

GPS Survey of Holwick Scars Scheduled Monument 1019458

Altogether Archaeology

altogetherarchaeology.org

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Introduction

Altogether Archaeology is an independent community archaeology group based in the North Pennines, who are researching in the area from Swaledale to Tynedale. Prior to late 2015 it was formally a sub-group of the North Pennine AONB. During the period 2009-2015 it completed a considerable volume of community based archaeology. Those reports are available on the link below.

In early 2017, Altogether Archaeology commissioned a three-part 'Research Strategy'. Now (May 2017), two of the three documents: The Research Agenda and the Research Strategy are available to download at <https://altogetherarchaeology.org/reports.php> The Resource Assessment although complete has not yet been released.

Altogether Archaeology members decided that their next major research agenda should be to look at early medieval sites within the region. Holwick was surveyed by the group when it formed part of the North Pennine AONB in 2011, but the Heritage Lottery Fund grant ran out in 2015 before the site could be excavated.

Partly because of the proximity of the Holwick Scars Scheduled Monument 1019458, and to complete the earlier 2011 work, it was thought that this site might include some Early Medieval features.

Whilst Altogether Archaeology is a community archaeology group, it lists several qualified archaeologists amongst its membership. It always uses qualified archaeologists to supervise excavations.

In May 2017, with permission of the landowner and farmer, the group held a week-long fieldwork session to survey the Holwick Settlement site using both GPS and traditional methods. This was both to update the 2011 survey and to train new members. In addition, a walk over GPS survey was made of the Holwick Scars Scheduled Monument 1019458 (Monument 1019458), as this had not been looked at in 2011. Further work is scheduled on the Holwick deserted settlement later in 2017. All findings will be published on the reports page of the website in due course.

GPS Survey

A GPS survey was made as outlined in: Landscape Surveying using Handheld GPS Receivers, Stephen Eastmead, ISBN 978-1-4710-6296-4, lulu.com. The indicated accuracy during the survey was between 3m and 4m. The data was corrected for local WGS84 > OSGB36 conversion errors which were measured at 2m at 200°. Data was processed in GPS Utility software and then used in QGIS and Google Earth. All three figures referred to in the text are in Appendix 1, and all photographs are in Appendix 2.

Copyright

Scheduled Monuments

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The most publicly available up to date Historic England GIS Data can be obtained from <http://www.HistoricEngland.org.uk>.

Photographs

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Report

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Survey Findings

Introduction

Figure 1 indicates how rich the Holwick area is archaeologically with the high number of scheduled monuments locally. There are also many sites in the area that have not been surveyed.

Figure 2 is a Google Earth view of the GPS data from both Monument 1019458 and the Holwick Deserted Settlement sites. Access to Holwick Deserted Settlement is from the road that forms the northern boundary. However, it is not easy to get to Monument 1019458 from Holwick Deserted Settlement, due to the long dry-stone wall that separates the improved pasture from the moorland.

To the south of this wall are all the sites recorded during the Monument 1019458 survey. Features M and L were recorded on the way to Monument 1019458. To the north of the wall are the sites that will be described in the Altogether Archaeology Holwick Survey 2017 report, in which this short report will be an annex.

Monument 1019458 Findings

Monument 1019458 was scheduled in 2000. In the intervening 17 years the landscape features like tracks up the hillside may well have been relocated by grazing livestock. In 2017, there is a single track (F), extending from where Monument 1019458 meets the Holwick Deserted Settlement, diagonally towards the south-east, until it peters out approximately two thirds of the way up the hill. All the shielings identified are located above this track.

The features recorded are indexed on the map from A to M:

Features A and C are the least distinct shieling foundations.

Feature B is a significant line of stone stretching diagonally down the slope of the hill. This feature looks natural at its eastern end, but the western end appears as though it has been enhanced by man into a possible burial cairn [Photograph 1].

Features D and E are lengths of wall.

Feature F is the track.

Feature G is the most intact structure which has a small annex or enclosure above [Photographs: 2 & 3].

Feature H is located below G [Photograph 4].

Feature I is located below H [Photograph 5].

Feature J appears to have an annex or small enclosure attached [Photograph 6].

Feature K is the most westerly shieling [Photograph 7].

A view of the Holwick Deserted settlement from the shielings [Photograph 8].

Feature L is outside the scheduled area and forms part of a foundation that will be included in the Holwick Deserted Settlement report. The dry-stone boundary wall cuts across the structure. The remains of the foundations consist of much larger stones than seen elsewhere. It is possible that this may be an earlier structure. There is a small enclosure attached to the eastern side. [Photographs 9].

Feature M appears to be a later building, or one that has been reused in a later period. It butts up to the boundary dry-stone wall, but it is not clear if the dry-stone wall was built on its northern foundation or is located a metre or so south. [Photographs 10 and 11].

Scheduled Monuments near Holwick

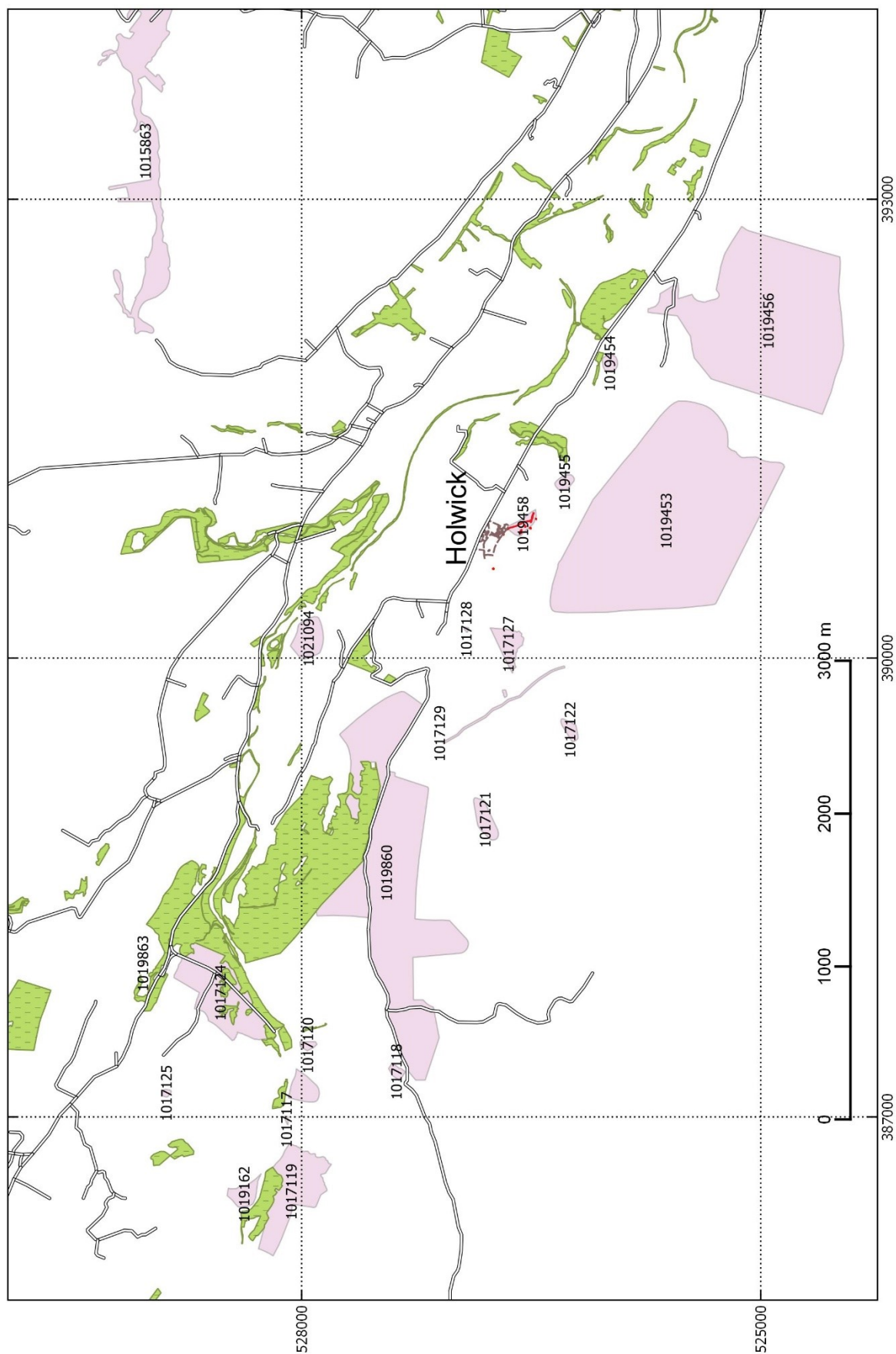


Figure 1 Scheduled Monuments around Holwick



Figure 2 Google Earth view of Holwick Scars Scheduled Monument and Holwick Deserted Settlement

Holwick Scars Scheduled Monument 1019458 GPS Survey by Altogether Archaeology May 2017

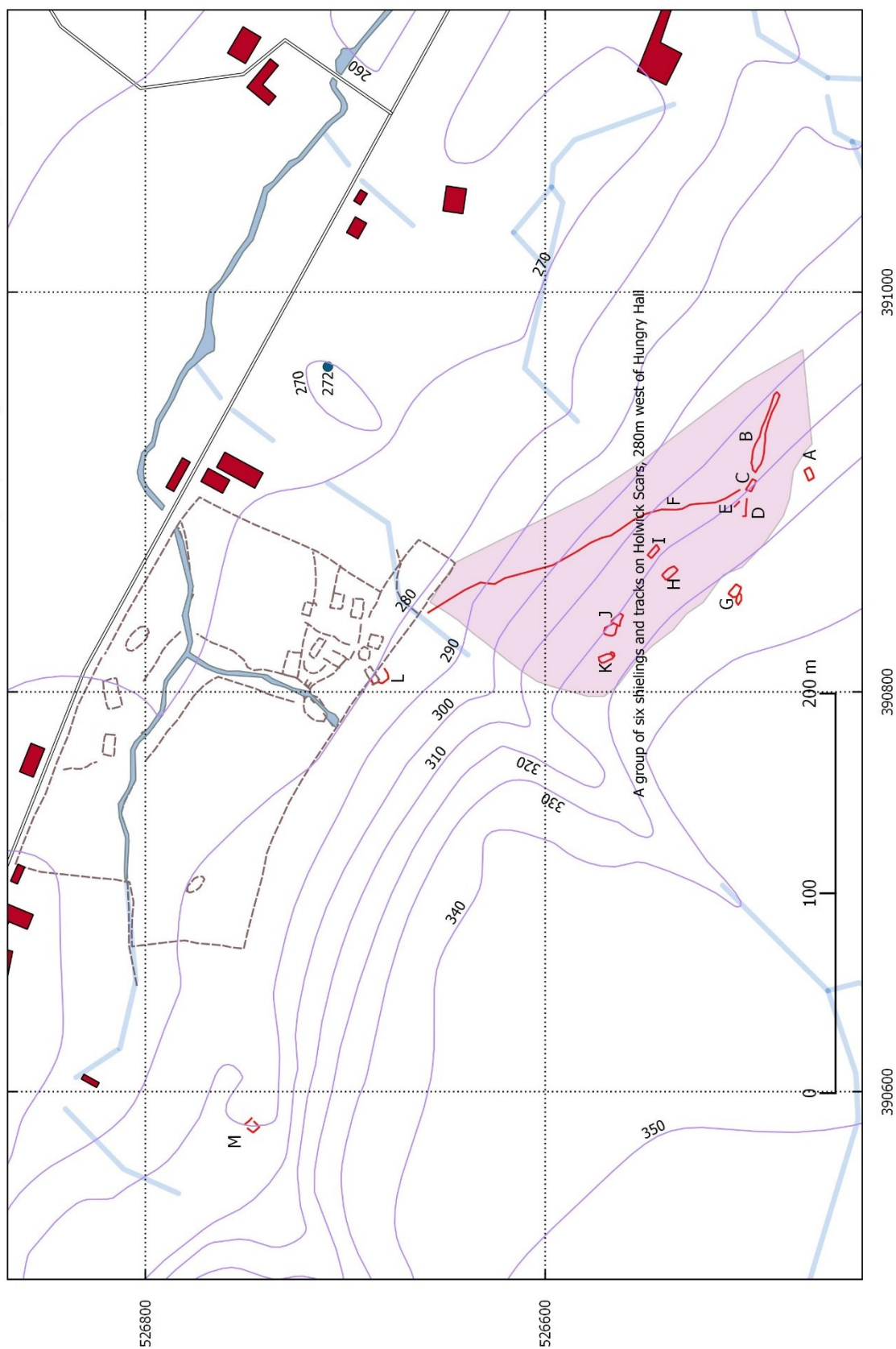


Figure 3 Holwick Scars Scheduled Monument 1019458 GPS Survey

Appendix 2 Photographs



Photograph 1 Feature B



Photograph 2 Feature G with small annex or enclosure in foreground



Photograph 3 Feature G



Photograph 4 Feature H



Photograph 5 Feature I



Photograph 6 Feature J



Photograph 7 Feature K



Photograph 8 HolwickDS from Monument 1019458



Photograph 7 Feature L that forms part of a house platform in the HolwickDS site above the dry-stone wall.



Photograph 8 Feature M



Photograph 9 Feature M