

NYCC HER	
SNY	688
ENY	321
CNY	1792
Parish	8025
Reed	04/06/1999



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
WYAS

**Land Adjoining 92/94 Main Road
Drax
near Selby**

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

Report No 721

June 1999

C L I E N T

Mr J Wetherell

NYS 688
NYS 321

**Land Adjoining 92/94 Mam Road,
Drax,
near Selby**

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Methodology
- 3 The Sources
- 4 Presentation of the Data
- 5 General Historical Background
- 6 Catalogue of Archaeological Sites
- 7 DISCUSSION

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

Cartographic Sources

Figures

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The desk based assessment was prepared on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit for Mr J Wetherell in advance of a proposed residential development on land adjoining 92/94 Mam Road Drax
- 1.2 The proposed development site is situated on the southern side of Mam Road, Drax centred at SE67452625 It occupies approximately 55m of the street frontage and extends southwards at its greatest extent, for approximately 70m covering an area of 0.345 hectares
- 1.3 Drax is located on low lying ground about 1km from the present courses of the Rivers Ouse and Aire the drift geology consisting mainly of sand deposits (Geological Survey 1971)
- 1.4 The aim of this study is to assess the sources of information available for Mam Street, Drax in order to determine the archaeological potential within the proposed development area

2 Methodology

- 2.1 The methodology for the desk-based study was established by North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit
- 2.2 The assessment involved the consideration of known and potential archaeological sites within the proposed development area and its immediate vicinity This was achieved through the collation of material held by the North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit the Borthwick Institute Hull University and Wakefield District Archives Details of the sources consulted are provided in the Acknowledgements and Bibliography

2 3 Information relating to known and potential archaeological sites is presented in catalogue form accompanied with location maps (Figs 2 & 3) A brief historical background of the area Section 5, places the proposed development scheme within an historical and archaeological context Similarly the catalogue includes sites of interest within close proximity to the proposed development The study has identified 15 sites of interest and these are listed in approximate west east order

2 4 Where material has been used from the North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit their site number is entered with the prefix SMR

3 The Sources

3 1 Searches were conducted of local histories and journals for information relating to the historical development of Drax as well as of reports of past archaeological discoveries These included the *Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series* and *The History of Drax* by J Hunter

3 2 Aerial photographs and old maps, in particular the early Ordnance Survey maps Enclosure and Tithe maps, were also consulted for significant sites and place-names These sources can give an insight into the past layout of the landscape

4 Presentation of the Data

4 1 Information relating to the known and potential archaeological sites in the study area is presented in catalogue form in Section 6 together with accompanying distribution plots

4 2 Catalogue entries for each site provide initial summary information regarding the type of site its SMR reference and location Unless a separate source is cited, it should be taken that all information is derived from the SMR

Note, the grid *references are centred* on the site and do not *relate* to the Catalogue numbers in **Figures 2 & 3**

5 General Historical Background

5 1 Prehistoric Period

5 1 1 A Neolithic flint adze or axehead was found in 1960, between Cat Babbleton and Barlow Lane near Cambleforth to the west of Drax (Hunter 1987) There is no known evidence of prehistoric activity within the proposed development area

5 2 Roman Period

5 2 1 There is no known Roman activity within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area Elsewhere within the general area a small Romano British farmstead, occupied between A D 270 and 400 was found at Scurff Hall Farm to the east of Drax during excavations between 1961 64 (Wilson 1966) Further evidence of Roman activity includes a Roman coin hoard, of unknown date found in the vicinity of Baxter Hall to the north of Drax (Hunter 1987)

5 3 Medieval Period

5 3 1 Drax is documented as *aet Ealddrege* in 10th century documents and as *Drac* in the Domesday Book of 1086 Its name was probably derived from the Old English term *ald* meaning old and *draege* meaning dragnet Alternatively the second element could comply to *draeg* associated with a portage, a place where boats are dragged overland or pulled from the water (Smith 1961) The former course of the River Aire is believed to have run along Hawday Lane skirting around Scurff Hall Farm before joining the Ouse near Rusholme After this channel silted up it may have been necessary to drag boats towards Drax thus accounting for the name

5 3 2 Domesday records indicate that Drax Manor together with Little Airmyn Barlow and Cambleforth were held by Ralph de Pagenal following the

Conquest and at the time of the survey (1086) the value of the manor had decreased from 40s to 20s. A church is recorded in the survey but its location is unknown (Tyler n.d.) although it is possible the present Drax church which dates to the early 12th century is built on the site of the earlier church.

5.3.3 William Paynel founded Drax Priory in c. 1128 and granted the church at Drax together with other churches and lands to the Priory. By 1324 Archbishop Melton records that the Priory had become impoverished due to flooding and the invasion of enemies, including the Scots. This latter factor may have also affected the growth of the town (Tyler n.d.).

5.3.4 Drax Castle was built by Philip de Colville at around the same time as the priory was founded but was later destroyed around 1154.

5.3.5 A borough at Drax was established by the lord of the manor in the 13th century, but few records survive to indicate the scale of the settlement. However, a 13th century extent, in the reign of Henry III, records 48 free tenants in the borough paying rents varying between 2¹/₂d and 10s totalling £7 4s 4d. A later extent within this period mentions that the rent of the Town (burgi) of Drax was £7 9s 11¹/₂ with the capital messuage worth 10s (Brown 1892).

5.3.6 Four moated sites are situated within Drax parish at Scurff Hall Farm, Rusholme Hall, Camblesforth Grange and Castle Hills (Walker and Partners 1993). Excavations at Scurff Hall Farm show that a 12th century chapel predated the moated settlement which was constructed in the late 14th century (Wilson 1966).

5 4 *Post-Medieval Period*

5 4 1 It is possible that Drax had returned to a village status by the end of the medieval period. In 1796 the population of Drax totalled 213, possibly smaller than the population in the 13th century (Tyler n d), but by 1838 it had risen to 350 with most people engaged in farming or related occupations. A com mill, a forge, a public house and a beer house are also recorded by this date (White 1838). The majority of occupations in the early 20th century are still associated with farming, indicating the continuity of an agrarian society. Associated trades include a wheelwright and a smith (Kelly's Directories 1927).

6 *Catalogue of Archaeological Sites (Figs 2 & 3)*

- | | | | |
|---|---|-------|------------|
| 1 | Field-name | SMR 0 | SE670262 |
| | A triangular area of enclosed fields, known as <i>West Field</i> in 1774, extends from near the junction of New Road and Main Road westwards towards Mill Lane. The field name may relate to the open medieval field system of Drax (Brynmor Jones Library, Hull University). | | |
| 2 | Mill Site | SMR 0 | SE67202614 |
| | The site of Drax Mill (com) is situated to the south-west of Drax, adjacent to Mill Lane (O.S. 1853). It is possible that this is the site of an earlier mill. An extent records two mills: an <i>old mill</i> and a <i>windmill</i> , in Drax Manor in the 13th century. An <i>old mill</i> was situated at <i>Langerake</i> (Long Drax) according to the same extent, but the site of the windmill is unknown (Brown 1892). | | |
| 3 | Earthworks | SMR 0 | SE672261 |
| | The site of possible north-south ridge and furrow earthworks of unknown date, to the south of Drax. The uniformity of these earthworks, which were observed on vertical aerial photographs in 1967 and 1971, may indicate drainage rather than a former field system (Meridian 59 67/206 Hunting Surveys Ltd 65/9258). | | |

- 4 Earthworks SMR 0 SE67302615
The site of a former agricultural regime represented by north-south ridge and furrow earthworks of unknown date, to the south of Drax. The earthworks were observed on Vertical Aerial Photographs in 1967 (Meridian 59 67/206)
- 5 Earthworks SMR 0 SE674261
The site of a former agricultural regime represented by north-south ridge and furrow earthworks of unknown date to the south of Drax. The earthworks were observed on Vertical Aerial Photographs in 1967 (Meridian 59 67/206)
- 6 Medieval Settlement Site SMR 0 SE676260
The present Castle Hill Farm stands on the site of a possible castle and later moated manor site. Documentary evidence reveals that a castle was built at Drax in the first half of the 12th century and destroyed around 1154. The site of Drax castle is believed to be situated to the south of Drax church within the area known as Castle Hills. Surviving earthworks however appear to relate to a 14th century moated settlement rather than a castle. It is possible that evidence for the castle may have been destroyed during the construction of this moated site (Tyler n d)
- 7 Field-name SMR 0 SE674267
Land known as *North Field* in 1774, situated between Drax School and a river course south of Wren Hall may relate to one of the open medieval fields of Drax (Brynmoor Jones Library Hull University)
- 8 School SMR 0 SE677267
Drax Free School and Almshouses situated to the north of Drax Hall was founded and endowed by Charles Reade in 1667 (White 1838)
- 9 Artefact Findspot SMR 0 approx SE679274
A Roman coin hoard of unknown date, was reportedly found in the vicinity of Baxter Hall (Hunter 1987)

254 = Glenn s garden and orchard

13 Buildings north of Main Road SMR 0 approx SE674264

Settlements on the northern side of Main Road in the mid-19th century consisted of buildings situated adjacent to the roadway with plots of land extending to a water course to the rear of the property. The property ranged from homesteads to a blacksmith shop. The property has been numbered and recorded in the tithe award and include

184 = Homestead

185 = House garden garth and Smith s shop

186 = 5 Houses garden and carpenter s shop

187

188 = House Blacksmith's shop garden and garth

189 = House bam garden

14 Church SMR 0 SE676264

The church of St Peter and Paul, situated on the northern side of Main Road is a Grade I listed building dating from the 12th century but with later additions. A further listed structure is a Grade II medieval cross base and shaft near the south porch of the church (DoE 1987 6/15). William Paynel who founded Drax Priory during the reign of Henry I gave a number of parish churches, including Drax to the priory (Page 1974). There is no known documentary evidence of a church on this site prior to the 12th century although a Saxon font was reportedly found in the churchyard (Hunter 1987). The Domesday survey of 1086 records a church and priest in Drax Manor, but its location within the manor is unknown although it is possible that this church stood on the site of the present church. By 1927 the churchyard had been extended by 1 acre and enclosed by walling and iron railings (Kelly 1927).

15 Proposed Development Area SMR 0 SE67452625

Buildings recorded on the Enclosure map of 1774 (Fig 4) are sparse and do not show the core of settlement within the village centre with only the

church and Drax Hall being depicted Main Road is partly recorded near Mill Lane and named *Town Street* Two rectangular shaped buildings are shown to the east of Mill Lane but their location is dubious since they are not placed within property boundaries It is possible that they were situated within plot no 261 on the tithe award map (Fig 6) and represent the house and bam

Jefferys map of 1775 only shows buildings extending partly along Main Road The main settlement area is clustered around the church (Fig 5)

According to the tithe award the proposed development area in the mid 19th century, consisted of a house with garden and garth (tithe no 256) with a garth to the east (award no 255) Two buildings abutt the western boundary of plot 256 the northernmost property being adjacent to Mam Road Immediately north of these buildings two further structures seem to extend into the Main Road area (Fig 6) To the east no features are shown within the garth area (tithe no 255) A small enclosure which adjoins the western boundary of the garth (tithe no 255) may be the *Pound* which is recorded on the O S 1853 map (Fig 7)

Buildings within the proposed development area shown on early Ordnance Survey maps differ to those depicted on the tithe plan Whereas the tithe plan records two individual buildings, on the western boundary one larger structure is featured on the O S map of 1853 (Fig 7) By 1891 the building had extended to the rear, this layout later recorded on the O S plan of 1907 (Figs 8 & 9) and retained until their recent demolition (Fig 3)

The remaining area of the proposed development has been surveyed as open land since 1840 (Fig 6) On the western side of the proposed development an orchard/wooded area extended from the rear of the property to its southern boundary (Fig 7) By 1891 the orchard had been reduced in size (Fig 8) but continued as an orchard into the 20th century according to the O S 1907 map (Fig 9) and vertical aerial photographs dated 1967 By 1967

further trees had been planted immediately east and parallel with the buildings near Main Road (Vertical Aerial Photograph 59 67 /206)

The eastern section of the proposed development area was part of a larger enclosure in the mid 19th century (Fig 6) Recorded as a garth it appears to have remained as open land from this period until 1907 (Fig 9) Development had taken place in the eastern section of this garth, which is not within the proposed development area, by 1891 (Fig 8)

7 **Discussion**

7 1 Drax is recorded in the Domesday record of 1086 but documentary evidence suggests that development occurred at Drax during the 12th century with the building of the castle and the present church. The medieval layout of Drax is unknown although the current road layout is probably based on the medieval routeways. In 1774 Main Road at Drax was recorded as *Town Street* (Brynmor Jones Library, Hull University), whilst Castle Hills Lane which led from the castle site to the church was known as *Burghlane* in the medieval period (Tyler n d). Jefferys' map of 1775 shows that Drax Main Road linked settlements to the west such as Camblesforth and Long Drax to the north east.

7 2 Buildings as indicated on the early Ordnance Survey maps, adjoined the north and south sides of Main Road with plots of land extending to the rear. It is possible that the current land layout follows the medieval burgage plot divisions.

7 3 It has been suggested that the medieval population of Drax may have been greater than that of the 18th century. When Drax became a borough in the 13th century an extent in this period recorded 48 inhabitants paying rent. A decline in population could suggest a shrunken settlement site as dwellings fell into disuse. It is possible therefore that the open area at the eastern side of the proposed development area, as well as the formerly occupied western side contains medieval remains.

Acknowledgements

Report

Kath Keith BA

Figures

Paul Gwilliam BA

Sources Visited/Consulted

Borthwick Institute, York

Brynmoor Jones Library, Hull University

North Yorkshire Archives Northallerton

North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit (SMR) Northallerton

Yorkshire Archaeological Society Leeds

West Yorkshire Archive Service Wakefield

Bibliography

- Brown W 1892 Yorkshire Inquisitions Vol 1 *Yorkshire Archaeological and Topographical Association Record Series* Vol XII
- DoE 1987 List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest District of Selby North Yorks 6/15 6/16
- Van de Noort, R and Ellis, S (eds) 1999 *Wetland Heritage of the Vale of York*
- Hunter, J 1987, *The History of Drax Part One From Prehistoric until the Closure of Drax Priory in 1535 6*
- Kelly s Directories Ltd 1927, Kelly s Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire
- Long M H 1993, Howden and Old Drax, *Yorkshire Boundaries*
- Page W , 1974 *The Victoria County History of the County of York* Vol 3
- Smith, A H 1961 *The Place Names of the West Riding of Yorkshire*, E P N S Vol 33 Part 4
- Tyler A n d North Yorkshire Historic Town Studies North Yorkshire SMR files
- Walker, A and Partners 1993 132KV 'Overhead Line Diversion, Long Drax North Yorkshire Archaeological Desk Top Survey North Yorkshire SMR files
- White W 1838, *History Gazetteer and Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire*
- Wilson K 1966 A Survey and Excavations withm the Area of Scurff Hall Farm Drax Near Selby Yorks *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol XLI

Cartographic Sources

- Borthwick Institute, York 1840 Drax Tithes Plan 1840, Award 1838 40, Drax TA56L
- Brynmoor Jones Library, 1744 Drax Inclosure Plan DDJ/16/9
- Jefferys T 1775 A Survey of the County of Yorkshire
- Ordnance Survey, 1853 surveyed 1849 six inches to the mile series, Sheet 237
- Ordnance Survey, 1891 six inches to the mile series, Sheet 237NW
- Ordnance Survey 1907, 1 2500 series Sheet 237 5
- Ordnance Survey, 1971 Geological Survey of England and Wales Goole Drift 1 63 360 series, Sheet 79
- Ordnance Survey, 1981 1 1250 series Plan SE3422SW

Vertical Aerial Photographs

Hunting Surveys Ltd, October 1971 Run 65/9258, 1 10 000

Meridian, 1966 8 Run 61, 206/59/67

Figures

Fig 1 Site Location

Fig 2 Location of sites general area

Fig 3 Location of sites Mam Road. Drax

Fig 4 Extract from Drax Enclosure Plan 1774

Fig 5 Extract from Jefferys Map of Yorkshire

Fig 6 Extract from Drax Tithe Plan 1840

Fig 7 Extract from Ordnance Survey 1853 (6 to the mile series)

Fig 8 Extract from Ordnance Survey 1891 (6 to the mile series)

Fig 9 Extract from Ordnance Survey 1907 (1 2500 series)

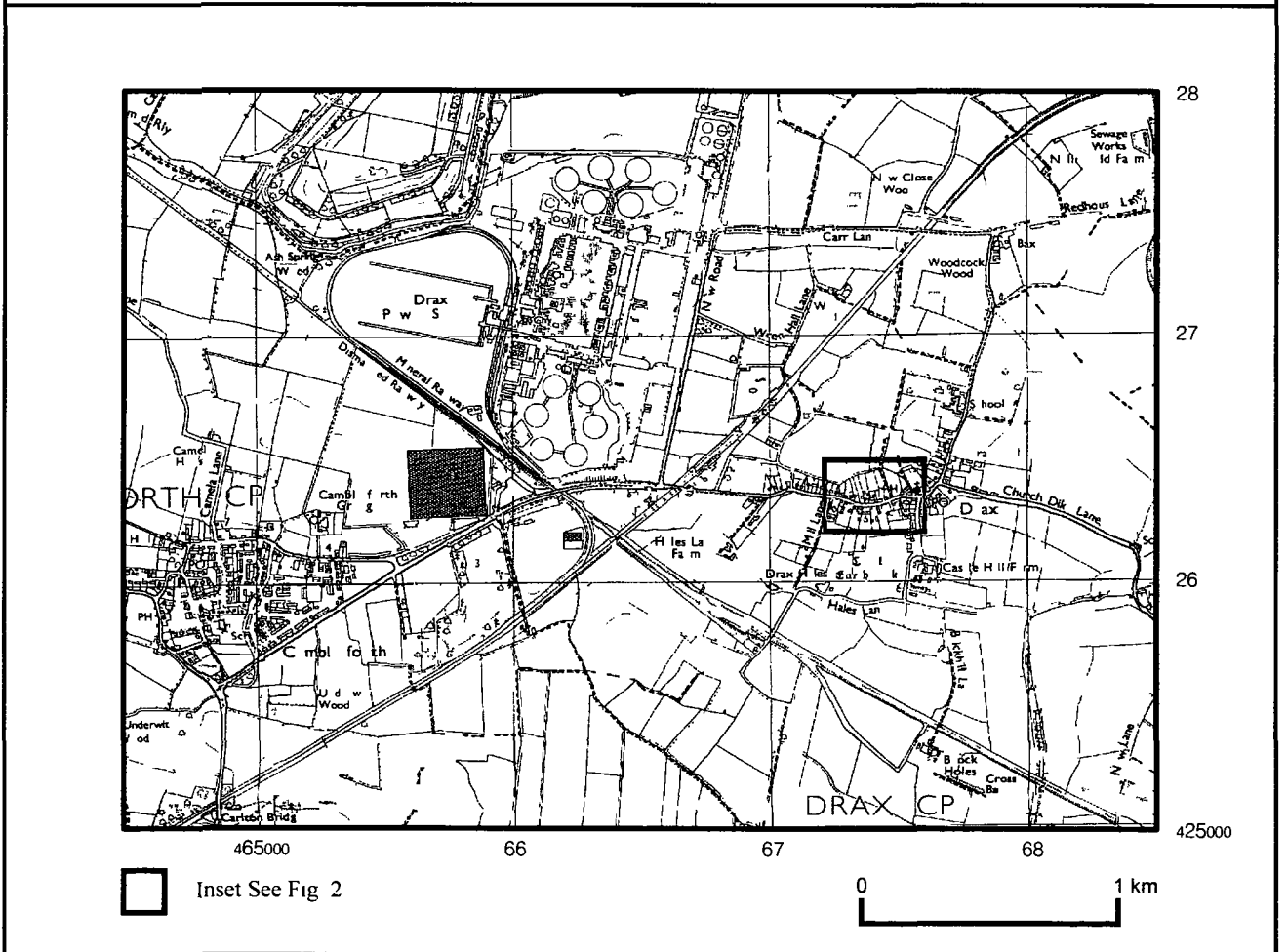
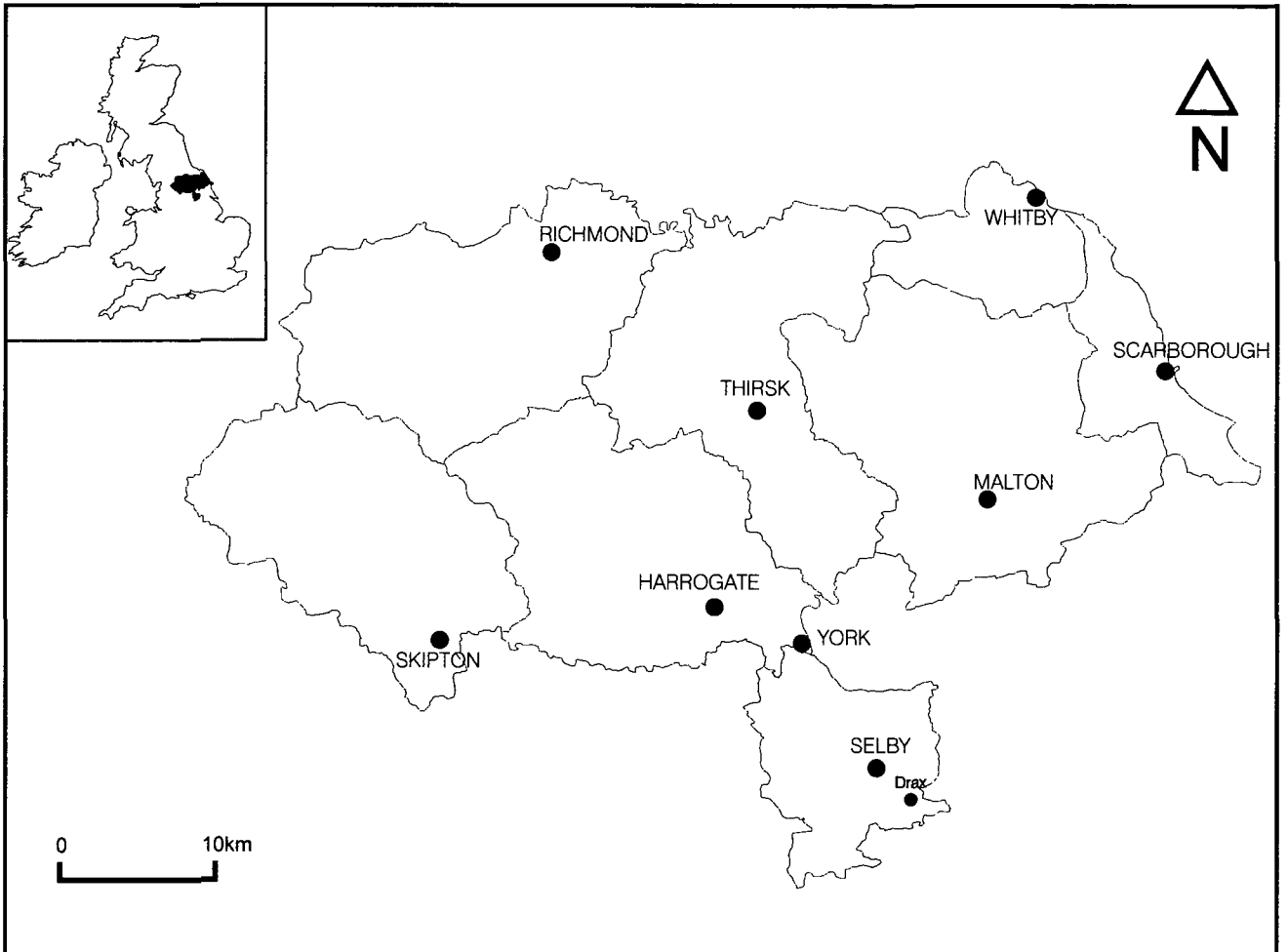


Fig 1 Site Location