Top Cow Pasture Project

(Project Code TCP 14)

Project design for the archaeological investigation of a possible early medieval farmstead at Selside, Horton in Ribblesdale, North Yorkshire

NGR SD7788 7593

Ingleborough Archaeology Group

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1. Introduction

1.1 Summary

This project design concerns proposed archaeological investigation of a site in Top Cow Pasture at Selside in Upper Ribblesdale, involving geophysical and topographical surveying followed by targeted excavation.

1.2 The site in question is sited 600m to the north-west of the hamlet of Selside (Fig. 1), just west of a relatively modern dry stone wall dividing into two a field known as Top Cow Pasture. The valley lies within Horton in Ribblesdale civil parish, within the south-western sector of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

1.3 Upper Ribblesdale, between Horton in Ribblesdale and Ribblehead, is grounded on Carboniferous Great Scar Limestone strata (Fig. 2), though to the east of the Settle-Carlisle Railway and the B6479 road bedrock is masked by a thick veneer of glacial till, here part of the area’s iconic drumlin field. West of the railway/road, limestone outcrops at or very close to the surface, forming discrete expanses of limestone pavement at Top Cow Pasture Rocks, Whit-a-Green Rocks and Long Churn. Further west, more or less above the 400m
contour, Great Scar Limestone is overlain by alternating sequences of sandstone and limestone, with some intermittent shale bands, all within the Carboniferous Yoredale Group.

Fig. 2 Solid geology (Source: Johnson 2008, 23).

The star symbol marks the project site.

1.4 The site in question lies at an altitude of 310m OD with the ground surface rising steeply immediately west of the site to plateau at 330m OD above a prominent but broken limestone scar, before rising more gently to Whit-a-Green. The ground surface is broadly level from the excavation site towards the east, north and south. The valley of Upper Ribblesdale itself has gently undulating topography dominated by the drumlin swarm.

1.5 Apart from Selside, the valley northwards and to the west of the Ribble is now very sparsely populated with a thin scatter of farmsteads or former farmsteads at Lodge Hall, Ashes, Colt Park and Gauber, with only the first named still a working farm.

1.6 Nowadays all of the Top Cow Pasture fields lie within the Ingleborough Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and the Ingleborough National Nature Reserve (NNR), owned and managed by Natural England, though the land here is grazed by a farmer based in Horton village. It also lies within the Ingleborough Complex Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
1.7 The site to be investigated is visible on the ground as two parallel rectangular structures, a sub-rectangular structure, all with dwarf wall footings, and associated curvilinear stone-banked wall lines (Fig. 3).

Fig. 3 General view across the Top Cow Pasture site, looking south-east

1.8 The site, centred on SD77877 75928, at an altitude of 314m, consists of two rectangular structures (Features 1 and 2) adjacent to each other but not seemingly sharing a common wall, at the foot of a steep slope immediately south of a track cut through rock outcrops; and a sub-rectangular structure (Feature 3) 15m to the south-west of the twin structures Four stone enclosure banks (Features 4 to 7) seem to be associated on the ground with the three putative buildings, running out from the site (Figs. 4 and 5). One bank (Feature 4) runs for c. 150m from the north-east corner of the east structure (Feature 1) describing a highly sinuous course to (seemingly) terminate in a shallow rectangular hollow at SD7803 7594. Throughout, the wall line is visible as a low turf bank with a core of large limestone blocks and recumbent slabs.
Another bank (Feature 5) runs from below the bluff on which Feature 3 sits describing a sinuous course first south-eastwards but then curving south-westwards almost to the southern boundary wall of Top Cow Pasture, seemingly terminating at SD7783 7579. It is seen as a broad stone-cored turf bank and can readily be traced for a length of c. 100m.

A third stone line (Feature 6) runs north-westwards and uphill from Feature 3 to the top of the plateau where it appears to end. A fourth stone bank (Feature 7), seen as an almost imperceptible line of limestone boulders, runs broadly parallel to the north and south boundary walls of Top Cow Pasture – visible for less than 100m – more or less across the centre of the modern field.

1.9 As stated above, the main complex – the farmstead or vaccary complex – contains three structures which give every appearance of having been buildings, all with dwarf, double-skin limestone walls (Fig. 6).
Fig. 6 Sketch plan of the main complex.  
A – rock-cut trackway, B – level platform,  
C – dry valley, D – limestone bluff

1.10 Externally, the eastern structure (Feature 1) measures c. 18m on its long, NW-SE axis by 7.6m on the short axis (Fig. 7). The western structure (Feature 2) lies parallel to it and externally measures c. 16m by 6.5m (Fig. 8). Longitudinally, the two buildings are offset by c. 3m. The space between the two contiguous long walls is no more than 0.8m wide at the greatest.
Fig. 7 The eastern structure (Feature 1), looking WNW. A possible 1m-wide doorway in the gable wall can be seen at the forefront of the picture

Fig. 8 The western structure (Feature 2), looking WSW

Both structures slope downhill with a difference of over 1m between the top and bottom ends.

Feature 3, orientated south-east to north-west, measures 9m by 5.6m externally (Fig. 9) and is sub-rectangular in plan form with dwarf wall lines less distinct than in Features 1 and 2.

1.11 The site was first recorded by the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division in June 1964, and was again picked up by the Yorkshire Dales Project aerial mapping programme between 1989 and 1992. It is currently recorded on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (henceforth YDNPA) Historic Environment Record (HER) as monument number MYD3663, notified as a ‘Medieval settlement and field system’ with an ‘extensive but fragmentary field system and possible farmstead of probable medieval date, surviving as earthworks and spread stone walls/banks’ (YDNPA. Full Report).
1.12 Top Cow Pasture lies within an area that was formally enclosed by an agreement of 1789, implemented in 1791 (YAS. DD104). The area encompassed Selside Shaw, Shaw Park and Lamb Pasture: Selside Shaw was the whole area west of Selside Shaw Old Lane (now the B6479), then called Greystone Road, between Selside and Colt Park; Shaw Park lay between the road, the river, and Selside running almost as far north as Lodge Hall; and Lamb Pasture lay between North Cote farm and Borrins Moor Rocks. Prior to the award, the three named components were individual stinted pastures with Top Cow Pasture covering (at least) the area from Selside northwards to Stone House and westwards to Borrins Moor Rocks. The external, curvilinear walls of the former cow pasture are historical features; the rectilinear walls sub-dividing the cow pasture date from the 1789 award which allocated new enclosures to ten existing gait holders. The award permitted those allocated land to get and use stone from within the cow pasture for their own use, including building the new walls: this probably accounts for the number and frequency of small workings across the rockier parts of Top Cow Pasture.

1.13 It is proposed to undertake the excavation phase of the research project starting on 26 May 2014, initially running for two weeks to end on 7 June, but with no terminal date fixed: this will depend on what potential the site reveals in the early stages of investigation, as well as on prevailing weather conditions. However, it is not anticipated that it will run for more than two weeks.
2. Local archaeological context

2.1 Sites already recorded on the YDNPA HER are shown on Figure 10.

![Fig. 10 HER plot for Selside (© YDNPA). Monument 3663 is the entire large blue-stippled area](image)

2.2 Sites currently recorded on the HER, within the general vicinity of the site to be investigated, and as shown on Figure 10, can be summarised as follows:

Table 1 Monuments recorded on the YDNPA HER, November 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MYD number</th>
<th>Monument</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3662</td>
<td>settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3663</td>
<td>medieval settlement and field system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3666</td>
<td>late prehistoric settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39617</td>
<td>lime kiln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39672</td>
<td>prehistoric settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39673</td>
<td>field boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39674</td>
<td>enclosure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39675</td>
<td>enclosure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39676</td>
<td>trackway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39677</td>
<td>field boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39678</td>
<td>field boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39679</td>
<td>cairn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39681</td>
<td>field boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39682</td>
<td>field boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39684</td>
<td>quarry</td>
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</tbody>
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2.3 Monument 3662 (Whit-a-Green), a complex site with small enclosures and field banks, is a Scheduled site that has no apparent physical connection on the ground with the site (3663) proposed for excavation. It is also quite different morphologically: 3663 is dominantly rectangular if plan form whereas 3662 has more rounded structures.

2.4 For further discussion of archaeological sites in Upper Ribblesdale, see King and Simpson (2011).

3. Potential archaeological significance

3.1 Comparative sites

3.1.1 The most well known rectangular structure to have been investigated in the western part of the Yorkshire Dales is the enigmatic Gauber farmstead that has typically been described as being of the Viking period, though the only firm dating evidence was three coins minted in the AD 860s in the Anglian kingdom of Northumbria (King 1978a, 1978b, 2004). More recent scholars have questioned the Viking provenance for Gauber suggesting instead that such sites should be 'more correctly attributed to the regional diversity indigenous to the later Anglo-Saxon England ...' (Thomas 2012, 57; and see Ryan 2013, 291-92).

3.1.2 In a different vein, Roberts (1993, 445) bemoaned the tendency to attribute sites to the Iron Age or Romano-British periods in years before radiocarbon dating results were available which placed them within early medieval centuries. Such attributions have certainly been made in Upper Ribblesdale, though here dating evidence to contradict or support them is still lacking.

3.1.3 MYD3662 was given a Romano-British date by the Ordnance Survey field investigator who surveyed this area but the basis on which this attribution was made is, as yet, unknown. Attempts will be made during the project to resolve this issue.

3.1.4 A number of other sites with rectangular structures have been recorded from field walking. These include two early medieval farmsteads in Clapham Bottoms (Batty 2010); a number of sites in Kingsdale including the medieval house site excavated and dated in 2005 by the Ingleborough Archaeology Group (IAG) (Batty 2007, 47-59); two discrete farmsteads on Brows Pasture at Chapel le Dale, excavated in 2012 (Johnson 2013 and forthcoming); and, most recently, two discrete farmstead sites excavated by IAG in 2013 in Crummack Dale (Johnson in prep). There is also the documented so-called deserted medieval settlement at Southerscales near Chapel-le-Dale which contains the earthwork remains of six potentially discrete units: this sits on the opposite side of the valley to the two Brows Pasture sites and at roughly the same altitude. Documentary evidence first records Southerscales as a vaccary in 1202-08 and again in a grant to Furness Abbey in 1250-51 and in a post-Dissolution rental of 1536-38 (see, for example, Brownbill 1916, 325-26, 334-35). Excavation of the Brows sites has been written up as a full archaeological report (Johnson 2013) and historical aspects of Brows and Southerscales will appear in the proceedings of a day conference on the Medieval Dales held in October 2012 (Johnson forthcoming): this discusses the possibility that the so-called Southerscales DMS is actually
of early medieval date and the reality that the Brows sites are of Anglo-Saxon-period provenance.

3.1.5 Elsewhere in the Dales an isolated structure above Gunnerside, several on Malham Lings and two on the eastern flanks of Highfolds at Malham Tarn (Raistrick and Holmes 1962, 91-92) all have broadly similar rectangular ground plans, though with considerable variation in dimensions. However, it is probable that morphological records for unpublished sites and structures do exist, and they may indicate more structures of a similar nature elsewhere in the Dales. Analysis of MORPH records, to this end, will form part of this Project’s grey literature trawl.

3.1.6 A site excavated by the Sedbergh and District Historical Society in the mid 1990s at Crosedale Beck in the Howgills (NGR SD647 939) noted two small rectangular structures, one of which was excavated and found to be c. 10m by 5m in size (Howard-Davis, Hair and Newman 1996; Hair and Newman, 1999). Pottery dated the site to between the late 12th and the 14th centuries.

3.1.7 A much smaller than average rectangular structure was investigated using archaeological methods, by members of the IAG in 2011, in Upper Pasture between Sulber and Borrins-Gill Garth, at SD77665 74103 (Johnson et al. 2012). Radiocarbon dating of charcoal samples from a sealed context proved this to have been in use between AD 660 and 780, with the greatest probability having been AD 665 to 715. These dates sit within the early Anglo-Saxon period and the structure was interpreted as a late British survival, a probable shieling associated with transhumant stock management.

3.1.8 Archaeological evidence of probable medieval field systems – lynchets or ridge and furrow – and farmsteads across the Dales is well documented and highly visible on the ground as earthworks (White 2002, 69-71; Moorhouse 2003, 199; Dennison 2004, 31). Particularly fine ridge and furrow networks were identified in the Ribble valley, between Studfold and Horton in Ribblesdale; and Rathmell and Wigglesworth, by LiDAR survey (Newman 2008, 11), while subtle vegetation changes and light snow cover can also reveal such systems.

3.2 Potential significance

3.2.1 There has been a lack of agreement within the archaeological community concerning the differentiation on the ground between early medieval and medieval farmsteads, largely owing to a lack of detailed archaeological investigations of such features, especially in the North West (see, for example, Newman 2005, 206-08, 211; Silvester 2010, 141; Thomas 2012, 49, 59; Wrathmell 2012, 259). As stated earlier, many sites within the Yorkshire Dales have long been assumed to have been Romano-British sites, often with no direct evidence of dating, partly the result of work undertaken by Arthur Raistrick on sites which arguably yielded too few pot sherds to enable meaningful conclusions to be drawn. There is, however, a growing and very recent corpus of evidence of pre-Conquest settlement within the general Ingleborough area, as shown in Table 2.

3.2.2 Surveying of earthwork remains in south Cumbria has tentatively ascribed most of 16 ‘longhouses’ to the ‘mid-late medieval’ period though none of the sites was dated by excavation or artefacts; rather assumptions were largely based on plan form (duddonhistory.org) which is perhaps a premature judgement to make.
3.2.3 Excavation of the Top Cow Pasture site will provide the opportunity to investigate in detail a further putative farmstead complex with double rectangular structures, possibly constructed of timber set on ‘dwarf’ stone walls, with associated field banks, set in a sheltered location at the foot of a limestone bluff. This project will add to the still scant but growing body of detailed investigations of early medieval/medieval structures within the Dales, and may offer opportunities for dating the structures and setting them within the chronology of post-Roman and pre- or post-Conquest settlement and activity within the western part of the Dales. This proposed excavation is seen as a logical progression from recent investigations of early medieval sites in Upper Pasture near Sulber (Project code UP 11), Brows Pasture at Chapel-le-Dale (Project code EK12) and Crummack Dale (Project code CRD13), aimed at testing the hypothesis that rectangular structures with dwarf stone
walls of the type seen on those sites can be ascribed to the early medieval, or Anglo-Saxon, period rather than to the Romano-British or post-Conquest periods.

4. Justification

4.1 The argument put forward in justification of the proposed excavation can be summarised as follows: the morphology of the two rectangular structures gives the appearance of their being early medieval in date, and they appear to be associated with field banks that could be coeval and are recorded on the HER as such. As seen through the turf, these structures appear very similar to those excavated in Brows Pasture and Crummack Dale which both proved a suite of pre-Conquest radiocarbon dates. However, Selside was recorded in 1292 as a monastic vaccary belonging to Furness Abbey and was known then as Selseth. In an estate valuation it was recorded thus: Item habent unam vaccariam quae vocatur Selseth which translates as ‘Also, they have one vaccary (cow farm complex) which is called Selseth’ (Atkinson 1887, 635).

4.2 As discussed earlier, there is a dearth of firmly dated sites from the medieval and early medieval periods in this part of the Dales and detailed examination of the sites in question is likely to add significantly to the understanding and chronology of medieval rural settlement, and of the detailed morphology of structures investigated. In order to develop a working model of post-Roman rural settlements in the western Dales it is important to have detailed information from a range of geographically dispersed sites. Proven radiocarbon dates obtained from the two Brows Pasture farmstead sites, two of the three Crummack Dale farmstead sites, and the Upper Pasture shieling site suggest hitherto unproven early medieval settlement and activity in the Ingleborough area away from established townships (now civil parishes and villages) bearing Anglo-Saxon place-names such as Horton, Ingleton, Stainforth and Langcliffe. Isolated settlement has now been confirmed from the Anglo-Saxon era to the north-west and south of the Ingleborough massif, and a seasonally-occupied shieling hut from the eastern side: excavation of the Top Cow Pasture site could either confirm pre-Conquest non-nucleated settlement at Selside or monastic occupation as a 13th-14th-century vaccary.

4.3 Examination of the Top Cow Pasture site is considered a logical progression from the other dated sites in that it may confirm that sites with such rectangular structures and stone-built dwarf walls across the entire Ingleborough area can be ascribed to the early medieval era, or – if the Top Cow Pasture site returns post-Conquest dates – that this morphological type continued in use throughout the early medieval and medieval periods.

5. Research aims and objectives

The rationale of the project will be furthered by investigating the following:

5.1 the relationship between the various structures and the field banks/wall lines. Is it possible to identify if these ancillary features were broadly contemporary with the main complexes, forming a coeval integrated farm management unit.
5.2 the structures’ ground plans and detailed internal morphology, including walls, with the aim of determining constructional methods and materials. For example, were the internal floors earthen, paved or set on bedrock; were the walls built in one constructional phase; were the surviving walls the base for supporting a timber or a turf superstructure; are there any central roofing postholes, is there a communicating doorway from one building to the other, and can external thresholds be identified?

5.3 the original function of the complex. Was it a permanently occupied farmstead or a summer shieling, or a part of a vaccary complex?

5.4 other ground features: are there other features already recorded in the wider area around Selside that may have been related to the site, such as water sources, trackways, and other stone-built features at a slightly higher level to the west?

5.5 LiDAR imagery shows a pattern of parallel corrugations running broadly east-west across Top Cow Pasture east of the modern dividing wall, though quick field walking on 4 December 2013 failed to identify them on the ground. The width of these corrugations seems to conform to typical crest-to-crest widths of medieval ridge and furrow systems, so this will be examined more closely by field surveying during the project.

5.6 dating evidence. Assuming that the complex was a farmstead or vaccary, does it have surviving hearths with charcoal deposits suitable for AMS radiocarbon dating (or any other suitable method of dating such as ceramics) thereby enabling the site to be fitted into the assumed chronology of settlement in the western Dales based on other investigated sites as discussed earlier?

5.7 if the evidence is found, environmental samples will be obtained from within the vicinity to enable examination of pollen and soil mineral composition. This would help in the reconstruction of past environments here.

5.8 beyond these practical and research issues, the project will also aim to further the practical skill set of participants, to extend their knowledge of sites such as this one, and to make available to the wider general public and to researchers the results of this investigation by adding to the growing corpus of published material on similar archaeological sites in the Ingleborough area.

5.9 As the site lies within the civil parish of Horton in Ribblesdale, which has its own History Group, links will be established to draw its membership into the project at all stages.

6. Methodology

6.1 Desk-based assessment

Apart from what has been noted above, very little published or grey material has been located that is of direct relevance to the locality but an archival and grey material trawl will be undertaken as part of the overall project. Detailed documentary and cartographic research will also form an integral part of the work to be undertaken. Horton History Group will be approached to determine if they have the capacity to offer help in this respect; if not, it will be performed by IAG members.
6.2 Geophysical surveying

Geophysical surveying – magnetometry – of the site will be undertaken prior to excavation with the aim of surveying the three recognised structures and the area between and around them. The level platform close to the site will also be examined geophysically.

6.3 Topographical surveying

Mapping of visible archaeological features, using a mapping-grade Thales MobileMapper hand-held GPS, will be carried out across Top Cow Pasture, at a scale of 1:1000. A tape-and-offset plan will be drawn of the immediate site as part of the project, at a scale of 1:250, prior to the actual excavation, following English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2010, 6-7).

6.4 Excavation

6.4.1 The excavation phase of the project is designed to take account of the demands of conservation of the archaeological resource being investigated, and of possible future research on the site, and of the needs of training and community participation. The archaeological integrity of the structures will be maintained by spatially limiting the extent of excavation of structural features. The following excavation programme is envisaged, though what will actually be undertaken will depend on prevailing weather conditions and available manpower, as well as on the results of geophysical surveying. Trenches will be opened on a phased basis rather than having all in operation at the same time. It is stressed that the trench options listed here are provisional and may change.

a. Trench 1 will be laid out where the wall bank (Feature 4) appears under the turf to tie in with the walls of Feature 1, designed to test the hypothesis that the two are coeval, and to examine the structure of the field bank.

b. Trench 2 will be laid out across the contiguous walls of Features 1 and 2, designed to take in parts of both side walls, with the possible common doorway, and to see if a floor surface can be determined.

c. Trench 3 will be laid out across the south-eastern end of Feature 1 to take in that end of both side walls, a possible entrance in that gable and the adjacent floor surface, if present.

d. Trench 4 will be laid out across one corner of Feature 3, the sub-rectangular structure, to determine its form and structure and to seek evidence of an occupation surface.

6.4.2 Procedures

a. turf and top soil will be removed by hand and will be stored on Visqueen sheeting. No wheelbarrows or machinery will be used.

b. each trench will be photo-cleaned, photographed and planned using 1m x 1m planning frames at intervals as determined by excavation.

c. excavation will be furthered using hand-trowels with planning and photography as necessary until a structural basal surface is identified. A detailed photographic record will be compiled and archived.
d. proforma Context recording sheets will be compiled as per IAG’s normal practice.

e. any artefacts will be given a small finds number and logged and bagged according to best practice for post-excavation analysis.

f. Should any obviously modern items be unearthed during excavation, such as modern shot cartridges or sheep carcasses (as found within the UP11 excavation), the retention/discard policy will be to record them as objects in the site book but not to assign individual small finds numbers, and not to physically retain them in the project archive.

g. all trenches will be backfilled and the turf relaid on completion of the excavation phase. Undertaking the excavation in late spring will give time during the summer for the turf to knit and grow. Monitoring over the summer will ensure stock disturbance is minimised.

h. a site book will be maintained.

6.5 Botany

A botanical species list will be drawn up within the relevant part of Top Cow Pasture.

6.6 Post-excavation

The following procedures will be followed:

6.6.1 A full project archive will be compiled. A copy of the archive will be deposited, by agreement, with the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes.

6.6.2 Full post-processing and analysis will be undertaken as necessary by those with the requisite professional skills, including environmental sampling, finds examination and radiocarbon dating of any suitable materials recovered. Environmental sampling will include XRF analysis for mineral content in any soil samples that are identified as being worthy of such examination during the excavation process. Species identification of any charcoal samples logged, together with laboratory preparation of samples suitable for radiocarbon dating, will be undertaken as a matter of course. Finds that may be recovered could include bone, metal objects or ceramics. Oxford Archaeology North (OAN), in Lancaster, will be the initial point of contact for laboratory examination of artefacts and ecofacts. Radiocarbon dating will be undertaken by the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) in East Kilbride. Conservation work on artefacts will be undertaken, as necessary, by Karen Barker of Antiquities Conservation Service in Co. Durham.

6.6.3 A detailed Data Structure Report (DSR) will be compiled to include full details of all stages of the project, including photographs and plans.

6.6.4 Should any artefacts be recovered, and unless Natural England wishes to retain ownership, they will be deposited with a local museum – either the Craven Museum in Skipton or the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes – after consultation with Natural England and the YDNPA.

6.6.5 All results will be submitted for inclusion in the YDNPA HER.
7. Dissemination

7.1 Hardcopies of the final project report will be given to:

Natural England as landowners, Mr Keith Middleton of Horton in Ribblesdale, the grazier; the YDNPA; the Yorkshire Archaeological Society; Horton History Group; and Skipton Reference Library.

7.2 Results of the project will be disseminated to external audiences after consultation with the landowners. The extent and nature of this will depend on the significance attached to the findings. Each member of the surveying and excavation teams will be entitled to purchase a copy of the report. Wider dissemination could take the form of a short report for the Council for British Archaeology Yorkshire’s annual Forum journal. Talks to local groups and the YDNPA’s annual Archaeology Day may also be appropriate, if requested. Display panels will be prepared for use at the annual Festival of British Archaeology and in exhibitions at local venues and the annual Yorkshire Dales Archaeology Day.

7.3 Results and a copy of the final project report will be uploaded to IAG’s website and a volunteer will be sought to compile a daily blog during the life of the project.

7.4 Beyond the website, advice will be sought from the YDNPA on which digital formats are most appropriate for spreading the word.

7.5 Workshops, as appropriate, will be offered to the general public, to be held in Horton Village Hall, before and after the excavation phase. Details of these will be formulated in due course.

7.6 It is also the intention, should the site prove to be early medieval in date, to compose a synoptic article on current knowledge of and evidence for pre-Conquest settlement in the Ingleborough/south-west Dales area, culling the results of this project and those based on Upper Pasture (UP11), Brows Pasture (EK12) and Crummack Dale (CRD13), together with relevant spot finds from elsewhere in the region. This will be submitted to a peer-reviewed academic journal.

8. Logistics

8.1 The site lies on land that is owned by Natural England and grazed from Horton in Ribblesdale so full recognisance will be given to their demands, and to the integrity of this part of the Ingleborough SSSI, the Ingleborough Complex SAC and the Ingleborough NNR.

8.2 In view of the area’s SSSI, NNR and SAC designations, derogation from Natural England will be required and will be applied for.

8.3 IAG has always maintained the policy of working closely with the YDNPA, so close liaison with the Authority’s Senior Historic Environment Officer is a given.

8.4 Motorised access will be restricted to one 4-WD vehicle to take equipment to and from the site. All participants will enter on foot.
8.5 It will be necessary to erect two tents to act as mess tent, emergency shelter and overnight tool store. These will be pitched away from the excavation site to minimise their potential impact on hidden or visible archaeological features.

8.6 IAG intends to rent the Leeds University bunkhouse (Selside Bungalow) at the bottom of Top Cow Pasture for toilet and wet weather shelter, and as a secure base. Parking at the hut will be permitted by Natural England.

8.7 As Top Cow Pasture has permissive access on foot, casual visits by members of the public will be allowed. Access procedures, and the rationale behind them, will be notified on the IAG website and as a posted notice at the car parking area at the Leeds Hut (Selside Bungalow).

9. Staffing

9.1 To meet the criteria for Lottery funding, the project will be opened up to the wider community and the hope is that it will be possible to attract a junior element: to further this aim, the assistance of James Spry, Community Archaeology Training Placement Holder with the YDNPA will be sought.

9.2 It is hoped that participation will be found from Horton History Group and other residents of Upper Ribblesdale, as well as from the normal cohort of IAG members. It is also the intention to invite members from the Yorkshire Dales Young Archaeologists Club and from Horton Primary School.

10. Health and Safety

10.1 Full and due regard will be given to the safety of participants and permitted visitors, and the health and safety policy will be in accordance with standard archaeological procedures. Briefings will be given as necessary to all participants, with training as and when required. A site incident book will be kept and a first aid kit will be kept on site by the appointed First Aider. A full risk assessment will have been completed prior to work on site. No trench will reach depths where shoring is required.

10.2 IAG has full liability insurance.

11. Costings

11.1 IAG possesses all the equipment needed for the surveying and excavation elements of the project and no significant equipment costs are anticipated, other than consumables. If any material suitable for radiocarbon dating is recovered or if any environmental material is found, then costs will be incurred. Post-excavation analysis of any artefacts or ecofacts will also incur costs, as will publication of the results.

11.2 IAG intends to submit an application for Lottery funding if derogation from Natural England is forthcoming.
12. References

Archival sources

North Yorkshire County Record Office (NYCRO).


Secondary sources


King, A. 1978b. ‘Ribblehead’ Current Archaeology 6, 38-41.


