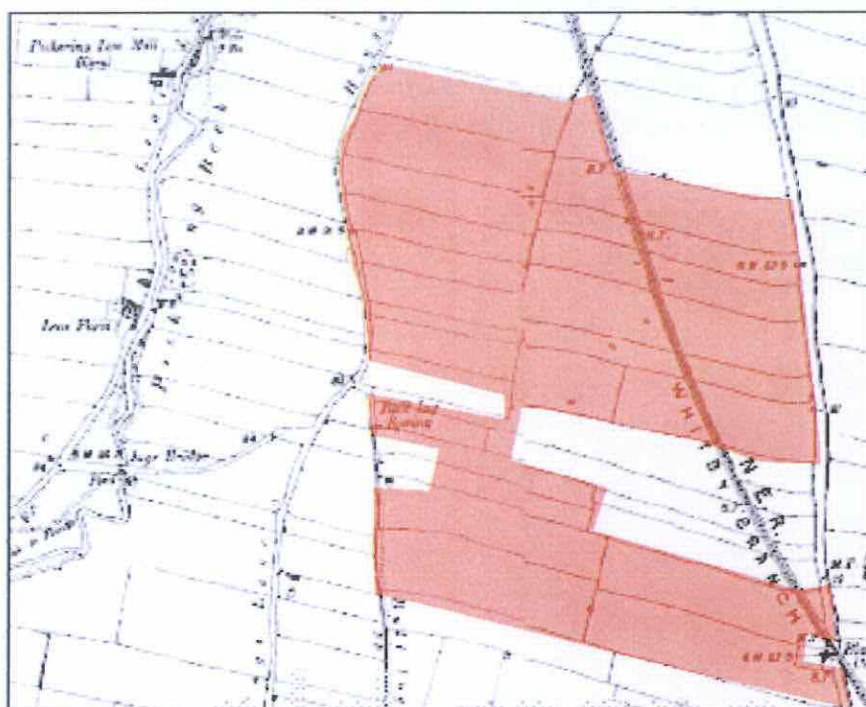


Figure 7. Extract from the 1913 Ordnance Survey Map.

8.0 Site Visit.

A site visit was undertaken on 26th April 2013. This involved a walkover of the site to enhance the understanding of the modern landuse of the site, especially with regards to its effect upon the archaeological record, and to identify any extant heritage assets.

The site can be broadly divided into three parts. The southern portion contains several narrow, east west orientated fields (Plates 1 and 2). This area also contains several similar fields which lie outside the boundaries of the site considered by this report. The fields are now almost exclusively occupied by short cropped grass, with the exception of a small area of woodland (Plate 3), located at the west end of the southernmost field. The fields are divided by what are clearly mature hedges (Plate 4), forming parts of the historic field systems indicated on the Ordnance Survey maps. There is no evidence for extant earthworks within any of these fields, despite their potential to contain medieval ridge and furrow.

The western part of the site comprises a single large grassed field (Plate 5). This had clearly previously comprised several narrow strip fields like those located to the south, but no evidence for these divisions now survives. The field does not contain either ridge and furrow, or, as may have been expected, even the remnants of the field boundaries that were still present until the late 1950s. The southwest corner of this field is occupied by the Pickering Gas Well Site (Plate 6), to which access was not possible. The Gas well site is surrounded by a large grassed earth bank and high chain link fence.

The eastern and northeastern portion of the site contains a variety of modern landuses, which have significantly altered the historic landscape in this area. Within the northeast corner is

the substantial modern arena building, housing the exhibition and leisure village (Plate 7). This is surrounded by tarmac car parking to the west and by flat grassed areas, incorporating gridded tarmac and cinder tracks to the east and north (see Plate 7). To the south of the arena is an events field (Plate 8), which includes a large circular tarmac ring. The western side of this field is defined by the main access road, which follows the line of the former railway. Within the extreme north of the site the former railway is clearly defined as it forms a low embankment (Plate 9). To the west of the access road/railway line, lies another events field, crossed by several cinder and rough tarmac tracks (Plate 10). Within the southern part of this field lies a small stand of trees and a pond (Plate 11). Examination of the eroded bank of the pond suggests that the underlying yellow natural clay lies at a depth of approximately 250-300mm below the modern ground surface in this area (Plate 12). Close to the site entrance an area of crushed stone has been levelled to provide a temporary car park area (Plate 13). The main entrance to the site is off Malton Road to the south of the eastern events field.

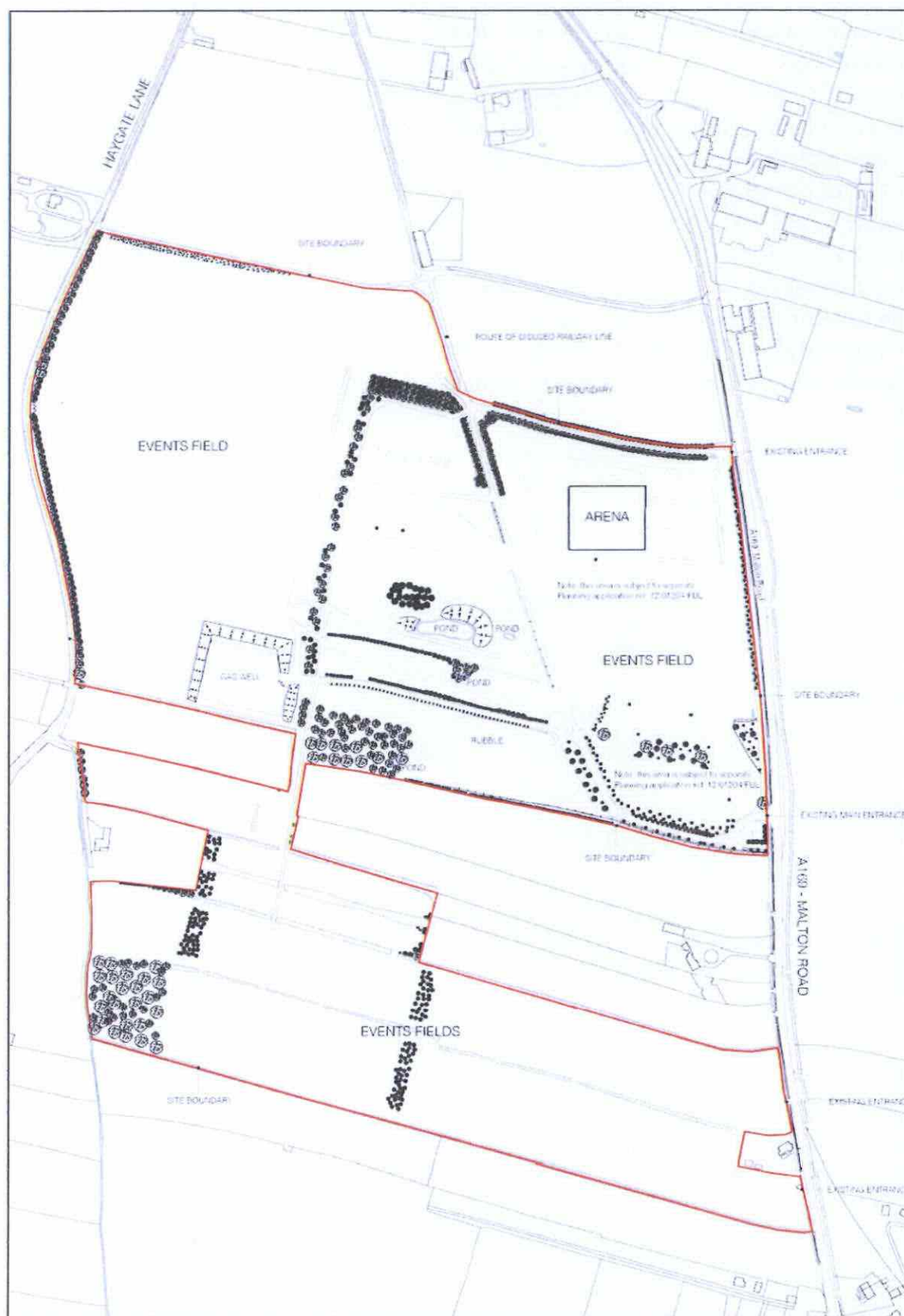


Figure 8. Existing site layout.

9.0 Discussion and Archaeological Implications.

The research undertaken in the preparation of this assessment has indicated that the site lies in an area with high potential to contain Iron Age to Roman remains. These may include elements of the ladder settlement identified at Mickle Hill, approximately 700m to the north, or associated field systems.

There is moderate potential for the site to contain archaeological remains of medieval date. These are likely to relate to agricultural landuse and would probably be limited to the remains of ridge and furrow cultivation, and possibly ditches forming field boundaries.

There are four listed buildings within the search area. None of these lie immediately adjacent to the site. Those to the west are separated from the site by existing farmland, whilst that to the south is beyond several buildings and an existing caravan and camping site.

The proposed development is to comprise the erection of 133 holiday lodges, managers lodge, restaurant building, site shops, reception building, other services buildings, conversion of part of the site to a touring caravan park, use of part of the site as a park and ride facility with passenger shelter and formation of a lake.

The proposed development is likely to require groundworks that would impact upon archaeological deposits. To ascertain if archaeological deposits are present it will be necessary to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation to determine the exact nature of archaeological survival. In the first place evaluation should take the form of geophysical survey of those parts of the site that have suffered the least disturbance, but are likely to be impacted upon the most by the proposed development, in this instance the large open western field. This field also has the greatest potential to contain evidence relating to the recently discovered ladder settlement to the north. This may then be followed by further geophysical survey of the southern fields and/or the excavation of archaeological trial trenches.

The archaeological evaluation of the site could be made a condition of planning consent, but would then need to be carried out prior to development commencing.



Figure 9. Proposed site layout.

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11.0 The Plates.



Plate 1. Example of surviving strip field in the south part of the site.



Plate 2. Example of surviving strip field in the south part of the site.



Plate 3. Plantation at the west end of the southernmost field.



Plate 4. Example of mature hedge boundary.



Plate 5. West field looking southwest.



Plate 6. Gas Well Site.



Plate 7. Arena building and associated gridded tarmac tracks.



Plate 8. Eastern events field.



Plate 9. Former railway line embankment at north end of site.



Plate 10. Events field immediately to the west of the railway line.



Plate 11. Pond.



Plate 12. Detail of pond edge showing depth of natural clay.



Plate 13. Stone car park.