

Linear Flood

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Environment Agency
Pickering Flood Alleviation Scheme Feasibility Study
Cultural Heritage Assessment

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Introduction

- 1.1 Babtie Group was commissioned by the Environment Agency to undertake a feasibility study in connection with a possible flood alleviation scheme at Pickering in North Yorkshire. The study included an assessment of the potential environmental effects of the scheme and as part of this Babtie has undertaken an archaeological desk based survey. This work was carried out in August 1999.
- 1.2 Detailed information for all sites of cultural heritage interest was obtained for a study area defined as extending to 100m outwards from all sides of the limit of the 1999 flood event.

Methodology

2.1 Sources of Information

2.1.1 Sites and Monuments Record

The primary source of data for archaeological sites was the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for North Yorkshire held by North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit Northallerton. Aerial photographs held by the SMR were also consulted as well as aerial photograph sketch transcriptions completed by the Royal Commission on the Ancient Monuments of England. The SMR was also consulted as to the extent of the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

2.1.2 County Records Office

The County Records Office, Northallerton, was visited to consult the early editions of the Ordnance Survey 6" and 25" maps and estate maps.

2.1.3 The Borthwick Historical Institute, York

The Borthwick Institute was visited to inspect relevant title maps for the area.

2.1.4 Ryedale District Council

Information on listed buildings and Conservation Areas was obtained from the Conservation Section of Ryedale District Council.

2.1.5 Published Information

Relevant published archaeological and historical literature was consulted. These sources are identified in the Bibliography.

2.1.6 Walkover Survey

The study area was visited to make a brief inspection of known archaeological sites and to identify any previously unknown sites which could have been visible on the surface.

2.2 Assessment of Cultural Heritage Value: Archaeological Sites

2.2.1 A provisional assessment of the grade of importance of each archaeological site within the study area has been made. Given the limited information available for most sites, this initial assessment has been based partly on professional judgement and experience, however, it

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has also taken into account the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria for the designation of Scheduled Ancient Monuments (Annex 4 to Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 Archaeology and Planning DoE November 1990). These criteria are

- period
- rarity
- documentation
- group value
- survival/condition
- fragility/vulnerability
- diversity
- potential

2.2.2 Each site has been scored from 1 to 3 against each criterion except Period and the scores totalled to grade each site as being of National Regional or Local importance Sites which have been destroyed are given no grade The Period criterion can influence the score assigned to the other criteria The nature of archaeological sites is such that the information available for some sites is incomplete professional judgement and experience therefore plays a significant part in the scoring process The grades assigned to any site are provisional and could change if further information was to become available

23 The Built Heritage

2.3.1 The assessment of the Cultural Heritage value of individual buildings is based on the criteria used for listing buildings outlined in Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 Planning and the Historic Environment (PPG15 1994). The criteria are age and rarity architectural interest historic interest close historical association and group value. More detailed guidance on the use of these criteria is given in PPG15. The levels of importance are defined as follows:

National	All grade I and some grade II* listed buildings
Regional	Most grade II* and some grade II listed buildings and some unlisted buildings of special architectural or historic interest in Conservation Areas
Local	Most Grade II Listed Buildings and some unlisted buildings of special architectural or historic interest in Conservation Areas

Archaeology of the Study Area

3.1 Summary

- 3.1.1 The town of Pickering stands on a limestone bluff on the south edge of the North York Moors overlooking the Vale of Pickering. This location forms a natural crossing point of an east-west route along the north edge of the Vale and a north-south route through Newton Dale to Malton. It is this location on a major communications route that has influenced the nature of archaeology in the Pickering area.
- 3.1.2 Fifteen sites of archaeological significance were recorded within the study area (see Figure 2) and their importance was assessed using the methodology outlined above. Pickering Castle (Site 2) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument; nine of them (Sites 1 and 3-10) are casual finds located to the same Ordnance Survey 1 km grid square at the extreme north end of the study area. All sites of archaeological significance are listed below.

Site No	Site Name	Period	Form	Significance
1	Pickering Necklace	Bronze Age	find spot	local
2	Pickering Castle Motte and Bailey	Medieval	ruins	national
3	Pickering Riveted Dagger	Bronze Age	find spot	local
4	Pickering Flint Saw	Prehistoric	find spot	local
5	Pickering Flint Assemblage I	Prehistoric	find spot	local
6	Pickering Assemblage II	Prehistoric	find spot	local
7	Pickering Flint Assemblage II	Prehistoric	find spot	local
8	Pickering Axe Hammer I	Bronze Age	find spot	local
9	Pickering Axe Hammer II	Bronze Age	find spot	local
10	Pickering Stone Axe	Neolithic	find spot	local
12	Pickering Quarry	Post Medieval	remains of	local
13	Pickering Railway	Post Medieval	remains of	local
14	Pickering Medieval Bridge	Medieval	standing building	regional
95	Medieval Hall (site of)	Medieval	site of	regional

3.2 The Prehistoric Period (to AD 71)

3.2.1 Within the surrounding region evidence for Palaeolithic activity has been recovered from Flixton Carr and a Mesolithic seasonal settlement has been excavated at Starr Carr which is considered of international significance. Other sites of this type are believed to exist in the Vale of Pickering while finds of flint artefacts are widespread in the surrounding area. However the earliest known prehistoric find within the study area is the fragments of a Neolithic stone axe (Site 10) which may have been used to clear woodland for early agriculture.

3.2.2 Clearance continued in the Bronze Age when funerary monuments (barrows or cairns) were built on the uplands around Pickering. A number of these were excavated in the 19th century and flint and pottery assemblages of uncertain provenance (Sites 6 and 7) may have come from these excavations. Bronze Age activity in the study area is further attested by antiquarian finds of two axe hammers (Sites 8 and 9) a bead necklace (Site 1) a bronze dagger (Site 3) and a collection of flints (Site 5) the original locations and circumstances under which they were found are unclear. Beyond the study area an open settlement at Heslerton in the Vale of Pickering dates to this period.

3.2.3 Evidence for Iron Age activity in the study area is sparse. Elsewhere in Yorkshire this period is represented mainly by settlement evidence in contrast to earlier periods where burials are more common. Extensive landscape features such as field systems are also well known. In East Yorkshire cemeteries of square barrows are common often rich in associated grave goods but Pickering lies beyond their main area of distribution.

3.3 The Roman Period

3.3.1 In the subsequent Roman period evidence is again sparse although Roman activity in the wider area is attested by the Roman fort and associated civil settlement at Malton. Romano British rural settlement usually recognised from aerial photographs or occasionally earthworks is often hard to distinguish from its Iron Age predecessors except where the associated material culture is recovered during excavation.

3.4 The Anglo Saxon and Medieval Periods

3.4.1 In the late 4th and early 5th century AD the east and south coasts became subject to increased raiding by Germanic tribes while parts of the army were withdrawn to fight in

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Roman civil wars Mercenary troops from the same Germanic tribes (*foederati*) were given land to settle in return for military support Rebellion by these mercenaries along with increased raiding led to the final collapse of Roman Britain and the establishment of a number of British and Anglo Saxon successor kingdoms The Vale of Pickering may have formed the northern boundary of the Anglo Saxon kingdom of Deira

- 3.4.2** The place name Pickering is of Anglo Saxon origin possibly from *Picer.ingas* the settlement of the people of Picer The town may have been an important Anglo Saxon settlement possibly with a Saxon church on the present site of St Peter's and St Paul's (see Figure 2)
- 3.4.3** William I who held Pickering by the time of Domesday Book (1086) built a motte and bailey castle at Pickering in around 1070 (Site 2) which subsequently went through five major building phases The motte and bailey was built in the aftermath of a major rebellion in 1068-69 which led to William I's punitive campaign known as the 'harrying of the north' A second motte in the western part of the town (Beacon Hill) outside the study area may have been built during the anarchy of King Stephen's reign in the 12th century
- 3.4.4** Pickering Castle played a central role in the administration of the Forest and Honour of Pickering (Pickering Lyth) an extensive area stretching from the River Seven at Cropton to the coast at Cayton and from the marshes of the River Rye to the high moors beyond Goathland The Forest an area of scrub and rough vegetation in the western part of the Honour was a royal hunting reserve and in addition to being a royal hunting lodge Pickering Castle became a centre to enforce royal authority over the forest The castle was also used as a prison and the Old Hall also constructed in this period was used as a law court
- 3.4.5** Between 1180 and 1187 parts of the castle were rebuilt in stone probably including the replacement of the timber palisade by a stone shell keep on top of the motte Further work was carried out in 1210 and 1218 to 1236 The castle was conferred to the House of Lancaster in 1267 but after years of decline was refurbished by Edward II in 1323-1326 who also established a royal stud administered from the castle The castle became part of the Duchy of Lancaster in 1351 and became a royal castle with the accession of Henry V in 1446 Throughout the later Medieval period the fabric of the castle declined so that by the middle of the 16th century a survey of Pickering Castle found the defences in a state of disrepair confirmed by Leland's description of 1535

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3.4.6 Pickering was an important market town receiving a market charter during the reign of John (1199–1216) and achieving borough status at about the same time. The wealth of the town derived to a large extent from the wool trade is reflected by periodic alterations and extensions of the church of St Peter and St Paul. The town was probably initially focused on the market place near the church but spread northwards towards the castle and also to the east and west along the main overland routes. Its extent is not precisely defined but most of it will have lain within the boundaries of the Conservation Area shown on Figure 2. Leland described the town in 1535 as being centred on the hill close to the castle and the parish church. The manor hall of the Bruce family (Site 95) stood on Beck Isle in the floodplain.

3.5 The Post Medieval Period

351 Nordern's survey of 1621 illustrates the further decline of the defences and buildings of Pickering Castle which continued to be used as a prison. Further damage was caused by Parliamentary troops stationed in the castle during the Civil War although the castle itself played no direct part in the war. After being sold by the Commonwealth Government it was returned to Charles II after the Restoration.

3.5.2 In the late 16th century the town was based around the streets of Birdgate Hallgarth Ungate Borrowgate East Gate and Westgate During the 18th century many of the timber houses and the medieval bridge (Site 14) in the town were replaced in stone

354 During the 19th century the town grew with the industries such as tanneries dye works foundries and brewenes Viver s Mill (Site 11) was also present by 1844 A number of quarries to the north of the town (Site 12) are also marked on the tithe map from 1844 These quarries were used to provide lime for agricultural purposes The railway line (Site 13) was opened in 1836 initially using horse power until the track was rebuilt for steam locomotives in the late 1840s

3.6 Potential Unknown Archaeological Remains

3.6.1 A surprisingly small number of known archaeological sites have been identified in the study area. However, very little archaeological investigation has taken place within the study area and unknown archaeological remains of any period could be present. Pickering is an important Medieval town with probable Anglo-Saxon origins, and the study area includes parts of the historic core of the town. It is therefore likely that significant Medieval or earlier

remains survive potentially both within and beyond the historic core of the town but have not yet been identified

The Built Heritage of the Study Area

4.1 A total of 80 Listed Buildings (Sites 11 and 15-94) and one Conservation Area were identified within the study area as shown in the list below. All the buildings are of Grade II status. The extent of the Conservation Area is shown on Figure 2, but for the sake of clarity the Listed Buildings have not been shown; most, but not all, lie within the Conservation Area.

Site No	Site Name	Significance
11	Viver's Mill, inc. Mill House, outbuildings and cottages	Regional
15	No 6 Westgate	Regional
16	No 5 Westgate	Regional
17	Nos 44 and 45 Westgate	Regional
18	Nos 46 and 47 Potters Hill	Regional
19	Nos 3 and 4 Westgate	Regional
20	Nos 1 and 2 Westgate	Regional
21	Wesleyan Day School	Regional
22	No 4 Potter Hill	Regional
23	No 25 Potter Hill	Regional
24	No 26 Potter Hill	Regional
25	No 27 Potter Hill	Regional
26	Methodist Chapel	Regional
27	Mill House Flats	Regional
28	Memorial Hall	Regional
29	No 36 Potter Hill	Regional
30	No 38 Potter Hill	Regional
31	No 39 Potter Hill (Mount Farm)	Regional
32	No 40 Potter Hill	Regional
33	St Joseph's Presbytery	Regional
34	Church of St Joseph	Regional
35	Nos 24 and 25 Undercliffe	Regional
36	No 14-19 Undercliffe	Regional
37	No 13 Undercliffe	Regional
38	No 7 Train Lane	Regional
39	Train Lane Building I	Regional
40	Farm Building to the North of Beck Isle Museum	Regional
41	Beck Isle Cottage	Regional

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42	Fern Leigh	Regional
43	Premises to the left of Fern Leigh	Regional
44	Rose Cottage	Regional
45	Former Temperance Hall Bridge Street	Regional
46	The Rose Inn Bridge Street	Regional
47	No 5 Bridge Street	Regional
48	Nos 6 and 7 Bridge Street	Regional
49	Nos 26 and 26A Hungate	Regional
50	No 25 Hungate	Regional
51	No 27 Hungate	Regional
52	Nos 29 31 Hungate	Regional
53	Pickering United Reform (Congregational Church)	Regional
54	No 33 Hungate	Regional
55	No 34 Hungate	Regional
57	No 21 Hungate	Regional
58	Nos 33 and 34 Market Place	Regional
59	No 37 Market Place	Regional
60	St George s House	Regional
61	Nos 20 22 Market Place	Regional
62	No 18 Market Place	Regional
63	No 15 and 16A Market Place	Regional
64	No 11 Market Place	Regional
65	Out building to north of White Swan Hotel	Regional
66	White Swan Hotel	Regional
67	Nos 2 and 3 Market Place	Regional
68	York County Savings Bank	Regional
69	No 11 Market Place	Regional
70	The Bay House Public House	Regional
71	No 7 Market Place	Regional
72	Nos 5 and 6 Market Place	Regional
73	No 4 Market Place	Regional
74	Nos 9 Castlegate	Regional
75	No 10 Castlegate	Regional
76	No 11 Castlegate	Regional
77	Nos 12 and 13 Castlegate	Regional
78	Nos 14 14A and 15 Castlegate	Regional

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79	No 16 Castlegate	Regional
30	Nos 17 and 18 Castlegate	Regional
81	No 19 Castlegate	Regional
82	Friends Meeting House	Regional
83	No 19 Hungate	Regional
84	Nos 17 and 18 Hungate	Regional
85	Hungate Nos 11 15	Regional
86	Nos 5 and 6 Hungate	Regional
87	No 35 Hungate	Regional
88	Nos 36 and 37 Hungate	Regional
89	No 38 Hungate	Regional
90	Nos 39 and 40 Hungate	Regional
91	No 41 Hungate	Regional
92	No 42 Hungate	Regional
93	Nos 43 47 Hungate	Regional
94	Nos 23 Market Place	Regional

Cultural Heritage Constraints

5 1 As the flood alleviation scheme is at an early design stage the exact nature of the scheme has not yet been determined. It is therefore not possible to assess the potential impact of any proposals on known cultural heritage sites. Assessment of significance of impact will be carried out in the Preliminary Environmental Report. However, some general comments can be made which should be taken into account in developing scheme options.

- although very few specific archaeological sites have been identified within the floodplain it is likely that unknown archaeological remains of medieval date are present particularly in the area between Old Beck Road and Vivis Lane
- although no specific sites of prehistoric date have been identified numerous finds of prehistoric artefacts suggest that such sites may be present particularly in the northern part of the study area
- Site 14 (the Medieval bridge) Site 11 (Viver's Mill) and Site 95 (the manor house of the Bruce Family) all lie in the floodplain and could be affected by flood defence works
- the northern part of Site 13 (Pickering Railway) is in use as part of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway and flood defence options are unlikely to affect it The southern parts of this site are dismantled and the surviving remains could be affected This would probably be an impact of Minor significance
- most of the other Listed Buildings lie in built up areas surrounded by other buildings They are therefore unlikely to be directly affected by any scheme options
- there could nevertheless be an impact on the setting of Listed Buildings which are not physically affected
- it should be noted that all structures within the curtilage of a Listed Building share the protected status of the building itself

Further Investigation

6.1 Field evaluation may be required before the full extent and significance of any impacts can be fully defined or appropriate mitigation measures identified. There are a number of techniques which can be employed but the most likely techniques would include

- fieldwalking (the systematic collection of artefacts on the surface)
- geophysical survey (remote sensing techniques to detect buried features)
- earthwork survey (specialist topographic survey to record visible features)
- trial excavation (the archaeological excavation of small parts of a site to obtain firmer information about the whole site)
- palaeoenvironmental sampling

6.2 The need for and scope of any such evaluation works could be identified after a preferred scheme has been chosen. Only after completion of such evaluation works would it be possible to fully define any mitigation measures which might be required in respect of the Cultural Heritage. There are a range of potential mitigation measures which may be applicable but the most likely are

- design solutions to avoid or reduce the impact
- detailed archaeological excavation or other recording works in advance of construction
- archaeological recording works during the course of development

Sources

7.1 Bibliography

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Gounsell P and The Royal Forest of Pickering

Fox GE 1936 **Pickering Castle** Yorkshire

Snowden K 1997 **Pickering Through the Ages A concise history of this ancient North Yorkshire Town** (2nd Edition) Pickering

Thompson MW 1958 **Pickering Castle**

Victoria County History 1914 Yorkshire North Riding Vol 1

7.2 Ordnance Survey Maps

1854 1st edition 6 map sheet 91

1912 25 map sheet 91 6 91 7 91 10 91 11

1928 25 map sheets 91 6 91 7 91 10 91 11

1930 2nd edition 6 map sheet 91

7.3 Other Maps

1844 Tithe Map Pickering Parish

Appendix 1 Gazetteer of Identified Sites