

INSTALLATION OF A SLURRY STORE,
LAND NORTH OF HEANING HALL FARM,
THORALBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE DL8 3SU

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In May 2018, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr Michael Lancaster, through his agents WBW Surveyors Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (watching brief) during groundworks associated with the installation of a circular slurry store on land to the north of Heaning Hall, Thoraby, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 00128 87150 centred). The work was made a condition of planning permission granted by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (application R/58/12P).

The site work was undertaken on 23rd August 2018 and involved a pre-intervention earthwork survey across the site of the proposed slurry store, followed by the monitoring of the topsoil strip and subsequent excavations. An evaluation trench 24m long by 2m wide was also excavated across the centre of the development site to aid understanding and interpretation.

Although the stripped area was relatively small, and few archaeological features were uncovered, it is still likely that a number of different phases of activity are represented. The watching brief was also useful in that it demonstrated the relationship between the earthworks and the below-ground archaeological remains.

A sinuous north-east/south-west aligned earthwork (B), formed by a south-east facing scarp, ran across the terrace on which the slurry store was to be constructed. Excavation showed it to be a bank or boundary (005) formed of unmortared stone rubble and 3.10m wide. The difference in the rubble content of the topsoils (001 and 002) to either side suggests that the ground to the south-east of the bank may have been given over to arable cultivation. No dating evidence for the bank was uncovered, but it is clearly a significant feature of the local landscape. It might represent a pre-enclosure field boundary, and be associated with an area known as 'Hyghnyng' which was already defined by the end of the 13th century, when Robert de Tateshale had access to herbage there. However, it is also possible that the feature is related to a potential pre-medieval enclosure seen c.70m to the north-west of the development site, perhaps forming part of an outlying field system. Whatever date it might be, it is noted that the general alignment of the bank is reflected in the later, straighter, enclosure field boundaries shown in 1856.

The earthworks also suggested a small semi-circular platform on the edge of the development site. Subsequent topsoil stripping revealed a short section of fragmentary stone revetting (006), with another length of fragmentary wall footing to the north. What these remains represent, or what date they might be, is unknown, and they could be no more than relatively modern features. However, their fragmentary nature implies some antiquity, and the possibility that they are related to the wider prehistoric activity seen in the area cannot be discounted. Unfortunately, there was insufficient evidence to establish whether the footings were later or earlier than bank 005.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2018, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr Michael Lancaster, through his agents WBW Surveyors Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (watching brief) during groundworks associated with the installation of a circular slurry store on land to the north of Heaning Hall, Thoraby, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 00128 87150 centred) (see figures 1 and 2).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was made a condition of planning permission, granted by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) on 16th April 2018 (application R/58/12P). The condition (number 7) stated that:

Prior to the commencement of the development a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Written Scheme of Investigation shall include for the following:

- a) a programme and methodology for site investigation and recording;*
- b) a programme and methodology for post site investigation assessment and recording;*
- c) provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording;*
- d) provision to be made for archive publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation;*
- e) provision to be made for the archive deposition of the analysis and records of site investigation;*
- f) nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post-investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in approved Written Scheme of Investigation and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

- 1.3 The reason for this condition was “to help protect and thereafter to provide for the recording of the features of archaeological interest believed to be present in the site in accordance with policy L1 of the adopted Yorkshire Dales Local Plan (2015-2030).
- 1.4 A ‘Written Scheme of Investigation’ (WSI) was subsequently produced by EDAS (see Appendix 2) and it was submitted to the YDNPA on 26th June 2018. This was approved by the YDNPA on 28th June 2018.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The development site lies c.180m to the north-west of Heaning Hall Farm, but at a significantly higher elevation. Heaning Hall itself is located to the north-east of the core of the village of Thoraby, which is placed on the northern slope of Bishopdale, a tributary valley of Wensleydale (see figure 1). The site is accessed by a curvilinear track, which runs west from the farm complex and then takes a circuitous route to reach the level terrace on which the slurry store is to be located.

The access track has already been created, and is formed from rubble stone and hardcore laid on top of the existing ground surface.

- 2.2 The terrace on which the slurry store was to be placed measured c.100m north-east/south-west by c.50m north-west/south-east (see figure 2). A natural south-east facing scarp runs along the north-western side of the terrace; from the top of this scarp, set at c.238m AOD, the ground surface slopes downwards to a height of c.229m AOD, although the majority of this fall is formed by the scarp itself. A number of slight earthwork banks or scarps ran across the terrace within the area of the development site, which was used for pasture at the time of the development.
- 2.3 Information from Miles Johnson, the YDNPA Senior Historic Environment Officer, advised that the development site lay in an archaeologically sensitive landscape, and drew attention to a small earthwork enclosure with possible internal features some 70m to the north-west of the site. If this represents a pre-medieval settlement site, there was some potential for middens and other features running down from the enclosure to the development site. It was therefore advised that a limited archaeological investigation should be undertaken prior to the development of the site, firstly to record any evidence of the surviving earthworks in the area and secondly to investigate the archaeological potential towards the base of the slope. However, subsequent discussions after an EDAS site visit determined that the potential archaeological implications could be accommodated by a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief), carried out during the initial groundworks associated with the installation of the slurry tank. This would ensure that any archaeological deposits or features that might be uncovered could be adequately recorded. It was on this basis that the WSI was written and approved.

3 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The development involves the installation of a single concrete panel slurry tank, measuring 39.6m in diameter. The north-west side of the store was excavated into the steep scarp here, with some ground being built up to the south-east and around the sides of the tank. The depth of excavation varied across the development site due to the rising ground surface; on the south-east side, it was necessary to reduce the ground surface by only c.0.30m, but to the north-west where the tank cut into the scarp, the ground surface was reduced by over 2m.
- 3.2 In accordance with the approved WSI, the aim of the archaeological recording was to monitor the below-ground excavations in order to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth, and significance of any archaeological features and deposits which might be affected by the proposed development. All archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidelines (CIfA 2014). The archaeological recording was carried out on 23rd August 2018.
- 3.3 Prior to the start of the topsoil strip, a measured plan of the earthworks within the site was made at a scale of 1:500, using traditional tape and offset methods and utilising a 1:500 scale base plan prepared by WBW Surveyors Ltd. This equates to a Level 3 survey as defined by Historic England (English Heritage 2007, 23-24). Each identified site or component was given a unique identifier, and a detailed written description was produced based on notes taken in the field. A number of photographs were taken to illustrate specific and/or well-preserved components, and showing the landscape context of the site, using a digital camera with 12

megapixel resolution; Historic England guidelines were again followed (English Heritage 2007, 14).

- 3.4 All excavated groundworks were then subject to archaeological monitoring as they were being dug, so that any archaeological deposits that might be uncovered could be immediately identified and recorded. All excavation was undertaken using a tracked 360 degree excavator with spoil being removed using a dumper. An evaluation trench 24m long by 2m wide was also excavated across the development site. Both the initial topsoil strip and the evaluation trench was dug using a c.2m long toothless ditching bucket. However, the subsequent reduction in ground level was undertaken using a toothed 'cage' bucket, used to separate soil from stone rubble by vigorous shaking of the bucket. This, and the fact that the mechanical excavator had to track across the stripped surface, did not lend itself to the identification of subtle archaeological deposits. Nevertheless, given the small number of archaeological features exposed during the initial topsoil strip and in the evaluation trench, it was considered that all available archaeological information had been recorded.
- 3.5 Any features of archaeological interest revealed by the groundworks were accurately located on a 1:250 scale excavation site plan, again using a WBW Surveyors plan as a base. Where relevant, plans and sections at a scale of 1:20 were also produced. Following standard archaeological procedures, each discrete stratigraphic entity (e.g. a cut, fill or layer) was assigned an individual context number and detailed information was recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. A total of six archaeological contexts were recorded (see Appendix 1); deposits or layers are identified in the following text by round brackets while cuts are signified by square brackets. In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. A photographic record was also maintained using a digital camera with 12 megapixel resolution. No finds were recovered during the archaeological site work.
- 3.6 A fully indexed and ordered field archive was prepared, following the guidelines produced by Historic England and the National Archaeological Record. The archive comprises primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs, and an index to the archive. It was subsequently deposited with the YDNPA at the end of the project (EDAS site code THY18).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 4.1 As noted above, the development site lies c.180m to the north-west of Heaning Hall, itself located to the north-east of the core of the village of Thoraby, which is placed on the northern slope of Bishopdale, a tributary valley of Wensleydale. It is located within a complex, multi-phase, historic landscape which has developed over an extended period of time. A part of the historic landscape around Thoraby village has been surveyed by Stephen Moorhouse, including areas potentially on or close to the current development site, although none of this material is currently available for study (Moorhouse 2003, 361 & table 13). However, Penny Ellis has made much useful relevant documentation available on the internet, and also discusses some of the surviving earthworks in relation to this documentation (<https://www.thoralbythoughtime.net>).

- 4.2 The following summary of the archaeological and historical background to the study area has been compiled from a variety of sources, listed in the Bibliography below.

Prehistoric Periods (12000 BC-AD 43)

- 4.3 Wensleydale lies at the northern limit of the area of Britain known to have been visited during the late glacial period (c.12000-10000 BC) by groups of hunters whose prey included reindeer, horse and elk in an open tundra environment (Laurie 2003, 225). Studies of past vegetational history indicate that between c.7500-4500 BC the dominant vegetation in Wensleydale was birch, pine and hazel woodland, with grassland or open heath at higher levels. Full deciduous woodland, with alder replacing the birch and pine, was established across the dale sides and river plains by 4500 BC, with some elm, lime and willow coming after. There was a marked decrease in the amount of birch/alder/hazel woodland around c.600 BC, and the landscape has remained open since then (Laurie 2003, 230).
- 4.4 Current evidence suggests that Wensleydale was rarely visited during the long period of rapid climate warming in the post-glacial period, perhaps reflecting the relative inaccessibility of the area from the coastal settlement zone (Laurie 2003, 229). Actual evidence for any human presence in Wensleydale before 5000 BC is very slight, and it would appear that the northern Pennine Dales remained a pristine wilderness up until this time (Laurie 2003, 225). Flints and other stone implements from around the edge of Semer Water, some 8km to the west of Thoralby, provide evidence for occasional occupation by hunter-gatherers during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods (c.8000-2500 BC) (Laurie 2003, 234). Further evidence of Neolithic activity comes from cup-and-ring marked rocks, although as of 1988, Wensleydale had just one undisputed rock-art site, the cup-marked round cairn on the summit of Addleborough (Laurie 2003, 237-238). Finally, a possible Neolithic long mound has been identified at Howraine, near West Burton, on the southern slope of Bishopdale, some 2km east of Thoralby (Luke 2013, 65-68).
- 4.5 By the time of the Neolithic period (c.3500-2500 BC), flint technology had advanced enough for people to be able to cut down trees and clear fields for a new, more settled, lifestyle that involved cultivating land and domesticating animals like cattle and sheep. However, hunting still went on in the upland areas of the Dales right through into the Bronze Age (2500-500 BC) although by this time, large inroads had been made into the woodland cover of the area and long co-axial field boundaries can be identified running up the valley sides to the moorland tops. By the later Iron Age (500 BC-AD 71), land division was well established and the new iron technology allowed even larger areas of land to be cleared, farmed and defended.
- 4.6 The greatest evidence for prehistoric activity in Wensleydale comes in the form of burnt mounds, generally thought to date from between the Late Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age period. It is thought that they functioned as sweat houses or saunas, and are potentially indicators of the presence of actual settlements of Middle Bronze Age date, perhaps in the form of tented villages of transhumant herders. Most burnt mounds occur at elevations of above 250m AOD, often in pairs or groups, all without exception on the banks of small streams or sykes at or just below the spring line. More recently, a few have been recognised at lower levels, around 130m AOD (Laurie 2003, 224 & 246). Laurie (2003, 244, 250) records no burnt mound sites in Bishopdale, but two within the wider Thoralby township.

Romano-British Period (AD 43-419)

- 4.7 The foot of Bishopdale lies close to the presumed line of a Roman road running up Wensleydale between the forts and associated settlements at Wensley to the east and Bainbridge to the west, although the exact route remains unknown (Ottaway 2003, 126 & 128). Originally founded during the Roman military conquest and occupation of Yorkshire during the later 1st and earlier 2nd centuries AD, the Bainbridge fort was re-commissioned in c.155-165 AD when the northern frontier in Scotland was moved back to the line of Hadrian's Wall (Ottaway 2003, 146-147). In spite of the presence of such permanent garrisons, Roman influence never seems to have penetrated very far into the Dales (Martlew 2011). Life for most of the native population probably went on much as it had done for their Bronze Age ancestors. Some Romano-British settlements have been excavated, and the small quantities of romanised artefacts found show that these natives at least, were linked into the Roman economy. The Roman state is also likely to have maintained an interest in the Dales, if only as a source for lead.
- 4.8 In the wider area around Thoralby, LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) aerial coverage appears to show a small earthwork enclosure with possible internal features some c.70m to the north-west of the development site, now bisected by a later drystone field wall (see figure 3 bottom). This is undated, but might possibly be pre-medieval.

Medieval Period (AD 1066-1540)

- 4.9 There is currently little published information available for Thoralby, and Bishopdale more generally, in the post-Roman and early medieval periods, although there is place-name evidence for early medieval settlement at Thoralby. It is suggested that Norse activity in Bishopdale came in two stages, with Danish settlers initially arriving in the 9th century and establishing villages in the lower and more fertile areas, while later in the 10th century Norwegian settlers came in from the west via Ireland and Cumbria, establishing individual farms in unoccupied upland areas (<https://www.thoralbythroughtime.net>).
- 4.10 The development site lies within the later medieval township of Thoralby, close to its north-east border. To the north-east, the township of Eshington was absorbed into the township of West Burton during the Middle Ages, whilst Thoralby itself took in part of the former township or *vill* of Crookesby to the south-west by the end of the 13th century (Moorhouse 2003, 303-304). The name 'Thoralby' is derived from the Old Norse personal name *Thoraldr* and the Old Norse suffix *by*, meaning Thorald's Farm, and thus indicating early medieval settlement in the area, and the settlement appears as *Tuoldesbi* in the 1086 Domesday survey (Gambles 1995, 33). Moorhouse (2003, 306) suggests that the plan of the settlement at Thoralby indicates a polyfocal origin, almost certainly the result of medieval land tenure; the Lordship of Middleham, for example, held extensive property in Bishopdale during the medieval period (Moorhouse 2003, 322). Ellis maps former medieval toft and croft boundaries within the settlement, noting that it once extended further to the north-east than it now does, and also suggesting the location of an earlier, perhaps pre-medieval focus, at Town Head at the western end of the existing village (<https://www.thoralbythroughtime.net>).
- 4.11 An inquisition on the lands of Robert, Lord de Tateshale in 1298 provides some useful information about Thoralby and the agricultural organisation of the township at this time. At his death, Robert de Tateshale owned the manors of Thoralby, West Witton, Crakehall and Well. At Thoralby, Robert had held a 'capital

message', likely to have been his manor house, which may be represented as earthworks at the eastern end of the present village. He also retained 80 acres of arable land for his own use, plus some herbage (right of pasture without owning the land) at 'Hyghnyng', as well as two vaccaries (cattle farms) and three sheep folds, one of which was at 'Swynewathcote'. Robert was also entitled to a third of the profits from a water corn mill at Thoraby, probably sited on Hearing Gill. As well as Robert de Tateshale's capital message, Roger Oyselle owned a message or manor house in the village, although its location is unclear. It is also possible to delineate the dimensions of a larger, medieval, village green within the current plan of the settlement, which had a chapel, established in 1316, at its southern end (<https://www.thorabythroughtime.net>).

- 4.12 The YDNPA Historic Environment Record (HER) notes a number of other landscape features within the vicinity of the development site, including occasional areas of ridge and furrow earthworks and former field banks. Field banks are recorded c.100m to the south-west of the development (HER MYD45872) and c.100m to the west (HER MYD45873), while a small area of ridge and furrow has been noted c.200m to the north-west (HER 45875). Some of these features were plotted from aerial photographs by the RCHME Yorkshire Dales Mapping Project in the 1990s, although such mapping often gives an incomplete picture of the complexities of a surviving landscape and, taken in isolation, it is difficult to give most of the landscape features recorded around Thoraby even approximate dates. Some c.100m to the west of the development site, the low earthworks of a possible building platform were noted in the corner of a field (at NGR SE 9989 8714) during an assessment carried out for a new water pipeline development (NAA 1996, 6 - Site 11), but subsequent excavation revealed nothing of archaeological interest (NAA 1997, 6).

Post-medieval Period (AD 1540 onwards)

- 4.13 A 'Survey of the Lordships of Middleham and Richmond' undertaken in 1605, under the sub-division of Bishopdale Chase, lists 65 tenants, 44 houses, and 51 outhouses in Thoraby. Thoraby therefore had twice as many tenants and almost twice as many houses as any other settlement in or around Bishopdale; in the whole of the Lordship, the village was second in size and value only to Middleham itself. When the Lordship of Middleham was sold to the City of London in 1628, it was noted that there were few woods or timber trees in the lordship apart from a few areas including 'the Hearing' (<https://www.thorabythroughtime.net>). Hearing Hall itself is dated 1734, although the Listed Building description states that it has earlier origins (<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1179808>).
- 4.14 In 1751, an Act of Parliament authorised the creation of the Richmond to Lancaster Turnpike Trust, which joined together and improved earlier roads, including that through Aysgarth, close to the foot of Bishopdale. The road was constructed quickly and by 1756 it was reported to be 60 miles long. The road up Bishopdale (now represented by the B6160) was never turnpiked, and is suggested to have evolved through the linking of earlier trackways and routeways. The Street Head Inn, located on the crossroads leading to Thoraby and Newbiggin had become an important coaching inn by the early 19th century (Wright 1985, 118 & 181).
- 4.15 Hearing Hall appears to be marked as 'Carning' on Thomas Jeffreys' 1771 map of Yorkshire, but is shown as 'Hearing' on Greenwood's later map of 1817 (<https://www.thorabythroughtime.net>). The earliest detailed depiction of the development site consulted during the writing of this report is the 1856 Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile map (surveyed 1854) (see figure 3 top). This shows the

development site as an enclosed field, with an area of woodland to the immediate south on the steeply sloping ground between it and Heaning House. To the north-east of the development site, the field is crossed by a watercourse, taken off Heaning Gill to the north-west and then following a rather sinuous course, eventually heading back to the Gill opposite the point where a 'Lead Mine' is marked, although it is not known if the two were associated. The development site is similarly depicted on the 1893 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile map (surveyed 1891), although by this date both the watercourse and lead mine had gone. By 1913, the wall defining the northern boundary of the field within which the development site is located had begun to decay.

5 RESULTS FROM THE WATCHING BRIEF

Earthwork Survey (see figure 4)

- 5.1 The earthwork survey area measured c.90m long (north-east/south-west) by 60m wide (north-west/south-east) and was centred on the footprint of the proposed slurry tank. The north-western edge of this was bounded by a steep, south-east facing, natural scarp, aligned north-east/south-west and standing to between c.3m to 4m in height. The drystone field wall shown in 1856 and 1891 formerly ran along this scarp, approximately mid-way up its height. It has now almost completely collapsed, although to the south-west of the survey area its line is visible as a narrow flattened area from which several courses of stone are eroding. The natural scarp has been cut into in several places, probably in the relatively recent past.
- 5.2 To the south-east of the scarp, within the northern half of the slurry tank footprint, there are two parallel south-east facing scarps (A on figure 4), set on an acute north-east/south-west alignment. The scarps are c.20m long and set c.5m apart but are very spread, standing less than 0.3m high. To the south of centre of the proposed slurry tank, there is a slightly more prominent north-east/south-west aligned slightly sinuous earthwork (B), formed by a south-east facing scarp averaging 1.5m wide and standing up to 0.5m high; stone can be seen in the top of the scarp in several places. It is clearly visible on LIDAR coverage (see figure 3 bottom), which suggests it runs almost as far as the drystone wall on the west side of Heaning Gill, although it is difficult to see this section on the ground. The watercourse shown in 1856 is also just visible on the LIDAR coverage, although again this is now difficult to see clearly on the ground. Within the footprint of the proposed slurry tank, the scarp appears to bifurcate, with one branch continuing (but fading) on the same alignment whilst the other curves outward to form what might be considered to be a small, semi-circular platform. Beyond this potential platform, beyond the slurry tank footprint, the scarp again becomes visible on a similar alignment, meeting a spread bank (C) set at an approximate right angle to it. The bank is up to c.4.0m wide and 0.7m high to the east side, although its west side is much lower (see plate 2). There may a small platform to the immediate north of where the two features meet, although it is difficult to be certain. On the LIDAR coverage, the north-east/south-west scarp (B) can arguably be traced beyond the bank for some distance, before eventually curving around to the north.
- 5.3 To the south of the proposed slurry tank footprint, there is another south-east facing scarp (D), 2.0m wide and standing up to 0.8m high (see plate 1). This scarp is again set on a north-east/south-west alignment, and appears to have another slight earthwork set at an approximate right angle to its north-eastern end. The main scarp is again visible on the LIDAR coverage, and appears to have several parallel features (ridge and furrow?) placed to its north, although these are rather

indistinct on the ground. The southern boundary of the survey area once also comprised a drystone wall, but this has largely collapsed and been replaced by a post and wire fence. Beyond the fence, the wooded slope falls away steeply towards Heaning Hall.

Archaeological Deposits (see figure 5)

- 5.4 The area of excavation was circular in plan, with an average diameter of 40.50m, very slightly larger than the size of the slurry tank itself (see plate 6). The initial topsoil strip revealed a marked difference in the archaeological deposits to the south-east and north-west of the linear earthwork (B) crossing the area. To the south-east, the topsoil (001) comprised a clean, friable mid-brown sandy silt, which extended to a depth of 0.20m below ground level (BGL) (c.230m AOD). It overlay a compacted, gritty, mottled orange/mid-brown sand subsoil, with very frequent inclusions of angular stone between 0.05m to 0.10m across (003); within this part of the site, the mottled sand formed the lowest deposit to be exposed and it continued beyond the base of the excavation. The topsoil to the north-west of the earthwork comprised a friable mid-brown sandy silt (002) with very frequent inclusions of angular stone, mostly smaller than 0.30m x 0.20m x 0.10m, although some were as large as 0.50m x 0.30m x 0.20m. It again extended to 0.20m BGL and overlay the same mottled sand subsoil (003) seen to the south-east.
- 5.5 The linear earthwork (B) was found to reflect a buried bank (005), with an average width of 3.10m, set on a slightly sinuous north-east/south-west alignment (see plate 5). Within the slurry tank footprint, the south-western line of the bank was less clear close to the possible semi-circular platform, but it appeared to continue towards the junction of earthwork B with the spread bank C. The bank (005) was built entirely of unmortared, compacted stone rubble, with larger, shallower stones up to 0.30m square laid flat towards the centre and smaller, more angular stones to the sides (see plate 5). Overall, the bank was 3.10m wide with a flattened top c.1.50m wide, with gently sloping, scarped sides; the south-eastern edge of the bank coincided with the base of earthwork B. When sectioned, the bank was seen to have a maximum surviving depth of 0.30m and to overlie the mottled sand subsoil (003).
- 5.6 Further possible structural remains of angular stone rubble (006) were exposed on the surface of the potential semi-circular platform noted above. These lay along the top of the scarp forming the platform edge, and appeared to form the remains of fragmentary stone revetting, c.4.0m long and containing at least one rounded stone measuring 0.50m x 0.30m x 0.20m. To the north, there may have been another fragmentary wall footing, c.5.5m long and 0.50m wide, diverging slightly from the line of the fragmentary stone revetting to the scarp. Some hand-cleaning was undertaken across the features, but they were difficult to define clearly due to the amount of stone rubble in the overlying topsoil (002), and they could not be seen in section when the ground level in this area was subsequently reduced using the cage bucket. The parallel earthwork scarps (A) within the northern part of the slurry tank footprint left no below-ground trace after the topsoil strip.
- 5.7 Following the topsoil strip, at the request of the archaeologist, a 2.0m wide trench was excavated through the central part of the slurry tank footprint, from earthwork B into the base of the natural scarp to the north-west. The level of the base of the trench was maintained at c.230m AOD, meaning that it reached a maximum depth of c.1.40m where it was cut into the base of the scarp. As noted above, the mid-brown sandy silt topsoil (002) overlay the mottled sand subsoil (003), which extended to a maximum depth of 1.10m BGL (see plates 3 and 4). The mottled

sand subsoil (003) overlay a clean, sticky, mid-brown, sandy clay (004) containing frequent inclusions of angular stone up to 0.40m across, a natural deposit; this deposit extended beyond the base of the trench. The upper surface of all three deposits rose from south-east to north-west, reflecting the rise in the ground surface across the northern half of the slurry tank footprint. An area c.8m wide on the western side of the footprint was subsequently reduced in height to c.230m AOD using the cage bucket but, as noted above, it was difficult to discern any archaeological features in this area, and so the watching brief was discontinued.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Although the stripped area was relatively small, and few archaeological features were uncovered, it is still likely that a number of different phases of activity are represented. The watching brief was also useful in that it demonstrated the relationship between the earthworks and the below-ground archaeological remains.
- 6.2 Earthwork B, formed by a south-east facing scarp, was once a bank (005) which excavation showed to be formed of unmortared stone rubble and 3.10m wide; topsoil had built up against the upslope side of the bank over time, obscuring it and creating the scarp which remained visible at the start of the watching brief. The bank clearly formed a boundary between two different types of land use at some point during its history, as evidenced by the difference in the rubble content of the topsoils (001 and 002) to either side. The lack of stone rubble in the topsoil (001) to the south-east of the bank, together with the possible presence of very denuded ridge and furrow, may suggest that a small area of land was cleared here for arable cultivation. However, this may not have been the original purpose of the bank, and it could well have previously formed part of a wider system of enclosures and/or boundaries, with arable cultivation taken up to the south-east only during a later period.
- 6.3 No dating evidence for the bank (005) was uncovered during the watching brief, and any large-scale integrated documentary and earthwork survey which would help to place it within its landscape context is currently unavailable. The boundary is clearly a significant one, and it is not depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1856 1st edition map (see figure 3 top), whereas the remains of the extant stone walls to north and south are. This might suggest that the bank is earlier in date, and it could possibly represent a pre-enclosure field boundary. An area known as 'Hyghnyng' was already defined by the end of the 13th century, when Robert de Tateshale had access to herbage there, and it is therefore possible that the bank/boundary relates to this, and so is of medieval date. However, it is also possible that the feature is related to the potential pre-medieval enclosure seen c.70m to the north-west of the development site, perhaps forming part of an outlying field system. Whatever date it might be, it is perhaps significant that the general north-east/south-west alignment of the bank is reflected in the later, straighter, enclosure field boundaries shown in 1856.
- 6.4 The earthwork evidence suggested the presence of a small semi-circular platform where earthwork B appeared to bifurcate. Subsequent topsoil stripping over part of this area revealed a c.4.0m long section of fragmentary stone revetting (006), while to the north there may have been another length of fragmentary wall footing, c.5.5m long and 0.50m wide. What these remains represent, or what date they might be, is unknown, and they could be no more than relatively modern features. However, their fragmentary nature implies some antiquity, and the possibility that they are related to the wider prehistoric activity seen in the area cannot be

discounted; unfortunately, there was insufficient evidence to establish whether the footings were later or earlier than bank 005.

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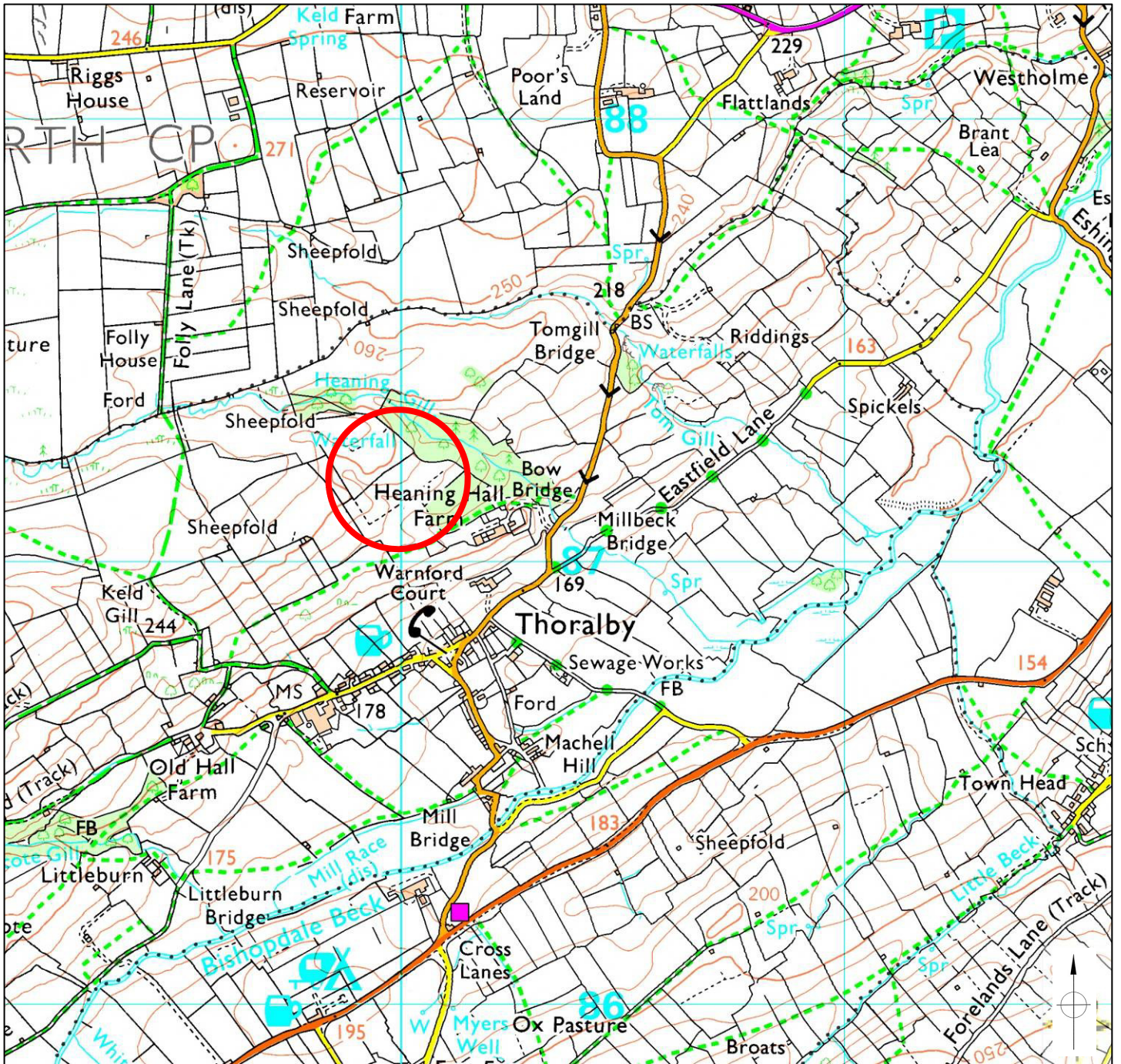
Electronic Sources

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1179808> = Historic England Listed Building description for Heaning Hall and Heaning Farmhouse

<https://www.thoralbythroughtime.net> = Thoralby Through Time

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

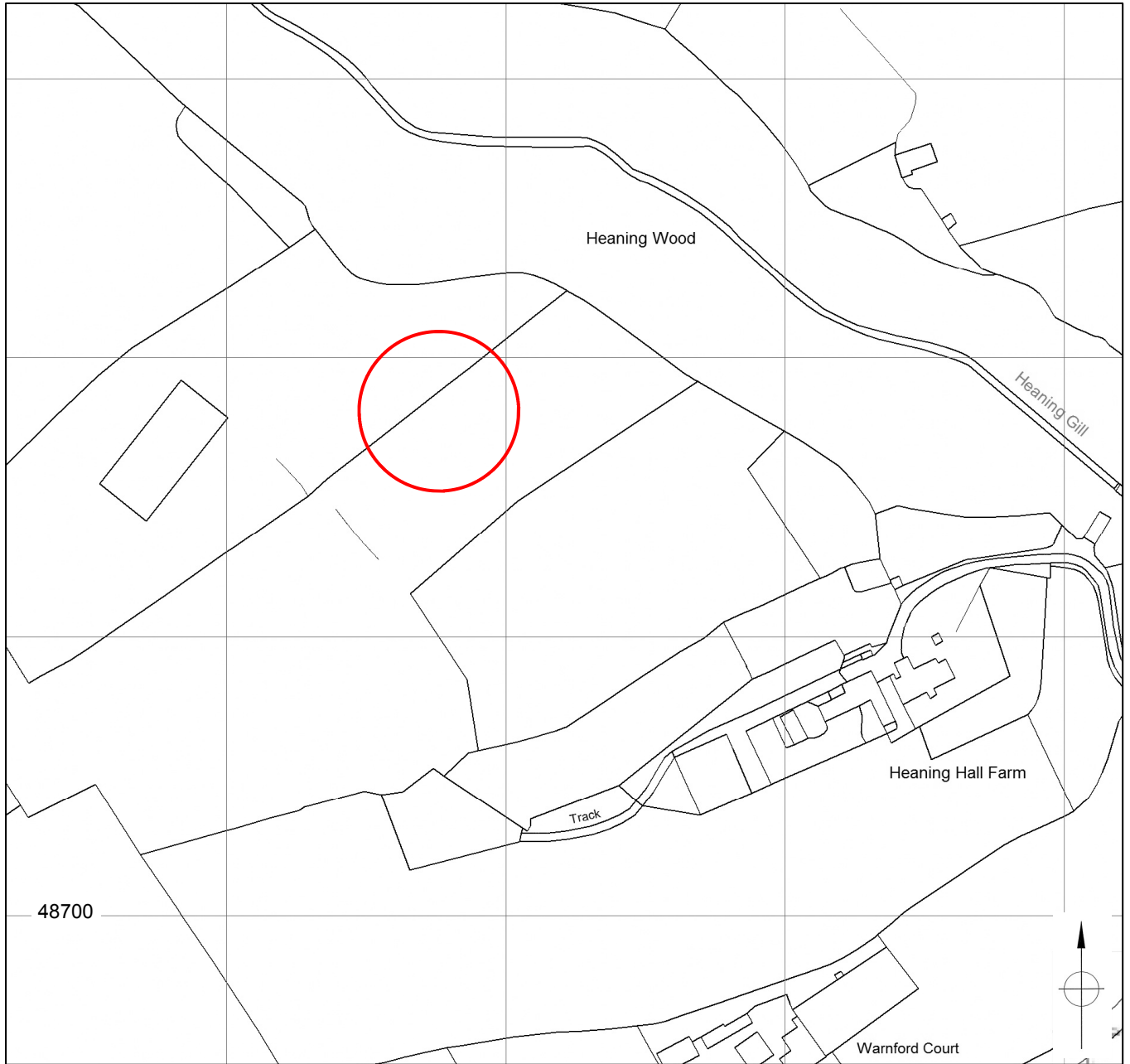
The archaeological recording was commissioned by the landowner and developer, Mr Michael Lancaster. Thanks are due to him and also John Askrigg and Ian Swain of WBW Surveyors Ltd. Archaeological information was provided by Miles Johnson and Luke Barker of the YDNPA HER. The archaeological recording was undertaken by Shaun Richardson of EDAS, who also produced a draft report. The final report and other drawings were produced by Ed Dennison, who retains responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies.



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PROJECT		HEANING HALL FARM, THORLABY	
TITLE		GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	DATE	NTS	OCT 2018
EDAS		FIGURE	1

40000

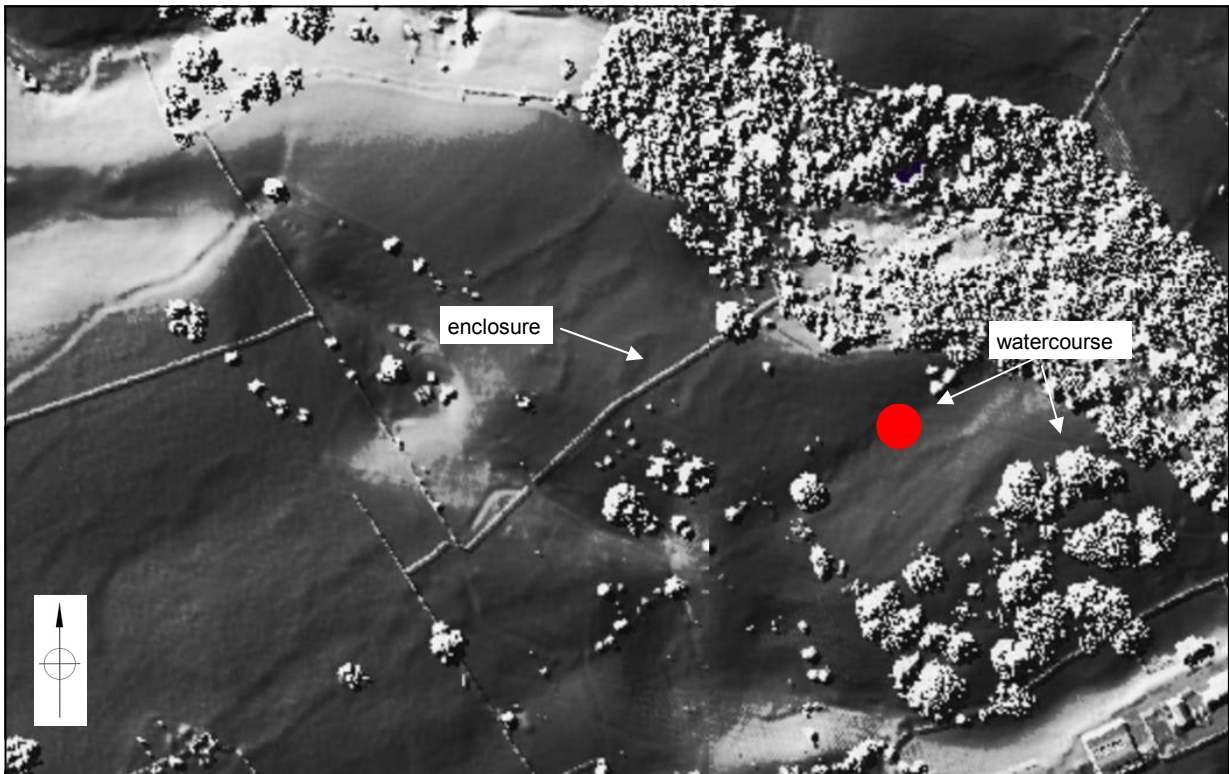
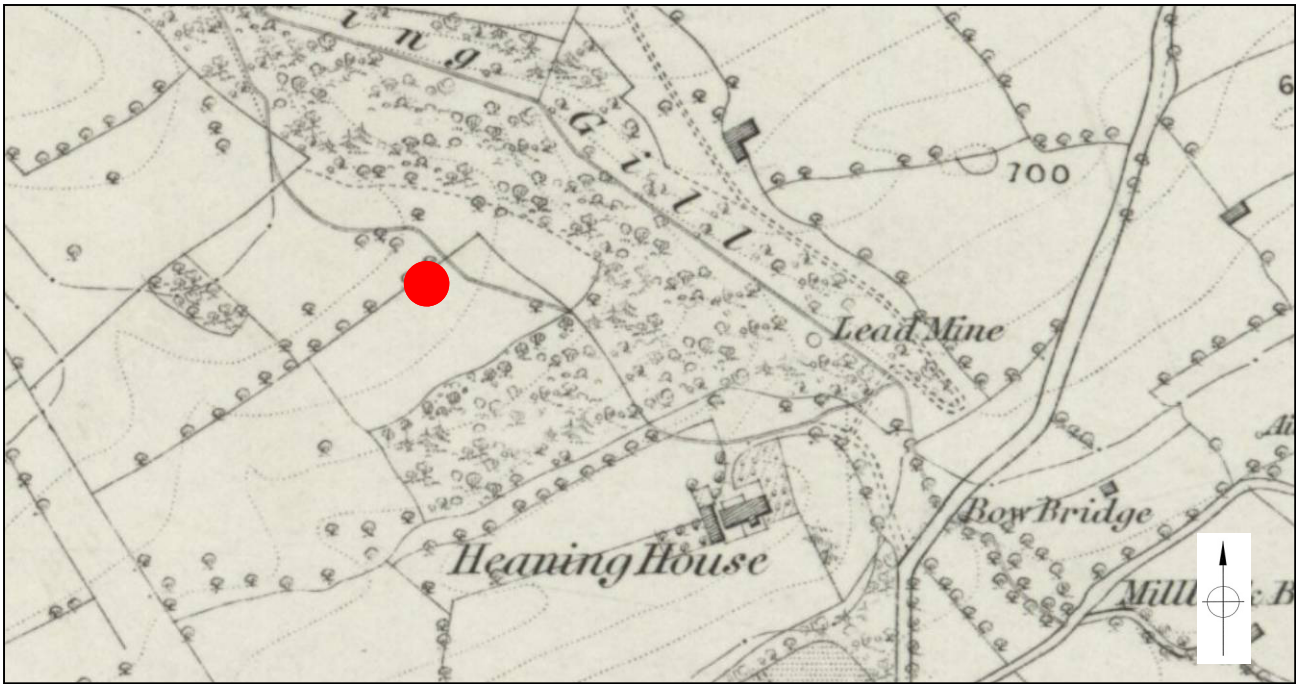


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PROJECT HEINING HALL FARM, THORALBY	
TITLE DETAILED LOCATION	
SCALE AS SHOWN	DATE OCT 2018
EDAS	FIGURE 2

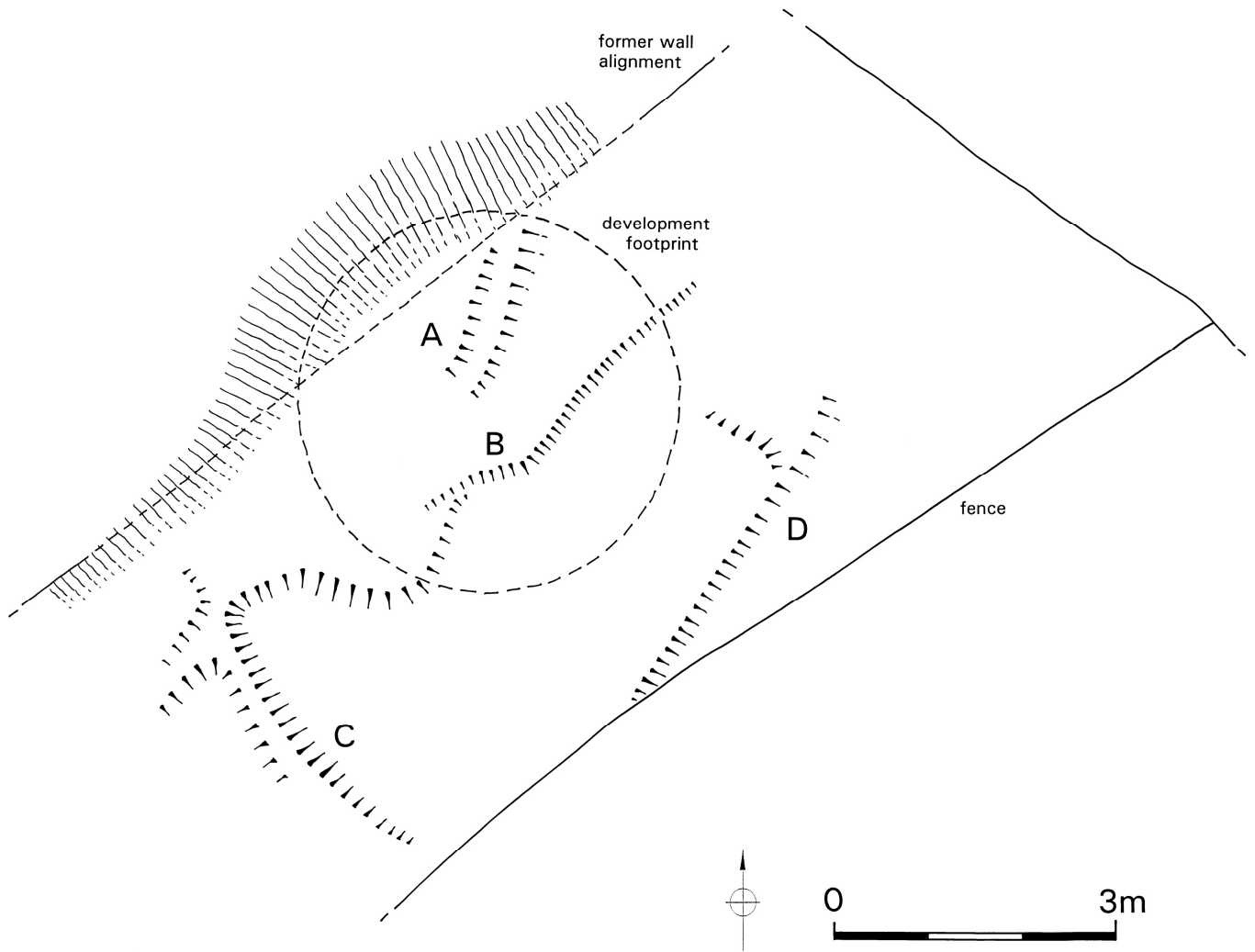


Development site shown in red.

Top: Ordnance Survey 1856 6" map, Yorkshire sheet 67, surveyed 1854.

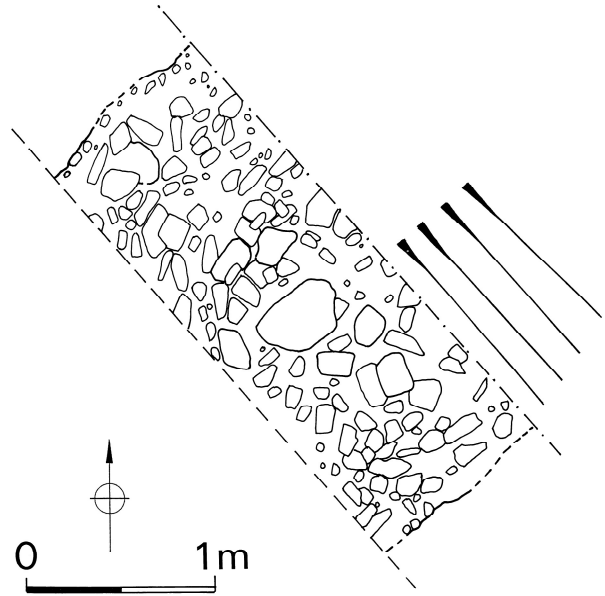
Bottom: LIDAR aerial photograph provided by YDNPA.

PROJECT		HEANING HALL FARM, THORALBY	
TITLE		HISTORIC INFORMATION	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	OCT 2018
EDAS		FIGURE	3

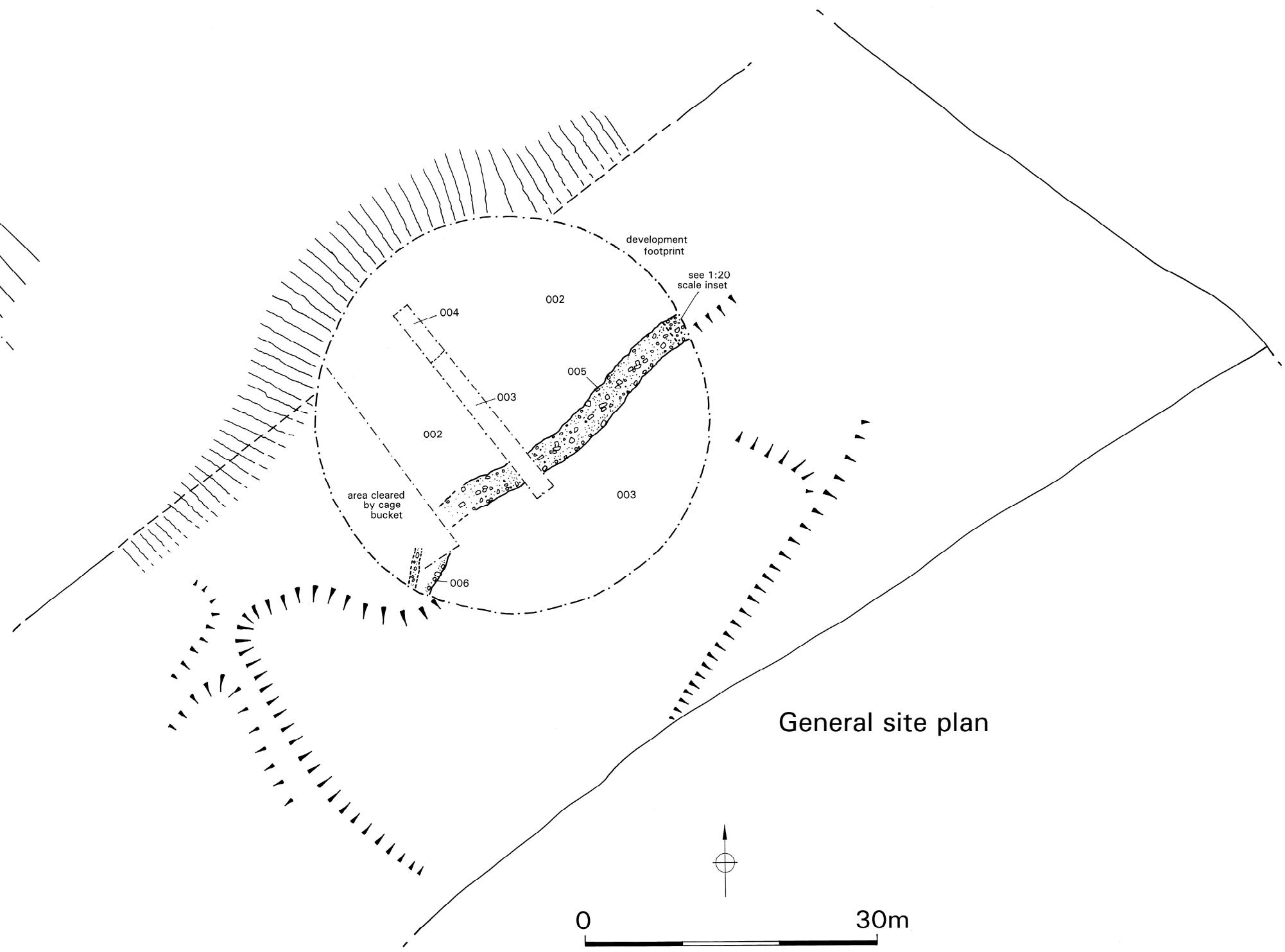


PROJECT HEANING HALL FARM, THORALBY	
TITLE EARTHWORK SURVEY	
SCALE AS SHOWN	DATE OCT 2018
EDAS	FIGURE 4

PROJECT HEANING HALL FARM, THORALBY	
TITLE WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS	
SCALE AS SHOWN	DATE OCT 2018
EDAS	FIGURE 5



Detail of Bank (005)



General site plan



Plate 1: General view of development site prior to excavation, showing earthwork D, looking W (photo 1/055).



Plate 2: General view of development site, prior to excavation, showing earthwork C, looking NE (photo 1/058).



Plate 3: Excavation of exploratory trench, showing subsoil (003) and bank (005) in foreground, looking NW (photo 2/220).



Plate 4: Excavation of exploratory trench, showing subsoil (003), looking SE (photo 2/223).



Plate 5: Bank (005), looking along earthwork B, looking SW (photo 2/194).



Plate 6: General view of completed topsoil stripping and exploratory trench, looking SE (photo 2/226).

APPENDIX 1
LIST OF CONTEXTS

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

<i>Context</i>	<i>Description & Interpretation</i>	<i>Area of Site</i>
001	Friable clean mid-brown sandy silt, 0.20m thick - topsoil.	SE of earthwork B
002	Friable mid-brown sandy silt with very frequent inclusions of angular stone, mostly smaller than 0.30m x 0.20m x 0.10m, but some were as large as 0.50m x 0.30m x 0.20m, 0.20m thick - topsoil.	NW of earthwork B
003	Compacted, gritty, mottled orange/mid-brown sand with very frequent inclusions of angular stone between 0.05m to 0.10m across - subsoil.	Whole site
004	Clean, sticky, mid-brown, sandy clay containing frequent inclusions of angular stone up to 0.40m across, at least 0.30m thick - natural deposit.	Whole site
005	Bank of unmortared compacted stone rubble, with larger, shallower stones up to 0.30m square laid flat towards the centre and smaller more angular stones to the sides. Overall 3.10m wide and 0.30m thick, with a flattened top c.1.50m wide, with gently sloping scarped sides.	Across centre of site
006	Angular stone rubble appearing to form remains of fragmentary stone revetting, c.4.0m long and with at least one rounded stone measuring 0.50m x 0.30m x 0.20m. Another fragmentary wall footing to the north, c.5.5m long and 0.50m wide, diverging slightly from the fragmentary revetting. Difficult to define clearly due to the amount of stone rubble in the overlying topsoil.	SW corner of site

APPENDIX 2
EDAS WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING (WATCHING BRIEF) DURING INSTALLATION OF A 40.5m DIAMETER CONCRETE PANEL SLURRY STORE, LAND NORTH OF HEANING HALL, THORALBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) details the work required to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief), to be carried out during groundworks associated with the installation of a circular slurry store, on land to the north of Heaning Hall, Thorlaby, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 00128 87150 centred). This written scheme has been produced by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS), at the request of the developer, Mr Michael Lancaster of Townhead Farm, Thorlaby. A visit to the development site was made by Ed Dennison on 1st June 2018.
- 1.2 This document forms the 'Written Scheme of Investigation', as required by condition 7 of the full planning permission for the development (application R/58/12P), approved by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) on 16th April 2018.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The development site lies c.180m to the north-west of Heaning Hall, but at a significantly higher elevation. The site is accessed by a curvilinear track, which runs west from the farm complex and then takes a circuitous route to reach the level terrace on which the slurry store is to be located. The access track has already been created, and is formed from rubble stone and hardcore laid on top of the existing ground surface.
- 2.2 The platform itself is effectively a level terrace placed between two lynchets (see figures 3 and 4). The terrace measures c.100m north-east/south-west by c.50m north-west/south-east. The lynchet forming the north-west side of the platform is steep and c.3m-4m high whereas that to the south-east is less steep and only c.1m high. There are the footings of a collapsed stone wall at the base of the steep lynchet, while a slightly more intact stone wall, in small sections up to five or six courses high but otherwise mostly collapsed, lies at the top of the lower lynchet; this boundary has been replaced with a post and wire fence. Both these walls are shown as intact on the 1856 Ordnance Survey 6" map (sheet 67) (see figure 1). The west side of the platform is crossed by a very shallow earthwork bank, c.0.2m high by c.1.0m wide, probably representing a former field boundary, and there is possibly a similar feature towards the east side; the latter is shown on the 1856 map. The slurry pit is to be positioned between these two features, towards the back of the platform so that it cuts into the base of the steeper lynchet.
- 2.3 There are no obvious earthworks within the centre of the platform, although it is possible that some very faint ridge and furrow, representing late medieval or early post-medieval arable cultivation, may be present, aligned north-east/south-west, parallel to the general orientation of the platform. No earthworks are depicted on the 1856 map, although a watercourse crosses the north-east corner of the platform, possibly associated with a small lead mine shown off to the south-east in the valley of the adjacent Heaning Gill (see figure 1). This watercourse was not immediately apparent on the ground at the time of the site visit.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Full planning permission for the development was approved by the YDNPA on 16th April 2018 (application R/58/12P). Condition 7, which relates to archaeology, states:

Prior to the commencement of the development, a programme of archaeological work including a Written Scheme of Investigation, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Written Scheme of Investigation shall include for following:

- a) a programme and methodology for site investigation and recording;*
- b) a programme and methodology for post site investigation assessment and recording;*
- c) provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording;*
- d) provision to be made for archive publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation;*
- e) provision to be made for the archive deposition of the analysis and records of site investigation;*
- f) nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post-investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in approved Written Scheme of Investigation and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

- 3.2 The Senior Historic Environment Officer of the YDNPA advised that the development site lies in an archaeologically sensitive landscape, and drew attention to a small earthwork enclosure with possible internal features immediately to the north of the site (see figure 2); it is not known whether this has archaeological origins. If it does represent a settlement site, there is some potential for middens etc running down from the enclosure to the development site. It was advised that a limited archaeological investigation should be undertaken prior to the development of the site, firstly to record any evidence of the surviving field banks in the area and secondly to investigate the archaeological potential towards the base of the slope.
- 3.3 Contact was made with the Senior Historic Environment Officer after the site visit, and it was decided that the possible archaeological implications could be accommodated by a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief), carried out during the initial groundworks associated with the installation of the slurry tank. This would ensure that any archaeological deposits or features that might be uncovered can be adequately recorded.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

- 4.1 Information from the YDNPA Historic Environment Record (HER) notes a number of archaeological sites within the vicinity of the development site. However, many of these are extant field barns and other structures, although there are also records of occasional areas of ridge and furrow earthworks and former field banks. Field banks are recorded c.100m to the south-west of the development (HER

MYD45872) and c.100m to the west (HER MYD45873), while a small area of ridge and furrow has been noted c.200m to the north-west (HER 45875). The potential settlement enclosure noted above lies c.70m to the north-west of the site, bisected by a field wall; this site is shown on LIDAR aerial photograph, and this also shows the probable watercourse depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1854 6" map (see figure 2). Some c.100m to the west, the low earthworks of a possible building platform were noted in the corner of a field (at NGR SE 9989 8714) during an assessment carried out for new water pipeline (NAA 1996, 6 - Site 11), but subsequent excavation revealed nothing of archaeological interest (NAA 1997, 6). A large area of the historic landscape around Thorlaby village has been surveyed by Stephen Moorhouse, including potentially on or close to the current development site, although none of this material is currently available for study (Moorhouse 2003, 361 & table 13).

5 NATURE OF THE DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1 The development comprises the installation of a single concrete panel slurry store, measuring 39.6m in diameter (see figure 5). As noted above, the north-west side of the store will be excavated into the steep lynchet, with some ground being built up to the south-east. The maximum depth of excavation will be in the region of 500mm - it is envisaged that the top soil will be quite shallow, and so some excavation of bedrock may be required.

6 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The aim of the archaeological recording is to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth, and significance of any archaeological features and deposits which might be affected by the proposed development. All archaeological work will be undertaken in accordance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidelines (CIfA 2014).
- 6.2 All excavated groundworks will be subject to archaeological monitoring as they are being dug, so that any archaeological deposits that might be uncovered can be immediately identified and recorded. Where mechanical equipment is to be used for the excavations (e.g. 360 digger), a toothless bucket will be used wherever practicable, to facilitate the archaeological recording.
- 6.3 If it becomes clear during the monitoring work that little of archaeological interest is likely to survive in the site, the recording work may be halted, in consultation with the YDNPA Senior Historic Environment Officer. However, if archaeological structures, features, finds or deposits are exposed or disturbed, EDAS will be allowed time to clean, assess, and hand excavate, sample and record the archaeological remains, as necessary and appropriate according to the nature of the remains, to allow the archaeological material to be sufficiently characterised (see also 6.7 below). Mechanical excavators will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until those remains have been recorded, and EDAS has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.
- 6.4 The archaeological recording work should not cause undue delay to the overall programme of site works, and much can be achieved through liaison and co-operation with the main contractor. However, the main contractor and client will ensure that EDAS have sufficient time and resources to ensure compliance with all elements of this WSI. It is likely that the archaeological recording will be accomplished through a number of separate site visits, the number and duration of

which will be determined by the speed of the development and/or excavations. Access to the site will therefore be afforded to EDAS at all reasonable times.

- 6.5 Reasonable prior notice (minimum one week, ideally two weeks) of the commencement of development will be given to EDAS, who will then inform the YDNPA Senior Historic Environment Officer, so that he may attend or monitor the recording work if they so wish.
- 6.6 The actual areas of ground disturbance, and any features of archaeological interest, will be accurately located on a general site plan (e.g. at 1:200 scale) and recorded by colour digital photographs, scale drawings (plans and sections at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate), and written descriptions, using appropriate proforma record sheets and standard archaeological recording systems.
- 6.7 If, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries are made that warrant more recording than is covered by this WSI, immediate contact will be made with the YDNPA Senior Historic Environment Officer. This will allow appropriate amendments to be made to the scope of the recording work, in agreement with all parties concerned; these amendments might, for example, include the requirement to sample archaeological and/or environmental deposits, and/or detailed excavation of specific structures. The possibility of temporarily halting work for unexpected discoveries will be discussed with the developer and his contractor in advance of the development, and sufficient time and resources will be made available to ensure that proper recording is made prior to any removal.
- 6.8 If human remains are encountered during the course of the groundworks, and if they are required to be removed to facilitate the development, they will be removed under the conditions of a Ministry of Justice burial licence, to ensure that they are treated with due dignity. The preferred option would be for them to be adequately recorded before lifting, and then carefully removed for scientific study, and long-term storage with an appropriate museum; however, the burial licence may specify reburial or cremation as a requirement.
- 6.9 The terms of the Treasure Act (1996) will be followed with regard to any finds which might fall within its purview. Any such finds will be removed to a safe place, and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the Code of Practice. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. A finds recovery and conservation strategy will also be discussed and agreed with the developer in advance of the project commencing.

7 REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 7.1 On completion of the archaeological fieldwork, any samples taken will be processed and any finds will be cleaned, identified, assessed, spot dated, marked (if appropriate) and properly packaged and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. The level of post-excavation analysis will be appropriate to the quality and quantity of the finds recovered, and specialists would be consulted as necessary.
- 7.2 A fully indexed and ordered field archive will be prepared, following the guidelines produced by Historic England and the National Archaeological Record. The archive will comprise primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs, and an index to the archive should also be prepared. Subject to the agreement of

the landowner, and depending on whether significant artefacts are recovered, the site archive may be deposited with the YDNPA HER or the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes. If necessary, EDAS will make an allowance for payment of the museum's storage grant.

- 7.3 With the exception of human remains, and finds of treasure (as defined under the 1996 Treasure Act - see above), all finds are the property of the landowner. However, it is generally expected that the finds will be deposited with the site archive. A finds recovery and conservation strategy will be agreed with the developer in advance of the project commencing, and this will include contingency arrangements for artefacts of special significance. Any recording, marking and storage materials will be of archival quality, and recording systems will be compatible with the recipient museum. Copies of all recording forms and manuals have already been submitted to the YDNPA Senior Historic Environment Officer in relation to other watching brief projects.
- 7.4 EDAS will produce a report detailing the results of the watching brief within six weeks of the completion of the site work. This report will include the following (as appropriate):
- A non-technical summary;
 - Site code/project number;
 - Planning reference number;
 - Dates for fieldwork visits;
 - Grid reference;
 - A location plan, with scale;
 - A copy of the developer's plan showing the areas monitored;
 - Sections and plan drawings with ground level, Ordnance Datum and vertical and horizontal scales;
 - General site photographs, as well as photographs of any significant archaeological deposits or artefacts that are encountered;
 - A written description and analysis of the methods and results of the watching brief, in the context of the known archaeology of the area;
 - Specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary.
- 7.5 Three copies of the final report will be supplied, for distribution to the developer, the Local Planning Authority and the YDNPA HER, as pdf files. A hard copy of the final report will also be included within the site archive.
- 7.6 If a significant discovery is made, consideration will be given to the preparation of a short note for inclusion in a local journal.

8 MONITORING

- 8.1 The archaeological recording work may be monitored by the YDNPA Senior Historic Environment Officer, and appropriate site meetings and liaison will be arranged as necessary.

9 HEALTH AND SAFETY, AND INSURANCE

- 9.1 EDAS will comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 while undertaking the archaeological recording work, and Health and Safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters. The site is privately owned and EDAS will indemnify the landowners in respect of their legal liability for physical injury to persons or damage to property arising on site in connection with the survey, to the extent of EDAS's Public Liability Insurance Cover (£5,000,000).

10 REFERENCES

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Moorhouse, S 2003 'The Anatomy of the Yorkshire Dales: Decoding the Medieval Landscape'. In Manby, T, Moorhouse, S & Ottaway, P (eds) *The Archaeology of Yorkshire: An Assessment at the Beginning of the 21st Century*, 293-362

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E Dennison
EDAS
7th June 2018

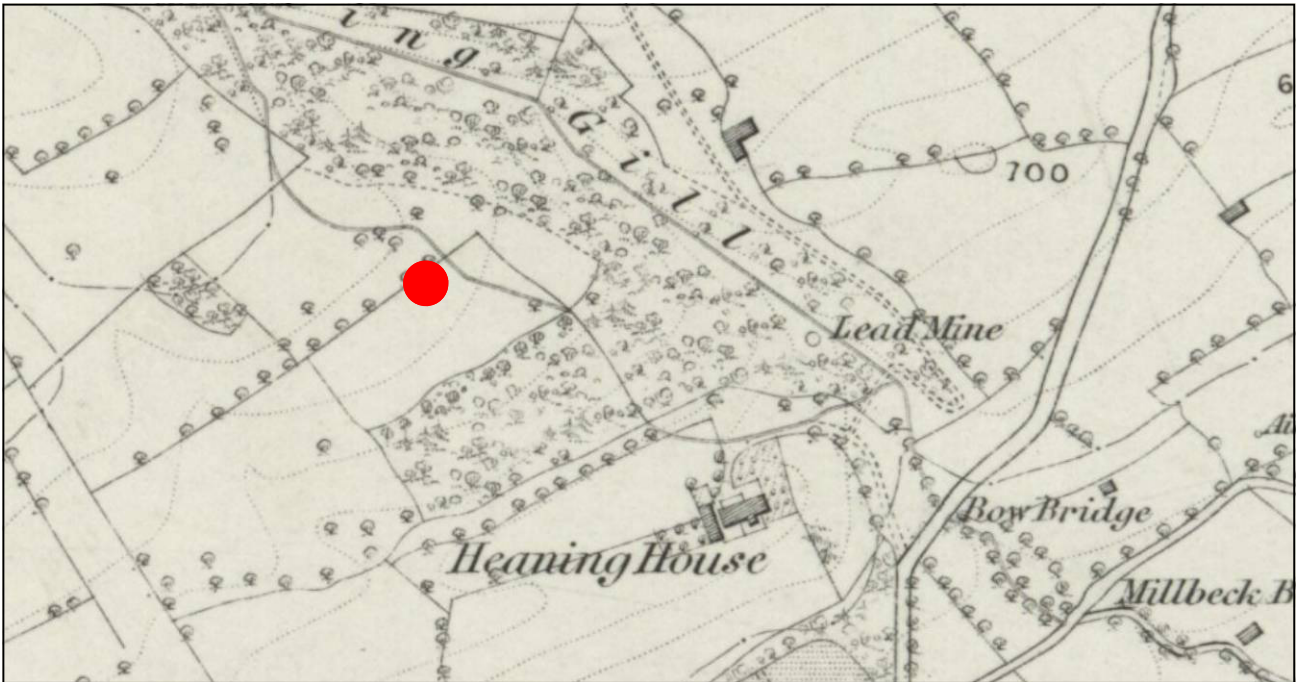


Figure 1: Ordnance Survey 1856 6" map, Yorkshire sheet 67, surveyed 1854. Development site shown in red.

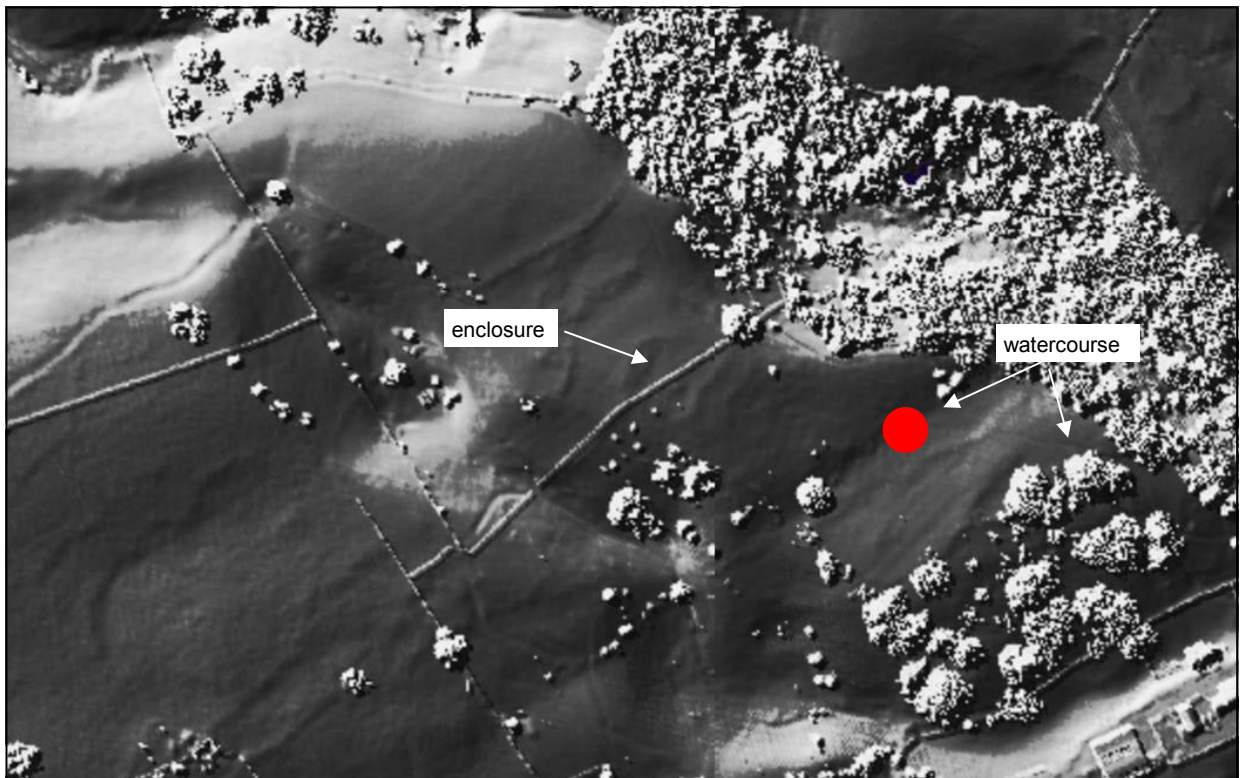


Figure 2: LIDAR aerial photograph provided by YDNPA. Development site shown in red.



Figure 3: View across platform and proposed development site, looking west (trough in approximate centre of proposed slurry store).



Figure 4: View across platform and proposed development site, looking east (trough in approximate centre of proposed slurry store).

Landscaping Plan: Heaning Hall Farm, Thoralby, Leyburn



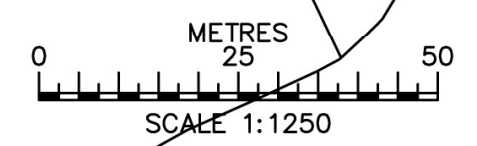
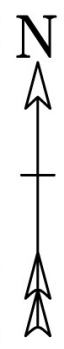
Area of re-profiled land

Proposed tree planting as per schedule

Heaning Hall Farm

Track

Heaning Gill



Sheet Size A4

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Figure 5: Site as existing and proposed (plan supplied by WBW Chartered Surveyors, reproduced with permission).