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**Cat Babbleton Farm,
Ganton, Scarborough,
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Desk-based Appraisal

June 2009

Report No. 1962

CLIENT

Ian Pick Associates

Cat Babbleton Farm, Ganton, Scarborough, North Yorkshire

Archaeological Desk-based Appraisal

Summary

The proposed development site lies within the Yorkshire Wolds, an area known to have been exploited throughout antiquity. Cropmark evidence suggests human activity in the study area from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods; archaeological features identified from aerial photographs include barrows, enclosures, trackways and field systems. Cat Babbleton Farm is thought to have been built in the early 17th century. The land surrounding the proposed development site has probably been in agricultural use throughout the post-medieval period.



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Report Information

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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Ian Pick Associates to undertake an archaeological desk-based appraisal of land at Cat Babbleton Farm, Ganton, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, in order to form a section of an Environmental Assessment in advance of proposals to build a free range egg unit on the site.

Site location and topography

Cat Babbleton Farm is located approximately 3.5km to the south of the village of Ganton, in the Yorkshire Wolds (Fig. 1), to the west of Ganton Hill which runs north-south between Ganton and Foxholes. The proposed development site lies approximately 130m to the north of Cat Babbleton Farm, (centered at NGR TA 0002 7452). The footprint of the proposed free range egg unit is rectangular in shape and comprises an area some 2720m² in size, within a field currently in arable cultivation (Fig. 2).

The proposed development site lies at a height of approximately 135m above ordnance datum (AOD). From here, the land rises steeply to the north and falls away to the south.

The study area comprises a 500m radius from the centre of the proposed development site.

Geology and soils

The geology consists predominately of chalk with flint and thin marl beds, though a narrow band of mudstone (Lias Group) runs north-east of Cat Babbleton Farm in a south-westerly direction, where it meets a second narrow band which runs north-west to south-west through Ganton Dale (British Geological Survey 1998). The overlying soils of the area belong to the Panholes association, described as ‘well drained calcareous fine silt soils over chalk’ (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1980).

2 Methodology and Sources

After instruction from the client, the following sources of information have been consulted in order to produce this desk-based appraisal. Where sites listed in the catalogue (Section 4) are mentioned in the text, the relevant catalogue numbers are given in bold-type.

Archaeological archives and databases

Information on previous archaeological finds and investigations within the study area was obtained from the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER). Information held by the National Monument Record Office was obtained from the archaeology data service website (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>).

Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments

Details of Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments were obtained from the HER and National Monuments Record.

Published and unpublished sources

A range of published and unpublished material has been researched and consulted. This includes academic articles together with general sources on the area and its wider archaeological and historical background. These are listed in the bibliography.

Geological and soil surveys

Information on the underlying geology and soils within the study area was taken from data collected by the British Geological Survey (British Geological Survey 1998) and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (1980).

3 The Study Area

Identified archaeological sites, buildings and features

A total of 23 archaeological sites, features and historic buildings have been identified in the study area. These are discussed below and have been catalogued in Section 4.

Designated sites and areas

No Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks or Gardens or Registered Battlefields lie near the site.

Previous investigations

No previous investigations have been undertaken within the limits of the study area.

Archaeological background, sites and features

Palaeolithic to Bronze Age period

The earliest human activity within the North Yorkshire area probably followed the retreat of the ice sheets around 10,000 BC, as small Nomadic groups moved north with the improving climate. Such activity is likely to have been limited by the climatic conditions, but small assemblages of flint tools dating to the Upper Palaeolithic period (*c.* 11500 BC – *c.* 8000 BC) and the Mesolithic (*c.* 8000 BC – *c.* 4000 BC) have been found on the east coast of North Yorkshire at Flixton Carr and Seamer Carr, approximately 7km to the north-east and 10km to the north of the proposed development site respectively (Vyner 2003, 30; Manby 2003, 31). The site of Star Carr, located some 7.5m to the north-east, has produced wood and bone objects of Mesolithic date, preserved by the waterlogging of the area (Clark 1954), which may represent the remains of seasonal hunting camps, making use of the marine resources of the area during the winter and spring.

The Neolithic period is traditionally seen as marking the introduction of farming, as nomadic hunter-gatherer subsistence gave way to agriculture and the domestication of animals. The archaeological evidence is increasingly showing that this was more a feature of the later Neolithic and Bronze Age periods however, and that in the main the population continued to be predominately nomadic during the earlier part of the Neolithic period, with sites typically represented by scatters of flint, pottery and burnt stone. Settlement evidence for the Bronze Age period is relatively limited in eastern Yorkshire, although two Late Bronze Age defended sites have been identified at Castle Hill, approximately 10km to the east of the proposed development site, and at Paddock Hill, Thwing, 7.5km to the south-east (Manby 2003, 40). Areas of possible Bronze Age field systems have also been identified across the Yorkshire Wolds with substantial areas defined by linear earthworks, boundary ditches and trackways (Stoertz 1997, 62).

Evidence for human activity in the study area during the early prehistoric period is limited to a flint axe of Neolithic date (**20**), found approximately 400m to the east of the proposed development site, however over 40 pieces of worked flint were recovered during an archaeological excavation undertaken in 1986 at the site of Barrow Farm, approximately 700m to the north of Cat Babbleton Farm (Cardwell 1989).

The Neolithic and early Bronze Age periods are also characterised by the introduction of large ceremonial and funerary monument and many examples have been recorded throughout the Yorkshire Wolds (Storez 1997). A group of ring ditches, which probably represent the remains of round barrows, have been identified as cropmarks approximately 500m to the south of the proposed development site (**3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12** and **17**), while a second group of possible round barrows is located to the north-east (**22**), although these may form part of an Iron Age square barrow cemetery.

Iron Age and Roman periods

There is extensive evidence for Iron Age activity throughout east Yorkshire. The earliest settlements may have been in continuous use from the Bronze Age, such as the defended site at Castle Hill, Scarborough (Spratt 1990). The later Iron Age saw the development of settlements consisting of small fields and plots, defined by ditches and banks. Larger areas of linear field systems were also laid out, often aligned along a trackway or ditch (Stoertz 1997). These are known as 'ladder settlements', and comprise smaller rectilinear enclosures, probably connected with stock rearing (Dent 1983, 39).

One of the most characteristic Iron Age monuments in eastern Yorkshire is the square barrow. The earliest of these appeared in the mid-5th century BC but this form of burial appears to have continued in practice into the 1st century BC (Dent 1983, 36). Cropmarks representing a possible cemetery containing sixteen square barrows lie approximately 650m to the east of the proposed development site (**22**), along with the remains of round barrows of possible Bronze Age date.

By the late Iron Age, much of eastern Yorkshire, from the River Humber in the south, the Yorkshire Moors in the north and the River Derwent and Howardian Hills in the west fell within the tribal territory of the Parisi. The tribal territory of the Parisi fell under Roman control about AD 71, as the Roman army moved northwards through the area to outflank the Brigantes to the west, and it has been suggested that there was little resistance by the Parisi (Cunliffe 2005, 215). It is likely that the Iron Age settlement pattern across eastern Yorkshire continued through into the Roman period, although there is evidence of more elaborate villas being constructed from the mid-3rd century onwards (Spratt 1990, 156).

Cropmarks of enclosures representing the remains of a possible late Iron Age or Roman settlement lie approximately 430m to the north of the proposed development site (**8** and **13**; Appendix 2), alongside a double-ditched north-west to south-west aligned trackway (**23**). The outline of the enclosures in the settlement appear to show periodic remodelling and the site may therefore have been occupied for some time.

Cropmarks representing a second possible trackway, represented in parts by a linear pit alignment, runs through the settlement in a south westerly direction (**2**), terminating some 300m to the west of the proposed development site. A second pit alignment runs from the main trackway away to the north-east (**19**). The latter was the subject of an archaeological investigation in 1986, prior to the construction of Barrow Farm, which exposed part of this linear boundary and it was seen to be initially composed from a series of pits which was later replaced by a shallow linear ditch (Cardwell 1986). The pottery recovered from the backfill of the boundary feature suggests that while it could have been established in the later Iron Age period, it continued to be utilised throughout the Roman period until the 5th century (Cardwell 1986).

Cropmarks of further enclosures and field systems of possible later prehistoric or Roman date have been identified in close proximity to the proposed development site, including a series of enclosures containing possible structures approximately 200m to the north (**16**). A single enclosure has also been recorded approximately 200m to the south of the proposed development site (**5**).

Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods

Following the end of Roman rule in AD 410, the former province fragmented into a number of small kingdoms, and the study area probably fell within the area of the kingdom of Deira, which was established by the 6th century, although by the 7th century it formed part of the Northumbrian kingdom. Remains of Anglo-Saxon settlements are rare in Yorkshire, however investigations undertaken at West Heslerton, approximately 10km north-west of the study area, have revealed evidence for occupation throughout much of this period (Powlesland 1998). No evidence for activity during this period has been identified within the study area, although the settlement of Ganton is recorded in the Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 1992), which suggests some occupation here by the late Anglo-Saxon period.

Occupation in the Yorkshire Wolds was probably much more extensive in the earlier medieval period than it appears today, with agriculture forming an important part of the economy. During the later medieval period, there was a dramatic decrease in the population in the Wolds, due in part to a shift to large scale sheep rearing and natural disasters such as the plague, and many settlements either decreased in size or were completely deserted (Goldberg 2003).

Cat Bableton Farm is thought to have been built in the early 17th century (**14**; NMR No. TA 07 SW 48) and the surrounding land has therefore been in agricultural use from at least the early post-medieval period. The area has also seen subjected to some quarrying activity as well, and several chalk pits have been identified in the study area (**7, 9, 15** and **18**), including one approximately 150m to the south of the proposed development site (**9**).

Catalogue of Archaeological Sites and Buildings

Archaeological features

Catalogue entries have been ordered geographically from west to east, and given a numerical identifier, with their locations shown on Figure 2. The catalogue entry includes a National Grid Reference (NGR) number and the North Yorkshire HER reference (e.g. MNY3799) where applicable. The position of those catalogue sites with a MNY number are shown on the map provided by North Yorkshire HER, which presented in Appendix 1 of this report. The cropmarks recorded as part of the National Mapping Programme are presented in Appendix 2.

1. Ditches

MNY3799

SE 995 741

Two parallel ditches running along an approximate north-south axis have been identified from aerial photographs approximately 500m to the south-west of Cat Bableton Farm. To the south, they join up with a number of other linear cropmarks to form a series of large enclosures or field boundaries.

2. Pit alignment /trackway

MNY8598

SE 9953 7469

A pit alignment running in a south-westerly direction from a double ditched trackway (Catalogue No. 23) for approximately 430m has been identified from aerial photographs to the north-west of Cat Bableton Farm. A second alignment runs parallel along the north-eastern end of it lies approximately 20m to the north and together they probably represent the remains of a trackway.

3. Ring ditch

MNY8652

SE 9995 7399

A cropmark of a ring ditch has been identified approximately 500m to the south of Cat Bableton Farm.

4. Ring ditch **MNY8651** **SE 9997 7397**

A cropmark of a ring ditch has been identified approximately 500m to the south of Cat Babbleton Farm.

5. Enclosure **MNY8599** **SE 9999 7426**

A cropmark of a rectangular enclosure has been recorded approximately 200m to the south of Cat Babbleton Farm. It was not identified during the National Monuments Programme.

6. Ring ditch **MNY8650** **TA 0000 7396**

A cropmark of a ditch has been identified from aerial photographs approximately 500m to the south of Cat Babbleton Farm. It appears almost polygonal in plan, with its south-west, south-east and west sides being straight rather than curved.

7. Chalk pit (site of) **TA 0000 7430**

The site of a chalk pit is shown on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map approximately 160m to the south-west of Cat Babbleton Farm (Ordnance Survey 1854a).

8. Enclosures **MNY8600** **TA 0001 7475**

Cropmarks representing a series of enclosures have been identified from aerial photographs to the south of the north-west to south-east aligned trackway (Catalogue No. 23). They appear as a series of conjoined sub-rectangular enclosures, some with possible internal divisions.

9. Stone quarry **MNY8645** **TA 0003 7434**

A disused stone quarry lies immediately to the south of Cat Babbleton Farm, to the north of the trackway.

10. Ring ditch **MNY8649** **TA 0005 7395**

Cropmarks of a ring ditch containing faint traces of roughly concentric inner ring ditches has been identified from aerial photographs approximately 500m to the south of Cat Babbleton Farm.

11. Possible ring ditch **MNY8655** **TA 0006 7396**

A cropmark of a curvilinear feature, possibly representing the remains of a ring ditch, has been identified approximately 500m to the south of Cat Babbleton Farm.

12. Ring ditch **MNY8653** **TA 0007 7397**

A cropmark of a ring ditch has been identified approximately 500m to the south of Cat Babbleton Farm.

13. Ditched enclosure **MNY8602** **TA 0007 7486**

A cropmark of a ditched enclosure is visible on aerial photographs on the south side of a trackway, approximately 430m to the north of Cat Babbleton Farm.

14. Cat Babbleton Farm **TA 0011 7442**

Cat Babbleton Farm was built in the early 17th century and altered in the late 17th and the early 19th centuries (NMR No. TA 07 SW 48).

15. Old pit (site of) **TA 0012 7402**

The site labelled as 'old pit' is shown on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map approximately 400m to the south of Cat Babbleton Farm (Ordnance Survey 1854a).

16. Enclosures and structures **MNY8605/6/7** **TA 0015 7472**

The Royal Commission of Historical Monuments identified cropmarks of enclosures approximately 200m to the north of Cat Babbleton Farm. The enclosures are on a different alignment to those locate alongside the main trackway and are thought to contain cropmarks possibly representing the remains of two circular and one rectangular structure.

17. Ring ditch **MNY8752** **TA 0028 7448**

A cropmark of a ring ditch has been identified approximately 500m to the south of Cat Babbleton Farm.

18. Chalk pit (site of) **TA 0036 7468**

The site of a chalk pit is shown on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map approximately 320m to the north-east of Cat Babbleton Farm (Ordnance Survey map 1854b).

19. Ditch/linear pit alignment **MNY8560** **TA 0041 7540**

A linear cropmark has been identified from aerial photographs approximately 470m to the north-east of Cat Babbleton Farm running in a north-east to south-west direction through Barrow Farm, terminating in the south at a double ditched trackway cropmark. An excavation was undertaken at this site in 1986 prior to the construction of Barrow Farm, approximately 700m to the north-east of Cat Babbleton Farm. The excavation suggested that the boundary was probably established in the later Iron Age period as a linear pit alignment, although it was later re-cut as a single ditch. Pottery recovered from the fill of the boundary shows it continued to be in use into the later Roman period. The excavation also revealed part of a ring gully, measuring 9.5m in diameter with a 3.5m wide entrance on the east side. Over 40 pieces of unstratified worked flint of Neolithic and Bronze Age date were also recovered during the investigations (Cardwell 1989).

20. Neolithic axe **MNY8646** **TA 0044 7465**

A flint axe probably dating to the Neolithic period was found at the junction of Ganton Hill road and the trackway leading to Cat Babbleton Farm.

21. Pit alignment **MNY8643** **TA 0050 7418**

A pit alignment running in a north-east to south-west direction for approximately 650m has been identified from aerial photographs approximately 450m to the east of Cat Babbleton Farm.

22. Possible barrow cemetery **MNY8638** **TA 006 746**

Cropmarks of seven square and four circular ditched features and a group comprising nine square-shaped features have been identified from aerial photographs, centred approximately 650m to the north-east of Cat Babbleton Farm. They are interpreted as the remains of a barrow cemetery dating from the early Bronze Age to the Late Iron Age.

23. Trackway **MNY8595** **SE 0090 7436**

Parallel ditches spaced between 7.5m and 12m have been identified as cropmarks running north-west to south-east approximately 350m to the north-east of Cat Babbleton Farm. It partially follows the route of Ganton Hill road. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping shows a double bank, although these have not been identified on aerial photographs.

5 Conclusions

The proposed development site lies in the Yorkshire Wolds, an area rich in archaeological remains from the prehistoric to Roman periods. The possible remains of round barrows and square barrows have been identified from aerial photographs to the south and east of the proposed development site, while features probably representing the remains of a settlement lie some 430m to the north-east. Cropmarks of further linear and sub-rectangular features have been recorded in close proximity to the proposed development site, suggesting wide spread activity throughout the study area in the prehistoric and Roman period and there is, therefore, a potential for archaeological finds and deposits of these dates to be encountered in the proposed development site.

The nature of medieval and post-medieval activity within the study area is at present not well understood, although additional research and consultation of available cartographic sources should assist in understanding the nature of land use and date the existing field boundaries around the proposed development site. Cat Babbleton Farm is thought to date to the early 17th century and there is, therefore, the potential for archaeological remains from the early post-medieval period through to the modern period associated with the establishment and use of this farmstead.

Due to the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains, further archaeological assessment may be required to determine the nature and extent of any putative remains within the proposed development site.

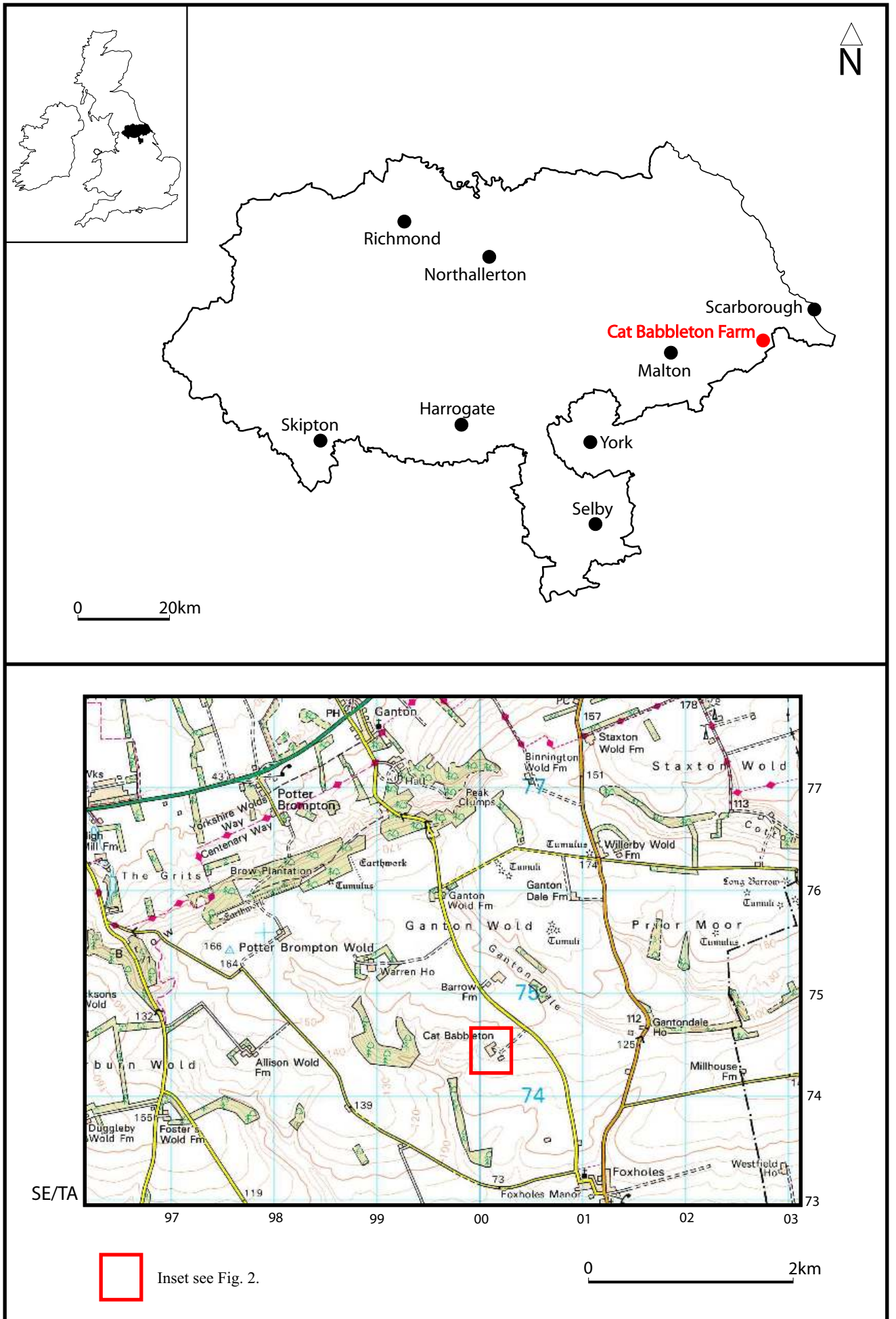


Fig. 1. Site location

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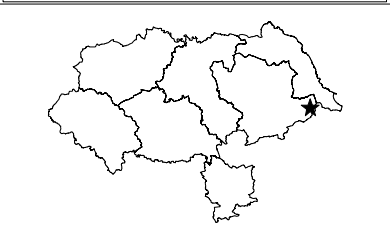
Fig. 2. Detailed site location plan (scale 1:2000 @A4)

Appendix 1: Monuments within 500m of Cat Bableton (North Yorkshire HER)

**Monuments within 500m
of Cat Bableton**

Scale 1:10000

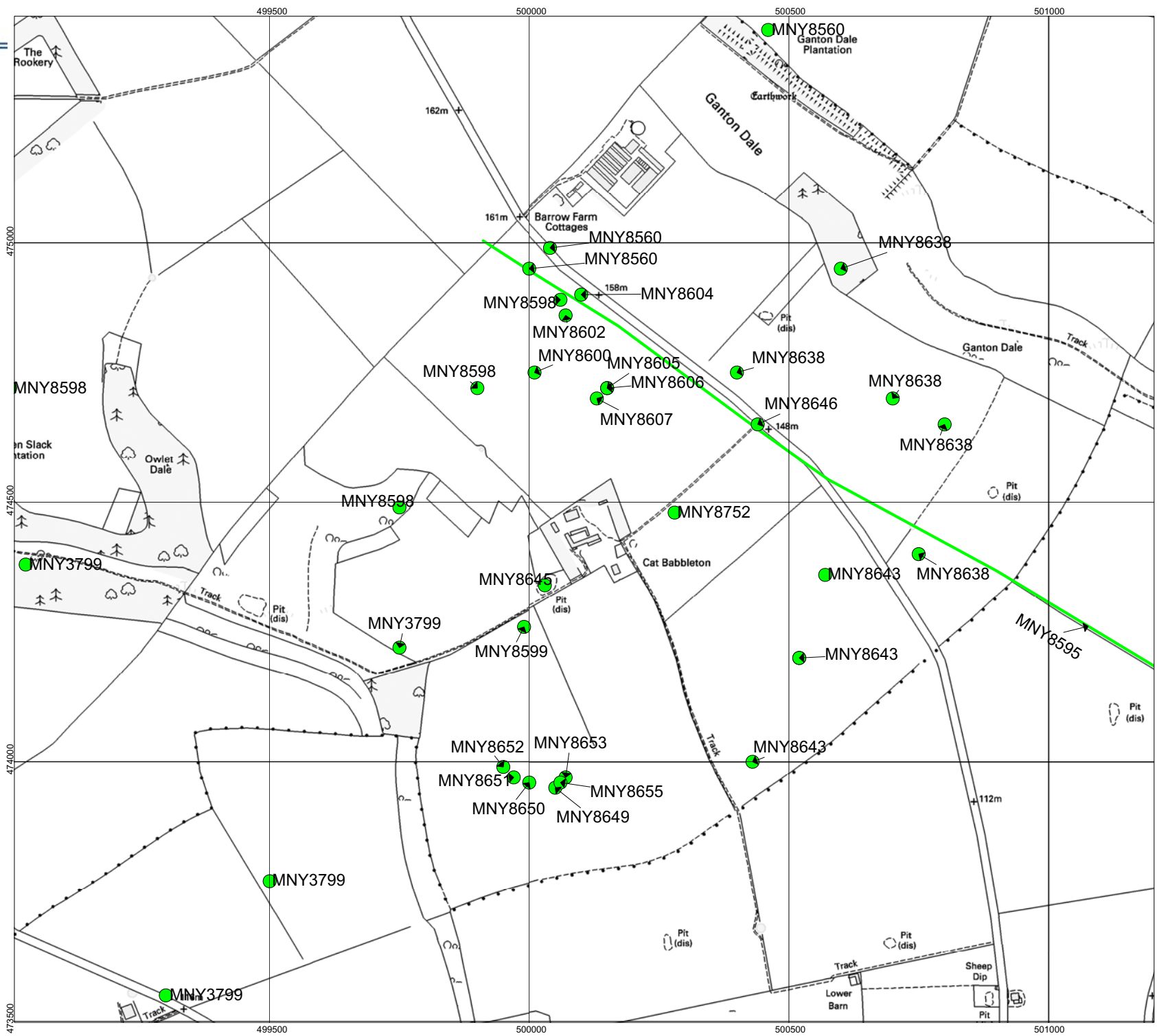
Compiled by GF on 28 May 2009
Monuments Only.
All Records should be quoted in
the format M12345



No active Legend.

All Archaeological mapping should be regarded as indicative not definitive. This data is provided for the agreed purpose only. It should not be used or reproduced anywhere else in any format without permission.

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Appendix 2: National Mapping Programme Wolds data around Cat Bableton

All Archaeological mapping should be regarded as indicative only.

Heritage & Environment Section
Development and
Countryside Service
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton DL7 8AH
08458 72 73 74

**National Mapping Programme
Wolds data around
Cat Babbleton**

Scale 1:10000

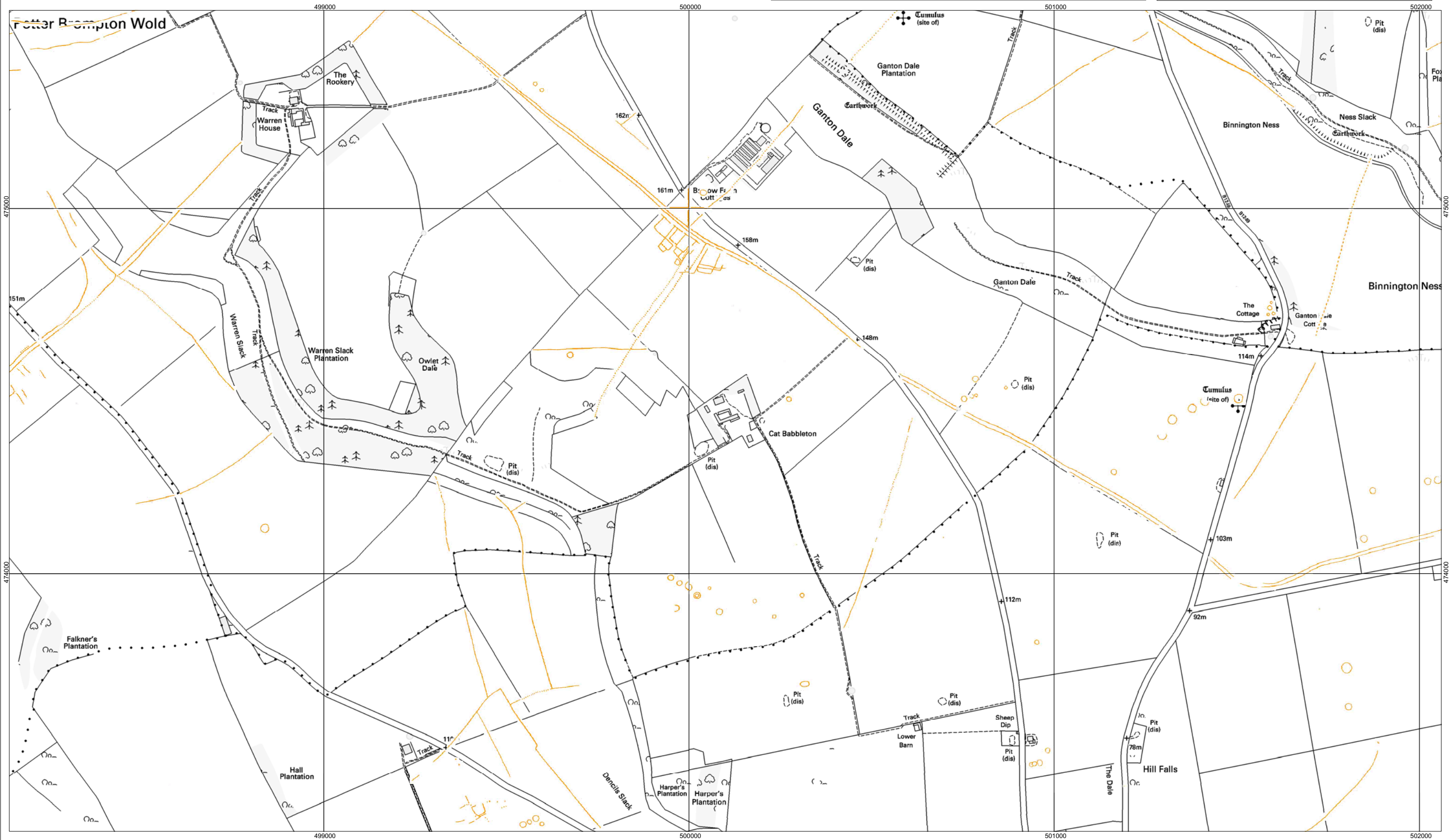
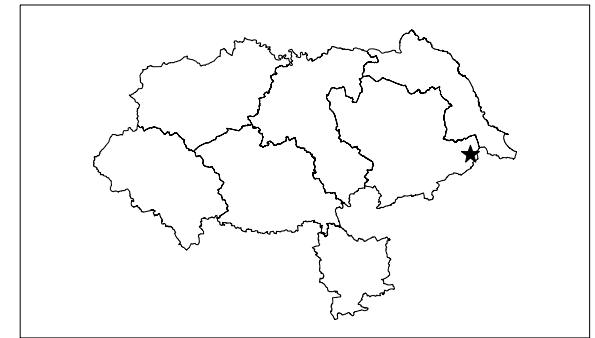
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