

# HAMBLETON ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS 2022



Jon Kenny and Celia Barnes

## CONTENTS

1. Introduction.
2. Story of the village green and Hill Top Farm, Hill Farm as it was originally called – Celia Barnes
3. Geophysical Survey.
4. Excavation at Hill Top Farm.
5. Drone Survey.
6. Conclusions and further thoughts.
7. References.
8. Appendix: Images from our Project.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank the friends and members of the Hambleton History Research & Archive Association for all their help with the planning and undertaking of this project. We would also like to thank the pupils and staff from Hambleton C of E Primary school for their hard work and enthusiasm. Lastly a big thank you to Trevor and Ingrid for allowing us to excavate in their garden and for suppling us with essential tea and coffee.

Thank You All....

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In 2021 and early 2022 Hambleton History Research & Archive Association (HHRAA) got together with Jon Kenny – community archaeology to think about the historical landscape surrounding the village to the southwest of Selby in North Yorkshire.

We undertook several workshops in which we looked at Ordnance Survey maps going back to the 1845 6-inch map and the even older Enclosure map from 1797. The maps show a roughly rectangular township with slightly lower ground to the north of a village in roughly the centre of the township. The village sits on an east west running road leading from Monk Fryston to Selby. The village is shown in the Jeffrey's map of 1771 (see Figure 1 below). The actual route of the road is still discussed as some sections were toll roads in 1797 and may have followed a different course before the toll roads were introduced. The village itself, however, forms a typical 'ladder' pattern with a triangular central area where another road comes in from the south, this is shown in the earliest Ordnance Survey of the village from 1845 (see Figure 2 below).



Figure 1: Segment of Jeffrey's Map of Yorkshire 1771 showing Hambleton.



Figure 2: Ordnance Survey map of Hambleton Village in 1845.

(Library of Scotland)

The layout of the plots of land making up the village at Hambleton give us an idea of the structure of the earlier medieval village. The long narrow plots being the outline of the tofts, plots of land rented by the villagers that also contained the crofts or houses. Although the medieval timber framed houses have all been replaced by brick-built dwellings the tofts still give a picture of the village layout. There are things missing however, such as a chantry chapel and a clear manor house. These buildings are still to be found and may be resolved through archaeological research.

In addition to the maps, we also looked at the wider landscape. What can be seen of pre medieval landscapes in the fields. Although the fields around the village have now all been turned over to modern agriculture (even the medieval common to the northwest) crop marks give a glimpse at Iron Age or Romano British (or both) field systems. These have been noted by the English Heritage (now Historic England) Aerial surveys in the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s (see Figure 3 below).

The map from the aerial survey gives us a glimpse of the medieval field systems, were visible at least back in the 1980s and 90s. The fields were indicated by ridge and furrow. Plotted in blue in Figure 2 below. The line within the blue rectangles shows the direction of the ridge and furrow. These represent great fields farmed by the medieval villagers all around the village. Also visible are three patches outlined in black that show green crop marks, plotting a completely different pattern of enclosures that are suggested by Historic England to be Iron Age or Romano British in date. The only way that we can unpick the dates of these enclosure ditches would be to excavate and hope to find dating evidence in the deposits.

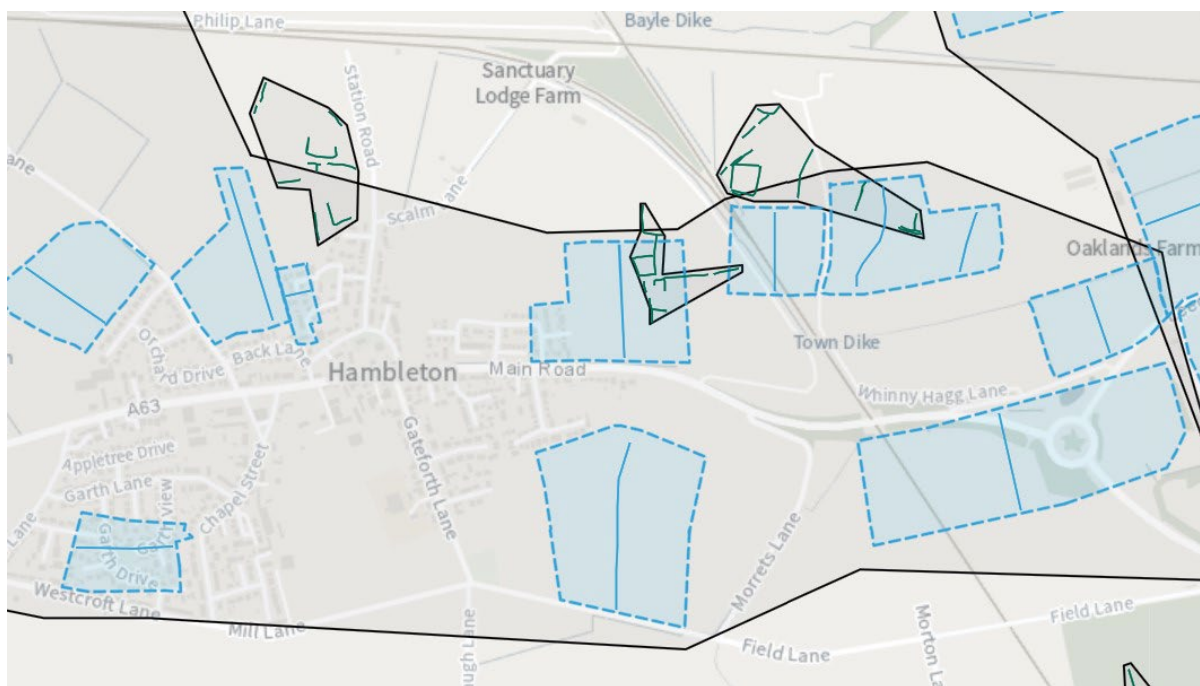


Figure 3: Aerial survey features plotted by Historic England.

(Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer online resource)

As part of our workshops in 2022 and 2023 we also looked at old images of the village collected over the years by HHRAA. One of these images drew our attention to the triangular plot at the centre of the village (See Figure 2 above). This area appears to be open in the 1779 enclosure map but by 1845 the plot had been built up to include a farm (Hill Top Farm) a school and blacksmiths shop. The image shown in Figure 4 below (probably dated around 1900) is looking west along the road towards Monk Fryston and shows the gable end of the blacksmith's shop on the left side of the road.

This triangular area seemed an interesting a location for the HHRAA team to practice some basic archaeological skills. The blacksmith's shop and the school shown on the map (see Figure 2 above) have now been demolished. Hill Top Farm still stands and is owned by a member of the HHRAA team. The area at the northern end of the triangle is now a small village green giving a focal point to the village. We decided that this would be the perfect spot on which to undertake geophysical survey to locate the blacksmith's shop and school. Depending on the results of the geophysical survey we decided we might also undertake excavation on either building. See section 3 below for detail of the geophysical survey.

Before undertaking the geophysical survey to look for the school on the green we went to the present village primary school on the outskirts of the village to run a day of Geophysics with the children. We undertook an earth resistance survey in the school field, and we were very pleased to identify the rise and fall of Ridge and Furrow. We also undertook a lesson with the children analysing the results. The class were very proud to have undertaken some genuine research and showed positive results.

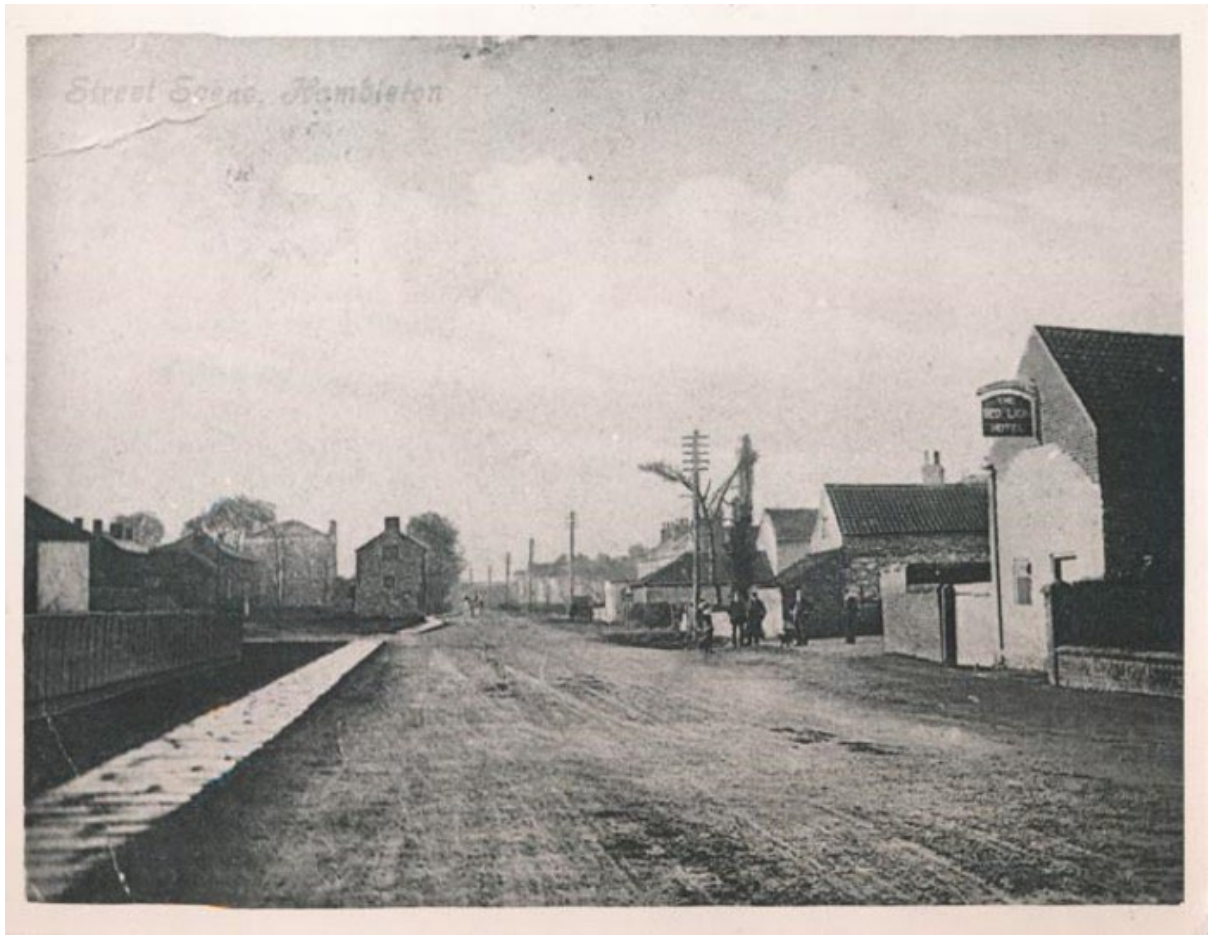


Figure 4: Image from HHRAA collection showing the gable end of the Blacksmith's shop.

This report lays out the historical research that HHRAA have undertaken into the village school, contributed by Celia Barnes. The rest of the report sets out the results of the geophysical survey undertaken on the village green to look for the school and the blacksmith's shop. Continuing from the geophysical survey the report also sets out the results of an excavation undertaken in the garden at Hill Top Farm, revealing part of the school (then a shop and a dwelling).

Finally, we undertook a Drone survey with the help of Tony Hunt from Yorkshire Archaeological Aerial Mapping. Thoughts on this survey are also included.

## 2. STORY OF THE VILLAGE GREEN AND HILL TOP FARM, HILL FARM AS IT WAS ORIGINALL CALLED – Celia Barnes

Hambleton lies west of Selby now in North Yorkshire but was in West Yorkshire prior to the changes to the borders. The village is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086, as Hameltum, a small settlement. The village name has changed several times and has included Ha, Hamelton and Hambleton, the dates these changes occurred have yet to be discovered. There have been many Lords of the Manor, including Ilbert de Lacy who was gifted the Manor by William the Conqueror.

The area, now known as the Village Green, has had several names:

- 1861 – The Hill
- 1886 – School Hill
- 1920 – Shop Hill
- 1970 – Village Green

In 1797 Enclosure Award Map shows two buildings in the area which may have been the Smithy and Hill Top Farm as it is now called. The exact age of the Smithy is not known, an advertisement in 1822 could well have been refereeing to the sale of this business. The Smithy was demolished in May 1950 but the date stone 1847 was saved and may have been placed in the wall to commemorate new ownership or a rebuild. The Middleton Family were for generations the Blacksmith's operating from the Smithy.

As part of the Award (1797) the school was awarded 5a . 12r. 7p. of land which was given for the support of a school erected in that year. The land let for £9. per annum, for which sum six children are taught free. A Leeds Trade Directory in 1837 recorded that a school and masters house was built in Hambleton in 1796 which was funded by subscription. Jonathan Clayton of Wistow provided funds for a school in Hambleton and would walk to the village every day prior to his death in 1859 at the age of 68. A booklet produced to celebrate the centenary of the village school which was near the Church mentions that a school existed on waste ground in the centre of the village.

A book produced in 1998 suggests that the site of the Blacksmith's Forge is also the suggested to be the location of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century Chantry Chapel. No evidence has been found to support the assumption that this was the site of the Chantry Chapel. A Chantry Chapel was completed in 1292 and funded by William de Hamilton, prior to his death in 1307. A Headmaster of the name of William Beever was in place in 1838 followed by a John Rawlinson. The National School, built on Station Road, opened in 1872.

The land was used for various activities in the 1920's and 30's. A fair came to the village including the swing boat ride and would set up on this area. The herring man would come, park up and ring a large bell to let people know he was there. When road works were being undertaken the roller was parked there.

The area was levelled and cleared in 1970 by various residents including the sons of William Millington, Geoff Butler, Edward (Ted) Chapman and Tom Waudby at the request of the Parish Council.

Hill Top Farm, previously known as Hill Farm, the name was changed to avoid confusion with Hillside Farm on the other side of the Main Road. The area covered by the farm homestead was owned by Robert Jenner in 1797, the Lord of the Manor.

The 1908 map shows quite extensive buildings around the farm, some of which are still in place. While other farms are named in the 1918 electoral register Hill or Hill Top is not named.

The sale document dated 25th June 1908 shows that Robert Turner was a tenant farmer of 73 acres 1 rood and 1 perch paying £150 a year on Lady Day. The house was described as being of a brick and tile construction, containing 2 sitting rooms, kitchen, dairy, pantry, coalhouse, detached washroom, 4 bedrooms and box room. The outbuildings which completed the Homestead were a yard, three bay sheltered shed, 2 loose boxes, cow houses for six head of cattle, root house, stables for 9 head, granary over and stone and tiled barn. On the opposite side of Chapel Street, a stack yard, four bay brick and tile cart shed, lean-to trap house, workshop with loft over three-bay card shed, closed shed and garden. The farm also had access to two wells close to the house, one for soft water which collected rainwater for washing and a deep well which is now covered by a vegetable patch. The farm was offered for sale by the Right Honourable the Earl of Londesborough and bought by Harris Anson.

Hambleton was a small settlement which has grown considerably over the centuries but the employment available in the village continues to be primarily farming. In the Domesday Book there appear to have been a very small number of residents working for the Lord of the Manor.

In 1292 there were sufficient number of residents for the Abbot of Selby to allow a Chapel of Ease to be built in the village which opened on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1292 to save parishioners walking to Brayton for church services. Where this was has yet to be discovered but we know the details of some of the Chaplains between then and its closure as part of the Reformation. The Village Pinfold is in close proximity to the Village Green as it now is, whether this was built, like many, in the Middle Ages is not certain as it appears on some maps and not others.

A School certainly existed in the village as the Enclosure Award Act 1797 which distributed the land between a number of landowners many of whom were absentee landlords but one included was Hambleton School. Unfortunately, we do not have information on the number of residents at that time, but the award was given on the understanding that 7 children would be educated for free. Whether the buildings shown on the Enclosure Award map is a true reflection of the number in the village is not certain. We know that by the time of the 1841 Census the community had grown to 494 residents and in 1851 there were 120 houses and 514 people.

If the Hambleton Causeway has always been where the Main Road is now it is possible that the village grew on either side of this thoroughfare as it has continued to do. We have documentary evidence that the Red Lion was used in 1833 to hold Property Auctions and the Wheatsheaf was well established in 1841.

The first suggestion of a Railway Station in Hambleton was raised in 1814 and opened in September 1834 when the Leeds to Selby Line was opened, being the first Main Line in Yorkshire. So, it would seem fair to assume that Hambleton was a thriving community.

The number of buildings in the area of the Village Green and Hill Top Farm differs on various maps but again the accuracy of the early maps cannot be guaranteed. On the assumption that this area has for Centuries been at the centre of the village having a Smithy and a School, with an Inn near by the buildings could perhaps have had a variety of uses. As well as a school, a shop is a possible use for these buildings, a beer house as there were at least two in the village as well as the Red Lion and Wheatsheaf.

Could the building have been built on the foundations of the early Chapel of Ease? The Chapel of Ease also offered a cottage and 5 acres of land for the incumbent. Finding any evidence, documentary or physical would provide a clue to where the centre of the village was in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. If it remained in use from 1292 until the 1500s, was it a stone rather than wooden structure?

The search for the Village's Early History continues.

### 3. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY.

A geophysical survey (earth resistance) was carried out on two separate days on a rectangle on the green in the centre of Hambleton (see Fig 5 below) by Hambleton History Research & Archive Association (HHRAA). The survey was undertaken by a volunteer team under the direction of Dr Jon Kenny MCIfA in July and September 2022.



1848 Ordnance Survey Map of Hambleton showing the location of the modern green (inset) that was surveyed. The Blacksmith's Shop is to the northwest of the square and the School to the southeast.

Figure 5: Green where we undertook earth resistance survey on 1848 Ordnance Survey Map (Scottish Library) and Aerial Image of present-day green (Google Earth).

The geophysical survey was undertaken to search for the blacksmith's workshop and school located on maps from 1779 to 1908 (see Fig 5 above). The underlying drift geology is made up of late Devensian sands and clays of the 15m terrace that slopes northwards across the township from the heights of Hambleton Hough to the south. It is possible that the contrast between the silty sands and clayey sands will generate contrasts in the earth resistance and produce patterns that might be misinterpreted as structures.

The survey was undertaken in July and September 2022 at a time of severe drought; however, several anomalies were identified by the survey as high and low resistance that are not visible in the ground that may be of significance (see sections below). There are both high and low resistance that might reflect the remains of structures to the northwest that may reflect the blacksmith's shop. The southeast of the rectangle appears to have been dominated by the drying effect of a tree. It is also possible that the foundations of the northern half of the school was removed by levelling of the undertaken (see section 2 above).

#### **Aims and Objectives of the Geophysical Survey.**

The aim of the use of geophysical survey was to add to our understanding of the site by

revealing structures and features that are not visible in the ground as extant features.

The geophysical survey was also an opportunity for volunteers from the community to participate in researching their historic landscape. To achieve this a geophysics workshop was undertaken at the Village Hall before the actual geophysical survey that took place in July and August 2022 .

Earth resistance survey was elected to survey the whole green as this can bring out some of the detail required to understand smaller features such as foundation slots and room divisions inside the structures.

Geophysical survey involves the use of instruments at the ground surface which are sensitive to variations in the physical properties of the underlying soil namely electrical conductivity. Variations within the sample area, mapped as 'anomalies' can be interpreted in terms of their likely archaeological origin (Hey & Lacey, 2001).

Electrical earth resistance survey involves measuring the resistance between two mobile probes inserted into the ground and records the resistance between them in Ohms. This is compared with two fixed remote electrodes, positioned outside the survey area as a baseline at a distance recommended by Historic England (HE) best practice guidance (Schmidt et al, 2016). The baseline reading is compared with readings taken at the mobile probes to form a weighted average of higher or lower resistances. A survey image is achieved by passing the raw data through a software program which distributes the readings spatially and assigns them colour or intensity based on their value relative to the baseline.

The earth resistance survey was carried using a Geoscan RM 15-D Resistance Meter. The survey was conducted in a zigzag pattern over an area comprised of 3 whole and partial 20m x 20m grids situated on the green in Hambleton. Readings were taken at 0.5m intervals and 1m transects. Where readings went over range (which occurred occasionally due to the very dry conditions), or obstacles prevented survey, 'dummy' readings were taken.

The results were processed using Snuffler 1.32 software (freeware software). Despiking, interpolation and filters were used to create the survey image. Despiking removes any unusually high or low individual readings which can occur in resistivity survey. Interpolation is used to smooth the curve on the X and Y axis; this produces a clearer image by adding data points between measured points of an average value thereby artificially increasing the resolution of the survey image. The filter considers possible variations in geomorphology by removing low frequency changes over the whole dataset.

## Results

The earth resistance survey revealed high and low resistance anomalies (see Figure 6 below). The surveys below show low resistance (in black) and high resistance (in white) which do have large scale anomalies and smaller scale within them. The results from both surveys are overlaid onto each other.

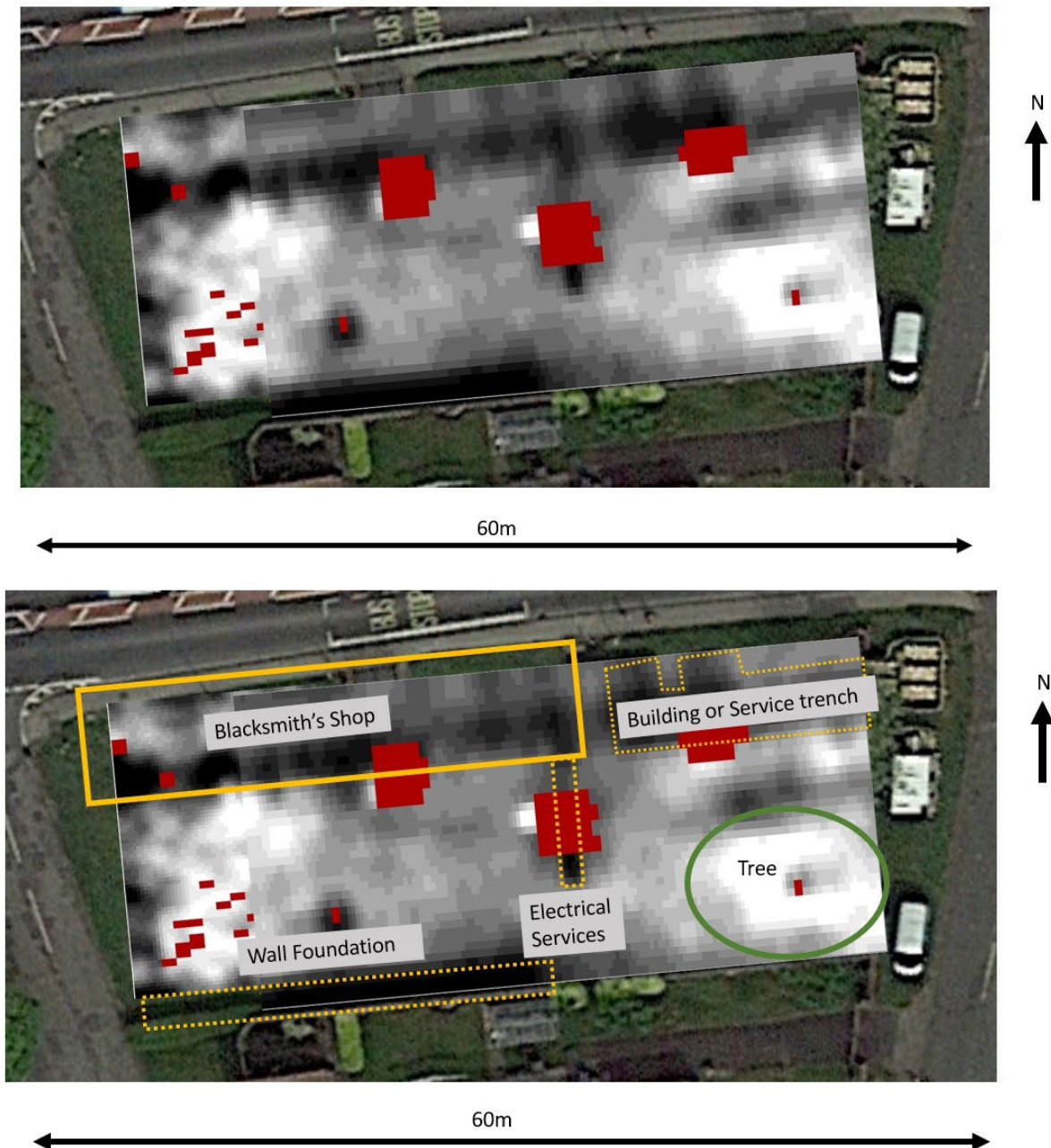


Figure 6: Geophysical surveys overlaid into Google Earth Image. The interpretation of the survey is included on the lower image.

The blacksmith's shop appears in the northwest corner of the survey, it appears to be disturbed by services running along the roadside. It also appears that the north wall of the workshop extends under the paving to the north. At the northeast corner there appears to be a continuation of the services running along the road, although this might be another building, it does not appear on any of the maps. Projecting south from the workshop there is a low resistance track that might be a wall foundation but is much more likely to be the electrical service trench that leads to the village Christmas tree (see Figure 7 below). In the southwest corner of the survey, we see another linear low resistance anomaly that may indicate a foundation trench for the high garden wall immediately to the south. The southeast corner is also of interest for our investigation into this part of the village. We should be seeing the school projecting out from under the gardens of Hill Top Farm. But all we have is a very dry high resistance 'patch'. This patch appears to be created by a tree, starved of water in the drought of 2022. As noted above the school may also be 'missing' because its foundations were removed during levelling in or around 1970 to create a flat even village green. Also making the 'hill' on which the farm less obvious. The hill itself is probably a feature of the flat lands around most of Hambleton, rising to the heights of maybe 0.50 meters!



Figure 7: Geophysical survey under way on the village green at Hambleton.

The geophysical survey was an excellent way of getting the community together for the workshop and then to spend time working together to undertake the survey. Working together in lovely conditions in the summer of 2022 (see fig 7 above) It was an excellent opportunity to learn, contribute to genuine research and have a good time meeting friends and getting to know people we hadn't met before.

In addition to the community benefits we also came away with the belief that we should evaluate the archaeology on the green. Not on the area we had investigated but on the other side of the garden wall at Hill Top Farm. This garden had not been levelled and we felt that we had an opportunity to excavate a long trench to look for the south elevation of the schoolhouse that appears in many of the maps. See Figure 5 above.

On these grounds we decided to continue our investigations by undertaking evaluation excavation.

## 4. EXCAVATION AT HILL TOP FARM

### Introduction.

An excavation was undertaken on the green in the centre of Hambleton where we had earlier undertaken geophysical survey. The geophysical survey had shown possible structural features but was by no means conclusive. Indeed, we decided that the best remains of the school building in the village were likely to be in the northern edge of the garden at Hill Top Farm, adjacent to the green, see Figure 8 below.



Figure 8: Location of trench at Hill Top Farm.

(Aerial Photo from Google Earth Pro)

To evaluate the possible location and preservation of the school site (at least the southern half of it), we undertook a single trench running east west measuring 9m by 2m. The trench was located on what we estimated would be the school site taken from the Enclosure map drawn in 1797 and different versions of the Ordnance Survey maps (6-inch and 25-inch) shown in Figure 9 below. The position of the school buildings are denoted by blue rectangles and the trench location by red dotted rectangles.

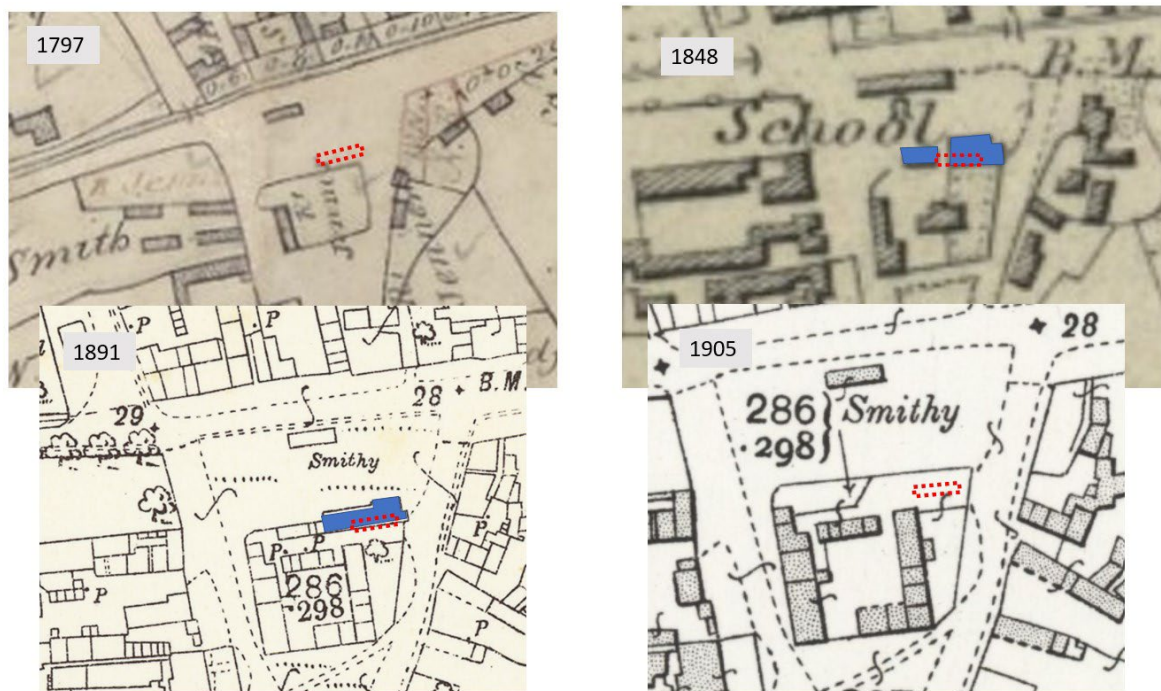


Figure 9: Enclosure Map (1797) and Ordnance Survey Maps (1848, 1891 and 1905)

OS Maps from Scottish Library.

The blue rectangles show the school building(s).

The trench position is shown by the red dotted rectangles.

The excavation was directed by Dr Jon Kenny from Jon Kenny – community archaeology, the volunteer workforce drew on 25 people, mostly adults but including some children too. The volunteers came from the village and surrounding communities. We worked two weekends during October 2022.

### Trench Details

The trench (see Figure 10 below) measured 9m by 2m although because it was following the path in the garden it widened a little at the west end. The excavation was undertaken using single context planning using the Jon Kenny – community archaeology format of recording. 21 separate contexts were recorded including fills and deposits and cuts to cut features. Of these 14 were finally recorded.

The turf and topsoil of the trench were recorded as contexts 01 and 02. The turf was 0.05m deep and the topsoil, used as lawn or flower beds, was 0.15m deep, making a total of 0.20m of overburden. The topsoil contained a number of finds that represented both the underlying archaeology and the more recent use of the garden as part of family life over the last 100 years or so.

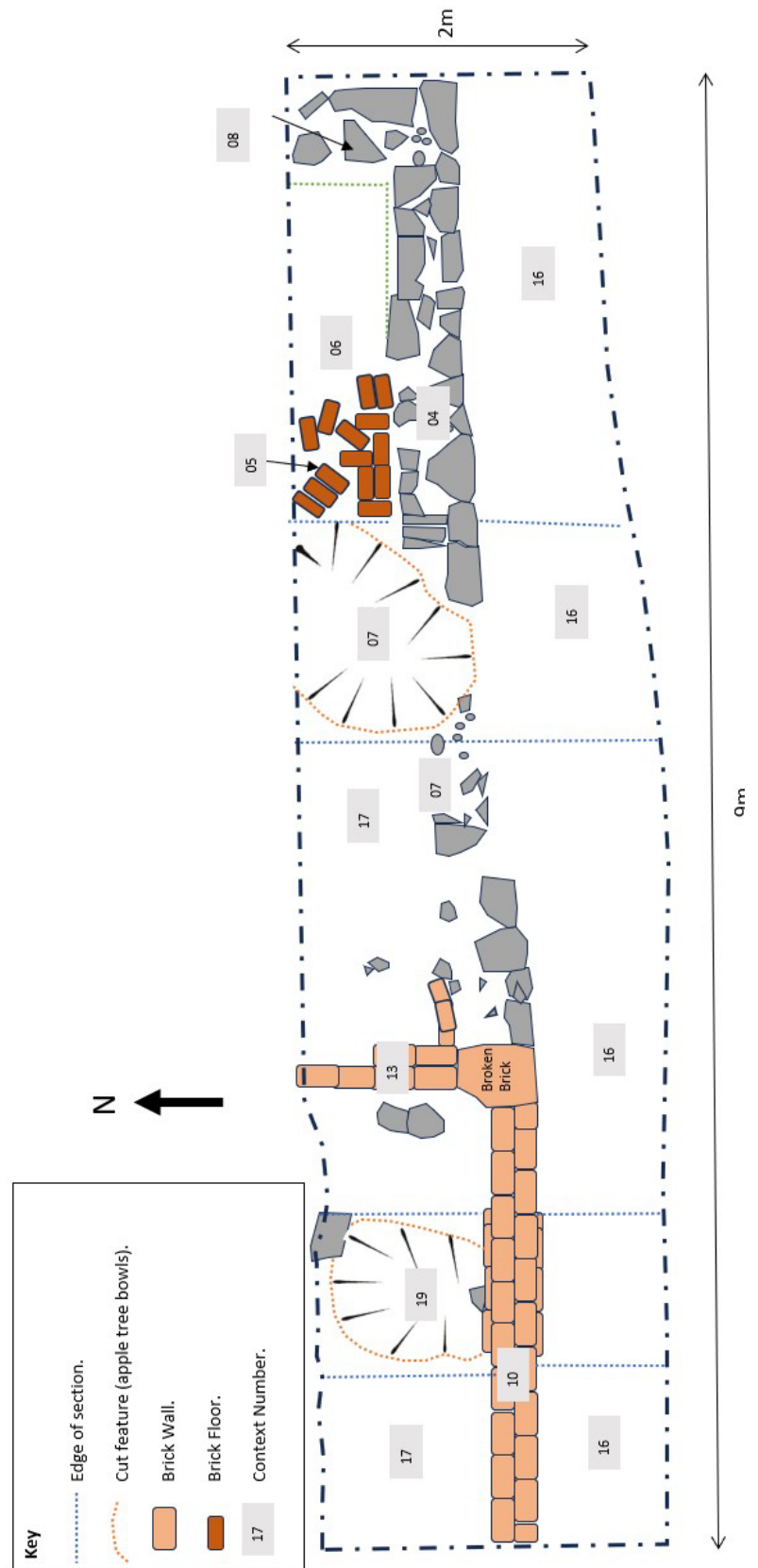


Figure 10: Post Excavation plan of the trench at Hill Top Farm.

The stratigraphic relationships between the excavated contexts (fills, deposits, and cuts) allow us to create a Harris Matrix (see Figure 11 below). This matrix can be split up into phases of activity, that ultimately can be used to tell a story, or narrative, of the site. The finds from the deposits and fills allow us to illuminate that story and put approximate dates to some of the events.

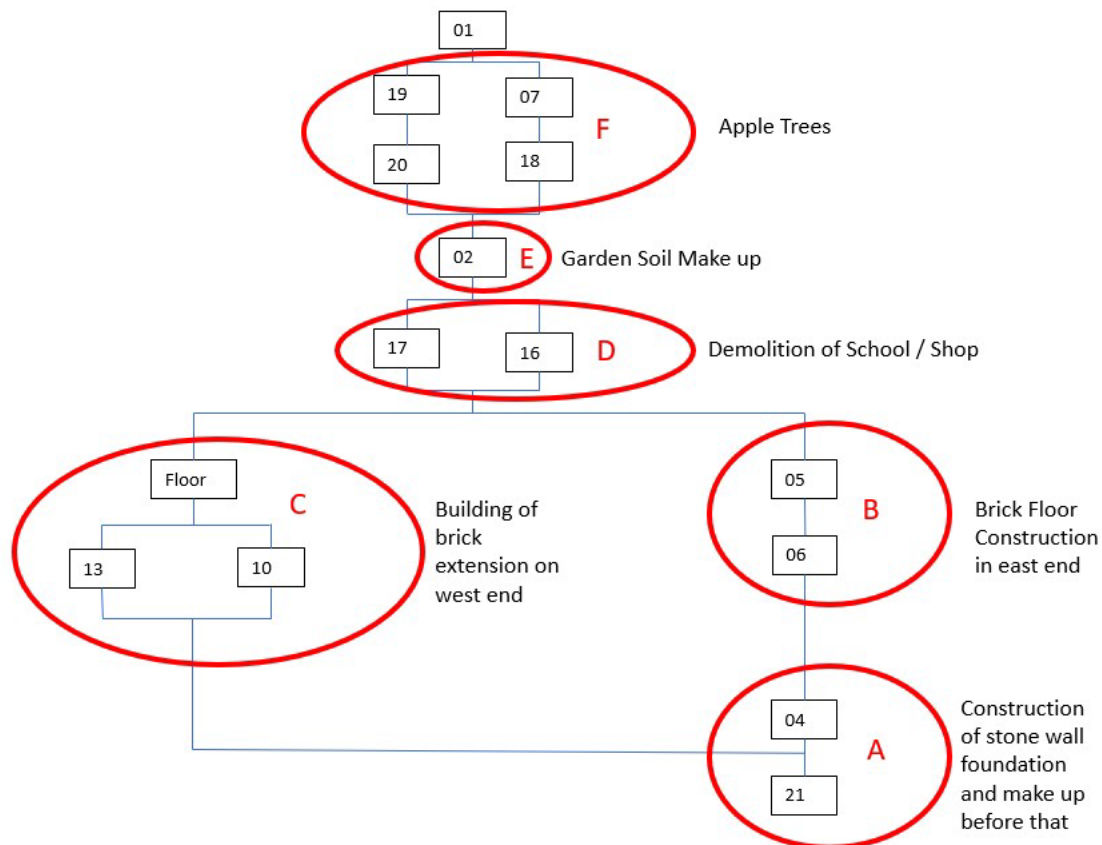


Figure 11: Harris Matrix showing the stratigraphic relationship between the excavated contexts and the phasing from A to F that allows us to tell the story or narrative of the site.

The story of the building that was probably constructed as a schoolhouse begins with phase A in Figure 11 above. This was represented by the making up of the ground in the area by deposit 21, the deepest we excavated. This may have taken place at around the same time as the 1797 enclosure map was published. Although the map does not show a building on the plot historical references (see section 2 above) suggest a school was constructed in 1796. It is quite possible that the survey published in 1797 was undertaken prior to the building of the school. The makeup deposit contained animal bone and a little blown bottle glass.

A foundation trench (identified at the east end of the building, see Figure 10 above) was filled with limestone blocks, bonded together without lime mortar bonding (see Figure 12 below). It is not clear whether the building was constructed entirely of stone or built in brick on a stone foundation.



Figure 12: The stone mortared wall footings (context 04) from the schoolhouse. Possibly built circa 1796.

The main farmhouse at Hill Top Farm was built with stone footings and does appear on the 1797 map. The barn on the southern end of the Hill Top Farm farmhouse is constructed entirely of stone (see Figure 13 below). As a result, both options, brick, or stone, are possible.



Figure 13: Hill Top Farm showing the stone foundations to the farmhouse and full stone construction to the barn. (Image Google earth Pro.)

Although we were intrigued about the idea that the foundations may be from an earlier building, the 'missing' chantry chapel for instance, the 1797 enclosure map suggests otherwise.

At some point after the stone footings were built, we move into phase B. This is the construction of a brick floor (context 05) set in a fine red sand (context 06) (see Figure 14 below). As Jon Kenny was chatting to the volunteer excavating the brick floor, he explained how stratigraphy worked and joked that the best thing to find in the fine red sand would be a coin. Giving a *terminus anti quem* or the latest date the floor could have been laid. Jon was pleasantly surprised when a George III penny coin dating to 1806 was discovered in the deposit (see Figure 15 below). This means that the floor was made at some point between 1797 (enclosure map) and 1806 (coin).



Figure 14: Phase B the surviving portion of brick floor (05) and the fine red sand (mislabelled in the image as 05!). Dated between 1797 and 1806 this floor was probably built as part of the first schoolhouse.



Figure 15: the George III penny from the fine red sand.

Phase C in the site narrative relates to the build of an extension attached to the west end of the building. The 1948 Ordnance Survey map shows that there were two buildings next to each other, but that they were two distinct buildings. The second (westerly) building may have been built at the same time as the schoolhouse but was definitely there by 1848, some 50 years later. It is apparent that the west gable end of the original stone footed building was removed to be replaced with a brick wall (context 13). This inner division wall appears to have no foundation other than the odd fragment of limestone from the earlier gable. The south wall of the extension (context 10) has a three-brick pyramid shaped foundation containing the odd reused stone from the removed gable (see Figures 16 below).



Figure 16: The outer brick wall of the extension (context 10) showing the rough brick foundation. The deep sondage allowed us to excavate down to the original make up for the first building (context 21).

There was no real evidence for the operation of the school in the trench, in fact it is not clear when exactly the school changed its use, but it is possible that this happened when the brick extension was built between 1848 and 1891, creating a single larger building that would offer both a shop, storage and accommodation for the shopkeeper.

The next phase in the narrative is the demolition of the building represented by contexts 16 and 17. The demolition material on the outside of the south wall was context 16 and was some 0.20 m thick. It contained a number of finds including tobacco pipe, Victorian pottery,

wood nails, glass (bottle & window) and Ceramic Building material fragments. The demolition deposits inside the building (context 17) contained similar material but also included slate pencils, the only evidence for the school activity. A sherd of pottery identified as from the coronation of Edward VII in 1902 along with a badge celebrating the coronation in 1902 suggests the demolition took place between 1902 and 1905 (see (Figure 17 below) when the Ordnance Survey map shows the area without a building anymore (see Figure 9 above).



Figure 17: Fragment of a Coronation Cup from 1902, Slate Pencils and a badge saying 'Crowned AD1902'.

Following the demolition of the house in phase D the garden soil was made up to cover the foundations and allow for the garden of Hill Top Farm to form in the form that appears today. A brick garden wall was built approximately down the centre of the building now gone. It was only in 1970 that the northern half of the building foundations was levelled and removed.

The garden soil itself contains a number of interesting finds from medieval pottery sherds, lots of Victorian pottery sherds, glass marbles from COD bottles, tobacco pipe, dress fittings, buttons, slag (possibly from the blacksmiths shop) and even toy lead soldiers. This garden soil deposit contains a small slice through the history of the village and surrounding area (see Figure 18 below). But we do not know where the soil was brought in from to make up the garden.

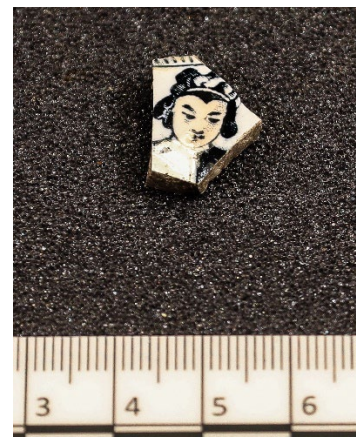


Figure 18: Selection of finds from the Garden Soil (context 02).

Including a Midland Railway uniform button, a lead soldier, a copper ally fitment, tobacco pipe and a selection of nails.

As part of the development of the garden the residents at Hill Top Farm put in a row of apple trees along the garden wall. The trench that we dug avoided the present-day trees, but we discovered the tree bowls, created by the planting of the trees and the root mass (contexts 07 and 19). These were the final phase of activity on the site, phase F. The area was then covered over by overlying turf.

## Conclusion

The excavation allowed us to accomplish a great deal for the local community and HHRAA. From an archaeological standpoint we now understand how the buildings on the site were built. We were able to see on maps the appearance of the buildings, an extension being added and final demolition. The archaeology has allowed us to tie those actions down to first build between 1796 and 1806 and demolition between 1902 and 1905. We have also understood the build quality, with the first schoolhouse having well-made stone foundations while the extension is built entirely of brick.

Any community excavation achieves much more than its archaeological aims. We were able to bring together people of all ages from the community. We utilised a wide variety of skills including group members who were experienced metal detectorists who went through the spoil and located a lot of the metal finds recovered by the excavation (see Figure 19 below).



Figure 19: The excavation underway. The trench runs along the left (north) side of the image. The metal detectorists can be seen going through the spoil on the right. We recovered a lot of metal finds thanks to their assistance.

Traditionally local history societies have an older profile to their members. Because we worked at weekends many families and interested young people were able to participate in the dig. We had a core team of about 23, but we were visited by many more who came to chat and play.



Figure 20: Celia Barnes being trained by one of our younger helpers.

## 5. DRONE SURVEY

In the summer of 2023, we were pleased to invite Tony Hunt from Yorkshire Archaeological Aerial Mapping to visit the village and fly the area to the north of the village with his drone. We were hoping that he might pick up more evidence of the crop marks that Historic England have plotted on their Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer site (see Figure 3 above and 21 below).

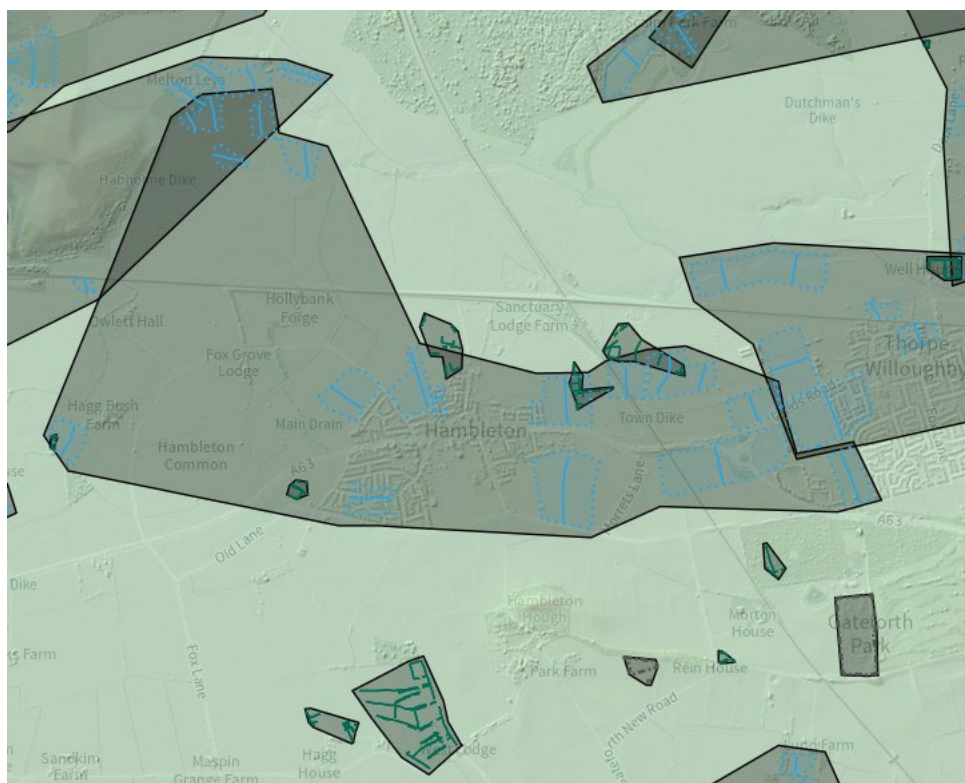


Figure 21: Mapping by Historic England showing crop marks (dark green lines) that suggest agricultural enclosures.

The enclosures that appear on the Historic England plots are not dated and may be from the Iron Age right through to the post medieval period. They do not however, correlate with the ridge and furrow shown in Figure 3 above. Suggesting they may not be medieval and therefore older, being Iron Age or Romano British.

Tony's map is shown in Figure 22 & 23 below. The two fields where Historic England identified crop marks are then highlighted in yellow circles on figure 24 below. The areas circled are then shown in detail with the west area shown in figure 25 and the east in figure 26. There does seem to be a lot going on in the new images, but a good deal of this also looks like the track of modern drains. If we are to take the search of Iron Age or Romano British enclosures forward, we may want to undertake geophysical survey as the next step. It may also be more productive to consider the enclosures just west of Hambleton Hough (see Figure 21 above).



Figure 22: Aerial Image of the fields north of Hambleton.

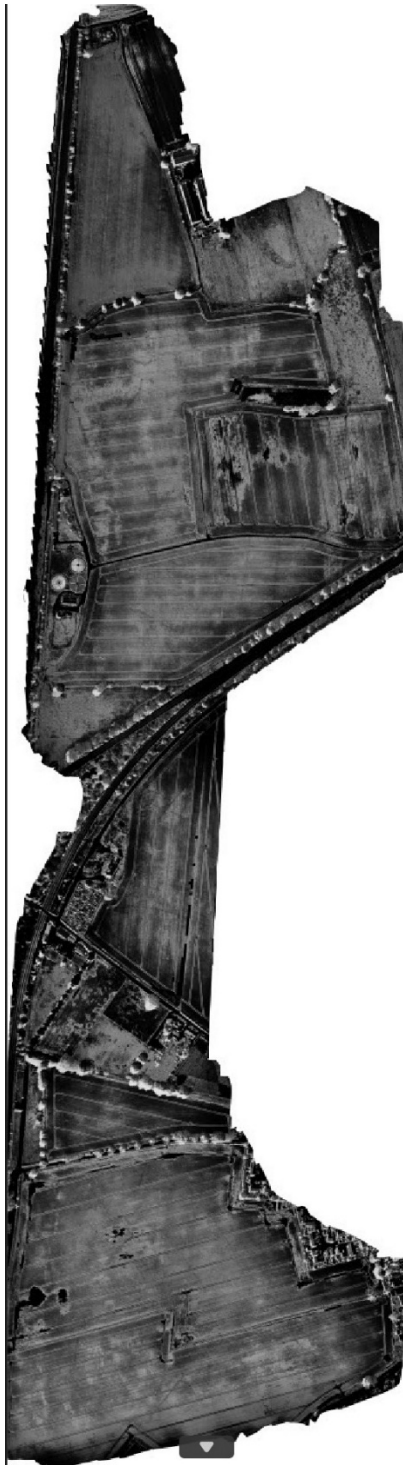


Figure 23: Multispectral Image of the same image of fields north of Hambleton.

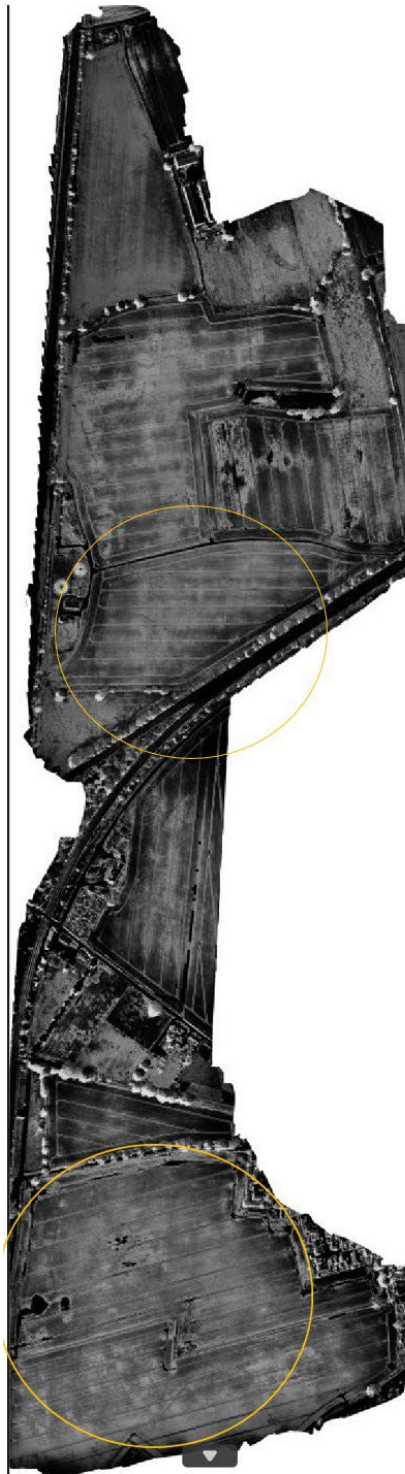


Figure 24: Drone image with areas identified by Historic England Highlighted.

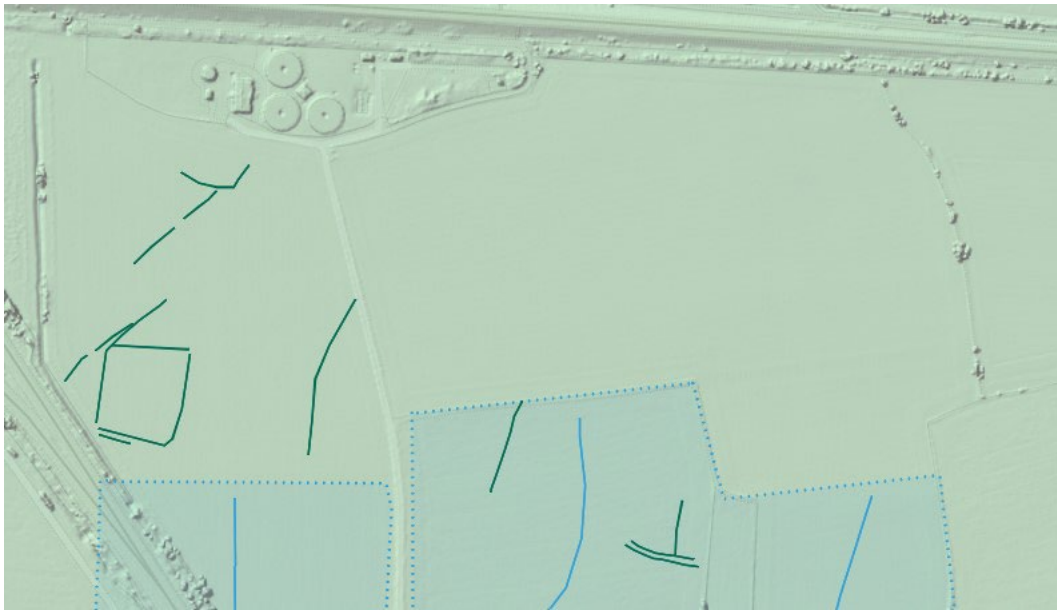


Figure 25: East end of the survey compared to Historic England Plot.

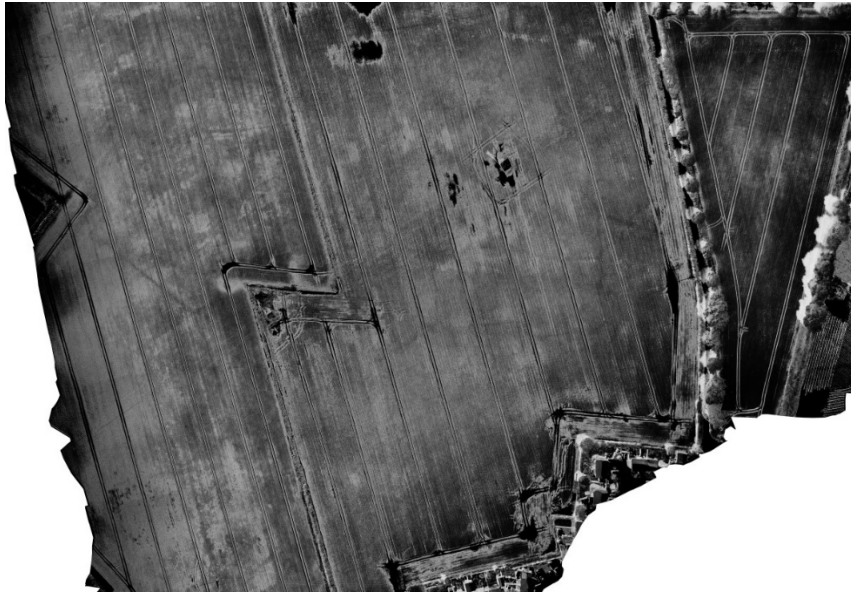


Figure 26: West end of the survey compared to Historic England Plot.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER THOUGHTS.

As already noted in section 4 of this report this project has been a great community success. We have brought people out of their homes to get together again in the aftermath of the COVID lockdown. First by attending workshops at the village hall, discussing what we could research, building on the huge amounts of work that HHRAA had already done, highlighting things that we would like to understand better about the village and the medieval township that surrounds it.

We then got outside in 2022 to undertake a geophysical survey and then later in October ran a very successful excavation. The geophysical survey located buildings in the triangle at the centre of the village. This triangle represents the coming together of two roads and has now, in its northern part at least, become a village green. In the past the area seems to have been a place where people and businesses (such as a blacksmith's shop) came together. Later Hill Top Farm took over the central part of the triangle but the land to the north of it was still busy with activity, particularly after the blacksmith's closed.

The project built a good relationship with the Hambleton C of E Primary School. Although the geophysical survey was undertaken in chilly November weather the children thoroughly enjoyed the process of gathering and analysing data. They were very proud to have discovered the ridge and furrow of the medieval south field running under their school!

HHRAA have now successfully planned and undertaken geophysical survey and excavation with a specific research objective. We have illuminated our understanding of the northern part of the triangle area, although of course more questions remain. Could a medieval chapel (chapel of ease or chantry chapel?) have stood under the blacksmith's shop? We don't think it was under the school. There is lots more about geophysics to learn, how to process and analyse geophysics data for example, or the detail of recording and analysing excavation evidence for example.

What could still be done taking the project into the future. The archaeological approach of seeing things in a spatial way has its advantages. It would be interesting to build the narrative of the historic landscape around the village, the medieval township for example.

There are specific missing components that you might expect in a village like Hambleton, the location of a chapel, were there two a chantry and a chapel of ease? The location of a medieval manor house. It would be interesting to build a map of the medieval village, using the structure from the enclosure map and the ridge and furrow from the fields mapped by Historic England.

It would also be interesting to map the Pre Norman landscape. The boundaries of the township are not necessarily important before that point (unless they had already been established). How much of the landscape was available for growing crops and how much was a wetland resource. The higher ground around Hambleton Hough may well have been available to grow crops. Indeed, the enclosures noted by Historic England aerial surveys stretch as far north as the present railway line.

It would be helpful to build up a topographical map using available resources such as LiDAR to give a detailed picture of the landscape available to peoples as far back as the Iron Age at the very least. Its fair to say that although the area had wetlands its wasn't inaccessible to farmers and a mapping like this might suggest what is accessible for settlement. If you live nearby wetlands they become an asset not a hindrance.

## 7. REFERENCES

Digital Archives Association. (2008). *Thomas Jeffery's Map of Yorkshire 1771*. Published on CD Rom.

Google Earth Pro. [https://www.google.com/intl/en\\_uk/earth/about/versions/](https://www.google.com/intl/en_uk/earth/about/versions/)

Hambleton History Research & Archive Association. <http://www.hhrra.org/default.aspx>

Historic England Aerial Archaeology Mapping Explorer.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/aerial-archaeology-mapping-explorer/>

Lacey, M. and Hey, G. (2001). *Evaluation of archaeological decision-making processes and sampling strategies*. Oxford: Oxford Archaeology.

Kershaw A., Horn P., MacLeod D., and Oakey M. (2021). '*A Perfect Flat...*' *Understanding the archaeology of the Vale of York*. Published online by Historic England at:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/results/reports/272-2020>

Schmidt A., Linford, P., David A., Gaffney C., Sarris A., and Fassbinder J,. (2016). *EAC Guidelines for the Use of Geophysics in Archaeology*. Published online by Historic England at:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/eac-guidelines-for-use-of-geophysics-in-archaeology/>

# Appendix

## Images from our Project



**Making a start on the excavation.**



**Detecting the spoil heap.**



**Walls begin to show through the garden soil.**



**Canine Helper.**



**A quiet moment on the Excavation.**



**Recoding and digging all in one.**



**Spoil Removal.**



**A Younger Helper.**



**Metal Work.**





**Flint Fragments**



**Lead Soldier**



**Midland Railway Company Button**



**Sherd from 1902 Coronation mug (Edward VII)**



**1806 George III Penny**

