

MIDGE HALL FARM POND,
ROSEDALE EAST, NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS



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On behalf of

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS,
MIDGE HALL FARM POND, ROSEDALE EAST,
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In April 2012, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr Paul Metcalf to investigate an old roadside pond close to Midge Hall Farm in Rosedale East, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 69914 98442) prior to its restoration. The work was undertaken in conjunction with members of the Rosedale History Society, and was funded by the North York Moors National Park Authority as part of their current LEADER Small Scale Enhancements Scheme.

The limited cartographic evidence indicates that the pond was built between 1893 and 1912. In its original form, it was c.6.50m square, and up to 0.90m deep in the centre. It is likely that all four sides were lined with unmortared squared coursed sandstone, although oral evidence suggests that one side was originally formed by a sloping bank. The stone walls rest directly on the shale base of the pond, and there was no evidence for any clay lining. A stone-lined gutter with flagstone capping formerly entered the north-east corner of the pond, and the main outlet was located at the south-east corner, possibly fitted with a simple sluice. A drystone wall runs along the east side of the pond.

The pond was almost certainly built as a sump across an existing water course to provide water for the farm, and it was used in association with a trough located just to the north. It was probably used for watering stock and/or to provide a habitat for ducks or geese, and it remained in use until at least the mid 1970s. The lack of sediments and silt deposits in the base indicates that water was kept flowing through the pond, rather than being allowed to stand stagnant, and the simple sluice in the south-east corner would have maintained the level. Over time, the pond was subject to considerable alteration. Parts of the stone walls were roughly repaired using brickwork, and it is known that the pond was regularly cleaned out, which may have removed any original clay lining. The original inlets and outlets have been replaced with more modern pipes in more recent years.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In April 2012, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr Paul Metcalf to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation, comprising topographical earthwork and structural survey and excavation, of an old roadside pond close to Midge Hall Farm in Rosedale East, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 69914 98442) prior to its restoration. It was proposed that the work was to be undertaken in conjunction with members of the Rosedale History Society, in order to provide a basic knowledge of archaeological survey techniques.
- 1.2 The scope of the work was defined by an EDAS methods statement, which was produced following discussions with the North York Moors National Park Authority. The project was funded by the NYMNPA as part of their current LEADER (Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale) Small Scale Enhancements Scheme, which is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) administered by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The pond lies on the east side of the unclassified Daleside Road, just north of a prominent right-angled bend as it passes Midge Hall Farm (at NGR SE 69914 98442) (see figure 2). Midge Hall Farm (named as 'Midge Hole Farm' on some modern maps) lies within Rosedale East parish, c.3.4km to the north-west of Rosedale Abbey in the North York Moors (see figure 1).
- 2.2 The sub-rectangular pond measures c.5m long by c.3m wide, and was full of silt and debris prior to restoration work. It is surrounded to the north, west and south by a grassed verge adjacent to the road, and to the west by a bank representing the former line of a drystone wall (see plate 1).

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 As noted above, the project methodology was defined by an EDAS methods statement, which was produced following discussions with the NYMNPA (see Appendix 2).

Objectives

- 3.2 The objectives of the archaeological investigations were:
- to gather sufficient information to record the present state of the pond, and to record any items of interest that might be uncovered during its cleaning out;
 - to provide members of the Rosedale History Society with a basic understanding of archaeological survey techniques, so that they might be able to record other items of interest in the locality.

Desk-top Assessment

- 3.3 A limited amount of historical and archaeological information about the pond and its surrounding area was collected, in order to place the investigation into context. In the event, relatively little information was forthcoming, the majority supplied

through liaison with the Rosedale History Society, the landowner and the NYMNP.

Topographic Survey and Excavation

- 3.4 A divorced measured survey of the pond, prior to any excavation, was made by EDAS, assisted by Clair Shields of the NYMNP, at a scale of 1:20. The survey was produced using traditional tape and offset techniques, following guidance produced by English Heritage (2002). The pond earthworks and associated structures were recorded by measuring distances along and from taped baselines, set out along compass bearings or between other prominent features. The resulting field survey is presented as an interpretative hachure plan using conventions analogous to those used by English Heritage (1999; 2007, 31-35).
- 3.5 It had been previously agreed with all parties, and set out in the EDAS methods statement, that excavation of the pond would proceed using a small JCB-type mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, the infill to be removed in level spits, gradually increasing in depth; the excavated spoil and debris was to be taken off site. The final clearance of the pond was then to be undertaken by hand, to ensure that any lining or other associated features could be carefully exposed and recorded prior to restoration, i.e. that the pond should be fully excavated and recorded before any restoration works began.
- 3.6 The work initially proceeded according to this methodology. However, a local drystone waller, who was present on site and who was to be employed to rebuild the pond and adjacent drystone wall, refused to adhere to the agreed methodology, despite repeated requests from the landowner and both NYMNP and EDAS representatives. On several occasions, *in situ* stones were deliberately removed when it was stated that they should not be and before they could be recorded, and reconstruction of the pond walls took place while other parts were being excavated. As a result, it was not possible to fully record all the details of the pond's construction to the level that would normally be expected. Nevertheless, a basic plan was produced at a scale of 1:20, together with an approximate profile across the feature. The pre-intervention plan was then amended to include the information that was exposed during the works, as far as was possible.
- 3.7 A total of three archaeological deposits were exposed during the excavation of the pond, and each was assigned an individual three digit context number. The turf and topsoil (001), and the fill of the pond (002), were stored separately in an adjacent field, where they were searched by members of the Rosedale History Society for finds. A summary of the material recovered is given below. In view of the nature of the finds (see below), it was agreed that they could be temporarily retained by the Society, who would make a more detailed record for their own purposes, before returning the material to the landowner.
- 3.8 Prior to any works taking place, the pond was photographically recorded using a digital camera with 10 megapixel resolution. English Heritage photographic guidelines were followed (English Heritage 2007, 14) and each photograph was provided with a scale. More general digital photographs were also taken showing the setting of the pond and of any specific features. All photographs were clearly numbered and labelled with the subject, orientation, date taken and photographer's name, and were cross referenced to digital files etc. A photographic record was also maintained during the excavation works, within the limitations outlined above.

- 3.9 The pre-intervention survey and excavation work was completed within a single day, on 29th May 2012.

Survey Report and Archive

- 3.10 This EDAS archive survey report details the results obtained from the archaeological investigations. It assembles and summarises the available evidence from the investigations in an ordered form, synthesises the data, comments on the quality and reliability of the evidence, and how it might need to be supplemented by further work. The various appendices include photographic registers and catalogues, and the EDAS methods statement. A draft of the report was submitted to the NYMNPA for comment prior to the delivery of the final version.
- 3.11 The full archive, comprising paper, magnetic and plastic media, relating to the project has been ordered and indexed according to the standards set by English Heritage and the National Archaeological Record (EDAS site code MHP 12). It was deposited with the NYMNPA's Historic Environment Record at Helmsley, North Yorkshire, on completion of the project.

4 RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS

- 4.1 The following chapter details the results of the investigations, based on the field records and written observations made on site. Reference should be made to the figures and plates, and the photographic record which appears as Appendix 1; colour digital photographs are referenced in the following text in bold type and square brackets, the numbers before the stroke representing the film number and the number after indicating the frame e.g. [1/232].

Historical Background

- 4.2 The pond is not depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1857 6" map (sheet 59), although a water course or gutter is shown running on a curving alignment for about c.1.5km from the high ground to the north, along field boundaries and to the east of the unnamed farm buildings, before turning east to run into the adjacent Gill Beck (see figure 3, top). At a point just to the north of the farm buildings, the water course is interrupted by a kink where it passes under the field wall - as it passes the farm buildings, the gutter runs on the west side of the wall. The depiction of the gutter is similar to that of the longer Foorde water races which were built in the 18th century to supply farms and villages primarily on the Duncombe Estate (McLean 2005). The gutter was presumably bringing water to the farm, where it would have been held in a trough or pond, or taken off the main course in a leat to run directly into the farm buildings. Interestingly, the 1857 map shows that the road passing close to the farm was not then built, there being a more direct route running north-west further to the north.
- 4.3 The pond is also not shown on the later 1893 25" map, although a "trough" is shown on the route of the water course just to the north of where the pond is now; the trough is aligned north-west/south-east, parallel to the water course and the field boundary immediately to the east. The farm is also named "Midge Hole Farm" at this time. The road through the farm had been built, with the earlier alignment reduced to a footpath.
- 4.4 The 1912 25" map (sheet 59/3) does not depict the water course, but does depict the "Tr." which was shown on the earlier 1893 edition. However, the small pond is

now shown to the east of the farm buildings, butting up against the field boundary to the east (see figure 3, bottom).

- 4.5 The admittedly limited cartographic evidence therefore suggests that the pond was built between 1893 and 1912. The landowner remembers that his grandparents kept geese on the pond as late as the mid 1970s (i.e. from the 1940s), and that there was originally a sloping bank on one side rather than the walled revetment now present (Mr Metcalf, *pers. comm.*). The farm buildings are thought to be of 18th century date, although the Hall itself is dated 1865. It is also known that the pond has been regularly cleaned out over the past 50 years, and a new plastic drain was inserted into the north-east corner to replace the former stone-lined gutter which had a flagstone capping (Mr Metcalf, *pers. comm.*).

Survey and Excavation

- 4.6 Prior to excavation, the pond was formed by a sub-rectangular depression, measuring c.6.0m north-south by 5.5m east-west, heavily vegetated and up to a maximum of 0.7m in depth [1/232, 1/233 and 1/235] (see figure 4 and plate 1). Coursed sandstone lining was visible close to the south-east corner [1/237] (see plate 2) and along the west side [1/236], but otherwise the sides comprised steep vegetated scarps. Modern ceramic and plastic pipes entered the pond at both the north-east and north-west corners respectively.
- 4.7 A drain or ditch left the south-east corner of the pond to run south [1/238 and 1/239]. This drain was steep-sided, measuring up to 1.0m deep and with an average width of 1.5m across the top. The west side was formed by a steep vegetated scarp, while the east side was lined with roughly coursed and squared sandstone rubble. The rubble was a remnant of the drystone field wall which formerly ran along the east side of the pond. It is believed that the drain enters an underground drain or culvert, the line of which is marked by several cast-iron roadside grids; the underground culvert curves to the south-east, crossing beneath the metalled Daleside Road, and then discharges into an open watercourse (Local information, *pers. comm.*).
- 4.8 Beneath the shallow layer of turf and topsoil (001), a friable dark brown silt soil (002) was exposed, which formed the main fill of the pond. This overlay a compact grey shale (003) with frequent ironstone staining, which formed the base of the pond. The combined total depth of both layers of fill varied, but was on average 0.30m deep, with the pond having an average depth of c.0.9m from the top of the surviving stonework to the shale base (see below). There was no evidence for any clay lining.
- 4.9 The friable dark brown silt soil (002) contained a number of objects. Several pieces of cast-iron railing, including decorative finials, were recovered, part of a fence which formerly surrounded the front of the Midge Hall farmhouse. There were various other items of metalwork, including a wrought-iron cow tethering chain and the steel toecap from a boot. The ceramic finds comprised an electrical insulator, a few fragments of 19th or early 20th century pottery decorated with a brown transfer-print, and some clay pipe stem pieces. Finally, the fill (002) also contained a small amount of modern glass, wire, plastic and nails. The shallow depth of the fill and the nature of the finds suggest that the pond went out of use relatively quickly, in the recent past, and did not slowly silt up over an extended period.

- 4.10 Following excavation, the pond was found to have a more sub-square plan, measuring 6.60m north-south by 6.20m east-west and. The base sloped gently from either side towards the centre to an average of 0.7m deep, although there were slightly deeper pockets giving depths of up to 0.9m deep in places due to variations in the shale base (see figure 4). There was a gap in the pond wall in the south-east corner, 0.80m wide across the top, leading into the aforementioned drain or ditch. The east side of the gap was formed by a steep earthwork scarp, while the west side was of brick and stone construction [1/246] (see plate 4). The unmortared brickwork comprised buff to light brown handmade bricks (average dimensions 230mm by 100mm by 60mm), very roughly laid. They returned to the south for a length of 0.45m at their east end, and their line appeared to be continued to the south-west for a further 1.10m by a low stone rubble wall [1/250]. In the base of the gap, there were fragments of a salt-glazed ceramic pipe, which may possibly have replaced a simple sluice positioned here. To the west of the brickwork, there were three courses of squared unmortared sandstone, with a total height of 0.65m; a deeper base course, resting directly on the shale (003), below two shallower upper courses. The uppermost course comprised a pair of capping stones, each measuring 0.80m long by 0.40m wide, apparently representing the original top of this side of the pond.
- 4.11 To the west, beyond the western capping stone, the stone lining of the south side of the pond ran out [1/248], and was replaced by a steep north-facing earthwork scarp up to 0.70m in height. There were traces of brickwork within the scarp, the bricks being of the same form and size as described above, while to the south of the scarp there was a slight mound apparently containing a high proportion of stone rubble. The south-west corner of the pond was crossed by a ceramic pipe with a slightly flattened profile, measuring 0.14m across, and believed to be of local manufacture [1/249]. It was set c.0.50m below the ground level here and placed on a north-west/south-east alignment.
- 4.12 The west side of the pond retained the remains of its stone lining for much of its length [1/240 to 1/243], comprising two courses of squared unmortared sandstone, with a total height of 0.50m; a deeper base course, resting directly on the shale (003), below a single shallower upper course (see plate 3). Towards the southern end, the uppermost course may have included a pair of slipped capping stones. There was a slight step in the shale base of the pond to the immediate east of the stone lining of the west side.
- 4.13 At its north end, the stone lining returned to the east, and appeared to be contemporary with the stone lining of the pond's north side [1/244 and 1/247]. The latter comprises three courses of squared unmortared sandstone, with a total height of 0.50m, again having a deeper base course surmounted by shallower upper courses. The stone lining could be traced approximately half way across the pond's north side, where it faded out, to be replaced by a steep south-facing earthwork scarp. The majority of the pond's east side lacked any surviving coursed squared lining, being largely formed by hard-packed earth and rubble [1/245], but with traces of more regular stonework towards the southern end. A second line of stone, running parallel to the pond's east side, but set back from it, probably represents the remains of the drystone wall formerly located here.

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The limited cartographic evidence indicates that the pond was built between 1893 and 1912. In its original form, it was c.6.50m square, and up to 0.90m deep in the centre. It is likely that all four sides were lined with unmortared squared coursed

sandstone, to a height of 0.65m, and surmounted by capping stones, although oral evidence suggests that one side (presumably the west side) was originally formed by a sloping bank. The stone walls rested directly on the shale base of the pond, and there was no evidence for any clay lining. A stone-lined gutter with flagstone capping formerly entered the north-east corner of the pond, and the main outlet was located at the south-east corner, possibly fitted with a simple sluice. A drystone wall ran along the east side.

- 5.2 The original purpose of the pond is unclear, but it is most likely to have been built as a sump across an existing water course to provide water for the farm, and it was used in addition to a trough located just to the north. The pond was probably used for watering stock and/or to provide a habitat for ducks or geese; the sloping side implies that stock would have been able to walk into the pond to drink. The lack of sediments and silt deposits in the base indicates that water was kept flowing through the pond, rather than being allowed to stand stagnant, and the simple sluice in the south-east corner would have maintained the level.
- 5.3 The pond was subject to considerable alteration during its lifetime. The stone lining either decayed or was removed, and roughly repaired using brickwork in several places. It is known that the pond was regularly cleaned out, and this may have removed any clay lining that might have been present. The original inlets and outlets were replaced with more modern pipes - it was not clear if the pipe crossing the south-west corner either pre-dated the pond, or was inserted later, disturbing the south-west corner. The pond appears to have remained in use until at least the mid 1970s for keeping geese, but appears to have fallen out of use over a short period, rather than silting up slowly.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary sources

- 1857 Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile map sheet 59 (surveyed 1853-54)
1893 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile map sheet 59/3 (surveyed 1891)
1912 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile map sheet 59/3 (surveyed 1891, revised 1910)

Secondary sources

English Heritage 1999 *Recording Archaeological Field Monuments: A Descriptive Specification*

English Heritage 2002 *With Alidade and Tape: Graphical and Plan Table Survey of Archaeological Earthworks*

English Heritage 2007 *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*

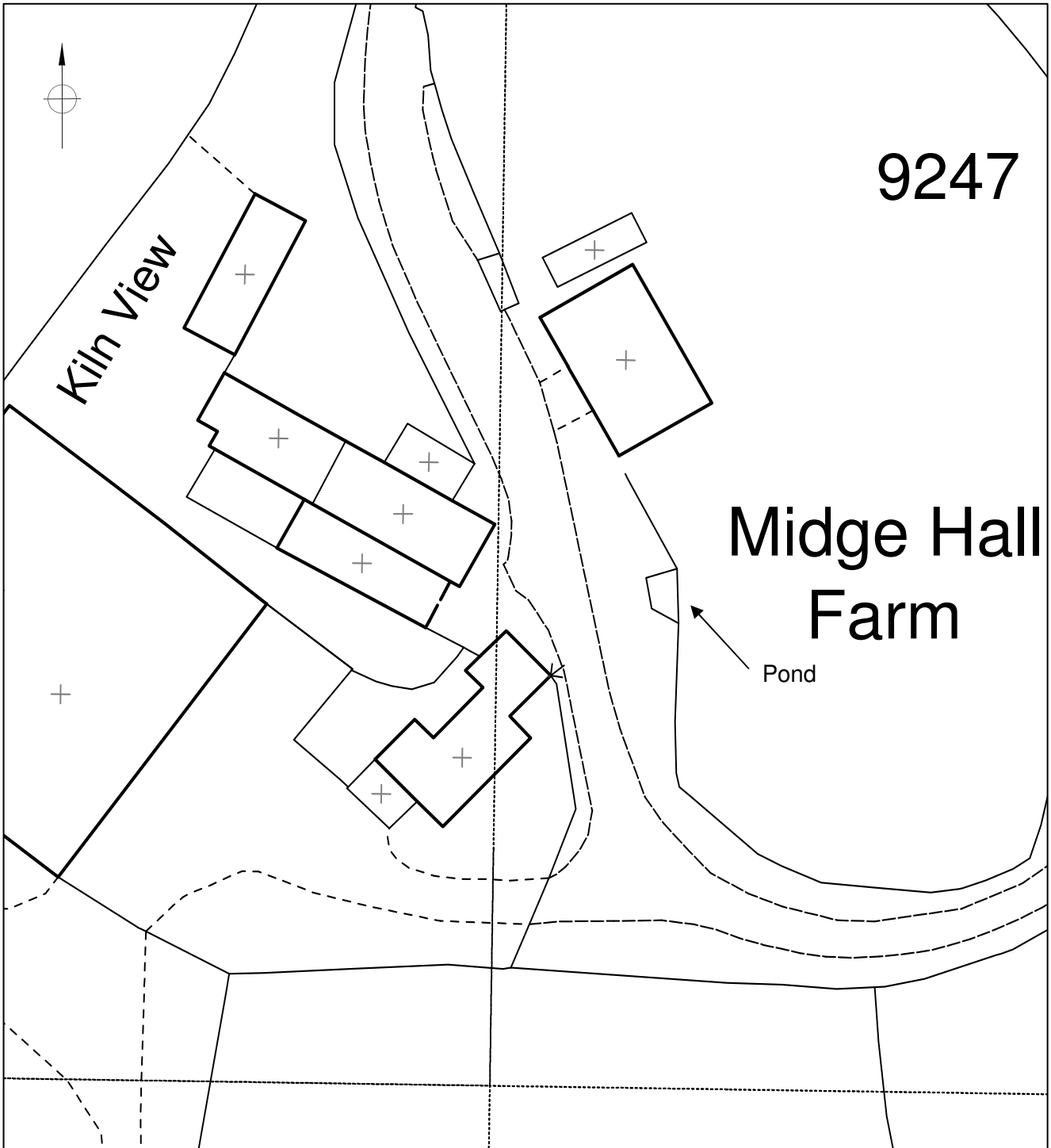
McLean, I 2005 *Water from the Moors. The Life and Works of Joseph Foord*

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 The archaeological investigations at the Midge Hall pond were commissioned by the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP) on behalf of the landowner, Mr Paul Metcalf. The project was funded by the NYMNP as part of their current LEADER Small Scale Projects Scheme, which is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), administered by the Department for

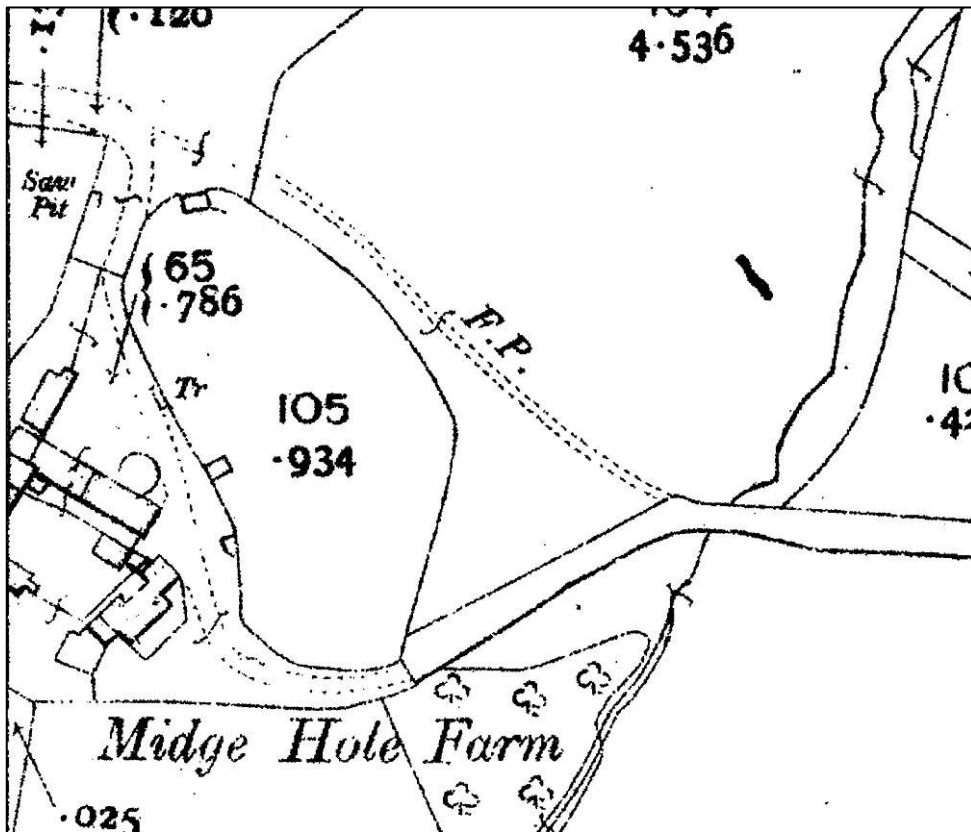
the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Thanks are due to Mr Metcalf (landowner) and Claire Shields (NYMNP) for their help in organising and carrying out the survey.

- 7.2 The archaeological investigations were undertaken by Shaun Richardson of EDAS, assisted by Clair Shields (NYMNP). Paddy and Linda Chambers from the Rosedale History Society also helped with the excavation and recording, together with Paul and Jackie Metcalfe (Kiln View), Damon Marley (Hill Cottages) and Jade Barraclough (Dale Head Farm), John Randall (stonemason from Westerdale) and Kevin Banes (NYMNP volunteer), and Shaun Doughty (Midge Hole) operated the mechanical excavator. Shaun Richardson also produced the site archive and a draft report. The final report was produced and edited by Ed Dennison of EDAS, with whom the responsibility for any errors remains.



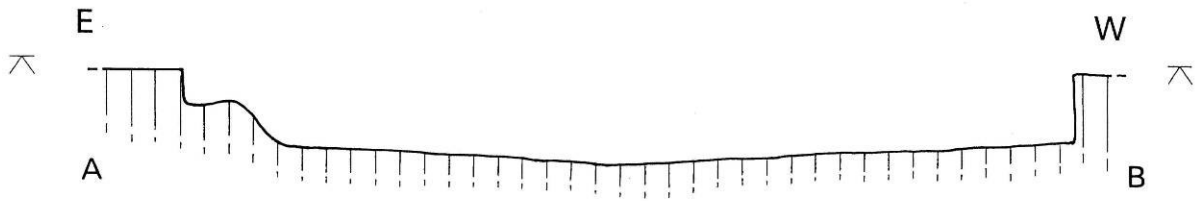
Map base supplied by NYMNP.

PROJECT		MIDGE HALL POND	
TITLE		SITE LOCATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	SEPT 2012
EDAS		FIGURE	2

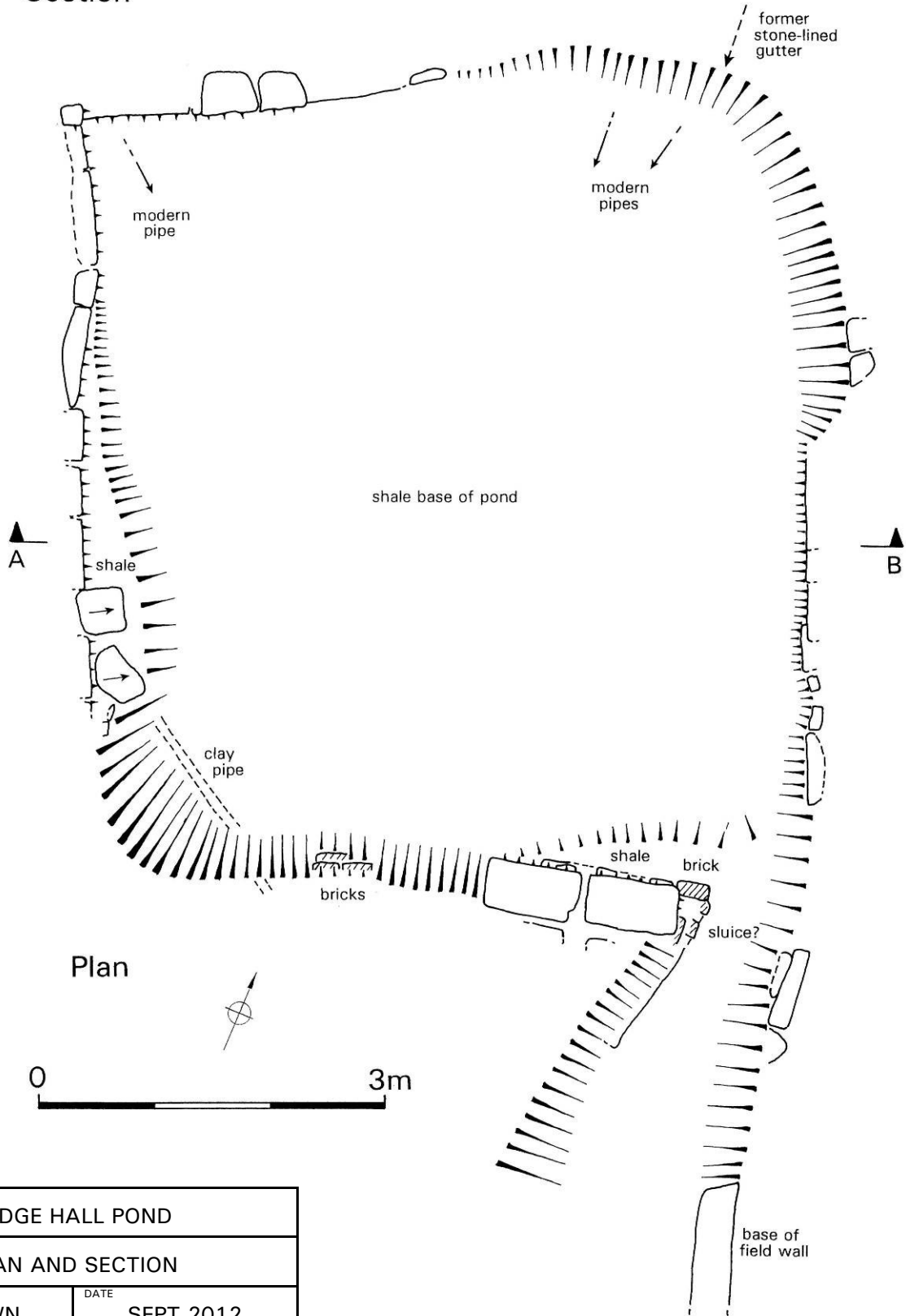


Top: Ordnance Survey 1857 6" map sheet 59.
 Bottom: Ordnance Survey 1912 25" map sheet 59/3.

PROJECT		MIDGE HALL POND	
TITLE		HISTORIC MAPS	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	SEPT 2012
EDAS		FIGURE	3



Section



Plan

PROJECT		MIDGE HALL POND	
TITLE		PLAN AND SECTION	
SCALE	DATE	AS SHOWN	SEPT 2012
EDAS	FIGURE		4



Plate 1: General view of pond in advance of investigation, looking SE.



Plate 2: Stone lining at south-east corner of pond prior to excavation, looking SE (photo 1/237).



Plate 3: West side of pond under excavation, looking S (photo 1/242).



Plate 4: Pond under excavation and west wall partly rebuilt, looking S (photo 1/246).

APPENDIX 1
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

PHOTOGRAPHIC CATALOGUE

Film 1: Colour digital photographs taken 29th May 2012

Film	Frame	Subject	Scale
1	232	Pond prior to excavation, looking SE	2 x 1m
1	233	Pond prior to excavation, looking SE	2 x 1m
1	234	Pond prior to excavation, looking S	2 x 1m
1	235	Pond prior to excavation, looking NE	2 x 1m
1	236	Stone lining to west side of pond prior to excavation, looking NW	1m
1	237	Stone lining to south-east corner of pond prior to excavation, looking SE	1m
1	238	Ditch / drain to south-east corner of pond, looking N	1m
1	239	Ditch / drain to south-east corner of pond, looking SE	1m
1	240	West side of pond under excavation, looking W	1m
1	241	West side of pond under excavation / part rebuilt, looking W	1m
1	242	West side of pond under excavation / part rebuilt, looking S	1m
1	243	West side of pond under excavation / part rebuilt, looking W	1m
1	244	North-west corner of pond under excavation, looking N	1m
1	245	East side of pond under excavation, looking NE	1m
1	246	Pond under excavation / part rebuilt, looking S	-
1	247	North-west corner of pond under excavation / part rebuilt, looking NW	-
1	248	South-west corner of pond under excavation / part rebuilt, looking S	-
1	249	Typical ceramic pipe section from south-west corner of pond	0.50m
1	250	Stone lining to west side of outlet, looking W	1m



1-232.JPG



1-233.JPG



1-234.JPG



1-235.JPG



1-236.JPG



1-237.JPG



1-238.JPG



1-239.JPG



1-240.JPG



1-241.JPG



1-242.JPG



1-243.JPG



1-244.JPG



1-245.JPG



1-246.JPG



1-247.JPG



1-248.JPG



1-249.JPG



1-250.JPG

APPENDIX 2
EDAS METHODS STATEMENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS, MIDGE HALL FARM POND, ROSEDALE, NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK

EDAS METHOD STATEMENT

Introduction

A programme of archaeological recording is proposed at Midge Hall Farm, Rosedale, North Yorkshire, as part of the restoration of an old roadside pond (NGR SE 69914 98442). The current condition of the pond will be recorded, followed by the archaeological monitoring and supervision of its cleaning out. Some hand excavation following machine excavation may be required. The work will primarily be undertaken by members of the Rosedale Local History Group (RLHG), assisted and supervised by EDAS; a certain amount of training in archaeological survey and recording will be provided to achieve the project.

The pond lies on the east side of Daleside Road, just north of a prominent right-angled bend as it passes next to Midge Hall Farm (see attached figure) The sub-rectangular pond measures c.5m long by c.3m wide, and is presently full of silt and debris. It is believed to be about 100 years old.

Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological project are:

- to gather sufficient information to record the present state of the pond, and to record any items of interest that might be uncovered during its cleaning out;
- to provide members of the RLHG with a basic understanding of archaeological survey techniques, so that they might be able to record other items of interest in the locality.

Methodology

Desk-top Assessment

A brief and limited documentary search into the monument will be undertaken. This will be confined to readily-available sources predominately supplied by the NYMNPA (e.g. historic mapping), and oral and other information gathered by the RLHG and the landowners.

Topographic Survey

A measured survey of the pond in its current condition would be undertaken using traditional tape and offset techniques, following guidance produced by English Heritage (Bowden, M 2002 *With Alidade and Tape: Graphical and Plan Table Survey of Archaeological Earthworks*). The extent of the pond and associated earthworks will be recorded by measuring distances from a taped baseline, set out along a compass bearing or other prominent features, e.g. field boundaries or roadside verge. The pond and other earthworks will be drawn in the field at 1:10 (or larger) scale, and this plan will be used as base for recording the subsequent excavation. The survey would be accurately located within the National Grid by reference to existing mapped buildings, wall corners etc.

Machine Excavation

A JCB-type mechanical excavator will be used to clear the majority of the silt and debris from the pond. The machine will use a toothless bucket to facilitate archaeological observations, and the infill will be removed in level spits, gradually increasing in depth. All excavation will be

undertaken under direct and constant archaeological supervision, to ensure that no damage is done to any lining of the pond or features associated with the pond (e.g. inlets, sluices etc). The excavated spoil and debris will be taken off site.

Hand Excavation

It is expected that the final clearance of the pond will be undertaken using hand excavation. This will ensure that any lining or other features associated with the pond can be carefully exposed and recorded. Hand excavated material will be removed by the mechanical digger and removed off site.

A full record of the excavated pond and its structure will be made. The existing pre-intervention plan will be enhanced as necessary, and one or more sections would be drawn at an appropriate scale to record the profile of the pond. Any structural elements, such as sluices, inlets, linings, revetments etc, would also be recorded as appropriate. All levels would be tied into an Ordnance Survey bench mark within the Midge Hall Farm complex.

Any archaeological finds uncovered by the excavations will be collected and recorded. Excavated spoil will be searched for finds as appropriate. Significant small finds will be three dimensionally located prior to collection. It should be noted that archaeological finds remain the property of the landowner, and as such should not be removed from site unless previously arranged by agreement.

Following completion of fieldwork, any recovered finds would be processed to current English Heritage standards and subject to specialist identification, spot-dating and assessment (where necessary and appropriate). Subject to the agreement of the landowner, the finds would be stabilised and properly packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum. A fully indexed field archive would also be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, drawings and photographs, in accordance with current guidance (Brown, D H 2007 *Archaeological Archives: a Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*). If artefacts are recovered by the investigations, the archive will be deposited with the Ryedale Folk Museum in Hutton-le-Hole; if not, the 2D archive will be transferred to the NYMNPA.

Photographic Survey

A full photographic record would also be made of the site and the excavations, using a digital camera with 10 megapixel resolution. Photographic guidelines produced by English Heritage will be followed and each photograph will contain a scale, subject to access. All photographs would be clearly numbered and labelled with the subject, orientation, date taken and photographer's name, and would be cross referenced to film and negative numbers.

Survey Report

An EDAS archive survey report will be produced, which will assemble and summarise the available evidence for the site and the investigations in an ordered form, synthesise the data, and comment on the quality and reliability of the evidence. It will include a contents list, acknowledgments, executive summary, details of the survey methodology and procedures, an account of the results of the investigations, preliminary conclusions, appropriate management recommendations, recommendations for any further appropriate work, and a bibliography. Appendices will include a copy of this methods statement and details of any departures from it. The survey report will also contain plans and photographs as appropriate; the former will be drawn to English Heritage standards using traditional hachure techniques and will be reduced to A3 / A4 size. It is expected that members of the RLHG will also contribute to the report.

A draft report will be submitted to the NYMNPA for comment prior to the delivery of the final report. Two copies of the survey report (one bound, one unbound) would be provided to the NYMNPA, including an electronic version in pdf format. Copyright of all survey material and the report will pass to the NYMNPA on payment of final invoices.

Included in this element of the work would be the completion of appropriate OASIS record forms and short publication of the results in an appropriate journal, as necessary.

Resources and Programming

The project would be overseen by EDAS, who are on North Yorkshire County Council's approved list of archaeological contractors and who are also registered as an archaeological organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The project would be undertaken by Shaun Richardson of EDAS, using volunteers from the RLHG. Richardson has considerable expertise in non-intrusive earthwork survey and small-scale intrusive archaeological investigation, and he has worked with local history groups (specifically the Helmsley Archaeological and Historical Society) on similar projects before.

It is envisaged that, subject to the necessary access being secured and appropriate funding, the site investigations would be undertaken in April-May 2012, although this would depend on the availability of RLHG volunteers.

It is estimated that the pre-intervention survey can be undertaken in one day, and the machine/hand excavation in another day (assuming good weather conditions). A further four man-days would be required to produce the necessary survey report and archive.

Health and Safety, and Insurance

EDAS would comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 while undertaking the project. A full copy of their Health and Safety Policy is available on request.

The site is privately-owned, and EDAS would indemnify the landowner(s) in respect of their legal liability for physical injury to persons or damage to property arising on site in connection with the survey, to the extent of EDAS's Public Liability Insurance Cover (£5,000,000).

Ed Dennison, EDAS
30th March 2012