

The remainder of the aerial photographs consulted comprised extensive plates of the area in and around the site of Coverham Abbey and Cotesue Park (NGR SE 1000 8600), William's Hill Ring and Bailey (NGR SE 1250 8725) and Middleham Castle (NGR SE 1265 8750). The aerial photographs provided no new information to add to the discussion above concerning the Abbey complex and Cotesue Park and Middleham Castle. Those taken of William's Hill Ring and Bailey show a rectilinear system of field boundaries and Medieval ridge and furrow situated to the southwest of the Motte and Bailey castle (fig 5 (2)). It is unclear whether the rectilinear field system is late prehistoric in date or part of a much later phase of enclosure. The field system is similar in plan to those identified on the northern face of the valley above the River Cover, which may suggest the earlier date for the field system. The cropmarks are cut by the road, along which the route of the pipeline runs and, thus may continue onto the western end of Middleham Low Moor.

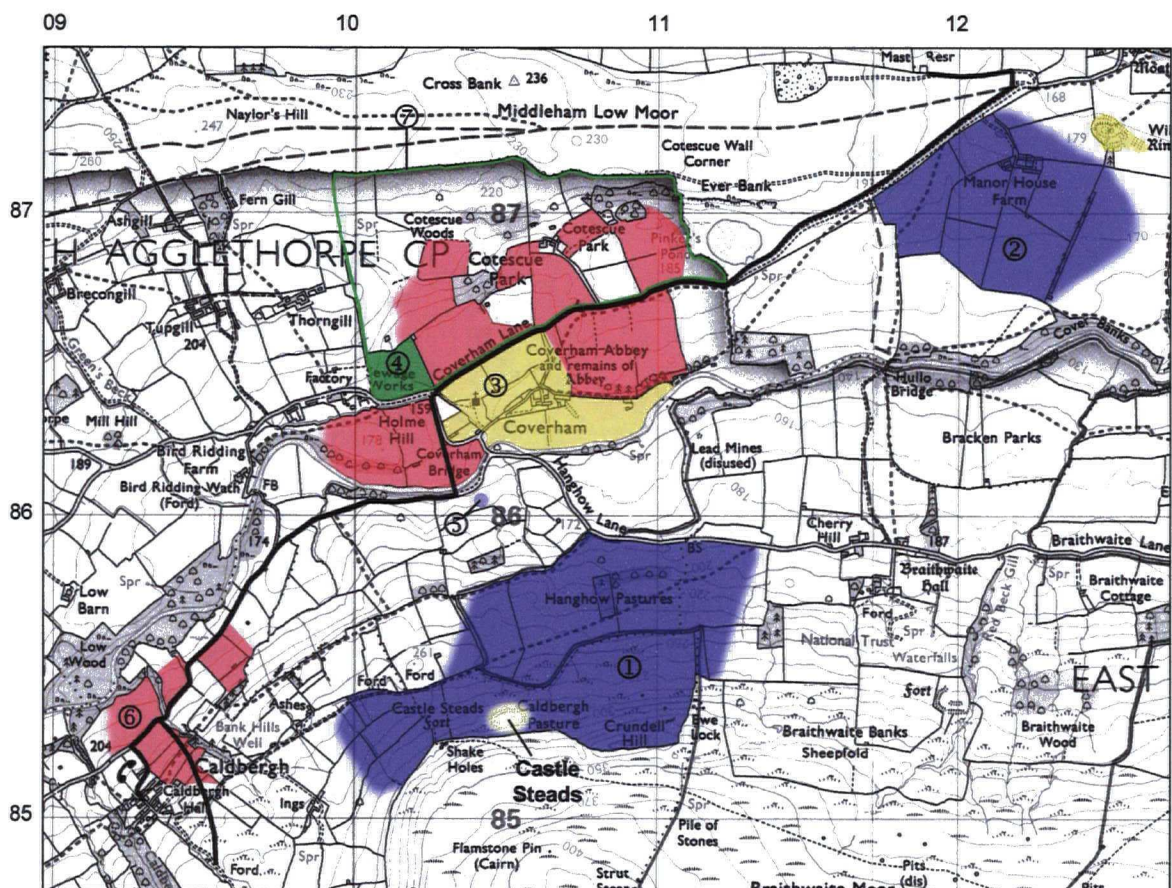


Figure 5: Archaeological remains in the vicinity of the pipeline route. 1:25,000.

Green Line; Boundary of Cotesue Park. Red; area of medieval ridge and furrow. Blue; area of late prehistoric / Romano-British land divisions. Green Shading; earthworks of possible farmstead. Yellow; Scheduled Ancient Monument. Numbers relate to text above.

7.0 Analysis of Impact by Period

7.1 *Late Upper Palaeolithic (c. 10 000 - 7600 BC)*

No archaeological evidence for this period was found in the search.

7.2 *Mesolithic (c. 7600 - 3500 BC)*

No archaeological evidence for this period was found in the search.

7.3 *Neolithic (c. 3500 - 1700 BC)*

No archaeological evidence for this period was found in the search.

7.4 *Bronze Age (c. 1700 - 600 BC)*

Two separate finds of a bronze socketed axehead and spearhead have been made at Agelthorpe (5.5) and Middleham (5.6) to the west and east of the pipeline route respectively. Both discoveries seem to indicate some kind of Bronze Age presence in this area but the precise character of this activity is not known. Additionally it is possible that the rectilinear field systems identified on the north-facing slopes of the Cover valley (fig 5 (1)) and on farmland to the south west of William's Hill Ring and Bailey (fig 5 (2)) may have origins in the late prehistoric period. Furthermore, the latter field system appears to be cut by Coverham lane as it passes over the eastern end of Middleham low Moor and there may be continuation of the features onto the moor itself.

7.5 *Iron Age & Romano-British (c. 600 BC - AD 410)*

The earthwork remains of two large enclosures survive on the north facing slopes to the south of the River Cover (5.1: Castle Steads and 5.3: East Witton Camp). These are likely to date from the Iron Age and Romano-British period respectively. There is one other settlement enclosure in this same area (5.2) which is likely to date from this period and the identification of all three has been helped by the lack of later activity and settlement in the slopes of the valley here (fig 5 (1)). In addition to this there is a possibility that the rectilinear field system on the north-facing slopes of the Cover Valley and to the south west of William's Hill Ring and Bailey may belong to this period. Thus, there is a high possibility that late prehistoric and/or Romano-British settlement was also present lower down the slopes by the river. Here the Medieval remains would no doubt mask earlier features and may in some cases have destroyed them. Until investigative excavation is undertaken in the area of the Abbey it will not be possible to assess either the former presence of pre-Medieval settlement or the degree of damage wrought on these remains by the Medieval presence.

7.6 *Anglo-Saxon to Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1540)*

Apparently the only identifiable archaeological material dating to the earlier phase of the Medieval period is the remains of an Anglo-Saxon cross shaft reused as a lintel in the

construction of the southern doorway of Holy Trinity church. There is also a reference in the writings of Simeon of Durham to a possible connection between Coverham and the Anglo-Saxon King Aethelred of Northumbria (Halsall 1989).

Apart from the settlements at Caldbergh and Middleham, and the latter's two fortifications, the other major site from the medieval period, whose below ground remains might be encountered, are the ruins of the Premonstratensian Abbey at Coverham (fig 5 (3)). This scheduled monument includes the key religious buildings and the majority of the wider ancillary buildings contained within the monastic precinct. There are upstanding remains of the gatehouse, the ruins of a mill and mill race and the earthwork remains of fishponds and other structures. To the north of the abbey site in the south west corner of Cotesue park is situated another complex of earthwork remains (fig 5 (4) and above 5.11). These include rectilinear platforms, possibly the location of former buildings, and a large rectangular hollow that may have been a fishpond. It is unclear as to whether these earthworks are associated with the abbey complex or are part of the Deer Park, as the latter quite often contained keepers' lodges within their confines. Additionally, it is unclear as to how far to the west the abbey complex may have extended: Remains may occupy the two fields to the west of the road that leads southwards from the junction with Coverham Lane to Coverham Bridge.

The arrangement of linear features identified to the south west of Coverham Bridge: a triple bank and ditch interpreted as a Medieval land boundary is situated near to where the route of the pipeline crosses the river Cover (fig 5 (5)). There is a likelihood that the pipe trench may impinge on this feature, that is if it has not been severely truncated already by the construction of the road.

To the north and south of the proposed route of the pipeline the remains of the Medieval open field system survive as cropmarks, identifiable from aerial photographs and as standing earthworks. These features are known as ridge and furrow and represent the strips of land incorporated into unenclosed fields. Each field was divided into bundles of strips and each strip allocated for the use of an individual or household in the associated village or farmstead. On steeper ground arable land was levelled off to form terraces or lynchets, fundamentally this land allocation utilised the same principles as the open field system, but the date of this practice is unknown and may span periods prior to and after the Medieval period. In this respect if the alternative route of the proposed pipeline is followed to the north and east of Caldbergh then it will cut through an area of terracing and a Medieval trackway (fig 5 (6)).

7.7 Post-Medieval

There are ubiquitous archaeological remains from the post-medieval period. These include lead and coal mining sites, limestone and sandstone quarries, lime kilns and field barns. The numerous fords, the footbridge at Hullo and holloways can be added to these sites, although they may have origins in the Medieval period. Fortunately the majority of these sites are situated on the higher ground to the north and south of the proposed pipeline route well out of the vicinity of the proposed groundworks and are therefore under no threat.

8.0 Conclusions

Coverdale and the immediate environs of the village of Middleham are rich in archaeological remains spanning the late prehistoric through to the post-medieval periods. This is embodied in the long and varied utilisation of the landscape by the communities that settled within the area. During the late prehistoric and Romano-British period we begin to see the establishment of rectilinear field systems and their associated settlements and farmsteads. One possible field system to the southwest of William's Hill Ring and Bailey may encroach onto the eastern extremities of Middleham Low Moor and thus maybe impacted upon by the proposed route of the pipeline around SE 118 872. At this location the pipeline is intended to follow the verge of the road and these groundworks may therefore affect archaeological remains.

Later, in the Medieval period, settlement within Coverdale became compounded with the growth of nucleated settlements under feudal control and the establishment of a Premonstratensian abbey at Coverham. Alongside the major foci for settlement the associated farming practice of the open field system has left an indelible mark on the local landscape. The ridge and furrow confined within the open fields is visible as cropmarks and extant earthworks and is situated along almost the entire length of the proposed pipeline route. Additionally, cultivation terraces are found on the higher and steeper ground, especially within the immediate environs of the village of Caldbergh. Therefore it is probable that the remains of these types of farming practice may be impacted on during the excavation of the pipe trench, especially when the route cuts across open farm land as at Coverham and Caldbergh.

Additionally a triple bank and double ditched land boundary of probable Medieval date, possibly associated with the abbey complex or the later Deer Park, situated to the southwest of Coverham Bridge may also be encountered.

For the most part the route of the pipeline is intended to follow roads or road verges. In these cases the likelihood of the groundworks affecting archaeological remains is small. However it should be remembered that the boundary of Cotescue Park did run along Coverham Lane, the road which also carries the pipeline. In two places the pipeline is proposed to strike out across open farmland. Around SE 103 862 the route passes very close to the site of Coverham Abbey and although this field lies outside the scheduled area it is highly likely to contain archaeological remains related to the Abbey. Elsewhere the alternative route (A) is set to run east of the village of Caldbergh again across open farmland which contains traces of medieval ridge and furrow.

9.0 Bibliography.

9.1 *Secondary Sources*

- Beresford, M.W. 1955 The Lost Villages of Yorkshire pt iv **Yorkshire Archaeological Journal** 38 280-309
- Fleming, A 1998 **Swaledale: Valley of the Wild River** Edinburgh University Press
- Halsall, G 1989 Coverham Abbey: its context in the landscape of late medieval North Yorkshire, in Gilchrist and Mytum (eds) **The Archaeology of Rural Monasteries** B.A.R. 203
- Hey, D 1986 **Yorkshire From AD 1000** Longman
- I'Anson 1939 The Castles of the North Riding **Yorkshire Archaeological Journal** 22
- Page, W 1914 **Victoria County History of the North riding of Yorkshire** vol 2
- Smith, A.H. 1969 **The Place-Names of the North Riding of Yorkshire** Cambridge University Press

9.2 *Archives and Libraries*

- North Yorkshire County Council. Sites and Monuments Record
- Yorkshire Dales National Park Sites and Monuments Record
- North Yorkshire County Record Office
- University of Sheffield Main Library
- University of Sheffield Geography Library
- N M R Aerial Photographic Library, Swindon (see appendix 1 for full list of Aerial photographs consulted).

10.0 Appendix: List of Aerial Photographs Consulted

The following is a list of aerial photographs consulted at the NMR Aerial Photographic Library, Swindon. Each frame or set of frames is identified by their own unique library number (for vertical prints) and accession number (for oblique prints).

Vertical Prints:

Library Number

349:	Frames 3221 to 3228
349:	Frames 4221 to 4228
1190	Frames 3169 to 3176

Obliques:

Accession Number

NMR 4533	Frames 09, 10 and 12
NMR 4406	Frames 25 to 28
NMR 4902	Frame 04
YDP 13196	Frame 19
YDP 13195	Frame 41
YDP 13251	Frame 05
YDP 16790	Frames 06, 08 and 09
YDP 13196	Frame 17
YDP 16789	Frame 12
CCC 11757	Frame 7413 and 7414
DNR 1272	Frame 30
NMR 4932	Frames 30 to 34
NMR 4925	Frames 16 to 17
YDP 13196	Frames 10, 11, 13, 14 and 16
NMR 12998	Frame 36

NMR 17028	Frame 25
NMR 17045	Frames 46 to 47
NMR 12626	Frames 05 to 08
NMR 17042	Frame 03
YDP 16789	Frames 04 to 07
YDP 16790	Frames 02 to 04
CAP 8087	Frames 95 to 96
YDP 16772	Frames 08
YDP 16789	Frames 08 to 11 and 13
NMR 17271	Frames 39 to 46
NMR 17259	Frames 06 to 10
NMR 1248	Frames 211 to 214, 216 to 220 and 222 to 230
NMR 10520	Frames 01 to 09
DNR 1038	Frame 15
NMR 4931	Frames 02 to 03
NMR 4925	Frames 21 to 25
YDP 13200	Frame 01
YDP 13250	Frame 06