

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
NIDDERDALE AONB ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY PROJECT**

TENDER DOCUMENT

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated in 1994. There is a paucity of centralised information available on the level of archaeological remains which contribute substantially to the quality of the landscape. The field survey will identify how much visible archaeology survives and thus provide information which can be used for development control, management, education and tourism.

2.0 LOCATION

- 2.1 The AONB covers 603 square kilometres on the eastern fringes of the Pennines (fig 1). The geology is mostly Millstone Grit, frequently interspersed with sandstone and a little Magnesian Limestone on the eastern edge. It is drained by several rivers, notably the Nidd, Washburn, Burn and Wharfe. Pateley Bridge is the main town and the National Trust's Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey estate is the major visitor attraction. OS Explorer map sheets 26 and 27 cover most of the area at 1:25,000 scale with the northern area covered by Landranger 99 at 1:50,000 scale.

3.0 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.1 A number of workers have been active in identifying flint scatters, such as Cowling in Wharfedale in the 1930s and 40s and Major Collins in Nidderdale a little earlier, work which has been continued by his daughter who has also identified a number of new monuments. The Ordnance Survey archaeological surveyors were active in this area in the 1950s and 1960s.
- 3.2 More recently, the Dales Aerial Photographic Survey, part of the National Mapping Programme carried out by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) between 1989 and 1992, mapped features for the area west of easting line 20 (fig 2).
- 3.3 The National Trust has recent full desk-top studies for the Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Estate and Brimham Rocks. In 1996 the Harrogate Community Archaeology Project carried out a thorough desk-top survey of the civil parish of Ellingstring together with limited walk-over survey and Fewston is about to be covered in the same way. A detailed desk-top study of prehistoric sites and finds over the whole AONB is almost complete. A lot of work has been carried out on monastic documents and sites in the area but few results are available for inspection. Lead mining remains have been studied from an historical and economic viewpoint by Mike Gill and stone quarrying by Jeff Blacker.
- 3.4 A Local Heritage Initiative pilot project is intensively studying part of Bewerley parish.

4.0 DATA SETS CURRENTLY HELD BY THE COUNTY SMR

4.1 **SMR :** 705 records, mostly post-medieval industrial in MapInfo Professional 5.0 as point data and Access 97 data base (Fig 3)

Dales Survey : 1,774 records in Access 97 and MapInfo Professional 5.0 as point datas. Transcriptions mapped on 1:10,000/1:10560 overlays. Accompanying core index data from the NMR is also available in the same formats.

Northern Mines Research Society : 243 records of industrial sites on disc.

4.2 Other data sets:

Harrogate Community Archaeology Prehistory Project : 1,300 records derived from intensive desk-top study, in Access.

Harrogate Community Archaeology Project : Ellingstring Parish : 146 records on printout.

5.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

5.1 The aims of the project are to:

- i) verify existing information and recorded features;
- ii) identify and locate previously unrecorded features;
- iii) create a digital database and GIS mapping of the survey results; and
- iv) assess the distribution and survival of features in the landscape.

5.2 The aims will be achieved by collation of existing data, rapid field survey, computerised mapping and SMR enhancement and the production of a summary report.

5.3 200 square kilometres of the AONB will be surveyed. Target areas will concentrate on enclosed agricultural and parkland, made up as follows : the area east of easting line 20, Pateley Bridge to Greenhow Hill, Upper Nidderdale, Ilton to Laverton, Colsterdale, Wharfedaleside, including unenclosed areas of Middleton, Denton and Askwith moors.

5.4 Areas not to be surveyed are all National Trust Properties, the parishes of Fewston and Ellingstring, the part of Bewerley covered by the Local Heritage Initiative project and, except where stated in 5.4, unenclosed moorland. Domestic gardens and built up areas will not be included.

5.5 All items from existing data sets in the selected areas will be checked on the ground and new features noted such as earthworks, quarries, industrial remains, carved rocks, stone-built structures, unroofed buildings, burnt mounds, warrening remains, sheepfolds, boundary stones, kilns and military remains. Any wall containing interesting features such as orthostats, unusual sheep creeps, boulder footings or gateways should also be noted.

- 5.6 In summary, the project will create mapped information in a GIS format on a field by field basis with a digital database and accompanying report. The purpose is to build up a picture of archaeological survival in each field and not to create a definitive SMR.

6.0 PROJECT SUPPORT

- 6.1 Tenderers are expected to provide their own office accommodation for the duration of the project although when necessary limited desk space with a telephone, computer time and other facilities are available at County Hall for short periods.
- 6.2 Plan printing facilities are available at County Hall for copying paper maps, AP transcriptions on film, SMR sheets and others as appropriate. The cost will be borne by NYCC. All sheets provided in this way will be on a loan basis to be returned at the end of the project. OS map copies will be produced under NYCC licence.
- 6.3 Postage for publicity leaflets and letters to landowners will be provided by NYCC. Notepaper will be provided by the AONB lead authority. Locating landowners is likely to require a considerable amount of telephone calls and some enquiries in the locality for those areas where knowledge is limited.
- 6.4 A portable display panel 8' x 7' high with expo-loop surface will be provided, subject to prior booking, from NYCC, for public displays. Design and costs for producing material for the display will rest with the tenderer.
- 6.5 If the successful contractor does not already have MapInfo, or the correct version (5.0), funds ofshould be allocated for purchase of a licence from NYCC. Copies of the OS vector data for the area will be provided free of charge from the same source either in ntf format in Landline or MapInfo format compressed in WinZip or compatible format on CD. Copies of existing data sets will be provided on disk or CD. Tenderers will be expected to use their own copy of Access, preferably the 97 version.
- 6.6 Guidance in NYCC SMR methods will be provided but responsibility for training in the use of specified software lies with the contractor. This will ensure the data can be seamlessly integrated with the County SMR at the end of the project.
- 6.7 Leaflets will be designed and written in conjunction with the AONB Officer and the SMR Officer. Printing will be the responsibility of the tenderer.
- 6.8 Copies of data or summary results for individual landowners who request it will be provided by NYCC.

7.0 LIAISON

- 7.1 Regular progress meetings with the SMRO will be required on a monthly basis in Northallerton or Harrogate. Joint site visits to discuss methodology, check the accuracy of results and inspect a sample of sites will be required on at least two occasions during the field survey stage. The team leader or other as appropriate will be invited to give a report to the Nidderdale AONB Archaeology Working Party in Harrogate and possibly a presentation to the Joint Advisory Committee.

- 7.2 Close consultation with the SMR Officer will be required for a number of stages : recording methods, data compilation, GIS mapping, SMR integration.
- 7.3 The AONB lead authority is Harrogate Borough Council, with NYCC Heritage Unit providing archaeological advice. A Joint Advisory Committee has been established to oversee all work in the AONB. Funding is an element of a larger grant from the European Union, with partnership funding, to the AONB as a whole and consequently this is an AONB project rather than a North Yorkshire County Council project. As such it has a high public profile which is already established and within which framework the successful tenderer will be expected to work.

7.4 Nidderdale AONB relevant contacts:

Lead Officer :	Mr C Brown Harrogate Borough Council Knapping Mount West Grove Road Harrogate HG1 2AE Tel No : 01423 500600
Countryside Officer :	Mr P Burgess As above
Project Officer :	Mr M Hackett 18b High Street Pateley Bridge North Yorkshire HG3 5AL Tel No : 01423 712027
Harrogate Museums & Arts :	Mrs M Kershaw Royal Pump Room Museum Crown Place Harrogate HG1 2RY Tel No : 01423 556130

8.0 TASKS

- 8.1 Obtain landowner/tenant details from SMRO, Project Officer and other contacts for areas to be surveyed. Prepare and send out letters seeking permission for access. No surveying is to be carried out without permission.
- 8.2 Prepare a simple, single sheet, two-colour A4 leaflet explaining the survey and listing contacts. 1,000 copies. Distribute to a list drawn up in conjunction with the SMRO and others.
- 8.3 Collate existing data sets in Access. Create point data in MapInfo for those not already in this format. Devise a system for checking and recording data in the field and for digital capture of the survey data. These tasks relate only to the areas to be surveyed and not the entire AONB.
- 8.4 Rapidly survey each land parcel/field in selected areas. Record identity, presence/absence, location (to 8 figure co-ordinates) and extent, condition. Owing to the late start of the survey there will necessarily have to be some flexibility in surveying areas according to vegetation growth.

- 8.5 Take colour prints and slides of selected exemplary features and landscapes for illustration and recording purposes.
- 8.6 Plot the location and extent of all features as seen on the ground into MapInfo.
- 8.7 Record survey results for all features in an Access database separate to the SMR and comprising up to 20 data entry fields, in consultation with the SMRO.
- 8.8 Prepare material, including notes, slides, OHP transparencies, for at least three public talks to local groups.
- 8.9 Prepare an informative portable display for local venues illustrating the reasons for and results of the project.
- 8.10 Produce 6 copies of an interim report on progress six months from the date of commencement of the project.
- 8.11 Produce 10 copies of a final summary report following NYCC guidelines on reporting (enclosed). This should include a discussion on methods used, summary statistics of area covered and number/type of features recorded, an assessment of the survival and distribution of features within each area. Brief proposals for further work and particular issues may also be addressed.
- 8.12 Produce a field archive to Frere Level III and digital files of the project results for incorporation into the County SMR. Make arrangements for the deposition of the archive to the SMR.

9.0 VARIATIONS TO WORK

- 9.1 Variations to itemised tasks must be discussed with the SMRO in the first instance. Other lead bodies may need to be consulted subsequently and the variations agreed in writing.

10.0 TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 10.1 The survey will be the subject of a temporary contract for services (not a contract for employment). No contract will be signed without a project risk assessment having been lodged with the County Heritage Unit by the contractor.
- 10.2 Copyright in reports prepared by the contractor shall be the subject of a non/exclusive licence in favour of the County Council to use such reports for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions.
- 10.3 County SMR and Ordnance Survey digital map information provided to the contractor shall be used solely for the purposes of the project and not for any other purposes whatsoever. Neither the contractor nor his agents or servants shall by any means copy or part with possession of the whole or any part of the information.