



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



**MOOR LANE,
HAXBY, YORK**

DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT REPORT

by G. Dean

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YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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List of Abbreviations

ADS	Archaeological Data Service
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
NGR	National Grid Reference
NMR UI	National Monuments Record Unique Identifier
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
YHER	York City Council Historic Environment Record
YAT	York Archaeological Trust

ABSTRACT

The desk-based assessment consisted of a search of 1000m around an area centred on SE 6072 5885 which is an area of fields called Lund Field on the north side of Haxby between Crookland Lane to the east and Moor Lane to the west. There are a number of sites of archaeological interest within the vicinity of the study area. To the north of the study area near to Crookland Lane the aerial photographs suggest the presence of an extensive Iron Age or Romano-British field system while within the study area there is extensive ridge and furrow which is clearly visible and was noted during the walkover survey. The walkover survey showed that the narrow nature of the fields in this area is dictated by the parcelling up of blocks of land based on the ridge and the furrow and the surviving edge lines clearly run along the ridge and have a slight S shape in plan. The only listed buildings in the area are to the north of the study area or within the historic core of the village of Haxby.

1. INTRODUCTION

York Archaeological Trust has been commissioned to undertake a desk-based historical assessment of land on the northern side of Haxby, called Lund field, York, North Yorkshire (centred on NGR SE 6072 5885 Fig 1). The town lies 4 miles north of York. The desk based assessment was carried out for Barratt Homes York.

This report has been compiled using guidelines laid down by the Institute of Field Archaeologists and by North Yorkshire County Council as well as York Archaeological Trust's own internal guidelines.

2. THE SITE AND STUDY AREA

Haxby lies on a relatively flat area of clayey defined land on the eastern side partly by the River Foss and its tributary called Golland Dike. On the west side of the village is Wigginton, formerly a separate village although there is no clear distinction between them due to modern housing development.

The site examined in the Desk Based Assessment comprises an area of farm land consisting of 24ha (59 acres) on the northern side of Haxby, bordering existing post 1960 housing development along its southern and western edge, where there is also a cemetery. Its northern and eastern edge is bounded by open farmland.

Based on the Ordnance Survey maps, the spot heights in the area suggest that the fields are at 17-18m AOD, although the walkover showed there could be some marked variation especially in the western area near the cemetery where there was a pronounced lower area close to Moor Lane.

The study area was based on a circular area centred NGR SE 6072 5885 with a radius of 1000m.

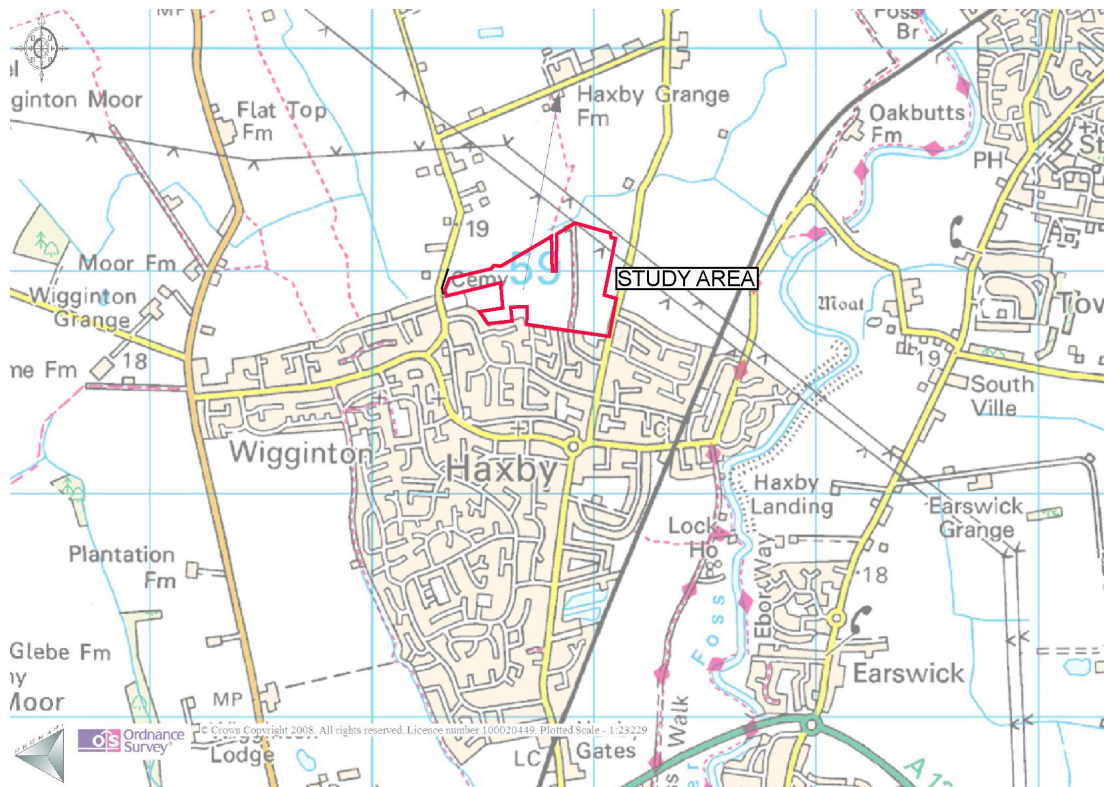


Figure 1 Location of the Study Area

3. AIMS OF THE STUDY

- to elucidate and assess the current state of knowledge about the archaeology of the site, using a wide range of readily accessible sources.
- to undertake a walkover survey of the site to establish the current topography of the area
- to understand the current state of historical knowledge about the site's topographic evolution and historical development, utilising a wide range of sources, in order to contribute

to the development of an archaeological mitigation strategy in relation to proposals for future works.

4. METHOD STATEMENT

This report was compiled using a variety of sources. Online sources examined were the English Heritage PastScape, Viewfinder, Images of England and Heritage Gateway websites as well as the National Archives Online and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website. The information for archaeology, listed buildings and aerial photographs was obtained from the National Monuments Record in Swindon. A search for aerial photographs was also made of the online catalogue for the Cambridge University Aerial Photographic Archive. Conservation Areas were searched for on the Haxby Town Council Website. The online catalogue of the North Yorkshire County Records Office was searched for any relevant material as was the borehole catalogue of the British Geological Survey. The Haxby Local History Groups material, at Haxby library, was also consulted with the majority of the information readily available on the internet (<http://www.haxby-york.co.uk>).

A walkover survey of the area was undertaken on 17th April 2008. During the walkover a number of colour digital photographs were taken. All records pertaining to this report are currently held by the York Archaeological Trust under the project code 5137.

5. THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 IRON AGE/ROMAN

There is very little direct archaeological evidence for activity in the study area. The site of a Roman villa on Haxby Moor to the north of the study area was discovered in 1966, some Roman pottery has been found on Station Road and a silver Roman signet ring was found in April of 2003. Aerial photographs show that in the fields to the north of the study area there is an extensive Iron Age or Roman field system (SE 6068 5966; NMR UI 1191910).

The ADS website suggested that these crop marks extended beyond the northern limit of the study area on the north side of Crossmoor Lane and ADS also record a find spot of two Roman coin hoards, by metal detectors on farmland north of Haxby. One hoard consisted of a jar containing 508 coins, struck after AD 330 and ranged in date to AD 348. The second hoard was also originally contained in a jar, although only the base was recovered. There were 330 bronze coins, the majority of which were post AD 347-8 to 355. This hoard was probably deposited c.AD 353-6.

5.1.2 MEDIEVAL (5TH TO THE 16TH CENTURY)

There is no archaeological evidence for Haxby in this period although the plan of the original village and the discovery of the lower part of a 10th century cross shaft discovered at 54 The Village in 1978 (NMR UI 1398491) suggests activity in the area. Aerial photographs show extensive ridge and furrow of the medieval period in the fields surrounding Haxby although much of this has been lost to later housing development, although it is perpetuated in the alignment of some of the streets and property boundaries on the north side of North Lane.

5.1.3 POST-MEDIEVAL AND MODERN (16TH TO THE 21ST CENTURY)

There is no archaeological information relating to this period.

5.2 THE HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Haxby name has Viking origins and probably means Hakr's farm and was possibly established in the 9th century confirmed by the presence of the 10th century cross fragments in a garden in 1978. By the 11th century the village is recorded as *Haxebi* and was within the Forest of Galtres. In Domesday the village there were 6 carucates and 1 bovate and there could be 4 ploughs and was held by York Minster. The present parish is derived from the release of 1,776 acres forest land under Charles I in 1629 and formed the basis for the present parish that covers 2,100 acres (Page 1923, 137-9).

The historic core of the village is laid out along a predominantly east-west aligned stretch of road known as Wigginton Road and was designated as a Conservation Area 1976. The original form of the village is now largely obscured by modern housing and Haxby has almost joined the neighbouring village of Wigginton. There has been some reorganisation of the roads in the area around the village. There was a bridge, known as Haxby Landing, over the River Foss, and it is thought that this formed the road to Strensall running along the bank of the river and was replaced by the modern road and bridge. The section of Wigginton Road, aligned north-south at the western end of Haxby, to Wigginton, continues north across the area known as Haxby Moor on the north side of the village. On the east side of the road it joins with Cross Moor Lane that runs past Haxby Grange to join the road to Strensall (Page 1923; <http://www.haxby-york.co.uk>) .

For part of the medieval period Haxby was subject to the laws of the Forest of Galtres and had no church or parish of its own. At some point it was divided between the parishes of Strensall and Driffield although the exact date for this is uncertain with the first recorded appointments to these prebends in 1235 and 1279 respectively. As a result the village was split into the East and West end and was treated as two manors, the former belonging to Driffield prebend and the latter to Strensall.

One of the manors, much rebuilt and altered, stood at the east end of the village until 1960 adjacent to the road from York, known as Haxby Hall and stood in 22 acres of land. Its site now forms playing fields. A survey of the possessions of York Minster was made in 1338 and includes a description of the tenants of the prebendary of Driffield. This shows it was divided into almost equal holdings consisting of a toft and 2 oxgangs (a house and approximately 30 acres) held at uniform rents. This part of the village also had to give fifteen score eggs at Easter.

By the 15th century Haxby was wholly in Strensall parish and was designated as a chapelry of the Driffield prebend of York Minster. The exact date for the foundation of the chapel is uncertain but one of the earliest references is 1328 when there is a petition for the village to have their own chapel yard licensed for burial, which was successful. Parcels of land around Haxby were given for the maintenance of the chapel with rents paid largely in hens and eggs. In the post-medieval period, the land was held by several different individuals. By the 15th century the chapel was referred to as 'the Chapel of our Lady in Strensall parish' and in 1472, the villagers petitioned the dean and chapter of York for a priest to celebrate mass at their chapel.

The site of the chapel became the location for the present church. In the churchyard is the base and a portion of the shaft of a stone cross of the 10th century. The parish remained as a chapelry of Strensall until the 19th century and was described as a perpetual curacy, annexed to the vicarage of Strensall. The village only became a parish in its own right in 1862. In 1878 the chapel burnt down and a new church was built in the same year dedicated to St Mary on the same site. By the early 20th century it was felt the church was too small for the village and in 1911 it was rebuilt and enlarged with a vestry added in 1923 (Page 1923).

The land around the village until 1769 was farmed in common by the families of Haxby and comprised five arable fields farmed in strips and an extensive moorland area where those with grazing rights could turn out their livestock. In this year and again in 1771, the land was enclosed into separate farms, ownership of which passed to individual farmers. The buildings within the village were also largely rebuilt through the 18th and 19th century giving the historic core of the village its current appearance. The other major change of the 19th century was the arrival of the York and Scarborough branch of the North Eastern Railway that built a station at Haxby in 1845 and that closed in 1930 (Page 1923, 137-9: <http://www.haxby-york.co.uk>).

The village continued to expand through the early 20th century. The growing population saw a need for a new cemetery. By 1940 the population of the village was estimated at 2,000 and

it was decided a new burial ground was needed. An area of land was made available at the western end of the village and its consecration for burials was agreed by the Haxby Council in February 1940. The population of the village increased markedly with infilling of the area around the village with new housing from the 1970s. In 1992 Haxby was declared a town with a population in excess of 10,000 and at the same time, a national revision of boundaries moved Haxby from Ryedale District Council to be part of York Unitary Authority (<http://www.haxby-york.co.uk>).

6. THE CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

The earliest easily accessible map of Haxby is the 1854 Ordnance Survey that clearly shows the original core of the village consisting of the main street and two back lanes on the north and south sides with the manor site marked at the eastern end of the village. On the north side of the north back lane, the narrow enclosure fields of the late 18th century are clearly visible and appear to follow the lines of the medieval ridge and furrow common strip fields. The Study Area, remains largely as fields and open land up to the limits of the historic core of the village until the twentieth century.

Later map evidence from the twentieth century shows little change in the form of the core of the village and the field patterns until after the Second World War. The main differences visible on the 1958 Ordnance Survey, is the addition of housing at the eastern end of the village on Station Road and Usher Lane. Infilling of housing at the western end of the village is also visible on the Wigginton Road.

The 1991 Ordnance Survey shows the infilling that occurred through the 1960s to the 1990s which fundamentally altered the appearance of the village. There has been extensive housing built on all sides of the village, but it is worth noting that the infilling on the north side of the village behind North Lane and Crookland Lane, elements of the housing estate such as roads and some property boundaries are influenced or broadly follow the line of the enclosed ridge and furrow visible on the earlier maps - for example in Larch Way and Hawthorne Avenue.

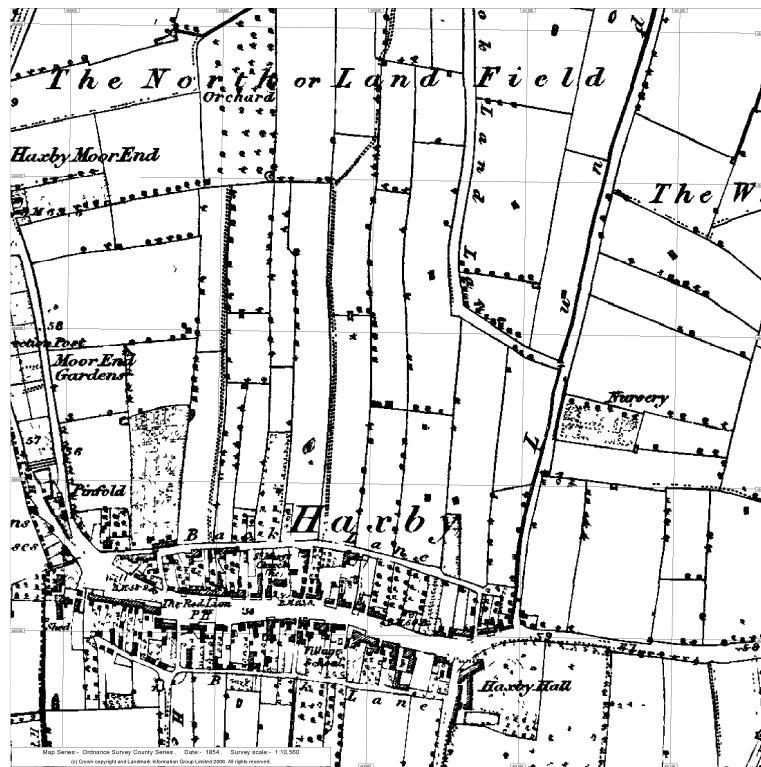


Figure 2 Haxby village and the study area to the north of the village as shown on the 1858 Ordnance Survey

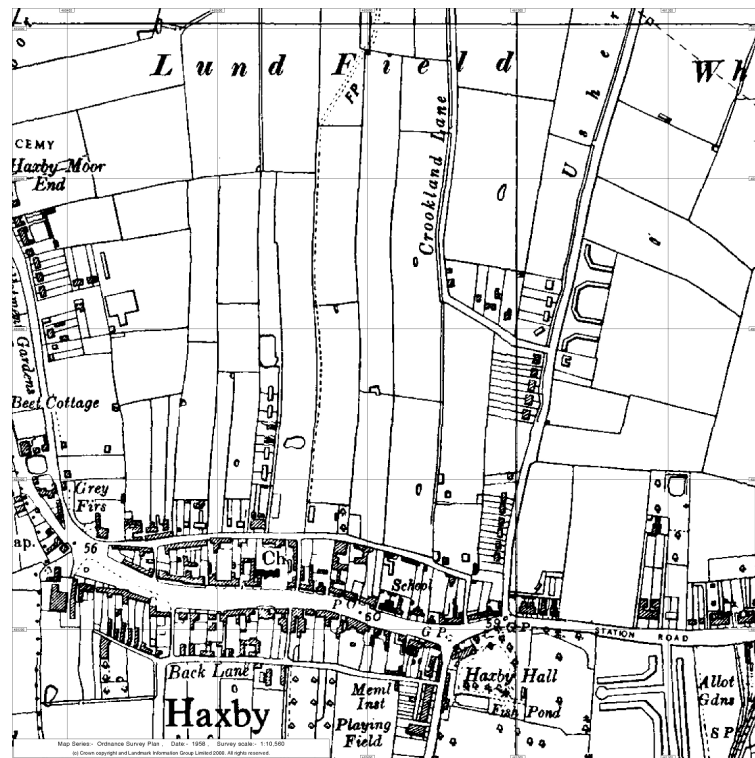


Figure 3 Haxby, 1958 Ordnance Survey, showing the gradual infilling of space around the village although the study area to the north is largely unchanged.



Figure 4 Haxby, 1991 Ordnance Survey, showing the large scale developments of the 1960s and 1970s and the continuity of some of the field boundaries in the new roads

7. STATUTORY LISTINGS

The only statutory listings are located to the immediate north of the study area on Cross Moor Lane (The Grange) or to the south within the core of the historic village of Haxby.

8. THE WALKOVER SURVEY

A walkover survey of the study area and inspection of the fields was made either from the field boundaries or public highways. This meant some of the study area could not be inspected. The walkover showed that the area is predominantly flat with a slight rise in ground level to the north.

The walkover showed that the surviving enclosure fences clearly followed the line of ridge and furrow which was still visible in the fields closest to Larch Way and Ash Lane and is aligned north-south. At the western side of the study area closest to Moor Lane there was a

clear ridge of higher ground along the southern edge of the field upon which the cemetery appeared to be situated.

Crooklands Lane is a broad green lane with a deep, V-shaped ditch along its western edge that contained water and there is evidence for a heavily silted ditch on the eastern side. The lane runs north-south with its southern end running south-east to connect to Usher Lane. The south-east section has a number of modern houses on either side. The north-south section of the lane appears to have an elongated 's' shape that mirrors the ridge and furrow and may suggest that the lane was created at the same time as the enclosure in the 18th century to give access to the fields.

9. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The desk based assessment for the area of Lund Field between Moor Lane and Usher Lane indicated that there is still significant earthworks associated with the medieval ridge and furrow which are also preserved in the extant hedge lines. To the immediate north of the study area the evidence indicates the presence of an extensive Iron Age or Romano-British settlement revealed in the aerial photographs. The presence of the extensive ridge and furrow may mask earlier landscape features within the study area from being detected by aerial photographs. It seems likely that Crookland Lane also is associated with the 18th century enclosure and perhaps originated as an access lane to the fields or a drove way for animals onto Haxby Moor. The analysis of the map data shows that a large area of the ridge and furrow was lost to post 1960s development of the village, but also shows that the alignment of the medieval ridge and furrow continued to have an influence and is perpetuated in some of the later property boundaries and street alignments.

10. LIST OF SOURCES

Page, W. (ed.) 1923. *A History of the County of York North Riding* Volume 2, 137-9

10.1 PRINTED INFORMATION

National Monuments Record
North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record

10.2 ONLINE SOURCES

<http://www.haxby-york.co.uk>

10.3 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Maps were obtained electronically from ProMap. Paper versions of maps were examined at Haxby library but the electronic versions were favoured for inclusions due to better clarity of the image.

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHS



Plate 1 *Aerial view of the development area showing the surviving field boundaries*



Plate 2 Crookland Lane looking north



Plate 3 General view over Lund Field, showing established hedge lines



Plate 4 *Lund Field from Moor Lane. The 1940s cemetery is behind the hedge on the right hand side of the photograph*



Plate 5 *View of one of the field boundaries following the line of the ridge and furrow in the north-east of the development area on the west side of Crooklands Lane*



Plate 6 *Earthwork of ridge and furrow with grubbed out hedge line within the northern part of the study area*



Plate 7 *Ridge and furrow earthworks on the southern boundary of the study area*



Plate 8 1960/70s housing at the north-end of Ash Lane
adjacent to southern boundary of study area