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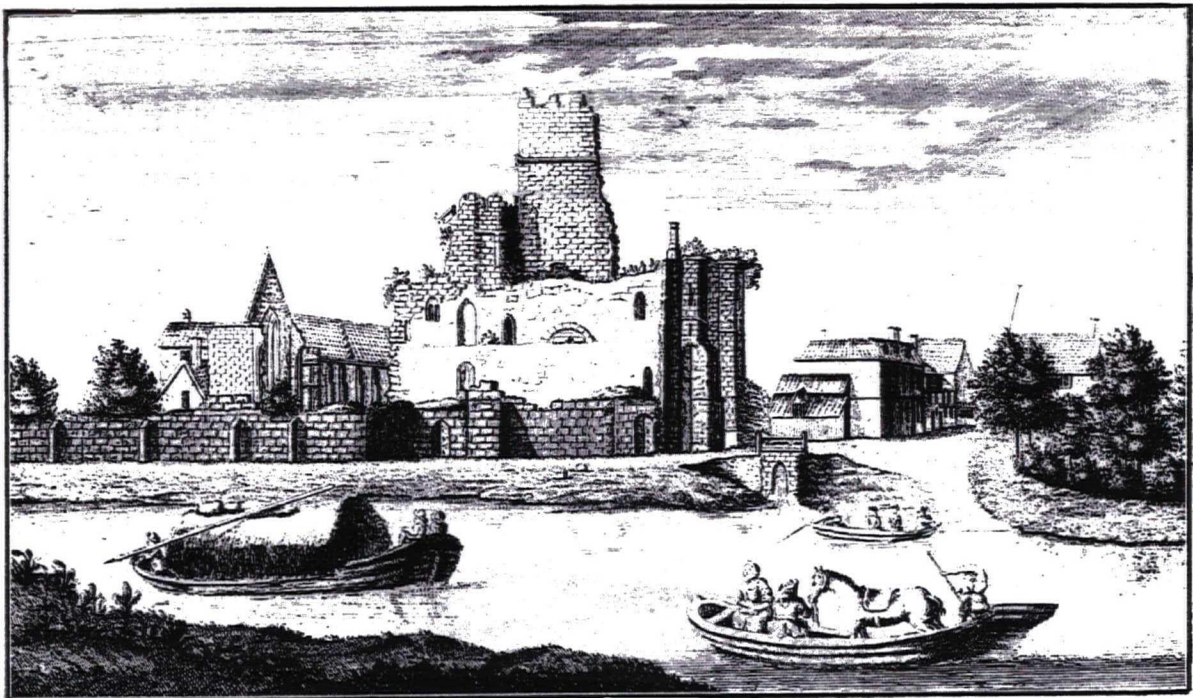
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**RYTHERGATE/RYTHER ROAD, CAWOOD.**

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**A DESKTOP ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY.  
OSA REPORT No: OSA03DT01.**



FEBRUARY 2003.

**OSA**

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Report Summary.

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**REPORT NO:** OSA03DT01.

**SITE NAME:** Rythergate / Ryther Road, Cawood.

**COUNTY:** North Yorkshire.

**PARISH:** Cawood.

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 5725 3800.

**PLANNING APPLICATION No:** 8/35/18E/PA.

**ON BEHALF OF** Mr & Mrs Foster  
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## 1.0 Introduction.

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### 1.1 Summary.

*This report provides an assessment of the archaeological implications of a proposed residential development on land adjacent to Rythergate and Ryther Road, Cawood. There have been various archaeological finds in the immediate vicinity, which have produced evidence for use or occupation from the Bronze Age through to the Early Modern period.*

*This report was compiled by Graham Bruce and Marie-Claire Ferguson of On-Site Archaeology Ltd on behalf of the site owners, Mr and Mrs Foster.*

### 1.2 Site Location, Brief & Methodology.

The site considered by this report is situated 250m to the northwest of the centre of the village of Cawood (Figure 1). The national grid reference for the centre of the study area is SE 5725 3800 and it lies at approximately 7m to 8m AOD. The site covers an area of just under 0.80 hectares and is divided into two distinct properties. The southernmost is a rectangular area approximately 80m x 40m which is bounded by the street frontage of Ryther Road/Rythergate to the southwest, gardens belonging to number 40 Rythergate to the southeast and the embankment forming the River Ouse flood defences to the east. The northernmost part is also rectangular, again approximately 80m long, but is wider, at 55m. This plot is set back from the modern street frontage, being bounded on the southwest side by the rear gardens of numbers 4 to 10 Ryther Road. The northwest side is formed by a combination of the garden boundary of number 12 Ryther Road and a stretch of the flood defences, which also form the limits of this area on the east side (Figure 2).

This report has been prepared in support of a planning application (Application No: 8/35/18E/PA), on the advice of North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit to Selby District Council. No detailed brief was prepared, however, the suggested scope of the report was outlined in a letter from the Heritage Unit to the District Council dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2002.

The desk top study was based on enquiries made at archives, collections, and archaeological institutions likely to hold information pertaining to the area; the review of relevant maps, aerial photographs and publications; and discussions with people who had personal knowledge of the study area. Archaeological and historical data has been collected over an area extending for a distance of approximately 1km from the application site. The locations of these data points are indicated on Figure 3. In addition, a walkover of the site was undertaken to look for any extant indications of archaeological potential, or modern impacts upon this potential, during which a record was made using digital photographs.



Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 5725 3800).

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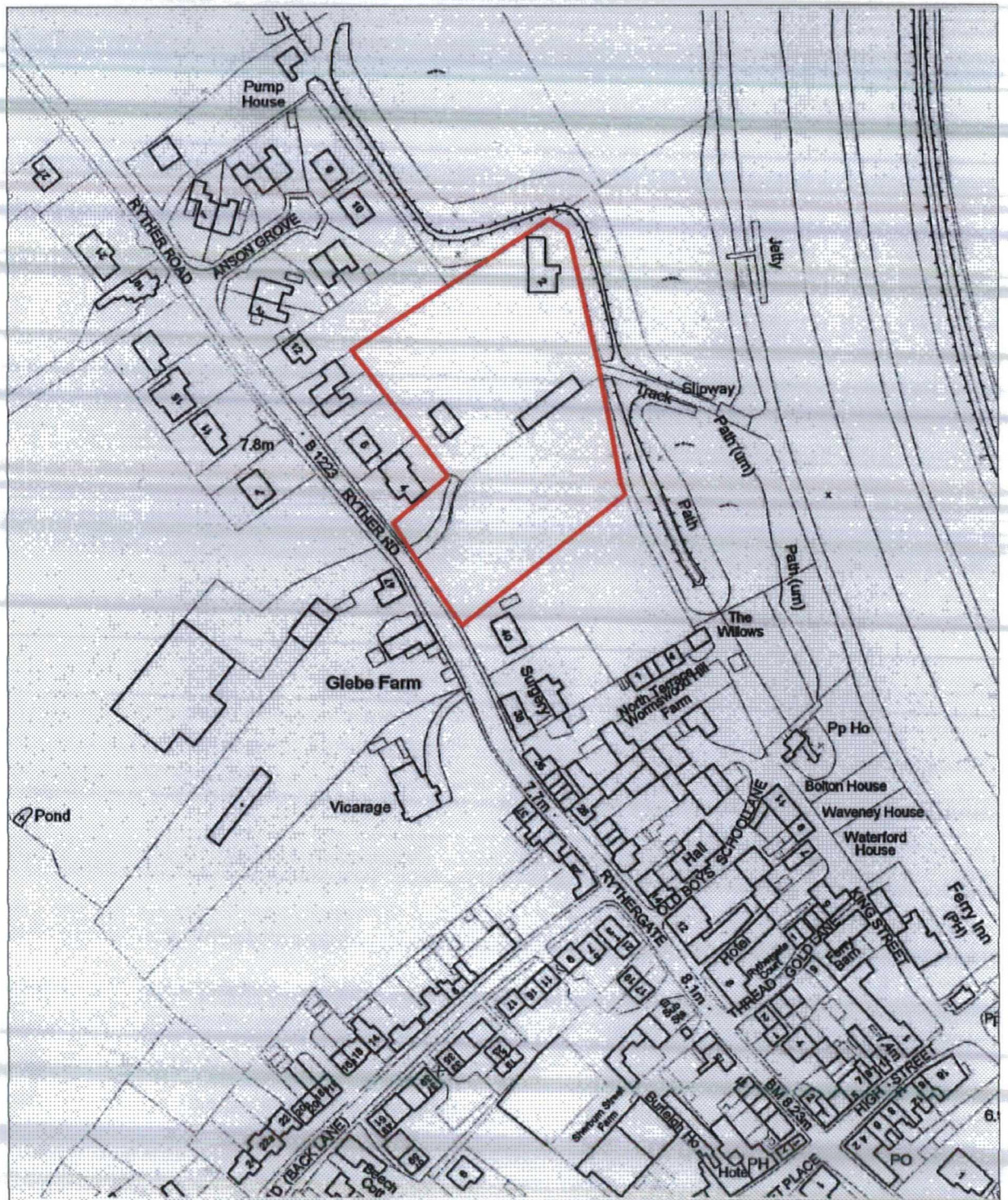


Figure 2. Detailed site location plan, area of site shown in red. (Not to Scale).

### ***1.3 Geology, Topography and Land Use.***

The study area is situated on the Bunter sandstone, overlain by drift geology in the form of sand (including wind blown sand) and along the river edge, alluvium (Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales), 1973, Sheet 71).

The modern ground surface slopes down from the southwest (at approximately 8.30mAOD adjacent to the street frontage) to 7mAOD in the east (behind the flood defence embankment).

The southernmost part of the site is currently a rough grass paddock (Plate 1). The northern area is occupied by White Cross Ski Club, comprising three brick and breeze-block built buildings, areas of gravel hardstanding and several static caravans (Plate 2).

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## 2.0 Gazetteer of sites and artefacts.

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The following section lists the sites and artefacts of archaeological or historical potential that are recorded in the various sources consulted. Where possible the relevant Sites and Monuments Record (North Yorkshire SMR) number and Scheduled Ancient Monument number is given. 'Map No.' refers to the identification number as given on Figure 3. Items are listed approximately as they occur from west to east.

### 2.1 *Cawood Brick and Tile Works.-SMR No. NYM10893, (SE 567 384).*

Post-medieval to modern brick works. Still in use into the 1930's.

### 2.2 *Cawood Brick and Tile Works.-Roman Site.-SMR Nos. NYM10894, NYM17177, NYM17178, NYM17179, NYM17180, NYM17181, NYM17182, (SE 568 383).*

This Roman site was excavated during 1933 and 1934, the detailed results of which are published (Corder, 1935). The excavation encountered two large ditches each 10 feet wide and up to 4 feet deep, which joined at approximately right angles. A third smaller ditch, 2 feet 6 inches wide was also found. The excavation produced fragments of pottery, animal bone and occasional fragments of roofing tile. The last of these indicates the presence in the vicinity of some form of Roman building, although no structural evidence was found within the excavated area. The pottery dates occupation on the site to late 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century (with the majority occurring in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> centuries). Amongst the pottery assemblage was an example of a waster, and this, together with the excellent natural clay, upon which the site is situated and the potential for transportation of finished products along both the Ouse and Wharfe, may indicate that the occupation was associated with pottery manufacture. It should however, be noted that no evidence for kilns, burning, ash, or extraction was found during the excavations.

### 2.3 *Chapels and Cemetery. SMR No. NYM10895, (SE 57054 38022).*

Late Victorian cemetery, including two back to back built chapels, the western being Non-Conformist and the eastern Church of England. Constructed in 1880 at a cost of £2000.

### 2.4 *Watching Brief. Sherburn Street Farm. SMR No. NY605, (SE 5705 3757).*

This encountered the natural yellow sand at a depth of 0.70m below the modern surface. A single, undated, potentially archaeological, feature was recorded in a trench section, (On-Site Archaeology 1999a).

### 2.5 *Pottery Works. SMR No. NYM10889, (SE 5711 3796).*

A pottery is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Sheet (1848) producing Common Earthenware.



**2.6 Gold Ring. SMR No. NYM10929, (SE 57 37).**

A gold ring, weighing 14 Pennyweights was ploughed up in 1868 at Cawood. It passed into the hands of a Leeds Goldsmith. No other details are known, but the SMR categorises this as a Bronze Age find. 65 years after its original discovery it is published as a penannular ring (Elgee & Elgee, 1933, p.99).

**2.7 Railway Station. SMR No. NYM10403, (SE 571 374).**

The station buildings shown on the 1907 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map were still standing in 1979. The Cawood, Wistow and Selby Light Railway had originally opened in 1898 and finally closed in 1960 (Redman, 1979). The site is now occupied by a housing development.

**2.8 Wesleyan Association Chapel. SMR No. NYM10879, (SE 5727 3772).**

Built in 1830. Additions made in 1886 and the building was finally altered to the single storey structure still standing today.

**2.9 Watching Brief. 11 Rythergate. SMR No. NY548, (SE 5730 3772).**

This small-scale watching brief did not encounter any archaeological deposits or finds. The earliest material present was a small assemblage of late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery, (On-Site Archaeology 1999b).

**2.10 Watching Brief. Brandsby House, Sherburn Street. SMR No. NY451, (SE 5725 3765).**

This watching brief found evidence for a medieval, or early post-medieval, stone building, represented by substantial wall footings. Some of these had been robbed out, whilst others had been re-used as the foundations for a smaller 19<sup>th</sup> century cottage (MAP Consultancy 2001).

**2.11 Fishpond. SMR No. NYM10874, (SE 5734 3762).**

This extant earthwork lies within the present garden of the Castle. A picture of 1901 shows it to have been a farm pond, but it may have originally been a medieval fishpond or garden feature.

**2.12 Fishpond. SMR No. NYM10875, (SE 5735 3757).**

There are a number of fishponds contained within the moat island. At least 3 are contained within the inner moat. A topographical survey of the Castle Garth has been conducted, which gives a much more detailed description of this, and the preceding reference, (See Blood & Taylor, 1992).

**2.13 Cawood Castle Gatehouse. SMR No. NYM10877, (SE 57394 37698).**

Built in 1426-51 by Archbishop Kempe, of limestone ashlar with a stone slate roof to the oriel windows. This square tower is buttressed at the corners, with an arch through which has

passages for pedestrians and carriages. Above the arch is a badly weathered frieze showing coats of arms. This is a Grade I Listed Building. In addition the Castle is listed in the SMR under the general reference NYM17190, and the Moat under NYM17191, sourced from the Ordnance Survey Record Card. The entire area of the Castle is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. SM20539). During the mid-1980's a programme of restoration and alteration works were undertaken in and around the Gatehouse. Archaeological investigations during these works included recording of drain trenches, the gatehouse roof timbers and other geotechnical intrusions, (see Interim Vol. 10, No 4, 1985, and Vol 11, No. 3, 1986, for details).

**2.14 Cawood Castle Banqueting House. SMR No. NYM10878 , (SE 5741 3768).**

Sometimes referred to as a chapel and until recently in use as a barn, this Grade I Listed Building forms the eastern wing of the Gateway range. The hall is situated on the upper floor, beneath the pantiled roof. The original openings include limestone dressings.

**2.15 Cawood Village and findspots. SMR Nos. NYM17183, NYM17184, NYM17185, NYM17186, NYM17187, NYM17188, NYM17189, (SE 574 378).**

The SMR records the medieval to modern village, together with approximate findspots for the following items: green glaze pottery vessel, glass bottle, pottery jug, locks, keys and animal horns.

**2.16 Cawood Castle Moat. SMR No. NYM10876, (SE 5745 3768).**

The SMR records that an excavation was carried out by *York Archaeological Trust* prior to building work on the site. No significant structural remains were found in the 4 trenches, although the probable northern outer moat boundary was encountered. The moat fill contained substantial quantities of demolition debris. Some doubts have been expressed regarding the interpretation of this feature as the moat by the original excavator, (Kurt Hunter-Mann, *pers. comm.*).

**2.17 Cawood Castle. SMR No. NYM10872, (SE 5745 3775).**

This area to the north of the gatehouse range contained the main complex of castle buildings. It stretched from the gatehouse to the northern wall, which can still be seen on the south side of Old Coach Road. There is a substantial ground level difference between north and south sides of this wall.

**2.18 Watergate. SMR No. NYM10354, (SE 5744 3779).**

The SMR records that a stone built water gate can be seen in the illustration on Page 24 of Speight (1902). Apparently still in place. (This illustration is dated to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and is shown on the front cover of this report).

**2.19 Windmill / Flour mill at Gill Green. SMR No. NYM10888, (SE 5745 3745).**

The SMR records that Nicholas Nicholson had a windmill here in 1818. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1851 indicates the site of Cawood Mill (*in ruins*) on a low hill to the south of the Green, which may relate to the earlier reference although it is given the separate SMR number of NYM10892.

**2.20 Watching Brief. Keesbury Cottage. SMR No.? (SE 5750 3747).**

This small-scale watching brief did not encounter any archaeological deposits or artefacts. (YAT 1998).

**2.21 Primitive Methodist Chapel. NYM10880, (SE 5757 3764).**

This had been built in 1850 and closed at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and became a billiards room. Commonly known as the Adult School. Demolished in 1985.

**2.22 Kensbury Hall Moated site. SMR No. NYM10887, (SE 5756 3741).**

Formerly held by the de Cawood family by Sergeanty of keeping the Kings Wood at Langwith. Now a dry, ill-defined moat, containing the hall fragments, parts of which were still visible at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The northern part has been damaged by recent housing development. This is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No. SM20540).

**2.23 Watching Brief. 17 Thorpe Lane. SMR No.? (SE 57563766).**

This watching brief found no evidence pre-dating the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It suggested that the area to the south of Water Row was not developed until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, (YAT 1995).

**2.24 Yew Tree House / Cottage. SMR No. NYM10891, (SE 5763 3764).**

Formerly a post-medieval house and stables, now converted into two dwellings. This is a Grade II\* Listed Building.

**2.25 The Grange. SMR No. NYM10881, (SE 5763 3749).**

A mid-17<sup>th</sup> century house incorporating earlier remains. It is partly timber framed, with orange-red brick in Flemish bond, alterations in English Garden wall bond and a pantile roof. The original 17<sup>th</sup> century survives in the hall and one other room. This is a Grade II\* Listed Building.

**2.26 Dovecote. SMR No. NYM10882, (SE 5763 3749).**

This Grade II Listed Building is a red brick built, pantile roofed, mid 18<sup>th</sup> century dovecote. It includes brick coping and the interior has nesting boxes to the first floor.

**2.27 Saw Pit. SMR No. NYM10890, (SE 5764 3755).**

A saw pit is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map.

**2.28 Tithe Barn. SMR No. NYM10886, (SE 5775 3775).**

A very approximate location for the former tithe barn said to have stood near the church and demolished before 1902. No other details are known.

**2.29 Ford. SMR No. NYM10883, (SE 5771 3780).**

A paved ford said to have been visible at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century at low water was situated close to the church, (this is mentioned in Speight, 1902). This may have originally been a Roman ford, which had continued in use.

**2.30 All Saints Church. SMR No. NYM10868, (SE 5778 3780).**

The church is of 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century construction, with 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century rebuilding. The church comprises a four bay aisled nave, with a 2 bay early English style chancel. The early 15<sup>th</sup> century bell tower incorporates 3 stages. The roofs are generally of plain red tile, although the porch employs stone slates. This is a Grade I Listed Building.

**2.31 Chapel. SMR No. NYM10869, (SE 578 378).**

The SMR records that Bogg (1923) suggests that an old chapel, a predecessor to the present church, stood near the ancient paved ford and was either rebuilt, or restored in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Having read this work I can find no such suggestion, however, Speight (1902, p.46) does indeed suggest that the church is on the site of a pre-Norman, possibly pagan temple.

**2.32 Cemetery. SMR No. NYM10870, (SE 5783 3779).**

The 1908 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1908 marks a disused graveyard at this location. The graveyard is likely to cover the same period as the church (NYM10868) and possibly the earlier postulated chapel (NYM10869). The closure of the graveyard in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century is presumably linked to the opening of the cemetery to the west of Ryther Road.

**2.33 Watching brief on Cawood Ings. SMR No., (SE 5900 3820 and SE5900 3845 {not on map}).**

This watching brief was carried out during the construction of a flood defence scheme on both sides of the River Ouse. On the Cawood side no archaeological finds of deposits were encountered, the natural subsoil being sealed by 0.40m to 0.60m of topsoil. On the Kelfield side a single ditch or pit, cutting into the natural clay was found beneath 0.30m deep topsoil. This feature contained 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery, (Vyner, 2002).

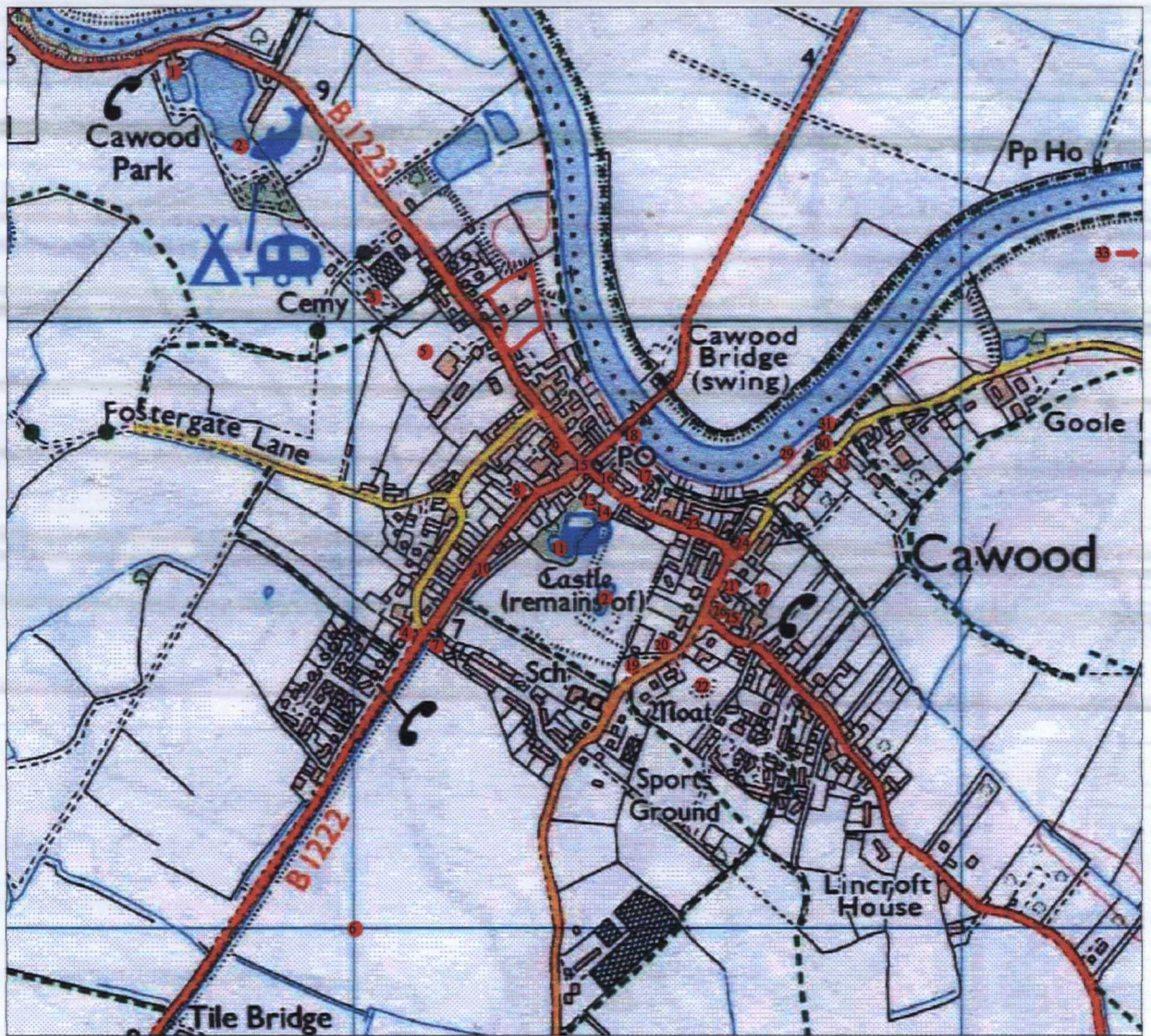


Figure 3. Locations of sites referred to in the Gazetteer. (Not to Scale).

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### 3.0 Aerial Photographic Data.

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A number of aerial photographs covering the Cawood area, held by the North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record office, were examined. One short series (photo references ANY 316/01 to 05) dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 1989, included the site and its immediate surroundings. These showed the northwestern part of the site as covered in a number of small buildings, caravans and hard standings, whilst the southeastern area is undeveloped pasture. None of these photos showed any indication of archaeological features on the site. It is also worth noting that during the exceptionally dry summer of 1976, when the conditions necessary for revealing archaeological sites as cropmarks were particularly good, no positive results were achieved close to Cawood, despite flights being undertaken along the River Ouse as far as the confluence with the Wharfe, (see Riley 1977, Figure 1).

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## 4.0 Cartographic Evidence.

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The earliest available detailed map is 1780 Enclosure Map, (Cawood and Wistow Enclosure Map 1780. NYCRO, DN186, Sheet 4) a section of which is reproduced as Figure 4. This shows that the two fields, comprising the site considered by this report, were then the southernmost portion of a larger field, attributed to John S.(awrey) Morrill Esq. The site is completely undeveloped at this time, whilst substantial buildings are visible on the opposite side of Rythergate. To the south, the area between Rythergate and the river is fairly heavily built up, whilst there is no sign of buildings to the north and northeast along the riverside.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1851 (Figure 5) shows that the earlier larger field has now been sub-divided, with the distinctive straight boundary running from the street front to the river, which forms the northwest limits of the site, clearly visible. The two fields of the modern site are, at this date a single field. Approximately in the centre is what appears to be a small pond, which drains to the north presumably along a ditch, to the field boundary. This straight boundary therefore must also have been a ditch and would have provided drainage not only for the adjacent fields, but also for the street. In the southern corner of the site a small enclosure is situated adjacent to the street frontage. Immediately to the south of the site lies an orchard, and beyond this the intensive development of the core of the village is again clear. This includes a jetty close to the north end of King Street. The area to the north of the site is still open and undeveloped.

By the time of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey of 1908 (Figure 6) the site has been divided into the two fields broadly recognisable today. Whilst the majority of the land is still open, a small building has been constructed in the western corner of the southern field, adjacent to the street frontage. The predominantly open nature of the land beyond the site continues, although with the addition of the cemetery to the west.

By the 1950's (1957 Ordnance Survey, Sheet SE 53, not illustrated) the basic plan of the village has not changed. Within the site itself the northernmost field has now been divided, with separate buildings and gardens along the street frontage, as is visible today. In the southern field the small street frontage building, first seen in 1908, is still present and a second building has been added, in the northern corner of this smaller field, adjacent to the boundary with the northern field. The area to the north is still undeveloped.

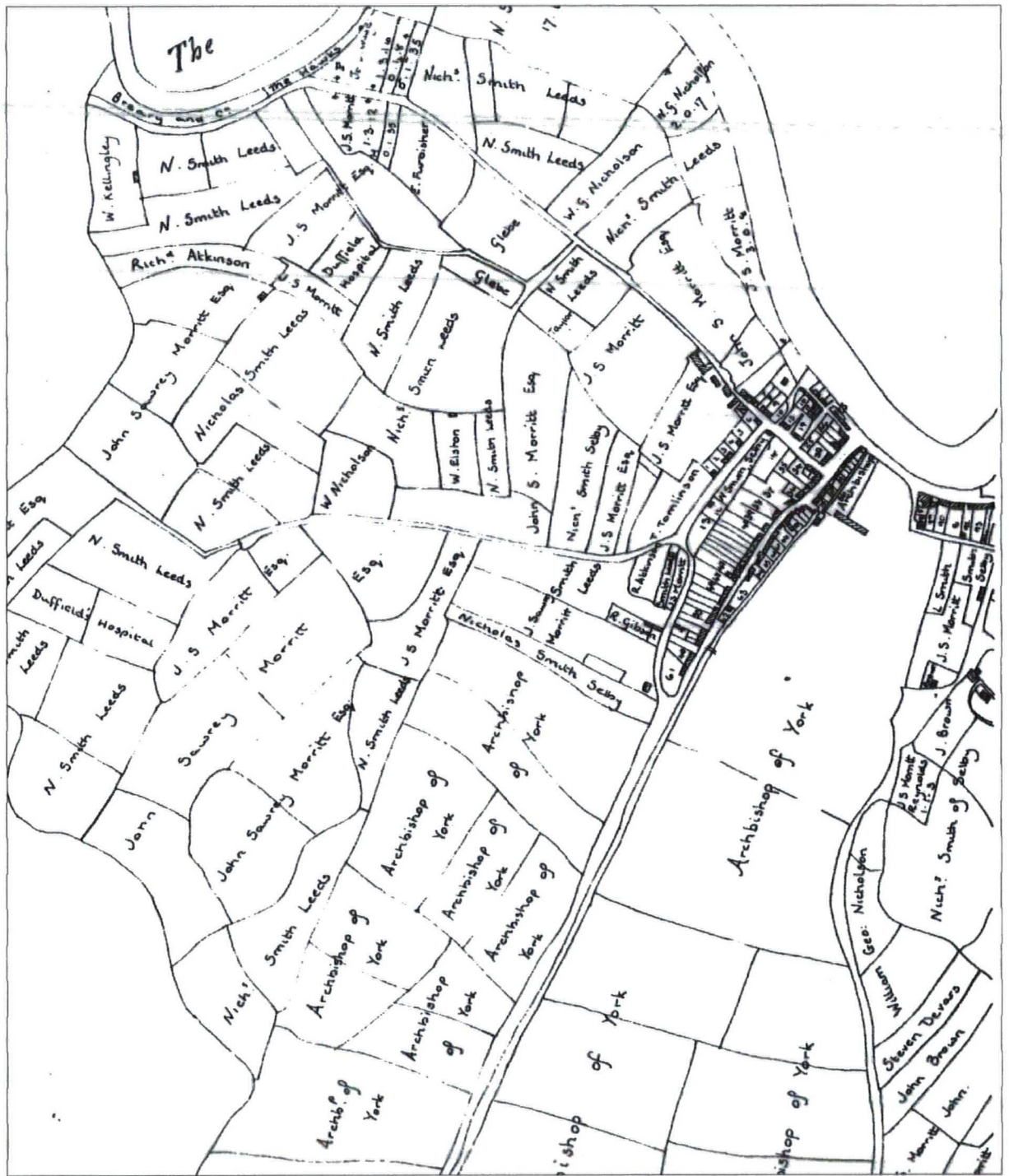


Figure 4. 1780 enclosure map. (Not to Scale).



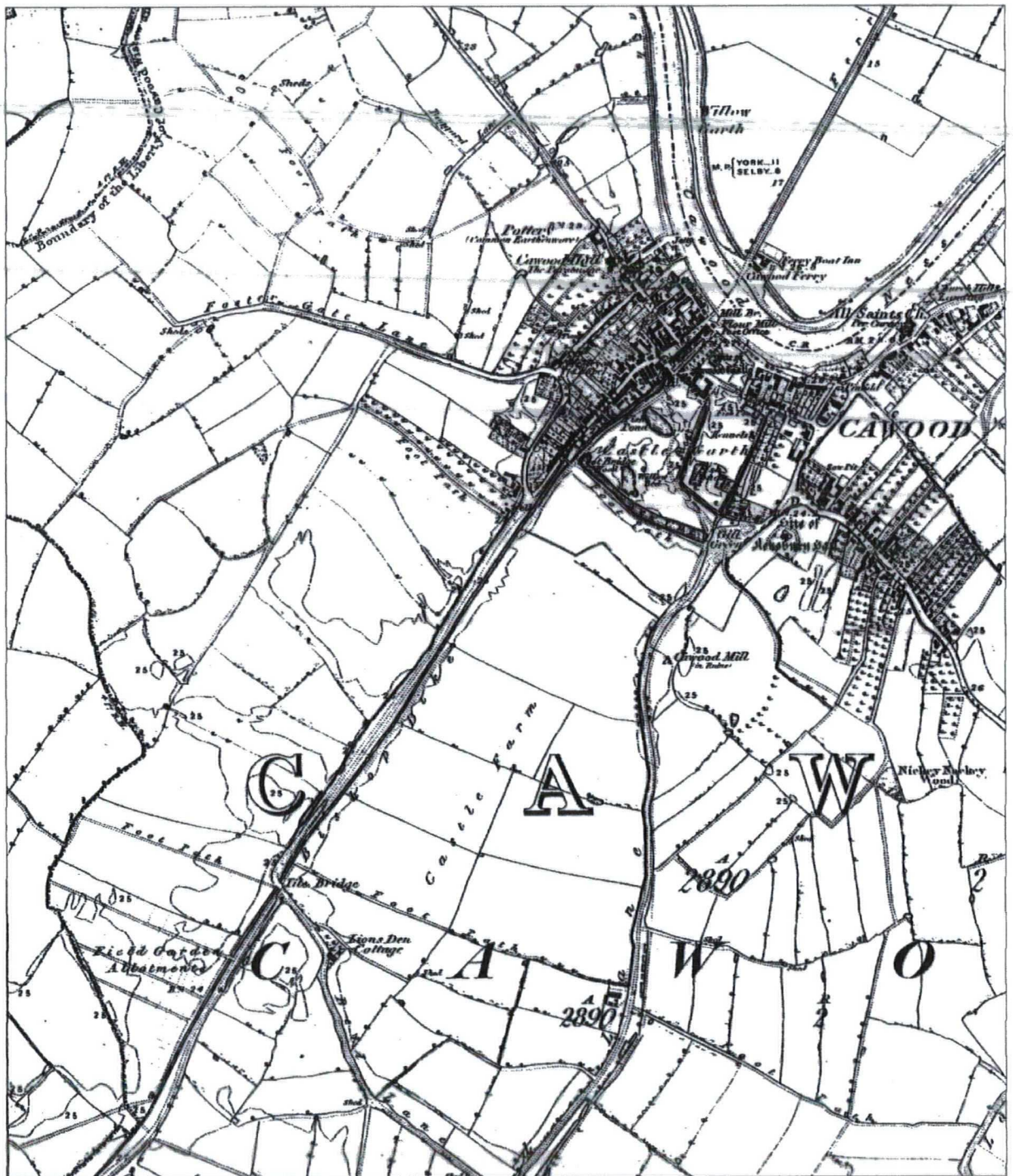


Figure 5. 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, 1851. (Not to Scale).

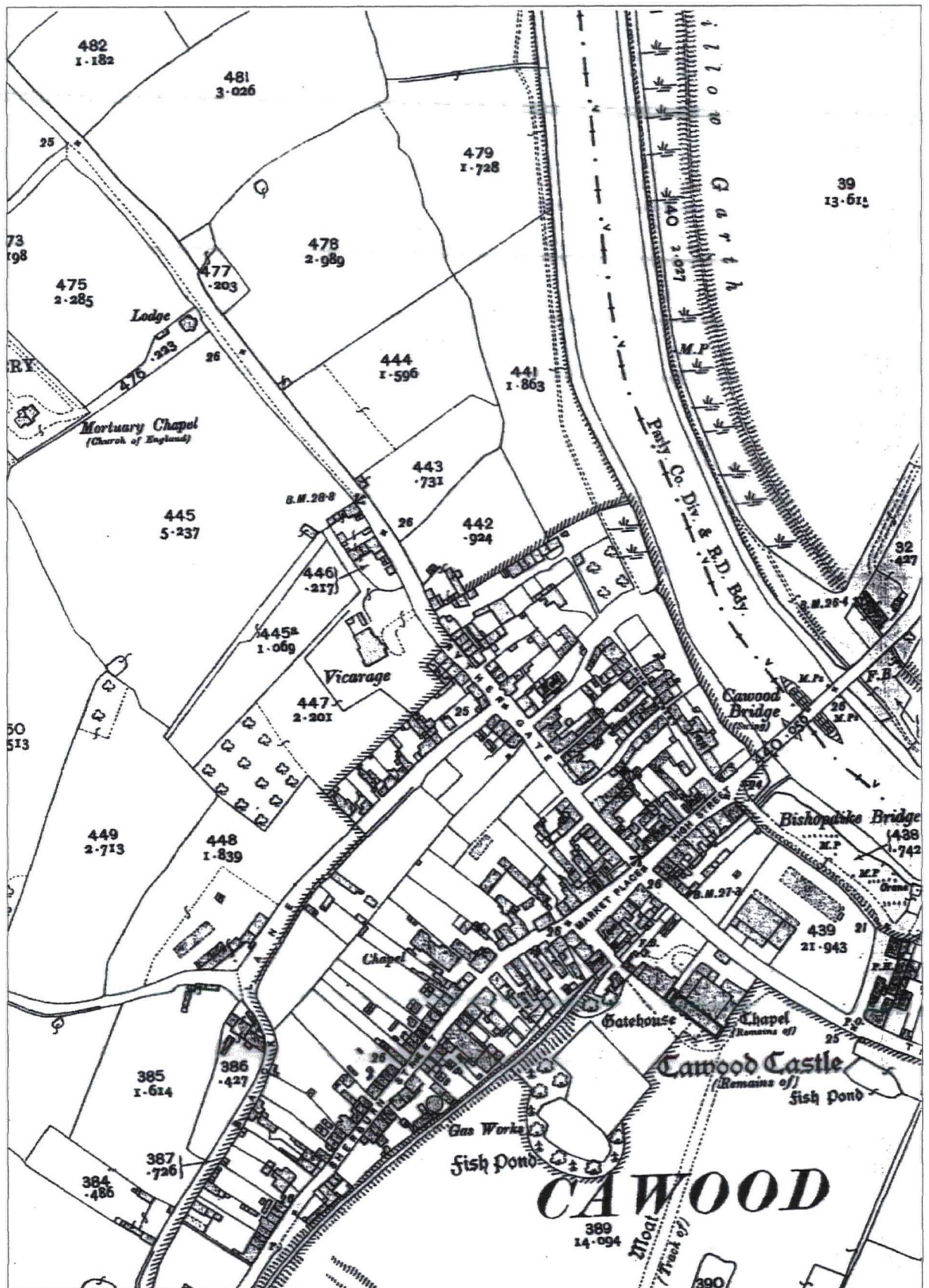


Figure 6. Ordnance Survey map, 1908. (Not to Scale).

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## 5.0 Analysis of archaeological information by period.

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### 5.1 *Early Prehistoric, (Palaeolithic to Neolithic c. 10 000 -1700 BC).*

There was no evidence of any form from these periods unearthed by the search.

### 5.2 *Bronze Age, (c. 1700 - 600 BC).*

The search found a single reference to artefactual evidence from this period. This was in the form of a gold ring found during ploughing in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, near Cawood (ref. 2.6). The nature and date of discovery may cast a degree of doubt over the assignment of this object to this period. In Elgee and Elgee (1933, p.99) this ring is described as penannular, which would seem to support a Bronze Age (or possibly Iron Age date), but is unclear where this additional information has been derived from. The object itself is now lost having been handed over to a goldsmith in Leeds at the time of discovery. A ring such as this is more likely to have originally been deposited either within a hoard, or as a votive offering, rather than being indicative of settlement, evidence for which is totally lacking.

### 5.3 *Iron Age & Romano-British, (c. 600 BC - AD 410).*

There was no evidence of any form for the Iron Age unearthed by the search. The most significant remains of the Roman period in the vicinity are those excavated in the 1930's to the northwest of the site at the Cawood Brick and Tile works (ref. 2.1, Corder, 1935). The scale of the larger ditches, approximately 3m wide, over 1m deep and running for almost 20m each, within the exposed area, are indicative of fairly organised land division. The presence within the ditch fills of pottery, animal bone and fragments of roof tile probably indicates domestic occupation in the vicinity. The pottery dates this occupation to the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century at the earliest, continuing through to the late 4<sup>th</sup> century. The exact nature of occupation and the activities being undertaken, at the Brick Works Roman site, are unclear. There are some suggestions that pottery production may have taken place, exploiting the thick natural beds of clay, together with the good communications afforded by the Rivers Ouse and Wharfe into York (*Eboracum*) and Tadcaster (*Calcaria*) respectively. Given the importance of river transport during the Roman period the confluence of these rivers would have been a significant point. As such it is perhaps surprising that no other remains of this date are known from Cawood.

### 5.4 *Anglo-Saxon, (AD 410 - 1066).*

No records of Anglo-Saxon remains were discovered during the preparation of this assessment. However, Cawood is referred to in a number of documentary sources, indicating its existence for more than a century before the Norman Conquest. The earliest reference is from 963, when King Edgar granted an estate at Sherburn either to Earl Oslac or to Osketel, Archbishop of York, (Blood and Taylor, 1992, p.83) which specifically mentions Cawood. Further documentary sources, describing the Archbishop's estate at Sherburn, in 975 and 1030,

both indicate that only parts of Cawood were included (*ibid* p. 84-5), therefore implying the presence of an alternative landowner or landowners.

It is not possible to ascertain the physical nature in detail of the settlement referred to as Cawood from these brief documentary references. However, certain aspects of the village plan, recognisable in the modern street pattern as being of at least medieval date, are likely to have formed the basis for the earlier settlement. The primary routes through Cawood are likely to have been the Selby to Tadcaster road, together with the Sherburn to Cawood road at right angles to this (*ibid* p.99). The latter route potentially continued to York, either all the way by river, or, initially by ferry across the River Ouse, then resuming by road. Cawood would therefore be situated at the junction of these two routes. Potential pre-Conquest development at Cawood is most likely to have been concentrated closest to these early streets, and alongside the river, adjacent to a ferry or ford. There is some indication that the early river crossing was somewhat downstream of the current bridge, suggested by a paved ford (ref 2.29) close to the church. Whilst the earliest extant masonry of the church is dated to the 12<sup>th</sup> century this may have replaced an even earlier place of worship (ref. 2.31), situated close to this crossing point.

### 5.5 *Medieval, (AD 1066 - 1540).*

Much of the detailed discussion regarding the development of Cawood during the medieval period is covered by Blood and Taylor, 1992. Information relating to the medieval period is dominated by the Archbishops holdings, concentrated at the Castle and, to a lesser extent, by the other major property owners in the village, the de Cawood family, presumably based at Kensbury moated site.

During the medieval period the village developed as a poly-focal settlement, with distinct parts centred upon the church, Wistowgate and the core of the present village. This core is based upon the Market Place and a developed block of land comprising an incomplete grid of narrow lanes and passages between Rythergate and the River Ouse. The Market Place would have originally been considerably larger, with the limited modern layout being the result of encroachment along its edges. The northwest limit of the medieval village was presumably formed by Back Lane. The presence of such a large riverside market was almost the result of deliberate planning, to enable commercial exploitation of river and road traffic. This exploitation would have required quays or staithes along the waterfront and numerous late medieval records note the presence of wharfs at Cawood, all of which were in the possession of the Archbishop. The Archbishop also collected tolls from the ferry across the Ouse and was involved in the repair of the causeway, which approached the north bank of the river.

Whilst the creation of the Archbishop's inland port at Cawood will have been particularly useful within the context of communications between the Archbishops Castle and the wider region, it was also linked with the exploitation of a specific natural resource. Running southeast from the River Ouse, next to the wharfs and ferry and forming a division between the village and the Castle, was the Bishop Dike (see Miller and Gee, 1983, for the detailed discussion from which this summary is drawn). This artificial watercourse linked the River Ouse with Huddlestone Quarry, to the west of Sherburn –in-Elmet. Magnesian limestone from

the quarry, which was leased by the Dean and Chapter of York from the late 14<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, was known to have been used at York Minster and further afield, at Kings College Chapel and Eton College. The limestone used in Cawood Castle Gatehouse is also likely to have been obtained from Huddlestone. Whilst some of the stone is known from documentary records to have been transported by cart as far as Cawood, to be transferred onto the river via the wharfs, the creation of the canal would have saved this initially expensive part of the journey. The feat of engineering required to construct the Bishops Dike, which for much of its length is raised above the surrounding land, indicates the importance placed upon the exploitation of this resource, and by inference the importance of the port of Cawood as an integral part of this transport system.

Given the importance of Cawood as a port and local market centre relatively few below ground archaeological remains have been encountered. With the exception of fieldwork undertaken within the Castle and Castle Garth archaeological interventions have been restricted to limited watching briefs, during small-scale building works (refs: 2.4, 2.9, 2.10, 2.20, 2.23), which have only rarely recorded any remains of potentially medieval date.

### **5.7 *Post Medieval, (AD 1540 onwards).***

During the post-medieval period the river and river transport continued to be a significant element in the commercial life of Cawood. The existence of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century warehouses between Rythergate and King Street testify to this importance (Blood and Taylor, p.91). This river trade flourished despite the abandonment of the Castle following the fall of Archbishop Wolsey in 1531. The physical condition of the Castle rapidly deteriorated after this and was further compounded by demolition by Parliamentary forces during the Civil War, so that by 1647 they were in a ruinous state. The state of the Castle in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century is illustrated in an engraving reproduced in Speight, (1902), which is shown on the front cover of this report. Further depredation followed, so that the originally extensive complex of buildings has now been reduced to the Gatehouse and immediately adjacent ranges.

The loss to Cawood of this dominant influence has led to a degree of fossilisation of the medieval layout of the village into the post-medieval and modern periods. Therefore the shape of the later medieval village is recognisable on the 1780 Enclosure map (see Figure 4) and has basically continued to the present day. The construction of the Swing Bridge across the Ouse in 1872 and the railway linking Cawood to Selby in 1898 undoubtedly improved communications for the village, but these have not significantly altered the basic layout. The majority of the references within the Sites and Monuments Record (Section 2, above) are dated to this period of the village's history, but this is mainly due to the survival of these latest buildings into the present, rather than reflecting the most important period in the past.

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## 6.0 Conclusions.

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Most of the data gathered for this assessment relates to surviving buildings concentrated around the Castle and the core of the village to the southeast of the site. Very little is known about the below ground survival of archaeological remains in any areas of Cawood.

This assessment of known archaeological resource within modern day Cawood has found almost no evidence of remains of Prehistoric date. The lack of even residual material from any of the limited modern archaeological interventions relating to these earliest periods indicates that extensive Prehistoric activity did not take place. Therefore archaeological remains of this period are not anticipated to be present on the site.

Definite Roman material, indicative of occupation, has been found, although this has been limited to a single concentration to the northwest of the village. The current site is in a similar location to the Brick works Roman site, on the outside of a river bend, and at a similar elevation above the water level. However, it is notable that no Roman finds have been found within Cawood itself, and the likelihood of the site containing archaeological remains of this period is also considered to be low.

The Anglo-Saxon period is represented by even less in the way of certain archaeological remains in Cawood. However, it is at this time that the earliest predecessor of the modern village was established. As Rythergate appears to be one of the earliest routeways through the village it is possible that archaeological remains of this period may exist along side this road, although the likelihood of Anglo-Saxon remains being disturbed is also considered to be low.

The medieval period saw the main growth and potentially the zenith in the commercial history of Cawood, with the importance of the Archbishops inland port. The majority of the port facilities, in the form of jetties, wharfs and warehouses would have been situated downstream from the site, adjacent to the Market Place and Castle. It is conceivable, however, that similar structures may have extended upstream, between the significant road of Rythergate and the river. This is therefore considered the period most likely to be represented archaeologically on the site. Any potential riverfront facilities were probably situated to the east of the proposed development area, beneath the existing River Ouse floodbank, or even closer to the river edge. The area closest to the medieval street frontage may, however, contain evidence for occupation and would clearly fall within the proposed development.

The extent of occupation during the post-medieval period is illustrated by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Enclosure Map. This indicates that although occupation was occurring along Rythergate as far out of the village as the present site, this was all concentrated on the west side of the road. The site itself has predominantly remained open land from at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Indeed, the southernmost field has continued as undeveloped pasture right up to the present.

At present the detailed nature of proposed development on the site has not been decided. The outline planning application considers the area of the site as suitable for 24 houses, with

changes being required to enhance access. As the site lies within the Indicative Flood Plain a Flood Risk Assessment has been prepared which demonstrates that the development can be successfully implemented. The finished floor levels of the proposed houses is to be 600m above the existing ground level, with intrusive groundworks limited to localised excavation, for foundations and services. In addition to the proposed houses provision is to be made for the inclusion of Recreational Open space within the site. This may provide an opportunity to ensure localised preservation in-situ of any potential archaeological remains as it's location has not been confirmed.

The nature of the most recent land use of the site will have influenced the potential degree of preservation of any below ground archaeology that may be present. Within the southern field, any archaeological remains are likely to be relatively well-preserved as there is no evidence for substantial disturbance. The more northerly field, however, has clearly been subjected to a greater degree of intrusion in recent times. As a minimum, the foundations and service trenches associated with the construction of the clubhouse, toilet block and out-building will have locally removed earlier deposits. Additional disturbance may have occurred through selective levelling for areas of hardstanding.

In conclusion it is the authors opinion that there should be no reason, on archaeological grounds, why this development should not be granted planning permission. Any such permission may, however, include a condition, requiring that some form of archaeological investigation be carried out, either prior to or during development.

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## 9.0 The Plates.

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*Plate 1. Southeast part of site, looking southwest.*



*Plate 2. Northwest part of site, looking southwest.*