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L0007 CRYPTO RISK REDUCTION,  
THORNTON STEWARD – SCOTTON.

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT  
OSA REPORT No: OSA00DT04

August 2000



**OSA**

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**Report Summary**


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**REPORT NUMBER:** OSA00DT04**REPORT DATE:** August 21<sup>st</sup> 2000**SITE NAME:** Thornton Steward - Scotton**COUNTY:** North Yorkshire

**PARISHES:** Thornton Steward 1087  
 Finghall 1070  
 Akebar 1061  
 Hunton 1076


**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 1860 9494 – SE 1868 8834

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## 1.0 Introduction

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*This report was commissioned by Earth Tech Engineering Limited, and provides an assessment of the impact of a proposed route for a water pipeline between Thornton Steward and Scotton, near Catterick, North Yorkshire. This desktop assessment follows the preliminary impact assessment produced by On-Site Archaeology prior to the finalising of the pipeline route.*

*The works will involve small diameter mainlaying (63 and 150mm diameter) preferably following along road verges, adjacent to the road in the fields to either side, and skirting village centres in that order of preference. The proposed pipeline route is illustrated in Figure 1, while Figure 2 gives an indication of the 'study area' used in the preparation of this report.*

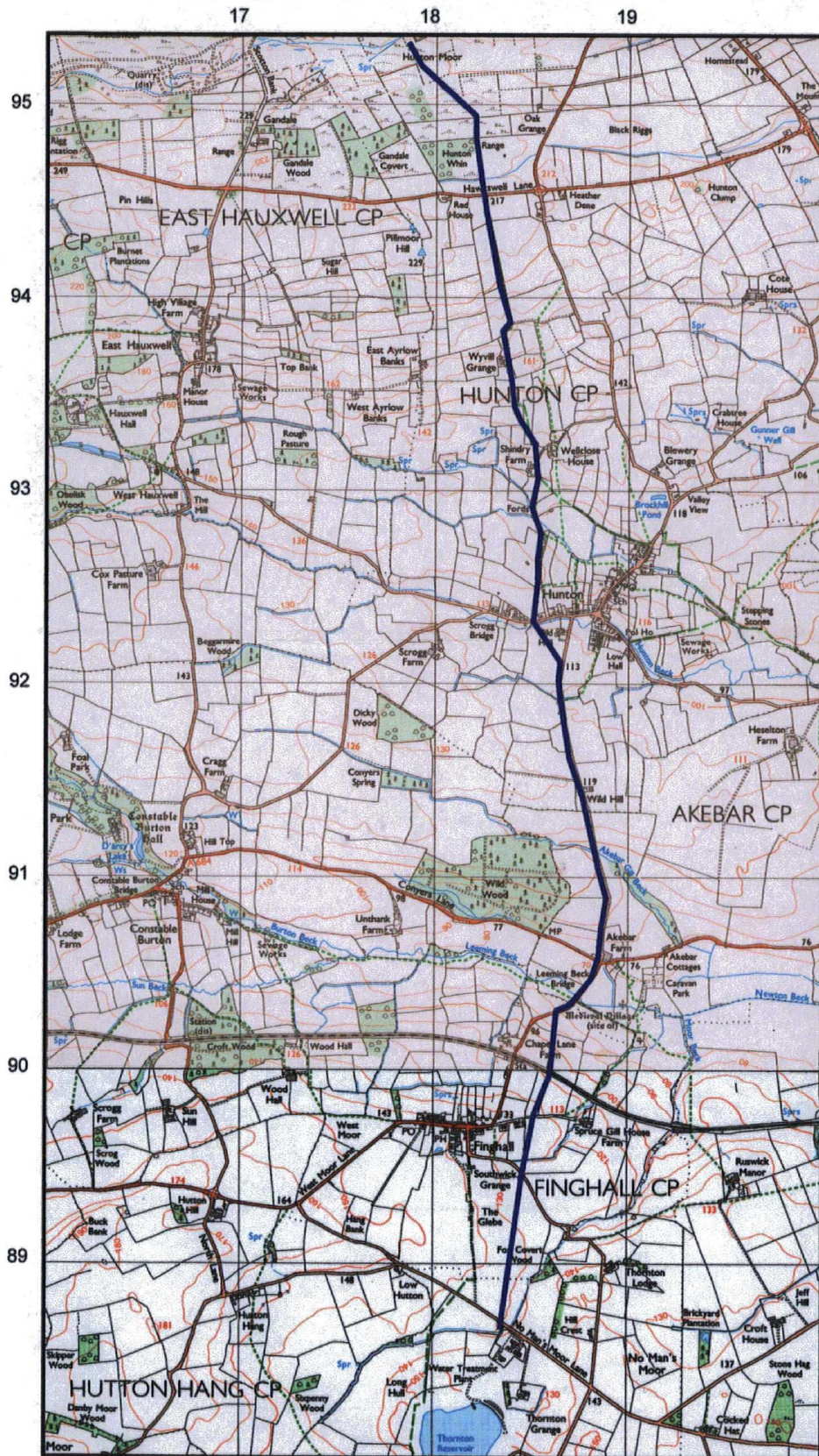


Figure 1. Pipeline route.

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## 2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use

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The proposed route of the pipeline runs approximately north-south through the parishes of Thornton Steward, Finghall, Akebar and Hunton. They are situated in the gently undulating countryside of the western Vale of Mowbray in North Yorkshire in the sloping ground between the Rivers Swale and Ure. To the west of this area the ground rises to form the Pennines, itself dissected by the valleys of Swaledale and Wensleydale to the north-west and south-west of this area, respectively. The affected area is predominantly rural distributed with nucleated villages and some isolated farms. The nearest towns are Bedale (6km east) and Leyburn (6km west). To the north of the pipeline route is the Catterick army garrison and to the north-east, the village of Catterick and the A1.

According to the British Geological Survey (sheet 51) the underlying geology is Millstone Grit and Sandstone overlain by morainic drift and fluvio-glacial sand and gravel. This produces a gently undulating topography, the higher ridges formed by glacial deposits which have undergone erosion by water action on their slopes and bottoms.

The land-use of the area is given over to a mixed farming regime where arable cultivation tends to dominate. To the north of the application site at Hunton Moor the land use is given over to Ministry of Defence training grounds connected with the Armed Forces base at Catterick

The proposed route of the pipeline runs from a point 1km southwest of the village of Scotton in a southerly direction for a distance of approximately 7km as far as Thornton Grange, 1.75 km south of the village of Finghall. For part of the route it is intended to follow the course of existing roads, but between Hunton Moor and the village of Hunton the pipeline shall cut across open farmland and similarly between the village of Finghall and Thornton Grange. The initial intended route for the pipeline ran along a different course generally to the east. It was re-routed in order to avoid the scheduled ancient monument of Hunton shrunken medieval village at SE 192 939, following a preliminary impact assessment.

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### 3.0 Archaeological Background

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The western Vale of Mowbray has always been an important communications corridor between Yorkshire and the north. The present A1 follows the same approximate course as the Roman road of Dere Street which provided access between the Roman centre at York and the military installations along Hadrian's Wall. Catterick itself is the site of an important Roman fort and civilian settlement situated on this road. Excavations have revealed traces of this settlement in the present village as well as around the racecourse to the north of the village.

Both historical and archaeological sources have shown that Catterick continues in importance during the post Roman period as a royal centre and strategic settlement. Only 4km to the east Richmond stands in an even greater strategic location in the northern Vale of York overlooking the River Swale. Here William the Conqueror built a castle to provide a strong military presence commanding the main routes from Scotland. The town remained an important military and ecclesiastical centre from the 11<sup>th</sup> century.

The Medieval landscape of the area was dominated by the wealthy monasteries at places like Jervaulx and Coverham. Much of the agricultural land surrounding these abbeys would have been owned and managed by the monastic communities. Furthermore, it is clear from the plans of the villages of Hunton and Finghall that they have Medieval origins: the outline of tofts and crofts can be identified, fossilised in the modern field boundaries.

There is relatively little known about the nature of prehistoric settlement in this area but the presence of occasional finds and sites suggests that this gap in knowledge is more down to lack of information because of the poor survival of evidence than a real absence of prehistoric activity. In the more remote dales to the west for instance the remains of prehistoric settlements and field systems are well preserved on the high moorlands of the valley sides.

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## 4.0 Methodology and Study Area.

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The study area consisted of a strip of land extending approximately 1km either side of the proposed route of the pipeline. Within this area each of the 10 kilometre squares was searched for the presence of sites of archaeological or historical significance. This desk top study was based on enquiries made at archives, libraries and institutions likely to hold relevant information. All relevant maps, publications and record photographs were consulted.

Searches were made of the computerised Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) held by both North Yorkshire County Council and the English Heritage National Monuments Record (NMR). This data was plotted against the proposed pipeline routes and is listed below. The scale of aerial photography cover held by/referenced in the NYCC SMR and the NMR in Swindon was also assessed and all relevant photographs were examined. In addition, the location of Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) sites within the study area was identified, and the boundaries of the SAM areas plotted against the proposed pipeline route. All relevant Tithe and Enclosure maps of the area held in the North Yorkshire County Record Office (NYCRO) were consulted as well as more general archaeological publications relevant to the area.

The proposed route of the pipeline was walked and investigated on the ground. Any visible earthworks relating to possible archaeological sites were noted.



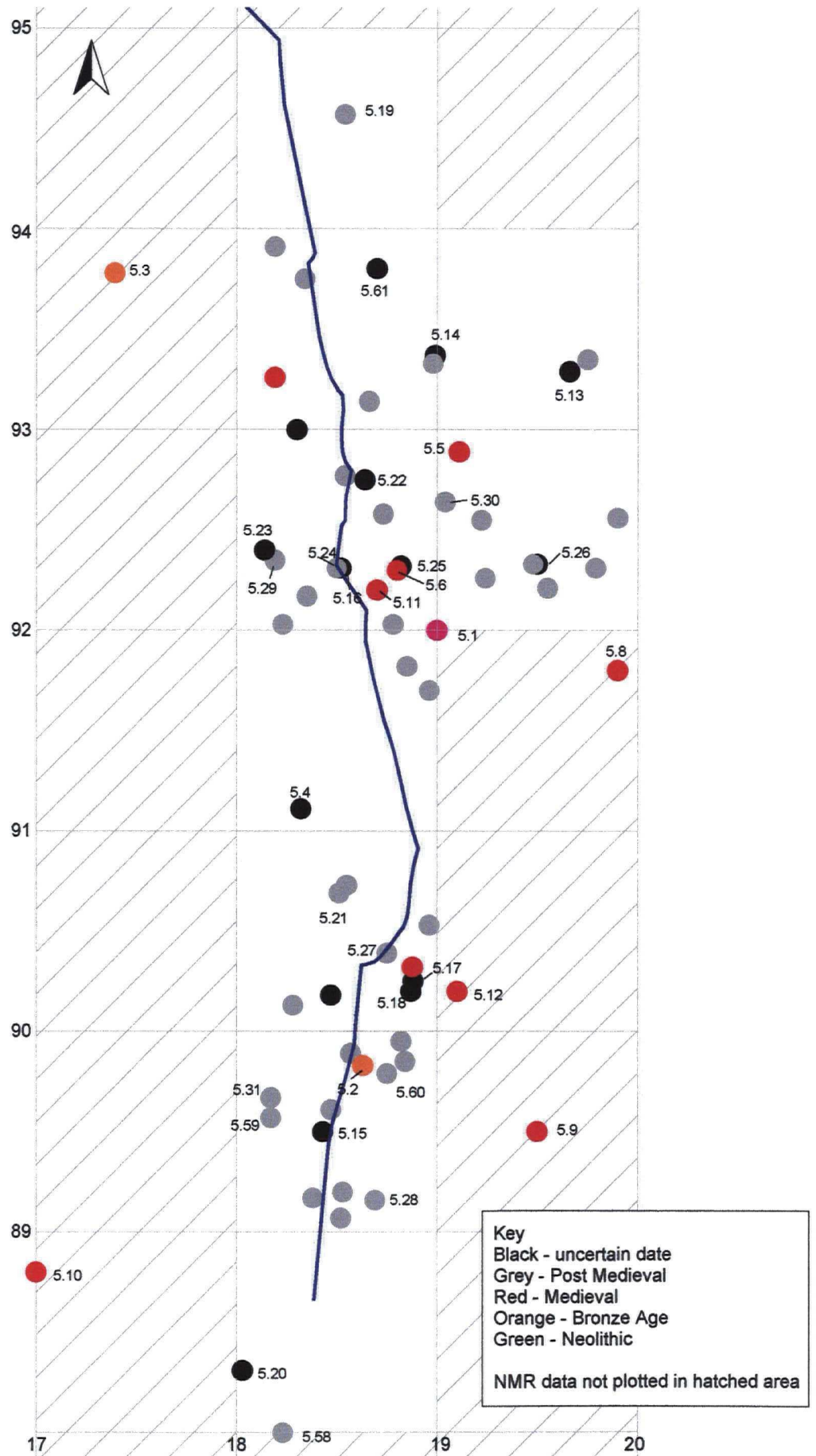


Figure 2: The pipeline route and sites mentioned in section 5.0. Unmarked locations relate to field barns.

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## 5.0 Archaeological Sites in the immediate vicinity

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The following section lists the sites and artefacts of archaeological or historical interest found within the study area that have been recorded in the various sources consulted. They are listed according to the map number which identifies them on figure 2. The relevant NMR identifier number is also given as is their OS grid reference (centre of site). The list of sites has been organised generally by period so that those earliest in date will be found at the top of the list and the latest at the foot. It should be remembered however that there are a number of sites whose period is unknown.

### 5.1 *Neolithic Stone Axe (NMR no. 50973) SE 19 92*

A Neolithic stone axe was found at Hunton and is now in the Sheffield Museum (accession no. J.1942.29). A more precise find spot for the object is not available. The axe is made of dolerite and may have been imported into the area, although this is unproven as this type of stone cannot be uniquely provenanced. There was a lively trade in similar stone axes during the Neolithic between Cumbria and the Yorkshire Wolds and significantly this was found in an area that lies en route between the two places.

(reference: NMR, Keen and Radley 1971)

### 5.2 *Tumulus (SE 1863 8983)*

The SMR records the presence of a possible tumulus visible as a cropmark in arable land. This is identified from the ring ditch that would have surrounded a central mound and/or burial. Monuments such as this would usually date from the early Bronze Age.

(reference: SMR)

### 5.3 *Bronze Sword SE 1739 9378*

The SMR records the discovery of a bronze sword to the north-east of Hunton village. It was found along with decayed bones in 1787 in a mound by the then deacon of Hauxwell. The site lies close to the place-name Ayrflow Banks, the *low* element of which may refer to the former presence of such a mound.

(reference: SMR)

### 5.4 *Silver Coins (NMR no. 50976) SE 1832 9111*

The OS 6" map for 1919 records the findspot of 'silver coins' discovered here in 1909. No further information is available.

(reference: NMR)

### 5.5 **Hunton village earthworks (NMR no. 1143206) SE 1911 9289**

The NMR has the following entry regarding the deserted Medieval village at Hunton. Very little additional information is available and there is no mention in Beresford's list of lost villages of North Yorkshire.

*'The remains of the deserted medieval village of Hunton which is visible as a series of earthworks located on the top and southern slope of a hillside to the north of the current village of Hunton. The medieval village lies to the east of a street, now preserved as a hollow way, which extends from southeast to northwest across the centre of the monument. A row of rectangular platforms extends east-west at the top of the slope and represents the remains of medieval houses. A back lane runs east to west at the rear of these properties. Further to the south are the foundations of buildings visible as low platforms, mounds and small enclosures. Associated with these earthworks and sometimes attached to them are a series of larger enclosures interpreted as crofts or small allotments. To the north of the village are two fishponds separated by a low bank. To the west of the hollow way are areas of ridge and furrow cultivation, forming discrete blocks separated by balks and headlands. The medieval field system would originally have been more extensive but changing patterns of land-use mean that little now remains identifiable. Little is known of the history of Hunton, except that it existed in the medieval period and, in common with other settlements in England, became deserted, although it is not known exactly when or why this occurred. Scheduled.'*

This is a Scheduled Ancient Monument with RSM no. 29534. As these village remains lie immediately to the north of the existing village of Hunton it would perhaps be more accurate to refer to them as the earthworks of a shrunken rather than a deserted settlement. The dwellings that would have stood here were part of a large Medieval agricultural community which stood at the centre of the township and parish of Hunton. Together, the inhabitants farmed the lands of the township in a collective manner and many traces of the ridge and furrow of the open arable field survive in the surrounding landscape.

Investigation on the ground has confirmed that a complex system of earthworks from both ridge and furrow and settlement remains is also preserved in the fields to the south of the village (SE 186 921 centre). The field centred on SE 185 921 contains upstanding traces of holloways and house platforms which are probably connected to the Medieval village of Hunton. This field is crossed by the intended route of the pipeline and therefore these remains which are not scheduled will be directly affected by any associated groundworks.

(reference: NMR, Schedule of Ancient Monuments)

### 5.6 **Hunton village (NMR no. 563293) SE 188 923**

The village of Hunton (whose shrunken village earthworks are described above) was already founded by 1086 as it is mentioned in Domesday Book. The present settlement is strung out

along the 3 roads of a 'T' junction alongside Hunton Beck. The village contains a church (St. John's) and a Wesleyan Methodist chapel. During the Medieval period it would have been a fairly large settlement situated at the centre of its parish and township (see above). The place name derives from the Old English for 'Huna's farm'.

(reference: NMR, Smith 1969)

### **5.7 *Ridge and Furrow around Hunton SE 190 925 (centre)***

The aerial photographic survey of the Yorkshire Dales carried out by the RCHME records extensive remains of earthworks from ridge and furrow in the fields surrounding the village of Hunton. These distinctive earthworks give the impression of low linear banks lying parallel to one another and were created by the continual ploughing of the Medieval open field by heavy ploughs drawn by teams of oxen. Such fields are characteristic of Medieval farming practice in England and were large unenclosed tracts of arable land. Each field was divided into bundles of strips and each strip allocated for the use of an individual or household in the village. The RCHM plots from the air photographs in this area show the high survival of these features as the bundles (furlongs) of strips can be clearly identified.

Investigation on the ground has confirmed that the earthworks of ridge and furrow are preserved in the fields to the south of the village of Hunton (centre SE 186 921). Further ridge and furrow earthworks have been identified on the ground at Wyvill Grange (SE 184 927) and Gunner Gill Well (SE 196 932). The location of the earthworks and cropmarks in the vicinity of Hunton are illustrated in figure 4.

(reference: SMR, RCHME Dales Survey)

### **5.8 *Hesselton DMV SE 199 918***

The SMR records the presence of a deserted Medieval settlement at Hesselton to the south-east of Hunton village. The village is mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) and is recorded as possessing 25 poll tax payers in 1377. It is also mentioned in the Lay Subsidy Rolls of 1334. By the 17<sup>th</sup> century the settlement had been reduced to just one farm, which is marked on a map of 1627. The place name can be translated as 'Hazel Tree Farm' but it is not clear whether this derives from the Old English or Old Norse.

(reference: SMR, Beresford 1955, Smith 1969)

### **5.9 *Ruswick DMV SE 195 895***

The SMR records a deserted Medieval village at Ruswick. The township is mentioned in Domesday Book (1086) but by 1334 was being assessed along with Newton le Willows. It is not known when or under what circumstances the settlement became depopulated.

(reference: SMR, Beresford 1955)

### **5.10 Hutton Hang SMV SE 170 888**

The SMR records the presence of a former Medieval village at Hutton Hang. There is no mention of this site in Beresford's list of lost villages in Yorkshire. However it would appear that the village is named after the nearby meeting place of the wapentake of Hang, located at Hang Bank. Hutton itself is an Old English name for 'farm on the hill' from the Old English *hoh* and *tun*.

(reference: SMR, Smith 1969)

### **5.11 Earthworks at Hunton SE 187 922**

The SMR records the presence of earthworks at Hunton which may relate to the Medieval manor of that village. Ground investigation has confirmed the presence of these earthworks on both sides of the road leading into Hunton from the south (see below).

(reference: SMR)

### **5.12 Aykebergh Medieval village and ridge and furrow earthworks SE 191 902**

The SMR records that "Aykebergh" village used to exist 'near Akebar Farm on the road near Finghall'. The village is mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086 and the Poll Tax returns of 1377, and is traditionally thought to have been as large as Bedale (although this is unlikely). The SMR also records that human bones have been recovered from the area, though further research would be required to provide a precise location. Again, areas of ridge and furrow are evident in this vicinity, though not to such a great extent as at Hunton. This area of ridge and furrow extends south, albeit intermittently, beyond Finghall. A map of 1627 records only 4 houses here situated around a small green. The earliest mention of the settlement is in 1160 and the place-name derives from Old English for 'oak' and 'hill'. Akebar would appear to have originated as a grange belonging to Jervaulx Abbey, the village founded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

(references: SMR, Beresford 1955, Smith 1969)

### **5.13 Gunner Gill Well (NMR no. 563230) SE 1966 9329**

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1857 records the position of Gunner Gill Well a little to the north-east of the village of Hunton. The site lies close to the shrunken village earthworks mentioned above. Its period is unknown.

(reference: NMR)

### **5.14 Draw Well (NMR no. 563229) SE 1899 9337**

This draw well is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1857 and lies to the north west of the village of Hunton, close to the shrunken village earthworks mentioned above. Close to it is the field name *Wellclose*. Its period is uncertain.

(reference: NMR)

**5.15 *Thorny Keld (NMR no. 562407) SE 1843 8950***

Thorny Keld is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1857 as a well. It is found within the village of Finghall but its date is unknown.

(reference: NMR)

**5.16 *Pinfold (NMR no. 563260) SE 1850 9231***

The site of a pinfold is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1857 on the eastern outskirts of the village of Hunton. Such enclosures were used throughout the Medieval and post-Medieval period to corral stray animals or those that were found grazing in lands where their owners had no right of pasture. Its precise date is uncertain.

(reference: NMR)

**5.17 *Boundary Stone (NMR no. 563284) SE 1888 9025***

**5.18 *Boundary Stone (NMR no. 563287) SE 1887 9020***

Two boundary stones are marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map for 1857. They are both found on the boundary between the parishes of Akebar and Finghall. Their date is uncertain.

(reference: NMR)

**5.19 *Milestone (NMR no. 563234) SE 1854 9457***

A milestone is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1857 at the crossroads north of Hunton village. Its date is uncertain.

(reference: NMR)

**5.20 *Hull Plantation (NMR no. 562427) SE 1803 8831***

The place name *Hull* is recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1857. It may be derived from the Old English word *hulu* meaning a ‘shed’ or ‘hovel’ that may once have stood in this location.

(reference: NMR)

**5.21 *Wildwood Lodge (NMR no. 563279) SE 1855 9073***

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map records a Wildwood Lodge alongside the road that skirts a enclosed area of woodland known as Wild Wood. This may have been a lodge house for an enclosed park or close of wood pasture.

(reference: NMR)

- 5.22 *Footbridge (NMR no. 563242) SE 1864 9275*
- 5.23 *Footbridge and Ford (NMR no. 563240) SE 1814 9240*
- 5.24 *Footbridge and Ford (NMR no. 563261) SE 1852 9231*
- 5.25 *Footbridge and Ford (NMR no. 563259) SE 1882 9232*
- 5.26 *Ford (NMR no. 563248) SE 1950 9233*

Four footbridges are marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1857. Three are associated with fords and one ford is marked on its own. They are mainly located to the west of the village of Hunton often in association with existing rights of way. The date of these features is unknown but they are likely to be post-Medieval or Medieval. It would be expected that the fords are older than the footbridges.

(reference: NMR)

- 5.27 *Leeming Beck Bridge (NMR no. 563283) SE 1875 9039*
- 5.28 *Road Bridge (NMR no. 562424) SE 1869 8916*
- 5.29 *Scroggs Bridge (NMR no. 563264) SE 1819 9235*

Three road bridges are recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1857. They are all of stone and were probably built in the post-Medieval period at a time when roads were being improved all over the country.

(reference: NMR)

- 5.30 *Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (NMR no. 563243) SE 1904 9264*
- 5.31 *Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (NMR no. 562409) SE 1817 8967*

Two Wesleyan chapels are recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1857 for Hunton and Finghall. They are two of many such chapels in this area set up across Yorkshire and the Pennines from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

(references: NMR, Hey 1986)

- 5.32 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563278) SE 1851 9069*
- 5.33 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563262) SE 1835 9217*
- 5.34 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563263) SE 1823 9203*
- 5.35 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563258) SE 1878 9203*
- 5.36 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563257) SE 1885 9182*

- 5.37 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563256) SE 1896 9170*
- 5.38 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563250) SE 1924 9226*
- 5.39 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563251) SE 1955 9221*
- 5.40 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563249) SE 1948 9233*
- 5.41 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563247) SE 1979 9231*
- 5.42 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563246) SE 1990 9256*
- 5.43 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563245) SE 1922 9255*
- 5.44 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563244) SE 1873 9258*
- 5.45 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563241) SE 1854 9277*
- 5.46 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563231) SE 1975 9335*
- 5.47 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563228) SE 1898 9333*
- 5.48 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563227) SE 1866 9314*
- 5.49 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563226) SE 1834 9375*
- 5.50 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 563225) SE 1819 9391*
- 5.51 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 562423) SE 1853 8920*
- 5.52 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 562422) SE 1852 8907*
- 5.53 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 562421) SE 1838 8917*
- 5.54 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 562408) SE 1847 8961*
- 5.55 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 562405) SE 1857 8989*
- 5.56 *Probable Barn (NMR no. 562404) SE 1882 8995*
- 5.57 *Barn (NMR no. 563224) SE 1819 9326*

The 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS 6" map of 1857 records the position of many buildings which are probably field barns, most of which are no longer extant. These simple stone structures are ubiquitous features of the Yorkshire Dales landscape and characteristic parts of the traditional agriculture of this area. They were built in hay meadows and used both for storing hay and for stalling cattle throughout the winter months. Animals usually moved into the barns between the months of October and May where they were milked throughout the winter. Their dung could be used to manure the surrounding meadow which when left ungrazed through the summer provided a crop of hay in July or August. The field barns have been falling out of use since



the Second World War as the agricultural system they were part of has declined. Most were probably built in 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century.

(reference: NMR, *Walls and Field Barns* (Yorkshire Dales National Park conservation series))

**5.58 Sandstone Quarry (NMR no. 562428) SE 1823 8800**

**5.59 Sandstone Quarry (NMR no. 562410) SE 1817 8957**

**5.60 Sandstone Quarry (NMR no. 562406) SE 1875 8979**

Three sandstone quarries are marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1857. Their date is uncertain but they are not likely to be earlier than the post-Medieval period.

(reference: NMR)

**5.61 Astin How SE 187 938**

The Hunton Tithe map for 1848 records the field names Hastin How and Astin How to the west of Moor Lane. These names may refer to the former presence of burial mounds in this area. The place-name Ayrflow is also known 300m to the south and this may also recall tumuli or barrows.

(reference: NYCRO)

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## 6.0 Aerial Photographs and Field Investigation

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Consultation of aerial photographs held by the NMR in Swindon has illustrated much of what has been described above. In addition a number of further features have been identified. The overall impression is that the whole area covered by this study and crossed by the pipeline is filled with remains of Medieval settlement and agriculture. The ridges and furrows of the open fields are the most extensive features but there also earthworks of house platforms, fish ponds and holloways in evidence, especially around the margins of the villages of Hunton and Finghall. The following outline follows the route of the pipeline from south to north beginning at Finghall.

The fields surrounding the village of Finghall contain extensive remains of ridge and furrow earthworks, especially around SE 185 897 to the east of the modern village north and south of Church Lane (fig 3). The intended route of the pipeline passes through the two fields north and south of Church Lane which both contain ridge and furrow (1) as does that field immediately north of the railway line (SE 185 901) (2). The pipeline is proposed to skirt the eastern edge of this field. There are also earthwork remains of holloways visible on some aerial photographs in this vicinity.

To the north of Finghall there are further traces of ridge and furrow to the south of Akebar Farm in the vicinity of the former Medieval village of *Aykebergh* (3). Earthworks of ridge and furrow are visible on aerial photographs to the north of the church at SE 191 902 (centre). Further traces were visible on the ground west of here at SE 1885 9040. The pipeline is intended to run along the road which borders this field on the west.

To the west of here, in the field to the south of Wild Wood, cropmarks were visible on aerial photographs which may relate to boundary ditches that formed a series of rectilinear enclosures. The date of these features at SE 183 908 is unknown but they may be earlier than the Medieval open field.

Further north the ground investigation recognised ridge and furrow earthworks in the field to the south-east of Wild Hill Farm (SE 1874 9137). Here the bank of a headland runs parallel to the hedge which is following the parish boundary between Hunton and Akebar. The pipeline is intended to pass along the road to the east of this field.