

PROPOSED WILDLIFE POND,  
MILEBUSH FARM, NETTLEDALE LANE,  
SNAINTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT



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On behalf of

Mr N Vermont  
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Nettledale Lane  
Snainton  
North Yorkshire YO13 9PW

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*In December 2014, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr N Vermont to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of a pasture field to the south of Milebush Farm, on the east side of Nettle Dale Lane, Snainton, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 91720 83806 centred). It is proposed to construct a wildlife pond in this field, and the archaeological assessment has been requested by Scarborough Borough Council to assist with the determination of a full planning application (ref. 14/01923/FL).*

*The proposed development site lies within a rich archaeological landscape, primarily of prehistoric importance. Much of the evidence for this landscape comes from the identification of cropmarks seen on aerial photographs, which represent estate boundaries, field systems, settlements and burial sites dating from the Neolithic to the Iron Age periods, although most appear to be of Bronze Age date; some field systems and settlement sites might have also extended to, or originated in, the subsequent Romano-British period. No medieval occupation of the site or its immediate environs is expected, as the area lies within Snainton's medieval outfield system.*

*The detailed post-medieval history of Milebush Farm is not fully understood, but the site was not occupied at the time of the 1772 enclosure. It seems likely that the complex originated in the early 19th century, possibly as an estate cottage on the extensive Cayley Wydale estate, and it is depicted as such on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map. Milebush was occupied by the estate gatekeeper in the later part of the 19th century, and then also by a farm bailiff. By c.1889 the house had been considerably extended, and a new L-shaped farm range had been built around a foldyard to the north. Local information suggests that the complex remained a tenanted house/farm until 1902, and that it was significantly enhanced and improved for a daughter of the Cayley family. Some of the farm buildings also probably date to this improvement, or are perhaps a reflection of new investment by the Illingworth family soon after they purchased the Wydale estate in 1904. From 1905, Milebush was a tenanted farm although the thin soils meant that it was never very productive.*

*There are no designated heritage assets within the 1km diameter study area, and no non-designated assets within the development site. However, the density of cropmark sites in the vicinity means that the proposed development site does have some archaeological potential which, on the basis of current evidence including site conditions, is considered to be low.*



## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In December 2014, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr N Vermont to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of a pasture field to the south of Milebush Farm, on the east side of Nettledale Lane, Snainton, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 91720 83806 centred) (see figures 1 and 2). It is proposed to construct a wildlife pond in this field, and the archaeological assessment has been requested by Scarborough Borough Council to assist with the determination of a full planning application (ref. 14/01923/FL).
- 1.2 Two phases of archaeological work were undertaken for the assessment. A desk-based assessment initially collated all readily-available information from published and unpublished sources, and archaeological databases. It also included a summary and assessment of any previous archaeological field investigations or research that had been undertaken within and around the study area, which was defined as being 500m around the proposed development site. An inspection of the proposed development site was then carried out, to note the location, nature, extent and condition of any recorded and unrecorded archaeological sites or deposits.
- 1.3 The proposed development area lies within a significant archaeological landscape, and a total of seven non-designated heritage assets were identified within the 1km diameter study area.

## **2 INFORMATION SOURCES**

- 2.1 In line with standard archaeological practice and the requirements of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2012), and following guidance issued by the local archaeological curators (North Yorkshire County Council), the following sources of information were examined as part of the assessment.

### **Archaeological Databases**

- 2.2 The North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (NYHER), which is held and maintained by North Yorkshire County Council in Northallerton, was consulted for information on the known archaeological heritage of the area. On-line data from English Heritage Archives (EHA) was also consulted; these sites are listed in the report below with the prefix EH NMR. Relevant aerial photographs held by the NYHER and the North Yorkshire County Record Office (NYCRO) were also examined.

### **Listed Buildings**

- 2.3 Information on those buildings listed as being of Special Architectural or Historic Interest was obtained from the NYHER and English Heritage's 'Images of England' website ([www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk)).

### **Records of Previous Archaeological Research or Investigations**

- 2.4 Information relating to previous archaeological research or investigation undertaken in the wider area around Snainton was collected from the NYHER, English Heritage Archives and other published material. Of particular relevance to this assessment is a Parkland Management Plan recently completed by EDAS for Wydale Park, which lies just 1.5km to the south-east of the proposed development site (Dennison, Richardson & Holloway 2014).

### **Printed and Manuscript Maps**

- 2.5 Available historic printed and manuscript maps, and local history information, relating to Snainton and its environs are held by the NYCRO and Scarborough Local History Library; the enclosure map of 1769 is held in the Hull History Centre (HHC). Various editions of the Ordnance Survey maps, at both 6" and 25" scales, were also examined, as were any other appropriate or relevant maps and documents. A list of all the sources consulted by this assessment is provided in the bibliography (Chapter 6) below.

### **Published and Unpublished Documentary Sources**

- 2.6 A number of published and unpublished documentary sources in both local and national collections were consulted for background information and specific data on specialised aspects of the history and archaeology of the study area, including place- and field-name evidence. The documentary history of the area, including that for Snainton and Ebberston, has also been researched and published by the Victoria County History (Russell 1923a & 1923b). Other local history material has been collated and published by Rushton (2003 & 1962). Details of all the consulted sources are provided in the bibliography below.

### **Walkover Survey**

- 2.7 A detailed walkover survey of the pasture field in which the development is proposed was undertaken on 21st December 2014 to note the location, nature, extent and condition of any additional recorded and unrecorded archaeological sites, and to identify any concentrations of material which might serve as an indication of sub-surface archaeological features.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### Introduction

- 3.1 In order to put the proposed development site into context, it is necessary to consider the wider archaeological background of the region and so reference will be made to sites lying outside the study area; those identified sites lying within an c.2km radius of the development site are highlighted in bold (e.g. **NYHER 5474**) and are shown on figure 3. This information has been compiled from a variety of sources which are listed in the bibliography below.
- 3.2 Evidence for the archaeological heritage comes from a variety of sources, including upstanding monuments and buried deposits, records of excavated sites and artefacts recovered from fieldwalking, palaeo-environmental studies, and the study of historic maps, antiquarian documentation and place names. Increasingly, archaeological assessments and evaluations, often carried out in advance of development and including methodologies such as fieldwalking, geophysical survey, earthwork survey and trial excavation, provide information on otherwise 'blank' areas.
- 3.3 A great deal of archaeological evidence has also emerged through the identification and recording of cropmarks seen from the air and on aerial photographs. Cropmarks are caused by differential crop growth over buried archaeological features and, while they are likely to indicate the presence of an archaeological site, it should be noted that their formation is affected by many extraneous factors including land use, drainage, geology, and climatic conditions. Numerous cropmarks have been recorded around the study area, on the limestone Tabular Hills, and these are discussed further below.

#### Prehistoric Periods (up to c.700bc)

- 3.4 The 1km diameter study area lies within an extensive prehistoric landscape which comprises linear dykes, enclosures, trackways, field systems and barrows, including the Cockmoor, Scamridge, Netherby Dale and Snainton dyke systems. This landscape has developed over an extended period of time and has been subject to much change, with its form and layout sometimes, although not always, influencing subsequent medieval and early post-medieval landholdings.
- 3.5 Various artefacts dating to the Mesolithic period (c.8300-4000 BC) have been found some way to the north of the study area, including a perforated macehead and microlithic tools (NYHER 8942, 8944, 8945, 12268 & 122276). However, the foothills of the North York Moors were only sporadically used during this period, and no Mesolithic settlements have yet been identified in the area, although there are some in the low-lying land to the south.
- 3.6 During the subsequent Neolithic period (c.4000-2500 BC), it is likely that the area was used for the construction of funerary monuments. Remains from this period include a pair of long barrows and a ditch to the north-west of Malton Cote (NYHER 5516, 5571 & 5519). These barrows are visible as cropmarks but have been damaged by agricultural activity. A further long barrow has been identified to the north-east (HER 5518). A Neolithic stone axe has also been found to the south of Snainton village (Spratt 1993a, 73), and another on Snainton Moor (EH NMR 65513; **NYHER 12287**).

- 3.7 However, the principal prehistoric development of the landscape appears to have originated during the Bronze Age (c.2500-800 BC). A system of dykes between Newton Dale in the west and Wy Dale in the east is the largest on the Tabular Hills. This system is characterised by two main types of linear earthworks, either long dykes traced for up to 9km which are generally found on the limestone plateau and, less commonly, running along the scarp edges of the sandstone moors, or the cross-ridge dykes cutting across the narrow necks of hill spurs or interconnecting valley heads (Spratt 1989, 36-42). Local topography obviously strongly influenced where the dykes were placed, and they appear to augment natural divisions of the landscape such as river valleys and watersheds.
- 3.8 During the early Bronze Age, estate boundaries appear to have been based on natural features, and were marked on watersheds by round barrows. In the first millennium BC, these boundaries were augmented by the dykes and other large linear earthworks, with construction perhaps commencing in the late Bronze Age and continuing into the Iron Age (c.800 BC-AD 71) periods. The dykes are perhaps best interpreted as marking territorial boundaries, but this does not exclude the possibility of them having other functions. The area of the Tabular Hills where they are found was a productive landscape, but the size of some of the dykes is well beyond what would have been needed for the protection of stock, and so they may also have had some element of high status. The Scamridge system, to the north and west of Malton Cote, in particular seems to have marked a major tribal boundary, while to the east of Wy Dale the alignment of the dykes is entirely different with east-west earthworks interconnecting the heads of the valleys (Spratt 1993b, 136-139; SM List entry number 1020836).
- 3.9 However, the precise dating of these dykes is unclear. The Dalby Forest and Scamridge areas have a particular concentration which are suggested to have originated in the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age, slightly earlier than most of the other prehistoric boundary systems identified on the Tabular Hills (Spratt 1993b, 134-136). Elsewhere, archaeological excavation has dated the triple dykes at the south end of the Danby Rigg cairnfield to the early medieval period, rather than the previously assumed Bronze Age by association with the other features (Harding & Ostojka-Zagorski 1994, 66-69 & 79-82). This raises the possibility that not all linear boundaries of this form are necessarily prehistoric in date, and some may be marking the division between medieval 'outfields' and moorland/forest (Harrison & Roberts 1989, 93). Some of the linear boundaries to the north of Snainton were also re-used in the mid 19th century to construct rabbit warrens (Drummond & Spratt 1984; Harris & Spratt 1991, 191-192).
- 3.10 Within the study area, modern agricultural activity means that most of the linear features are recorded as cropmarks, rather than earthworks, and so their chronological relationships to one another are often uncertain. Some may even have a geological rather than a man-made origin, for example regular oval marks seen on aerial photographs just to the north-west of Wydale High Farm (**NYHER 5508**), and other ditches to the east of the former Sandsprunt Quarry (**NYHER 5489 & 5490**).
- 3.11 Milebush Farm and Nettledale/Snainton Lane lie between two major north-south linear prehistoric boundaries (see figure 4). To the east, one dyke follows an interrupted course south from the Cockmoor Dykes system above Trouts Dale and then into Wy Dale (**NYHER 5391**; EH NMR 65352); the earthwork sections of this boundary are a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1020836). At its north end, this linear boundary is substantial, comprising six parallel ditches running between seven parallel banks with a total maximum width of 40m. Up to 20 parallel banks

and ditches have been added to the west side at a later date, giving the earthworks an overall maximum width of 125m. However, further to the south, the boundary comprises two ditches which run between three parallel banks of earth and stone. Around Wydale Cote, the ditches become gradually shallower and taper towards each other, terminating shortly before Wy Dale starts to become a steeper and more pronounced valley (SM List entry number 1020836). It therefore ceases to be clearly visible c.550m to the north west of Milebush Farm, although there are indications that it may have continued further south, even if only in intermittent form, along the western edge of the Wy Dale valley (Dennison, Richardson & Holloway 2014, 29 & 50; Site 15). The other dyke, to the west of Nettle Dale/Snainton Lane, runs north along the eastern edge of Netherby Dale, passing Malton Cote before stopping just south of the curving Scamridge Dyke which then runs into Cockmoor Hall Plantation (EH NMR 65314; NYHER 5435, 5436 & 5437); for much of its length, the boundary is formed by two ditches running between three parallel banks with an overall width of 25m, and it is considered to be later in date than the Scamridge Dyke (SM List entry number 1020835). Aerial photographic evidence also indicates that some of the dykes may have extended south towards the present villages of Snainton and Brompton (Spratt 1993b, 138), and Spratt (1993b, 139 & figure 63) proposes a prehistoric estate boundary running along the western edge of Wy Dale, meaning that the higher land between Wy Dale and Netherby Dale formed a prehistoric estate.

- 3.12 On the east side of Wydale Lane, a c.400m long cropmark (**NYHER 5401**) may represent a continuation of a north-west/south-east aligned dyke running across the area between Headon and Parlourpiece Plantations (**NYHER 5403**). This cropmark appears to comprise a pair of slightly sinuous parallel ditches which eventually fade, possibly to be replaced by a single ditch. Adjacent to this is another linear cropmark on a similar alignment (**NYHER 5402**) while in the same field, but slightly further to the east, are further cropmarks suggestive of an Iron Age square barrow and a small associated settlement (**NYHER 5507**; EH NMR 65504). Further to the north, a double-ditched cropmark runs north-east from the Wydale Cote dyke for a distance of at least c.500m across the north side of Thorn Dikes (**NYHER 5392 & 5393**).
- 3.13 There are also numerous linear cropmarks to the south and south-west, either side of Nettle Dale Lane (Waughman 2002a). One on Barf Hill appears to form three parallel ditches, aligned north-east/south-west, possibly representing a cross ridge dyke between Well Dale and Wy Dale (**NYHER 5471**) (see figure 5). These Barf Hill ditches may have a relationship with another curvilinear ditch (**NYHER 5474**), running at a different angle but only fragmentarily visible as a cropmark. Other cropmarks on the west side of Cliff Lane comprise a pair of parallel ditches on a shallow north-east/south-west alignment (**NYHER 5472**); one of the ditches forms the north side of a possible rectilinear enclosure with an entrance in the centre of the west side (**NYHER 5473**) (see figure 5).
- 3.14 Other cropmarks lie on the south end of Barf Hill (EH NMR 1476558; NYHER 5470). A north-east/south-west aligned cropmark might form a cross ridge dyke between Wy Dale and Nettle Dale (NYHER 5476), and it has a possible small round barrow (NYHER 5480) close to its west end. A second ditch may have a right-angled junction with the south side of the first, and then run south-east for c.300m, but this is not certain (NYHER 5477). Nearer to Wy Dale itself, a slightly irregular ditch appears to curve around the contour, perhaps enclosing a parcel of land overlooking the valley (NYHER 5478); at its south end, it fades out although its line may be continued further to the south-east by a possible ploughed out bank flanked by ditches (NYHER 5479). Another linear ditch can be seen running

almost east-west from the west side of Nettledale Lane (NYHER 5475). While some of these cropmarks might represent prehistoric boundaries, it is also possible that they are remnants of the medieval field systems in this area (see below). To the west, further linear cropmarks suggesting ditches or boundaries have been identified adjacent to former quarries at the head of Well Dale (**EH NMR 1171992**).

- 3.15 Evidence for other Bronze Age activity in the general area can be seen from a group of four possible burial mounds, represented by cropmark ring ditches, to the west of Wydale Cote (EH NMR 1461040) and to the north of Hog Pasture Buildings (EH NMR 1571603; NYHER 5493; **NYHER 5495, NYHER 5496**); the northern of the potential barrows in the latter group might also be associated with a possible double ditched enclosure, and they may have been excavated in the 19th century by James Ruddock of Pickering who also found some earlier Neolithic pottery (Waughman 2002b). To the south of where the Wydale Cote section of the Cockmoor Dyke appears to stop, an early Bronze Age collared urn is also alleged to have been recovered from a round barrow (**NYHER 12283 & 12284**; EH NMR 65509). Another potential round barrow lies in the angle of two other cropmark boundaries on Thorn Dikes (**NYHER 5405**).

### **The Iron Age and Romano-British Periods (700BC-c.450 AD)**

- 3.16 There is likely to have been some continuity between the late prehistoric and early Romano-British periods, with at least some of the established settlements and boundaries continuing in use, although it is interesting that the Scamridge Dyke system is almost completely ignored by modern township boundaries (Spratt 1993b, 168) (see figure 4).
- 3.17 Part of a possible Iron Age (c.700 BC-AD 71) or Romano-British rectilinear double-ditched enclosure is visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs taken in 2001 adjacent to Wydale Low Cottages (EH NMR 1431159; NYHER 5383), east of Snainton village on the north side of the A170 main road and some 2km to the south-east of the study area. The cropmarks comprise two concentric L-shaped ditches which might form the north-west corner of a potential rectilinear enclosure. Similar but smaller linear farmstead enclosure complexes have also been noted c.1km to the south-west of the study area, at the north end of Sandsprunt Lane, and to the east of Hazel Balk (EH NMR 1375650 & 1321801). A possible Roman settlement site near Plump Quarry, c.1.4km to the west of Milebush, was also excavated by the Scarborough and District Archaeological Society, although no further details are known (NYHER 5445). The base of a Roman temple is also reputed to have been found in the vicinity of the Scamridge Dikes in 1861 (NYHER 5446).
- 3.18 A 'brickwork' field pattern, noted on aerial photographs on Thorn Dikes at the head of Wy Dale, has been likened to a similar system recorded near Doncaster, South Yorkshire, which appeared to be Romano-British (AD 71-450) in date (Spratt 1993b, 160); it is represented by at least three parallel almost north-south aligned ditches with connecting cross banks (EH NMR 65533; **NYHER 5404**). It may well be linked to the other cropmarks to the east in the Thorn Dikes area noted above (e.g. NYHER 5401), as its north end may be defined by the more significant north-east/south-west aligned ditch (NYHER 5393) (Waughman 2002c). Another fragment of a similar field system has been noted to the east of Beech Plump, at the north end of Sandsprunt Lane (EH NMR 1449272). Other rectilinear cropmarks suggestive of a 'brickwork' field system have been noted west of Well Dale, north of Hazel Balk (**NYHER 5482**), and this complex includes a ditched enclosure (**NYHER 5483**) and several potential Iron Age square barrows (burial

mounds) (**NYHER 5485, 5486, 5487 & 5488**; EH NMR 1321797 & 1321795). Several small lengths of north-east/south-west aligned ditches are also visible to the north of Hog Pasture Buildings, which are crossed by north-south ditches that might be geological in origin (**NYHER 5499**). It is noticeable that most of the 'brickwork' boundaries run at angles to the later 18th century field boundaries.

- 3.19 Other possible Iron Age square barrows (burial mounds) have also been identified from aerial photographs to the north of Wydale Cote and either side of Snainton Lane (EH NMR 65505 & 1453087). As with the earlier prehistoric periods, this cropmark evidence is likely to represent only a part of what is otherwise an intensively settled and farmed agricultural landscape.

### **The Early Medieval and Medieval Periods (c.450-1066)**

- 3.20 In the medieval period, most of the study area lay within the township of Snainton which, including Brompton, Sawdon and Troutsdale townships, made up the parish of Brompton (Russell 1923a, 424); the very western edge lay in the township and parish of Ebberston, the boundary running along the base of Well Dale (Russell 1923b, 434). The '-ton' suffix of Brompton, Ebberston and Snainton implies they originated as Anglo-Saxon farmsteads, and in 1086 Snainton was recorded as *Snechintune* (Smith 1928, 97). Confirmation of Snainton's 6th-7th century origins came from the discovery of Anglo-Saxon finds off Station Road when a housing development was built in 1991 (Scarborough Borough Council 2009, 7). However, there is no evidence of any medieval settlement within the study area, which would have formed part of Snainton's open fields at this time (see below).
- 3.21 In 1086, Snainton was held jointly by the Crown, Berenger de Toni and William de Percy, who held 3½, 5 and 1½ carucates of land (c.420, c.600 and c.180 acres) respectively; the Crown's land was soke of (subject to) Pickering, and eventually became part of the Honour of Pickering. When Berenger de Toni died without an heir, his overlordship at Brompton and Snainton passed to the L'Isle family, the Cleres and eventually to the Vescys, to become part of their very substantial estates in the north of England. Part of this overlordship, comprising two oxgangs of land in Snainton, may have been granted to the Harum family by Thomas Maupas in 1218-19. The Maupas (or Malpas) family gave its name to a cluster of houses at the south-west corner of Brompton village, possibly once the site of their residence. Both the Thurnef and Boynton families also built up important local holdings, with a mill at Snainton belonging to Ingram de Boynton in 1272; Thomas de Boynton also obtained a grant of free warren in Snainton in 1365. Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, also held 2½ carucates of land in Snainton in 1284-85. The Vescy holding subsequently passed to the Ayton family, while the Percy lands continued to be held by that family and followed the descent of their main manor of Topcliffe, which they granted to the Archbishop of York in 1542-43 (Russell 1923a, 428; Rushton c.1962, 9-11 & 20-21). The Crown was still a joint tenant in Snainton in 1316, but its lands were subsequently merged into the Honour of Pickering, and they then descended with this holding. The former sokelands of Pickering fell under the administrative jurisdiction of the Forest of Pickering, and the township of Snainton is frequently mentioned in the accounts of the Forest eyres or courts (Russell 1923a, 54; Rushton c.1962, 11-13).
- 3.22 Several ecclesiastical houses also held land in and around Snainton during the medieval period. A small Cistercian priory was founded at Wykeham, to the east of Brompton in c.1153, and Simon de Hedbricestun later gave the priory 'a culture of land upon North Bothum (Bottoms), whose length is from Wiedale (Wy Dale) to Snainton'. He also confirmed his father's grant of 'pasture for 300 sheep, 15 oxen



and two horses in these fields', with a 'culture near the torrent of Welledale', presumably Well Dale. At Snainton, the same house received '8½ acres, with a piece of land upon Morehuse' (Rushton c.1962, 22).

- 3.23 Yedingham Priory, a small Benedictine nunnery to the south of Ebberston, was another house of some local importance, which began to acquire land in the area during the later 11th century. Wydale Cote, to the north of the study area, is thought to represent the remains of a sheep farming complex owned by the priory. The core of this complex is appended to the west side of the south end of the Cockmoor Dyke system described above, and is defined by banks forming an area c.65m across, within which a rectilinear arrangement of buildings and enclosures are visible, just to the north of the present farmstead (SM List entry number 1020836; EH NMR 65352). Comparison with other recorded sheep farm complexes demonstrates that this core area would have been surrounded by grazing enclosures, incorporating sheep houses with attached folds, and possibly dairies (Moorhouse 1989; Moorhouse 1986). Some of the larger complexes also accommodated other animals such as horses and goats as well as sheep, each with varying grazing requirements (Dyer 1995, 136-164; Moorhouse 2003, 329-341). Yedingham Priory also held a small estate of c.60 acres as well as a mill in neighbouring Ebberston township (Russell 1923b, 436).
- 3.24 The Knights Templars also held an undetermined amount of land in Snainton around Wy Dale, as part of their manor of Foulbridge which was centred on the present farm of the same name in the southern part of the township (Russell 1923a, 428; Rushton 2003, 64). Following the dissolution of the order, their estates briefly returned to the manorial overlords, but when the Hospitallers were named as the Templars' successors, they successfully sued for the return of the manors. At the Dissolution, it was recorded that £2 9s 6d was due from their tenants at Snainton, including George Hall who owed 8s for 'Wydallcote Closse', with 'flattes of land belonging to it', 2s for 'Temple Garth' or Close, 2s for a parcel of meadow called 'Braynewood Inge' and 7s for tofts and three acres of land called 'Dove Oxe' (Rushton c.1962, 23-30).
- 3.25 In this part of the North Yorkshire Moors, sheep cotes were established by most of the major monastic landowners, near the limits of arable cultivation. For example, Wykeham Priory had a sheep cote adjacent to that owned by Yedingham, perhaps at Cote Head Farm on the east side of Brompton Dale, while Malton Priory had another further to the west, near the present Malton Cote Farm; this latter site, granted to the priory in the early 13th century with 21 acres of arable and pasture for 300 sheep, was ploughed out in 1987 (NYHER 5442; Harrison & Roberts 1989, 91).
- 3.26 The Ordnance Survey 1854 6" map also shows numerous detached parts of Ebberston township located within Snainton township, including a part of the study area (see figure 8); Milebush House lies at the south-west corner of a large detached area which extends west across Wy Dale into Hedon Flat. These detached areas may be explained, in part, by the complex pattern of local secular and ecclesiastical landholding during the medieval period (Rushton c.1962, 20; Evans 2002, 8); studies elsewhere in Yorkshire have shown that detached parts of townships are usually a reflection of the distribution of medieval villis or manors, as well as for economic and social reasons (Ecclestone 1993). Without more detailed documentary research (which is beyond the scope of this assessment), it is not possible to determine how this detached portion came about and who it was owned by in the medieval period, but it is possible that it originated as an ecclesiastical landholding, perhaps owned by Malton Priory, Yedingham Priory or

even the Templars. These detached portions of Ebberston parish paid tithes to the chapel at Ebberston and, when the Snainton was enclosed in the 18th century, these plots of lands were confirmed or awarded as part of Ebberston parish, as the tithes were commuted to money payments (Rushton 1994, 33).

- 3.27 In terms of the broad layout of the medieval landscape around Snainton, mid 19th century map evidence suggests that the village had a number of different centres, which probably reflects the distribution of the various manors held during the medieval period. However, the study area lies some 1.5km to the north of the village, within its open field system. Prior to the late 18th century enclosure (see below), there were three open fields lying on the higher land to the north of Snainton and divided by the natural valleys - 'West Field' lay between Well Dale and Nettle Dale, 'Middle Field' lay between Nettle Dale and Wy Dale, and 'Heydon Field' with its northern extension of 'Moresum' lying between Wy Dale and Brompton Dale (Harrison & Roberts 1989, 88-94) (see figure 6). These three large fields extended to the northern moorland and formed the 'outfields', while the more regularly cropped smaller 'infields' lay closer to the village. Documentary evidence shows that individually-owned strips in the outfields were organised into furlongs, which ran east-west across the entire width of the field, from valley to valley. These furlongs were given simple names derived from local features such as roads and tracks (*Heydongate* (now Wydale Lane), *Scotgate*, *Skilgate*), boundary ditches (*Thorndic*, *Neudic*) or soil quality (*Stanydales*, *Gretes*). Harrison and Roberts (1989, 90-91) suggest that the distribution of grants of land in the outfields implies a planned layout, with the east-west strips typically being two 'rod-widths' (36ft-40ft) wide; they were probably developed between c.1150 and 1250 and would have had an alternating arable-pastoral regime.
- 3.28 Many of the earlier field and topographical names can be seen on the 1854 Ordnance Survey 6" map (see figure 8). The extent of the former Heydon Field on part of the east side of Wy Dale is represented by 'Hedon Flat' and 'Hedon Cottage' (now Wydale High Farm), and the area of Wydale Cote is clearly marked, together with 'Old Foundations' and a 'Well' on the sheep cote site. 'Scotgate', 'Skeel Gate', Stoneydale ('Stanydales') and Thorn Dikes ('Thorndic') are also named, in and around the current study area. Evidence for medieval arable cultivation, in the form of ridge and furrow, can be seen as cropmarks to the south-east of Milebush Farm (see below) and as earthworks within the Wydale Hall parkland (Dennison, Richardson & Holloway 2014, 28; Site 11); significantly, all this ridge and furrow is aligned almost east-west, reinforcing the fact that the outfield strips and furlongs ran east-west across the open fields.

### **The Later Post-medieval Period (1750 onwards)**

- 3.29 The history of the Snainton area in the early post-medieval period is dominated by the Cayley family. They originated from Norfolk, but from the 14th century they were based in North Yorkshire, firstly at Normanton and then Thormanby. By the end of the 15th century, Edmund Cayley had homes at Thormanby and York, and there were other family estates at Malton and Sowerby. A descendant of Edmund, one of the many William Cayleys, married Jean Gouldthorp, the daughter of a wealthy York merchant Richard Gouldthorp, who was mayor of York in 1588. It was William's eldest son, Edward (d.1642), who purchased what was to become the Brompton estate in 1610; the estate included much of Snainton township. Edward was the father of William Cayley (d.1681), and the senior branch of the family made Brompton their main residence, gradually purchasing more and more land in the area (<http://cayleyfamilyhistory.moonfruit.com/#/settling-in-yorkshire/4559687764>).

- 3.30 William Cayley (d.1681) was knighted in March 1640-41 and then created a baronet in 1661 for services to the royalist cause during the Civil War; he was also a local JP. The subsequent history of the family has been covered elsewhere, but they remained the dominant landowner in the area and retained most of the manor until the early 20th century (Dennison, Richardson & Holloway 2014, 16-18; Russell 1923a, 427). Notable members of the family included Sir George Cayley (1773-1857), known as the 'aeronautical 6th Baronet', who was a notable inventor and the 'father of British aeronautics' (Ackroyd 2001; Pritchard 1955; Pritchard 1961; Dee 2007; Bagley 2006). The Cayleys lived at High Hall (also called Brompton Hall, now Brompton Hall School) which was constantly enlarged and improved, and gardens, pleasure grounds and a park were laid out, and roads were created or diverted, primarily in the late 18th century (Evans 1992, 15-17; Bairstow 2008, 44-59). Other members of the family lived at Low Hall in Brompton, and it is possible that Wydale Hall was built in the second half of the 18th century for one of Sir George Cayley's (d.1791) eleven surviving children (Dennison, Richardson & Holloway 2014, 18-19); Wydale Hall lies c.1.2km to the south-east of Milebush Farm and the north end of its attendant park extends into the study area.
- 3.31 The Snainton landscape underwent significant changes in the second half of the 18th century, when the township was 'enclosed'. This process saw the amalgamation of the medieval strips and furlongs in the open fields into more compact and manageable agricultural units, as well as the sub-division of the commons and wastes; land was exchanged and re-allocated, allowing the new owners to fence off their individual fields and farm more efficiently. The resulting enclosure boundaries are characteristically straight, producing rectangular or square fields, in contrast to the curving medieval plots and furlongs.
- 3.32 Under the terms of the Snainton enclosure award of April 1772 (NYCRO NRRD BEno1 - MIC 284) (the Act was dated 1768), John Cayley the elder was awarded eight allotments totalling 346 acres including 'at Widdale, in the Mid & East Fields 219 acres, 1 rood and 29 perches' (Rushton c.1962, 48). This area included the whole of the area shown in 1854 to comprise Wydale park, extending north to the field just beyond Hedon Cottage (Rushton c.1962, 48-51). It is therefore almost certain that the park at Wydale came into being as a direct result of the enclosure of the former open fields in 1772. It is interesting to note that exactly the same scenario took place at Brompton, where the 1760 enclosure award allowed the main branch of the Cayley family to extend their grounds at High Hall and create a parkland landscape there (Evans 1992, 16). The Snainton enclosure award also notes that the Revd. John Cayley the younger, of Terrington, received other allotments totalling 69 acres in the West Field and at Stoney Dale in the West Field (Rushton c.1962, 49). The detailed 1769 plan accompanying the enclosure award (HCC U DDCV/XI/184/70) shows the new allotments with their field boundaries as later depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1854 6" map. The Revd. John Cayley was awarded the southern half of the 'Stoneydales' fields, with John Allanson the northern half, and William Allanson (a minor) also had the 'Skeel Gate' fields. The field in which Milebush Farm was to be built was allocated to William Beswick Senior of Snainton, while the fields to the north, running across Wy Dale, were allocated to Richard Cass; William Beswick Senior was allocated c.48 acres overall (Rushton c.1962, 49). Also as part of the enclosure process, the alignment of Snainton/Nettledale Lane was straightened and formalised to a 40ft wide highway.
- 3.33 As noted above, the field containing the present Milebush Farm and the field to the north (as well as others further to the east) is shown as a detached part of Ebberston parish in 1854. However, the Milebush field is not named as such on

the 1769 enclosure plan, and so this must have been allocated to the parish at a later date. These and other Ebberston detached fields were known as the 'Deanery Lands', and were previously held by Sir George Osbaldeston as lessee of the Dean and Chapter of York (Rushton c.1962, 49).

- 3.34 As previously stated, Wydale Hall was probably built in the second half of the 18th century for one of Sir George Cayley's (d.1791) children (Dennison, Richardson & Holloway 2014, 18-19); 'Weedale' is shown on Jefferys' 1772 map of Yorkshire (see figure 7). In 1849 the Wydale estate comprised the Hall and 521 acres, although then the house was a tenanted farm, in 1841 and 1851 occupied by John Abbey (Rushton c.1962, 67 & 70); at this time, the estate was owned by Edward Stillingfleet Cayley (1802-1862) who lived at Low Hall, Brompton, and who was MP for North Yorkshire between 1832 and 1852 (<http://cayleyfamilyhistory.moonfruit.com/#/low-hall-cayleys/4560796811>). In 1861 Wydale Hall was occupied by the Revd William Greenwell from Newcastle together with his five young children and four domestic servants (TNA RG 9/3621); Greenwell was also described as being of 'Wydale House' or 'Wydale' in other documents dated to 1856 and 1860 (Rushton c.1962, 70).
- 3.35 Edward Stillingfleet Cayley (d.1862) and his wife Emma (daughter of the aeronautical 6th Baronet) had three sons, the eldest, also called Edward Stillingfleet Cayley (d.1884) was a minor author, writing books on the European revolutions, the Franco-German war and free trade (Cayley 1856; 1871; 1881). This latter Edward is listed as being resident at Wydale Hall in the 1871 census, when he is described as an unmarried farmer of 300 acres employing eight men and one boy (TNA RG10/4819); he married in the following year (<http://cayleyfamilyhistory.moonfruit.com/#/low-hall-cayleys/4560796811>). Another of Edward and Emma's sons, George John Cayley (d.1878) was a poet, artist and journalist, and published books on travel in Spain and electoral reform as well as several pamphlets (Bean 2011; Cayley 1853 & 1858); he also lived at Wydale Hall for a time. One of his sons, Hugh Cayley (d.1924) was the subject of an 1867 painting by the artist John Everett Millais titled *Hugh Cayley of Wydale* (<http://iamachild.wordpress.com/2009/04/28/john-everett-millais-1829-1896-english/>).
- 3.36 It is clear from later documents (e.g. NYCRO ZCA B 2/17/1/1& ZCA B 2/17/1/2) that the Cayley's Wydale estate comprised significantly more than just the Hall and surrounding park, and that it was divided into northern and southern parts. The southern part contained some 487 acres, and included land in Brompton, Snainton and East Heslerton. It is known that the Milebush complex was a tenanted farm on the Cayley estate by the end of the 20th century (Mr N Vermont, *pers. comm.*) but it has not been possible to determine when or how this area was added to the estate; the house was not present in 1768 and, as noted above, the field in which the house/farm was to be built was allocated to William Beswick Senior in the 1772 enclosure award. The fact that the 'Milebush' fields are not specifically named in a c.1798-1800 booklet detailing the c.302 acres of this part of the estate, nor in an undated document outlining the extent of the 2100 acre Brompton/Snainton Cayley estate, nor another document of 1849 which includes estate lands in the West Field in the township of Snainton but parish of Ebberston (NYCRO CRONT 70; ZCA B 2/14/1), implies that it was not added to the Wydale estate before at least the mid 19th century.
- 3.37 However, 'Milebush House' was built before 1848-50, as it is shown and named on the 1854 Ordnance Survey 6" map, where it is depicted as a single house with several outbuildings (see figures 8 and 9 top). English Heritage suggest that the

farm buildings, comprising cart shed, threshing shed and pig sty, were built between 1800 and 1830, although there is no reference for the source of this information (EH NMR 533693). The house appears to have originated as an estate cottage, as in 1881 at least it was occupied by the estate gamekeeper (see Chapter 4 below); it was thought to have been a small two-up, two-down cottage originally (Mr N Vermont, *pers. comm.*). Unfortunately, it has not been possible to identify the name of any occupiers or tenants before 1881 and so it is not possible to determine if the tenanted holding or fields appear in the detailed Brompton estate rentals which span the years 1832 to 1857, or John Cayley's Low Hall estate rentals for 1835-1845 (NYCRO MIC 1850).

- 3.38 Wydale Hall was extended and altered for the Cayleys in 1877, and Mrs Helen Cayley is listed as being resident in 1890 (RCHME 1980; Bulmer's Directory 1890). Rushton (c.1962, 67) also notes that the Hall and 210 acres in Snainton, Brompton and Ebbertson were mortgaged in 1888, although the source of this statement is not given. Irrespective of when it was built, Milebush remained a tenanted house until 1902, when local information notes that it was taken back into the Cayley estate, and the complex was significantly enhanced and improved for a daughter of the Cayley family who suddenly died (Mr N Vermont, *pers. comm.*); this has not been able to be confirmed from the historical records. In 1904 the Hall and the whole 2,300 acre Brompton/Snainton estate was sold by Hugh Cayley (d.1924) to Mr Harry H Illingworth, whose trustees were planning to sell again in 1934 following his death although family members may have remained resident until the house was requisitioned by the Army in 1939 (Dennison, Richardson & Holloway 2014, 19). Milebush therefore became part of the Illingworth estate, confirmed by the fact that it is not mentioned in Cayley estate surveys or other documents of 1914 and 1942 (NYCRO ZCA B 2/13/3/1; ZCA B 2/17/1/1). It has not been possible to locate any archives associated with the Illingworth estate, but Milebush became a tenanted farm, occupied by Francis Trousdale in 1905 and in 1911 (<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS/NRY/Ebberston/Ebberston05Dry.html>; *Ancestry* 28963). In 1929, William Skelton is listed as being the farmer at Milebush House, as well as in 1933 and 1937; the farm was less than 150 acres (Kelly 1929, 55; Kelly 1933, 56; Kelly 1937, 54). Subsequent tenants included the Harrison's and Rickatson's, and it was a 250 acre tenanted farm by the 1960s, although thin soils making it not very productive. The Rickatson's purchased the 150 acre farm in the early 1980s when the last Illingworth died and the estate was broken up (Mr N Vermont, *pers. comm.*).
- 3.39 The 1854 Ordnance Survey 6" map clearly depicts the new agricultural landscape that was brought about by the mid 18th century enclosure act (see figure 8). Straight-sided fields are shown, with their earlier fieldnames still recorded, together with the new plantations created as part of the development of Wydale park and estate. Also evident are numerous sandstone quarries which would have been dug to provide building materials for the new farmsteads and especially the walled field boundaries. One or two limekilns are also shown, which would have burnt limestone to produce lime fertiliser to spread on the newly enclosed fields. By 1913, the Ordnance Survey map shows that many of the quarries were now disused (see figure 10).

### Undated Cropmark Sites

- 3.40 A large number of cropmark sites have been noted in the prehistoric and Iron Age/Romano-British periods above, and these have been ascribed dates or broad archaeological periods based on their general plan form and alignments. However, there are also a number of other cropmarks, typically various lengths of a

single ditch or boundary, to which no dating evidence can be ascribed until they are further investigated through excavation. Some lie within the study area shown on figure 3, and so are discussed in Chapter 4 below. However, one significant broader boundary runs almost parallel to the east side of Snainton Lane for a distance of c.800m to the west of Wydale Cote (**NYHER 5504**); this may represent an earlier alignment of the pre-enclosure period Snainton Lane, but no date can as yet be ascribed to the cropmark.

### **Previous Archaeological Investigations**

- 3.41 Although it can be seen from the preceding text that a large number of cropmark sites have been identified from aerial photographs and their alignments and features roughly plotted by the NYHER, there has not been any detailed or systematic collation, or more importantly, analysis of the cropmark data, such as that which has been done in other parts of Yorkshire, for example on the Yorkshire Wolds (Stoertz 1997) or the Hull Valley (Evans, S *et al* M 2012). The cropmarks on the southern side of the Tabular Hills have been plotted as part of a wider study of the Vale of Pickering, but crucially this relies only on the information already held by the NYHER ([www.landscape-research-centre.org/atlas.html](http://www.landscape-research-centre.org/atlas.html)).
- 3.42 There have not been any previous archaeological investigations within the 1km diameter study area, or indeed within the vicinity of it. An archaeological report was produced as part of a proposed seismic programme in 1986, but this was primarily a collation of information held in the NYHER at that time followed by a limited field reconnaissance (Welfare 1986); nothing of relevance to this current EDAS project was noted. An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Basin Howe Farm, Sawdon, in August 2009 during the partial rebuilding of redundant farm buildings. Nothing of archaeological significance was found, although a small collection of worked flint was collected (Rawson 2009). Finally, closer to Milebush Farm, an archaeological desk-based assessment of a proposed wind turbine development was undertaken in 2012 by Archaeological Services Durham University at Wydale Cote (ASDU 2012). No archaeological features were noted in the area of the proposed development, although it was recommended that a geophysical survey was carried out; it is not known if this was ever done.

## 4 THE STUDY AREA

### Physical Characteristics

- 4.1 The study area is centred on the proposed development site immediately to the south of Milebush Farm, and extends in all directions by 500m (see figure 3).
- 4.2 The underlying solid geology is composed of the limestone and calcareous grits of the upper Jurassic Corallian series, part of the Tabular Hills. The southern dip slope of these hills is characterised by numerous valleys, originally formed by glacial meltwater but now dry, of which the adjacent Wy Dale is a typical example; the streams now flow underground and emerge in a series of springs where they meet the clays underlying the Vale of Pickering to the south (Atherden & Simmons 1989, 12-14). The soil is a brown rendzina of the Elnton 2 Association, a shallow well drained calcareous fine loam (Soil Survey of England & Wales 1983). The survey area is generally devoid of surface water, and generally lies at 126m AOD with a slight southwards slope.

### Historical Development

- 4.3 The study area is poorly resourced in terms of historic maps and plans. Virtually no buildings are depicted outside the main villages on Brown's c.1750 map of Yorkshire (NYCRO MIC 1919). Jefferys' 1772 map of Yorkshire (surveyed 1767-1771) shows the villages, together with Wydale (Weedale) Hall and Bason Hoe, and an unnamed building representing Cockmoor Hall; the road leading north from Snainton to Trouts Dale is also shown, following its slightly irregular, pre-enclosure, alignment (see figure 7). Greenwood's 1819 map (ERA0 DDCK/35/10) is similar to Jefferys' although it now depicts and names Cock Moor Hall as well as Moorsom House (now Moorsome Farm). However, the detailed 1769 plan which accompanies the 1772 Snainton enclosure award reveals that the field boundaries as shown on the later 1854 Ordnance Survey map were all set out and established as part of the enclosure process (HCC U DDCV/XI/184/70). No buildings are shown at the Milebush site, which was allocated to William Beswick. As previously noted, English Heritage suggest that the farm buildings were built between 1800 and 1830, although it is not known on what basis this statement was made.
- 4.4 'Milebush House' is named and depicted on the 1854 Ordnance Survey 6" map (surveyed 1848-50) as a single rectangular building aligned north-east/south-west, with two small outbuildings to the west (one on the lane frontage), and two or three others to the east; there is also a circular pond adjacent to the north-west corner of the house (see figure 9 top). A track runs north-east from Nettledale Lane to the south of the house, along a field boundary and into the head of Wy Dale and beyond to Wydale Lane; this is the earlier 'Skilgate' (see figure 8). Two fields to the south of the house are named as 'Skeel Gate', and the two fields to the north are 'Mile Bush'. There is also a narrow shelterbelt shielding the complex to its north, a shelterbelt through the centre of Milebush Fields with a larger area of plantation on the east side, a wider plantation along the north and west sides of Mile Bush fields named as 'Milebush Plantation', and a wide plantation along the south side of Skeel Gate. Although it is not known precisely when Milebush House, and Hedon Cottage on the east side of Wy Dale, were built, it appears from the map that these two complexes were planned and created at the same time as an extension to the Wydale estate, and their fields were surrounded by regular plantations and shelter belts - Milebush Plantation is mirrored by Thorndike Plantation on the east side of the valley, and the Skeel Gate plantation is mirrored by Hedon Plantation (see figure 8). The other features of note shown on the 1854

map are several sandstone quarries, and two limestone quarries and their attendant limekilns to the north-east and north-west of Milebush House.

- 4.5 The first definite identification of an occupant of Milebush House appears in the 1881 census, when an unnamed cottage was lived in by Ambrose Maidmont, a 28 year old game watcher ('keeper' has been crossed out), and his wife and two very young children (TNA RG11/4807); he was born near Swaffham in Norfolk and his father was previously a gamekeeper in Appleby Lincolnshire (TNA RG10/3432). He was still resident at 'Milebush Cottage' in 1891 (now named as a gamekeeper), although by this time George Hill, a 49 year old farm bailiff born in Tollerton was also living at the separate 'Milebush Farm' with his wife and two children (TNA RG12/3969).
- 4.6 By the time of the Ordnance Survey 1892 25" edition (surveyed in 1889), 'Milebush House' had been considerably extended, with the addition of a new east wing, and the various outbuildings had been replaced by an L-shaped farm range forming the east and north sides of a square foldyard; the circular pond was still present (see figure 9 bottom - the 1911 map shows the same as the 1892 map). However, most of the plantations, shelterbelts and woods were gone, with only that on the south side of the 'Skeel Gate' fields remaining, although those on the east side of the valley around Hedon Cottage survive; the same situation is shown on the 1913 6" map (see figure 10). The limestone quarries are now named as 'Old' and no limekilns are depicted and there is also a linear 'Old Quarry' along the east verge of Snainton Lane, although the large sandstone quarry in the south-west corner of Skeel Gate appears to be still active. The extension to the house and the addition of the farm ranges to the north is reflected in the fact that George Hill was also living at the site, and it was probably now a small tenanted farm on the Cayley's Wydale estate, although Hill is described as a farm bailiff rather than a actual farmer; this expansion may have occurred in 1877 when Wydale Hall, at the centre of the Cayley's Wydale estate, was enlarged for the family. In 1901, Ambrose Maidmont was still resident at what is now called 'Milebush Homes', and was still a gamekeeper now aged 47, while the other house on the site was occupied by 42 year old Frederick Watson, a local man whose occupation is described as 'foreman in charge of farm' (TNA RG13/4535).
- 4.7 Local information notes that Milebush remained a tenanted house/farm until 1902, when it was taken back into the Cayley estate, and the complex was significantly enhanced and improved for a daughter of the Cayley family who then suddenly died (Mr N Vermont, *pers. comm.*); this has not been able to be confirmed from the historical records. This site was chosen because the farm had always been relatively unproductive due to the poor soils. Soon after, in 1904, the Cayley estate was sold to Mr Harry H Illingworth and in 1905 it was occupied by Francis Trousdale (<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS/NRY/Ebberston/Ebberston05Dry.html>), and he was still resident at 'Milebush House' at the time of the 1911 census, together with his 78 year mother, wife, three children, and a 'waggoner' and a shepherd (*Ancestry* 28963). The Milebush complex is similarly depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1911 25" map as it was in 1892, as is the surrounding area, although a barn had also been built on the west side of Snainton Lane (see figure 9 bottom). In 1929 William Skelton is named in the Kelly's Directory of that year as being the farmer at Milebush House, as well as in 1933 and 1937; the farm was less than 150 acres (Kelly 1929, 55; Kelly 1933, 56; Kelly 1937, 54). Subsequent tenants included the Harrison's and Rickatson's, and it was a 250 acre tenanted farm by the 1960s, although the thin soils making it not very productive. The Rickatson's purchased the 150 acre farm in the early 1980s when the last of the Illingworth family died and the estate was broken up, and they sold all but 25 acres



in the late 1980s. The present owners moved into the farm in 1998 (Mr N Vermont, *pers. comm.*).

### Identified Archaeological Sites

- 4.8 The archaeological assessment has identified seven sites or areas of interest within the study area, as set out below. Their locations are shown on figure 3.

*Sites NYHER 5500 and 5501: Cropmarks, north-west of Milebush Farm (NGR SE 9136 8400 centred)*

- 4.9 There are several disconnected ditches visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs taken on 28th July 1983 to the north-west of Milebush Farm (NYCRO AJC 002/19-21 & 35). In the north of this area, two parallel ditches are slightly curving, extending south from a former sandstone quarry for a distance of c.150m across an enclosure-period field boundary. To the south is another right-angled ditch, the south of which terminates in a short east-west ditch. To the east, closer to Snainton Lane, are two further north-south parallel ditches, c.80m apart, extending for a distance of c.150m. These are too wide to represent a trackway, but they could form part of a widespread Romano-British 'brickwork' field system, as seen further to the south-south-west at Hazel Balk (NYHER 5482) and north-east on Thorn Dikes (NYHER 5404). It is noticeable that all these cropmarks are on a different alignment to the present field boundaries which were established at enclosure. Also included within the north-south boundaries are two small squarish cropmarks, one actually crossed by one of the north-south ditches, which might represent Iron Age barrows; the Hazel Balk cropmarks also have potential Iron Age barrows within a later 'brickwork' field system.

*Site NYHER 5481: Cropmarks, south-west of Milebush Farm (NGR SE 9150 8350 centred)*

- 4.10 There are several apparently conjoined ditches or boundaries visible as indistinct cropmarks on aerial photographs taken on 28th July 1981 to the south-west of Milebush Farm on the east side of Well Dale (NYCRO DPAN 37). Two run on a general north-south alignment, each for c.200m, and they are joined/crossed by two others running east-west for shorter distances. These cropmarks cannot be dated on current evidence, but some of the latter may well be enclosure field boundaries now ploughed out, while the north-south aligned ones are potentially prehistoric in date.

*Site NYHER 5479: Cropmarks, south-west of The Pheasantry (NGR SE 9200 8345 centred)*

- 4.11 There are several linear ditches or boundaries visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs taken in August 1978, July 1980 and July 1981 in the field to the south-west of The Pheasantry and south of a shelter belt (NYHER ANY 100/9; NYHER NMR SF1677/381, 471 & 478; NYCRO DPAN 34 & 35) (see figure 5). There is a prominent prehistoric triple dike system running north-east/south-west just outside the study area, but also a sinuous ditch running at a more pronounced angle from its north side for a distance of c.300m. Crossing this is a straighter north-west/south east ditch, mirrored by another one to the west on a parallel alignment, which itself is crossed by one running north-east/south-west, parallel to the south side of the shelter belt. None of these linears represent ploughed out field boundaries, but some could be geological in origin, although they also form

part of a complex of other similar, probably prehistoric, cropmarks seen to the south on the south side of Barf Hill (Waughman 2002a).

*Site EDAS 1: Cropmarks of ridge and furrow, east side of Skeel Gate fields (NGR SE 929022 8370 centred)*

- 4.12 Cropmarks of faint ridge and furrow cultivation can be seen on aerial photographs taken in 1971 on the east side of the two 'Skeel Gate' fields to the south-east of Milebush Farm, above the eastern side of Wy Dale (NYCRO OS 71/120). The cropmarks have a general north-east/south-west alignment, in accordance with the general arrangement of furlongs and strip in this part of the medieval Middle Field. However, they could also be of early post-medieval date.

*Site EDAS 2: Limestone quarry and limekiln (sites of), north-east of Milebush Farm (NGR SE 9198 8402 centred)*

- 4.13 The Ordnance Survey 1854 6" map marks a small 'Limestone Quarry' on the west side of the north end of Wy Dale, on the west side of the angled Skelgate track which crosses the valley here. Just to its south is an open circle, named as a 'Limekiln'. Neither feature is depicted on the 1892 25" map, or any later editions, and so it must have been disused by this date.

*Site EDAS 3: Limestone quarry and limekiln (sites of), north of Milebush Farm (NGR SE 9168 8408 centred)*

- 4.14 The Ordnance Survey 1854 6" map marks a medium-sized 'Limestone Quarry' on the south side of the northern of the two 'Mile Bush' fields to the north of Milebush Farm. The quarry extends over a distance of c.80m and is aligned east-west with the adjacent field boundary to the south, and has working faces along the north and south sides. There is a track running to its east end from Snainton Lane, and there is also an open circle, named as a 'Limekiln', in the bottom of the east end. The quarry is depicted as an open earthwork on the 1892 25" map, named as 'Old Quarry', but no limekiln is indicated. It was presumably disused by this date, and has subsequently been infilled to leave no surface evidence.

*Site EDAS 4: Milebush Farm (NGR SE 9170 8390 centred)*

- 4.15 No buildings are indicated here on the 1769 enclosure map, when the surrounding field was allocated to William Beswick (HCC U DDCV/XI/184/70), although some structures had been built by 1848-50, as they are depicted on the 1854 Ordnance Survey 6" map. English Heritage suggest that the main farm buildings, comprising cart shed, threshing shed and pig sty, were built between 1800 and 1830, although there is no reference for the source of this information (EH NMR 533693). The 1854 map shows a single rectangular building aligned north-east/south-west, with two small outbuildings to the west (one on the lane frontage), and two or three others to the east; there is also a circular pond adjacent to the north-west corner of the house (see figure 9 top). By the time of the 1892 25" edition, the house had been extended with the addition of a new east wing, and the various outbuildings had been replaced by an L-shaped farm range forming the east and north sides of a square foldyard; the circular pond was still present (see figure 9 bottom - the 1911 map shows the same as the 1892 map). This expansion probably reflects the fact that the complex was now a tenanted farm on the Cayley estate, compared to the earlier smaller cottage occupied by a gamekeeper. The complex is said to have remained a tenanted house/farm until 1902, when it was apparently taken back into the Cayley estate, and the buildings were significantly enhanced and

improved for a daughter of the Cayley family who suddenly died (Mr N Vermont, *pers. comm.*), although this has not been able to be confirmed from the available documentary records.

- 4.16 The present external appearance of the house dates from the major re-modelling in the early part of the 20th century, with Art Nouveau detailing to the doorway and windows (see plate 1). The main body of the house is L-shaped in plan and of two storeys, with a hipped, slated roof. There are smaller single storey extensions to two sides. All external elevations are rendered and painted cream. The principal elevation faces south, and is of three bays. The central bay contains a ground floor doorway, the doorway being set within a wide semi-circular headed opening; there is a small window over to the first floor. The outer bays have canted bay windows to both the first and second floors. All windows are fitted with leaded glazing.
- 4.17 Many of the farm buildings were converted to domestic accommodation in 2006 and 2012. The majority of the buildings are built of roughly coursed and squared stone rubble, sometimes with brick dressings, and with larger, better dressed pieces of stone as quoins and around some larger openings. There is a small barn at the south-west corner of the covered fold yard, rectangular in plan and of two storeys with a pitched, pantiled roof (see plate 2). There was once a tall cart opening to the centre of the west elevation, although this has been largely obscured by the insertion of a modern doorway with an external sliding door. However, the broad segmental arch of the original opening still survives above the inserted doorway (now glazed), and is set within a steep gable which projects above the eaves lines of the elevation. There is a window to the apex of the north gable, but the opposite gable appears largely blank.
- 4.18 Behind this barn can be seen the older north farm range as depicted in 1892, together with the covered foldyard, while to the south there is low single storey former pigsty range with a pitched pantiled roof. There is then a gap for a roadway, and then a two storey rectangular building; this has two wide brick cart or implement openings with shallow arched heads to the south gable, and a doorway over to the former first floor granary. Beyond this is a second single storey range with a pitched pantiled roof, retaining a pair of brick cart or implement openings with shallow arched heads. This south range and the western cart shed are not shown in 1911 (the map was re-surveyed in 1889, revised in 1910), and these buildings were probably added to the complex when the main house was improved in the early part of the 20th century.

### **Other Designated Sites or Areas of Cultural Heritage Value**

- 4.19 There are no Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, registered Historic Parks and Gardens or Historic Battlefields within or around the study area, and the study area does not lie within a Conservation Area. The nearest Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1020836) is the Wydale Cote section of the Cockmoor Dikes, the southernmost part of which lies 500m to the north-east of Milebush Farm, while the nearest Listed Building is the Grade II Listed Wydale Hall (NHLE 1148800) which lies 750m to the south-east.

### **Assessment of Importance**

- 4.20 Using the data gathered by the desk-based research and other surveys detailed above, an initial assessment of the grade of importance of each identified site or area within the study area can be made. This assessment is based on

professional judgement, and a combination of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport's criteria for scheduling Ancient Monuments or listing buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, and the criteria developed by English Heritage in their Monuments Protection Programme.

- 4.21 An importance grading system can be applied to archaeological sites, namely National, Regional, District, Local, and sites which are so badly damaged that little now remains to justify their inclusion in a higher grade. The importance of the built environment can be graded according to whether the structures are listed or not. The various grades for Listed Buildings are also hierarchical, Grade I buildings being of exceptional interest, Grade II\* buildings being particularly important buildings of more than special interest, and Grade II buildings of special interest; irrespective of this grading, all Listed Buildings are considered to be of National importance.
- 4.22 The grade of importance given to each identified site or area is given below. This shows that the study area contains seven non-designated heritage assets, considered to be of Regional importance (one asset) and potential District importance (three cropmark complexes). Three other assets have already been destroyed, and so are afforded no grade of importance.

<i>Site No</i>	<i>Site Name</i>	<i>Importance</i>
NYHER 500/5501	Cropmarks, north-west of Milebush Farm	District
NYHER 5481	Cropmarks, south-west of Milebush Farm	District
NYHER 5479	Cropmarks, south-west of The Pheasantry	District
EDAS 1	Cropmarks of ridge and furrow, east side of Skeel Gate fields	None
EDAS 2	Limestone quarry and limekiln (sites of), north-east of Milebush Farm	None
EDAS 3	Limestone quarry and limekiln (sites of), north of Milebush Farm	None
EDAS 4	Milebush Farm	Regional

- 4.23 It should be noted that the above grades have been based on data collected to date, and the importance of some sites may be graded higher or lower as or when more information is obtained. This might especially apply to the cropmark sites, if and when their precise extent, form and function is confirmed.

## 5 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE

### The Proposed Development

- 5.1 The proposed new wildlife pond lies within a single pasture field to the immediate south of Milebush farmhouse, on the east side of Nettledale Lane (NGR SE 91720 83806 centred) (see figure 11; plates 3 and 4). It covers an area measuring c.63m long (north-south) by c.43m wide, and has a total area of c.1000sqm. The pond would include a wetland area, a small shingle beach and a small island, with various water depths (maximum 2m deep) and shallow muddy margins creating a wildlife habitat. The proposals also include a certain amount of tree and vegetation planting. Spoil from the excavation of the pond would be kept on the farm and used for topsoil and subsoil dressing as and where required elsewhere on the landholding. Some new drains will also be excavated, running from the farm to the pond, to facilitate initial filling. No ground investigation works have been carried out on the site, although a small hand-dug trial hole dug by the owner in the south-east of the field revealed that the depth of soil was only 0.30m, over fragmented limestone bedrock. The field has been pasture since at least 1998, and was ploughed and reseeded in 2011 (Mr N Vermont, *pers. comm.*).

### Assessment of Development Impact

- 5.2 Planning permission has already been sought for the wildlife pond development, and the Local Authority, Scarborough Borough Council, are minded to grant permission subject to a number of conditions (application 14/01923/FL). North Yorkshire County Council's Development Management Archaeologist, responding to a consultation from Scarborough Borough Council, had no objections to the scheme but recommended that the site should be subject to an archaeological evaluation, as it lay within an area of archaeological interest but whose potential had not yet been determined. It was suggested that this evaluation should comprise a geophysical survey followed by trial trenching as appropriate, in accordance with Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012, 30-32).
- 5.3 This level of work was considered by Scarborough Borough Council not to be necessary at this stage, and that it was more appropriate for the applicant to submit a desk-based assessment together with the results of a field walkover evaluation, so that an assessment of potential could be made. If these findings suggested the need for further and more detailed investigative work, it could be done on the basis of a greater knowledge of the specific site. It was therefore requested that a desk-based assessment be carried out, and that planning approval would only be issued following receipt of satisfactory evidence that the proposal would not cause unacceptable harm to archaeology (Scarborough Borough Council Report of the Planning Services Manager dated 28th November 2014). This recommendation is in accordance with Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework, specifically paragraphs 135 and 141 (DCLG 2012, 31-32).
- 5.4 The construction of the new wildlife pond, which will involve topsoil stripping across the whole footprint (c.1000sqm) and below-ground excavation of up to 2m in places, is likely to result in the destruction of any below-ground archaeological deposits which might be present within the site (see figure 11). Some below-ground archaeological deposits might also be disturbed by the new drainage works. However, the nature and potential of the identified archaeological resource is such that there is no reason for the local planning authority to refuse or request

amendments to the current proposals on archaeological grounds. It should also be noted that the distances from the site to the nearby designated heritage assets means that there will not be any visual or setting impacts of the newly created pond.

### **Archaeological and Historical Interest and Potential**

- 5.5 The context of the proposed development site, and how it fits into the archaeological and historical background of the general area, has been detailed in Chapters 3 and 4 above.
- 5.6 This information shows that the proposed development site lies within a rich archaeological landscape, primarily of prehistoric importance. Much of the evidence for this landscape comes from the identification of cropmarks seen on aerial photographs, which represent estate boundaries, field systems, settlements and burial sites dating from the Neolithic (c.4000-2500 BC) to the Iron Age (c.800 BC-AD 71) periods, although most appear to be of Bronze Age (c.2500-800 BC) date; some field systems and settlement sites might have also extended to, or originated in, the subsequent Romano-British period (AD 71-450).
- 5.7 The proposed development site lies outside the areas occupied by any medieval settlements or farmsteads in Snainton parish/township. The site actually falls within the medieval outfield system of Snainton which ran north from the village, specifically in the Middle Field which extends through the central part of the township between Well Dale in the west to Wy Dale in the east (see figure 6). This medieval field system was probably developed between c.1150 and 1250, and the furlongs into which the fields were divided ran east-west across the entire width of the field, from valley to valley. Some of the field names on the Ordnance Survey 1854 6" map reflect the names of some of these furlongs, e.g. *Skilgate*, an important east-west track crossing the township, and *Stanydales*, reflecting poor quality agricultural land.
- 5.8 The detailed post-medieval history of the farm is not fully understood, but the site was not occupied at the time of the 1772 enclosure, when the existing field boundaries were first established. It seems likely that the complex originated in the early 19th century, possibly as an estate cottage with a few outbuildings on the extensive Cayley Wydale estate; such an arrangement is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1854, when it is named as 'Milebush House'. Milebush may have formed part of a general redevelopment scheme of the north end of Wy Dale by the Cayleys, as Hedon Cottages was also built on the east side of the valley and both sets of fields were surrounded by a regular arrangement of shelter belts (see figure 8). Milebush was occupied by the estate gamekeeper in the later part of the 19th century, although by 1891 a farm bailiff was also resident on the site. By 1889 (when the 1892 Ordnance Survey map was surveyed) the house had been considerably extended, with a new east wing, and a new L-shaped farm range had been built around a foldyard to the north. Local information suggests that Milebush remained a tenanted house/farm until 1902, when it was taken back into the Cayley estate, and the complex was then significantly enhanced and improved for a daughter of the family who suddenly died; this site was chosen because the farm had always been relatively unproductive due to the poor soils. Some of the farm buildings on the site, such as an impressive former cart shed and an implement range, as well as a general upgrading and embellishment of the farmhouse, probably date to this improvement, or are perhaps a reflection of new investment by the Illingworth family soon after they purchased the whole Wydale estate in 1904. From 1905, Milebush was a tenanted farm of less than 150 acres, initially

occupied by Francis Trousdale and then from 1929 to the late 1930s by William Skelton. Subsequent tenants included the Harrison's and Rickatson's, and by the 1960s it had grown to 250 acres, although the thin soils meant that it was never very productive.

- 5.9 A detailed walkover survey of the proposed development site was carried out on 21st December 2014 to determine the extent of survival of any structures or earthworks, to note the location, nature, extent and condition of any additional recorded and unrecorded archaeological sites, and to identify any concentrations of material which might serve as an indication of sub-surface archaeological features. No such evidence was visible, and it is noted that the pasture field was ploughed and re-seeded in 2011 (see plates 3 and 4). As mentioned above, a small hand-dug trial hole confirmed that the depth of soil was only 0.30m over fragmented limestone bedrock.
- 5.10 The proposed development site does not contain any known designated heritage assets, and there are none within the 1km diameter study area. The nearest Scheduled Monument (part of Cockmoor Dykes - NHLE 1020836) lies 500m to the north-east of Milebush Farm, while the nearest Listed Building (Wydale Hall - NHLE 1148800) lies 750m to the south-east. In addition, the proposed development site does not contain any known non-designated heritage assets. However, the density of cropmark sites in the vicinity, including three within the 1km diameter study area, means that the proposed development site does have some archaeological potential which is currently unproven.
- 5.11 The fact that no cropmarks are currently recorded within the development site should not be taken to indicate a true absence, as the appearance of cropmarks is dependant on geological and/or arable crop conditions, and are ordinarily rarely seen in a pasture field. In addition, the soil covering is very thin and the field has been recently ploughed, and so any archaeological deposits which might be present within the site could already have been significantly damaged by agricultural activity. Taking all these factors into account, the archaeological potential of the proposed development site is considered to be *low*.

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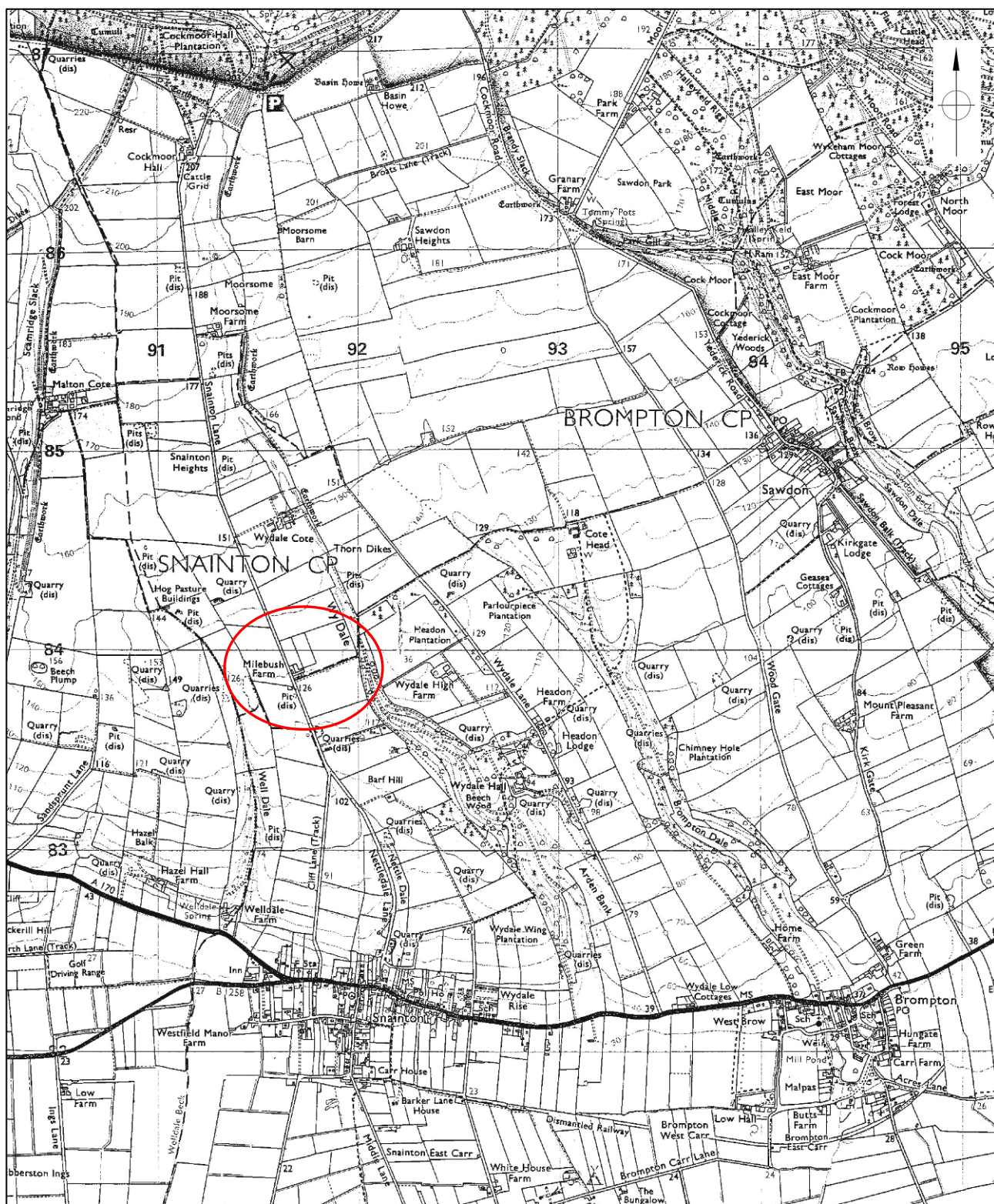
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PROJECT	
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TITLE	
GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	DATE
NTS	JAN 2015
EDAS	FIGURE
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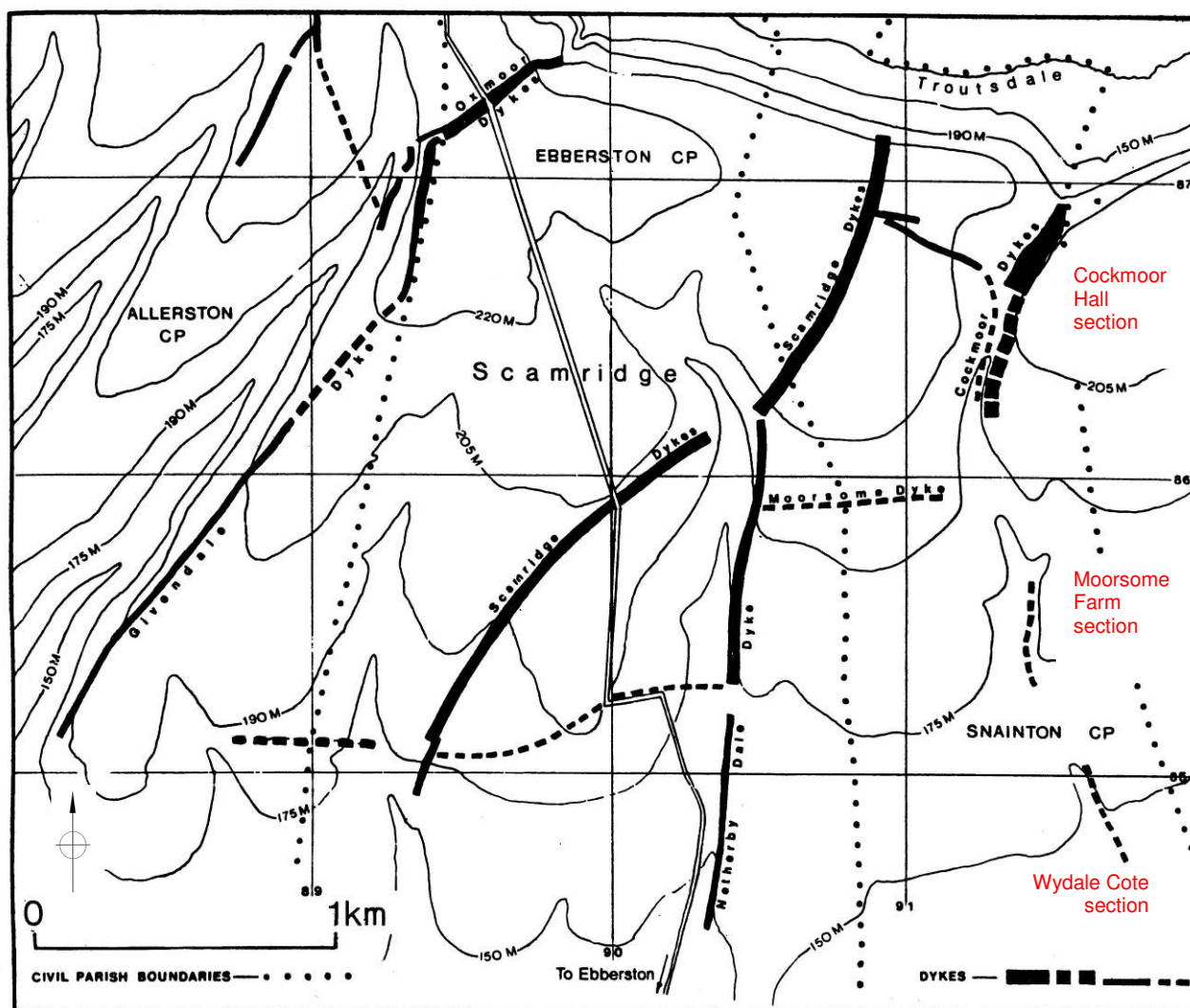












Source: Spratt, D 1993b 'The Bronze Age', figure 61.  
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PROJECT	
POND AT MILEBUSH FARM	
TITLE	
PREHISTORIC DYKES	
SCALE	DATE
AS SHOWN	JAN 2015
EDAS	FIGURE
	4



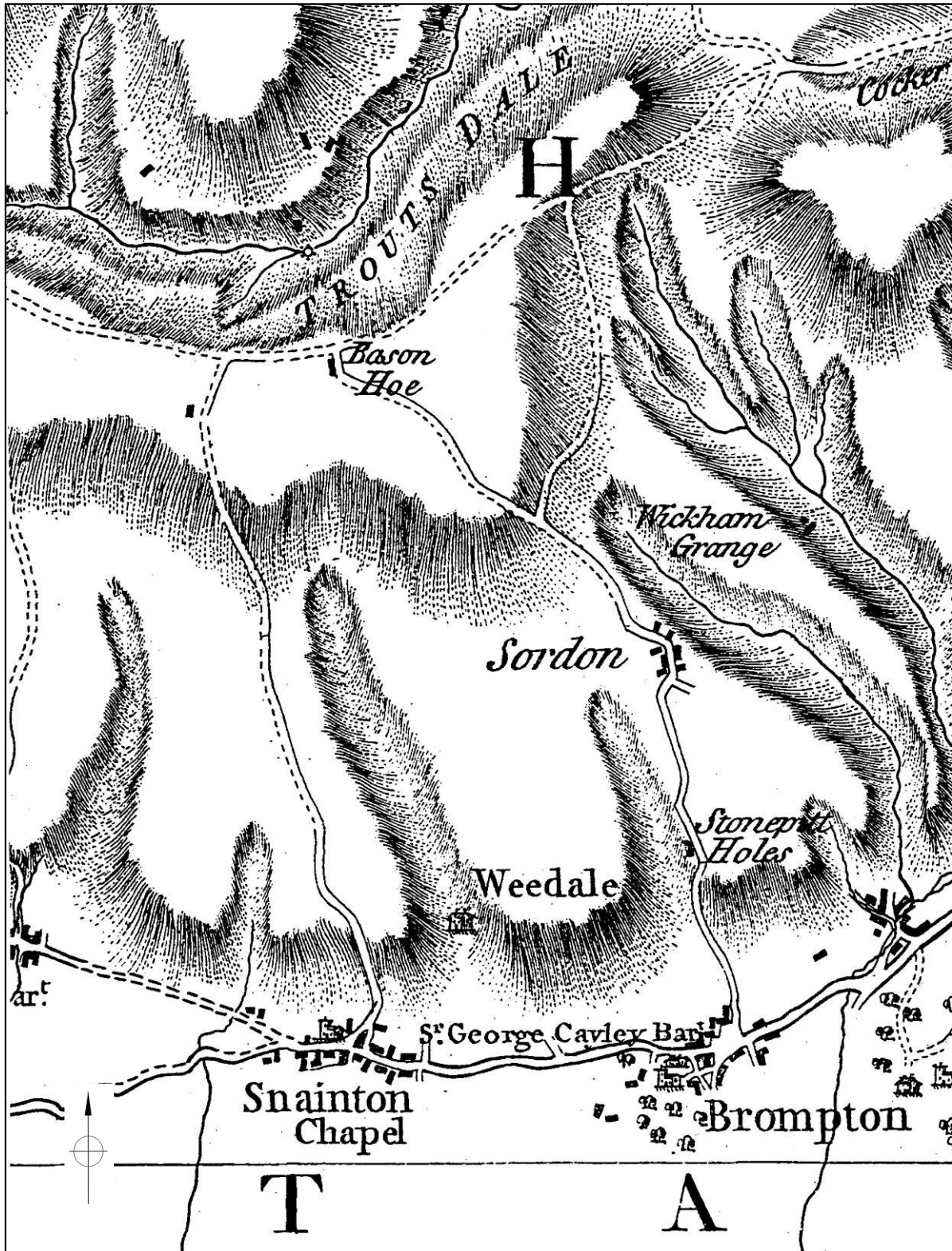


Cropmarks of three parallel ditches, possibly representing a cross ridge dyke between Well Dale and Wy Dale, on Barf Hill (NYHER 5471), with other cropmarks to the west of Cliff Lane forming a pair of parallel ditches and a possible rectilinear enclosure (NYHER 5472 & 5473).

Source: NMR SF1677/478 taken 15th August 1979.

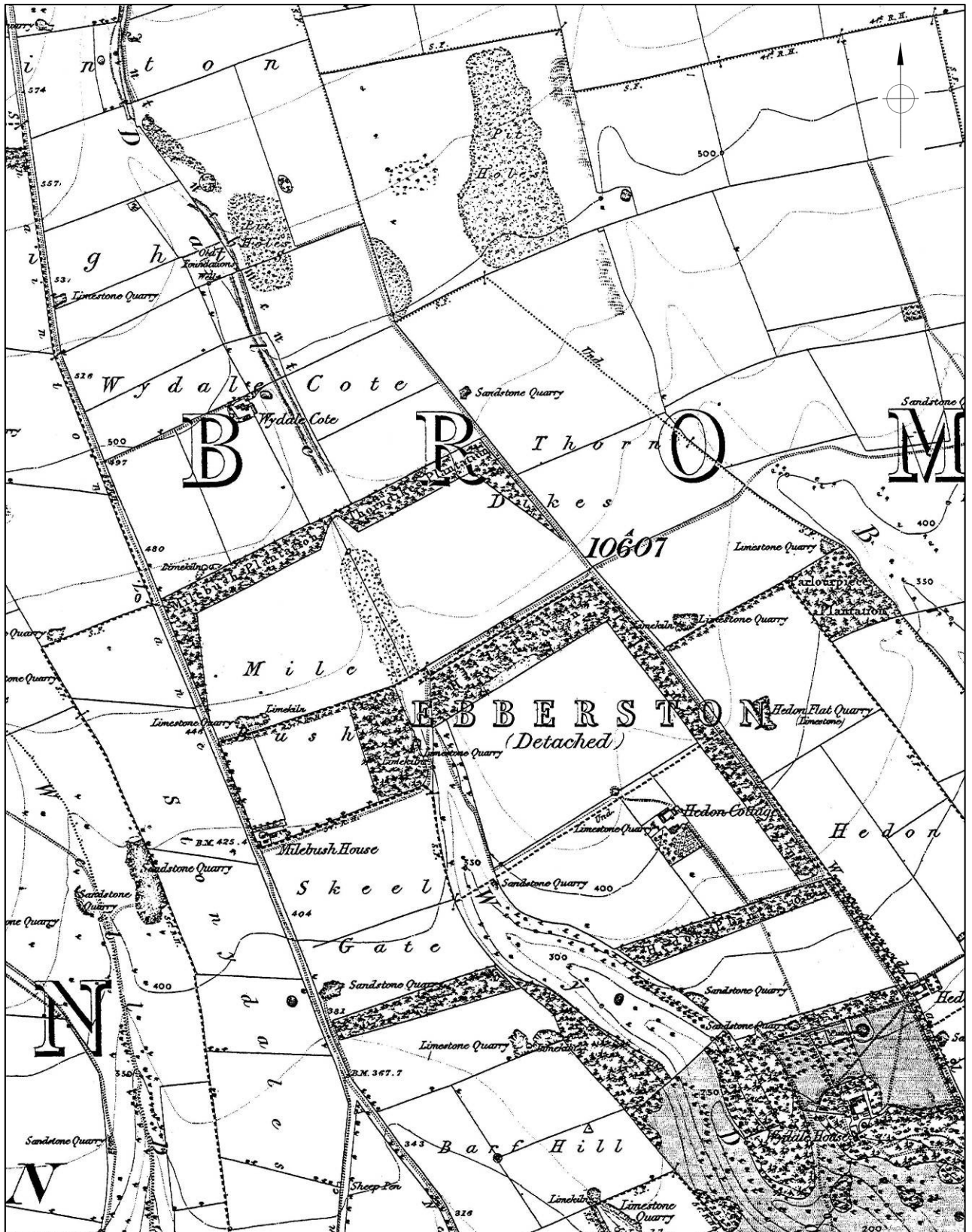
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EDAS		FIGURE 5	





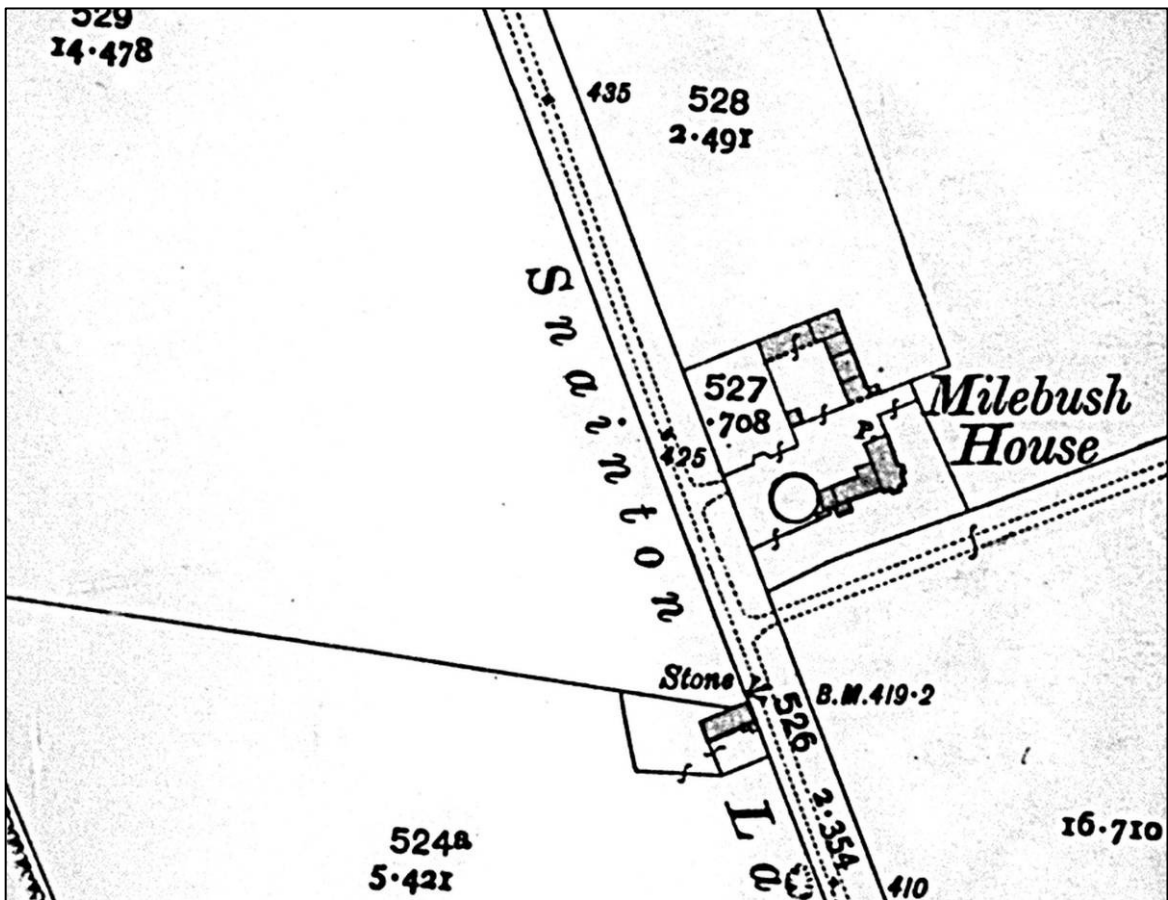
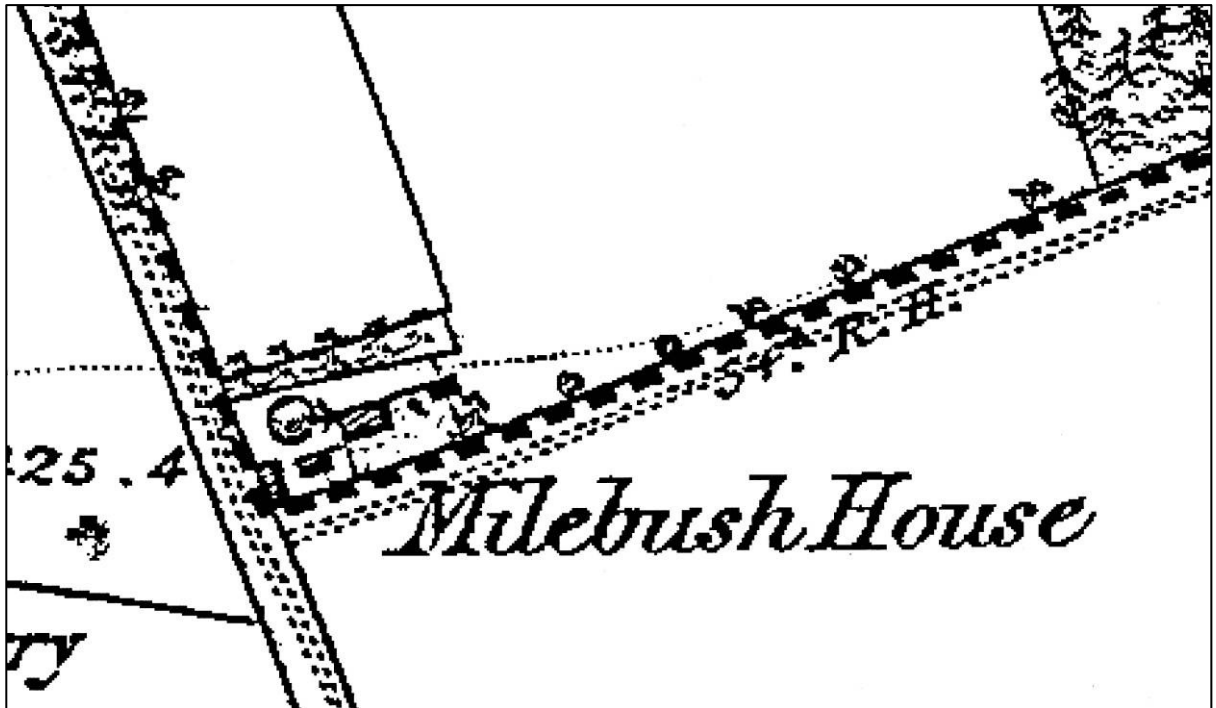
Source: Jefferys' map of Yorkshire, plate 9 (surveyed 1767-1771).

PROJECT		POND AT MILEBUSH FARM	
TITLE		JEFFERYS' 1772 MAP	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	JAN 2015
EDAS		FIGURE	7



Source: Ordnance Survey 1854 6" map  
Yorkshire sheet 92 (surveyed 1848-50).

PROJECT		POND AT MILEBUSH FARM	
TITLE		ORDNANCE SURVEY 1854 MAP	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	JAN 2015
EDAS		FIGURE	8



Sources:  
 Top - Ordnance Survey 1854 6" map  
 Yorkshire sheet 92 (surveyed 1848-50).  
 Bottom - Ordnance Survey 1911 25" map  
 Yorkshire sheet 92/11 (re-surveyed 1889,  
 revised 1910).



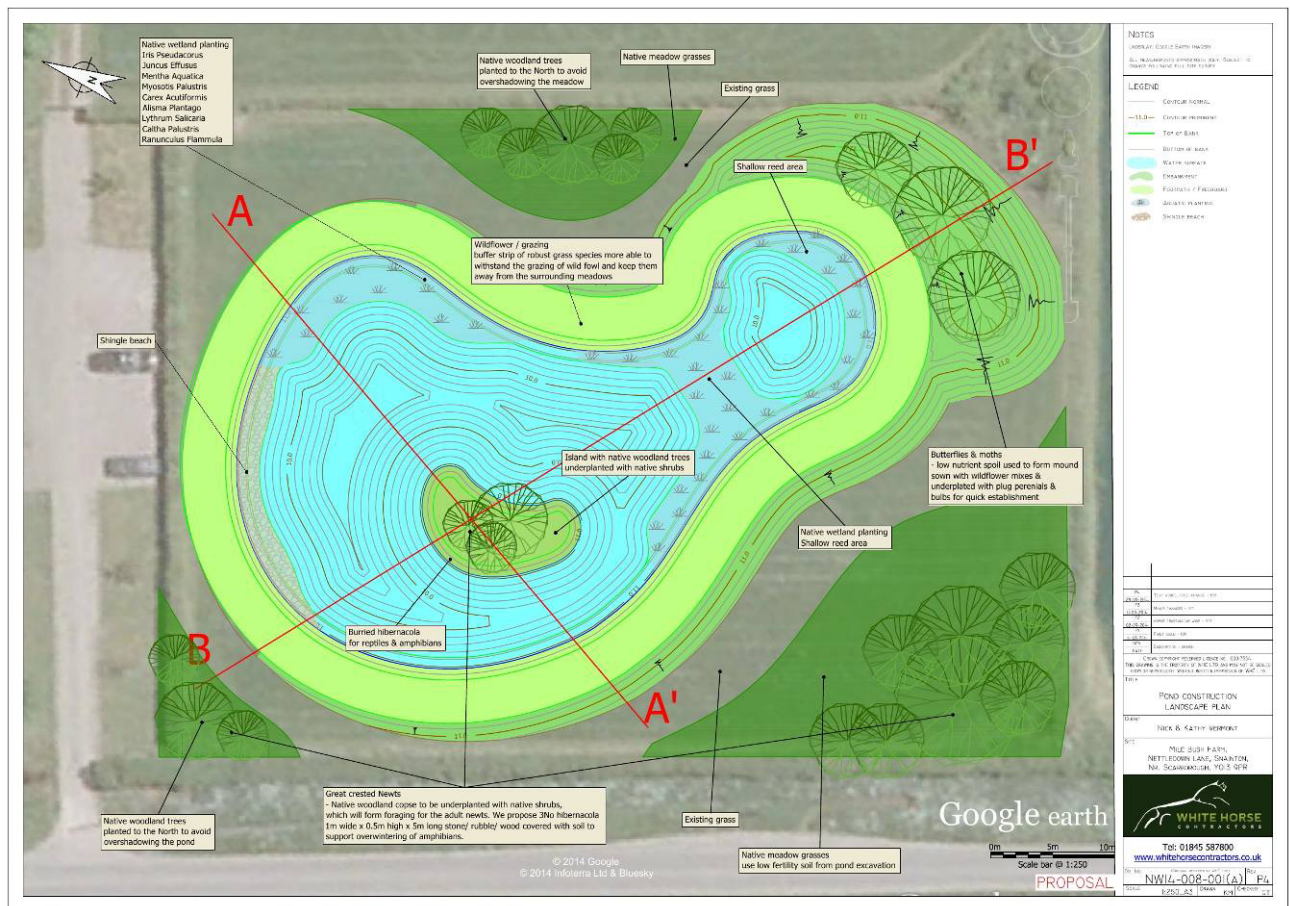
PROJECT		POND AT MILEBUSH FARM	
TITLE		ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	JAN 2015
EDAS		FIGURE	9





Source: Ordnance Survey 1913 6" map  
Yorkshire sheet 92SE (surveyed 1850, revised  
1910).

PROJECT	
POND AT MILEBUSH FARM	
TITLE	
ORDNANCE SURVEY 1913 MAP	
SCALE	DATE
NTS	JAN 2015
EDAS	FIGURE
	10



PROJECT		POND AT MILEBUSH FARM	
TITLE		DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	JAN 2015
EDAS		FIGURE	11





Plate 1: South elevation of Milebush farmhouse, looking north.



Plate 2: Barn at Milebush Farm, looking east.





Plate 3: Site of proposed wildlife pond, looking north.



Plate 4: Site of proposed wildlife pond, looking south-east.