

LITTLE STAINFORTH, RIBBLESDALE,  
NORTH YORKSHIRE

1999-2000 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

VOLUME 1: MAIN REPORT



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On behalf of

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority  
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It should be noted that this report details the results of an EDAS archaeological survey undertaken in 1999 and 2000, and a draft archive report was produced at that time (April 2000).

This 2015 report has been produced solely from that original draft archive report.

No attempt has been made to update the results of the EDAS survey in the light of subsequent work undertaken by other organisations in the same or surrounding area, or that arising from more recent relevant publications, interpretations or new designations etc.

**1999-2000 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY,  
LITTLE STAINFORTH, RIBBLESDALE, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*In January 1999, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (EDAS) were commissioned to undertake an archaeological landscape survey of two farm holdings in Ribblesdale, North Yorkshire, by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA). The work took place under the auspices of the National Park's Farm Conservation Scheme initiative, and was funded and organised by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. For the purposes of this report, the two landholdings are treated as a single unit, although management issues are considered separately.*

*The bulk of the survey work was carried out in January and February 1999, with additional work being undertaken March 2000. The results are contained in the project archive, which is held at the headquarters of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in Bainbridge. A draft report was produced in April 2000, and this 2015 report has been collated from that original. It should be noted that no attempt has been made to update the results of the earlier EDAS survey.*

*The survey area covers 189 hectares and a total of 121 archaeological sites and areas were identified. One site is listed as an Ancient Monument (i.e. of National importance), and a prehistoric settlement complex and Romano-British farmstead are considered to be of Regional importance. The majority of the remaining sites were classified as being of Local importance and were primarily related to past agricultural activity and quarrying.*

*The 20.7km of existing field boundaries within the two land holdings were also inspected and classified according to their form, and the presence of any associated wall furniture was noted. The majority of the boundaries (98%) were drystone walls, and over half of these had two or more courses of throughstones; previous work has suggested that this type of wall construction dates from the late 18th and 19th centuries.*

*The information gained from the survey has enabled the archaeological resource of the two farm holdings to be categorised and assessed, based primarily on the surviving field evidence. Data has also been gathered on the character and condition of the various sites, and this information has been used to provide appropriate recommendations for the future management and conservation of those elements considered to be significant.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## Background to the Survey

- 1.1 In January 1999, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (EDAS) were commissioned to undertake an archaeological survey of two farm holdings in Ribblesdale, North Yorkshire, by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA).
- 1.2 The project, which was defined by a brief prepared by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (Appendix 7) and a subsequent EDAS methods statement (Appendix 8), was to include a general field walkover survey of all features considered to be of archaeological and historic interest, including the field boundaries. A detailed architectural survey of the buildings within the two holdings was not required, although roofless and ruined structures were included as archaeological sites. In many respects, the project was similar to the Swinithwaite Estate survey and The Hagg and Low Oxque surveys undertaken by EDAS and its predecessors (BHWB 1995; Dennison 1997a and 1997b) and so, for ease of comparison, some of the previously-used methodologies have been utilised here.
- 1.3 The survey was funded and organised by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as part of their Farm Conservation Scheme. This scheme is intended to provide landowners with sufficient information to enable them to protect and undertake appropriate and sympathetic management of historic landscape sites and areas, and to enable them to produce interpretative information should they so wish.

## The Survey Area

- 1.4 The survey area covered a total of 189 hectares, located on the west side of the Ribble valley, to the north of Settle and adjacent to Little Stainforth village (centred on NGR SD 808 670) (see figure 1). The area lies within the historic townships and modern civil parishes of Giggleswick in the south and Stainforth in the north, and all is within the Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- 1.5 The survey area comprises two separate but adjacent land holdings. The largest area, farmed from Little Stainforth Farm, covers 123 hectares mostly to the west of Stainforth Lane and Little Stainforth village, while the more southerly holding, farmed from Cowside Farm, covers 66 hectares to the west of Stackhouse village (see figure 2). The division between the two farms is the historic township and modern parish boundary. For the purposes of this report, the survey area is treated as a single unit, although management issues (see Chapter 7 below) are considered separately by landholding.
- 1.6 The land in the survey area rises from c.210m AOD in the east to c.310m AOD in the south-west corner above Giggleswick Scar. On the lower slopes, land use is predominantly improved pasture, although there are areas of rough grazing above 250m AOD, particularly in the southern part of the area. Woodland is confined to a small area south-west of Little Stainforth (Riseber Wood), and the field boundaries are almost exclusively of drystone wall construction. The occupied parts of Little Stainforth village were not included in the survey area.

## **Extent and Aims of the Survey**

- 1.7 In accordance with the brief provided by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (see Appendix 7), all features considered to be of archaeological and historic interest were recorded by 1:2,500 scale sketch plan and by written record. Additional work included a photographic record of some of the more important elements, and a limited historical survey of published and unpublished documentation.
- 1.8 The aims of the survey were to:
- gather sufficient information to identify and establish the extent, nature, character, condition, quality and probable date of archaeological and historical features within the survey area;
  - establish the functional relationships, if any, between archaeological and historical features;
  - identify any threats to archaeological and historical features and provide a basis for condition monitoring, the preparation of detailed management proposals, and, if features are being disturbed or appear to be at risk, to provide appropriate management recommendations.

## **Site Numbering System**

- 1.9 For the purposes of the survey, each identified site of archaeological and/or historic interest was given a unique number; these site numbers are used throughout the report and the accompanying gazetteers. Where appropriate, the larger sites or complexes have been divided into sub-components denoted by a sub-division of the main number.

## **Site Assessment**

- 1.10 Each site identified and recorded by the survey has been assessed in terms of its importance, condition, and vulnerability, to enable appropriate and effective management decisions to be made. Using the experience gained during previous similar surveys (BHWB 1995; Dennison 1997a and 1997b), appropriate classifications were adopted using numerical values from 1 (low/poor grade) to 5 (high/good grade). Specific management or other recommendations for individual sites are also given as textual comments.

### *Importance*

- 1.11 When determining the importance of each site, professional judgement was combined with the criteria used by the Secretary of State for designating Ancient Monuments and Listing buildings of special architectural or historic interest, and the criteria developed by English Heritage for their Monuments Protection Programme. These criteria include:
- survival, that is an assessment of the extent to which the component survives in relation to its original extent;
  - period;

- archaeological potential, that is an assessment of the archaeological potential preserved within the site, e.g. buried soils, deep stratification, structural remains etc;
- group value by association, that is an assessment of the site's group value by association with other contemporary sites of different classes;
- group value by clustering, that is an assessment of the site's group value by virtue of its clustering with other sites of a similar type;
- documentary evidence, that is an assessment of the level of archaeological documentation (i.e. excavation, field survey etc) or historical documentation for the site;
- diversity, that is an assessment of the level of diversity of features displayed by the site itself;
- amenity value, that is an assessment of the value of the site to the community as a whole.

1.12 Each site was assessed and allocated one of the following five grades of importance:

- 5 National importance
- 4 Regional or county importance
- 3 District importance
- 2 Local importance
- 1 Minor importance

1.13 A list of the sites ranked by importance, with appropriate comments, appears as Appendix 3.

#### *Condition*

1.14 The condition of each site at the time of the survey was also assessed, using professional judgement and a consideration of the form of the site, its state of management, and its stability (i.e. erosion). In addition to a descriptive comment, a five-point grading system was used, namely:

- |   |               |   |
|---|---------------|---|
| 5 | Good          | Intact, all original features identifiable and <i>in situ</i> with walls, earthworks and other features surviving to their estimated original height.                                       |
| 4 | Above average | Largely intact, with walls, earthworks and other features surviving to at least 50% of their estimated original height and a good proportion of original features and details recognizable. |
| 3 | Medium        | Discernible, with sections of walls, earthworks and other features surviving to at least 25% of their estimated original height, although some major elements and features will be lacking. |

- |   |               |   |
|---|---------------|---|
| 2 | Below average | Only the basic form or outline of the site or feature is discernible, and no details evident to more than 25% of their estimated original height. |
| 1 | Poor          | Walls and other features surviving to one course or less and where very little of the original structure or form of the site survives.            |

1.15 A list of the sites ranked by condition, with appropriate comments, appears as Appendix 4.

#### *Vulnerability*

1.16 The vulnerability of each site was assessed, in terms of the extent to which the site is potentially at risk from both natural and human threats at the time of the survey. A five-tier classification based on professional judgement and field evidence, incorporating the location of the site and its potential for erosion (i.e. form), was used, namely:

- |   |               |  |
|---|---------------|--|
| 5 | High          | The site is considered to be very vulnerable (e.g. located on an unstable slope or in an area prone to regular ploughing or agricultural improvement) and/or is actively eroding with major damage evident.  |
| 4 | Above average | The site is considered to be at general risk with some minor damage or erosion already evident.  |
| 3 | Medium        | The site is considered to be potentially at risk, either by reason of its location (e.g. located on a public footpath, or a building in a farmstead with potential for conversion, or a site potentially at risk from agricultural improvement and/or woodland management) and/or nature of the site (i.e. an easily erodible site). |
| 2 | Below average | The site is unlikely to suffer from erosion or damage and is considered not to be at risk, i.e. it is not in a vulnerable location, is in an area unlikely to be subject to agricultural improvement and/or woodland management, and/or it is a robust site.   |
| 1 | Low           | The site is ruined or destroyed to such an extent that further degradation or deterioration is unlikely.   |

1.17 A list of the sites ranked by vulnerability, with appropriate comments, appears as Appendix 5.

## **2 INFORMATION SOURCES**

### **County and National Archaeological Databases**

- 2.1 The copy of the North Yorkshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (NYCC SMR), held at the headquarters of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in Bainbridge, and the National Archaeological Record (NAR) held by English Heritage in Swindon were consulted for information on the known archaeological heritage.
- 2.2 The RCHME (subsequently English Heritage and now Historic England) have recently completed a major data gathering exercise in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, known as the Yorkshire Dales Project (Horne and MacLeod 1995). Data collected as part of this project falls into two categories, the mapping of archaeological features from aerial photographs and the cataloguing of sites identified from the Ordnance Survey first edition 6" maps. At the time of the Little Stainforth survey, the two categories of data had not been collated into a unified system and little field checking had been carried out.
- 2.3 As part of the Little Stainforth survey, all data gathered by the NAR, the Yorkshire Dales Project, and the NYCC SMR was collated and field information on any identified sites was included in the pro-forma recording system.

### **Records of Previous Investigation or Research**

- 2.4 There are no detailed, up-to-date reviews or synopses of the archaeological resource for this part of the Yorkshire Dales, although some early accounts such as those by Raistrick (1929; 1937; 1939) have been put into context by other more general works, e.g. Wright (1986), Muir (1991) and White (1997). There are some period-specific reviews for the area by King (1970; 1978; 1986), and Smith (1986) has considered the vegetational history of the region. There has also been a study of the archaeology of Malham Moor (Raistrick & Holmes 1962). However, while some SMR-type data has been gathered by the RCHME (see above), no detailed systematic field survey appears to have been carried out in the immediate area of Little Stainforth; it is known that King has undertaken a considerable amount of fieldwork on the prehistoric and Romano-British sites in the area but most is either unpublished or mentioned only in periodic reviews (e.g. Radley 1967, 112; Butler 1971, 195), and it is therefore difficult to assess his results on a site-by-site basis.
- 2.5 There are a growing number of studies dealing with extant field boundaries, and of drystone walls in particular e.g. Wildgoose (1991), Mitchell (1992) and Muir (1992). The perceived wisdom is that the drystone walls found in the region are generally of later post-medieval date, with few earlier boundaries surviving (Raistrick 1946). However, more recent work has demonstrated that some walls can have a greater antiquity (Wildgoose 1991), and this has been borne out to some extent by other surveys of walling systems in the Yorkshire Dales (BHWP 1995, 80-92; Dennison 2000).

### **Printed and Manuscript Maps**

- 2.6 The North Yorkshire County Records Office (NYCRO) in Northallerton was consulted for both printed and manuscript maps of the survey area; checks were also made at the Borthwick Institute of Historical Research in York and the main West Yorkshire Archives Service offices in Wakefield for any other material. The

relevant Ordnance Survey maps, at both 6" and 25" scales, were examined, as were any other appropriate maps and other documents.

- 2.7 The earliest detailed maps for the survey area are included in the 1841 tithe awards produced for Giggleswick and Stainforth townships (NYCRO), although there are earlier more general county-wide maps such as those produced by Jeffreys (1771) and Tuke (1787). There are relatively few other estate maps which cover the survey area, apart from one undated, but apparently mid 19th century, plan which shows Stainforth Hall and attached lands (NYCRO MIC 2165). The entire survey area is covered by the Ordnance Survey 1851 1st edition 6" maps (see figure 3) and the 1909 edition 25" (1:2,500) maps; no 1st edition 25" (1890s) cover was available for the survey.
- 2.8 Data collected from these sources is discussed below while a reference to all consulted material appears as Appendix 2.

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

- 2.9 A number of published and unpublished documentary sources in both national and local collections were consulted for background information and specific data on specialised aspects of the history and archaeology of the land holding and surrounding area, including place and field name evidence. Data collected from these sources is discussed below while a reference list of all consulted material appears as Appendix 2.

### **Aerial Photographic Evidence**

- 2.10 There were a limited number of aerial photographs of the survey area held as part of the YDNPA collection at Bainbridge, and these were consulted for detail on specific sites. However, as noted above, the RCHME has also mapped all observable archaeological features from the national aerial photographic collections as part of their Yorkshire Dales Project (Horne and MacLeod 1995), and use was made of the RCHME 1:10,560 scale aerial photographic transcriptions and associated records. No additional aerial photographic survey was undertaken as part of the project.
- 2.11 A number of problems were encountered when trying to collate the aerial photographic information with the data recorded during the fieldwork. The RCHME information does not include the dates of the aerial photographs from which sites were identified, and so it is impossible to assess when features no longer extant might have been destroyed, or to determine the rate of degradation of specific sites. In addition, the RCHME site numbers are not identified on the aerial photographic transcription maps, which makes direct comparison between the maps and the lists of sites problematic. As a result, the concordance of the site numbering systems used by the Little Stainforth survey and the RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project in Appendix 1 may not be wholly accurate.



### 3 THE PHYSICAL BACKGROUND

#### Setting and Location

- 3.1 Within the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the two Little Stainforth holdings lie in the central part of Ribblesdale, the broad valley of the River Ribble which runs approximately north-south through the area. The survey area, centred on NGR SD 808 670, lies on the west side of the valley, c.3.5km north of Settle and 1km west of Stainforth village (see figure 1). The two holdings combine to cover 189 hectares, and comprise one elongated area with one detached area to the north (see figure 2).

#### Geology, Soils and Topography

- 3.2 Ribblesdale lies within the southern part of the Askrigg Block, a coherent geological structure formed from repeating layers of limestone, shales and sandstone of the Carboniferous Limestone (Yoredale) Series, as well as terrigenous sediments such as coal seams. The Askrigg block is topped with Millstone Grit, which is the dominant feature of the higher moorland. The near-horizontal beds of the Yoredale Series and Millstone Grits have led to the formation of terraces and escarpments of alternating limestones and sandstones. The southern edge of the Askrigg Block is marked by a series of major fault lines; the alignment of the South Craven Fault is represented by the Giggleswick Scar, which runs north-west/south-east just to the south of the survey area, and there is a vertical displacement or movement of strata of approximately one mile (Brumhead 1979, 79-83 & 96-109).
- 3.3 The Great Scar limestone of the area is characterised by its distinctive 'karst' landforms, outcrops of rock represented either as cliffs or scars, or as flat limestone pavements which develop complex jointing patterns known as clints and grykes. These areas are commonly devoid of soil and vegetation, although the pavements can provide valuable habitats for increasingly rare plants. The southern part of the survey area, at the higher elevations, contains large areas of these pavements.
- 3.4 The last ice age was responsible for much of the physical character and topography of the area. Ribblesdale was widened into a characteristic U-shaped valley by the erosive power of the ice, and retreating ice-sheets deposited glacial debris in the form of erratics, moraines, eskers, kames and kettle lakes which in places have accumulated around pre-existing limestone knolls (Raistrick 1926). The British Geological Survey drift map shows that the valley floor is covered with boulder clay and morainic drift, and the upper Ribblesdale drumlin field, formed by smooth egg-shaped hillocks, is a notable feature (Brumhead 1979, 43).
- 3.5 The Soil Survey of England and Wales map (sheet 1 Northern England) shows that the soil types of the survey area can be divided into two broad divisions. The valley floor and roadside land contains a typical brown earth of the Waltham Association, a well drained fine loamy soil. To the west, on the higher ground, are humic rankers of the Wetton 2 Association, classified as shallow loamy upland soils overlying limestone and with numerous exposed rock outcrops and scree.
- 3.6 The topography of the survey area can also be divided into two broad zones, reflecting the division of soils. The lower zone lies between 200m AOD and 280m AOD and consists of sharply rising, partly terraced, ground extending up from the valley floor; this area is characterised by improved pasture which shows evidence

of having been farmed and worked over many centuries. Above this, between 290m AOD and 310m AOD, the land flattens out to a limestone karst plateau which is given over to rough pasture and moorland; this zone contains the bulk of the prehistoric material showing this landscape was farmed and settled from an early period.

### **Settlement and Communications**

- 3.7 The village of Little Stainforth (also known as Knight Stainforth) lies on the east edge of the survey area, although the area of occupation was not included in the survey. However, evidence was found to suggest that the village was originally slightly larger, or had changed alignment over time and, as noted above, considerable evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British occupation was found in the survey area. Four field barns also lie within the lower-lying parts of the survey area, and these appear to be of later 18th or 19th century date; from north to south these barns are called Leys Barn, New House (formerly New Laith), Hargreaves Barn, and High Barn (formerly Leyfield Barn).
- 3.8 A north-south minor road (Stainforth Lane) passes through the village on the west bank of the valley, and this probably represents one of the early communication routes before the B6479 road was constructed along the east bank. Another important early packhorse road was the broadly east-west route which forms a westwards extension of Mastiles Lane; this ran to the monastic estates at and beyond Feizor via Stainforth Bridge, Little Stainforth and a path running under Smearsett Scar and Feizor Scar (Wright 1985, 109). A section of another route, from Stackhouse to Feizor, runs through the southern part of the survey area. Both these tracks are still in use by farm traffic, and are designated as public footpaths.

### **Land Use**

- 3.9 As with the rest of Ribblesdale, land use in and around the survey area is overwhelmingly agricultural, although the recreational value of the region is becoming increasingly recognised. Farming is primarily pastoral, with sheep production being predominant, and arable farming is relatively rare and is confined to small pockets of land with favourable drainage and aspect.
- 3.10 Land use within the survey area is pastoral, mostly permanent or improved grassland with no arable at the time of the survey. Almost all of the improved pasture lies in the northern holding, on the lower sloping ground to the west of Stainforth Lane while all of the southern holding is rough pasture with large areas of unproductive limestone scar and pavement. The 1841 tithe map also shows that the survey area was a combination of pasture and meadow. There are no commercial plantations within the survey area although there are small areas of broadleaved woodland such as Riseber Wood and a small unnamed enclosure to the west of High Barn. The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" map also shows "Banks Wood" to the west of the hamlet but this area is now largely treeless.
- 3.11 No quarrying or other mineral extraction is taking place at the present time although there is considerable evidence for earlier stone and possibly coal extraction, probably originating in the medieval period. Limestone was quarried and burnt to produce lime for agricultural fertilisers and building mortar, whereas both limestone and sandstone has been used as a building material.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

### Introduction

- 4.1 The survey was carried out to identify all the archaeological sites within the two Little Stainforth holdings. The majority of the features proved to be earthworks, with only a few sites of former buildings and other structures where no physical evidence now remains above ground. Most of the identified sites can be associated with former agricultural or industrial activity, although several areas of former occupation and settlement were noted, of the prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval periods.
- 4.2 The bulk of the survey work was carried out in mid January 1999, in mixed weather which varied from hail and high winds to mild winter sunshine. Additional work was carried out in March 2000 to try and identify any features previously missed, and to gather additional information on known sites. All these visits were timed to coincide with low or minimal vegetation growth and it is considered that a high degree of earthwork recognition was achieved. Nevertheless, there were still a few sites previously identified from aerial photographs which could not be recognised in the field.
- 4.3 A total of 121 archaeological sites and/or components were recorded. The following text provides a simplified account of the sites, arranged in broad chronological order and generic type. It should be noted that the assignment of a particular period or typology to a site is based on its morphological characteristics, its relationship with other sites, and professional judgement, rather than any specific dating evidence. The locations of the sites are shown on figure 4 and further, more detailed, information on each site is contained in the gazetteer forming Appendix 1. Sketch plans are also provided of some of the major complexes (figures 6b, 7 and 8). The 1:2,500 scale annotated field plans, as well as clean transcriptions of the same, are contained within the site archive.

### Prehistoric Period

- 4.4 The prehistoric sites are concentrated in two main areas, to the north of Giggleswick Scar in a large walled field named as 'Scar Pasture' on the 1851 Ordnance Survey map (see figure 3), and to the north-west of Little Stainforth, with a further smaller area in between, to the west of Riseber Wood. In all cases, the features are at altitudes of 280m AOD and above and, with a few exceptions, the sites are generally low, discrete and apparently undisturbed earthworks. Most of the sites had been previously identified from aerial photographs, although a few new features were recognised and additional detail was added to known sites. A few of the previously identified prehistoric sites, particularly in the rough pasture and limestone pavement areas to the north of Giggleswick Scar, could not be identified in the field.

#### *North of Giggleswick Scar*

- 4.5 A small possible settlement site (Site 5), perhaps of a temporary nature, survives some 40m north of the scar edge. The stone footings of one small oval building c.3.0m long and c.2.4m wide are visible, with two adjacent less well defined depressions which may represent other hut circles. A sub-rectangular enclosure to the south (Site 4), c.20.0m long by c.10.0m wide and open to the west, and a smaller more D-shaped enclosure to the south-west (Site 3) may also be

associated with this site. All of these features are defined by spread and grassed-over rubble banks, most of which are less than c.0.3m in height.

- 4.6 The elements of a prehistoric, possibly co-axial, field system were recorded by the RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project from aerial photographs to the north of Site 5. This is represented by two parallel north-west/south-east orientated boundaries (Sites 9 and 96), set c.150m apart, which continue beyond the limits of the survey area. A low intermittent bank, c.1.0m wide and c.0.3m high, represents part of the southern boundary (Site 9) but the full c.300m length as shown on the aerial photographs could not be positively identified in the field; part of the alignment appeared to follow a line of limestone outcrop. However, the northern bank (Site 96) was slightly more prominent, and extended for a distance of c.150m.
- 4.7 Several cairns appear to be associated with this field system (Sites 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 97). In most cases they survived as low, circular or sub-circular grassed-over mounds with varying amounts of stone exposed. The small size of most of the mounds (c.0.3m-0.5m in diameter and up to c.0.5m high) suggests that they are clearance features, but one or two of the slightly larger examples (e.g. Sites 7 and 12) might be burial mounds; Site 12 has a central depression which might represent a robbed or disturbed cavity. These two larger cairns were also associated with linear banks which could represent the remains of enclosures or be elements of the field system. Two of the cairns identified by the RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project (Sites 10 and 11) could not be recognised in the field.
- 4.8 Further to the north-east, another six cairns were recorded (Sites 13, 14, 15, 21, 48 and 49), and these are likely to be part of a larger cairn cemetery recorded by King in the general area of NGR SD 805 664 (Radley 1967, 112). These cairns are generally larger and better preserved than those seen to the south-west, and their more substantial nature and/or differing form suggests that they may have contained burials; Sites 13 and 14, to the south of a footpath (Site 17), are c.8.0m and c.15.0m in diameter respectively. One particularly noteworthy example (Site 15) is classified as a Bronze Age ring cairn, and consists of a small sub-circular mound c.3.0m in diameter surrounded by a circular outer bank c.2.0m wide and with an overall diameter of c.19.0m (see plate 2). The central mound shows signs of disturbance, perhaps by 19th century antiquarians, although there are no records of such. This site, which might be referred to by King as a pond barrow (Radley 1967, 112), is protected as an Ancient Monument (SM 24524).
- 4.9 The largest cairn in this area, and indeed within the whole of the survey area, lies just to the south of the footpath mentioned above. This site (Site 21) is c.20.0m in diameter and c.1.5m high, and the top contains a sub-rectangular depression c.10.0m long and a large dislodged limestone slab c.2.5m long (see plate 1). The site is known as "Apron Full of Stones", and was reputedly formed when the Devil's apron string broke as he was flying over the hill with stones to build a bridge near Kirby Lonsdale. An account of 1784 notes that the mound, originally measuring nine or ten yards in diameter and seven yards high (i.e. 8.2m-9.1m high and 6.3m high), was opened 'many years ago' and was found to contain a stone cist, a skeleton, scattered human bones, an ivory disc and a tusk (Gentlemen's Magazine 1784, pp961-193). A polished stone axe c.1ft long, formerly at the Pig Yard Museum in Settle, and presumably part of the Lord collection, also reputedly came from this site. The site is shown as an unnamed circle with another circle inside on the 1851 Ordnance Survey 6" map (see figure 3). Although disturbed, the monument is still an impressive landscape feature which is visible from the adjacent well-used footpath.

- 4.10 A possible defendable enclosure containing traces of circular structures (Site 47) was previously identified near the 'Apron Full of Stones' cairn by the RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project and also possibly by Welsh on an area of limestone pavement (Moorhouse 1979, 1). However, only faint traces of a single linear bank were seen in the field and no evidence for any occupation features were positively recognised at the time of the site visits.
- 4.11 Two other prehistoric features in this area are worthy of mention. A c.150m long boundary bank, with a cairn at either end (Sites 48 and 49) is visible on aerial photographs to the south-east of the large ring cairn (Site 15) (see plate 2). The central section of the bank could not be seen in the field, but the two cairns are well preserved. The one at the north-east end (Site 49) commands a prominent position overlooking the Ribble valley and is a c.10.0m diameter and c.0.7m high stoney grass-covered mound with the remains of a possible cist in the centre; this site was previously noted by Welsh (Moorhouse 1979, 1). The one at the south-west end (Site 48) lies adjacent to an area of limestone pavement; this c.5.0m diameter and 0.7m high cairn appears to have been disturbed in recent times, and the attendant short length of bank is composed entirely of stones. The connecting boundary probably forms part of a field system in this area, and a second length of curvilinear bank (Site 99), which was difficult to fully identify in the field but which is shown on aerial photographs, appears to be part of the same system. A further low spread stoney bank (Site 16), only 0.2m high, to the north of the ring cairn may also be connected.

*North-west of Little Stainforth (see figure 5)*

- 4.12 There is a large prehistoric settlement complex (Site 74) to the north-west of Little Stainforth, in a high and isolated part of the survey area. The features are defined by grassed-over rubble banks, typically c.2.0m wide and up to c.0.5m high, and are generally well preserved. The core of the complex is represented by three linked enclosures, orientated virtually north-south and covering an area c.70m long by c.20m wide (Site 74/2). The southernmost enclosure is irregularly shaped, whilst the central (and largest) enclosure is sub-rectangular. The northern enclosure is D-shaped and there is a small angular projection on its east side. No definite internal features could be positively identified at the time of the site visit, although there are differences in ground level, and there is an area of limestone pavement in the southern part of the central enclosure. The RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project recorded two hut circles, one within the central enclosure and another possibly equating to the angular projection on the north enclosure, and some internal features can be seen on aerial photographs of the site.
- 4.13 There are a number of other enclosures and linear banks associated with this settlement. A bank extends east from the north-east corner of the site, and there appears to be an entrance allowing access into an enclosed area to the south. Further to the east, a probable hut circle or D-shaped enclosure (Site 74/3), measuring c.15.0m east-west by c.8.0m north-south, lies on the north side of this bank, terraced into the natural hillside. The bank then continues to the east as an intermittent earthwork 0.5m high by 1.2m wide before curving to the south-east and apparently petering out. A second, and larger, enclosure (Site 74/4) c.20m square lies to the north, again connected to an east-west boundary. This enclosure is visible on aerial photographs and appears to be sub-hexagonal in plan, but only partial elements could be seen in the field.
- 4.14 To the east of the latter feature, a group of four cairns can be seen (Site 74/5). The largest (southern) one is an elongated grass-covered stoney mound c.5.0m

north-south by c.3.0m east-west and c.0.5m high. The mound to the north is similarly aligned, but is slightly smaller and flat-topped; a small animal scrape in the north-east corner shows that it is composed of small stones. There is also a possible circular and terraced platform c.7.0m in diameter immediately adjacent to the east side. The other two mounds lie to the north and these are much smaller, both c.1.5m in diameter and c.0.3m high. It should be noted that the nature of the tussocky grass in this particular area makes the positive identification of earthworks difficult, and there may be other cairns or features in the immediate vicinity.

- 4.15 South and south-east of the settlement are two long linear banks forming part of an associated field system which extends to the west beyond the EDAS survey area. The west bank (Site 74/1) runs for some c.270m on a north-east/south-west but slightly sinuous alignment (parallel to the extant field wall defining the edge of the EDAS survey area) before turning east to form the south side of the settlement. This bank is c.2.0m wide and up to 0.3m high, and is crossed a public footpath (Site 39), where minor erosion has revealed a stone core. At least two cross-banks are attached to the west side of this long bank and extend under the adjacent field wall. The east bank (Site 74/7) lies parallel but c.90m to the south-east, and this is a much longer (c.480m) and straighter boundary; the presence of stone and rubble in the south-west half shows that it was utilised, and probably rebuilt or added to, to form a later post-medieval boundary, and it is shown as being partially complete on the 1851 1st edition 6" map (see figure 3). This bank, which is typically c.2.0m wide and 0.3m high (see plate 3), runs through the whole prehistoric complex and appears to be a significant boundary, which appears to act as a terminal 'reeve' for some of the adjacent banks and enclosures. These two parallel banks, together with those further to the west beyond the survey area, appear to represent a co-axial system, with banks set at c.80m centres.
- 4.16 A well-used public footpath (Site 39) passes through this system, and there appear to be one or possibly two hut circles either side of the path, at the point where it crosses the east field boundary (Site 74/6). The one on the north side of the path is formed by a discontinuous bank c.0.5m high and c.1.0m wide defining a flat circular area c.12.0m in diameter. There is a possible entrance in the north-east sector, and a slightly raised terraced area in the south-west corner which has been clipped by the path. A second sub-circular area of similar dimensions lies to the south of the path; this feature is less convincing, with the central area more depressed, and it might be a shallow quarry associated with the post-medieval rebuilding of the former adjacent, largely collapsed, field wall (Site 74/7).

#### *West of Riseber Wood*

- 4.17 To the west of Riseber Wood, a number of earth and stone banks (Site 61) interconnect to form a large sub-rectangular enclosure measuring c.260m east-west by c.90m north-south which narrows towards its east end. The banks are all between c.1.0m-1.5m wide and less than c.0.2m high, and most contain a high proportion of grassed-over stone rubble (see plate 4). In several places, short sections of collapsed enclosure wall are visible and it seems likely that parts of the boundary were rebuilt or utilised at a later date, although none are shown on the historic maps. The northern east-west boundary incorporates two large gritstone erratic boulders which appear to be marking the alignment or defining a terminal end. It is interesting to note that there is some correlation between the alignment of these banks and some faint east-west cross banks seen on aerial photographs running across potential Romano-British lynchets to the east of the wood (Site 59), and so they may all relate to an earlier (or later) co-axial field system.

- 4.18 A further element of this Riseber Wood system may be represented by a c.120m length of similarly constructed bank, which has a more north-east/south-west alignment (Site 92). An oval-shaped enclosure or hut circle measuring c.13.0m by c.9.0m lies on the north side of this bank, and this site might be an enclosure recorded to the south-east by the RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project but which could not be identified in the field (see Site 62).

### **Romano-British Period**

*Romano-British Farmstead and Field System, High Barn (Sites 41 and 45) (see figure 6)*

- 4.19 A large Romano-British farmstead complex (Site 45), comprising a range of both enclosures and buildings and a presumed associated lynchet field system (Site 59) lies adjacent to High Barn, south-west of Little Stainforth. The farmstead complex is defined by well-preserved grassed-over stoney banks, some of which are up to c.2.0m high and c.3.0m wide, although most are less substantial (see plates 5 and 6). Existing field walls may also be aligned on older boundaries relating to the complex. Some elements of the complex were recorded from aerial photographs by the RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project, but a small area lies in woodland and so was not recorded.
- 4.20 The complex is formed by up to five or six discrete but linked enclosures, of varying size and plan form, either side of an east-west track or path which is still in use (Site 19). The focal point appears to be a D-shaped enclosure (Site 45/4), measuring c.30m long (north-south) and c.35m wide (east-west), located in the centre of the complex and on the south side of the track. Access into the interior of this enclosure is gained through an entrance in the east side, and there is a rectangular building c.10.0m by c.5.0m in the north-east corner. Another rectangular earthwork, probably an internal enclosure or paddock measuring c.13.0m long by c.7.0m wide, is located in the north-west corner. The west side of the main enclosure rises in two broad steps which reflect the underlying geology, and these appear to have been utilised as platforms for further structures.
- 4.21 A smaller sub-rectangular enclosure (Site 45/5), again containing a possible building in the north-east corner, is attached to the south-east side of the D-shaped enclosure. To the south again is a large rectangular enclosure (Site 45/6) which has been sub-divided into three very regular but unequal-sized plots or paddocks; the southernmost of these is the largest, at c.30m long by c.10m wide. The west side of the enclosure is well defined as an earthwork, and there is a small depression on the centre of its west side which may represent the site of a spring or a small building. The east side has been partially disturbed by the existing field wall which has a slightly different alignment, and there are no earthworks to the east of the wall. A further curving bank to the west defines another large enclosure to the rear (west).
- 4.22 To the north of the main D-shaped enclosure (Site 45/4), and on the north side of the track, are two more enclosures which appear to form part of the overall complex. One enclosure lies to the north-east (Site 45/1) and is sub-rectangular in plan and orientated north-south. The line of a curving, partly collapsed, post-medieval field wall may follow the original northern edge while the east side is apparently defined by a low east-facing angular lynchet which runs from the adjacent field system (see Site 59 below). Within the east side of the enclosure, above this lynchet, are a number of apparent quarry scoops or small buildings,

including one c.4.0m square platform, and there are two other internal curving banks which run off to the west. The slightly curving west side of the enclosure continues the line of the collapsed field wall to the south, through a small wood, as a rather denuded and disturbed earthwork. This bank is more substantial immediately to the south of the wood, and there is a gap suggesting an entrance towards the south end. In the north-west corner of the enclosure, there is a small enclosure c.12m long by c.7m wide which appears to house a small rectangular building c.5.0m long by c.3.0m wide; both are defined by low spread banks c.1m wide and 0.3m high. There are other regular flat-bottomed scoops and depressions in the south-east quadrant of the enclosure which might also represent additional quarries or further structures.

- 4.23 Adjoining the south-west side of the north-south enclosure is an approximately triangular area (Site 45/2) which might represent another enclosed part of the complex. The west side may be formed by a c.2m high limestone outcrop, but woodland and recent dumping in this area has obscured and confused the earthworks (see plate 7); one low bank can nevertheless be seen running west from the east side of enclosure 45/1. The south side is defined by a broad bank c.2.0m wide and c.1.0m high which marks the north edge of the wide east-west track running through the system; this and the corresponding bank to the south are integral to the enclosure complex and are not the result of track widening or disturbance. Within the triangular area, a probable building platform can be seen towards the centre of the east side; this measures c.10m long by c.3m wide and has one or two attached and elevated cells at the north end. The platform is neatly bisected by the post-medieval field wall which encloses the woodland, and there appears to be an offset entrance at the south end.
- 4.24 As might be expected, there are a number of earthwork banks to the west of the farmstead complex which appear to define small closes or paddocks. One curving boundary to the west of enclosures 45/5 and 46/6 has already been mentioned, but there are other features in this area, including a right-angled bank which marks the west side of a levelled area c.50m by c.10m, and a second small enclosure open to the west (Site 45/7). To the west, are three parallel curvilinear banks cut by a more recent footpath (Site 39), which possibly represent two more c.50m long narrow enclosures (Site 45/3).
- 4.25 In addition to these relatively small closes, a total of four long linear boundaries (Site 41) can be seen running west and north-west up the natural slopes for up to c.200m. These were identified from a combination of aerial photographs and field visits, but they are generally low banks typically c.1.2m wide and c.0.3m-0.5m high. The upper c.120m of the northern bank is composed of stone rubble which would appear to be post-medieval rebuild and collapse, but the south-east end seems to be connected with the three smaller closes mentioned above. The mis-alignment of the central bank is probably explained by the presence of a large limestone outcrop. Taken together, these four roughly parallel boundaries might represent elements of a co-axial field system running up to (and possibly beyond) the west edge of the survey area. The association with the Romano-British farmstead (Site 45) might suggest they are of a similar date, although an earlier or later date could equally apply. It should also be noted that this alignment is respected by an adjacent extant field boundary and by further banks to the north which cross a lynchet field system (see Site 59 below).



### *Field System, north-west of High Barn (Site 59)*

- 4.26 To the north of the Romano-British complex (Site 45) are a number of north-south lynchets which form a separate and compact field system (Site 59); many of these are man-made features, but there are some apparent natural terraces resulting from the underlying geology. This field system was dated to the Roman period by the RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project, presumably due to the fact that one of the lynchets runs south to form the east side of enclosure 45/1 (see above). This would seem to be an accurate correlation, and several of the lynchets curve at their south ends towards the farmstead complex. Overall, the lynchets cover an area measuring c.230m long and between c.70m to c.100m wide and are represented by north-south east-facing banks, up to c.2.0m wide and c.1.0m high. Many have traces of stone or outcrop visible along their top edge and they separate level terraces of between c.4m to c.10m wide. No earthworks are visible on these terraces, but some have been (and are still being) used as route ways and paths, and they could well have been utilised for farming throughout the medieval and even later periods.

### **Medieval Period**

- 4.27 The majority of the presumed medieval sites recorded by the survey were agricultural earthworks, principally poorly preserved areas of ridge and furrow field systems. However, two lynchet field systems were also seen (Sites 52/2 and 56), and these were given an early medieval date by the RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project, presumably reflecting the excavation work that King has done at Smearsett and elsewhere (King 1978; 1986) (see below). A number of earthworks relating to former occupation were also recorded, including shrunken medieval village earthworks at Little Stainforth and a possible farm complex further to the south.

### *Agricultural Earthworks and Field Systems*

- 4.28 The larger of the two (early) medieval lynchet field systems (Site 56) is located on the west side of Stainforth Lane, to the south of the village; the earthworks cover an area c.250m long and between c.100m to c.160m wide. The lynchets are formed by curvilinear north-south aligned, east-facing, banks, up to c.1.6m high (although most are lower), and they separate level terraces of between c.5m to c.12m wide. The south end of one of the central lynchets appears to have been disturbed by very denuded ridge and furrow ploughed across its line, suggesting two phases of activity and a possible re-orientation of the field system here. In this same area, there are two possible building platforms set into the slope of a lynchet. The northern one is the better preserved, measuring c.4.0m long by c.2.0m wide with sandstone boulder footings, while the southern one is c.5.0m long by c.3.0m wide.
- 4.29 The largest expanse of ridge and furrow earthworks lies at the north end of the survey area, to the south and west (Site 76) and north-west (Site 79) of Hargreaves Barn. The headlands are divided by a footpath (Site 78) which runs north-west towards a Romano-British or early medieval settlement complex adjacent to the edge of the survey area; this site has been surveyed and partly excavated by King (Butler 1971, 195).
- 4.30 To the south of the path, the ridge and furrow (Site 76) covers an area measuring c.550m long by c.240m wide, and the majority of the earthworks have an approximate north-east/south-west orientation. The earthworks are generally very

spread and denuded, being 0.1m high or less, and appear to contain few major boundaries within them; those few banks that are visible may be more prominent ridges rather than actual lynchets. There are however more prominent lynchets at the south-east end, formed by south-east facing banks all c.2.0m wide and c.1.0m high, and up to c.150m long. They run up a steep natural slope and most contain some large stones. Other lynchets just to the north have a different, north-west/south-east, alignment with ridge and furrow within the terraces. The different orientations may suggest more than one phase of activity, which may or may not be contemporary with the ridge and furrow.

- 4.31 An enclosure of unknown (medieval?) date (Site 75) was recorded by the RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project in the middle of this field system (Site 76). This is represented by an extremely shallow but slightly raised sub-rectangular area, measuring c.50m by c.40m, which is free of and is respected by the adjacent ridge and furrow. The function of the enclosure is unknown; it may have been a compound for stock, storage for crops, or even buildings, but subsequent agricultural improvements have removed almost all traces of above ground features. However, an aerial photograph taken under light snow conditions in 1979 shows a central division, running across the otherwise sloping interior.
- 4.32 The ridge and furrow system to the north of the path (Site 79) is also very spread and denuded, but the ridges appear to be set at c.7m centres. In the central and largest area the strips are orientated east-west, while in the east and west parts they are generally north-south. Some of the western areas may be associated with the adjacent Romano-British or early medieval settlement complex, noted just outside the EDAS survey area.
- 4.33 Other agricultural earthworks in this northern part of the survey area include several curvilinear banks (Site 86) to the north-east of Leys Barn, typically c.2m wide. These banks define a number of strips c.40m wide which appear to line up with existing field boundaries on the east side of Stainforth Lane, beyond the EDAS survey area. These curvilinear boundaries are not shown on any of the historic maps of the area, and they may represent early intakes from the moor; it is interesting to note that the c.40m block-width was also present within the larger field system (Site 79) to the south.
- 4.34 As might have been expected, a number of lynchets and areas of ridge and furrow were identified around the village of Little Stainforth itself. One triangular block of ridge and furrow (Site 58) lies to the south of the village, partly between two lynchet systems (Sites 59 and 56). The north part is formed by two blocks of slightly curving, but generally east-west orientated, earthworks which are very spread and survive to only 0.1m in height. The ridge to ridge measurement varies between c.5m-6m and the north boundary clearly respects the edge of some shrunken village earthworks (see Site 67 below). Rising ground to the west means that the ridge and furrow gives way to a number of south-facing lynchets set c.20m apart (Site 66). To the south, further north-south aligned ridge and furrow was identified as soilmarks or faint earthworks on aerial photographs taken in 1966 and 1986, but no features were visible here at the time of the site visits.
- 4.35 Other poorly preserved areas of ridge and furrow were also recorded to the east of High Barn (Site 55) and to the north of the village (Site 68), while a number of parallel banks, possibly representing degraded lynchets (Site 70), survive to the north-west of Little Stainforth, with another lynchet and associated features (Site 84) to the west of Leys Barn. A large area of faint ridge and furrow earthworks (Site 85) was also seen in the field adjacent to Leys Barn, on the east side of

Stainforth Lane. Where measurable, the ridges were set at c.4m centres, suggesting a post-medieval rather than a medieval date.

*Shrunken Village Earthworks (Site 67) (see figure 7)*

- 4.36 An area of shrunken village earthworks was identified on the south side of Banks Lane, which forms an east-west route running west from the central crossroads in Little Stainforth village (see plate 8). The south side of the rectangular area is defined by, and separated from the adjacent ridge and furrow (Site 58), by a bank c.3m wide and c.1.2m high, and there is a low spread bank on the west side. The earthworks are all rather rounded and denuded, suggesting that they have been ploughed or worked in the past; the area is named as "New Close" on the 1841 tithe apportionment and the land use is given as meadow. Three main elements can be seen within the earthworks.
- 4.37 The rectangular area of earthworks is divided by a north-south trackway between c.3m-c.4m wide (Site 67/2). It appears to return to the west around the north side of an enclosure, and although crossed by another bank, this alignment is continued further west up the valley side by a holloway (Site 66); this may well represent an earlier line of Banks Lane. To the west of the trackway, is a rectangular and sub-divided enclosure (Site 67/1) c.60m long by c.30m wide overall, which appears to contain two or possibly three sub-rectangular or oval depressions which may represent building platforms. To the east of the trackway, the area is more open (Site 67/3), but several low banks define separate enclosures or plots, including one c.15m square shallow depression towards the west end which may be a more modern feature.

*Possible Farm Complex (Site 52) (see figure 8)*

- 4.38 A group of earthworks in the south-east corner of the EDAS survey area, on the west side of Stainforth Lane, may represent a medieval farm complex. It is formed by a relatively level enclosure, c.100m square, delineated by a bank and a lynchet field system to the east (Site 52/2), and a lynchet and/or natural slope containing a small quarry (Site 52/4) to the west. Buildings appear to be grouped along part of the north side of the enclosure and within the west side of the central area (Site 52/3).
- 4.39 Two possible co-joined buildings on the north side (Site 52/1) are aligned east-west and set into a south-facing spread bank c.2.0m wide and c.1.0m high. Both earthworks are sub-rectangular in plan, c.4.0m long by c.2.5m wide, and they appear to retain traces of stone foundations, and there is an adjacent heap of stones which might result from field clearance or robbing. Other possible buildings or platforms, including one aligned north-south on a platform measuring c.30m long and c.5m wide, can be seen nearby, on the north end of an adjacent north-south lynchet field system (Site 52/2). One of the north-south lynchets turns to the west at its south end, to define a probable entrance into the interior. Within the west side of the central area, a number of poorly defined rectangular depressions and a more substantial sub-rectangular mossed-over rubble spread c.20m long by c.5m wide, appear to define additional structures (Site 52/3), and these are contained within an area measuring c.40m long by c.30m wide by a low curving bank to the north and a more substantial stoney bank to the south. At the west end of this stoney bank is a small quarry (Site 52/4). The area of this possible farmstead is named as "Robin Hoods Mill" on the 1851 Ordnance Survey 6" map, although this probably refers to a small structure shown in the field to the east of

Stainforth Lane (see figure 3 - outside the EDAS survey area) (but also see 'Watercourses' below).

- 4.40 To the west of this complex, a series of interconnecting rubble banks typically c.2.0m wide and c.0.5m wide form three rectangular and terraced enclosures (Site 50). The ground defined by these banks is fairly disturbed and there are several areas of limestone outcrop. There is also a small separate levelled platform c.12m long by c.8m wide (Site 51) in the south-east corner of this area which the RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project classify as an enclosure but which might be a regularly-cut quarry. All these features may be associated with the adjacent presumed medieval farmstead, but it is noticeable that the two northern edges are offset from one another. However, the earthworks are fairly regular and might be of medieval date, and they do not appear to be connected with the Romano-British settlement (Site 45) just to the north-west. No features are shown in the area on the historic maps, and the large field is named as "Springs" in 1841.

### **Post-medieval Period**

- 4.41 A selection of post-medieval sites covering a broad range of types and functions were identified within the EDAS survey area. The majority are earthworks associated with former agricultural practices. Also included within this section are a number of footpaths and trackways which, while likely to be of post-medieval date, could also have earlier origins.

#### *Buildings and Other Agricultural Structures*

- 4.42 A small ruined field structure (Site 27) was recorded to the west of Borrins Wood. It is rectangular in plan, c.4.0m long by c.2.0m wide and stands on the south side of a field wall, which it butts. The drystone rubble walls survive up to c.1.8m in height but are largely ruinous. There is a doorway in the west wall, with three adjacent openings c.0.20m square located at waist height above ground level; one is blocked and the openings pass through the thickness of the wall. No other evidence for any internal fittings or roof was visible. The structure appears to have been a shelter for a shepherd or the like, and it is first shown on the Ordnance Survey 1909 map.
- 4.43 A number of sheepfolds were recorded within the survey area. Most have since been abandoned and the stone seemingly removed, leaving no trace at the site (e.g. Sites 28, 95 and 100), but one well-preserved example (Site 88) survives in the south-east corner of the Swarth Moor enclosure. It consists of a closing wall built across the corner of a large field to create a triangular space c.10m long and wide (maximum); the closing wall is c.1.8m high and is built of Horton flags with three intermittent throughstone courses and slanted coping, in contrast to the adjoining field walls. The fold was entered via a now blocked sheep creep in the adjacent field wall, leading to a gap at one end of the closing wall.
- 4.44 A presumed sheep wash, measuring c.40m long by c.15m wide, was noted to the west of Borrins Wood, on the Stainforth/Giggleswick township boundary (Site 42). A watercourse (see Site 37 below) enters the site from the west via a culvert and the footings of an L-shaped wall c.7.0m long and c.1.0m wide seem to define the edge of a now infilled sheep wash (see plate 9). An earthwork depression leads to a walled-up culvert just inside the north-east corner, and the watercourse then runs east along the township boundary to the River Ribble. The east end of the enclosure is of interest, as it contains a former two-stoop gate which has been blocked by a timber-framed sheep creep, which itself has been roughly blocked

with stone (see plate 12). Part of the complex includes a long tightly enclosed walled track to the west (see Site 19) which creates an impressive landscape feature. The site is shown on the historic maps, but is not specifically named.

#### *Collapsed Field Walls*

- 4.45 Although most of the drystone walls in the survey area are in a good condition (see Chapter 5 below), several lengths of now collapsed and redundant wall were recorded. Three sections are mentioned above or below (Sites 41, 61 and 74/7), and these seem to be following or respecting earlier, probably prehistoric, alignments. One other c.350m long example (Site 38) runs from the south-west corner of Riseber Wood south to a sheepwash structure (Site 42). This boundary is shown in its entirety on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1851 6" map (see figure 3), but it is now largely ruinous, up to c.1.2m high, or is visible as an earthwork bank. Its alignment and the fact that it retains a number of larger stones in the base, suggests that it might be of early post-medieval or medieval date, possibly marking the limit of enclosed land to the south of the village.

#### *Water Management Sites*

- 4.46 Several monuments relating to agricultural water management were identified. These have been ascribed a post-medieval date, but some may have earlier origins.
- 4.47 A sub-rectangular shaped pond c.20m long by c.8m wide, lies to the south-west of Riseber Wood (Site 37). It contained water at the time of the site visit but was quite silted up, and it is supplied from another dammed pond immediately outside the survey area, which is itself supplied from a walled-off spring. The pond is shown to have a "dam" at its south end on the Ordnance Survey 1896 6" map. A partially culverted watercourse leaves the south end of the pond and runs south-east for a distance of c.350m to a sheep wash (see Site 42 above). After passing through the sheepwash, the watercourse runs along the north side of the field wall (also the township boundary) before passing through and onto the south side. It is then culverted under Stainforth Lane and runs beyond the survey area into the river via "Robin Hoods Mill". A linear depression on the north side of the wall, c.2m deep and up to c.10m wide in places, together with a blocked culvert in the west side of the Stainforth Lane, suggests that the watercourse (or part of it) may originally have taken a slightly different alignment along the north side of the township wall.
- 4.48 A second watercourse (Site 80), marked as a "Drain" and "Borrens Beck" on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" map, is represented by an underground stone-built culvert or as an open stream to the north-west of Hargreaves Barn. It starts beyond the EDAS survey area, and is then culverted through a field, to emerge through a small opening in a revetment wall which supports a modern track adjacent to a quarry (Site 82). It then flows through a ditch on the north side of field walls, or as a flag-topped stone-lined culvert beneath field walls and Stainforth Lane, before flowing down to the slope into the river.
- 4.49 Three dewponds were noted in the more elevated south-west part of the survey area to the north of Giggleswick Scar. Two (Sites 23 and 35) survive as dry shallow circular depressions with a dished profile, both c.13.0m in diameter and c.0.5m deep, and an third (Site 22), possibly a more modern example, has a similar form but is lined with a concrete skin. Sites 22 and 23 are located within the base of a natural hollow, a location which was often chosen to maximise run off

from rainfall and atmospheric moisture and to reduce evaporation (Rackham 1986, 368). A fourth, now abandoned dewpond (Site 53), can be seen just to the west of Banks Lane in Little Stainforth, represented as a c.10.0m diameter depression 0.5m deep and retained by a bank c.2.0m high and c.4.0m wide. Two other small ponds were recorded (Sites 25 and 26), both located in the base of a natural hollow to the west of Borrins Wood; the latter is still in water and both may have originated as dewponds.

- 4.50 The site of a "Draw Well" (Site 77) was identified from the Ordnance Survey 1851 6" map to the north of Little Stainforth (see figure 3), but nothing now remains at the location depicted. There is also a sunken rectangular trough (Site 91), lined with Horton slabs, adjacent to a field wall to the north-west of Hargreaves Barn.

### *Paths and Trackways*

- 4.51 A footpath (Site 17) runs across the more elevated south-west part of the EDAS survey area. It enters the east side of the area, and is visible as a flattened strip of grass c.2m wide. It climbs steadily up the valley side, and a number of other abraded trackways (Site 33) form an earlier alignment slightly to the south; the majority of these are shallow curvilinear depressions but some may have been created, or more likely accentuated, by modern vehicular action as one track cuts into the north side of a dewpond (Site 35). Another earlier alignment to the north is also represented by a linear depression. Various branches join together at the junction of field walls where there is a step stile. The path then runs north-west across the prehistoric plateau, passing close to several cairns (Sites 21 and 14) and across areas of limestone pavement. This route is still heavily used, and the path incorporates a number of wooden stiles.
- 4.52 A trackway (Site 19) leaves the west side of Stainforth Lane to the south of the village and runs south-west towards High Barn; this section is named as a "Cart Road" on the 1841 tithe apportionment. It then follows a sinuous route through the Romano-British farmstead complex (Site 45), an area of natural terracing, and the lower part of a field system (Site 41), to merge with another footpath (Site 39). It then turns sharply to the south and passes through the sheep wash (Site 42) and then runs west along the tightly enclosed lane. Beyond this, the trackway climbs sharply to the north-west and is visible as a well preserved steep-sided holloway, c.150m long and up to c.2.5m deep. It then passes close to prehistoric cairns (Sites 49 and 15) and joins with path 17 as it leaves the survey area through a modern gate.
- 4.53 "Banks Lane" runs west from the centre of Little Stainforth village, and the subsequent trackway (Site 39) splits into two routes, running to the north-west and south-west of Riseber Wood respectively. The northern route climbs steadily through an area of rough pasture and moorland as a flattened linear grass strip c.2m wide, and crosses elements of a prehistoric field system (Sites 74/1 and 74/7) in the process, as well as one or more hut circles (Site 74/6). It leaves the survey area via a wooden stile, with a step stile in the field wall adjacent to it. The east end of this branch is shown as a straighter line in 1851, whereas by 1909 it assumes a more right-angled alignment. The southern route runs south from the end of Banks Lane as a slightly embanked vehicle track along a lynchet, and then begins to curve north around the natural contours and through a field system (Site 41), before leaving the survey area adjacent to a pond (Site 37) via a step stile; the latter part of its route is barely visible on the ground. These two separate routes eventually converge to the south of Smearsett Scar, and both routes, with a few minor alterations, are shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" map. It has

been suggested that the northern branch forms part of a post-medieval packhorse route, and possibly an earlier medieval route running to monastic estates at Feizor (Wright 1985, 109-110). As noted above, it is possible that a slightly more southerly route through the shrunken village earthworks at Little Stainforth, represents an earlier alignment of this northern branch.

- 4.54 In addition to these long distance tracks and paths, two more localised but probably significant routes were identified within the survey area. A short curvilinear trackway (Site 69), c.160m long and c.4m wide and enclosed for part of its length, runs north from Little Stainforth Farm to join with Stainforth Lane. This might represent an earlier alignment of the main north-south route along this side of the valley. Another route (Site 78) runs north-west from Stainforth Lane to Hargreaves Barn as an enclosed track, and then continues north-west as a footpath formed by a flattened linear strip c.3.0m wide. It may be significant that this path leads towards a Romano-British or early medieval settlement immediately outside the EDAS survey area, and that its route appears to divide or separate two areas of ridge and furrow field system (Sites 76 and 79).
- 4.55 Several interlinked linear depressions (Site 89) recorded on the north edge of Swarth Moor appear to be no more than old vehicle tracks or sheep trails. The site of a footpath (Site 63) to the south-east of Hargreaves Barn was also identified from the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" map.

### **Industrial Sites**

- 4.56 A large number of minor industrial sites were identified within the survey area, the majority of which were limestone quarries. However, a number of lime burning sites and possible mining features were also recorded.

#### *Quarries*

- 4.57 A total of 19 quarries were recorded. It should also be noted that almost any of the limestone outcrops within the survey area could have been exploited for rubble without necessarily leaving any physical trace, for example for building the field walls. The natural bedding planes and jointing in the limestone would make it easy to split using wooden wedges expanded by water; indeed, pieces of stone broken off through natural processes such as frost action could have been collected without any need for working at all. It is therefore likely that the quarries recorded by the EDAS survey represent only the most obvious traces of a widespread and 'low-tech' former industrial activity.
- 4.58 The RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project recorded three quarries of unknown medieval date within the survey area (Sites 52/4, 57 and 73), together with the site of a medieval quarry which could not be located on the ground (Site 36); this latter site could simply be represented by the natural outcrop. In the absence of any clear documentary or physical evidence, it is very difficult to date such features precisely, and so, for the purposes of this survey, all quarries recorded have been grouped as post-medieval. However, given the easily-worked nature of the local limestone, it is almost certain that some outcrops were being exploited in medieval and probably earlier times.
- 4.59 Of the quarries recorded, seven (Sites 6, 18, 29, 32, 44, 46 and 87), together with a possible quarry site (Site 31), are formed by shallow sub-rectangular or semi-circular scoops. Most of these are located close to field walls and they were probably excavated to provide source stone for the building, repair or rebuilding

work. Nine larger quarries (Sites 1, 40, 57, 64, 65, 71, 72, 73 and 82), between c.10m to c.30m long and with working faces c.1m high or higher, were also identified. Of these, one near Leys Barn (Site 82) had presumably supplied stone for an adjacent lime kiln (see Site 83 below) whilst another below Giggleswick Scar (Site 1) may have been associated with the construction of the Keighley to Kendall turnpike road after 1753; this followed the line of the modern A65 close to the site of the quarry and was constructed by improving the route of an existing lane (Wright 1985, 169-173).

- 4.60 Few of the quarries preserved any evidence of working practices; although the larger quarries retained vertical working faces between c.1.0m to c.4.0m in height, no tool marks were observed. Spoil heaps were also notably absent - in this area there is little or no overburden to be removed and, as the end product of most of the quarries was rubble, little was wasted. Two regular depressions (Site 40), each c.6.0m long by c.3.0m wide, within an area of limestone pavement to the south of Riseber Wood appeared to have been worked by using natural fractures in the stone to split and lift out blocks, and this technique may have produced larger, more regular pieces of stone than the ordinary rubble. Probable ruined small drystone shelters or huts were visible at two quarries (Sites 6 and 73). At the former site, above the Giggleswick Scar, the sub-rectangular shelter measured c.2.5m long by c.1.5m wide with ruined walls standing 0.5m high, and the quarry also contained several shallow piles of limestone rubble, indicating that some preparation or sorting of the quarried stone was taking place.

#### *Lime Burning*

- 4.61 The site of a lime kiln (Site 83) was identified from the 1841 tithe map and the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" map to the west of Leys Barn. It was formerly located within a quarry (Site 82) but no trace was visible on the ground apart from a collection of stone rubble and some concrete slabs.
- 4.62 The RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project recorded the sites of several pye kilns of unknown medieval date within the survey area. The term 'pye kiln' denotes a type of clamp kiln, defined as a temporary structure which operated intermittently and had a mixed or separate feed (LUAU 1997a, 11). Examples of clamp kilns are known to exist in Scotland, Northumberland and North Yorkshire (near Scarborough). They are of earthen construction and, although less easily recognised than the more familiar masonry draw kilns, they are prevalent on limestone uplands. They were commonly used when only a poor local fuel supply was available, such as low grade surface coals (Leach 1995, 145 & 155-156).
- 4.63 Four possible lime burning sites were identified within the survey area (Sites 20, 54, 93 and 98), and two of these were contained within larger complexes (Sites 20 and 54). In deference to problems with terminology noted by Leech (1995, 157), the more general term 'clamp kiln' has been applied to this survey. The use of clamp kilns may well date back to the medieval period and before; however, in the absence of any specific documentary or physical dating evidence, those within the survey area have been assigned a post-medieval date.
- 4.64 One of the larger complexes is located to the west of Borrins Wood and comprises a well preserved shaft mound, c.4.0m wide and c.1.5m deep, surrounded by a ring of spoil c.1.5m wide (Site 20). To its south is a D-shaped depression cut into a slope, which may represent a clamp kiln; it is c.5.0m long by c.2.0m wide, and c.0.3m deep with possible traces of a stone lining. Adjacent to it are two similarly-sized but less well preserved earthworks, which may be other kilns. It is possible



that the shaft was used to provide low grade coal for use in the adjacent clamp kiln. A second complex (Site 54) lies to the south-east of High Barn, adjacent to the probable medieval farmstead (Site 52). Here, there is a group of shallow depressions, several of which are sub-rectangular in plan and set into shallow slopes, and one more sub-circular example, c.12m in diameter, may form the remains of a clamp kiln.

- 4.65 A very well preserved and isolated clamp kiln (Site 93) was seen adjacent to the footpath (Site 39) to the south-west of Riseber Wood, in a slightly different location to that recorded by the RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project. It is represented by a pear-shaped depression defined by an outer bank up to c.1.0m high which has been built into a slight slope (see plate 10). The bowl measures c.9.0m north-south and c.7.0m east-west, and the single c.2.0m long 'neck' is open to the south. The interior is filled with stones of varying sizes but there are slight traces of a low revetment wall in the south-west corner, under the rubble. The stone was presumably sourced from quarries and outcrops just to the north. Another similarly-sized example, but represented only by earthworks, was seen to the north of Giggleswick Scar (Site 98).

### *Mining*

- 4.66 An area of rake working (Site 24) was also identified to the north of Giggleswick Scar, formed by a north-west/south-east linear depression, c.60m long and c.1.0m deep. There are numerous sub-circular depressions, c.3.0m in diameter and up to c.1.0m deep, in the base. In the absence of any evidence of metal (i.e. lead) mining in the immediate area, the site may have been working low grade coal, possibly for use in nearby clamp kilns.

## **Other Landscape Features**

### *Woodland*

- 4.67 As noted in Chapter 3 above, there is very little woodland within the survey area; what survives is all broadleaved, established on steeply sloping ground or outcropping limestone which had little other agricultural use. The 1841 tithe map and the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" map shows two main areas - Riseber Wood to the south-west of Little Stainforth, and Banks Wood, to the west of the hamlet; the latter area is now largely bare. There is also a small sub-rectangular, thinly wooded enclosure to the west of High Barn, and the adjacent smaller field is called "Hagg Coppice" on the 1841 tithe apportionment but is only shown as being wooded on the Ordnance Survey 1896 6" map. The final small area of woodland is at Hargreaves Barn, acting as a shelter belt.
- 4.68 Aside from part of the Romano-British farmstead complex (Site 45) which extends into the wood near High Barn, no significant archaeological sites were identified in any of the wooded areas. No evidence of for any previous woodland management, such as coppicing, was recorded.

## **Unclassified Sites**

- 4.69 There are several earthworks and other sites within the survey area which are of uncertain date or purpose; further documentary or archaeological work may provide relevant information.

- 4.70 There is an enclosure (Site 60) to the east of Riseber Wood, immediately below a limestone outcrop. It is sub-rectangular in plan, c.30m long by c.12m wide, and is defined by banks c.3.0m wide and up to c.1.5m high. The proximity of the enclosure to the wood or quarry might give a clue to its function, although there was no evidence for any such activities. It may be related to the adjacent Romano-British lynchet field system (Site 59) or the farmstead complex (Site 45), and its alignment is similar to the cross banks seen on the aerial photographs and, as was suggested above, might be associated with a prehistoric co-axial field system (Site 61).
- 4.71 Three short lengths of boundary, containing some grassed-over stone rubble (Site 30), were seen to the west of Borrins Wood but another bank (Site 94) seen on aerial photographs to the south of Reinsber Scar could not be identified. These boundaries may be connected with a large Romano-British complex lying to the east of the survey area.
- 4.72 A platform c.5.0m square (Site 43) to the south-west of High Barn may represent a small regular quarry. However, it resembles a smaller version of an enclosure (Site 51) to the south-east, where a limestone outcrop appears to have been levelled to give a flat interior surface.
- 4.73 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6" map marks a "Hanging Stone" (Site 90) on the line of a field boundary which forms the north edge of a large enclosure on Swarth Moor. It appears to have been some sort of boundary stone but it was not located in the field, and seems to have been relocated or moved away from its original site.
- 4.74 There is a cave (Site 2) to the north-west of Giggleswick Scar, located beneath a limestone outcrop. It has a tall narrow entrance leading into a rubble-choked interior c.3m long and, although the cave is clearly a natural feature, it may have been occupied at some point, perhaps as a temporary shelter.

## **5 FIELD BOUNDARIES AND WALL FURNITURE**

### **Introduction**

- 5.1 As part of the archaeological survey, all the boundaries within and around the two land holdings were walked, with chief characteristics including stratigraphic relationships being observed and recorded, as well as the presence of any wall furniture. Each wall was assigned one of ten types, using the typology previously established for EDAS-type landscape surveys (BHWB 1995; Dennison 1997a, 1997b and 2000). The wall furniture that was recorded included step stiles, squeeze stiles, gateways, rabbit holes, and sheep creeps, all of which may be open or blocked; the presence of stone stoops in gateways and other openings was also noted.
- 5.2 Within and around the 189 hectare survey area there are some 20.7km of standing field boundaries, predominantly drystone walls, but also including some short lengths of fencing. No hedges were recorded, although a number of the field walls originally appear to have been at least partly formed from hedgerows. The overall impression is that the surviving boundaries are well maintained, with only a small number that are no longer stockproof. Although this means there is good survival, it also means that frequent rebuilding has been taking place and it is likely that there has been some loss of historical features and wall furniture.
- 5.3 It should also be noted that all the boundaries within and around the perimeter of the study area were recorded, with no reference being made to their ownership. In some cases, the perimeter boundaries of the study area may be the property of adjacent landowners.

### **General Comments**

- 5.4 As with the previous walling surveys, the amount of information gathered for the recorded boundaries was limited. Although the boundaries are frequently made up of several elements, it was not considered appropriate to record all of these, because some clearly have very little or no bearing on the archaeological or historical significance of the boundary; for example, the height of a wall can vary considerably along a stretch of wall of a single phase of construction.
- 5.5 The volume of information gathered during the survey precluded the assembly of a descriptive gazetteer of the boundaries, which, it is believed, would have contributed little to the historical or archaeological understanding of the survey area. Instead, a typology was established and each field boundary was classified accordingly. The resulting information is therefore presented in graphic form (see figures 9 and 10), with some additional information recorded in the project archive.
- 5.6 Although general principles regarding the form and structure of drystone walls have been established, such as the use of throughstones or large boulder footings, the dating of walls is clearly problematic. Even when archaeological excavation or dismantling of field walls has been carried out, this has generally revealed little or no dating evidence. General principles have been applied to the interpretation of the walls in the survey area, but it is nevertheless clear that it is only possible to assign relative dates.
- 5.7 A fundamental problem concerning the interpretation of present day drystone wall boundaries is the fact that continuous repair or replacement of walls will have taken place, to produce a relatively new structure on a much older boundary. This

means that stratigraphic relationships between walls, such as butt joints, are often potentially misleading. Additionally, it is clear in several places that a wall of recent appearance has been built on an earthwork bank of much earlier origins. In other walling surveys, the use of historic maps has allowed the identification of early boundaries but there are relatively few maps and plans for the survey area, and it is noticeable that the pattern of field boundaries here has changed relatively little over the past 200 years.

### **Boundary Typologies** (see figure 9)

- 5.8 The boundaries within the survey area were classified according to their broad type, i.e. fence or wall, and in the latter case, their form of construction.
- 5.9 The materials used in wall construction vary greatly from one place to another and major changes can occur within a few yards of wall. These differences can be ascribed to the frequent variations in the available stone, caused by the fluctuating nature of the underlying geology. Within the EDAS study area, limestone is the most common walling material, with sandstone being the next. Horton flags are used in relatively small proportions, but are often used as throughstones and for gate stoops, particularly towards the north end of the study area. In some parts of the study area, walls are constructed from a mixture of glacial cobbles, which appear to be derived from field clearance. All this indicates that stone was historically sourced as locally as possible (as might be expected), and in many places, particularly on the limestone areas, small pits adjacent to the walls are almost certainly the result of quarrying for walling stone; these were mentioned in Chapter 4 above. The geological make-up of the walls has not therefore been used in the establishment of the topological series.
- 5.10 Various methods of coping were also observed, chiefly random and slanted coping. To a large extent, these can be ascribed to the type of stone available, and the time elapsed since repairs were carried out, as slanted coping tends to settle to a more irregular and random appearance after some time. Coping is also subject to frequent replacement as it is the first part of a wall to become dislodged, and it is often replaced in a different manner to that in the vicinity or on neighbouring sections.
- 5.11 Of the ten boundary types included in the previously established typology, only four were identified and recorded during this project, as follows:
  - Type 1: Fence (post and wire)
  - Type 3: Drystone wall: two or more courses of throughstones
  - Type 4: Drystone wall: one or no courses of throughstones
  - Type 10: Other walls, including garden or ornamental walls
- 5.12 The following types were not identified during the survey:
  - Type 2: Hedgerow
  - Type 5: Drystone wall: one course of throughstones, projecting to one side only
  - Type 6: Drystone wall: one or no courses of throughstones with large boulder footings
  - Type 7: Drystone wall: one or no courses of throughstones, with a distinct batter to the lower part
  - Type 8: Drystone wall, largely collapsed, and replaced by modern fencing
  - Type 9: Drystone wall demonstrably of modern (i.e. post-1945) date

- 5.13 The relative proportion of the four boundary types within the survey area is summarised below and their distribution is shown on figure 9. It should be noted that the measurements have been recorded from 1:2,500 scale field sketch plans using a planimeter with an accuracy level of +/- 10m.

<i>Boundary type</i>	<i>Km recorded</i>	<i>% of total boundaries</i>
1	0.5	2.4
3	12.2	58.9
4	7.9	38.2
10	0.1	0.5

## **Boundary Descriptions**

### *Type 1: Fences*

- 5.14 Approximately 0.5km of fencing was recorded in the survey area, accounting for some 2.4% of the total length of boundaries. Only the post and wire type was recorded, and this has been used for two purposes: firstly to create new boundaries, for example to the north of Little Stainforth and above Giggleswick Scar, and secondly to fill gaps in an earlier wall along the escarpment to the west of Riseber Wood.

### *Type 3: Drystone walls with two or more courses of throughstones*

- 5.15 This group forms the most common type of wall found within the survey area. Approximately 12.2km of this type of boundary was recorded, constituting some 58.9% of the total length of all boundaries.
- 5.16 Type 3 walls are found in all parts of the survey area, and they are built of different types of stone. They provide a relatively stable form of boundary when compared with the Type 4 walls, and in many cases they appear to be more recent. However, there is no firm rule regarding this, and there is at least one clear example of a Type 4 wall being later than the adjacent Type 3 walls (e.g. 200m west of Reinsber Scar).
- 5.17 Within the survey area as a whole, there is no clear pattern regarding the distribution of Type 3 walls, but in the northern holding they tend to be concentrated in the valley floor. In many cases they also appear to have been rebuilt relatively recently, and are therefore perhaps associated with those walls which are either still in use, or which are most intensively used.
- 5.18 To some extent the availability of appropriate stone appears to have influenced the distribution of Type 3 walls within the survey area. In particular, glacial cobbles, and certain types of limestone, do not appear to produce easily used blocks of stone suitable for throughstones, and such materials tend to be used in presumed earlier Type 4 walls (see below). This influence is illustrated by the appearance of both Type 3 and 4 walling within a single length of boundary, where different stone types appear to become available. In at least one case, south of Reinsber Scar, Horton flags appear to have been specially imported for use as throughstones.
- 5.19 Previous walling surveys at The Hagg in Fremington (Swaledale) and as part of the Swinithwaite Estate survey (Wensleydale) (BHWP 1995, 84-85; Dennison 1997a) have suggested that Type 3 walls are a product of the 18th or early 19th century enclosure movement. The 1778 enclosure award for Fremington stipulates that the new walls had to have "...two rows of throughs at proper distances and be made thirty inches [0.76m] wide at the bottom and taper gradually to sixteen inches

[0.40m] at the top...”, while the 1778 Grassington enclosure award states that the walls should have 21 throughs per rood of wall, the first course two feet [0.60m] above the ground and the second four feet [1.22m] above the ground (Dennison 1997a, 56; Raistrick 1959, 11-12).

- 5.20 There are also a few contemporary accounts of Type 3 wall building. Charles Fothergill, travelling in Wensleydale in September 1805, recorded the building of a Type 3 wall as follows:

*“When the wall is raised according to the above figure about 20 Inches from the ground (observing to keep the width or thickness of the base from 24 to 30 inches, tapering gradually to the top where it must be left about 15 Inches thick) a large flat stone that will reach thro’ the wall and is about 3 Inches thick is then laid on and in the above section is marked A1 [reference to an accompanying drawing]; these stones are called throughs. Three of them are used in the perpendicular of one of these walls and are put in rows 20 Inches above each other, the first being as I have observed 20 Inches from the ground; they strengthen the wall and render it firm; the third, [A3], is put on the top and upon that perhaps a row of stones; when the top through is not used, a row of stones set obliquely is thought to be the best”* (Romney 1984, 115).

- 5.21 It is therefore quite possible that the Little Stainforth Type 3 walls are of a late 18th or 19th century date. However, it also appears that many lengths of wall have been rebuilt in this style, and that the availability of different types of stone, caused by the underlying geological conditions, has skewed the existing distribution.

*Type 4: Drystone walls with one or no courses of throughstones*

- 5.22 The second most common type of wall is Type 4, which is similar to Type 3 in many respects, with a fundamental difference being the presence of very few or no protruding throughstones. Approximately 7.9km of this type of wall was recorded, which forms around 38.2% of the total length of all the boundaries.

- 5.23 As with Type 3 walls, there is no clear pattern regarding the distribution of this type, and the influence of geology and the availability of suitable material for throughstones is believed to be important in many cases. No significant differences in height or width were noted in walls of these two types, and this tends to support the idea that stone availability is important.

- 5.24 The Swinithwaite Estate Survey suggested that Type 4 walls were of a 17th or early to mid 18th century date (BHWB 1995, 85), but at Low Oxque (Swaledale) there is a correlation with the presumed enclosure boundaries of the later 18th century. It is known that the later half of the 17th century saw a major period of enclosure in the Yorkshire Dales (Beaumont 1996; Muir 1992), a period which also saw the rebuilding of most farms and hamlets in stone, and a national trend towards agricultural improvement. It is therefore suggested that the Type 4 walls, which are generally earlier than the Type 3 walls, date to the 17th to late 18th century. Unfortunately, there is insufficient direct historical data for the Little Stainforth area to add any detail to this broad conclusion.

*Type 10: Other walls, including garden and ornamental walls*

- 5.25 Only 0.1km of this wall type was identified, forming the garden wall to Little Stainforth Farm. This represents 0.5% of the total boundaries and does not form a significant proportion. It should also be noted that this location is the only place where boundaries within the study area lie adjacent to a garden.

## Wall Furniture (see figure 10)

### Gateways

- 5.26 The presence of gateways within the various drystone walls and fences was recorded by the survey. Information such as the presence of stone gate stoops (posts) was noted, as was the existence of inserted gateways of relatively recent date.
- 5.27 Stone stoops are found in gateways throughout the survey area, and are made of different types of stone; Horton flags were especially popular, but limestone and sandstone stoops were also recorded, especially in the southern part of the survey area. As with other features associated with field boundaries, it is clearly difficult or impossible to date gateways, beyond their date relative to the wall or other boundary structure. Only a small proportion of gateways were identified as having been inserted, but many more appear to have been widened, in most cases to allow a tractor and other mechanised equipment through. Often a single stone gate stoop remains *in situ*, and the second has been removed to allow such widening; the removed stoop often lies close to the gateway (see plate 11). In the Upper Wharfedale walling survey, there was a distinct correlation between gates with stoops and early route ways (Dennison 2000), but this could not be established for Little Stainforth; the Stainforth survey covered a much smaller sample of field walls.
- 5.28 Several blocked gateways were observed within the walls but no clear distribution or pattern can be established. Most simply appear to result from the resiting of a gateway to a more convenient point, or the changing occupancy or ownership of land.

### Stiles

- 5.29 Numerous stiles were recorded in the survey area. A distinction was made between wooden stiles, which are clearly of recent date, and stiles within the wall itself, which were of two types (or a combination of these): the step stile and the squeeze stile.
- 5.30 The step stile is created by the use of two or more projecting throughstones on both sides of the wall, usually in a diagonal pattern, allowing one to 'step' over the wall. The squeeze stile is formed by a narrow gap in the wall, allowing pedestrians to pass through the wall, but not livestock. These latter stiles are often lined by stone uprights, which protect the wall fabric.
- 5.31 The distribution of stiles is complex, although step stiles are more common than squeeze stiles. Although many stiles are found on existing and historic rights of way, there are many others which are not, and in some cases these are associated with outlying farm buildings. Several stiles are now blocked, possibly a consequence of the use of vehicles by farmers and perhaps a wish to restrict public access to statutorily defined rights of way. Several step or squeeze stiles have also been replaced with adjacent wooden stiles, presumably in the interests of health and safety.

### Sheep Creeps

- 5.32 Sheep creeps are openings in the lower part of a wall which are intended to allow the free passage of sheep through a wall without the use of a gateway. Typical

dimensions for sheep creeps are 0.8m high and 0.5m wide; they are generally capped with a flat lintel, in a few cases with a timber frame maintaining the shape of the hole.

- 5.33 Twenty-eight sheep creeps were recorded throughout the survey area, and almost all were concentrated in the northern land holding, possibly reflecting the small size and compactness of the grazing units. The majority are blocked (only one remained open) and evidently redundant, as less intensive farming methods require less control over use of pasture.

#### *Rabbit Holes*

- 5.34 Rabbit holes are small intentional openings, c.0.2m square, through the base of walls, and are distinct from holes intended to allow drainage or water through the wall. Only a single example was identified within the survey area, on Giggleswick Scar. No rabbit types were found during the survey.



## 6 INTERPRETATIVE DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### Introduction

- 6.1 The survey has identified a total of 121 individual archaeological sites and/or components within the 189 hectares of the Little Stainforth survey area. In addition, 20.7km of extant field boundaries have been recorded and classified.
- 6.2 In terms of national importance, only one site (Site 15), a ring cairn north-east of Giggleswick Scar (NGR SD80516646) is scheduled as an Ancient Monument. No Listed Buildings were included within the survey area.
- 6.3 As mentioned in Chapter 1 above, each site and/or component has been categorised in terms of its importance (I), condition (C) and vulnerability (V). The grades for each individual site are included in Appendix 1 while Appendices 3 to 5 provide lists of the sites ranked according to each of the three categories. The following table provides a statistical summary of the various grades of sites:

	<i>Grade 5 (highest)</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>	<i>Grade 3 (median)</i>	<i>Grade 2</i>	<i>Grade 1 (lowest)</i>
<i>Importance</i>	1	16	36	53	15
<i>Condition</i>	1	16	66	27	11
<i>Vulnerability</i>	0	5	35	74	7

### Archaeological Sites

#### *Discussion*

- 6.4 The majority of the archaeological sites (68 out of 121 or 56% of the total) identified by the survey are considered to be of local and or minor importance; most are minor field monuments of medieval or post-medieval date. It should also be noted that the lower category of Grade 1 (minor importance) sites includes six sites previously identified by the RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project which could not be positively recognised in the field at the time of the site visits (Sites 10, 11, 36, 62, 81 and 94), and seven sites which appear to have been destroyed (Sites 28, 63, 77, 81, 90, 95 and 100); the importance of the former six sites would almost certainly be upgraded if they were subsequently located and assessed. One site is of national importance, and 16 others of considered to be of regional importance. These are discussed below, with reference to other less significant sites where relevant.
- 6.5 The dating of the prehistoric field systems and associated elements within the survey area is uncertain, as it is in the rest of the Yorkshire Dales, but a general Iron Age/Romano-British period is traditionally applied (White 1997, 27). One of the most important sites, the farmstead complex (Site 74) to the north-west of Little Stainforth, appears to be located within a field system formed by at least three major parallel axial boundaries set at c.80m centres, lying both within and outside the survey area. It is significant that part of one of these boundaries appears to have either continued in use, or more likely was re-used in the post-medieval period, while at the same time a new boundary was constructed on a parallel but offset alignment. The farmstead complex itself consists of three interlinked enclosures, within which hut circles may be located, and there are other adjacent and possibly contemporary enclosures; adjacent cairns may be field clearance mounds associated with the field system or may be earlier burial mounds. Traces of another, or possibly part of the same, co-axial field system were seen to the

south, and its association with hut circles and enclosures has parallels with other larger complexes seen at, for example, Grassington (Raistrick 1937).

- 6.6 To the north of Giggleswick Scar, two of the larger cairns (Sites 15 and 21) have been assigned a Bronze Age date by English Heritage, and a similar date could possibly be inferred for the other prehistoric sites in this part of the survey area; the number of cairns here reinforces the identification of a cairn cemetery as previously suggested by King in this general area (Radley 1967, 112).
- 6.7 The Romano-British farmstead complex (Site 45) to the south-west of Little Stainforth consists of a D-shaped enclosure containing possible buildings, with a number of other associated enclosures attached to its north and south sides (see figure 6a-6b). A lynchet field system (Site 59), which appears to be contemporary, lies to the north, and this might overlie an earlier co-axial field system. Similar examples of these farmstead complexes, and attendant field systems, have been recorded elsewhere within the general area (King 1978; 1986), and there is a very fine and larger example immediately outside the study area to the west and south of Borrins Wood (RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project NY.1239.35). All the possible building earthworks noted within Site 45 appear to be sub-rectangular rather than round or oval, perhaps suggesting a later Romano-British date rather than an earlier one. In addition to remnants of long strip fields which extend up the hillside, this complex also has small attached enclosures and plots which King has suggested represent vegetable or seed corn gardens (King 1986, 184).
- 6.8 The other focus of settlement of a similar or slightly later date lies to the north-west of Hargreaves Barn, again just outside the EDAS survey area. The RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project record this site as a number of enclosures, platforms and buildings (RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project NY.1239.57) and King appears to have surveyed and partly excavated the site (Butler 1971, 195). It is quite possible that parts of the medieval field system seen in the north-west part of the survey area are associated with it, for example the west sides of Sites 76 and/or 79, but without the evidence from King's survey it is difficult to determine this. However, there is a morphological difference between the two systems; that to the south of a path (Site 76) has an apparent lack of internal boundaries and so may have formed a large 'out-field', whilst the system to the north (Site 79) has narrower c.40m wide blocks of strips which may have formed an 'in-field'.
- 6.9 During the medieval period, the main area of settlement appears to have been the hamlet of Little Stainforth itself; the term 'Little' differentiates this village from the larger settlement of Stainforth on the east side of the valley, and Little Stainforth was also previously called Knight Stainforth (Smith 1961, 155; 1841 tithe map). The hamlet, which is first documented in 1578, lies at the junction of two routes, Stainforth Lane which runs north-south up this side of the valley, and an east-west route (Site 39) which lead from the river crossing west to monastic estates at and beyond Feizor (Wright 1985, 109). The latter was probably the earlier route, and the village appears to originally have had an east-west orientation with earthworks on the south side of Banks Lane (Site 67), showing that the settlement contracted in size and perhaps was later re-aligned on a more north-south orientation during the late medieval or early post-medieval period. A continuation of the potential monastic route to the west from Little Stainforth is now represented by a track and path (Site 39 north).
- 6.10 It is quite likely that the presumed Romano-British field system remained in use, or was re-used, in the early medieval or medieval periods, and some of the other lynchet field systems (Sites 52/2 and 56) to the south of Little Stainforth are of a

similar form. One or two of the lynchets appear to have been disturbed by later intrusions, such as the south end of Site 56 which seems to have had later ridge and furrow ploughed across its line. This, together with the buildings or structures within a possible medieval farm complex to the south (Site 52), may represent a re-organisation of existing field systems in this particular area.

- 6.11 There are no significant post-medieval sites within the survey area, as might be expected within an essentially rural environment. However, two possible small lime burning complexes (Sites 20 and 54) appear to have been identified, and both contain at least one clamp or pye kiln which used locally obtained low grade coal as a fuel. In the recent MPP Step 3 survey of the Lime, Cement and Plaster Industries, clamp kilns of all types were severely under-represented, with a marked geographical bias towards Derbyshire (LUAU 1997a, 11). It is acknowledged that they are a more common landscape feature than current evidence would suggest, and the identification of these complexes, as well two isolated clamp kiln sites (Sites 93 and 98), serves to prove this point.
- 6.12 The earliest documentary evidence for pye kilns comes from the late 18th century and they are mostly found on calcareous limestone, which requires a greater heat to calcine. Contemporary descriptions note that the kiln was constructed by cutting a depression into a slope, with a channel in the base leading to three openings in one of the earth/stone/turf walls. Alternate layers of coal and stone were then heaped up within and the whole covered with turf and left to burn. Pye kilns had several advantages over other kiln types; they were cheaper to build and run, and also produced a better quality of lime. A field survey of surviving pye kilns in Derbyshire has revealed them to be sub-rectangular or longitudinal structures, sunken or cut into a slope. Some were surrounded by low walls or banks and the number of drawing eyes or arches varied; some had traces of a drystone lining. Although there were variations in size, many fell between c.8m to c.13m in length and between c.2.0m to c.4.5m in width (Leach 1995, 145-158).
- 6.13 Most of the quarries within the survey area were graded as being of local importance. It is important to note that, as an end product, rubble quarries (including quarries for field walls) were also severely underrepresented in the MPP Step 3 survey of the Stone Quarrying Industry. There was a lack of coverage of small field quarries in general; although there are vast numbers of potential sites to choose from, their very nature suggests that there may be a possible lack of schedulable remains (LUAU 1997b, 16). Whilst no specific management recommendations have been made for any of the quarries within the survey area, sites of this type may be best protected as part of wider landscape management schemes, such as the one which this report informs.
- 6.14 Finally, it should be noted that, although 121 archaeological sites or components were identified within the two land holdings, there may be many other minor and more ephemeral sites, such as the earthwork remains of medieval field barns or further clamp kilns, which were not recorded by the survey. These types of sites are generally not recognised by rapid identification and sketch surveys such as this project. The total of 121 archaeological sites should therefore be seen as an indicative rather than a precise figure.

### *Importance*

- 6.15 One site within the survey area is of national importance (Grade 5), and 16 others were considered to be of regional importance (Grade 4), as set out below. It can be seen that the majority of these sites comprised the various sub-components of

the Romano-British farmstead (Site 45) and the prehistoric farmstead (Site 74), to the south-west and north-west of Little Stainforth respectively. A full list of sites ranked according to importance appears as Appendix 3.

<i>Site no</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Importance Grade</i>	<i>Comment</i>
15	Ring cairn, northeast of Giggleswick Scar	5	Part of a wider prehistoric landscape
45	Romano-British farmstead to the south-west and north-west of High Barn	4	A well preserved complex with relationships to the wider landscape
45/1	Enclosure and buildings, north-west of High Barn	4	Part of a well preserved complex
45/2	Possible enclosure and buildings, west of High Barn	4	Part of a well preserved complex
45/3	Field boundaries, west of High Barn	4	Part of a well preserved complex
45/4	Enclosure and buildings, south-west of High Barn	4	Part of a well preserved complex
45/5	Enclosure, south of High Barn	4	Part of a well preserved complex
45/6	Enclosure, south of High Barn	4	Part of a well preserved complex
45/7	Enclosure, south-west of High Barn	4	Part of a well preserved complex
74	Prehistoric settlement complex and field system, north-west of High Barn	4	Well preserved complex and part of a wider prehistoric landscape
74/1	Field system, north-west of Little Stainforth	4	Part of a wider prehistoric landscape
74/2	Settlement or farmstead, north-west of Little Stainforth	4	Part of a wider prehistoric landscape
74/3	Hut circle and boundary bank, north-west of Little Stainforth	4	Part of a wider prehistoric landscape
74/4	Enclosure and boundary bank, north-west of Little Stainforth	4	Part of a wider prehistoric landscape
74/5	Cairns, north-west of Little Stainforth	4	Part of a wider prehistoric landscape
74/6	Hut circles, west of Little Stainforth	4	Part of a wider prehistoric landscape
74/7	Field boundary and boundary bank, west of Little Stainforth	4	Part of a wider prehistoric landscape

### *Condition*

- 6.16 The categorisation of the archaeological sites in terms of their condition has shown that the majority (66 out of 121 or 54%) are thought to be in a medium condition, i.e. discernable with sections of walls, earthworks and other features surviving to at least 25% of their estimated original height. Of the eleven sites with the lowest grade of condition, four could not be located, while the remaining seven were sites which had been destroyed and for which no above-ground evidence remained.
- 6.17 Only one site was thought to be in good condition, a sheepfold in the south-east part of Swarth Moor (Site 88), while 16 were of an above average condition, as set out below. A full list of sites ranked according to condition appears as Appendix 4.

<i>Site no</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Importance Grade</i>	<i>Comment</i>
88	Sheepfold, south-east part of Swarth Moor	5	
13	Cairn, north-west of Giggleswick Scar	4	
22	Dewpond, north of Giggleswick Scar	4	
23	Dewpond, north of Giggleswick Scar	4	
24	Rake working, north of Giggleswick Scar	4	
35	Dewpond, south-west of Reinsber Scar	4	
42	Sheepwash, west of Borrins Wood	4	Now disused, but in good condition
45	Romano-British farmstead to the south-west and north-west of High Barn	4	
45/1	Enclosure and buildings, north-west of High Barn	4	Wooded area is slightly disturbed
45/2	Possible enclosure and building, west of High Barn	4	Wooded area is slightly disturbed
45/4	Enclosure and buildings, south-west of High Barn	4	
45/6	Enclosure, south of High Barn	4	
49	Cairn and boundary bank, north of Giggleswick Scar	4	Some possible disturbance
74	Prehistoric settlement complex and field system, north-west of Little Stainforth	4	
74/2	Settlement or farmstead, north-west of Little Stainforth	4	
74/3	Hut circle and boundary bank, north-west of Little Stainforth	4	
93	Clamp kiln, south-west of Riseber Wood	4	Well preserved example

### *Vulnerability*

- 6.18 In terms of vulnerability, the majority (74 out of 121 or 61%) of the archaeological sites are considered not to be under threat or at risk. Thirty-five were thought to be potentially at risk, from a combination of agricultural improvements, infilling, stone robbing and/or vehicular movement. No sites were considered to be at high risk (Grade 5), and only five sites were considered to be at above average risk; a ring cairn (Site 21), a ruined shelter (Site 27) a field wall (Site 38), and two of the Romano-British enclosures (Sites 45/1 and 45/2). Sites 27 and 38 are both in a ruinous condition and will probably collapse further, and are vulnerable to stone removal while the ring cairn is at risk from disturbance from walkers using the adjacent footpath. Elements of the Romano-British farmstead complex (Sites 45/1 and 45/2) lie with mature woodland, and are vulnerable to root disturbance and windthrow; the latter site is also at risk from dumping. A full list of sites ranked according to vulnerability appears as Appendix 5.

## Field Boundaries

### *Discussion*

- 6.19 The survey of the c.20.7km of field boundaries within the two land holdings has highlighted the fact that almost 98% of the boundaries are drystone walls. The majority of the walls fall into two categories, Type 3 (those with two or more courses of throughstones - 58.9%) and Type 4 (those with one or no courses of throughstones - 38.2%); the dominance of these two types repeats a general trend seen in the previous walling surveys (BHWB 1995; Dennison 1997a and b; Dennison 2000).
- 6.20 It is inferred that the Little Stainforth Type 3 walls date to the late 18th or 19th century, while the Type 4 walls are slightly earlier. However, the lack of cartographic and documentary material means that it is difficult to provide direct confirmation of this, and it is quite likely that the typology and distribution has been skewed by other factors. These factors include the availability of different types of stone which leads to different methods of construction, and it appears that many lengths of wall have been rebuilt in a Type 3 style.

### *Condition*

- 6.21 The condition of the field boundaries within the study area varies, and there is a distinct difference between the two landholdings. The northern holding contains very few walls which are not stockproof, with only one or two short stretches adjacent to plantations or woods being in this poor condition. The boundaries in this area also appear to be well maintained, with recent repairs being evident, and recent collapse relatively rare; fencing does not appear to be used to repair gaps, although it is used on top of existing walls in many instances. A high proportion of the gateways in this landholding also appear to have been recently rebuilt.
- 6.22 In the southern landholding, the boundaries are slightly less well maintained, with a small number of walls being no longer stockproof and suffering from small areas of collapse, although in no case for more than 5% of the boundary's total length (i.e. 'stockproof with gaps'). It appears that much of this holding is now worked as a single grazing unit, with little need for sub-division, and that many of the internal boundaries are effectively redundant. However, there is evidence for some recent repairs in most of the walls, and again, fencing does not appear to be used as a short-term measure although there is quite a lot of wall-top fencing.

## **7 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Introduction**

- 7.1 The recommendations resulting from the completion of the survey can be considered under two headings, the future management of the identified sites and the requirement for further work.
- 7.2 As noted in Chapter 1 above, the survey area comprised two separate but adjoining farm holdings. The largest area, farmed from Little Stainforth Farm, covers 123 hectares mostly to the west of Stainforth Lane and Little Stainforth village, while the adjacent, more southerly holding farmed from Cowside Farm, covers 66 hectares to the west of Stackhouse village (see figure 2). In terms of the number of sites in each holding, the Cowside Farm area contains 44 sites, while Little Stainforth Farm contains 76 sites (see Appendix 6). One trackway (Site 19) runs across both holdings. In terms of site densities, Little Stainforth Farm has 1.6 sites per hectare, and Cowside Farm has 1.5 sites per hectare.

### **Management Recommendations**

- 7.3 The categorisation of the surviving archaeological sites in terms of their condition and vulnerability has shown that the majority are in a medium condition, and that they are generally not under threat (see table in Chapter 6 above). This is a reflection of past management practises and the fact that most of the survey area is currently given over to pasture; this pasture is a combination of improved pasture, generally on the lower slopes, and rough pasture at higher levels.
- 7.4 The main threat to the archaeological sites is considered to be agricultural improvements, either the ploughing and re-seeding of grassland areas, the improvement of existing grassland through re-seeding or direct drilling, or a conversion to alternative crop regimes; once ploughed, an earthwork loses its definition and the site's overall importance is diminished by the disturbance of both the above and below ground archaeological deposits. At present, agricultural improvement does not appear to be a significant issue, although the rounded nature of the earthworks at some sites (for example Sites 67, 76 and 79) suggests that some work has taken place in the past.
- 7.5 The other management issues generally associated with pasture environments, such as overstocking, overgrazing and erosion caused by animals, also do not appear to be issues. No site was considered to be at significant risk from, or was being damaged by, stock, although some erosion might result from inappropriately-positioned sheep feeders on one site (Site 67/3). What disturbance there was appeared to be a result of human intervention.

### **Cowside Farm**

- 7.6 A summary of the recommendations for those 44 sites within the Cowside Farm holding appears in Appendix 6. In most cases, no specific action or management is recommended, other than maintaining the current condition of the site and continuing with the present land use. One or two sites would appear to offer the opportunity of infilling, such as a shaft mound and two abandoned dewponds (Sites 20, 22 and 23), and this should be resisted. A few sites are potentially at risk from erosion and damage due to vehicular movement, such as Sites 33, 34, and 35 in the south-east corner of the holding; wherever possible, vehicle movement should be restricted to single routes away from the defined sites. The robbing and re-use

of stone, possibly for drystone wall repair, from a small shelter (Site 27) should also be resisted. The condition and state of preservation of the two important prehistoric ring cairns and an adjacent cairn (Sites 15, 21 and 48) should be monitored on a regular basis (say six monthly), to ensure that damage or disturbance is not being caused by walkers on the adjacent paths.

- 7.7 It is accepted that the repair of field boundaries is a necessary, continuing and very expensive element of land management. However, it is recommended that, if at all possible, the repair and/or rebuilding of stone walls should be in keeping with the structure and form of the adjoining lengths, so as to maintain the overall effect and typology of the boundary. In all cases, the existence of any wall furniture such as stiles, gates, troughs or sheep creeps should be noted and respected during repair work.

### **Little Stainforth Farm**

- 7.8 A summary of the recommendations for those 76 sites within the Little Stainforth Farm holding also appears in Appendix 6. Once again, in most cases, no specific action or management is recommended, other than maintaining the current condition of the site and the present land use. The robbing and re-use of stone from three former field boundaries (Sites 38, 41 and 74/7) should be resisted, and vehicular movement through the Romano-British lynchet field system (Site 59) and adjacent farmstead complex (Site 45) should be tightly controlled to prevent inadvertent damage or erosion. Any deliberate disturbance to Site 67 (shrunk village earthworks), Site 45 (Romano-British farmstead complex) and Site 74 (prehistoric settlement complex) should be strongly resisted; this action includes any ground improvement works.
- 7.9 Over and above these general points, one or two sites within the holding do have specific management issues. As noted in Section 4.3 above, part of one of the Romano-British enclosures (Site 45/2) has been used as a dumping ground for domestic and farm rubbish, although this action may not be continuing at present. Nevertheless, it is recommended that this action is curtailed and that some, if not all, of the debris is removed in a controlled manner; in addition to being unsightly, the rubbish is starting to obscure some of the earthworks which make up this regionally important site. Part of the area encompassed by Site 67/3 (shrunk village earthworks) is also starting to suffer some minor erosion due to sheep feeders; the re-positioning of these feeders some 50m to the south into the area of ridge and furrow will resolve this problem. Sites immediately adjacent to public footpaths, such as Sites 74/1, 74/6, 74/7 and 93, should be monitored on a regular basis (say six monthly), to ensure that damage or disturbance is not being caused by walkers.
- 7.10 Finally, there are some sites within this farm holding where the nature and character of the earthworks are such that further land improvement would not be an issue; in other words, it is considered that the sites in question are already sufficiently degraded and are of a sufficient grade of importance not to merit protection. This applies to Sites 55, 58 (part), 68, 70, 84 and 85, sites which are all part of ridge and furrow and lynchet systems.
- 7.11 As with the previous holding above, the repair and/or rebuilding of stone walls should be in keeping with the structure and form of the adjoining lengths, so as to maintain the overall effect and typology of the boundary. In all cases, the existence of any wall furniture such as stiles, gates, troughs or sheep creeps should be noted



and respected during repair work, and it would be appropriate to re-erect and re-use some of the fallen gate stoops.

### **Recommendations for Further Work**

- 7.12 The recommendations for further work can be considered under two headings, that which would aid interpretation, understanding and management of the features which have already been recorded by this survey, and that which would help to place this survey into a wider landscape context.
- 7.13 The former would cover site specific work and the type of work that it is envisaged would include the detailed earthwork survey and possible geophysical survey (where relevant) of those sites that are presently only partially or poorly understood. Two major complexes are recommended for this work, the Romano-British farmstead (Site 45) and the area of shrunken village earthworks (Site 67) adjacent to the village. In addition, it is recommended that the field to the south of the village (covering 4.5 hectares) is also surveyed; this field contains the possible medieval farmstead (Site 52), a series of field enclosures (Site 50), and a potential lime burning complex (Site 54). In all cases, detailed survey would not only enhance the understanding of these sites but would also provide more information on how the individual sub-components relate to one another.
- 7.14 The latter set of recommendations would comprise further general and site-specific work, over and above that which is required for specific management regimes. This would include the detailed earthwork surveys of sites in the upland parts of the survey area, which are unlikely to be under threat from agricultural improvement, specifically the prehistoric farmstead complex (Site 74) to the north-west of Little Stainforth. A survey of the possible small lime burning complex (Site 20) to the west of Borrins Wood and the well preserved isolated clamp kiln (Site 93) just to the north may provide further information on a kiln type which is presently under-represented on a national level and less well understood than other kiln types.

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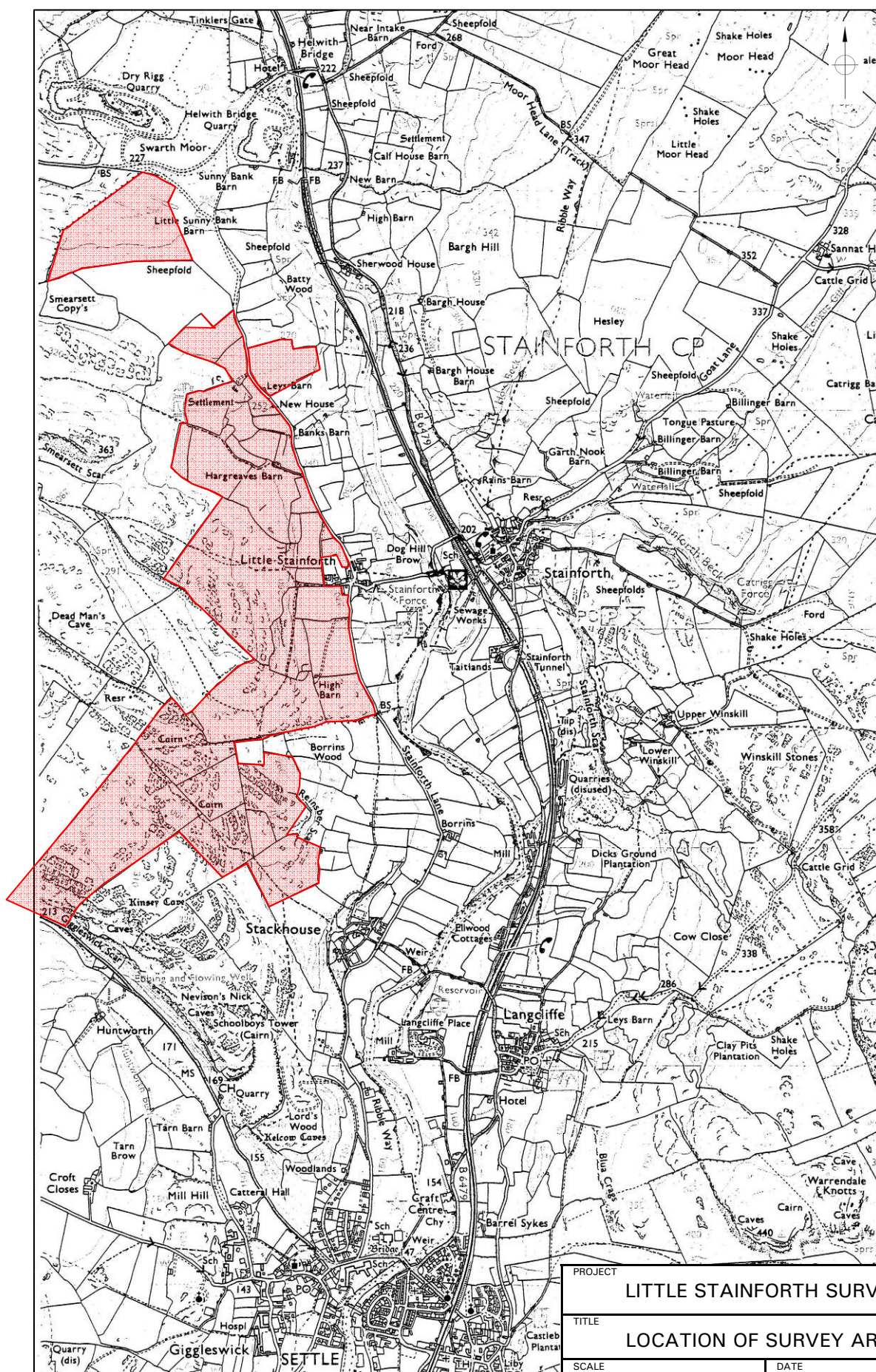
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## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 The Little Stainforth farm surveys were initiated by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and the work was funded by them. Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (EDAS) are grateful to Mr Robert White and Mr A Shepherd for their co-operation during the project. EDAS also wish to thank the respective landowners and farmers (Mr A Robinson and Mr I Pullen of Cowside Farm and Mr H Dugdale of Little Stainforth Farm) for their assistance and help during the field survey.
- 9.2 EDAS gratefully acknowledge the provision of detailed information which has played a significant contribution to the report, specifically archaeological data from the North Yorkshire SMR, the RCHME Yorkshire Dales Project, and the Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- 9.3 The archaeological survey work was carried out by Shaun Richardson and Ed Dennison while the walling survey was undertaken by Stephen Haigh, who also produced an interim report. The final report, illustrations and project archive were produced by Ed Dennison, with considerable assistance from Shaun Richardson and Stephen Haigh. Ed Dennison took the photographs. Mr Robert White also provided comments on the draft report. Despite this, any errors or inconsistencies in the text remains the responsibility of Ed Dennison.



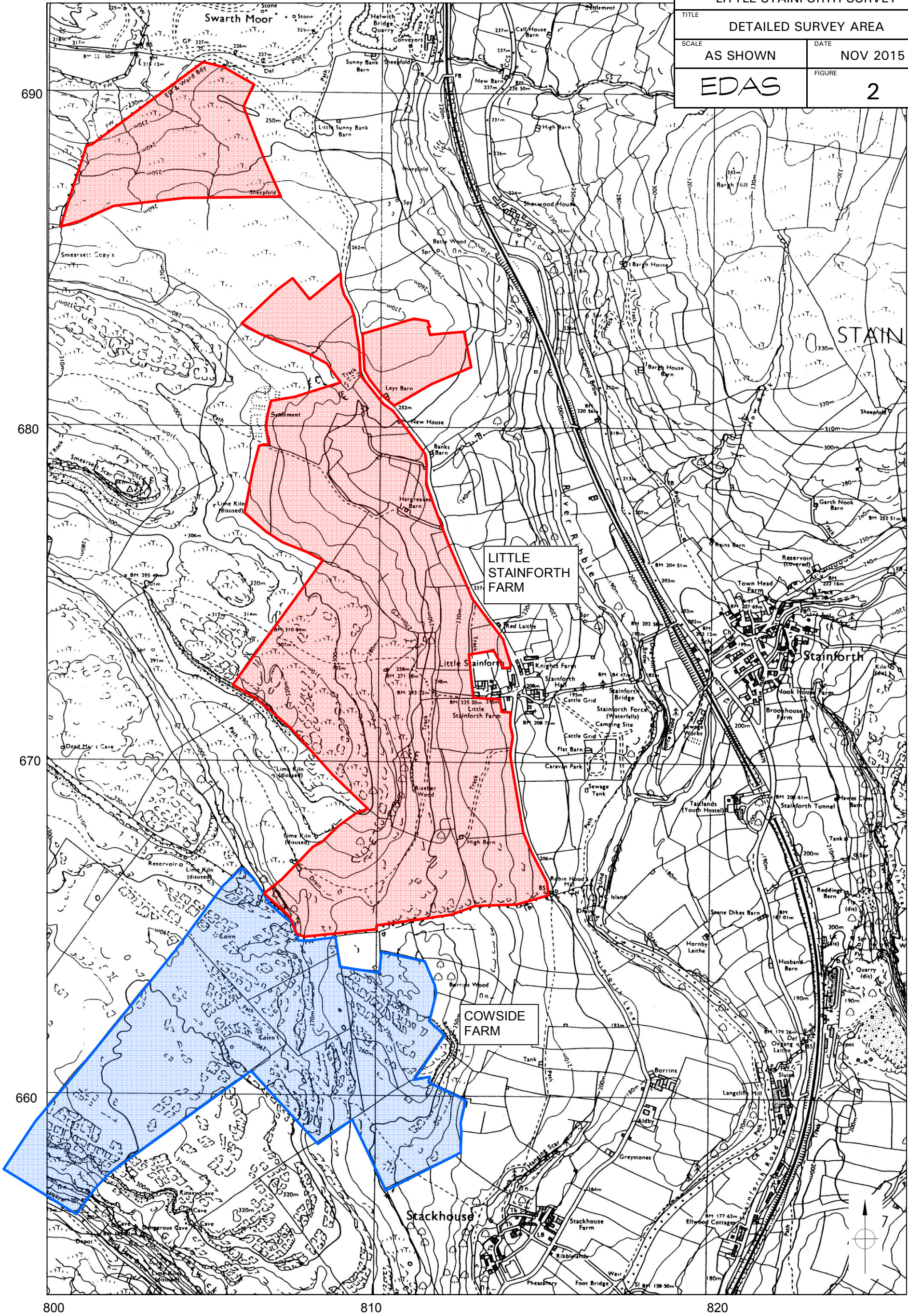


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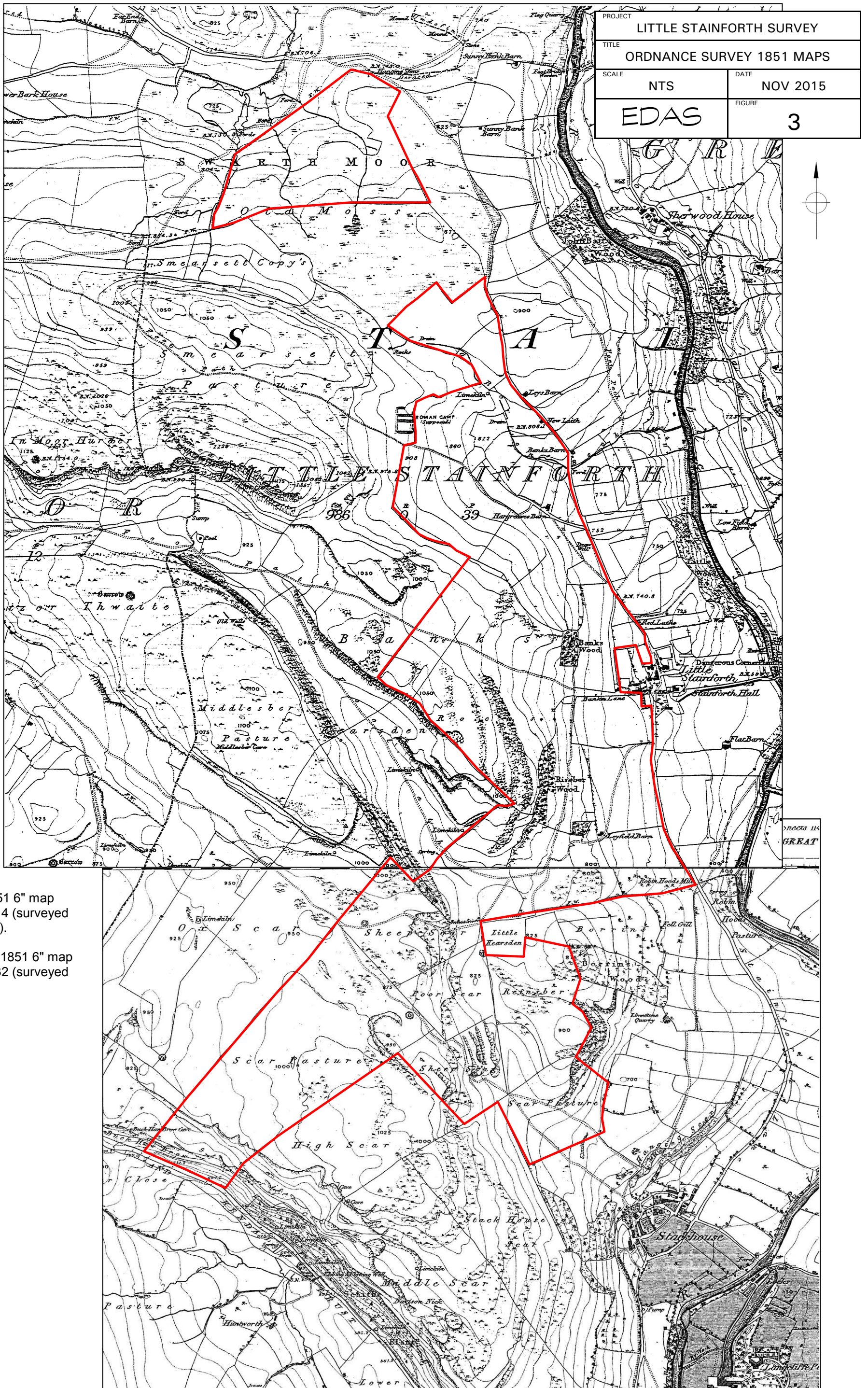
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TITLE		LOCATION OF SURVEY AREA	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	NOV 2015
EDAS		FIGURE	1



PROJECT	
LITTLE STAINFORTH SURVEY	
TITLE	
DETAILED SURVEY AREA	
SCALE	DATE
AS SHOWN	NOV 2015
EDAS	FIGURE
	2



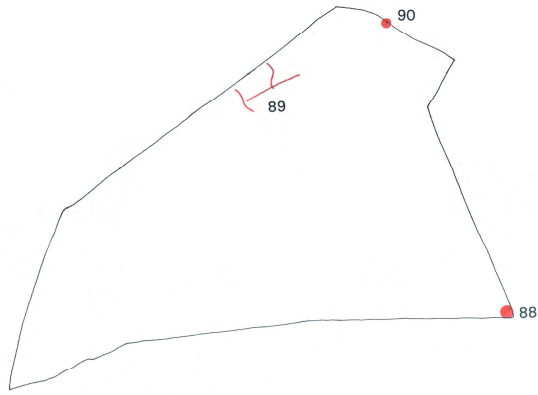






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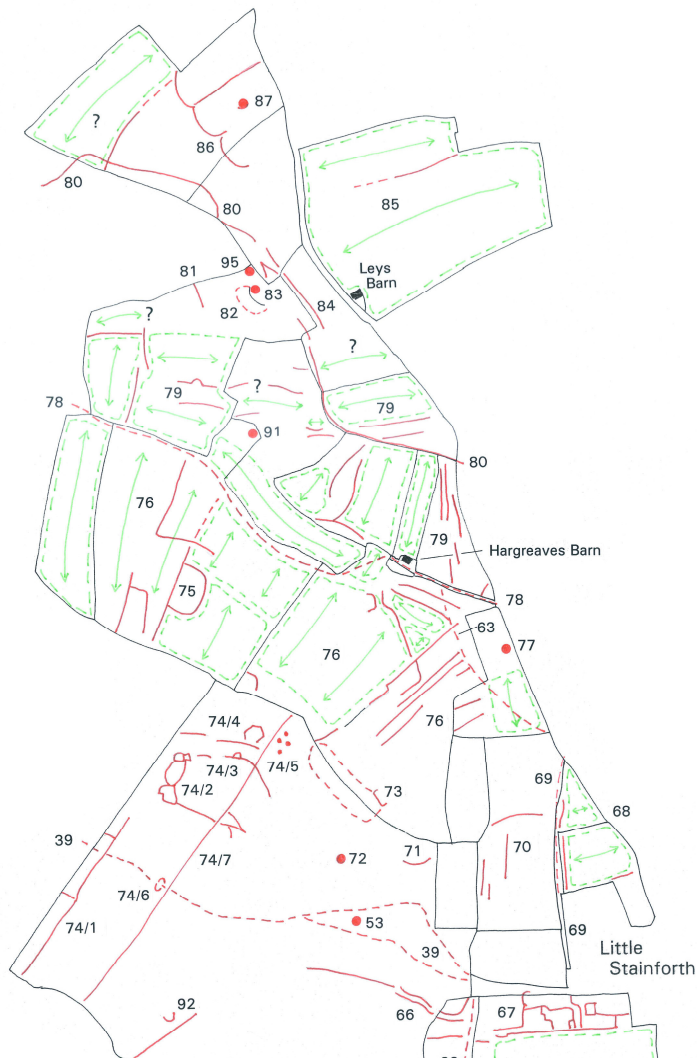
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PROJECT LITTLE STAINFORTH SURVEY	
TITLE RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES	
SCALE AS SHOWN	DATE NOV 2015
EDAS	FIGURE 4

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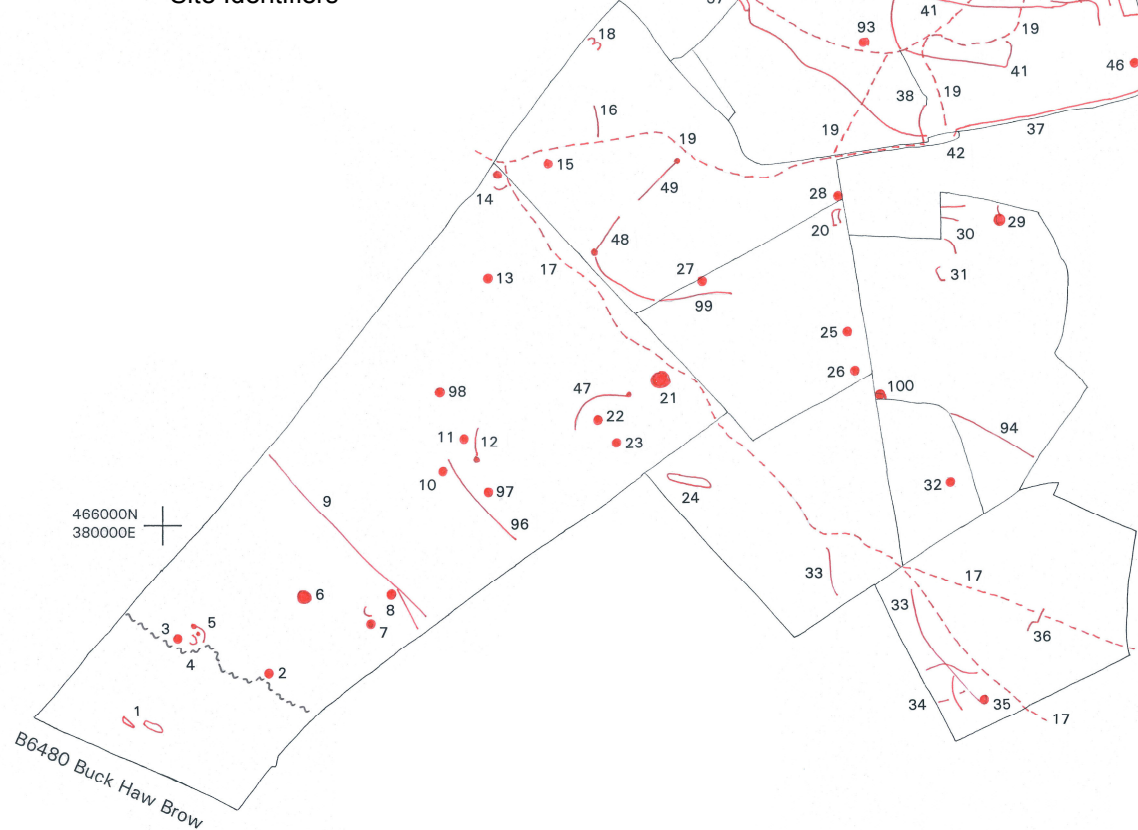


467000N  
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467000N  
381500E

- Identified Sites
- Ridge and Furrow
- Site Identifiers

37



466000N  
380000E

466000N  
381500E

0

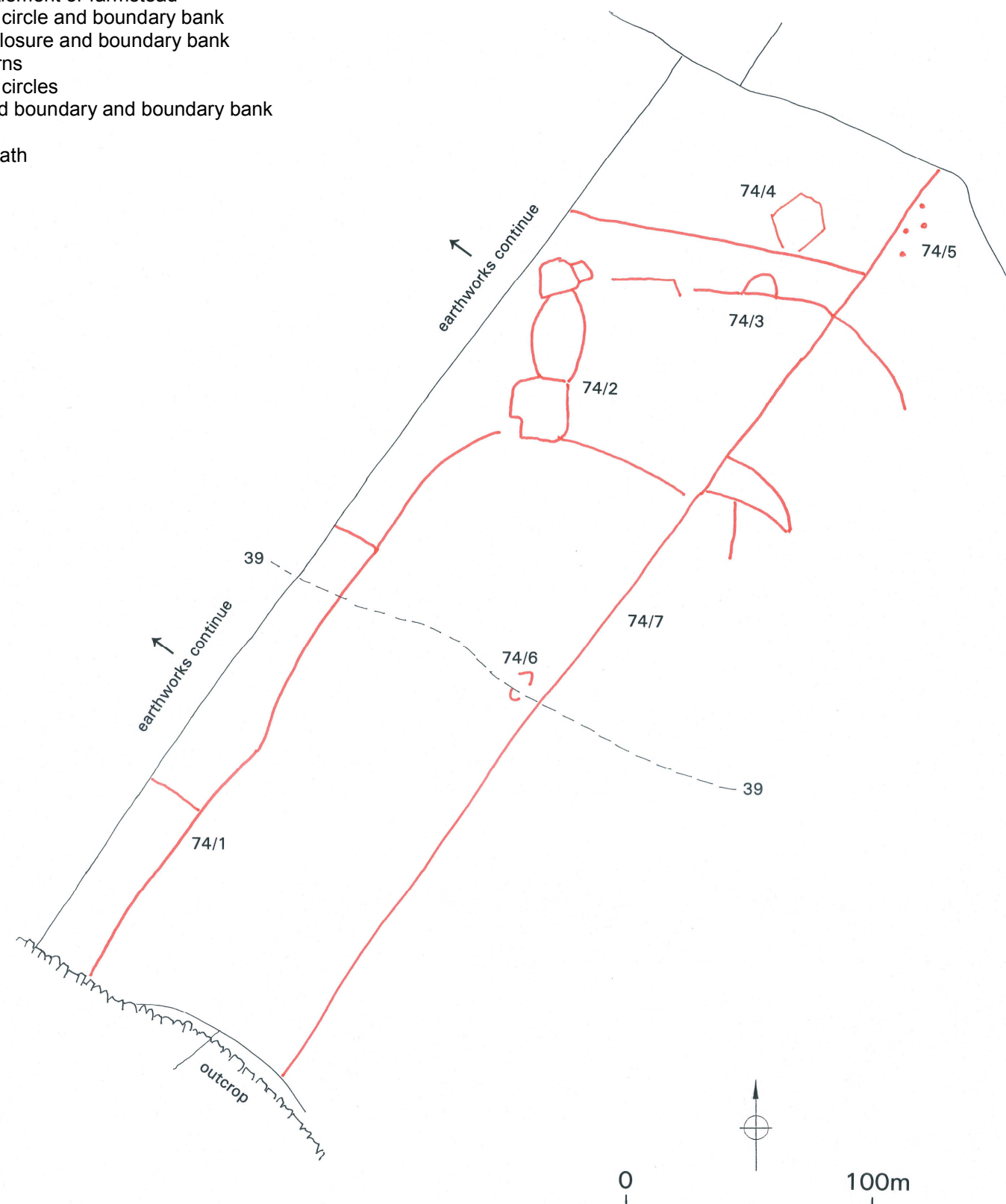
1000m





- 74 - Prehistoric settlement complex and field system
- 74/1 - Field system
- 74/2 - Settlement or farmstead
- 74/3 - Hut circle and boundary bank
- 74/4 - Enclosure and boundary bank
- 74/5 - Cairns
- 74/6 - Hut circles
- 74/7 - Field boundary and boundary bank
- 39 - Footpath

PROJECT LITTLE STAINFORTH SURVEY	
TITLE PREHISTORIC COMPLEX (SITE 74)	
SCALE AS SHOWN	DATE NOV 2015
EDAS	FIGURE 5



Sketch plan of features representing prehistoric complex (Site 74).



Aerial photograph ANY 341/09, looking north-west (taken 04/03/88) (YDNPA HER).

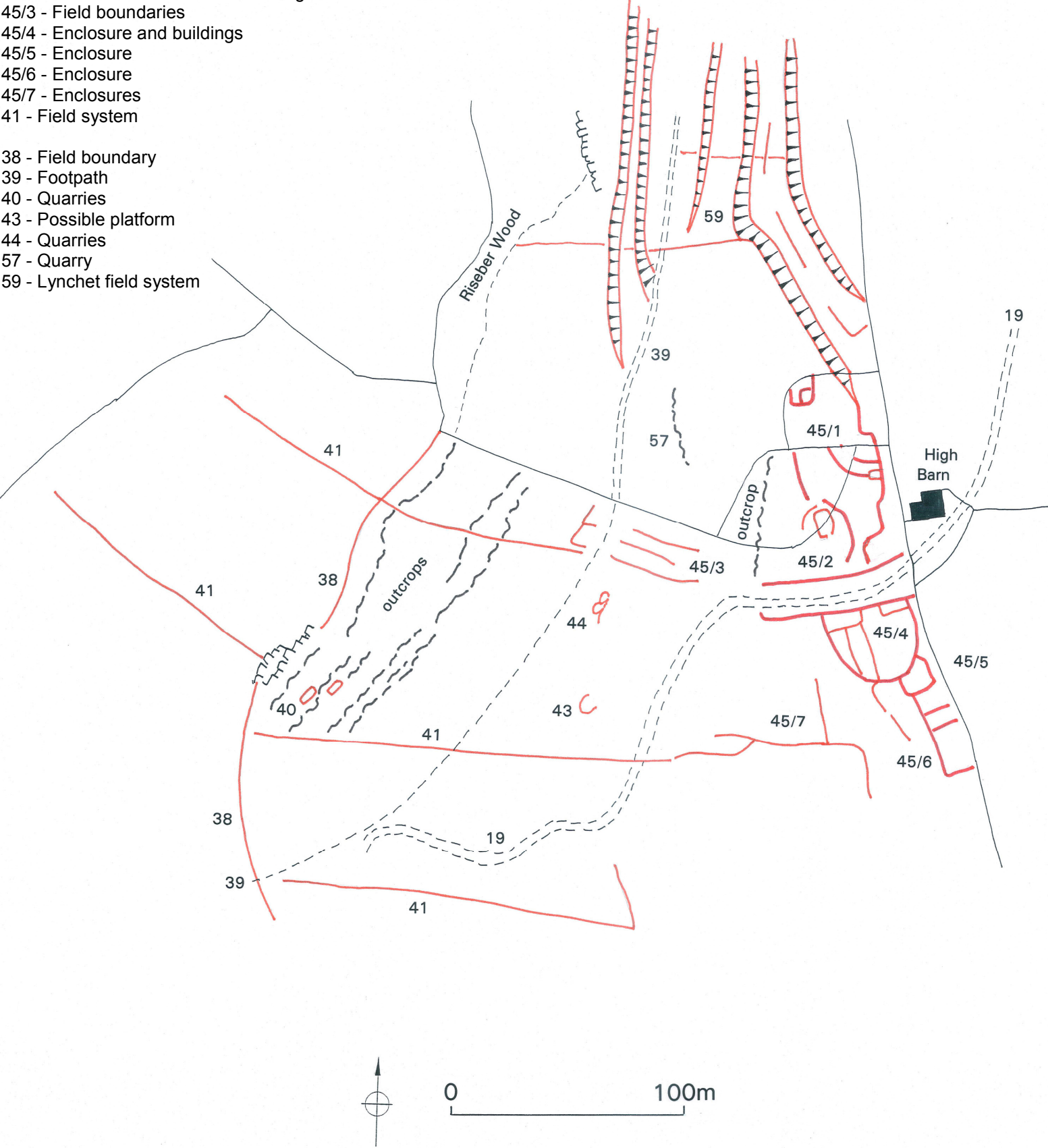


Aerial photograph ANY 341/12, vertical (taken 04/03/88) (YDNPA HER).



- 45 - Romano-British farmstead and field systems
- 45/1 - Enclosure and buildings
- 45/2 - Possible enclosure and building
- 45/3 - Field boundaries
- 45/4 - Enclosure and buildings
- 45/5 - Enclosure
- 45/6 - Enclosure
- 45/7 - Enclosures
- 41 - Field system

- 38 - Field boundary
- 39 - Footpath
- 40 - Quarries
- 43 - Possible platform
- 44 - Quarries
- 57 - Quarry
- 59 - Lynchet field system

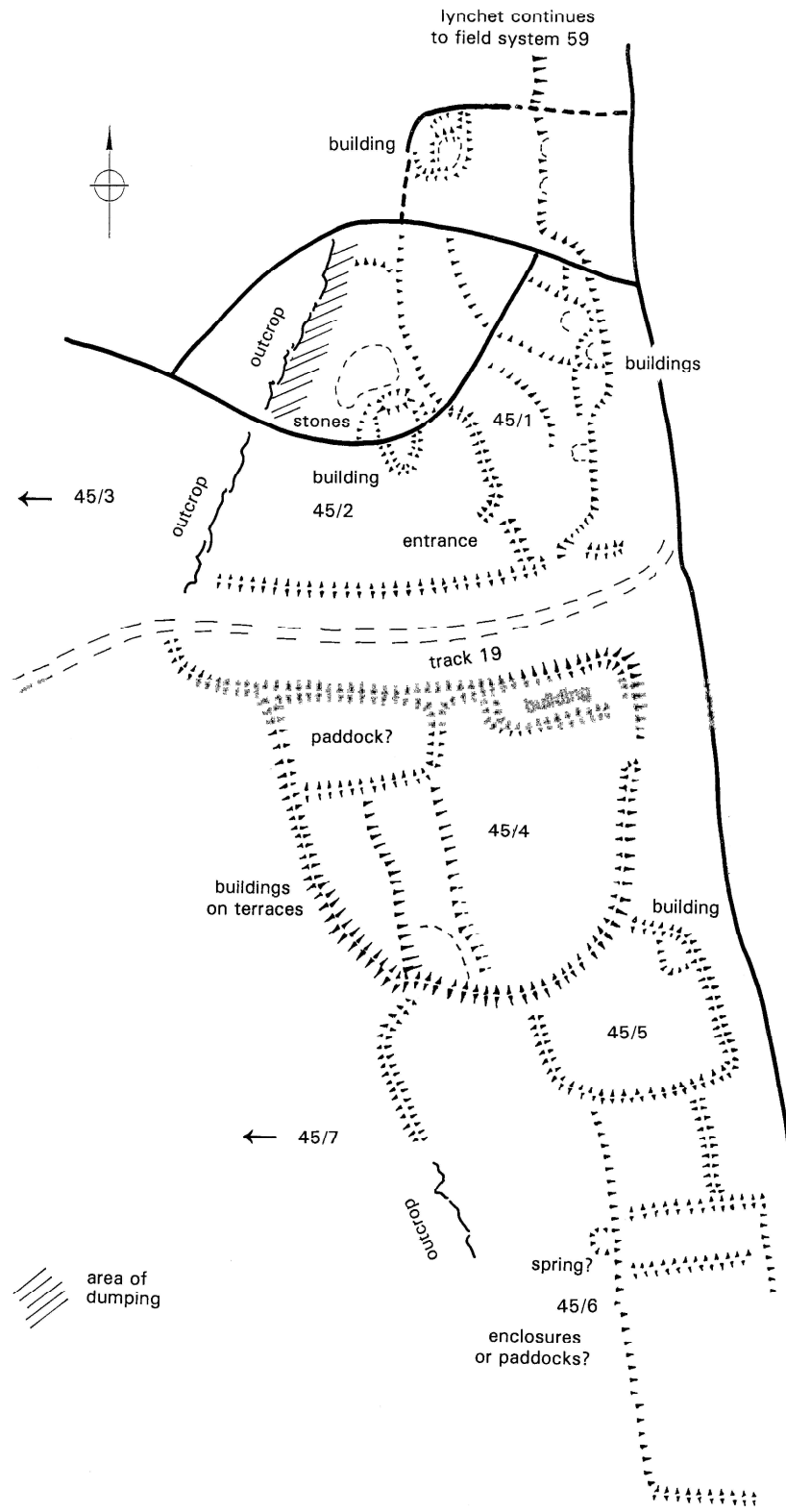


Sketch plan of features representing Romano-British complex and field system (Site 45 and 41).



Top: Aerial photograph ANX 341/10, vertical (taken 04/03/88) (YDNPA HER).  
Bottom: Aerial photograph ANY 286/04, looking west (taken 21/11/86) (YDNPA HER).

PROJECT LITTLE STAINFORTH SURVEY	
TITLE ROMANO-BRITISH COMPLEX (SITE 45)	
SCALE AS SHOWN	DATE NOV 2015
EDAS	FIGURE 6a

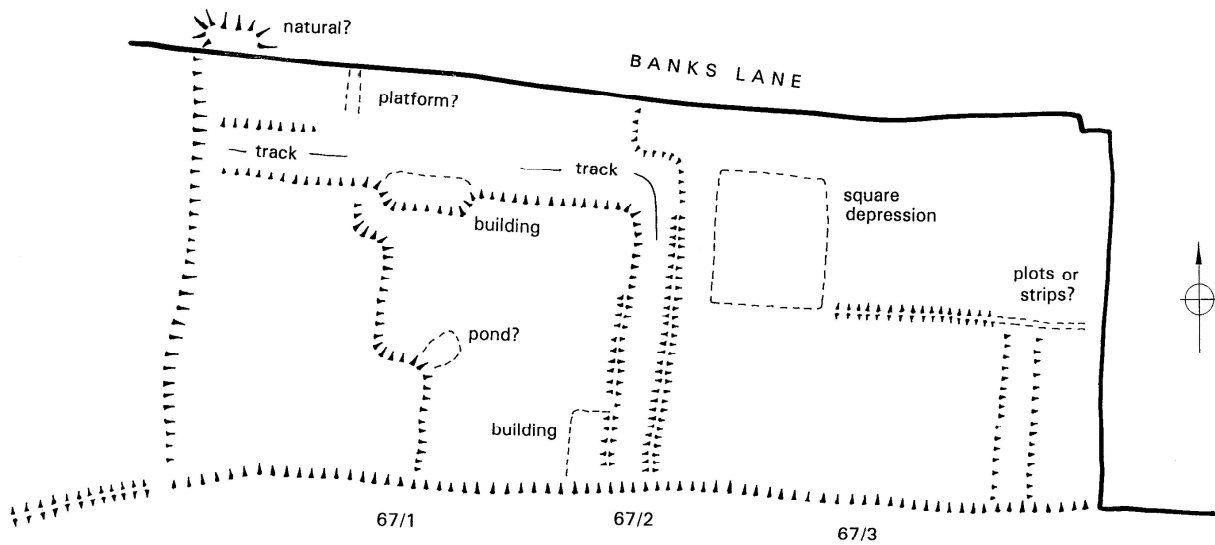


Detailed sketch plan of Site 45.

PROJECT	
LITTLE STAINFORTH SURVEY	
TITLE	
ROMANO-BRITISH COMPLEX (SITE 45)	
SCALE	DATE
NTS	NOV 2015
EDAS	FIGURE
	6b



- 67 - Shrunk village earthworks
- 67/1 - Enclosure and possible buildings
- 67/2 - Trackway
- 67/3 - Enclosure(s) and possible buildings



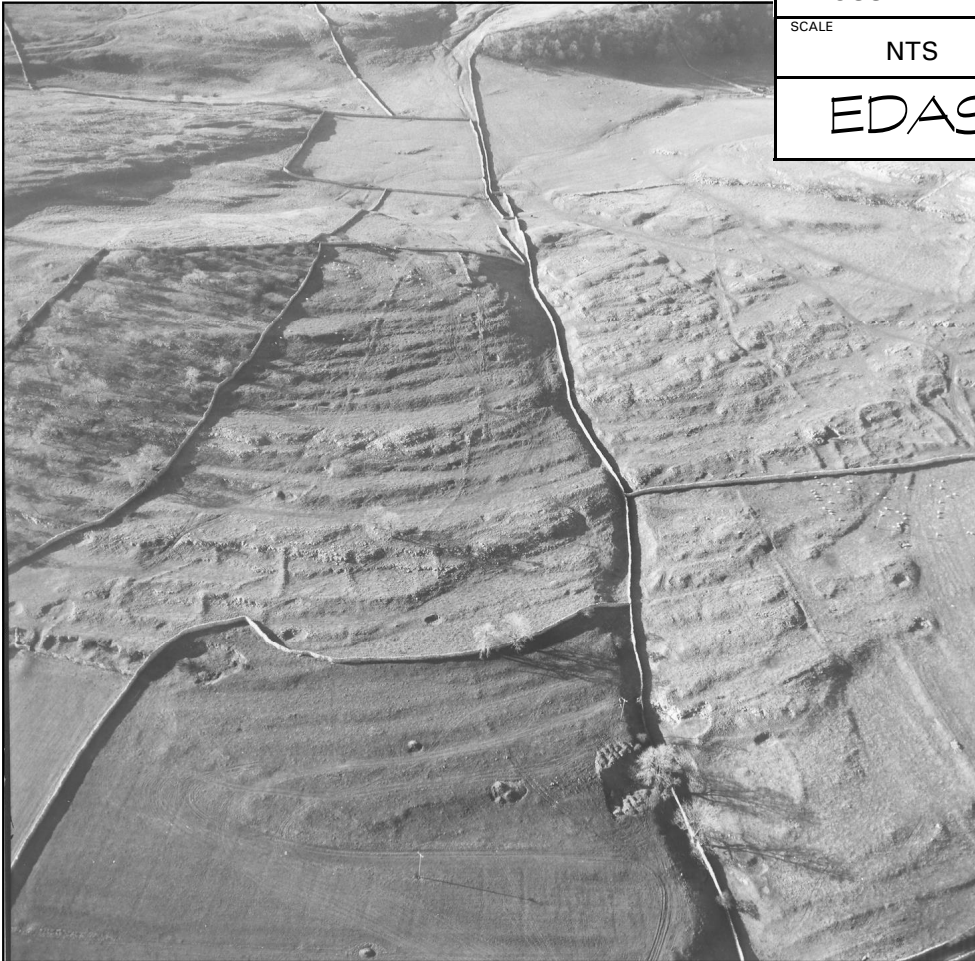
Detailed sketch plan of Site 67.



Aerial photograph ANY 280/25, looking south-east (taken 21/11/86) (YDNPA HER).

PROJECT LITTLE STAINFORTH SURVEY	
TITLE SHRUNKEN VILLAGE EARTHWORKS (SITE 67)	
SCALE NTS	DATE NOV 2015
EDAS	FIGURE 7

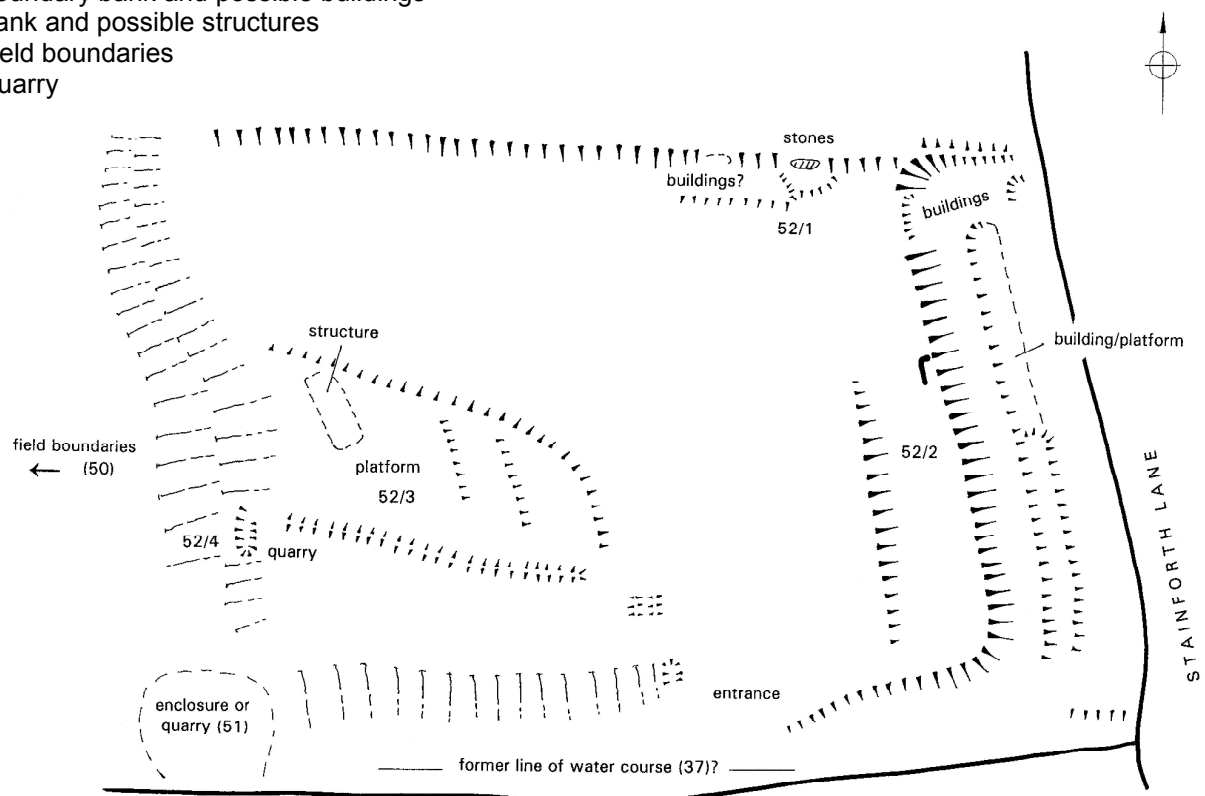
PROJECT LITTLE STAINFORTH SURVEY	
TITLE POSSIBLE FARM COMPLEX (SITE 52)	
SCALE NTS	DATE NOV 2015
EDAS	FIGURE 8



Aerial photograph ANY 286/03, looking west (taken 21/11/86) (YDNPA HER).

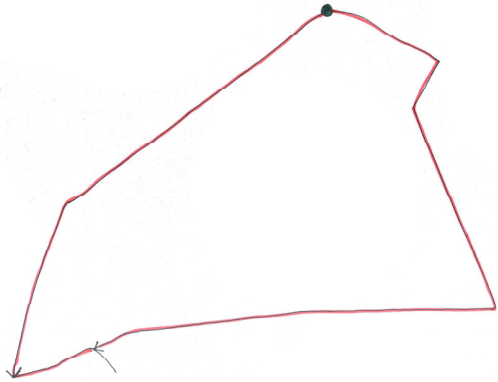
Site 52 bottom right corner.

- 52 - Possible medieval farmstead
- 52/1 - Boundary bank and possible buildings
- 52/2 - Bank and possible structures
- 52/3 - Field boundaries
- 52/4 - Quarry



Detailed sketch plan of Site 52.

469000N  
380000E



469000N  
381500E

PROJECT	
LITTLE STAINFORTH SURVEY	
TITLE	
FIELD BOUNDARIES	
SCALE	DATE
AS SHOWN	NOV 2015
EDAS	FIGURE
	9

468000N  
380000E



468000N  
381500E

467000N  
380000E

#### TPOLOGY

- +++++ Type 1: fence (post and wire)
- Type 3: wall (late 18th-19th century)
- Type 4: wall (17th-late 18th century)
- Type 10: wall - other

#### STRATIGRAPHY

- Butted up to
- Relationship unclear
- Equal to

467000N  
381500E

466000N  
380000E

B6480 Buck Haw Brow

0

1000m

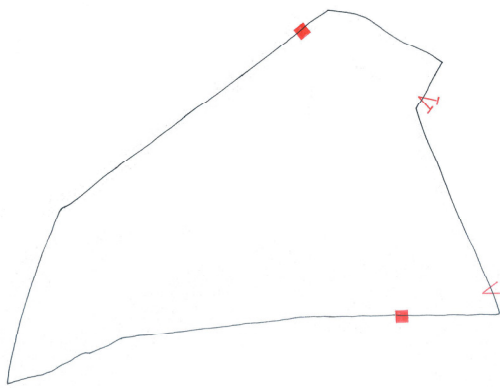
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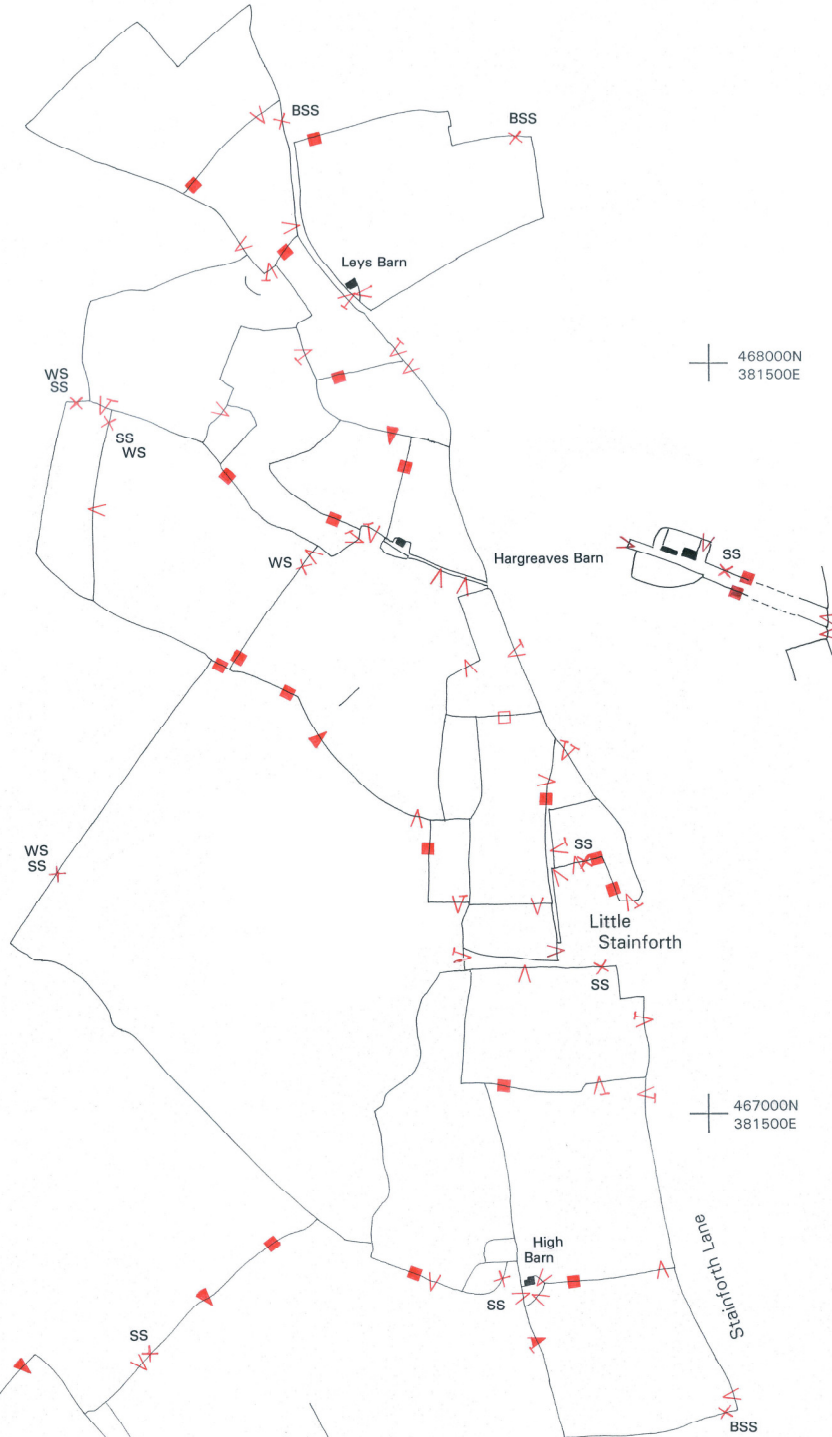
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PROJECT LITTLE STAINFORTH SURVEY	
TITLE WALL FURNITURE	
SCALE AS SHOWN	DATE NOV 2015
EDAS	FIGURE 10

468000N  
380000E

468000N  
381500E



467000N  
380000E

467000N  
381500E

- Gate, no stoops
- Gate, one stoop
- Gate, two stoops
- Blocked gate
- Sheep creep, open
- Sheep creep, closed
- Step stile, open
- Step stile, blocked
- Wooden stile
- Rabbit hole

466000N  
380000E

466000N  
381500E

B6480 Buck Haw Brow

0 1000m





Plate 1: General view of limestone plateau forming south-west part of study area, looking SW, showing "Apron Full of Stones" ring cairn (Site 21) in corner of large enclosure ('Scar Pasture') (YDNPA HER YDP 007/1, taken 03/11/88).



Plate 2: General view of west corner of 'Sheep Scar' field, looking SW, showing ring cairn (Site 15), cairns and boundary banks (Sites 16, 48 & 49) and trackway (Site 19) (YDNPA HER YDP 062/15, taken 22/01/92).





Plate 3: Prehistoric boundary bank (Site 74/7), north-west of Little Stainforth, looking SW (photo 1/29).



Plate 4: Field system, west of Riseber Wood (Site 61), looking E (photo 1/49).



Plate 5: Romano-British farmstead (Site 45), west of High Barn, looking NW.



Plate 6: Romano-British farmstead (Site 45), west of High Barn, looking NE.





Plate 7: Dumped rubbish in walled enclosure, part of Romano-British farmstead (Site 45/2), west of High Barn, looking NW (photo 2/06).



Plate 8: Shrunken village earthworks (Site 67), south side of Banks Lane, looking NW (photo 1/59).

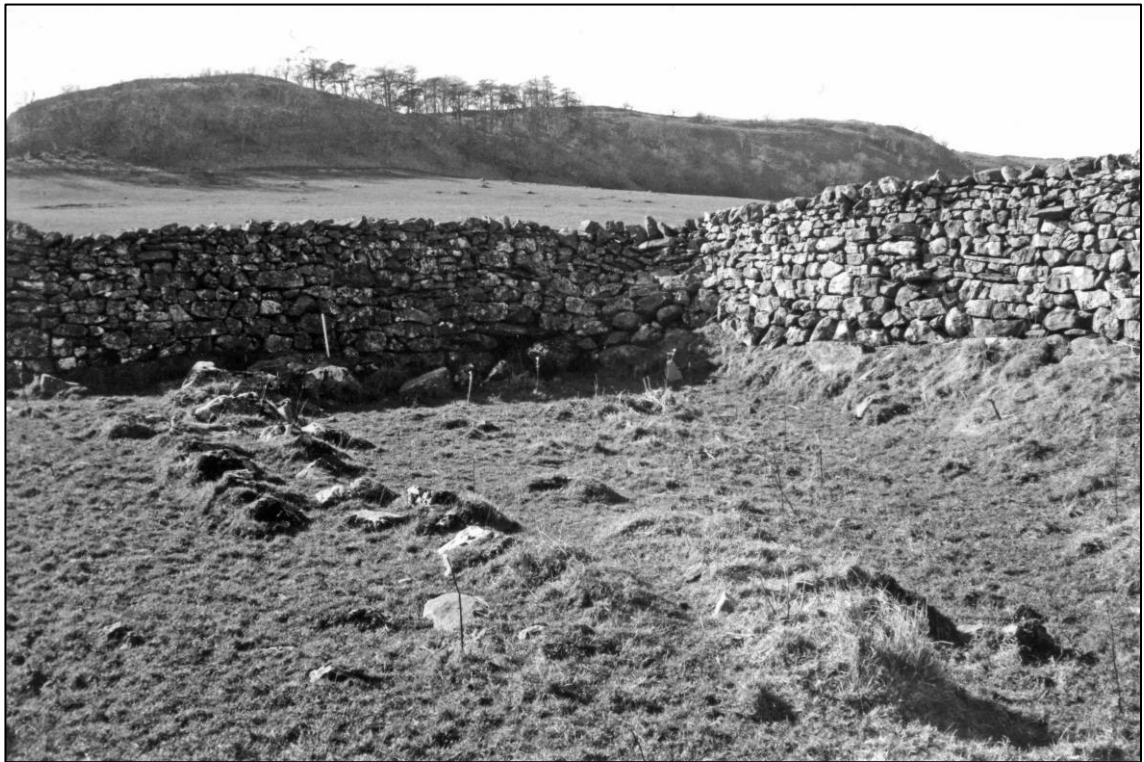


Plate 9: Sheep wash (Site 42), west of Borrins Wood, looking W (photo 2/32).



Plate 10: Clamp kiln (Site 93), south-west of Riseber Wood, looking S (photo 2/28).



Plate 11: Blocked one stoop gate in a Type 4 wall, south of High Barn, looking E (photo 2/12).



Plate 12: Blocked gate with inserted timber-framed sheep creep, also blocked, in a Type 3 wall at the east end of a sheep wash (Site 42), west of Borrins Wood, looking E (photo 2/30).