

## Terrington History Group

### Fieldwalking Group

#### Field 1 — Final report

#### 21 October 2011 - fieldwalking

16 members of the Fieldwalking Group met York Community Archaeologist Jon Kenny at Lou Howard's farm, Rose Cottage Farm, at 10.30.

The field we walked was centred at grid reference SE 671 724, between Swinsey Carr and Wath Beck (see reference below<sup>1</sup>), and had recently been sown with cereal. There had been some early morning rain but the going was good and the rest of the day remained dry.

We first walked the whole field from west to east, roughly spaced out in one line, in order to get a general sense of the geology and the distribution of any artefacts it might contain. Two of the group worked with their metal detectors.

From this we observed a sandstone base with surface patches of clay and sand. Surface level stones were sandstone (orange and/or dark red, some with iron panning); oolitic limestone and limestone with fossil inclusions, some rolled smooth; some dark grey flint fragments. Artefacts found were various fragments of land-drain, glazed pottery fragments from Victorian to early C20<sup>th</sup>, one fragment of green glazed pot of perhaps C17<sup>th</sup>, fragments of coal and charcoal, 2 nails (floorboard?), one plain 1 inch button (pewter?), 1 sheep's tooth, 1 recent bird bone (pheasant?).

The above provided us with a background spread, typifying the field. As the metal button and the piece of green glazed pot had been found at the eastern end of the field, where Lou Howard had also previously found pieces of green glazed pot, it was decided to walk that end in more detail. A 100x100 metre area was laid out in 20 metre squares and each was walked.

Artefacts found included more Victorian domestic pot fragments, coal and charcoal, clay pipe fragments, 2 small pieces of metal (nails?), a metal washer, clay fragments (brick?), 1 fragment of green glazed pot – and a flint arrowhead (appropriately found by Lou herself).

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://getamap.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/getamap/frames.htm> 22.10.11  
Insert grid reference SE 671 724

Initial conclusions are that the field had been improved with manuring over the last 200 years or so but no evidence of this previously. The fragments of earlier domestic pot came from the eastern edge of the field, above the unploughed low lying and damp strip of land by Wath Beck and may provide circumstantial evidence of a dwelling there. The flint arrowhead can be fitted into the bigger picture provided by the John Bateman study<sup>2</sup>.

The day finished at about 3.30pm, followed by a very welcome cup of tea at Rose Cottage Farm.

Lou Howard took custody of the day's finds; the next step will be to wash and examine them in detail, in association with documentary evidence, and draw any further conclusions.

## 18 November 2011 – examining the finds

The next step was to wash and examine the finds in detail, and draw any further conclusions.

18 members of the Group met in Terrington Village Hall, again joined by Dr Jon Kenny who came complete with washing-up bowls, toothbrushes and finds trays. The finds were categorised by Dr Kenny and are presented in the attached table, together with some additional comments.

Subsequently Rebecca Morris, Portable Antiquities Scheme, Finds Liaison Officer - North and East Yorkshire kindly identified the metal button (see attached letter and report).

The more detailed examination of the finds highlighted the relatively large amount of flint found in what is a non-flint area. This bears out the findings of the Bateman report over the wider Howardian Hills area. Our detailed examination also confirmed the presence of small amounts of medieval pottery, some late medieval/early modern, and rather larger amounts of Victorian/early 20C glazed pottery. There were small amounts of coal, charcoal and shale. There was a small amount of tile and hand-made brick. The button was of a type common in the 18C, particularly 1770-1800.

The hypothesis formed is that the field did not come into arable cultivation until some time after 1700, after which waste from the village, including glazed pottery and coal, charcoal and shale were spread to improve the soil. Earlier medieval material was localised and there may have been a single habitation near Wath Beck and its marshy bordering land.

---

<sup>2</sup> Bateman, John, *Howardian Hills Field Collection Survey*, Winter 2006  
<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-814-1/ads/dissemination/pdf/hhsurveyreport.pdf> 22.10.11

**Documentary evidence, for example, maps and estate terriers, may permit further checking of this hypothesis.**

**The finds are again with Lou Howard of Rose Cottage Farm.**

*Jane Hanstock*

artifact type	no of items per grid square																											
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	
quartz										1 <sup>l</sup>																		
unworked flint							2		1																			
worked flint; flint fragments	1					3 <sup>g</sup>	1		3			1	1		3	3 <sup>q</sup>	3	4	1	1	4 <sup>u</sup>	1 <sup>x</sup>		1	1		2	
ceramic building material (CBM)	4	6 <sup>b</sup>		1		1	1 <sup>i</sup>	3	4		2 <sup>n</sup>			1 <sup>o</sup>	1	1	2		1	2 <sup>r</sup>	1			4	1	2	1	
charcoal	4						3				1																	
coal	1		2	3																							1	
shale			1										1			1				1				2				
clay pipe	1	1 <sup>c</sup>				1	1													3	1 <sup>s</sup>							
unglazed						2 <sup>h</sup>																						
slipware	1										1				1				1									
stoneware			1	1							1										1							
green glaze		1 <sup>d</sup>	1 <sup>e</sup>							1 <sup>j</sup>																2 <sup>z</sup>		
blue&white glaze; white glaze, coloured glaze		1	3	1				1	1			2	1		2 <sup>p</sup>						2	1			2		1	
whiteware											1					1						2	2				1	
dark brown										1	1	1				1									1			
unknown pottery type																						1 <sup>v</sup>						
glass	3	1											1						1			1						
metal	2 <sup>a</sup>			1					1 <sup>k</sup>													1 <sup>t</sup>		1 <sup>y</sup>				
plastic										1 <sup>m</sup>																		
animal bone			1																									
animal teeth			1 <sup>f</sup>																									
fossil																						1 <sup>w</sup>						

## Notes

- a: A1 metal: much corroded  
 b: A2 ceramic building material: 4 handmade brick  
 c: A2 clay pipe: wide bore  
 d: A2 green glaze: medieval  
 e: A3 green glaze: medieval, strap handle?  
 f: A3 animal teeth: cow? - old animal  
 g: B1 worked flint; flint fragments: 1 scraper  
 h: B1 unglazed: medieval. 1 with small trace of glaze on base.  
 i: B2 ceramic building material: pantile, late 1700s on  
 j: B4 green glaze: late medieval/early modern  
 k: B4 metal: tombac button (see PAS report 28.11.11)  
 l: B5 quartz: gravel?  
 m: B5 plastic: red tractor light  
 n: B6 ceramic building material: 1 quarry tile  
 o: C3 ceramic building material: modern field drain  
 p: C4 blue&white, white; coloured glaze: 1 yellow glaze, 1 thin white porcelain  
 q: C5 worked flint; flint fragments: 1 blade  
 r: D3 ceramic building material: dark grey tile  
 s: D3 clay pipe: pipe bowl fragment  
 t: D3 metal: washer  
 u: D4 worked flint; flint fragments: 1 blade?  
 v: D4 unknown pottery type: like thin tile  
 w: D4 fossil: "Devil's toe nail"  
 x: D5 worked flint; flint fragments: tanged & barbed arrowhead  
 y: E1 metal: 2 oval links of chain, each approx 5cm long  
 z: E2 green glaze: hard green glaze, large diameter, medieval or early modern



Rebecca Morris  
Finds Liaison Officer North & East Yorkshire  
Yorkshire Museum  
Museum Gardens  
York YO1 7FR  
Tel: 01904 687668  
Email: [rebecca.morris@ymt.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.morris@ymt.org.uk)  
28<sup>th</sup> November 2011

Dear Mrs Hanstock

**REF: Button Enquiry**

Thank you for your enquiry regarding a button found by your History Group on a recent fieldwalking exercise.

Please find enclosed a brief report on the button for you to add to your project report. I hope it is of use to you and answers any questions you had regarding the object.

Thank you also for including your report on the days' events and what you found. It is always nice to know what work is being done in the area and that it is being suitably recorded.

If I can be of any further assistance please feel free to get in touch.

Many thanks.

Yours Sincerely,

Rebecca Morris  
Portable Antiquities Scheme  
Finds Liaison Officer - North & East Yorkshire



## Artefact Report

### Object Type

Button

### Period:

Late Post-medieval

### Date:

1700 - 1800

### Description:

An incomplete cast pewter "tombac" button of post-medieval date. The button is circular in plan, with a worn, flat and undecorated face. The reverse is also undecorated but rises slightly to the central point from which the remains of the attachment shank project. The shank proper no longer survives. Radiating circular incisions on the reverse of the button also suggest that it was machine made. Tombac is an alloy of brass containing high percentages of zinc and sometimes arsenic. It often maintains its shiny appearance and was commonly used for buttons in the eighteenth century, particularly 1770-1800.

### Reference:

Numerous examples of tombac buttons similar to this example have been recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database.

Report by:

Rebecca Morris  
Finds Liaison Officer – North & East Yorkshire

*This record does not constitute an authentication of the object, it is an opinion only. E&OE. The Scheme cannot provide valuations.*