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WINCOBANK HILL, SHEFFIELD

DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

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Non-technical Summary

ArcHeritage were commissioned by Sheffield City Council to produce an archaeological desk-based assessment of Wincobank Hill, Sheffield, South Yorkshire (centred on NGR 437560, 390788). The report represents a synthesis of the archaeological and historical background of the search area and a 1km study area around the site. The report was commissioned by the Trees and Woodland Department of Sheffield City Council and was conducted with the participation of the Friends of Wincobank Hill.

Wincobank hillfort, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no.13375), is located in the north-east part of the site. Two sections of the Roman Ridge, also Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM no.s SY231C and SY231D), are located approximately 0.28km to the east of the study area; an unscheduled section of the Ridge is situated within the south-east part of the study area.

Research conducted for the desk-based assessment has identified several previously unknown or little-known documentary and cartographic sources for various features on Wincobank Hill. These include the earliest known illustration of part of the course of the Roman Ridge to the south of Jenkin Road, dating from 1788, original photographs and site drawings from the 1899 archaeological excavation at Wincobank hillfort and the previously undocumented 1903 excavation at the hillfort. The desk-based assessment has also identified areas of potential further work relating to the hillfort, the Roman Ridge and Wincobank Wood and also Wincobank Castle, the Winco Wood Lane cottages and the site of the 20th-century allotments.

Key Project Information

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ArcHeritage Project No.	5462
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1 INTRODUCTION

This report is an archaeological desk-based assessment of Wincobank Hill, Sheffield, South Yorkshire. The report represents a synthesis of the archaeological and historical background of the site and a 1km study area around the site. The aim is to establish the known and potential cultural heritage resource within the site, and to provide a context for the identification and understanding of this resource. The report was commissioned by Sheffield City Council.

2 METHODOLOGY

Information was derived from South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS); the National Monuments Record (NMR); Sheffield Local Studies Library; Sheffield galleries and Museums Trust; the Archaeology Data Service (ADS); the Department of Archaeology (University of Sheffield) and Sheffield City Council (SCC). A search of other relevant primary and secondary sources was carried out digitally and in the libraries and archives of ArcHeritage and the Friends of Wincobank Hill. A search of the British Geological Survey's online borehole mapping was made; the search returned no records for Wincobank Hill.

For the purposes of this report, the general archaeological and historical background has been addressed, with significant sites such as Wincobank hillfort, Wincobank Wood and the Roman Ridge dealt with separately, in greater detail. Various members of the Friends of Wincobank Hill suggested and helped to define particular study areas, participated in the cartographic and documentary research and contributed to the walkover surveys and site visits.

Site visits were conducted on 2nd March, 16th March and 25th April 2011. The aims of the visits were to assess the general aspect, character, condition and setting of the site and to identify any potential archaeological features and impacts not evident from secondary sources. Areas of modern damage were noted in order to determine ways in which future damage can be minimised.

3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

Wincobank Hill is located approximately 3.5km to the north-east of Sheffield city centre. The study area is bounded by Owler Lane, Grimesthorpe, at the south (NGR 437530, 390177), Wensley Street at the south-west (NGR 437258, 390499), Clover Gardens at the north-west (NGR 437333, 391250), Jenkin Road at the north-east (NGR 438016, 391259) and Sandstone Drive at the east (NGR 437780, 390755).

The solid geology of the Wincobank area is Lower Coal Measures (Westphalian A). The major 'hog's back' ridge across Wincobank Hill is Silkstone Rock, while an outcrop of Parkgate Rock sandstone crosses the south-east slope of the hill (Armitage 1938, 240; Jones 1989, 63; SCC 2010 Woodlands Management Plan, 24). The site comprises a large area of mixed woodland, with open areas of grass and scrub and former sports pitches.

Wincobank hillfort, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no.13375), is located in the north-east part of the site. Two sections of the Roman Ridge, also Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM no.s SY231C and SY231D), are located approximately 0.28km to the east of the study

area; an unscheduled section of the Ridge is situated within the south-east part of the study area.

In 1826, Ebeneezer Rhodes visited Wincobank Hill for his *Yorkshire Scenery* and found that 'from whatever point of elevation Sheffield is beheld, Wincobank appears above all steep surrounding objects, and the woods that clothe its acclivities and ornament its brow give this noble eminence a grand and imposing character' (Rhodes 1826, 39).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

For the purposes of this report, each feature or findspot of archaeological or historical interest has been assigned a Site number, and these are shown on Figure 2. Wincobank hillfort, the Roman Ridge and Wincobank Wood are discussed in detail in separate, site-specific sections (Sections 5, 6 and 7). The key elements of these sites are also included, briefly, in the period-specific sections below.

4.1 Prehistoric

4.1.1 Mesolithic and Neolithic

Mesolithic flints dating from approximately 8000-4000 BC have been found on Wincobank Hill, to the south and west of Wincobank hillfort (Beswick 1984, 3). Flint does not occur naturally in the Wincobank area, indicating that this material was brought onto the hill through human agency. The nature and extent of the flint material led A.L. Armstrong and Frank and Harriet Elgee to suggest that a Mesolithic 'station' had been present on Wincobank Hill (Armstrong 1929, 84; Elgee and Elgee 1933, 36).

Jeffrey Radley detailed four assemblages of Mesolithic finds: six large flakes found by Elijah Howarth to the north and east of the hillfort's 'east gate' in 1899 (Howarth 1905b, 7); 15 flints and a small core that were 'found on Wincobank Hill' by S. McClaren in 1924; 119 flints, including microliths, scrapers, blades and flakes, that were found at 'Wincobank and Grimesthorpe' by E.W. Shepherd in 1929; and 45 flints, including microliths, blades, flakes and a core, that were found at 'Wincobank Camp' by M. Dennie (Radley 1964, 2).

Radley himself collected two further assemblages of Mesolithic flint: 20 pieces from within the hillfort, including chert and a scraper, and 70 flints, including 11 pieces of chert, from 'an area adjacent to Wincobank Lane' that was 'rapidly being covered by activities of James Child Ltd', ie. the tipping of waste from steelworks (Radley 1964, 3). Radley suggested that this area 'seems the probable source of most of the museum assemblages' and was likely to have been 'a temporary occupation site, where blade-making was a primary aim of the occupants' (Radley 1964, 3).

During the 19th century, C.V. Collier and W.S. Sykes recovered a flint scraper, flakes and flints that had been charred by fire within Wincobank Wood, to the south of the hillfort. The W.M. Cole collection includes a Mesolithic chert waste flake and a Neolithic flint knife from Wincobank (Garland 1978, 1). Catherine Coutts stated that Dorothy Greene recovered 70 Mesolithic flints from 'a section through the Roman Ridge' within Wincobank Wood in 1976 (Coutts 1996). This statement is problematic as the last remaining part of the Roman Ridge to have stood within the wood occupied an area that was cleared of trees by 1923 and is not known to have been excavated; the location and nature of this 'section' remain unclear.

4.1.2 Bronze Age

Bronze Age activity on Wincobank Hill is indicated by a bevelled flint knife dating from the early part of this period that was recovered by C.V. Collier and W.S. Sykes in Wincobank Wood during the 19th century (Garland 1978, 1).

Bronze Age settlement on the hill is suggested by Joseph Hunter's account of round 'tumuli' that were situated close to the hillfort until the late 18th century. These features resembled 'barrows' that Hunter had observed at other sites and comprised 'two or three round tumuli…near the summit, and therefore near the great earth-work' (Gatty 1869, 24). The barrows were situated 'in the fields on the declining side towards Grimesthorpe' but had been 'removed about the year 1795' (Gatty 1869, 24). This would suggest that the barrows remained extant at the time of William Fairbank's 1788 and 1795 maps of the Wincobank, Grimesthorpe and Brightside areas; however, they were not marked on any of these plans.

Burial mounds were typically located on elevated sites in order to maximise their prominence in the landscape; any associated Bronze Age settlement on Wincobank Hill may thus have been situated within sight of, but at a lower elevation than, the barrows. The mounds, like several other ancient features in the Wincobank area, may have been levelled in association with the 'improvement' of agricultural land during the post-medieval period. No archaeological finds are known to have been reported in association with their removal.

Elijah Howarth, then curator of Sheffield Museum, excavated several mounds in the vicinity of Wincobank hillfort in 1899, one of which contained burnt material that appeared to represent a hearth (Howarth 1905b, 4). Several pieces of 'jet' were discovered in one of the mounds, although this material may in fact have been cannel coal or worked shale (Beswick 1984, 3).

Plate 1: Elijah Howarth during the 1899 excavation of Wincobank hillfort

4.1.3 Iron Age

John Wainwright and Samuel Mitchell, two 19th-century Sheffield antiquarians, suggested that 'Winco' was derived from the British ('Celtic') terms *wen* or *win*, meaning a high hill, and *coed*, meaning a wood (Mitchell 1855, 70; Eastwood 1862, 376). Current opinion, however, favours an Old English or Old Norse derivation for the 'Winco' element in 'Wincobank' (Smith 1961, 214).

Wincobank hillfort is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no.13375) located at the top of Wincobank Hill, overlooking the Don Valley. Described in the English Heritage scheduling record as a 'slight univallate hillfort' (EH 1993, 1), due to the presence of a single continuous rampart and ditch, several further banks and sections of ditch are in fact present at various locations around the fort (Merrony 2010, pers. comm.). The counterscarp, constructed from material that was excavated from the ditch, has also been interpreted as a full rampart (EH 1993, 1; Armitage and Montgomerie 1912, 8; Merrony 2010, pers. comm.).

The first archaeological excavation of Wincobank hillfort, conducted by Elijah Howarth in 1899, revealed that the fort's inner bank consisted of a 5.5m-thick, timber-laced, stone rampart with a rubble-core (Beswick 1985, 29). The timber that was used to revet the rampart is likely to have been taken from trees that had been felled in the adjacent woodland, while the stone is likely to have been sourced from the sandstone outcrop or 'spur' that runs up the south slope of Wincobank Hill.

Plate 2: 1899 hillfort excavation

In 1979, Pauline Beswick, keeper of antiquities at Weston Park Museum, conducted a watching brief on the cutting of a drainage ditch through the fort's north-east rampart. Carbon-14 dates from charcoal recovered by Beswick indicated that the hillfort is an Iron Age

construction that was built *c*.500 BC (Beswick 1985, 32). Wincobank hillfort will be discussed in detail, below (Section 6).

Iron Age or early Romano-British settlement in the Wincobank area is also indicated by beehive querns, including a gritstone upper quern stone, discovered in the area between the hillfort and the Roman Ridge. There is currently no archaeological evidence to indicate prehistoric settlement activity within the hillfort or to indicate the location of a local elite site, whose occupiers may have controlled access to the fort.

The Roman Ridge is a linear earthwork consisting of a single, or in places double, bank and ditch that runs for approximately 27km from Sheffield to Mexborough, passing along the eastern slope of Wincobank Hill (May 1922, 4; Cronk 2004, 1). On Wincobank Hill, the Ridge's earthen bank appears to have been constructed on top of the outcrop of Parkgate Rock sandstone that runs north-east from Grimesthorpe. The artificial bank does not appear to survive within the study area and the Ridge's former course is represented by a section of the natural sandstone spur along the eastern perimeter of a former football field in the south-east part of the site.

Within the wider 1km search area, the Roman Ridge remains extant to the east of Sandstone Close and for several hundred metres to the north of Jenkin Road. These parts of the earthwork are Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM no.s SY231C and SY231D). The date and function of the Ridge have not been determined. The Roman Ridge is discussed in detail, below (Section 7).

Plate 3: 1935 Ordnance Survey map showing 'small camp' and Roman Ridge

Ella Armitage identified a small, possibly Iron Age, camp on the south-east slope of Wincobank Hill during the early 20th century (Cronk 2004, 47). This site, known currently as the 'small camp' was revealed following the extensive felling of trees in this part of Wincobank Wood during the 1920s and was marked as a curvilinear feature on the 1935 Ordnance Survey map (Plate 3). The small camp was situated above Grimesthorpe Quarry, on the crest of the natural

spur of Parkgate Rock that carried the Roman Ridge and may have formed part of that earthwork (Cronk 2004, 47).

Aerial photographs of the area from 1945 (Plate 4) suggest that at that date the small camp may have survived as two sides of a curvilinear ditch, with its western side close to the western edge of the sandstone spur, while its south-east line spanned the width of the outcrop.

It is not clear to what extent the Roman Ridge's artificial earthen bank survived in the second quarter of the 20th century or if the sandstone outcrop alone remained extant. If the latter, the ditch of the small camp that was visible on the 1945 aerial photograph may have been excavated into the natural outcrop itself, rather than having formed part of the artificial earthwork. This raises the possibility that the camp and the Ridge were not contemporary features.

Plate 4: 1945 aerial photograph showing unscheduled section of Roman Ridge (a) and 'small camp' (b)

Between the mid-1950s and early 1970s, the area immediately to the west was used to tip waste materials from steelworks, and was subsequently landscaped to create a series of football pitches. This raised the ground level and buried all but the uppermost 1-1.5m of the Roman Ridge. A 1959 aerial photograph showed that dumped material had buried the western line of the small camp, although its southern perimeter remained visible across the width of the sandstone outcrop. A 1989 aerial photograph revealed that the site of the small camp was occupied by landscaped ground immediately to the east of one of the football fields. It is not clear to what extent the camp had been buried, damaged or destroyed by the tipping and landscaping process. Ella Armitage's unpublished notes on the small camp do not appear to

have survived and the probable date and function of this feature remain unconfirmed (Cronk 2004, 45-48).

Wincobank Wood is an 11 hectare secondary ancient woodland that occupies the slopes of Wincobank Hill to the south and west of the hillfort. The post-Ice Age 'wildwood' survived in marginal areas such as the slopes of steep hillsides and is likely to have occupied the majority of Wincobank Hill, with settlements and their associated field systems being located in cleared areas. Extensive tree clearance would have taken place in association with the construction of the hillfort in order to provide unobstructed views of the approaches to the site (Rotherham 1989, 1). Wincobank Wood will be discussed in detail, below (Section 8).

Sidney Addy, a 19th-century Sheffield antiquarian, attributed the name 'The Ridgeway' to an 'ancient track' that led up to the hillfort along the Silkstone Rock outcrop on the south slope of Wincobank Hill and continued down the north slope of the hill along the section of the Roman Ridge that stood to the north of Jenkin Road (Addy 1893, 233-237). Addy believed that an 'ancient path' crossed the intervening area and connected the hillfort with the Ridge. Claiming that 'with a little care…the actual course of the ancient way' could be traced on the ground, Addy produced a plan (Plate 5) that showed the track's course 'from its point of contact with the camp', near the hillfort's south-east entrance, across the fields to the Roman Ridge at the north-east (Addy 1893, 233-237).

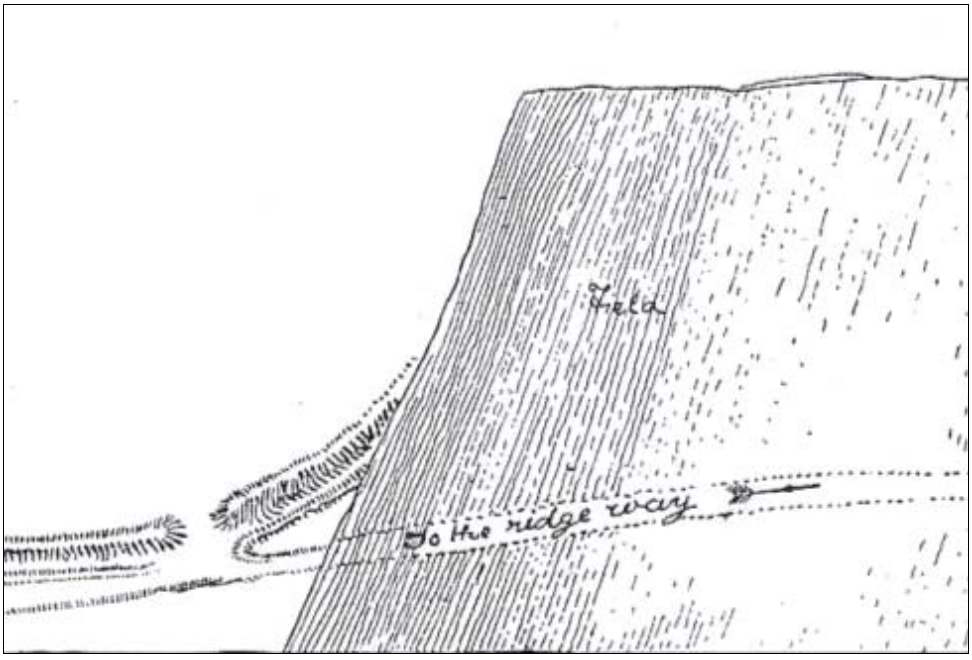


Plate 5: Addy's 1893 plan of an 'ancient way' leading from Wincobank hillfort to the Roman Ridge

Addy stated that the ancient way ran 'by the side of the hedgerows' (Addy 1893, 233-237) and the 1892 Ordnance Survey map (Plate 6) indicated that a hedgeline was present 3ft (0.9m) from the boundary of a field immediately to the north-east of the hillfort. A wall also ran along the boundary in 1892; the date of this feature is not known.

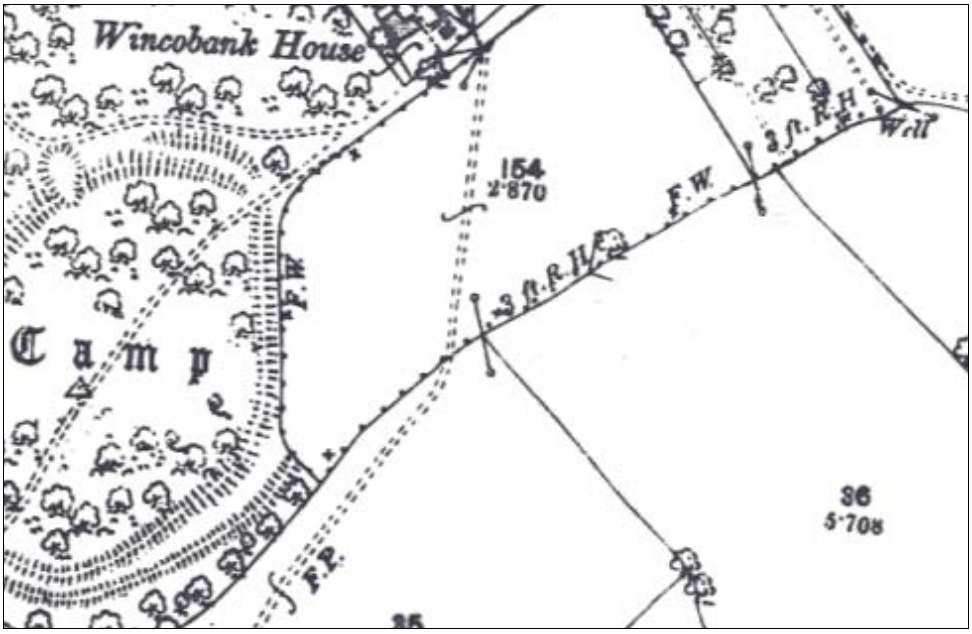


Plate 6: 1892 Ordnance Survey map showing field boundary on approximate line of Addy's ancient track

There is no direct evidence to confirm that the 'path' identified by Addy in 1893 was in fact 'ancient'. The period in which the route had been established is unknown, although it may have been extant during the early 17th century as it ran along the southern boundary of a privately-enclosed field that had been created prior to John Harrison's 1637 survey of the manor of Sheffield (NAA 2001, 65-66). It is possible that the track was established along the boundary of this field and thus dates from, or shortly after, the period of enclosure. There is no evidence to demonstrate this, however, and it is also possible that the track pre-dated the enclosure process and that its course had determined the southern extent of the field.

It is possible that the 'ancient way' identified by Sidney Addy followed the alignment of a feature that was discovered by Elijah Howarth during the 1899 excavation at Wincobank hillfort. Howarth revealed 'big pieces of loose sandstone…as if forming an old causeway' in a trench near the gap in the hillfort's south-east bank (Howarth 1905b, 1). Although the stones that formed the surface of this feature appeared initially to be 'scarcely regular enough' for a causeway, they proved to be supported by a deposit of earth containing 'flat pieces of stone almost like brick or tile' to a depth of approximately 0.45m (Howarth 1905b, 1).

Although no dating evidence for the causeway was recovered by Howarth, Pauline Beswick argued subsequently that the gap in the south-east bank may have marked the hillfort's original entrance (Beswick 1985, 32). In that case, it is possible that the 'old causeway' may have been an Iron Age feature and that an 'ancient way' did indeed connect the hillfort with the Roman Ridge.

Addy produced a plan that showed the suggested course of the 'Ridgeway' between the fort and the Ridge (Plate 7). LiDAR data obtained for this report appears to reveal a substantial linear feature that runs from the south-east side of the hillfort along Addy's route, immediately to the rear of housing on Fort Hill Road (Plate 7).

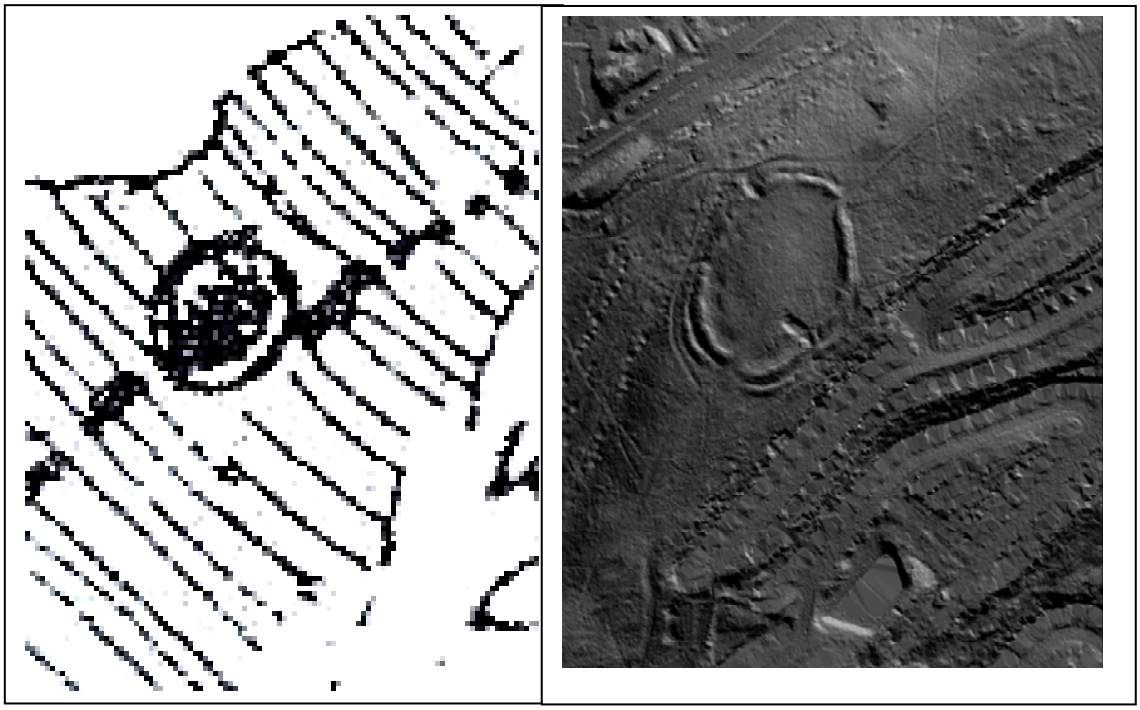


Plate 7: 1893 Addy plan of 'Ridgeway' and 2011 LiDAR data

The LiDAR data may show elements of the northern limit of excavation associated with the creation of the back gardens of the houses during the 1960s. However, these plot boundaries were themselves determined by the pre-existing field boundary and it is possible that the remains of the wall shown on the 1892 map, or perhaps the course of Howarth's 'old causeway', remain extant.

4.2 Roman

Until the late 19th century, Wincobank hillfort was 'popularly known as the Roman Camp' (Addy 1893, 233; Howarth 1905a, 1). There is no evidence to indicate that the Roman army attacked or occupied the hillfort, however, and the site's Roman attribution appears to stem from the belief that the Roman Ridge was connected with the fort and was a former Roman road (Payne and Burland 1879, 614). Several pieces of 2nd-century Roman ceramic were recovered from within the hillfort in 1899, however, and a Roman coin of Constantius Chlorus (AD 305-306) was found near the fort's south-east 'entrance'.

Wincobank Wood is likely to have reclaimed the top of the hill during any periods in which the hillfort and any nearby settlements were abandoned. Following the final substantive rebellions by the Brigantes during the late 2nd and early 3rd centuries AD, the hillfort is unlikely to have been a major defensive site and the summit of the hill may have reverted to woodland, perhaps until at least the post-Roman period (Rotherham 1989, 2).

The Roman Ridge did not acquire its name until the 19th century, when it became known as the 'Roman Rig' (Hunter 1819, 24; Addy 1893, 241). This name appears to have been derived from the 17th-century belief that the earthwork was a Roman road and the Sheffield dialect term 'rig', which meant a raised road (Addy 1888, 190). There is no evidence to demonstrate that the Ridge marked the course of a former Roman road and no finds of Roman date are recorded in association with the earthwork's course within the study area.

Templeborough Roman fort, Rotherham, is located outside the study and search areas but was an important site which may have been 'intentionally erected' to counteract or neutralise the potential threat of Wincobank hillfort (May 1922, 3). Templeborough was partially excavated by John Daniel Leader and John Guest in 1877-1878 and in 1916-1917 by Sir John Murray. Excavations revealed the *praetorium*, stone columns, gravestones, a bath house, roads and a *vicus*. The standing remains of the fort were demolished during the construction of the Steel Peech and Tozer steelworks in 1917.

Templeborough appears to have marked the northern limit of the Roman Military Zone from approximately AD 51-57 until the subjugation of Brigantia, *c*.AD 71-75 (May 1922, 5). There is no direct evidence of conflict between the Brigantes of the Wincobank area and *Cohors IV Gallorum*, the auxiliary force that occupied Templeborough during this period. Britons from the Wincobank area may, however, have traded or moved into the *vicus* or civilian settlement that developed around the fort (May 1922, 5).

Cartimandua, '*brigantibus imperitabat*' ('ruler over the Brigantes'), seized the fugitive Catuvellaunian war chief, Caratacus, and had him 'bound and handed over' to the Romans in AD 51-52 (Ramsay 1909, 83; Godley 1907, 29). The River Don may have formed the southern boundary of Brigantia in the mid-1st century AD (May 1922, 3; Mitchell 1855, 65) and Templeborough, on the south bank of the river, appears to have been the closest Roman site to the Brigantian border during this period. Although Templeborough was an auxiliary fort rather than a legionary base, it is thus possible that Caratacus was turned over to the Roman authorities at the fort or was taken there before being moved south.

Given Templeborough's location, the cohort of Roman auxiliaries who entered Brigantia *c*.AD 59 to aid Cartimandua against her former husband Venutius, may also have been *Cohors IV Gallorum*. This unit may also have supplied the auxiliary forces ('*cohortes alaeque*') which subsequently extracted Cartimandua from Brigantia during Venutius's uprising of *c*.AD 69 (Ramsay 1909, 83). Following her rescue, it is possible that Cartimandua was brought initially to Templeborough before being escorted from the war zone. There is no evidence to support this, however, or the suggestion that the Roman Ridge was constructed following Venutius's rebellion, in expectation of Roman reprisals against Brigantia (Shakarian 2007, 5).

Cohors IV Gallorum may have been ordered to pacify the immediate area, including Wincobank, during the subjugation of Brigantia by Petilius Cerealis, *c*.AD 71-75. This, in turn, may have led to Wincobank hillfort being reoccupied during this period. There is no evidence to demonstrate this, however, or to indicate that the site may have been reoccupied during the subsequent Brigantian revolts of AD 118, 155, 180 and 210.

4.3 Medieval

There is no archaeological evidence to indicate the location of any settlement on Wincobank Hill during the post-Roman and early medieval periods, when the area may have formed part of the British kingdom of Elmet. During the 5th and 6th centuries, hillforts were sometimes reoccupied as fortified settlements; while it is possible that this occurred at Wincobank, the fort is thought to have been too small to perform this function effectively (Armitage 1897, 46-47; Armitage and Montgomerie 1912, 61).

Wincobank appears to have been taken under Anglo-Saxon control when Elmet was conquered, either by Aella of Deira, *c*.AD 581, or by Edwin of Northumbria, *c*.AD 625. The recovery of a 6th-century Anglo-Saxon bead from Templeborough (Cronk 2004, 46) may slightly favour the former period, although the bead's deposition could have taken place later than the 6th century. Anglo-Saxon activity in the Wincobank area is suggested by place-name evidence, with the area's early name 'Winckley' perhaps being derived from the Old English personal name *Wineca* and the Old English *ley*, meaning a forest clearing (Smith 1961, 214). This suggests that woodland occupied Wincobank Hill during the Anglo-Saxon period, with the cleared area perhaps being centred around the hillfort. The later name 'Winkowe' may have included the Old English element *lowe* or the Old Norse *haugr*, both of which mean 'mound' and may refer to the summit of the hill (Smith 1961, 214).

Wincobank was located in a disputed border area throughout much of the early medieval period and the hillfort may have been reoccupied periodically during outbreaks of hostility between Northumbria and Mercia. J.H. Cockburn suggested that Wincobank hillfort may have been the *Wiginga mere* that was founded by Edward of Mercia or the *Cyricbirig* or 'Ciresburh' of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, a fortified site constructed *c*.914-16 by Edward's sister, Aethelflaed, the Lady of the Mercians, for the defence of Mercia's Don-Trent frontier (Cockburn 1931, 29-30, 221; 116; Hill 2004, 153). However, there is no archaeological evidence to suggest that any part of the hillfort was constructed or refortified during the 10th century and this identification remains speculative.

Following the Roman abandonment of Templeborough, earthen banks were constructed over the fort's 3rd-century stone walls. G.T. Clark suggested that these were post-Roman features that were intended to provide a fortified site on Elmet's southern border (Armitage 1897, 46-47). However, Cockburn argued that this phase was undertaken during the early 10th century and may have been associated with the fort being renamed 'Brunanburh' (Cockburn 1931, 10-12; Beckett and Beckett 1999, 38). Aethelstan of Wessex is said to have recognised the fort's value as a defensive focal point and to have chosen to bring a confederation of Scots, the Norse of Dublin and the Britons of Strathclyde to battle in the area around the site (Beckett and Beckett 1999, 13). Cockburn argued that if Wincobank was indeed Wigingamere or Ciresburh, the refortified hillfort would also have played a part in Athelstan's victory at the Battle of Brunanburh in AD 914 (Cockburn 1931, 10-12; 221). This cannot be demonstrated, however, and the location of Brunanburh remains disputed (Hill 2004, 151-152).

Wincobank was not recorded during the 1086 Domesday survey and the extent and location of any settlement within the area during this period is unknown. Wincobank was recorded as

'Winckley' in 1345 and as 'Winkowe' in 1442 (Smith 1961, 214). Much of the area appears to have been owned by Sheffield's manorial lords, the earls of Shrewsbury, during the late medieval period and is also likely to have been owned by their predecessors, the de Lovetots and de Furnivals (Ronksley 1908, 9, 204, 209, 236, 237).

4.4 Post-medieval

Wincobank Wood was managed as a coppiced woodland within the Shrewsbury estate from at least 1564 and was named as 'Winkobanke Springe' between 1596 and 1616, and as 'Wincowe Wood' in 1637 (Ronksley 1908, 206, 236). During the 17th century, the hillfort's eastern bank and ditch had been destroyed and a lynchet constructed over their former course (NAA 2001, 65-66).

William Camden's 1596 *Britannica* referred to the 'large bank' that ran east from 'Winco-bank' (quoted in Guest 1879, 5) and John Harrison's 1637 survey used the names 'Winco banck' and 'Wincabanke' (Ronksley 1908, 204, 209). It is not known if the 'bank' element relates to the outcrop of Silkstone Rock on the south slope of Wincobank Hill or to the spur of Parkgate Rock on the east slope; if the latter, it is likely to have been associated with the Scheduled section of the Roman Ridge to the north of Jenkin Road, which formed the parish boundary between Ecclesfield and Sheffield. Harrison was not concerned with the area's antiquities and did not record the hillfort or refer to the 'banke' as an ancient earthwork or a supposed Roman road (Ronksley 1908, 204, 236).

Winco Wood Lane was marked as a dominant feature within the landscape on Thomas Jefferys' 1771 map of Yorkshire. This is unlikely to have been an accurate representation, as the route was shown as a simple bridleway on the 1837 Wincobank Hall sale plan. Jefferys depicted the hillfort as a rectangular feature and it is thus possible that he was aware of the fort's status as a supposed 'Roman camp'; in that case, he may also have been aware of the assertions that a Roman road led from the fort and believed that its course was marked by Winco Wood Lane. From the north-east face of the hillfort, the lane was shown to cross Jenkin Road and run to the northern base of Wincobank Hill, before it petered-out to the south-west of Blackburn Brook. This suggests that Jeffreys may have confused Winco Wood Lane and the Roman Ridge, with the result that neither was depicted accurately on the 1771 map.

William Fairbank's 1788 draft map of the fields between Brightside and Wincobank included several fields to the east of Wincobank hillfort, while fields to the north-west and west of the fort were shown on Fairbank's 1790 map of John Sparrow's lands and his 1795 map of the Brightside district. The 1788 map depicted the fields that lay within Sheffield parish, including Great Spring Field, Middle Field, Meadow Peck and Snake Hill.

The Scheduled section of the Roman Ridge to the south of Jenkin Road was depicted clearly on the 1788 map, with hachures to indicate the slope of the embankment and a gap to allow a footpath through the trees that grew along the top of the earthwork. Fairbank did not label the Ridge, however, and may not have been aware of its status as a surviving part of an ancient earthwork. The clear depiction of the extant section of the Ridge at this location in 1788 suggests that the earthwork had been levelled in the areas to the south-west and north-east where it was not shown.

No features were depicted within Wincobank Wood, which was marked in outline only, on the 1788 draft map. Fairbank's 1788 map of Grimesthorpe depicted 'Winco Knowle', a large sandstone knoll or outcrop, immediately south of the wood and west of Grimesthorpe Green. A linear area of quarrying was shown at the centre-south of the Knowle in 1788; in 1790, the Knowle was leased to Thomas Ashforth, a local mason (SA ACM/SD/871/150) and subsequently became the site of Grimesthorpe Quarry.

Several of the fields on the east side of Wincobank Hill were shown on a 1791 engraving by David Martin, which depicted the hill from Foundry Road, Attercliffe (Plate 8). While the engraving confirms the general layout of the fields and Wincobank Wood, their boundaries did not accord fully with their depiction on Fairbank's 1788 draft map. Further artistic licence is evident in Martin's portrayal of the hill as a closer and substantially higher feature than it would have been from the artist's viewpoint at Washford Bridge.

Plate 8: 1791 David Martin's engraving showing south and east slopes of Wincobank Hill

Wincobank hillfort and the Roman Ridge were not visible on the 1791 engraving. The fort and the unscheduled section of the Ridge in the south-east part of the study area stood within Wincobank Wood during this period and their locations were obscured by trees, while the engraving did not cover the area that contained the Scheduled section of the Ridge to the south of Jenkin Road.

Neither the Roman Ridge itself nor the sandstone spur of Parkgate Rock on which it ran were readily apparent within the remainder of the fields. This supports the suggestion given by the 1788 map that much of the monument had been levelled along the hill's east slope by this period, although it is also possible that the earthwork may simply not have been a prominent feature, given the distance and perspective from which Martin viewed the hill.

A group of cottages were shown at the north corner of Colley Field, immediately east and north-east of the hillfort, on William Fairbank's 1790 map of lands held by John Sparrow of Wincobank Hall (Plate 9). Bryan Woodriff (2003, 86) stated that these buildings were 16th-

century, cruck-framed structures. There is no evidence to demonstrate this, however, and a photograph taken while the cottages were awaiting demolition *c*.1970 appears to show one of the buildings with straight, vertical wall plates rather than typical cruck-blades that would have been angled towards each other to form a gable (Plate 10). This suggests that this particular cottage was not a cruck-framed building. Ordnance Survey maps indicate that the cottages were subjected to extensive internal modification during the 19th and 20th centuries, however, and it is possible that an earlier cruck frame had been incorporated into, or replaced by, a subsequent box-frame renovation and that this was not visible from the angle of the photograph.

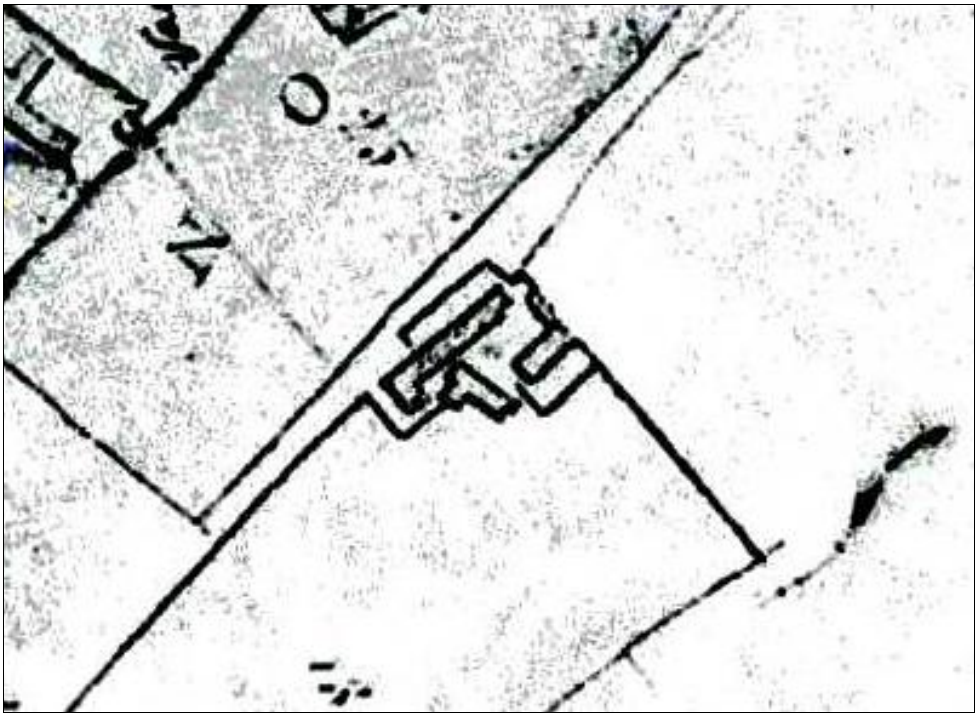


Plate 9: 1790 William Fairbank map, showing cottages at Winco Wood Lane

Plate 10: Winco Wood Lane cottages awaiting demolition, *c*.1970

David Green, chairman of the Friends of Wincobank Hill, visited the cottages during the period in which they were derelict but prior to their demolition; Green identified cruck-frames in the cottages at the centre of the row and suggested that crucks may have been replaced in the end cottages, which received far greater exposure to weather damage and consequently underwent greater renovation than those at the centre of the row (Green 2011, pers. comm.). The possibility that some of the cottages were box-frame structures need not preclude their construction during the 16th century, however, as this form of construction had been introduced into England two centuries previously.

Fairbank's 1790 map depicted four detached blocks of buildings at the cottages site (Plate 9). The main building comprised an 'L'-shaped block that fronted onto Winco Wood Lane; the majority of this building's west face was separated from the lane by a boundary wall that extended to the mid-point of the lane itself. Access from the lane to the rear of the main building was available at the north of the block and via an open yard at the south. A smaller 'L'-shaped block stood to the east of the main building, while two smaller buildings were situated along the northern field boundary; the smallest of these ran parallel with the boundary, while the larger building was orientated north-east/south-west.

A boundary wall separated the south and east faces of the latter block from the field, although the cottages did not possess their own gardens at this date. Internal property divisions were not shown within any of the Winco Wood Lane cottages on the 1790 map and it is not known how many individual properties were contained within the various blocks at that date.

The former Wincobank Hall was located outside the study area, although several fields between the hillfort and Jenkin Road formed part of the hall's estate between 1788 and 1887. The hall appears to have developed from 'Le Wynkeabancke', a farm that was first recorded when ownership of the farmhouse and its lands were transferred from the Shrewsbury estate in an enffeofment of 1574 (Hall 1924). It is not known if the 16th-century farm developed from a medieval predecessor. The fields associated with Le Wynkeabanke during this period are likely to have included the majority of those in the immediate vicinity of the later hall at the north-west of Wincobank Wood. Much of the 16th-century building may have survived until the late 18th century, when the property was acquired by John Sparrow. Substantial rebuilding took place during Sparrow's ownership; the extent to which elements of the earlier structure were demolished or incorporated into the 18th-century hall is not known.

William Fairbank's 1795 map of the Brightside district covered the whole of the study area and showed Winco Wood Lane as a substantial route that led south-west from Jenkin Road, before veering south as Winco Road, prior to its junction with Wincobank Lane to the east of Grimesthorpe. If Fairbank marked the lane's course accurately, this route must have traversed the unscheduled section of the Roman Ridge close to the southern edge of the wood. However, this part of the Ridge was not shown on any of Fairbank's late 18th-century maps of the area.

The dukes of Norfolk acquired control of the Arundel estate during the mid-17th century. Numerous small pits in the area at the north-east of Wincobank Wood and the north-west of the hillfort have been interpreted as coal and iron prospection and extraction pits associated

with the widespread mineral extraction that was undertaken on lands throughout the Norfolk estate from the late 17th century (NAA 2001, 67, 73). However, these pits may have been created or extended by local people digging for coal during the First World War, the 1926 General Strike or the Depression during the inter-war period. LiDAR data obtained for this report (Plate 11) indicates that the parallel lines of pits are far more extensive than suggested by previous surveys and extend to Grimesthorpe at the southern base of Wincobank Hill. Charcoal burning activity also took place in the wood during the 17th and 18th centuries (Leader 1910, 16; NAA 2001, 67).

Plate 11: 2011 LiDAR data showing parallel lines of pits on the south slope of Wincobank Hill

4.5 19th Century

By 1810, Wincobank Wood covered 81.5 acres and comprised a coppiced area named 'Great Wincoe' and an area called 'Wincoe Holt' that contained standards (Sewell 2001, 64-65). During the mid-19th century, the latter area remained heavily wooded until 1893, by which time it had been deforested (Addy 1893, 233). The final sale of timber from Wincobank Wood was made in 1901 (Sewell 2001, 65).

Following his acquisition of Wincobank Hall in 1816, Joseph Read purchased further land from John Fletcher, a local farmer, and from Henry Howard of Corby Castle, Cumbria, who was related to the duke of Norfolk. Some of the newly-acquired lands were situated between the hillfort and 'the ancient 'Ridgeway' track that led past Wincobank hillfort' (Leader 1921). In this area, Read 'laid out gardens and orchards and pleasure grounds, encompassed with meadows and plantations…(of) exceeding beauty' (Leader 1921, 344; quoted in Sewell 2001, 6). These are likely to have been situated within the northern part of the study area, although their precise locations are unknown.

Upon Read's death in 1837, Wincobank Hall was purchased by his daughter, Mary Rawson. The 1837 sale plan indicates that, within the study area, the land between the hillfort and Jenkin Road formed part of the Rawson estate at that date. This included the land occupied by the Winco Wood Lane cottages and Colley Field, the adjacent plot which contained the 17th-century lynchet. The 1837 plan indicated that the range that fronted onto the lane and the two structures that were situated along the northern field boundary remained extant but the 'L'-shaped building that had stood to the east of the main block in 1790 had been demolished by 1837. Six cottages were recorded in the 1837 sale particulars, and six gardens of varying sizes had been created to the east of the cottages, while a larger plot was situated to the east. Winco Wood Lane was marked 'Bridle Path to Sheffield' on the 1837 plan.

A quarry had been established at the Winco Wood Lane/Jenkin Road junction by 1837. This feature extended over the eastern half the of the lane on an 1840 sketch plan of the area, while an 1844 plan marked a mine shaft within the quarry. The shaft had been sunk the previous year, when Mary Rawson had leased the coal rights for a period of five years. Little change was shown at the site of the cottages on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map, although a further sandstone quarry had been established to the south of the gardens by this date.

Wincobank hillfort was shown on the 1841 Ordnance Survey map as a sub-circular feature traversed by Winco Wood Lane and was marked 'Camp'. The fort was not shown on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map, although its location continued to be marked as 'Camp'. The wood that had been shown on the site of the Scheduled section of the Roman Ridge to the south of Jenkin Road on the 1837 Wincobank Hall sale plan had been removed by this date, although a line of trees occupied the western plot boundary. The Roman Ridge was marked to the north of Jenkin Road on the 1854 map but was not identified on the south side of the road.

By 1854, the north and north-east boundaries of Wincobank Wood were little changed from William Fairbank's 1795 Brightside map, although extensive tree-clearance had been undertaken at the west of the wood. The direct route through the wood from Winco Wood Lane to Winco Road, at the south of the study area, was not shown in 1854 and its former

course did not appear to be represented by any of the meandering, informal tracks through this part of the wood.

Extensive quarrying had occurred at Grimesthorpe by the time of the 1854 Ordnance Survey map and much of the site of Winco Knowle was dominated by quarry spoil at that date. An 1859 photograph of Upwell Street, Grimesthorpe, showed the remnant of the Knowle (Plate 12). The Roman Ridge, which F.L. Preston believed emerged from the top of the quarry in this area (Preston 1950b, 208), remained within the wood at this date and the area in which it stood was obscured further by the Knowle. Aerial photographs of Grimesthorpe (Plate 4) indicate that the Ridge would have been situated approximately 0.40km to the north-east of the central section of the Knowle in the 1859 photograph.

Plate 12: Site of Winco Knowle, looking north-east from Upwell Street, Grimesthorpe

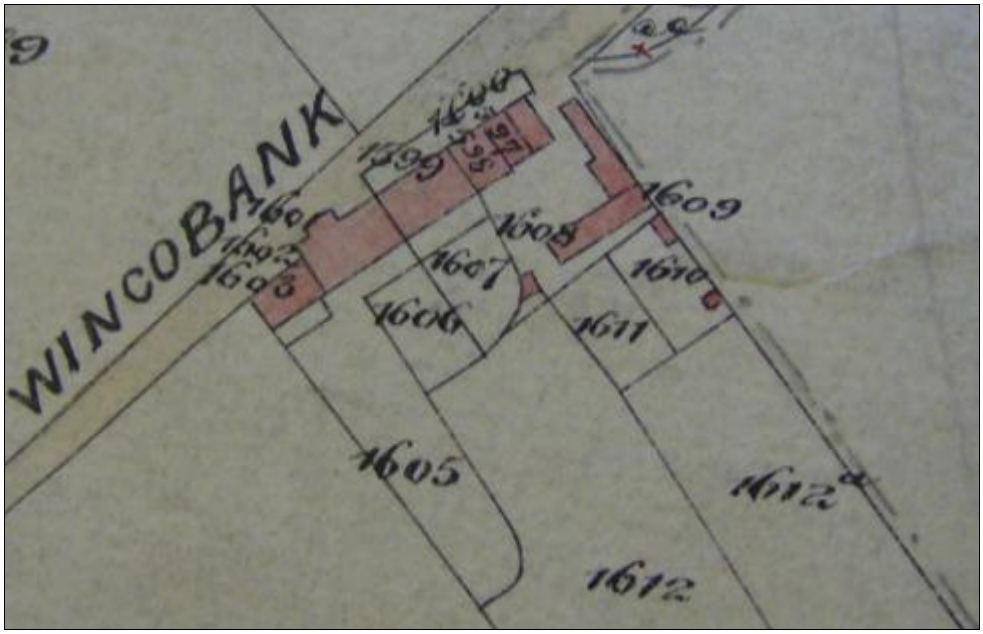


Plate 13: 1882 Poor Law survey map showing Winco Wood Lane cottages and gardens

The Winco Wood Lane cottages were shown in detail on the 1882 Poor Law survey map (Plate 13); this plan had been updated from one that had been produced by John Fowler in 1844. The building that fronted onto the lane was shown as a sub-rectangular block, with six internal property divisions. Two large properties occupied the central part of the block, with a smaller range at the south-west and three substantially smaller dwellings at the north-east of the block.

The boundary wall that extended into Winco Wood Lane from the front of the main block terminated at the party wall between the two largest properties. The frontage of the westernmost of these projected into the lane and contained a further small, rectangular projection on its west face. Access to the rear of the main block was via an open entry at the north-east. This led to a yard, at the east of which stood the two rectangular blocks along the field boundary. Four small outbuildings were located in the gardens, which had been subdivided into smaller plots by this date. The quarry at the northern end of Winco Wood Lane was not shown on the 1882 map.

Plate 14: 'Wincobank Castle'

'Wincobank Castle' (Plate 14) was constructed by George Parkin, a former teacher who had retired through ill health (Darlow 1920, 1). It is possible that Parkin was descended from the Edward Parkin or the 'Widdow Parkin' who were recorded in the immediate vicinity during Harrison's 1637 survey (Ronksley 1908, 9, 236). Looking to find a project to which he could devote his energies and overcome his consumption, George Parkin began the construction of a large stone tower at his home on the west side of Winco Wood Lane in 1887 (Darlow 1920, 1). Intending to create a structure akin to Scottish keeps and the castle keeps of the novels of Walter Scott, Parkin built a square tower 50 ft (15.24m) high, comprising rubble walls that were faced on the interior with brick and on the exterior with sandstone (Darlow 1920, 1). Constructed onto bedrock, with foundation walls 5ft (1.5m) thick at the base, the tower was 14ft square (1.3m²) at its base and 11ft square (1.02m²) at the top (Darlow 1920, 1).

Parkin stated that the majority of the stonework that was used in the tower's construction was acquired from a disused quarry 'on the hillside', although 'this was augmented at times by large blocks of stone' from Wincobank hillfort 'which were unearthed by the uprooting of trees during stormy weather' (Darlow 1920, 1). Howarth noted in 1899 that 'a good deal of loose stone...has been carried away for building purposes' and the area around the south of the fort had 'evidently been quarried for stone' (Howarth 1905a, 2; 1905b, 2). It is possible that these were the areas from which Parkin had removed stone from the fort.

The building was marked on the 1892 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 9) as 'Wincobank House', but became known locally as 'Wincobank Castle'. The site was depicted as an 'L'-shaped structure within a rectangular plot on the 1892 map. Following the Castle's completion in 1907, visitors could climb to the top of the tower upon payment of 1d. During the Second World War, the tower was used as an anti-aircraft observation post (Darlow 1920, 1). Wincobank Castle became ruinous during the post-war period and was demolished in 1960.

Wincobank hillfort was shown on the 1892 OS map as an ovoid feature with a single continuous inner bank and an additional outer bank around the southern part of the fort. This was a far more accurate depiction than Sidney Addy's 1893 plan, which showed the fort as a sub-circular feature and did not mark the breach in the northern rampart (Addy 1893, 236). Trees occupied the interior of the hillfort in 1892, which also contained an Ordnance datum point south-west of its centre.

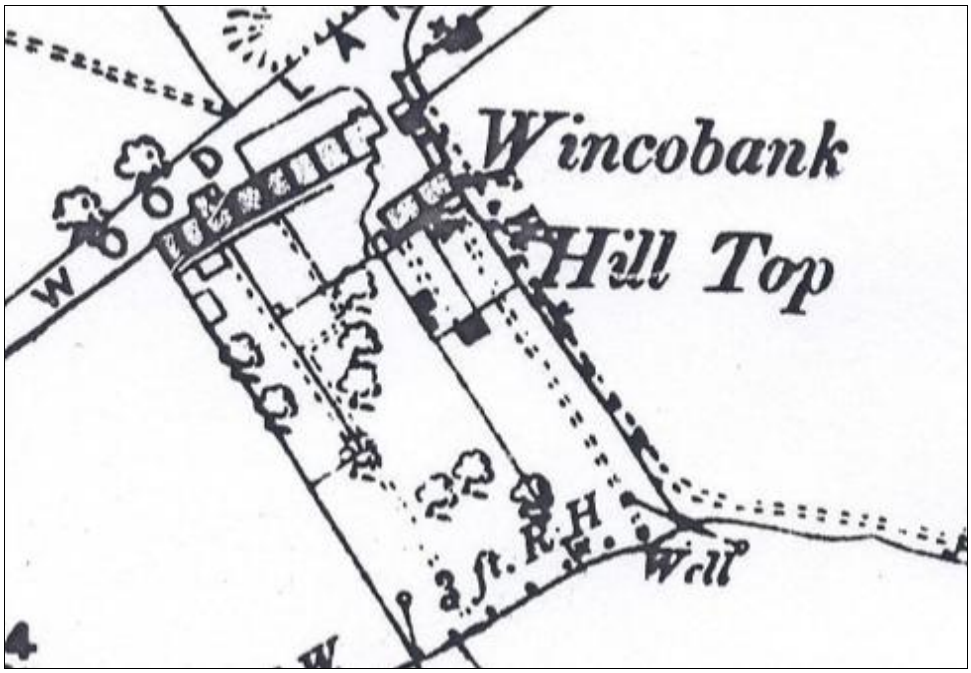


Plate 15: 1892 Ordnance Survey map showing Winco Wood Lane cottages

The westernmost block of the Winco Wood Lane cottages had been remodelled substantially by 1892. The sub-division of the two largest buildings and one at the south-west had created eight small properties within the main block. The outbuildings along the north-east field boundary had been remodelled entirely since the 1854 map, while the large rectangular building to the south had been subdivided. Several trees were marked along the boundary that separated the gardens from the field at the south-west, while five smaller outbuildings

had been constructed at various points around the gardens themselves. A well was marked at the south-east of the gardens.

A sub-rectangular reservoir had been constructed to the south-east of the hillfort by the time of the 1892 Ordnance Survey map. A footpath was marked along the alignment of the spur of Parkgate Rock sandstone, which appears to have followed the 350ft (106.7m) contour line north-east to Jenkin Road. This was identified subsequently by Ella Armitage and Fred Preston as the course of the Roman Ridge, but was not marked thus in 1892.

Winco Knowle had been quarried extensively by this date and its former site was occupied largely by spoil associated with Grimesthorpe Quarry. To the west, Grimesthorpe Colliery had been established; a tramway ran north-east from the colliery, through a field and into Wincobank Wood, to terminate at a sub-circular spoil heap just to the south of the central part of the wood. A 'copious' spring that had been located immediately outside the hillfort's north-east rampart had 'recently dried up by coal workings' (quoted in Armitage 1939, 242; Leader 1910, 16). This had been active at the time of John Daniel Leader's 1874 visit to the hillfort and, having been damaged by the mineworkings, may have been the source of the 'standing water' that required the excavation of new drainage channels in this area in 1979.

Elijah Howarth's archaeological excavation at Wincobank hillfort commenced on 25th August 1899 and continued until at least 6th October. The fort's rubble and stone rampart, an iron 'lance head' and 2nd-century Roman ceramic were identified during the excavation (Howarth 1905a, 3-4).

4.6 Modern

In 1900, Sheffield Corporation acquired approximately 60 acres of land at Wincobank to create a 'miniature garden city', the first Social housing estate in the UK (Sewell 2001, 24). The first series of houses were constructed in 1903, with a further 20 houses being built in 1906 and 44 'model cottages' constructed in 1907. A further 100 houses were built between 1912 and 1914. Due to the names of the roads, the development became known as the Flower Estate.

The British Archaeological Association held their 1903 Congress in Sheffield. During a guided tour of Wincobank hillfort, it was decided to approach the Duke of Norfolk in an attempt to have ownership of the site transferred to Sheffield Corporation (BAA 1904, 235). The representations of the BAA were successful and in the following year the duke presented the hillfort and 48 acres of Wincobank Wood to the people of Sheffield. A second archaeological excavation was undertaken at the hillfort by staff of Sheffield Museum in 1903.

Little substantive change was shown within the northern part of the site on the 1905 Ordnance Survey map, although several small developments had taken place. No trees were shown within the garden of Wincobank Castle and the outbuildings had been removed from the gardens of the Winco Wood Lane cottages. The perimeters of the gardens had been partially removed during the period since the 1892 map. The face of the building that had projected out into the lane itself in 1892 had been rebuilt by 1905, when it was shown on the same alignment as the rest of the main block.

Numerous allotments dominated the area that had been occupied by the western part of Wincobank Wood; these ran south, to terminate at one of the few remaining fields that were situated to the north-west of Grimesthorpe Quarry. Winco Knowle was not shown as part of

the latter area in 1905; its former site was occupied by quarry spoil. A further area of quarrying and a large, open area of rough heath were shown immediately north-west of the quarry. Grimesthorpe Colliery was not marked on the 1905 Ordnance Survey map and the tramway into the woods was also not shown.

An anti-aircraft gun emplacement was constructed at the southern opening in the hillfort's banks during the First World War in an attempt to counter potential Zeppelin raids on Sheffield. This feature, named the 'West Position', was shown in a 1915 photograph (Plate 16).

Plate 16: Gun emplacement at Wincobank hillfort, 1915

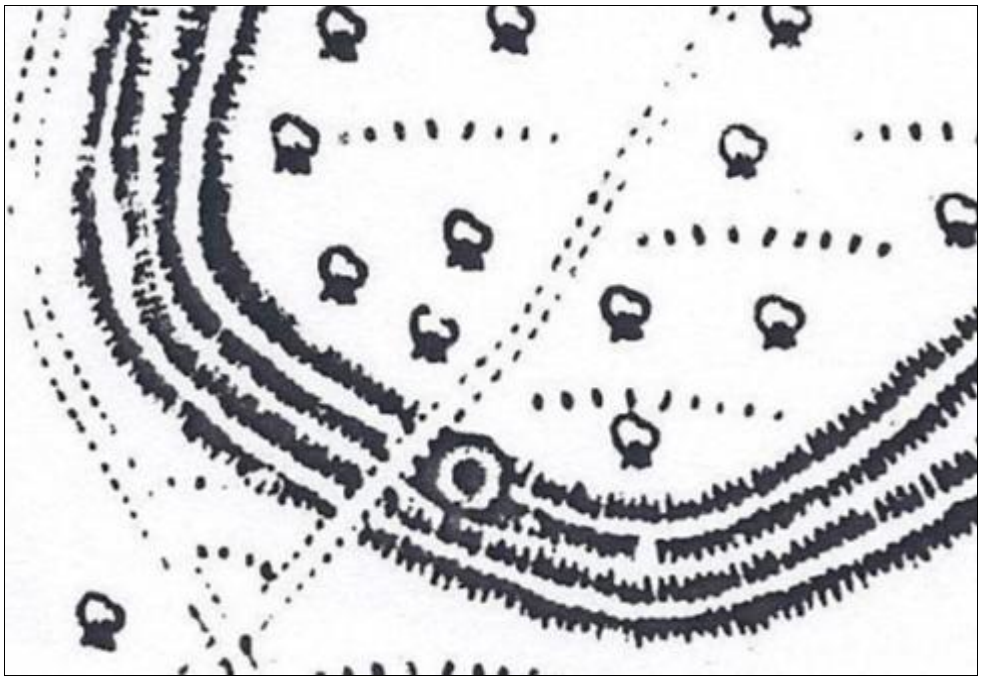


Plate 17: 1923 Ordnance Survey map showing gun emplacement at south of hillfort

Sheffield was bombed by Zeppelin L-22 on 25th September 1916; however, 'not a shot was fired' from Wincobank nor any of the other anti-aircraft guns in Sheffield as 'the officers were all at a ball at the Grand Hotel' (Vickers 1987, 147).

The gun emplacement was shown as a circular feature on the 1923 Ordnance Survey map (Plate 17), but this appears to have been due to the lack of detail resulting from the scale of this particular map. Henry Tatton, an amateur historian who made numerous drawings of historic buildings in Sheffield during the first half of the 20th century, drew the anti-aircraft gun emplacement in 1930 and indicated that it remained octagonal in plan (Plate 19). The gun emplacement, which stood adjacent to the path through the hillfort, was shown as a brick-built, cement-rendered feature, with steps leading up to a flat surface surrounded by a low parapet wall and was buttressed on its south-east side. A further series of steps were shown on the opposite side of the emplacement on the 1954 Ordnance Survey map (Plate 20).

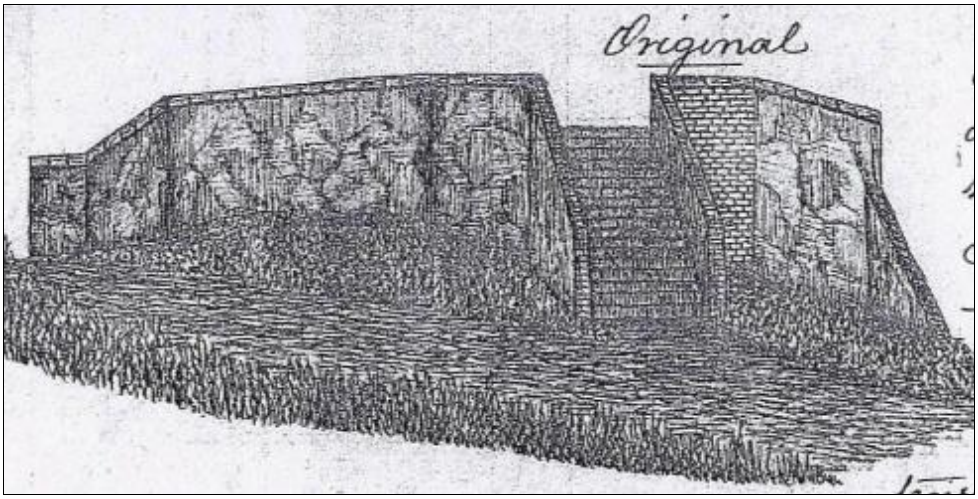


Plate 18: Henry Tatton's 1930 illustration of First World War gun emplacement

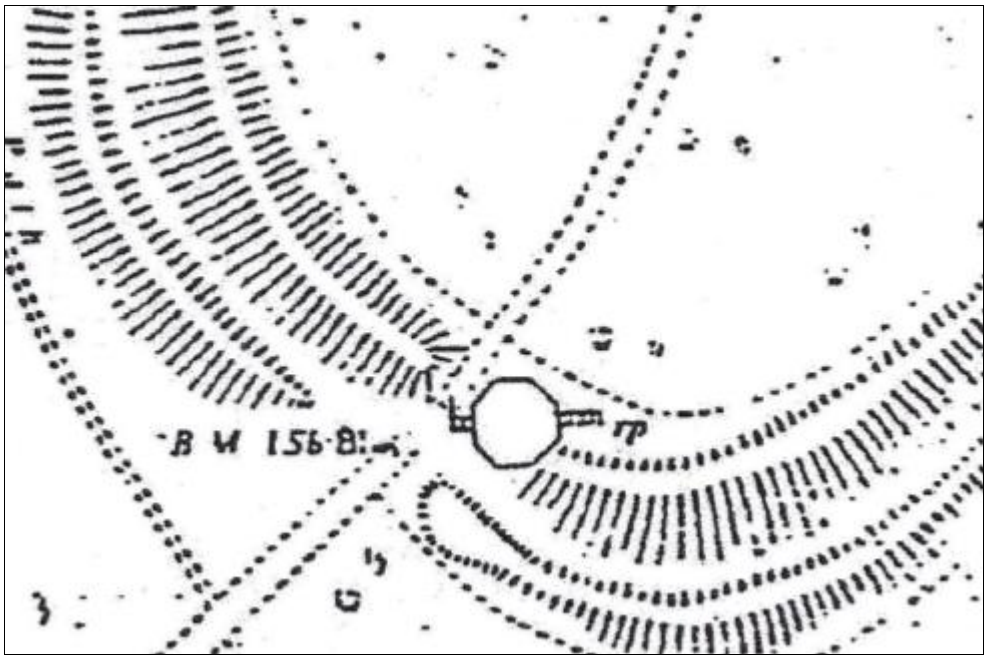


Plate 19: 1954 Ordnance Survey map showing gun emplacement at south of hillfort

The English Heritage Scheduled Ancient Monument record for Wincobank hillfort includes the site of the gun emplacement but describes it as a Second World War feature (EH 2003, 1).

By 1923, the majority of the northern part of Wincobank Wood had been cleared of trees and Wincobank Castle stood within an open area of rough heath. That year's Ordnance Survey map indicated that further subdivision had reduced to seven the number of cottages at Winco Wood Lane. The quarry that had been shown at the Winco Wood Lane/Jenkin Road junction from 1837 had expanded substantially by 1923, when it had extended into the field at the east.

A sub-rectangular area of trees to the south-west of the hillfort appeared to be the only substantive surviving part of Wincobank Wood by this date. Rough heath or scrub occupied the areas to both east and west, with an extensive series of rectangular allotments shown further to the west. Allotments had also been established in the former Colley Field between the Winco Wood Lane cottages and the hillfort.

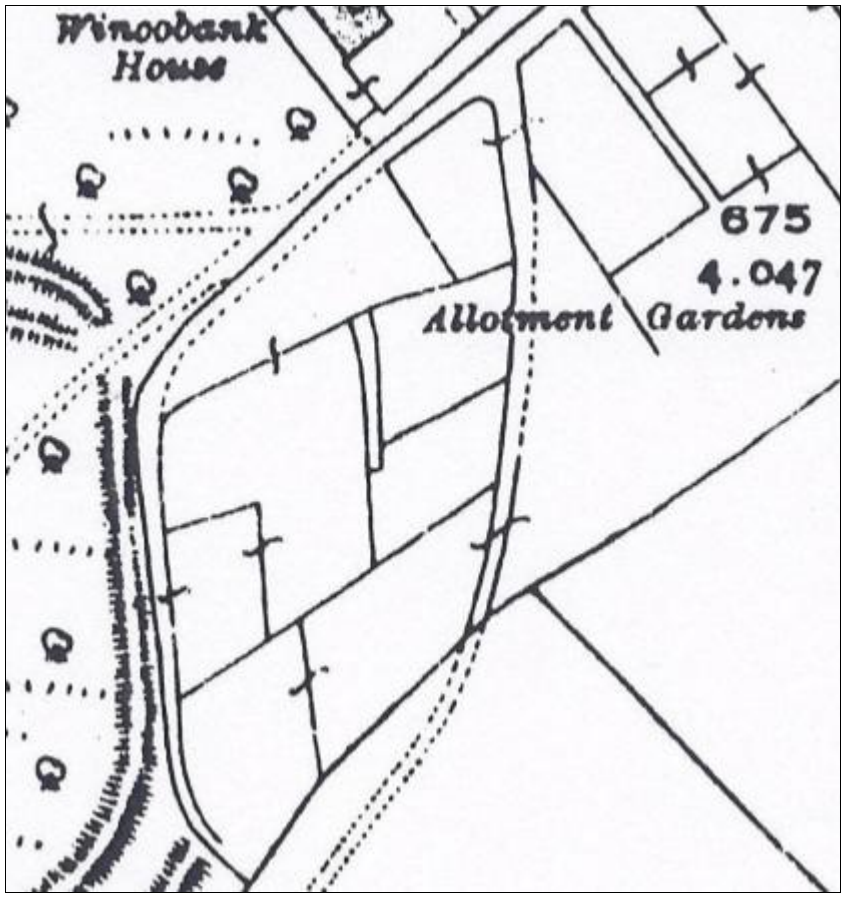


Plate 20: Allotments at Winco Wood Lane, 1923

Henry Tatton drew the Winco Wood Lane cottages in 1930, viewed south-east from the lane (Plate 21). The course of the lane appeared to have been re-routed slightly by this date, with the result that the cottages stood back from the lane. Five entrance doors were shown, although only four chimneys were present, and it is not clear how many individual properties existed by this date. Map evidence suggests that existing buildings had been converted into

larger dwellings by the removal of interior divisions, rather than the demolition and construction of new buildings.

Two cottages appeared to be present at the north-east, with three or possibly four at the south-west. The roofs of the latter group were slightly higher than the remaining properties; this juncture was also marked on the row's east face by a vertical division, which may indicate that at this point the cottages abutted each other but were not keyed-in. A brick wall ran towards the lane from the face of the cottages at this location, while a further brick wall projected from the face of the second group of cottages to the north-east. Large flagstones formed yard surfaces in this area.

The cottages had a cement render and were shown with pitched slate roofs, although Tatton's notes indicated that the cottages formerly possessed thatched roofs (Tatton 1980, 196). It is not clear when the latter were replaced. Large, vertical external wooden beams were visible at each end of the row, while a small lean-to structure stood against the end cottage at the north-east. Nine 24-pane windows were present on both the ground and first floors of several of the cottages, while three 16-pane windows were also present along the ground floor. The positions of the windows may also have reflected various construction or renovation phases. From the south-west end of the row, four first-floor windows were set immediately below the eaves, while the remaining two first-floor windows were placed at a lower elevation.

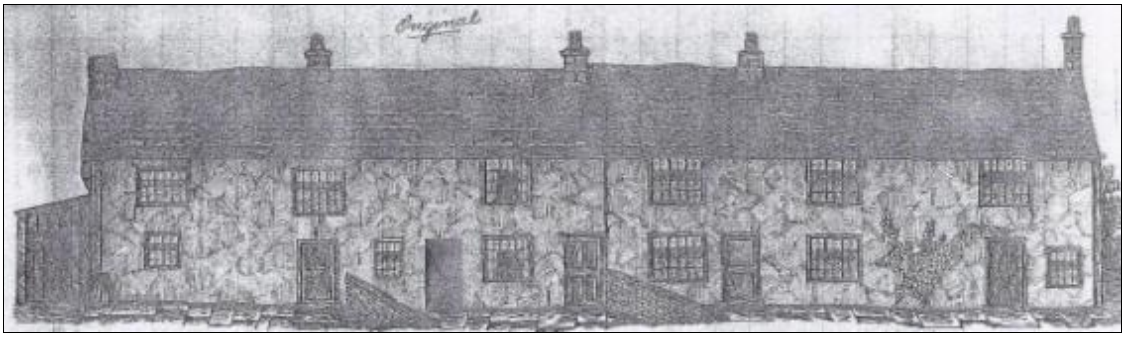


Plate 21: 1930 Tatton illustration of Winco Wood Lane cottages

Six cottages were shown at Winco Wood Lane on the 1934 Ordnance Survey map, along with several outbuildings in the gardens to the south and the quarry to the north-east. The allotments to the north-east of the hillfort had been laid out as a series of rectangular and sub-rectangular plots by this date while, to the west, Wincobank Wood had begun to regenerate. However, land between the reservoir at the east of the study area and the allotments at the west had been cleared completely of trees by this date. This had revealed the presence within the former wooded area of the 'small camp' and the unscheduled section of the Roman Ridge to the north of Wincobank Lane.

In 1950, F.L. Preston attempted to establish the course of the Roman Ridge and identified the relatively short section of the earthwork that had been shown on the 1788 William Fairbank map and which stood on the south side of Jenkin Road (Preston 1950b, 209). This part of the Roman Ridge subsequently became a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

During the Second World War, the anti-aircraft gun emplacement was brought back into service, along with a searchlight that was located several metres to the south-west of the

hillfort. A barrage balloon was also located on Wincobank Hill during this period and part of the course of Winco Wood Lane was reinforced in order to facilitate access for military vehicles.

Four cottages were shown at Winco Wood Lane on the 1954 Ordnance Survey map. The removal of internal property divisions had created a single rectangular structure with a triangular boundary wall at the south-west of the block, while two smaller properties stood to the north-east. A much smaller structure that stood at the north-east end of the block is likely to have been the lean-to that was visible at this location in the 1930 Tatton illustration. Numerous outbuildings were shown within the gardens to the south-east of the cottages, while the quarry to the north-east was marked 'Old Quarry', indicating that it was disused by this date.

A detached building was shown in the field to the south-west of the cottages on the 1954 Ordnance Survey map. The nature of this structure is unknown. Many of the allotment boundaries within the former Colley Field were not shown, although the allotments remained in use at this date and numerous small buildings that were marked throughout the area are likely to have been sheds. Allotments were also shown between Grimesthorpe and an area to the north-west of Wincobank Wood in 1954. To the west of the allotments, the study area was shown as rough, open heath or scrub, with a large area of tipping further west, while a recreation ground was marked in the south-east part of the site.

No changes were shown at the Winco Wood Lane cottages, Wincobank Castle or the Colley Field allotments on the 1967 Ordnance Survey map. The cottages were largely derelict by this date, however, as they had been seriously damaged during storms in the 1960s and had been made the subject of compulsory purchase orders by Sheffield City Council. The quarry to the north-east of the cottages had gone by this date and Jenkin Avenue had been built to the east of the site.

A track had been established from the reservoir to Wincobank Lane at the south-west, while the recreation ground had been removed and a sports ground constructed to the west of the Roman Ridge. This had been the site of James Childs' tip from 1957 (Sewell 2001, 22) and had been landscaped to create the football field in order to increase recreational facilities in the Wincobank area. The small camp was marked 'ancient earthwork' on the 1967 OS map.

In 1969, Yorkshire Television were granted permission to place a Radio Links Van on the top of Wincobank Hill, as the site's elevation made it an effective transmission location (Sewell 2001, 17). Subsequent BBC coverage of the World Snooker Championships also saw the hill used for this purpose. Following the removal of the anti-aircraft gun from the southern part of the hillfort during the post-war period, the concrete bases of the emplacement remained extant for several decades before being removed during the 1970s. Following the construction of the housing estate on the east slope of Wincobank Hill, the Scheduled section of the Roman Ridge was marked between Fort Hill and Sandstone Close on the 1973 Ordnance Survey map. No trees were shown in the vicinity of the hillfort at this date.

Wincobank Castle and the Winco Wood Lane cottages had been demolished by 1973 and, while the Colley Field allotment boundaries were shown, the associated sheds had been removed. Allotments continued to be shown in the western part of the study area, although

the small camp was not shown at this date and many of the 19th-century buildings in Grimesthorpe had begun to be demolished.

The gardens of the former Winco Wood Lane cottages continued to be shown on the 1987 Ordnance Survey map, although the allotments to the south-east had been cleared by that date. Several large tracks that had been established within the wood on the south slope of the hill led down to Grimesthorpe, where a depot had been constructed within the quarry. Sheffield City Council had conducted a tree-planting programme to the west of the hillfort in the 1960s and, by 1990, Wincobank Wood had been designated a Site of Scientific Interest (Sewell 2001, 64, 101). The wood is currently designated as a Local Nature Site.

During the 1980s, the Flower Estate had begun to suffer neglect and, by 1998, a demolition programme had been agreed for the Five Roads Estate area, to the west and north-west of the hillfort. Much of this area had been demolished by late 2003 (May 2003, 4) and had been rebuilt by 2008.

5 WINCOBANK HILLFORT

Wincobank hillfort (Sites 2 and 38) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no.13375) located at the top of Wincobank Hill, overlooking the Don Valley. Classed by English Heritage as a 'slight univallate hillfort' (EH 1993, 1), the monument contains an elliptical enclosure measuring 125m from north to south and 85m from east to west (NAA 2001, 71). The interior of the fort is surrounded by a single rampart which was 5.5m in width and which had stood to a maximum height of approximately 2.25m (NAA 2001, 71).

An external ditch and a counterscarp bank are present on all but the north side, where the ground slopes more steeply (EH 1993, 1). Different surveys give the average width of the ditch as approximately 3m or 10m (NAA 2001, 71-72; EH 1993, 1). The counterscarp bank stood to a maximum height of 1.25m and was constructed from material that had been excavated from the ditch (NAA 2001, 71-72; EH 1993, 1).

Plate 22: 1899 excavation at Wincobank hillfort

Wincobank's designation as a univallate hillfort has been challenged by several observers. In 1874, John Leader stated that there was 'a double line of fortification' on the north and north-east sides; in 1899, Elijah Howarth stated that the inner rampart could be 'traced through its entire circumference', while an 'outer rampart' was 'conspicuous round three parts of the encampment'; and in 1912, Ella Armitage asserted that the rampart was 'double throughout the greater part of its length, except on the east, where it has been levelled by the plough, and on two places on the north-west, where only a single bank can be seen' (Leader 1876, 7; Howarth 1905a, 2; Armitage and Montgomerie 1912, 8). The counterscarp has also been interpreted as a full rampart (Merrony 2010, pers. comm.).

5.1 Iron Age, Romano-British and early medieval

There is currently no unambiguous archaeological evidence to suggest that Iron Age structures had occupied the interior of the hillfort. In 1979, Pauline Beswick identified a 'shallow cutting' to the south of the rampart, the fill of which indicated that it was 'contemporary with the hillfort's occupation' and may have been 'part of a bedding slot for a possible timber structure' (Beswick 1985, 30). Howarth, however, thought that the centre of the hillfort consisted of 'the natural mound formed by the rise of the hill' (Howarth 1905a, 2). The fort is thus likely to have been used as a temporary refuge during times of conflict, rather than being occupied permanently (BAA 1904, 235). Ella Armitage, however, suggested that the site was too small for this purpose as 'camps of refuge' were 'usually large enough to accomodate flocks and herds as well as families' (Armitage and Montgomerie 1912, 61).

There is currently no evidence to indicate the hillfort's status at the time of the Roman Conquest in AD 43 and the site may have been in use, had long been out of use or had been reoccupied at that time. Joseph Hunter stated that a Roman 'garrison' had occupied the hillfort (Hunter 1819, 15), while I. Chalkley Gould suggested that the Roman army 'may, of

necessity, have occupied it for a time to keep less desirable occupants out of it' (Gould 1904, 32). There is no evidence, however, to indicate that the site was attacked or occupied by the Roman army.

Several pieces of 2nd-century Roman ceramic were recovered during Howarth's excavation, including five sherds from the upper part of a Roman 'urn' with a moulded lip. These were recovered from the ditch close to the breach in the southern banks (Howarth 1905b, 1-2). Several fragments, including part of a rim, from a similar vessel were found in the ditch close to the south-east rampart (Howarth 1905a, 3). A Roman coin of Constantius Chlorus (AD 305-306) was found near the 'entrance' to the hillfort. No Roman artefacts have been recovered from the interior of the hillfort.

There is currently no archaeological evidence to indicate activity at Wincobank hillfort during the post-Roman period, when the area may have formed part of the British kingdom of Elmet (Armitage 1897, 46-47) or during the early medieval period when Wincobank was incorporated at various times into the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Deira, Northumbria and Mercia. There is no archaeological evidence to suggest that any part of the hillfort was constructed or refortified during these periods.

5.2 Medieval and early post-medieval

During the later medieval and early post-medieval periods, the hillfort site was owned by Sheffield's manorial lords, the earls of Shrewsbury. The area is also likely to have been owned by their Norman and Plantagenet predecessors, the de Lovetots and de Furnivals, just as it was owned by their successors, the earls of Arundel and the dukes of Norfolk. There is no evidence to indicate activity at the hillfort during the later medieval period.

John Harrison's 1637 'exact and perfect survey' of the Arundel estate did not refer to the hillfort, which appears to have been located within 'Wincowe Wood' at this date (Ronksley 1908, 236). Harrison was not concerned with the 'antiquities' of the Wincobank area and did not include the hillfort in his account of the wood (Ronksley 1908, 236). The hillfort is thus unlikely to have been marked on the plan that was produced to accompany the survey but which has not been preserved (Ronksley 1908, vi).

Steven Bright, the earl of Arundel's Sheffield bailiff and collector, appears to have acquired the fields immediately to the north-east and east of the hillfort by 1637 and may have been responsible for the construction of a 17th-century lynchet in this area (NAA 2001, 65-66). In that case, Bright may also have been responsible for the destruction of the fort's eastern bank and ditch, which appears to have involved the levelling of the bank into the ditch in order to 'improve' the field for agricultural purposes, with the lynchet constructed partially over their former course. If so, the hillfort's eastern bank and ditch may have remained extant until the early 17th century.

The dukes of Norfolk acquired control of the Wincobank area during the mid-17th century. Several small pits that were excavated in the fort's western outer bank have been identified as prospection pits associated with coal and iron extraction that took place within Wincobank wood from the late 17th century (NAA 2001, 67, 73). Further post-medieval damage had occurred at the south rampart, where a large breach 'had evidently been previously excavated and was in line with an opening in the central mound' which marked the site of a former quarry (Howarth 1905b, 2). Stone was also removed for local buildings during this period, while turf was cut from the fort's banks in relation to charcoal burning activity (NAA 2001, 71).

Thomas Jefferys' 1771 map of Yorkshire contained the earliest known depiction of Wincobank hillfort. Jefferys depicted the hillfort as a rectangular feature, which suggests that he had not visited the site but may have been aware of the fort's status as a supposed 'Roman camp'. The hillfort was not marked on William Fairbank's 1790 map of John Sparrow's lands, which showed the site as part of Wincobank Wood; due to the dense tree-cover, the fort was not readily apparent on David Martin's 1791 engraving of Wincobank Hill (Plate 8).

Plate 23: 1771 Thomas Jefferys map

5.3 Antiquarian accounts of the hillfort

Several surveys and summaries of Wincobank hillfort were published during the 19th century. These accounts were not exhaustive and contained a number of inaccuracies but they remain valuable both for their insights into the way the hillfort was viewed during this period and for the information they contained about features that have subsequently been damaged or destroyed.

Joseph Hunter was aware of the hillfort prior to the removal of the nearby Bronze Age burial mounds *c*.1795, but does not appear to have written about the fort until the publication of his *Hallamshire* in 1819. Hunter did not attempt to survey the hillfort and described the site simply as 'an irregular form approaching to the circle', the location of which appeared to have been chosen because it 'commanded a view of the country for many miles around' (Hunter 1819, 15).

Hunter stated that 'traces of castramentation, supposed to be Roman, are to be found among the trees and thick bushes with which the wooded hill of Wincobank is covered' (Hunter 1819, 15). This demonstrates the early 19th-century belief that the hillfort was a Roman construction, although the term 'castramentation' appears in this instance to refer to the earthen banks and need not suggest that erosion or small-scale 'stone getting' had exposed elements of the stone rampart. Hunter repeated the then-current belief that Wincobank hillfort had been occupied by a Roman 'garrison' but did not cite any evidence for this and did not indicate the provenance of this belief (Hunter 1819, 15).

Ebeneezer Rhodes visited Wincobank hillfort during the writing of his *Yorkshire Scenery* in 1826 and noted the 'nearly circular' fort as 'a military establishment supposed to have been Roman...the mound and vallum (of which) may yet be distinctly trod amongst the woods'

(Rhodes 1826, 39-40). Three years later, John Wainwright's abiding impression of the hillfort was that its location had been 'pre-eminently calculated for a post of observation' (Wainwright 1829, xxxviii).

Samuel Mitchell visited the hillfort in 1855. Mitchell dismissed the suggestion that the fort was a Roman site and asserted that Wincobank displayed 'the great skill and strategical talent of the warlike Brigantes' and formed that tribe's 'most important barrier of defence' in South Yorkshire (Mitchell 1855, 68). It cannot be demonstrated conclusively that Wincobank Hill was located in 'what seems to have been at one period the southern frontier of the Brigantes territory' (May 1922, 3). However, the 'client' relationship between Rome and Cartimandua, 'ruler over the Brigantes', ensured that Roman forces would not occupy or exert direct control over Brigantian territory (Ramsey 1909, 83). This arrangement may have determined both Templeborough's location on the south bank of the River Don and its apparent status as the northernmost outpost of the Roman Military Zone. In that case, this suggests that the border of Brigantia was demarcated by the River Don and thus that Wincobank Hill was located in Brigante territory during the mid-1st century AD. However, it is not known if the Brigantes existed as a tribal unit when Wincobank hillfort was constructed *c*.500 BC or if they subsequently assumed control of the area from an earlier tribe who had constructed the fort (Preston 1954, 18-19).

Mitchell noted that the bank was 'imperfectly raised' on the north-west side of the fort, where the ground sloped steeply, and stated that this area included an 'immense vallum and ditch, with internal covered way' (Mitchell 1855, 68). The identification of this 'covered way' is problematic, but it may simply have been an informal path or track that had been established along the inside of the ditch, thus giving the impression that anyone using it would have been 'covered' or protected by the inner bank. Mitchell's description suggests that he interpreted this 'way' as an original Iron Age feature; however, the track is more likely to have been established by workers involved in post-medieval charcoal, quarrying or iron and coal working who appear to have established an informal camp within the hillfort (NAA 2001, 67).

John Daniel Leader, the first excavator of Templeborough, visited the 'great camp on Wincobank' in 1874 and found it to be 'the most perfect specimen in our district of the old British hillfort' (Leader 1874, 7). Leader described the hillfort as 'elliptical in shape, measuring about 132 yards (120.7m) from north-east to south-west, and 103 yards (94.2m) north-west to south-east' (quoted in Armitage 1938, 242). A 'copious' spring located immediately outside the north-east rampart appears to have provided water on site (Leader 1910, 16).

John Leader stated that a double rampart had been present on the north side of the fort, while 'on the south-east side the agger still stands 31 ft (9.5m) above the bottom of the foss' (quoted in Armitage 1939, 242). Leader described the ramparts of the hillfort as 'earthen mounds' and suggested that the defences had consisted of 'timber laid transversely, and the interstices filled with soil, while above all rose a wooden agger or rampire of strong stakes and wattles' (quoted in Armitage 1939, 243). Leader believed that the smaller prehistoric 'camps' in Wilkinson Spring Wood and Great Roe Wood were 'in dependence on' Wincobank hillfort (Leader 1874, 7).

Henry Payne and John Hugh Burland examined the site in 1876 (Payne and Burland 1879, 613) and reported that it was 'of immense size…the extent of its circumference is about one-third of a mile' (approximately 0.53km). The fort was bisected by a path at this date, which took '170 strides to cross' (Payne and Burland 1879, 615). As this is likely to have been the present-day Winco Wood Lane, Payne and Burland's account suggests that the breaches in the banks through which the lane entered and exited the fort had been made prior to 1876.

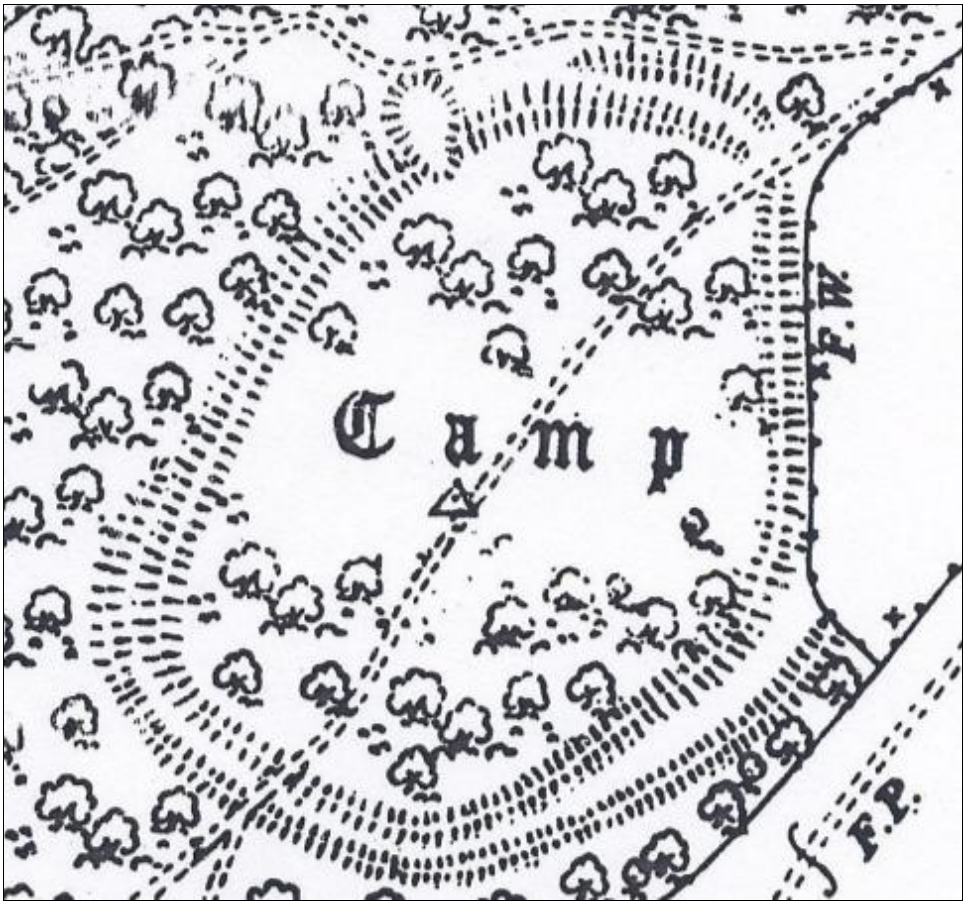


Plate 24: Wincobank hillfort on the 1892 Ordnance Survey map

In 1893, Sidney Addy produced the first detailed survey of Wincobank hillfort (Addy 1893, 235-236). This indicated that 'the outer mound surrounds the camp, except on its northern boundary and on a small portion of the eastern boundary where, along with the inner mound, it has been removed by the cultivation of the ground' (Addy 1893, 235).

In contrast to the extensive damage caused by agricultural activity at the east of the site, the interior of the hillfort did not appear to have been levelled or landscaped (Addy 1893, 236). Addy did not refer to the areas of post-medieval disturbance in the interior of the hillfort; it is not clear if he simply did not recognise them or if these areas were less visible in 1893.

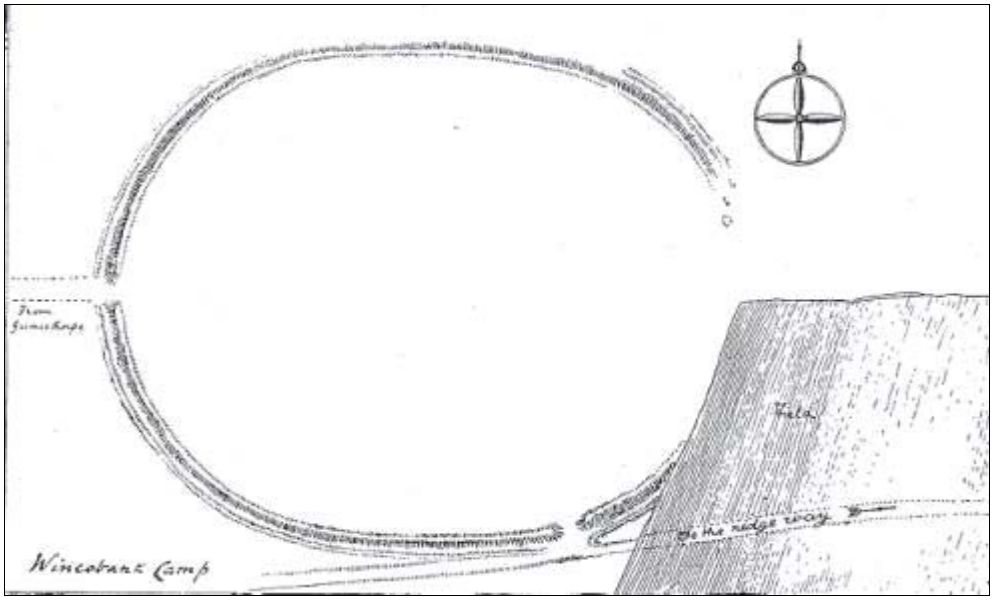


Plate 25: 1893 Addy plan of hillfort

Addy stated that the surviving course of the 'inner mound of the camp rises approximately 1m above the level of the ground within the enclosure. The ditch between the two mounds is ample, and, in the three places where we measured it, it has a perpendicular depth of three feet (approximately 2.75m)… The width of the ditch is…thirty feet (approximately 9m) between the two mounds, the measurements being all taken from the centre of the inner mound to the centre of the smaller and outer mound' (Addy 1893, 233). The southern banks survived to such a height in 1893 that 'the mounds cannot be seen at one view' (Addy 1893, 236).

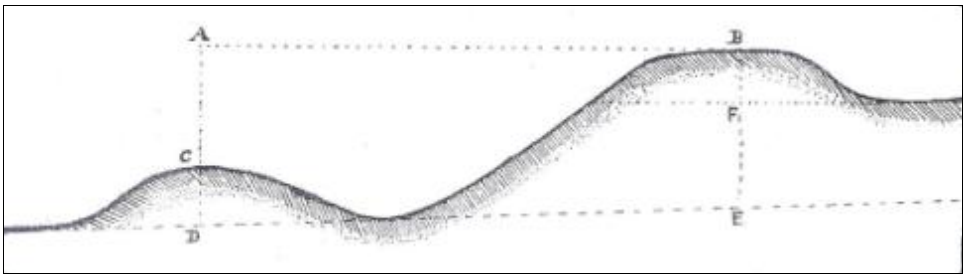


Plate 26: 1893 Addy section drawing of banks at Wincobank hillfort

Although Addy produced the first known plan and profile drawing of the hillfort (Plates 25 and 26) the location of the latter was not marked and the plan was inaccurate, as it depicted a sub-circular fort on an incorrect orientation and did not show the breach in the northern rampart. Dimensions were given as 'Width of ditch, A to B - 30 feet (approximately 9.1m); Height of outer mound, C to D - 3 feet (approximately 0.9m; height of inner mound, B to E - 9 feet (approximately 2.75m); inside height of inner mound, B to F - 3 feet (approximately 0.9m)' (Addy 1893, 235).

The majority of the banks were well-preserved in 1893, although 19th-century activity had impacted on them due to 'the soft nature of the earth of which they are composed (which) renders them an easy prey to the spade, and to the mischievous tricks of children who play upon them' (Addy 1893, 236). The banks had also been damaged 'years ago' as 'the mounds

were a favourite abode of ants, and the hills of those insects were robbed of their eggs by men engaged in pheasant-breeding' (Addy 1893, 236).

Winco Wood Lane was not the only track that traversed the hillfort in 1893. A second path appeared to have been inserted 'through the breach in the mound, on the western side, is continued in an easterly direction along the diameter of the camp, and goes through the site of the mounds on the eastern side, which is close to the eastern boundary of the wood' (Addy 1893, 237). This path was dismissed by Addy as 'modern' and not a continuation of the 'Ridgeway' that ran up the southern slope of Wincobank Hill from Grimesthorpe, as 'the ancient way did not pass through the camp, but touched or skirted it upon its south-eastern side' (Addy 1893, 237).

Ella Armitage made several visits to Wincobank hillfort in 1897 and reported that 'it is oval in shape and measures 132 yards (approximately 120.7m) from N.E. to S.W. and 103 yards (approximately 94m) from N.W. to S.E.' (Armitage 1897, 34). Armitage stated that the 'vallum is surrounded by a deep ditch, which had a bank on the *counterscarp*, or outside edge of the ditch, still to be seen on the S. and S.E. sides' (Armitage 1897, 34).

Armitage considered the outer bank to be a full rampart, rather than merely a counterscarp on the outer edge of the ditch and stated that the rampart was 'double throughout the greater part of its length' (Armitage and Montgomerie 1912, 8). Although the former 'double rampart' on the north side of the fort was no longer extant by 1897, Armitage asserted that she was able to trace its line in that area (Armitage 1897, 34).

5.4 1899 Elijah Howarth excavation

Until the late 19th century, Wincobank hillfort was 'popularly known as the Roman Camp' (Addy 1893, 233; Howarth 1905a, 1). Elijah Howarth, curator of Sheffield Museum, conducted an archaeological excavation at the site, which commenced on 25th July 1899. Several trenches were excavated explicitly in order to 'ascertain the age of the camp' (Howarth 1905a, 1). Howarth did not publish the results of his 1899 excavation, but prepared a report for the Committee of Sheffield Museum in 1905 (Howarth 1905a; Preston 1954, 8; Beswick 1984, 2).

Howarth's notes covered the period up to 13th September, while three pages of pencilled notes were also completed by a W. Bradshaw, which indicated that the excavation continued until at least 6th October (Howarth 1905b, 7; Bradshaw n.d., 3). Bradshaw's identity and the date of his notes are unclear.

Plate 27: 1899 Wincobank hillfort excavation

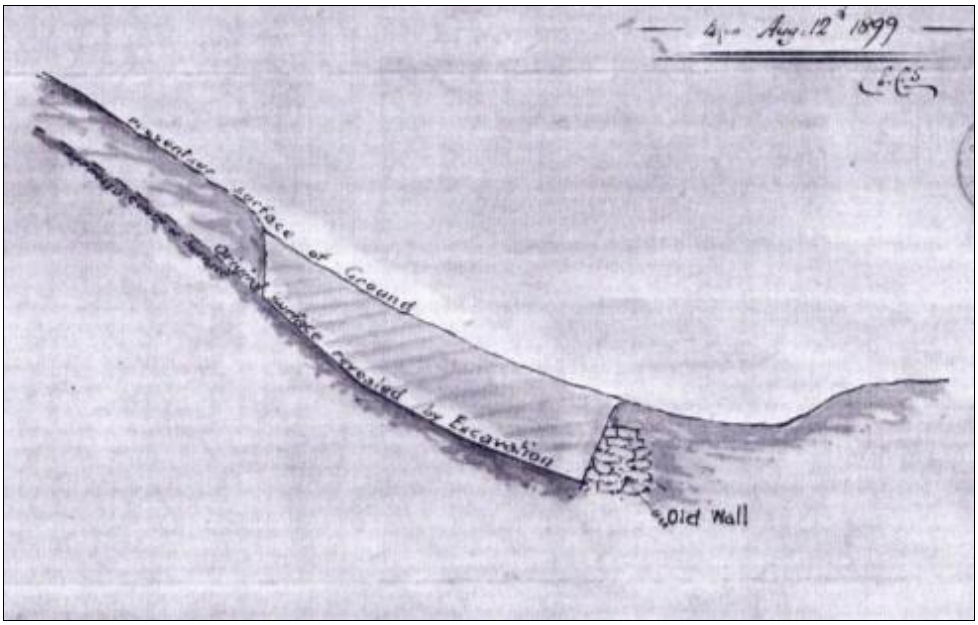


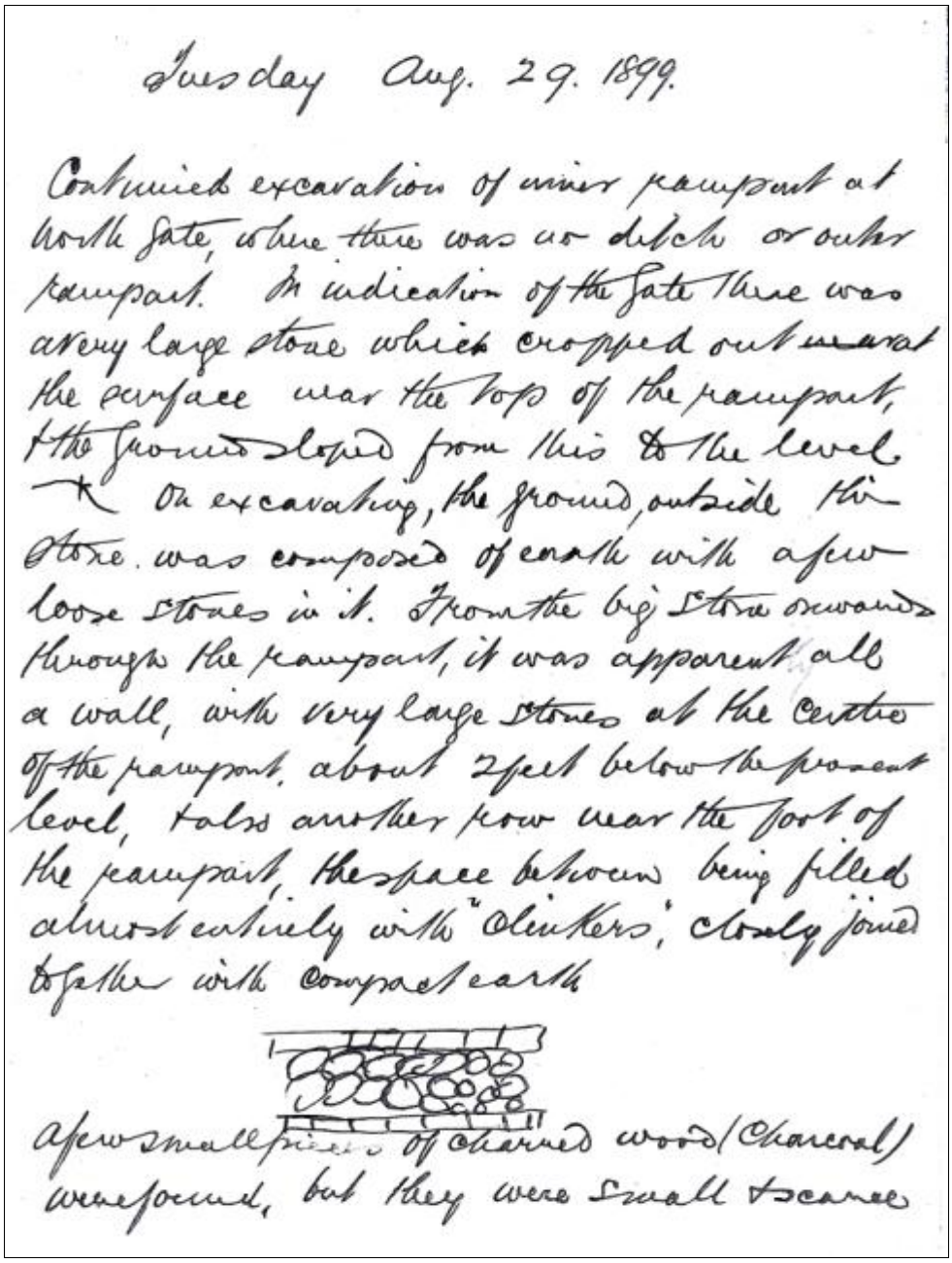
Plate 28: 1899 section drawing

5.4.1 A vitrified hillfort?

Howarth did not state explicitly that the hillfort had been destroyed by fire, but noted that the rampart showed 'signs of burning' and highlighted the 'compact burnt stones', 'clinkers' and 'fused sandstone' that formed its rubble core (Howarth 1905a, 3-4; Howarth 1905b, 7). This suggested to F.L. Preston that when 'fired, accidentally or intentionally, the timber had fused the stones into a vitreous mass' (Preston 1954, 9). Pauline Beswick supported this interpretation and, having found the rampart wall to be 'badly burnt', compared the site to

Almondbury in West Yorkshire and Castercliff, Lancashire, two vitrified Brigantian hillforts that were broadly contemporary with Wincobank (Beswick 1985, 30, 32).

Wincobank was regarded by the majority of 20th-century observers as a vitrified hillfort; however, the extreme temperatures required to achieve vitrification led to the questioning of this interpretation. Harold Armitage suggested that the burnt stone and charred wood were not evidence of vitrification but 'were merely remains of fires lit by the builders of the fort' (Armitage 1938, 244). However, Howarth had differentiated between evidence of fire damage associated with 'hearths, camp fires or fires for warming the builders of the wall' and the fused stones within the rampart's rubble core (Howarth 1905a, 4; Howarth 1905b, 3).



Tuesday Aug. 29. 1899.

Continued excavation of inner rampart at north gate, where there was no ditch or outer rampart. In indication of the gate there was a very large stone which cropped out near the surface near the top of the rampart, & the ground sloped from this to the level. On excavating, the ground outside this stone was composed of earth with a few loose stones in it. From the big stone onwards through the rampart, it was apparent all a wall, with very large stones at the centre of the rampart, about 2 feet below the present level, & also another row near the foot of the rampart, the space between being filled almost entirely with "clinkers", closely joined together with compact earth

A few small pieces of charred wood (Charcoal) were found, but they were small & scarce

Plate 29: Extract from Howarth's site notes from 1899 Wincobank hillfort excavation

Colin Merrony and Roger Doonan of the University of Sheffield have suggested that the deposits of 'slag' that Howarth identified at the base of the rampart (Howarth 1905b, 3) may have been ironworking slag dumped up against the bank, rather than being part of its structure (Merrony 2010, pers. comm.; Doonan 2011, pers. comm.). Doonan and Merrony have identified deposits of ironworking slag scattered around the interior of the hillfort and Roger Doonan's 2010 geophysical survey of the site suggested that ironworking may indeed have occurred within the fort (Doonan 2011, pers. comm.).

When asked for clarification by Ella Armitage, however, Howarth stated explicitly that the material that formed the central core of the wall comprised 'rubble charred by fire' (Armitage and Montgomerie 1912, 8). This was supported by evidence from Pauline Beswick's 1979 excavation, which found that interlaced bonding timbers within the rampart had 'burned with sufficient heat to partially vitrify the surrounding stonework' (Beswick 1985, 29).

Roger Doonan has recently undertaken a number of geophysical and geochemical surveys within and around the hillfort. Distributions of phosphorus, copper, zinc, lead, arsenic and iron were identified around the scheduled area, along with several anomalies within the hillfort. Full reports were pending at the time of this report.

5.4.2 Results of the 1899 Excavation

The positions of the various trenches that were excavated at the hillfort in 1899 are not identified precisely in Howarth's various site notes and plan, his subsequent report, or in the various photographs of the excavation (Plates 1, 2, 22, 27, 30, 31, 32) and their precise locations remain uncertain. For example, the location of the first trench was given as 'near to the opening into the rampart way where apparently some ground had previously been excavated inside the enclosure, on the S.E. side' (Howarth 1905b, 1). Similarly, a trench that produced a silver coin ('tolerably late') and a corroded iron 'lance head' was described as being excavated 'from foot path inside rampart to go right through inner rampart' (Howarth 1905b, 3).

However, Bradshaw stated that 'four large stones arranged parallel to the rampart were partly uncovered' on the 'outer side' of the east gate, between the rampart and the footpath (Bradshaw n.d., 1). These may be the 'upright stones' shown in two unlabelled site photographs held by Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust (Bradshaw n.d., 2, 3; Plate 30). Several 'very large stones' were also located at the centre of the rampart at the north of the hillfort, including one which 'cropped out at the surface' (Howarth 1905b, 6). The space between these features was filled with 'clinkers closely joined together with compact earth' (Howarth 1905b, 6).

Plate 30: 1899 Wincobank hillfort excavation

Howarth does not appear to have anticipated the presence of the stone-built rampart within the banks and reported initially that 'distinct evidence' was identified in the centre of the fort's south ditch for 'a rubble wall, formed of stones and earth without any mortar' (Howarth 1905b, 1). This feature 'probably formed a line of defence…and may have been surmounted by a palisade' (Howarth 1905b, 1-2).

Robert Leader (1910, 15) described this as a 'thick, carefully-constructed rubble wall, some of whose stones weigh over 2cwt' (approximately 101kg). Extending along the whole course of the ditch, the wall appeared to have 'guarded the scarped slope of the inner vallum' (Leader 1910, 15). The wall's presence in the centre of the ditch appeared to Leader to be 'so unusual as to suggest a doubt whether it is coeval with the earthwork' (Leader (1910, 15). F.L. Preston, however, considered the remains to be merely 'the large stones of the collapsed outer revetment' (Preston 1954, 8). The counterscarp was an earthen bank without any stonework (EH 1993, 1; Howarth 1905a, 4), however, and collapsed material is unlikely to have been described as 'carefully-constructed'. The nature of the wall along the centre-line of the south ditch remains unclear.

The ground on which the inner rampart was built appeared to have been prepared in advance by clearing and levelling, with the rampart then being constructed and 'the ground outside cleared to an acute slope down to the ditch so as to prevent anyone climbing up' (Howarth 1905b, 3). A further unmortared sandstone wall was revealed in the area that had produced the silver coin near the inner bank; fire damage was present on several of these stones, including one which resembled a hearth stone (Howarth 1905b, 3). A further hearth was represented by 'an ancient hollowing out' of the ground at the north 'gate' (Howarth 1905b, 7).

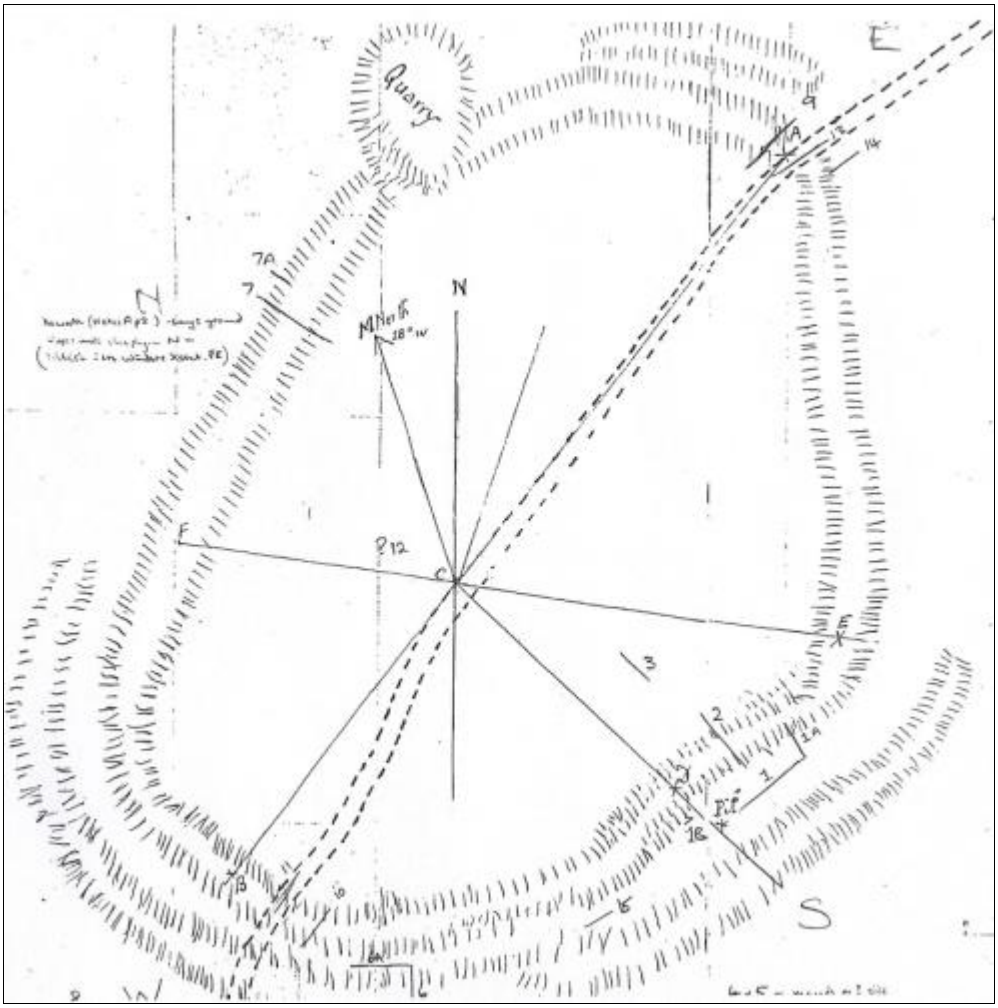


Plate 31: Howarth's 1899 plan of Wincobank hillfort, with Beswick's annotations

Animal bones were recovered from a trench in the hillfort's south-west ditch (Howarth 1905a, 4; 1905b, 5). Part of a tibia was found 'immediately beneath the sods' on the edge of the ditch, with 'a portion of pelvis' at a slightly lower depth (Howarth 1905a, 4; Howarth 1905b, 5). The taxonomy and date of these bones have not been ascertained. Burnt earth, stone and wood were also encountered in the ditch in this area and several stones, 'some of them of great size', were present in a trench that was excavated in the western ditch (Howarth 1905b, 6). These stones, which were unmortared and appeared to weigh approximately 1 cwt (50.8kg), were interpreted as another wall (Howarth 1905b, 6). The rampart's rubble and stone wall was not encountered in a trench that was excavated through the south-west bank and ditch (Howarth 1905b, 5).

Several oval mounds were present 'outside the ramparts, on the southern side' (Howarth 1905b, 4). Two of these were excavated. The first mound was approximately 15ft in length and 12ft in width, with the central point being 2ft above ground level; a burnt layer at the centre of the mound comprised earth, sandstone, charred wood and charcoal and appeared to represent a hearth (Howarth 1905b, 4). Howarth excavated this mound 'to the natural ground', during which he recovered three pieces of unworked 'jet'; Pauline Beswick, however, thought that this material may in fact have been cannel coal or worked shale (Howarth 1905b, 5; Beswick 1984, 3). A second mound to the south of the fort and a small mound outside the

'west gate' were also excavated but 'gave no results' (Howarth 1905a, 4; Howarth 1905b, 7). Bradshaw stated that the western mound 'consisted of a bed of clay 4 feet thick with from 1 to 3ft of earth above it' (Bradshaw n.d., 1). No evidence of inhumation or cremation was recovered from the mounds and it is not clear if they were associated with the 'barrows' that had been situated in the vicinity of the hillfort until 1795.

5.4.3 The hillfort's entrance

Breaches or openings in the fort's north, south, east and west banks were marked by 'very large stones' that weighed approximately 12 cwt (609.6kg) and were deemed to be 'too conspicuous not to have some significance' (Howarth 1905a, 2). The stones were 'imbedded in the sloping sides of the rampart', which suggested to Howarth that these locations marked the fort's original entrances (Howarth 1905a, 2). Bradshaw stated that the 'rampart at the (west) gate is formed chiefly of stone as in other parts' (Bradshaw n.d., 1).

Howarth did not attempt to identify the hillfort's principal entrance. F.L. Preston, however, argued subsequently that this was represented by the opening on the north-east side of the fort and claimed that the 'rampart on the northern side of this entrance has a thickened end, whilst that on the south turns outward across the ditch for some 10 yards (approximately 9.1m) to form an entrance of Dr. Varley's semi-outturn type' (Preston 1954, 8). Preston's identification was disproved by Pauline Beswick, whose 1979 excavation indicated that the north-east and south-west openings had been 'cut through the rampart and ditch and were not original features' (Beswick 1984, 2). Beswick suggested that the fort's original entrance was the opening in the south-east bank, where the ramparts turned inward slightly (Beswick 1984, 2; Beswick 1985, 32).

Plate 32: 1899 Wincobank hillfort excavation

Excavations close to this south-east 'entrance' revealed large pieces of loose sandstone that resembled an 'old causeway' (Howarth 1905b, 1). If this was indeed the hillfort's original entrance, the large sandstone pieces may have been the remnant of an associated stone surface. This was also the area in which Sidney Addy believed that the ancient 'Ridgeway' connected with the fort, before it ran north-east to meet the Scheduled section of the Roman Ridge to the north of Jenkin Road. It is possible that the 'old causeway' may have led from the 'entrance' to the 'Ridgeway' along the alignment of the 'ancient way' identified by Sidney Addy along the field boundaries in this area.

5.5 1903 Sheffield Libraries and Museum Committee Excavation

Sheffield Corporation's Library and Museums Committee financed a further excavation at the hillfort, which commenced on 11th August 1903. It is not clear if Howarth led this excavation. None of the published accounts of Wincobank hillfort refer explicitly to the 1903 excavation and the sole surviving documentation appears to be a single page of handwritten notes and a freehand site sketch showing the position of the trench (Plate 33) that were located during a search of the Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust archives for this report.

The note states that on 11th August 1903, the 'men at Wincobank have to-day cut clean through the inner rampart. It does not reveal such a good section of the rubble wall as our former excavation...They have also laid bare the outer slope of inner rampart, but there is no decided clay glacis or smooth surface as shown in the photo...A beginning was made in the ditch without as yet exposing rubble wall. Nothing but bits of charcoal and 'clinkers' have been found. The men start at 9a.m. tomorrow' (Anon. 1903).

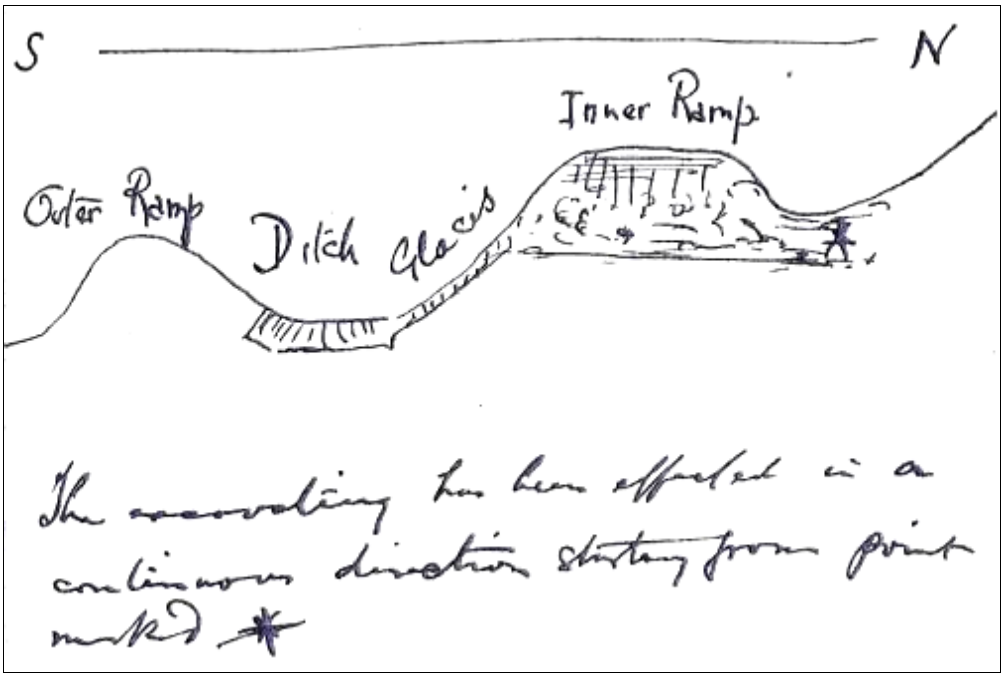


Plate 33: 1903 excavation note and sketch

The site sketch marked the position of the excavation on a section of the ramparts and marked the location and direction of the trench with an asterisk, from where 'the excavation has been effected in a continuous direction' (Anon. 1903). Neither the sketch nor the note identified the

position of the trench in relation to a plan of the hillfort, however, and the area that was excavated in 1903 is not clear.

The Museums Trust archives do not contain any additional material relating to the 1903 excavation. However, the Annual Congress of the British Archaeological Association was held in Sheffield in August 1903 and a guided tour of the hillfort was conducted by Elijah Howarth on 13th August, two days after the excavation had commenced (BAA 1904, 234). The 1903 excavation is likely to have been timed to coincide with the Congress and may have been undertaken explicitly in order to reveal features for the site visit by members of the BAA.

5.6 1903 Annual Congress of the British Archaeological Association

Elijah Howarth's guided visit to the hillfort was described in the anonymous 'Proceedings of the Conference'. The fort's outer defences were reported as 'a bank of earth, next a ditch, and then an inner rampart formed of rough stones piled up to a considerable height, with the larger ones at the base, and the surface faced with smooth clay to render attack more difficult' (BAA 1904, 234). The 'remains of an open hearth' within one part of the wall were highlighted, as were the finds of jet, flint and Roman pottery from the 1899 excavation (BAA 1904, 234-235). The 'lance head' that had been recovered in 1899 was not reported in the Proceedings.

I. Chalkley Gould's paper, 'Some Early Defensive Earthworks of the Sheffield District', was presented to the 1903 Congress on 14th August, three days after the second excavation at the hillfort had commenced (Gould 1904, 29). The subsequent publication of Gould's paper included a plan of the fort that marked the openings at the north-east and south-west that were connected by the course of Winco Wood Lane, along with a substantial breach in the western ramparts and the probable line of the north-east outer bank that had been 'destroyed' by the early 17th-century (Gould 1904, 31).

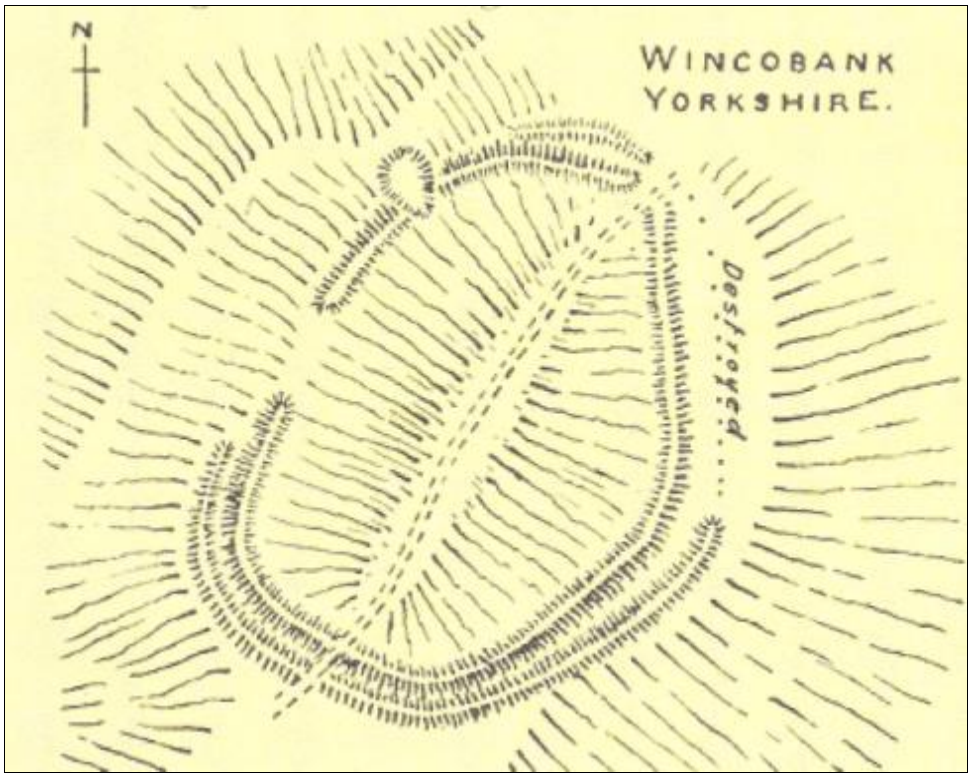


Plate 34: 1903 Gould plan of the hillfort

The decision to hold the 1903 British Archaeological Association Congress in Sheffield was instrumental in the ownership of the hillfort and a large part of Wincobank Wood being transferred from the Norfolk estate to the Corporation of Sheffield. During the Association's visit to the hillfort, Robert Leader proposed that 'the Duke of Norfolk should be approached, with a view to saving this interesting relic of antiquity permanently from the ubiquitous and rapacious builder' (BAA 1904, 235). During the reading of his paper, Chalkley Gould argued that 'those who control the destinies of this city' should 'use their utmost efforts to secure the preservation of the hill and camp; not only of the camp, but of all the slopes leading to it, so that the grim evidences of modern civilisation may approach no nearer, and that the bits of woodland, remaining here and there, may be preserved' (Gould 1904, 32).

The following year, Wincobank hillfort was among the 48 acres of land on the hill that was presented by the duke to the Corporation of Sheffield. The duke's gift was accompanied by a 'request that the ancient fortifications be preserved in accordance with the suggestions of the British Archaeological Association and the Sheffield Free Libraries and Museums Committee' (Gould 1904, 42). However, by 1910, the only measure that had been taken by the council to protect the monument was 'the erection of certain slight railings' (Leader 1910, 17).

5.7 Modern views of the hillfort

Robert Leader's 1910 account of the hillfort stated that the 'entire circuit' of the inner rampart 'is intact, except at the gap on the west', while a 'double vallum and fosse' were present on the south side of the fort, extending in an arc to the south-east and south-west corners 'to about one-third of the length' (Leader 1910, 15). By this date, the western bank was not readily apparent and Leader was uncertain if a rampart had been present in this area (Leader 1910, 15; Preston 1954, 8).

Leader suggested that the western 'gate' was not an original entrance but had 'been made, or enlarged, by woodmen' during the post-medieval period (Leader 1910, 15). Leader also concurred with Addy and Howarth that the track at the east of the fort was an 'ancient way which skirted the exterior of the defences' (Leader 1910, 15).

Ella Armitage published a measured plan and four profile drawings of the hillfort in 1912 (Plate 35). Stating that the rampart was 'double throughout the greater part of its length, except on the east, where it has been levelled by the plough, and on two places on the north-west, where only a single bank can be seen', Armitage reported that the hillfort was then 'in fair preservation' (Armitage and Montgomerie 1912, 8).

Armitage suggested that 'the rude flints and pieces of jet' that had been found by Howarth 'may have been lying in the soil before (the bank) was thrown up' and found it 'remarkable that no signs of human habitation were found in the Wincobank camp' (Armitage and Montgomerie 1912, 61).

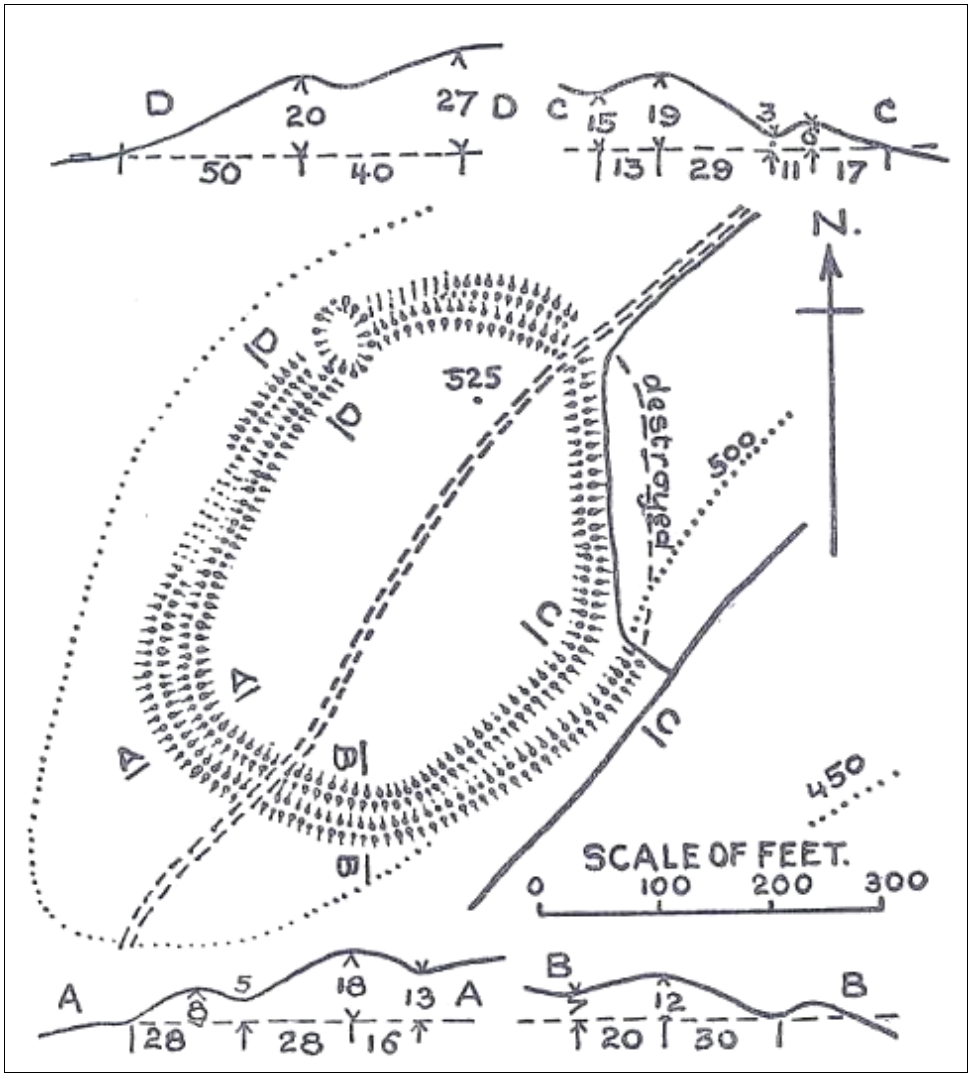


Plate 35: 1912 Armitage plan and profiles of Wincobank hillfort

The wood had been cleared from around the hillfort by the time of the 1923 Ordnance Survey map, while a small number of trees were located to the west of the lane's course through the interior of the fort. The First World War gun emplacement in the south bank was supplemented by an anti-aircraft searchlight during the Second World War. Following the removal of these features during the post-war period, the concrete base of the emplacement remained extant for several decades before being removed during the 1970s. Its former site is included as part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no.13375).

5.8 1979 Pauline Beswick excavation

Pauline Beswick conducted a watching brief on groundworks that took place adjacent to the north-east entrance of the hillfort in May 1979 (Plate 36; Beswick 1984, 2). Excavation of new drainage channels revealed burnt stone and timber within the rampart in this area and indicated that the fort's inner bank comprised a timber-laced, stone rampart with revetment walls separated by a rubble-core (Beswick 1985, 30). This construction method had proliferated throughout much of Britain between the 7th and 3rd centuries BC (Beswick 1985, 32). The timbers appeared to have been set both horizontally and vertically in order to

stabilise the rubble core and were approximately 0.10 to 0.14m in diameter (Beswick 1985, 30).

Charcoal samples that were obtained from deposits sealed within the north-east rampart produced radio-carbon dates of 470 BC (plus or minus 80 years) and 530 BC (plus or minus 80 years)(Beswick 1985, 32). This demonstrated that Wincobank hillfort is an Iron Age site that was constructed *c*.500 BC (Beswick 1984, 2) and confirmed I. Chalkley Gould's 1903 suggestion that the site's location on a ridged, 'hog-back' hill meant that the fort had probably been constructed 'quite five hundred years before the coming of the Romans' (BAA 1904, 235).

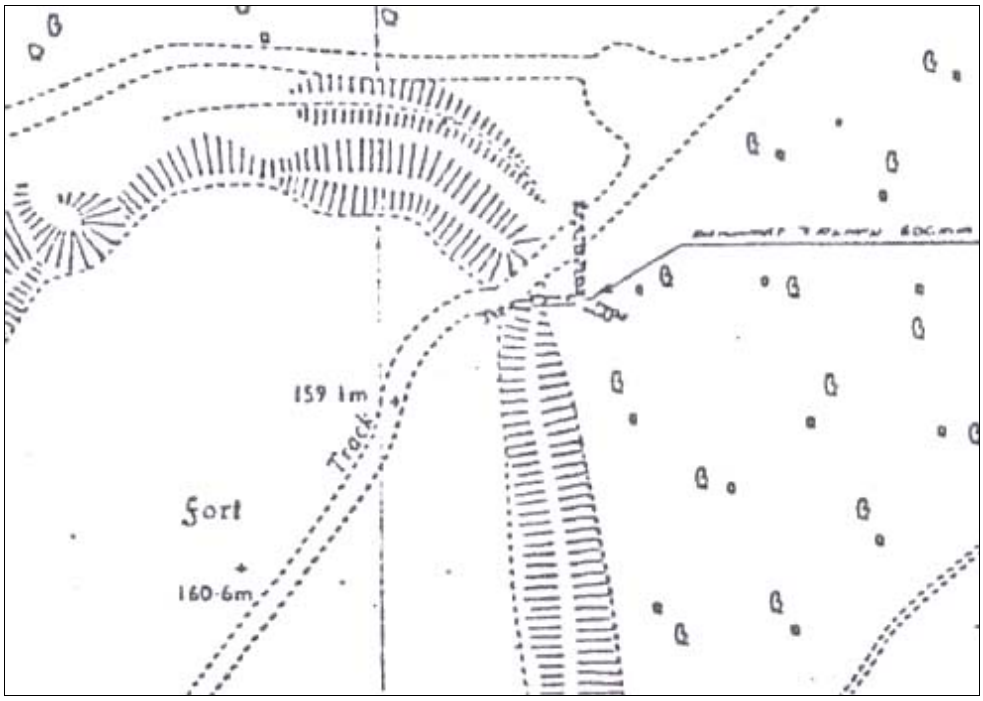


Plate 36: Position of Beswick's 1979 trenches at north-east of hillfort

Northern Archaeological Associates conducted an archaeological survey of Wincobank hillfort to English Heritage Level 3 in 2001. Extensive erosion was found to have reduced the height of the banks, while silting had reduced the depth of the ditch at the west/north-west and east/south-east sides of the fort (NAA 2001, 71-72). Slumping or 'mass movement' of the banks had particularly affected the western bank and ditch, with silting having also formed a slight terrace in the latter area (NAA 2001, 71).

In contrast to 19th- and 20th-century surveys of the hillfort, the outer edge of the 'destroyed' east counterscarp bank was traced to the east of the 17th-century lynchet (NAA 2001, 72). A 2010 geophysical survey by Roger Doonan, of the University of Sheffield, identified an anomaly where the anticipated ditch and outer rampart would have been located on the eastern aspect of the enclosure (Doonan 2011, pers. comm.). The eastern side of the fort was also found to retain the most substantial surviving section of the rampart. While a series of 1982 photographs held in the Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust archive demonstrated that the eastern side of the hillfort was largely devoid of tree-cover at that date, numerous trees occupied several areas along the eastern banks by the early 21st century.

Quarries were found to have been cut into the ramparts at the north-west and south-east of the site, with the latter having caused extensive damage to the rampart in the vicinity of Beswick's suggested south-east 'entrance' (NAA 2001, 71). These are likely to have been early post-medieval insertions into the fort, although stone was also removed by George Parkin for the construction of Wincobank Castle between 1887 and 1907. Several irregular features, including rectilinear platforms, sub-circular hollows, a disused track and the footings of a former brick-built structure that were identified within the interior of the hillfort are also likely to relate to former quarrying activity (NAA 2001, 71-72).

A large amount of dumped material was encountered by Elijah Howarth during his 1899 excavation and was used by him to reconstitute part of the bank (Beswick 1984, 2). An irregular mound, approximately 9m by 7m, that was identified at the south-west of the fort by Northern Archaeological Associates may have been the remnant of the dumped material (NAA 2001, 74). This could not be demonstrated, however, and NAA appear to have investigated the mound by observation only.

A series of breaks of slope at the south of the fort appeared to be associated with the removal of the First World War gun emplacement during the 1970s. NAA suggested that the form of the 'original entrance' in the fort's southern banks had been destroyed by the construction and removal of the gun emplacement (NAA 2001, 73). Pauline Beswick, however, had asserted that this 'entrance' was a post-medieval breach associated with the establishment through the fort of the track that subsequently became Winco Wood Lane (Beswick 1984, 2).

Substantial damage has been inflicted on the site during the second half of the 20th century. By 2001, locked A-frame barriers, a stile and a series of large sandstone boulders had been placed at the fort's Jenkin Road entrance in order to deter vehicular access onto the site (NAA 2001, 71-72). Other routes remained accessible, however, and off-road vehicles and dirt bikes were found to have created numerous wheel ruts throughout the site, damaging the fort's rampart, banks and ditch (NAA 2001, 71-72).

Numerous items had been dumped around the hillfort, including pushchairs, bicycles, car parts, garden rubbish and builders' waste. By 2011, concerted efforts by local people and the Trees and Woodlands Department of Sheffield City Council had removed much of the dumped material and had prevented the site from being accessed by the majority of off-road vehicles. Isolated areas of tipping remained, however, principally in the area between the hillfort and the housing estate to the east.

6 THE ROMAN RIDGE

The Roman Ridge (Sites 6, 35 and 36) is a linear earthwork, originally comprising a bank and ditch that runs for approximately 27km from Sheffield to Mexborough, the course of which passes along the eastern slope of Wincobank Hill (May 1922, 4; Cronk 2004, 1). The section of the Roman Ridge that crosses the hill forms part of the 'single' dyke, which runs from Sheffield to the Blackburn Valley and consists of a single bank and ditch (Cronk 2004, 3). From Kimberworth, the Ridge consists of two separate bank and ditch systems.

Ella Armitage described the Ridge as 'a bank of loose stones and earth, about 8 feet (approximately 2.4m) high in the places where it is most perfect; the ditch is about 30ft wide

(approximately 9.15m), and there is still, in places, a smaller bank on the counterscarp' (Armitage and Montgomerie 1912, 55). These descriptions did not refer to the section of the Ridge within the study area, however, or to the two Scheduled sections within the wider 1km search area.

On Wincobank Hill, the Ridge's earthen bank appears to have been constructed on top of the outcrop of Parkgate Rock sandstone that runs north-east from Grimesthorpe. The artificial bank does not appear to survive within the study area and the Ridge's former course is represented by a section of the natural sandstone outcrop along the eastern perimeter of a former football field in the south-east part of the site (Plate 3, 4, 63, 64, 65).

6.1 Principal interpretations of the Ridge

Paul Ashbee's contention that the Roman Ridge was 'the work of one engineer at one period…planned and executed as a single entity' (quoted in Cronk 2004, 3) cannot be demonstrated but may be supported by the similar dimensions of its bank and ditch at various locations, such as at Jenkin Road, Wincobank and at Hilltop, Kimberworth (Turnbull 1995, 3; Cronk 2004, 2). The bank was formed from the material that had been excavated from the ditch and does not appear to have been reinforced or revetted (Shakarian 2007, 5). The monument's simple construction method may suggest that the Ridge had been constructed in haste, possibly in the face of an immediate threat such as the Roman advance into Brigantia, which followed the rebellion of Venutius, *c*.AD 69-71; the lack of dating evidence within the earthwork may also imply a period of short-term use (Shakarian 2007, 5).

The Roman Ridge may have been a defensive barrier or frontier as, throughout its course the ditch is located always on the side of the bank that faces the River Don (Cronk 2004, 2). Should the Ridge have been constructed as a defensive barrier it is thus likely to have been built by people who occupied the land to the north of the earthwork, with any threat expected to come from the south. In that case, the Ridge may have been constructed either by the Brigantes in the face of inter-tribal or Roman aggression; by the post-Roman Britons of Elmet against Anglo-Saxon aggression or by the Northumbrians against Mercian aggression during the early medieval period (Armitage 1897, 42; Armitage and Montgomerie 1912, 61;. Cronk 2004, 12).

The Ridge itself may not have been intended to demarcate the actual boundary of Brigantia, Elmet or Northumbria but may have been constructed along a line of defensible terrain in the vicinity of these frontiers (Cronk 2004, 12-13). However, it should be noted that at several points along the Ridge, such as Kimberworth, Birchin Bank and Mexborough, the earthwork does not appear to follow the best defensive line (Cronk 2004, 235).

The Roman Ridge may have been a tribal or territorial boundary, constructed by the Brigantes, the Britons of the post-Roman period, the Anglo-Saxons of Deira or Northumbria, or possibly even the Anglo-Scandinavians of York. This interpretation need not require the Ridge to have demarcated a precise territorial boundary as it may instead have been designed to demonstrate the power and status of those who ruled the land beyond the frontier (Cronk 2004, 12). However, a political boundary designed for display would not necessarily account for the double dykes in the area to the north of Blackburn Brook.

Other interpretations of the Ridge's purpose have received less support and suggestions that the earthwork formed property divisions or separated areas in which different forms of agricultural activity took place are undermined by the extent of the monument, the size of the bank and the position of the ditch (Cronk 2004, 9-12).

The Roman Ridge has not been dated definitively, although Kathleen Cronk has argued that it is unlikely to have been constructed before 1000 BC, when similar extensive dyke systems were introduced into Britain, or much later than AD 1000, as the Ridge appears to have been used to determine medieval parish boundaries such as that at Wincobank between the parishes of Ecclesfield and Sheffield (Cronk 2004, 1-2).

6.2 The 'Roman' Ridge?

Samuel Mitchell argued that the Roman Ridge was constructed by the builders of Wincobank hillfort and that the two monuments were contemporary (Mitchell 1855, 68). Sidney Addy supported this interpretation, stating that 'those who carefully examine these earthworks will not doubt that the embankment...and the camp on the top of Wincobank wood were made by the same people. They are uniform parts of one plan' (Addy 1893, 234). There is no evidence to demonstrate this, however, and this interpretation is no longer accepted.

During the 17th century, the Ridge was thought to be a former Roman road. John Greaves marked the monument as the 'Kemp Ditch or Camp Ditch' on a 1692 map of his estates to the north of Jenkin Road, outside the study area. Greaves stated that the 'Ditch' was part of a Roman Road that followed an approximately straight alignment from Wincobank Wood to Bramham Moor, over 30 miles to the north-east (Cronk 2004, 65).

Joseph Hunter (1819, 15) maintained this interpretation during the early 19th century and suggested that the Ridge was a Roman road that ran east from Wincobank hillfort to join Ermine Street, the main Roman road that led south from York. This interpretation subsequently lost favour and the earthwork was marked 'Supposed Roman Road' on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map. In 1869, however, Alfred Gatty described the Ridge as 'an embankment or raised road' (Gatty 1869, 24). The latter phrase indicates the transition from the earthwork's post-medieval name, 'Camp Ditch', to its 19th-century name, 'The Roman Rig', as a raised road was known as a 'rig' in the Sheffield dialect of that period (Addy 1888, 190).

Henry Payne and John Burland walked the course of the Ridge from the top of Wincobank Hill down to Blackburn Valley in 1876 and stated that it was 'a recognised Roman road' (Payne and Burland 1879, 614). Although the course of a Roman road at Doncaster, South Yorkshire, is indeed named the 'Roman Ridge', there is no evidence to demonstrate that the Sheffield to Mexborough Ridge marked the course of a former Roman road (Cronk 2004, 8).

No finds of Roman date are recorded in association with the Ridge's course within the study area. However, a hoard of 19 1st- and 2nd-century Roman coins were found beneath a flat stone within the ditch of the Ridge in 1891, during the construction of Blackburn station at the northern base of Wincobank Hill (Addy 1893, 249; Cronk 2004, 70). Beyond the search area, a fragment of a 3rd-century hammer head *mortarium* rim was found at the level of the ditch's secondary silting, at Hilltop, Kimberworth (Greene and Preston 1957, 27). These finds are not considered definitive proof that the Ridge was extant during the Roman period, however, as

this material may have been deposited during a later period and an early medieval date for the Ridge's construction remains plausible (Cronk 2004, 70).

6.3 Medieval and early post-medieval views of the Ridge

The Roman Ridge ran through Grimesthorpe, to the south of Wincobank Hill. The Viking or Anglo-Scandinavian name of this area suggests that it developed from an early medieval settlement. Ella Armitage suggested that the lack of an Anglo-Saxon or Viking name for the monument indicated that the people who settled Grimesthorpe did not construct the Ridge and did not know who did (Armitage 1897, 40-41). In that case, the Ridge is likely to be a Brigantian or Elmetian construction. However, it is possible that the earthwork did formerly possess an Anglo-Saxon or Viking name but that this has not been preserved.

John Harrison's 1637 survey used the names 'Winco banck' and 'Wincabanke' (Ronksley 1908, 204, 209). It is not known if the 'bank' element relates to the outcrop of Silkstone Rock on the south slope of Wincobank Hill or the spur of Parkgate Rock on the east slope. If the latter, the bank is likely to have been the Ridge's prominent, Scheduled section to the north of Jenkin Road, rather than the more distant and less well-preserved section within the study area, along the east slope of the hill. Harrison was not concerned with the area's antiquities and did not record the 'banke' as an ancient earthwork or a supposed Roman road (Ronksley 1908, 204, 236).

John Greaves' 1692 plan did not depict that part of the Roman Ridge that ran along the eastern slope of Wincobank Hill, but showed the Scheduled section to the north of Jenkin Road. This part of the monument may also have been that described in John Gibson's 1695 English translation of William Camden's *Britannia* as a 'large bank' that ran east from 'a high hill called *Winco-bank*' (quoted in Guest 1879, 5). The preservation of this part of the monument need not imply that the earthwork also remained extant within the study area during this period, however, as the Scheduled section formed the ancient parish boundary between Ecclesfield and Sheffield and carried a formal right of way along the top of the earthwork. Landowners such as Greaves would have been unable to remove this stretch of the earthwork, while no such restrictions were in place along the eastern slope of Wincobank Hill.

6.4 The 1788 William Fairbank draft maps

William Fairbank's 1788 draft map of the fields between Brightside, Wincobank and Grimesthorpe (Plates 37 and 42) indicated that by this date the majority of the Roman Ridge within the study area had been removed or reduced to such an insignificant level that it was not worthy of depiction. It is not clear when this process began, although it is likely to have been undertaken in association with the improvement of fields in order to maximise agricultural production.

Fairbank's 1788 draft map clearly depicted the Scheduled section of the Roman Ridge to the south of Jenkin Road. This is the earliest known cartographic evidence for the Ridge and was so detailed that it included hachures to indicate the slope of the embankment and a gap to allow a footpath through the trees that grew along the top of the monument. Fairbank did not label the Ridge, however, and may not have been aware of its status as a surviving part of an ancient earthwork.

The 1788 map appears to have been a draft copy, produced in relation to intended enclosures in Brightside, and is considerably more detailed than the completed map that was issued in 1795. With the exception of the trees along its course, the extant section of the Ridge was not shown on the 1795 map, which gave no indication that it was an embankment. The presence of the Roman Ridge on the 1788 draft map appears to have gone unrecognised until the production of this report.

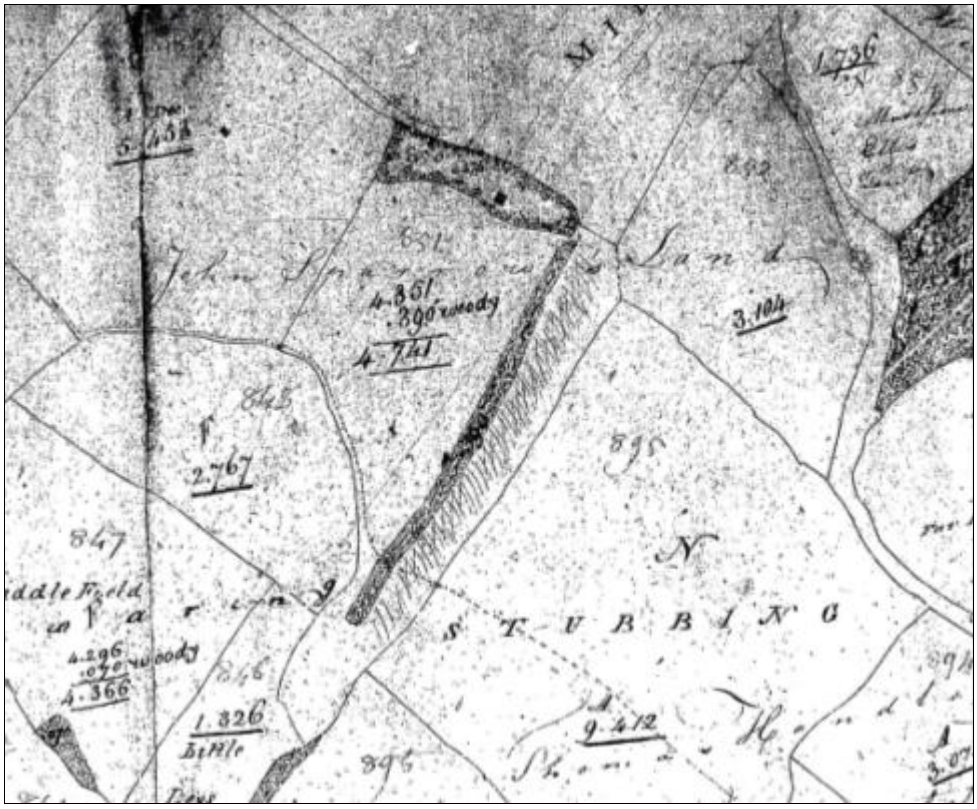


Plate 37: Detail of 1788 Fairbank draft map showing the Roman Ridge

Given the clear depiction of the Scheduled section of the Ridge at this location in 1788, the absence of any depiction of the earthwork in the remainder of the fields along the eastern slope of Wincobank Hill suggests that the earthwork had been largely levelled in the areas where it was not shown.

Samuel Mitchell was unable to locate the course of the Ridge through the Grimesthorpe area in 1855, due to a combination of agricultural land use and increasing development within Grimesthorpe village (Mitchell 1855, 69). The 1788 map suggests that the Ridge's course had already been lost in this area prior to the late 18th century.

Fairbank's 1788 draft map of Grimesthorpe (Plate 38) depicted 'Winco Knowle', the large sandstone knoll or outcrop in the southern part of the study area, but did not show the spur of Parkgate Rock on which the Roman Ridge was constructed. A linear area of scouring on the face of the Knowle suggests that quarrying may have commenced prior to this date.

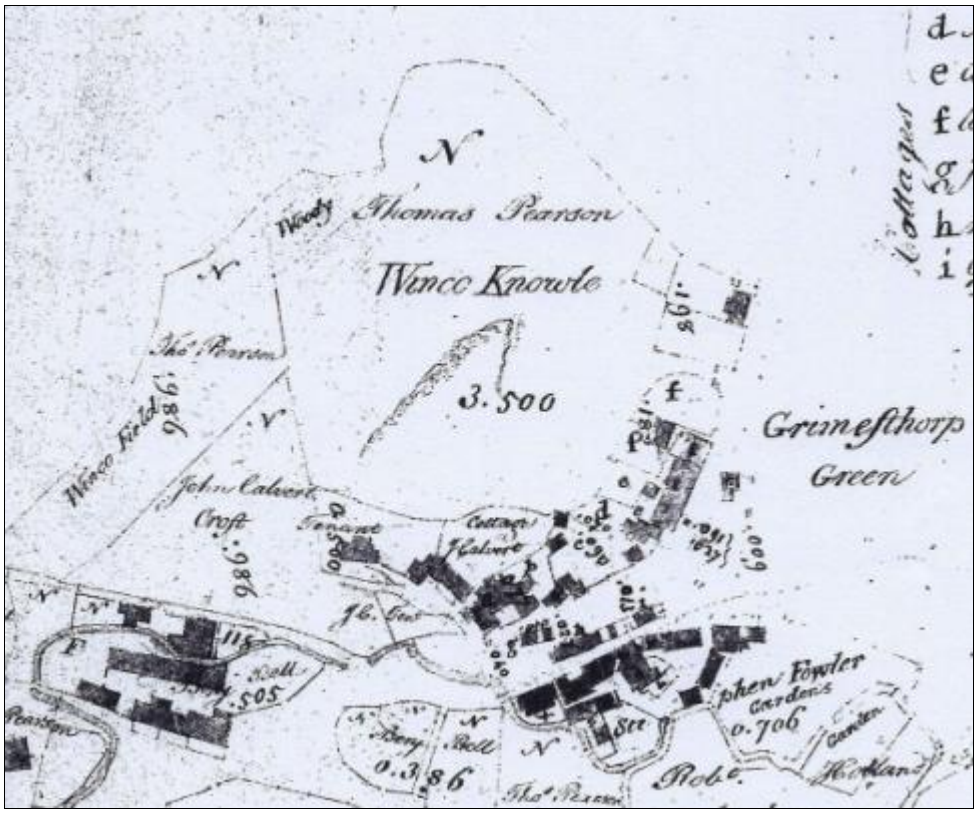


Plate 38: 1788 Fairbank plan of Grimesthorpe

6.5 Antiquarian attempts to identify the Roman Ridge

During the 19th century, several attempts were made to trace the missing parts of the Roman Ridge between Sheffield and Wincobank by projecting its probable course between the known surviving sections. Between Wilkinson Spring at Fir Vale and Jenkin Road, Wincobank, these attempts failed due to the prevailing belief that the Ridge ran to Wincobank hillfort and so was represented by the outcrop of Silkstone Rock sandstone on the south slope of the hill.

In 1879, the geologist A.H. Green stated that 'between Sheffield and Wincobank the sandstones overlying the Silkstone and Parkgate Coals rise up in a pair of conspicuous ridges. These natural features have been utilised for purposes of defence in early times. A camp is perched on the summit of the escarpment of the Silkstone Rock in Wincobank, and the escarpment of the Parkgate Rock has been artificially steepened and converted into the old earthwork known as the Roman Ridge' (Green 1879, 627).

The clarity and accuracy of Green's statement did not convince the region's antiquarians that the Roman Ridge had followed the outcrop of Parkgate Rock sandstone on the eastern slope of Wincobank Hill. Several elements appear to have influenced their position, including a lack of awareness of Fairbank's 1788 draft map, which showed the Ridge to the south of Jenkin Road but was unavailable publicly, and the apparent absence of the earthwork within the fields on the hill's east slope, either on the ground or in David Martin's 1791 engraving, due to the majority of the monument having been levelled in this area during the post-medieval period.

In addition, William Fairbank's 1795 map gave no indication that a large embankment was present to the south of Jenkin Road and marked the course of the Ridge only to the north of the road, while the unscheduled section of the monument at the south-east of the hill remained unknown until the felling of that part of Wincobank Wood in the late 1890s. It is also possible that A.H. Green himself was unaware of the Ridge's course on the east slope of the hill and that his reference to the Parkgate outcrop related only to the latter's extensive remains to the north of Jenkin Road.

The apparent lack of evidence for the Ridge's connection with the Parkgate Rock outcrop contrasted sharply with the prominence of the spur of Silkstone Rock. This disparity also appears to have contributed to the 19th-century assertions that the Roman Ridge ran to the hillfort, although the Ridge's 17th-century name, 'Kemp Ditch or Camp Ditch', suggests an earlier belief that the earthwork was associated with the fort.

Plate 39: Outcrop of Silkstone Rock sandstone on south face of Wincobank Hill, mistakenly identified as the Roman Ridge

6.5.1 Joseph Hunter

In discussing the Roman Ridge in 1828, Joseph Hunter stated that, at Wincobank, the earthwork was 'imposing and grand in the extreme' although it was located 'amongst the wood, and is not to be discovered without a strict search' (Hunter 1828, vii). Hunter located the monument with reference to Jenkin Road, the 'carriage road from Brightside' that 'cut' the Roman Ridge, 'near the summit of the hill' (Hunter 1828, viii). This suggests that he was not describing the section of the Ridge within the study area, but the Scheduled parts of the earthwork approximately 0.28km below the brow of the hill at Jenkin Road. Hunter did not attempt to project the missing section of the Ridge or offer a description of the monument to the south of Jenkin Road. This may have been because the land through which the latter ran was inaccessible or because the majority of that part of the Ridge had been levelled by the late

18th century and consequently Hunter was unaware of the earthwork's former course along the east slope of the hill.

6.5.2 Samuel Mitchell

Samuel Mitchell stated that 'fortified earthworks' were connected with the hillfort 'both eastward and westward' (Mitchell 1855, 68). This indicates an awareness of both the Silkstone and Parkgate Rock outcrops, although as Mitchell believed that the Roman Ridge had run up the south slope of Wincobank Hill, he is likely to have been unaware that the Parkgate outcrop had traversed the eastern slope. His 'eastward' earthwork is thus likely to have been the large, Scheduled section of the Ridge to the north of Jenkin Road.

Mitchell believed that both of the sandstone outcrops were defensive works and stated that from the north-west bank of the hillfort 'runs an immense bank, partly natural...of which the British have taken advantage, and artificial wherever the works required additional strength' (Mitchell 1855, 68). There is no evidence that the Roman Ridge ever ran from the north-west side of the hillfort or that a similar embankment in that area had been fortified artificially in the manner of the Ridge and remained extant in the mid-19th century.

The likelihood is that the 'north-west' direction was given in error and that in recording the 'outward ditch of considerable depth' that had been 'excavated on the south side of this immense vallum', Mitchell was describing the Roman Ridge to the north of Jenkin Road (Mitchell 1855, 68).

6.5.3 Payne and Burland

Henry Payne and John Burland visited Wincobank in 1876 and walked the supposed course of the Roman Ridge from the hillfort to the northern base of Wincobank Hill in the Blackburn Valley (Payne and Burland 1879, 613). Believing the monument to be a former Roman road, Payne and Burland traced its course 'directly from the camp' to the section of the Ridge on the north side of Jenkin Road (Payne and Burland 1879, 614). As the route was 'at first scarcely recognisable', Payne and Burland realised that 'others might differ from us in opinion as to its probable direction' and decided to describe its course in detail only 'where it is conspicuous, and admits of no doubt' (Payne and Burland 1879, 614-615).

Rather than following the line of the 'Roman road' across the fields, Payne and Burland walked down Winco Wood Lane to 'pass a group of cottages on our right hand, and presently enter the road to Brightside' (Payne and Burland 1879, 615). They then followed Jenkin Road until they reached a footpath on the left side, which 'coincides with the top of a well-defined ridge' (Payne and Burland 1879, 615). This is a clear description of the route from Winco Wood Lane to the Scheduled section of the Ridge that stands outside the study area to the north of Jenkin Road. Upon examining the monument in this area, they found that 'the ridge was for the most part natural, and that its summit only was artificial' (Payne and Burland 1879, 615).

6.5.4 Sidney Addy

Sidney Addy produced an extensive account of the Roman Ridge on Wincobank Hill in 1893, including an aquatint illustration by William Keeling of that part of the Ridge to the north of Jenkin Road. Addy claimed that the course of 'the missing parts...can be supplied from the portions which remain' and that the levelled sections had extended to the base of Wincobank Hill. The Ridge had then been 'continuous with the ridgeway which goes up the hill and

through Wincobank Wood, as far as the camp on top of the wood, and from thence to Kimberworth' (Addy 1893, 232-233, 238).

Addy's belief that the Roman Ridge was represented by the outcrop of Silkstone Rock sandstone was maintained despite his knowledge that the known sections of the Ridge in the Wincobank and Grimesthorpe areas included an artificial earthwork with a substantial ditch on its south side. The absence of a ditch 'or any artificial work' along any part of the Silkstone outcrop was held to have been due to 'the slopes of the natural ridge on both sides being so steep that a ditch would have been for defensive purposes unnecessary' (Addy 1893, 232-233).

Addy's account did not depict or discuss the Scheduled section of the Roman Ridge on the south side of Jenkin Road and it is not clear if he was aware of its existence. Soil appears to have built up along the north face of this part of the monument (Preston 1950b, 209), reducing its profile, while trees were shown along the top of the Ridge on the 1788 Fairbank draft map of Brightside and remained extant along the west side of the monument on the 1892 Ordnance Survey map. This part of the Ridge may thus have been screened from Addy's viewpoint at the north.

Addy's identification of an 'ancient way' that formed part of a 'Ridgeway' which connected Wincobank hillfort to the Roman Ridge at the north of Jenkin Road (see pp.7-9, above) cannot be confirmed on the basis of the current evidence, although it is possible that a track of unknown date may indeed have connected these two features. Joseph Hunter stated that, to the north of Jenkin Road, the Ridge pointed 'directly to the work', thus implying that the course of the monument itself ran to Wincobank hillfort (Hunter 1828, vii). A part of the ditch of the Roman Ridge that was identified during a 1995 South Yorkshire Archaeology Service excavation to the south of Jenkin Road was also projected to run north-west in the direction of the hillfort (Turnbull 1995, 2-3).

This discovery was unexpected as, by the late 20th century, the earthwork's course along the east slope of the hill had been accepted for several decades and the ditch was expected to run directly towards the Scheduled section of the Ridge on the south side of the road (Armitage 1897, xvi; Armitage and Montgomerie 1912, 55; Preston 1950b, 209). However, it should be noted that SYAS excavated a trench across, and a trial hole within, the ditch and did not attempt to trace its alignment (Turnbull 1995, Fig.2). It is therefore not known if the ditch's subsequent course continued towards the hillfort or, as is perhaps more likely, veered south-west in a shallow curve towards the Scheduled section of the Ridge on the south side of Jenkin Road.

William Keeling's 1893 aquatint depicted the monument as it descended the north-east face of the hill into Blackburn Valley (Plate 40). Keeling did not present an idealised impression of the way that the Ridge may have appeared when the monument was in pristine condition, but as it survived in 1893. The Ridge was shown as a rough, earthen bank, with a lengthy slope on the north side and a shallower slope into the ditch on the south. The bank appeared to be an undulating feature that varied in height and alignment as it ran down the hill, away from the viewpoint of the artist. Silting and the partial slumping of the bank's south face appeared to have reduced the depth and profile of the ditch, which did not show a counterscarp on its

south side. Three people were shown using the footpath on top of the bank; the compacted surface of this track indicated that it was a long-established footpath by the late 19th century.

Plate 40: 1893 William Keeling aquatint of the Roman Ridge on the north-east slope of Wincobank Hill

Martin Davenport's 1939 illustration of the Ridge's descent from the hilltop into Blackburn Valley (Plate 41) depicted the earthwork up to three times the height of nearby houses and thus appears to be speculative rather than a reconstruction based on evidence (Armitage 1939, 258).

Plate 41: 1939 Martin Davenport illustration of Roman Ridge on north-east face of Wincobank Hill

The existence of the unscheduled section of the Roman Ridge in the south-east part of the study area appears to have been little-known until this part of Wincobank Wood was cleared of trees during the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Cronk 2004, 50). This part of the monument appears to have survived due to its presence within a wooded area. The discovery

of the unscheduled section demonstrated that the outcrop of Silkstone Rock on the south slope of Wincobank Hill was not part of the Roman Ridge. The artificial earthwork itself had not survived at this location (Cronk 2004, 48) and the ditch was not readily apparent. It remains unclear if the ditch survives as a sub-surface feature.

6.6 Modern research on the Ridge

6.6.1 Ella Armitage

Ella Armitage produced the first explicit identification of the Ridge's course on Wincobank Hill in 1897, stating that it 'ran like a terrace' along the hill's east side (Armitage 1897, 38). Despite assertions throughout the 19th century that the Roman Ridge ran to Wincobank hillfort, Armitage 'failed to see any such connection on my visits to the camp' and stated that 'What I did see was that the Rig coasts the face of the hill at a considerable distance below the camp, from the point where it is cut off by (Grimesthorpe) quarry to the place where the Wincobank road crosses it' (Armitage 1897, xvi). The monument was so visible in this area that 'its line can be distinctly seen from the Midland Railway between Brightside and Wincobank' (Armitage 1897, xvi, 88).

Elijah Howarth subsequently acknowledged that to the east of the hillfort 'stretches a long ridge of sandstone rock, which is supposed have been used as a line of defence, with the gaps in it built up' (Howarth 1905a, 1). This appears to have been a reference to the section of the Ridge to the north of Jenkin Road, however, as Howarth also claimed that the Ridge ran to the fort (Howarth 1905, 1). Armitage subsequently refuted these assertions, stating explicitly that the common perception of a physical connection between the hillfort and the Ridge 'is an error' (Armitage and Montgomerie 1912, 55).

6.6.2 F.L. Preston

F.L. Preston attempted to trace the course of the Roman Ridge from Sheffield to Mexborough in the late 1940s. By this date, the unscheduled section of the Ridge had been identified on the east slope of the hill and had been marked on Ordnance Survey maps. Preston found that the Parkgate Rock outcrop was visible to the north-east of the quarry, but that it had been quarried away in the intervening area and its former course could not readily be distinguished. Attempts to identify further remnants of the Ridge in this area produced negligible results due to the 'extensive' activities at Grimesthorpe Quarry (Preston 1950b, 208). A 1948 aerial photograph of the area revealed the degree of quarrying and dumping that had taken place and supported Preston's statement that 'the ground here is confused' (Preston 1950b, 208).

Preston located the unscheduled section of the Ridge that had been shown on the 1935 Ordnance Survey map and found that it comprised 'two slight, but well-defined…wholly natural' ridges separated by a depression (Preston 1950b, 208). This indicates that the artificial elements of the Roman Ridge were no longer extant on the crest of the Parkgate outcrop by the mid-20th century. It is not clear to what extent this was due to erosion or damage, and the period in which the sandstone outcrop had lost its artificial earthwork is unclear.

Due to the absence of any artificial modifications, Preston did not record this part of the outcrop in detail and merely remarked that the 'ridges fade out near the footpath' to the Grange at the north-east (Preston 1950b, 208). By plotting a presumed continuation of the outcrop's former alignment, Preston concluded that the Ridge would have crossed a field to

the north-east and passed the south corner of the reservoir that had been constructed in the late 19th-century (Preston 1950b, 208).

A series of field boundaries appeared to have been established along the line of the Ridge, which further supports the perception that the sandstone outcrop had been removed in order to 'improve' the land for agricultural purposes. The alignment of the field boundaries implied that the Ridge, or perhaps a reduced remnant of it, may have been extant when the fields were laid out. The field boundaries were extant at the time of William Fairbank's 1788 draft map of Brightside (Plate 42) but are likely to have been established much earlier, perhaps even prior to John Harrison's 1637 survey (NAA 2001, 65-66).

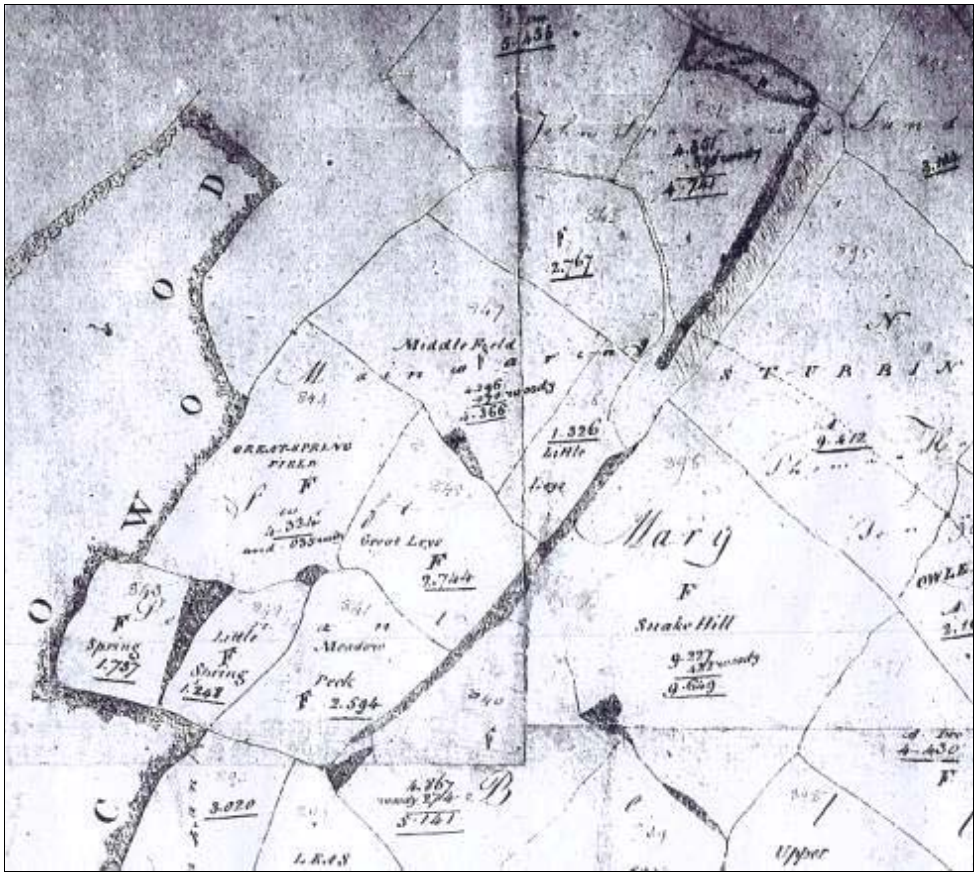


Plate 42: Detail of 1788 Fairbank draft map of Brightside

A linear band of vegetation marked the course of these field boundaries in 1788 although, in contrast to the Scheduled section of the Ridge, there was no indication that a large embankment was present in this area. The suggestion that the outcrop had been removed or substantially reduced along this alignment by 1788 is supported by Preston's discovery of a small bank, approximately 0.6 to 1.5m in height, along the field boundary. This is likely to have been the remnant of the Parkgate Rock outcrop and thus to have indicated the former course of the Roman Ridge. The 'stunted bushes scattered along its course' (Preston 1950b, 208) may have been the remnants of the vegetation that had been shown on this alignment on the 1788 map and which had led directly to the standing section of the Roman Ridge to the south of Jenkin Road (Plate 42).

Preston described the latter part of the Ridge as a bank that was level with the field on the north-west, with an embankment of approximately 4.9m on the south-east side; a 'berm' or mound of earth approximately 3.9m in width, was present at the base of the bank. These features were found to be 'continuous as far as the S.W. corner of the former plantation containing the now derelict Brightside Summer House. Here they end, the bank sloping to a former footpath alongside the wall of the plantation' (Preston 1950b, 209). This arrangement appeared to be unchanged from that shown in this area on the 1788 Fairbank draft map. No trace of the Ridge was visible in the field between this point and Jenkin Road (Preston 1950b, 209).

6.6.3 Kathleen Cronk

By the time that Cronk wrote in 2004, the prominence of the unscheduled section of the Roman Ridge within the south-east part of the study area had been reduced by the landscaping works associated with the reclamation of James Childs' steelworks tip and the subsequent creation of football fields on its former site. Cronk did not consider Preston's account of the Ridge's course along the eastern slope of Wincobank Hill to be definitive and suggested that 'the bank and berm he described could have been a natural feature'(Cronk 2004, 54). Similarly, rather than accepting Preston's 0.6 to 1.5m bank as the much-reduced remnant of the Parkgate Rock outcrop on which the Ridge had run, Cronk also dismissed this as a possible natural feature 'or the result of activities which had nothing to do with the Roman Ridge' (Cronk 2004, 62).

Cronk does not seem to have been aware of the 1788 Fairbank draft map of Brightside, however, which showed the Scheduled section of the Ridge on the south side of Jenkin Road when it retained several metres at its south-west end that have been removed subsequently. Whereas the Ridge now ends at the line of a former footpath, it had extended beyond the path in 1788, towards the field boundary described subsequently by Preston. This suggests strongly that, prior to its removal, the outcrop of Parkgate Rock that carried the Roman Ridge did indeed run south-west towards the unscheduled part of the Ridge, rather than north-west to the hillfort.

Cronk believed that the 'small camp' formed part of the Roman Ridge and may have been constructed to defend the earthwork (Cronk 2004, 47). The 1945 and 1948 aerial photographs show clearly that the camp straddled the sandstone ridge. The paths along the top of the outcrop appeared white due to erosion, while the boundary of the camp appeared black, perhaps indicating that the perimeters were marked by ditches, possibly cut into the sandstone outcrop and filled with subsoil by the 1940s. There is no further evidence to demonstrate this, however, and Cronk stated that 'if anything is now left of this earthwork it is impossible to detect it on the surface' (Cronk 2004, 60).

Aerial photographs indicate that by 1959 the western part of the camp had been buried by Childs' tipping operations, while the whole of the site was occupied by landscaped ground associated with the playing field by 1978. It is not clear to what extent the camp was damaged or destroyed by the landscaping works associated with the creation of the football fields.

7 WINCOBANK WOOD

Wincobank Wood is an 11-hectare, secondary ancient woodland that occupies the slopes of Wincobank Hill to the south and west of the hillfort. The post-Ice Age 'wildwood' survived in marginal areas, such as the slopes of steep hillsides, and is likely to have occupied the majority of Wincobank Hill throughout this period, with cleared areas containing settlements and their associated field systems.

Extensive tree-clearance is also likely to have taken place in association with the construction of Wincobank hillfort, in order to remove potential cover in the vicinity of the fort. The timber that was used to revet and reinforce the construction of the fort's rampart (Beswick 1985, 30) is likely to have been taken from trees that had been felled in the adjacent woodland. Beswick obtained 'pure charcoal' from a sealed deposit within the north-east rampart, but could not identify the species of tree from which it was derived (Beswick 1985, 30).

Wincobank Wood is likely to have regenerated during any periods in which the hillfort and/or any nearby settlements were abandoned. Following the final substantive rebellions by the Brigantes during the late 2nd and early 3rd centuries AD, the hillfort is unlikely to have been a major defensive site and may have reverted to 'scrubby oak woodland'. This is likely to have encroached upon and ultimately reclaimed the summit of the hill, perhaps for several centuries (Rotherham 1989, 2).

From the early post-medieval period, at least, the wood was owned by Sheffield's manorial lords, the earls of Shrewsbury, who are likely to have received it from their predecessors the de Lovetots and de Furnivals. The earliest surviving record of the wood dates from 1564, when William Dungworth was fined 12d for illegally felling trees within the 'green wood of the Lord at Wincobanke' (quoted in NAA 2001, 64). The Shrewsbury estate managed the site as a coppiced woodland in 1564, although it is not clear when this practice commenced (Rotherham 1989, 2; Sewell 1986, 1).

The wood was named as 'Winkobanke Springe' between 1596 and 1616, by which time the estate had passed to the earls of Arundel (Sewell 1986, 1). Trees within a springwood were cropped to the ground periodically, with the resulting 'stool' then left to grow multiple stems, called coppice or underwood (Jones 1989, cited in Sewell 1986, 26). Sixty acres of 14 year-old coppices stood within the wood at the time of the 1596-1616 account (Sewell 1986, 8) and the name 'Wincobanke Springe' indicates that the wood had been established specifically to produce coppices for sale (Jones 1989, cited in Sewell 1986, 8). It is not clear how much of the ancient wood may have remained extant during this period or where any of the areas of uncoppiced 'natural' woodland may have been located. The wood's size suggests that the majority of the ancient woodland may in fact have been felled in order to produce the coppices.

John Harrison's 1637 'exact and perfect survey' of the Arundel estate in Sheffield listed the site as 'Wincowe Wood', 'a Spring wood of Twenty Three years growth' (Ronksley 1908, 206, 236). By this date, the woodland comprised 77 acres and extended from the Ecclesfield parish boundary at the north to Grimesthorpe Green at the south. Land at the west of the wood was occupied by Arundel tenants, while the fields at the west were owned by Steven Bright, the earl of Arundel's bailiff (Ronksley 1908, 206). The location on the hill of the additional 17 acres

is not clear and it is not known if they had been taken from surviving areas of previously unmanaged woodland or were a recent plantation in previously unwooded ground. The manner in which the woodland was secured during this period is unknown (Rotherham 1989, 2), although a possible former boundary bank may survive in the form of an 85m linear earthwork to the west of the hillfort (NAA 2001, 73).

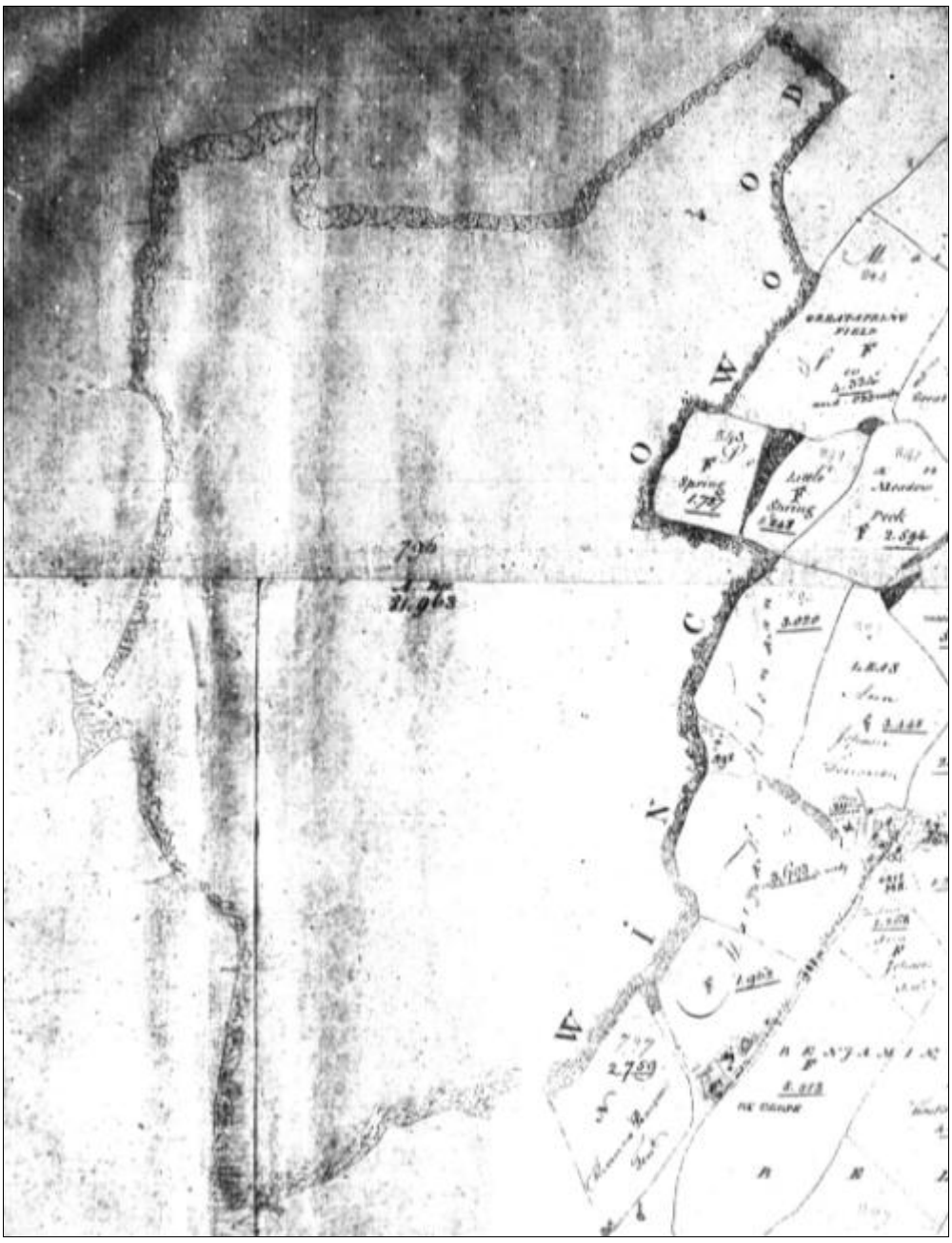


Plate 43: Wincobank Wood on 1788 Fairbank draft map of Brightside

Post-medieval activity within Wincobank Wood appears to have included coal and iron extraction, charcoal burning and whitecoal working. A series of possible iron and coal prospection pits was identified in 2001 between the hillfort and the north-east part of the wood, while a second series of pits to the west are thought to be 'broadly contemporary' features (NAA 2001, 67, 73). Many of these pits were extended by local children, who utilised them as 'dens' during the post-war period; several pits were also partially infilled by Sheffield

City Council during the 1960s (NAA 2001, 73). Post-medieval bell pits were sunk in the wood to the south-west of the hillfort, while a further series of pits were dug in order to burn oak cores for the production of charcoal (Leader 1910, 16). Whitecoal was also derived from coppiced wood and involved the use of kilns to dry out small slivers of wood for use with charcoal in lead smelting. Kilns associated with this activity may also have been situated in Wincobank Wood during this period.

Thomas Jefferys' 1771 map of Yorkshire (Plate 23) did not depict any features within the wood, while William Fairbank's 1788 draft map of the Brightside district (Plate 43) depicted the wood in outline only and David Martin's 1791 engraving gave no indication of any industrial activity that may have been taking place within the wood during this period.

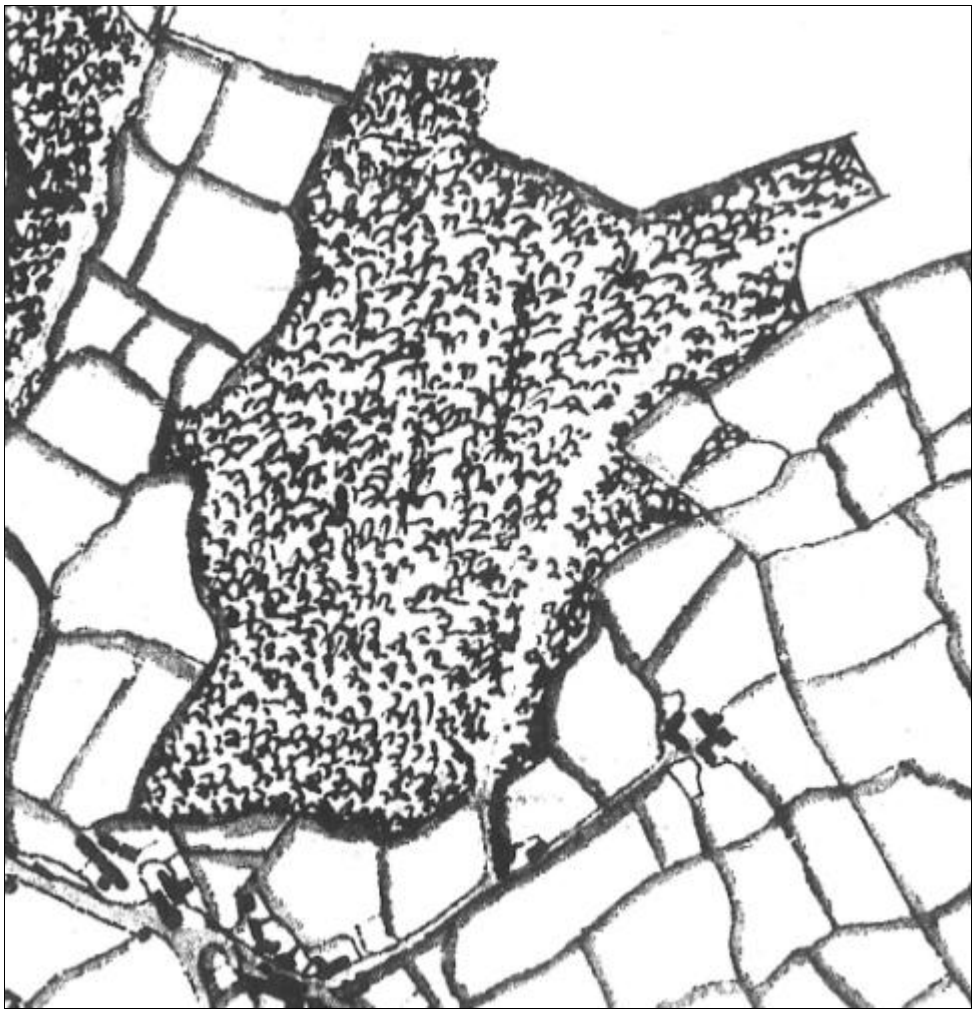


Plate 44: Wincobank Wood on 1795 Fairbank map

William Fairbank's 1795 map of the Brightside district (Plate 44) showed Winco Wood Lane as a substantial route that led south-west through the wood, before veering south as Winco Road, prior to its junction with Wincobank Lane to the east of Grimesthorpe. It is not clear to what extent the 1795 depiction reflected an actual route through the wood as, by the mid-19th century, only a series of meandering, informal tracks were marked in this part of the wood.

By 1810, Wincobank Wood consisted of 81.5 acres of coppices-with-standards (Sewell 2001, 64). 'Great Wincoe', the coppiced area that dominated the western and central part of the

wood, was 30 years-old at that date, indicating that the previous felling had taken place in 1780 (Sewell 2001, 65). The hillfort stood within an area known as 'Wincoe Holt', which contained 'standards' or single-stemmed trees that were sold for timber (Sewell 2001, 65). Extensive tree-clearance had been undertaken at the west of the wood by the time of the 1854 Ordnance Survey map, although the wood's north and north-east boundaries appeared little changed from William Fairbank's 1795 map of the Brightside district.

Regrowth had occurred by 1870, when the hillfort was 'clothed with trees and undergrowth' (Tatton 1980, 183). However, the wood was subsequently largely cleared through sales of wood and timber such as an 1883 sale of 102 oak poles, two rowan poles and one ash pole and an 1884 sale of 71 oak poles, 13 oak trees and several ash, elm, larch and birch poles in 1884 (Sewell 2001, 65). The inclusion of larch poles in the latter sale indicates that the wood contained coniferous trees by the late 19th century.

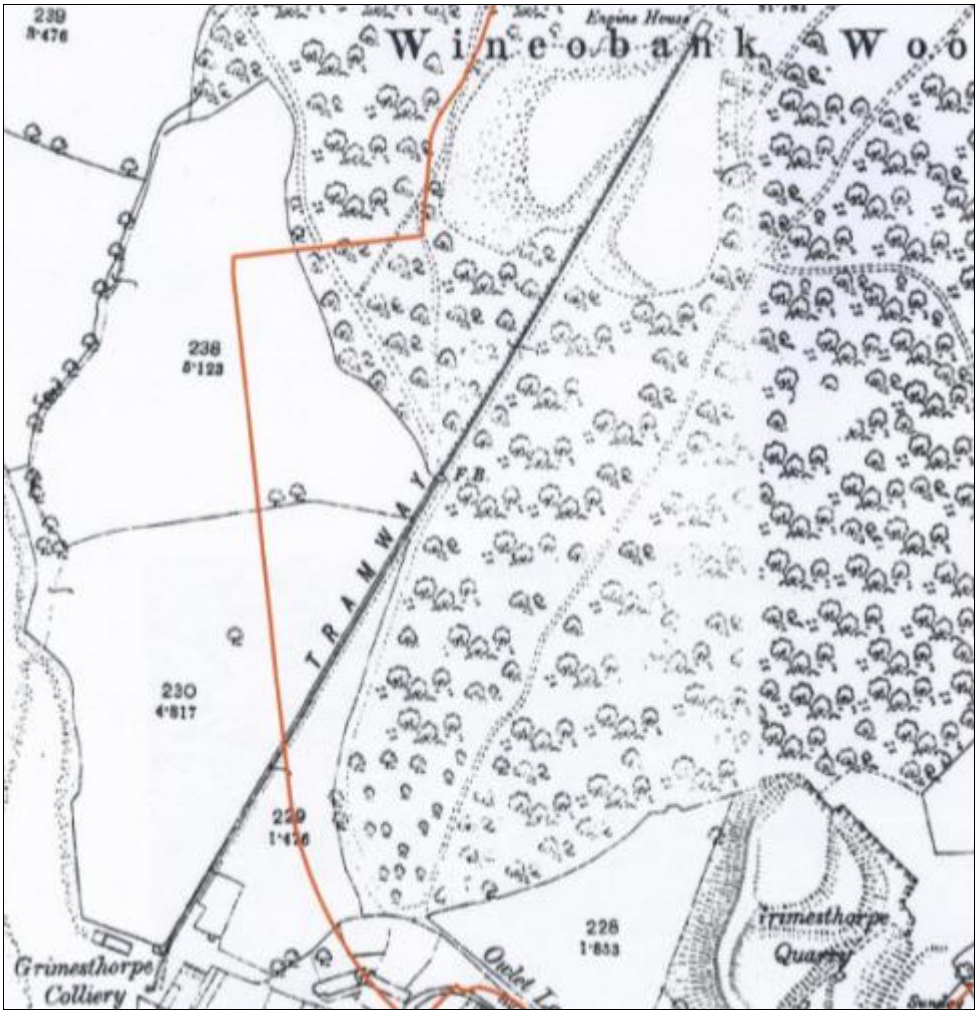


Plate 45: Grimesthorpe Colliery tramway, 1892

A tramway associated with Grimesthorpe Colliery was shown extending into the wood on the 1892 Ordnance Survey map (Plate 45). This feature ran north-east from the pit and terminated at an engine house that stood on the north side of a large spoil heap. Large areas of woodland had been felled by this date and, in 1893, Sidney Addy stated that '30 years ago...the thick foliage of the wood hid much of the embankments and ditches of the camp from sight. But now the trees—a few small oaks mingled with the mountain ash—are sparse and ill-thriven, and the whole camp...is well exposed to view' (Addy 1893, 233). Serious soil erosion and acidification is likely to have occurred as a result of this and subsequent large-scale clearances (Sheffield City Council 2010, 30).

The final sale of timber from Wincobank Wood was made in 1901 and comprised 30 oak poles and 600 hedge stakes (Sewell 2001, 65). Some of the timber from the final sale was purchased for Grimesthorpe Colliery, for use as pit props (Sewell 1986, 60). In 1904, 48 acres of Wincobank Wood was given to Sheffield Corporation by the Duke of Norfolk, with the aim of providing a recreational area for the city. This excluded the western and southernmost parts of the wood (Sewell 1986, 60). Iron railings were erected subsequently around part of the wood in order to demarcate it from the allotments that had been established in the area occupied formerly by the western part of the wood (Sewell 2001, 24).

The majority of the northern part of Wincobank Wood, including the area around the hillfort, had been cleared of trees by the time of the 1923 Ordnance Survey map. A sub-rectangular area of trees that ran south-west from the hillfort appeared to be the only substantive surviving part of Wincobank Wood at that date. Rough heath or scrub occupied the areas to both east and west, with an extensive series of rectangular allotments shown further to the west.

The clearance of trees from much of the woodland to the south of the hillfort appears to have occurred due to the illegal felling and coppicing of oak trees by local residents seeking firewood during the First World War, the 1926 general Strike and the Depression of the inter-war period (Jones 1989, 1; NAA 2001, 64). A 1948 letter written by John Collie, the City Engineer, indicated that an area at the north-east of the wood had been replanted with 'three or four hundred' trees during the 1930s but 'suffered the same fate in spite of full time supervision during the daylight hours' (Sewell 2001, 16, 18).

A 1948 report by the Engineering Department of Sheffield City Council stated that prior to 1939, the wood had been patrolled regularly but that this had stopped due to the Second World War (Sewell 2001, 16). By 1948, the wood was 'very poor in appearance…and for the most part devoid of vegetation' (quoted in Sewell 2001, 16). While the north-west boundary remained 'substantially fenced with wrought iron' an 'ugly tip of some two acres' occupied the south-west corner (quoted in Sewell 2001, 16). The report identified the 'most satisfactory portion' of the wood as 'some 10-15 acres in the north eastern corner', in the area known formerly as Wincoe Holt (quoted in Sewell 2001, 16).This part of the wood was deemed to be 'worthy of further attention and another attempt should be made at afforestation' (quoted in Sewell 2001, 16).

Allotments were marked to the north-west of Wincobank Wood on the 1954 Ordnance Survey map. These occupied land as far south as the quarries at Grimesthorpe. To the west of the allotments, the former wooded area remained rough, open heath or scrub at this date. In 1956, Charles Challen, vicar of Brightsde, complained that the site had 'been allowed to deteriorate to a waste land with derelict gun sites' (Sewell 2001, 19). James Childs, the owner of one of the tips on Wincobank Hill, proposed the creation of a playing field at Wincobank in that same year (Sewell 2001, 20-22). By 1961, this had been taken up by Sheffield City Council, with the intention of a football pitch being created on the site of Childs' tip (Sewell 2001, 25)

Sheffield City Council conducted a tree-planting programme to the west of the hillfort in the 1960s. Given the large-scale removal of trees during the first quarter of the 20th century, the present-day 'ancient' woodland appears to be largely a mid- to late 20th-century regeneration. By the 1980s, the introduction and subsequent spread of a variety of inappropriate species, including Scots pine, Sweet Chestnut, Sycamore and Alder, meant that various parts of the wood contained non-native flora (Jones 1989, 2).

Sessile oak made up 91.5 per cent of the wood at the time of a 1987 ecological survey of Wincobank Hill (Jones 1989, 1). Silver birch, sycamore, holly and hazel were also noted during this survey (Jones 1989, 1). Exposure, eroded acidic soils and high levels of air pollution restricted the growth and spread of potential fauna during the mid- to late 20th century (Rotherham 1989, 70). By 1990, however, Wincobank Wood was found to contain an 'impoverished', ancient secondary coppiced oak woodland, heather, scrub, amenity grassland, unimproved grassland, tall, herbaceous vegetation and had been designated as part of the Wincobank Hill Site of Scientific Interest (Sewell 2001, 64, 101). The wood became part of the South Yorkshire Forest initiative in 1993 and subsequently formed part of the Heritage Lottery Funded 'Fuelling a Revolution: the Woods that Founded the Steel Country', which was organised in conjunction with the South Yorkshire Forest Partnership. Within Wincobank Wood, this project funded management works to secure the site boundaries and to protect the site from undesirable activities.

8 RESULTS

8.1 Present condition of the site

A site visit was conducted on 2nd March 2011 by David Green, Mick Bruin, Penny Rea and Marie Gilman of the Friends of Wincobank Hill; Rowan May and Mark Stenton of ArcHeritage; Jon Kenny of York Archaeological Trust; and Jon Sharrocks of the Sheffield City Council North Ranger Team. The visit concentrated on the area between Jenkin Road at the north and the former sports ground at the south-east, with particular emphasis on the hillfort, the site of the Winco Wood Lane cottages and the wood. Further site visits were conducted by Mark Stenton on 16th March and 25th April 2011, with emphasis on the hillfort and the unscheduled section of the Roman Ridge in the south-east part of the study area.

8.1.1 Wincobank Hillfort

The hillfort is approached from the north-east along Winco Wood Lane, the surface of which is marked by parallel tracks of stone setts, which have replaced the Second World War military access road (Plate 46). The track splits at the site of the former BBC broadcast position, with the more informal branch veering to the south-west to run around the western side of the

hillfort, while the principal track enters the hillfort itself through a breach in the northern banks. The stone setts do not extend to the hillfort, where the surface of the lane has been reinforced with a layer of crushed stone hardcore in an attempt to offset erosion (Plate 47).

Plate 46: Winco Wood Lane, looking south-west towards entrance to Wincobank hillfort

Plate 47: North-east bank and 'entrance' to hillfort

The hillfort's northern banks are covered with a dense overgrowth of vegetation, while trees and small shrubs are present along the north-west bank (Plate 46). No obvious evidence for the location of the archaeological trenches that were excavated by Howarth in 1899 or Beswick in 1979 were visible during the 2011 site visits. The location of Beswick's trenches in the north-east rampart is known, but their site was not visible on the ground, which was covered by a dense overgrowth of vegetation at the time of the site visits (Plate 47).

Plate 48: North-east rampart, looking south-east

The hillfort has suffered extensively from erosion in the past, which has reduced the height of the banks. The most substantial sections of the inner bank are located on the north-east and south-east sides of the fort (Plates 48, 54 and 55). A footpath has been established along the top of the fort's north-east rampart, perhaps due to this being one of the areas within the fort to be least-colonised by trees (Plate 48). Some areas of erosion are visible along the course of the path, although these are relatively small when compared to the erosion that was visible on aerial photographs taken in the late 20th century. Rough grass occupies both slopes of the north-east bank, with scrub and bushes present along the outer base of the bank.

Numerous trees are located around the central section of the hillfort's eastern bank, which is not as well-preserved as that at the north-east. Trees and scrub are also present around the breach in the south-east banks that Pauline Beswick believed may have formed the fort's 'original entrance' (Plate 49). No obvious evidence for the former arrangement of an entrance at this location was apparent during the site visits, due to the vegetation overgrowth and ground disturbance. The latter includes the site of a quarry that has been excavated immediately to the west of the opening in the banks (Plate 50). The quarry, whose date is unknown, has caused extensive damage to the rampart and the interior of the fort in this area.

Plate 49: Breach in south-east banks, suggested by Beswick as site of original entrance

Plate 50: Quarry site near south-east breach in banks

No obvious evidence was visible on the ground for the course of the 'ancient way' described by Sidney Addy in 1893. A present-day track does run north-east from the hillfort's south-east 'entrance', but it is not clear if this marks the course of an earlier track or if it replaced the latter when the gardens of Fort Hill Road were created during the 1960s (Plate 51).

Plate 51: Track running north-east from south-east side of hillfort

Plate 52: Dumped material between east of hillfort and rear gardens of Fort Hill Road

Dense vegetation overgrowth was present throughout this area and the feature that may have been responsible for the 0.9m difference in ground-level that was shown on either side of the path in 1892 was not evident on the ground.

Numerous items of domestic and building waste had been dumped in this era, including beds, chairs, carpets, linoleum, polythene sheets and brick rubble (Plate 52). Several pieces of handmade brick were present in one area of dumping, among the trees to the north of the breach in the banks. The origin of this material is unclear.

Mature trees are largely absent from the hillfort's south-east banks, all of which are covered by rough grass and dense vegetation overgrowth and no longer contain the large areas of erosion that were visible on mid-20th-century aerial photographs (Plates 53, 54 and 55).

Plate 53: South-east bank and ditch, looking south-west

Perhaps due to the absence of tree cover, walkers have established a footpath on top of much of the south-east bank. Despite this evidence of the hillfort's use by walkers, the bank and ditch appear to be relatively well-preserved in this area.

Plate 54: South-east bank and ditch, looking north-east

Plate 55: South-east bank and ditch, looking east over the Don valley

An indication of the extensive views over the Don valley that were formerly afforded by the hillfort's location is still possible from the south-east banks (Plate 55). Despite the presence of the houses along Sandstone Avenue and the trees further down the hill's east slope, these

views support John Wainwright's 1829 statement that 'the camp at Wincobank is pre-eminently calculated for a post of observation' (Wainwright 1829, xxxviii). As the arrangement of the ditch associated with the Roman Ridge indicates that any 'enemy' were expected to approach from the south/south-east, observers at Wincobank hillfort would have been well-situated to detect approaches from this direction.

Trees and bushes are present on and around the banks between this open area and the breach in the southern banks of the hillfort, with the densest tree-cover being situated in the area to the west of Winco Wood Lane.

Plate 56: Interior of hillfort, looking north towards area of post-medieval quarrying activity

The north-west interior of the fort is occupied by grass and scrub. The ground is disturbed throughout this area, although no obvious traces of the post-medieval quarrying-related features, including rectilinear platforms, sub-circular hollows, a disused track and the footings of a former brick-built structure (NAA 2001, 71-72), were visible on the ground due to the vegetation overgrowth (Plate 56).

The former quarry site that was present within the hillfort's north-west banks and ditch during the 19th century does not retain the 'teardrop' shape that was depicted on Ordnance Survey maps from that period, but is marked by an open area, where mass movement of the bank has deposited large amounts of earth in the ditch, to create a 'terrace' (Plate 57). Silting and colluviation have reduced the depth of the ditch in many parts of the fort.

The north-west outer bank retains evidence of extensive damage created during the 1990s by 4x4 vehicles and off-road motorcycles. Steps taken in recent years by Sheffield City Council's Trees and Woodlands Department to deter vehicular access to the site by off-road vehicles has allowed vegetation to regrow in this area and the damage is considerably less visible than during the recent past. Ongoing tree and scrub removal work by Sheffield City Council's North

Ranger Team and the friends of Wincobank Hill is beginning to open up the hillfort views and reveal the extent of the banks and ditches.

Plate 57: 'Terrace' effect caused by mass movement of bank into north-west ditch

The majority of the fort's western banks and ditch are either covered with trees or located within areas of relatively heavy tree cover. From the 'terrace' to the central part of the western bank, the earthworks are less well-preserved than those at the south-west, although the vegetation and trees precluded a detailed examination of the banks and ditch in this area.

Elements of the multiple sections of bank and ditch that were shown around the south-west of the site on late 19th- and early 20th-century Ordnance Survey maps were visible during the site visits, but further features that appeared initially to be sections of bank or ditch proved, on closer examination, to comprise tracks or gulleys most likely to have been formed through later activity within Wincobank Wood.

The hillfort's outer banks give onto steeply-sloping terrain at the south-west, while a series of smaller, shallower banks and ditches are located on the higher ground towards the south (Plates 58 and 59). Several large pieces of sandstone are scattered around the latter area. Their provenance is unclear, although they did not appear to have been removed recently from the rampart.

A large amount of dumped material was found in the southern part of the hillfort used by Elijah Howarth in 1899 and was used by him to reconstitute part of the bank (Beswick 1984, 2). An irregular mound, approximately 9m by 7m, was identified at the south-west of the fort during the 2001 Northern Archaeological Association survey and may have been analogous with the remains of the dumped material mentioned by Howarth (NAA 2001, 74). No obvious trace of this mound was visible during the 2011 site visits.

Plate 58: Members of the Friends of Wincobank Hill at the south-west bank of the hillfort

Plate 59: South-west bank and ditch

The interior of the hillfort is traversed from north-east to south-west by Winco Wood Lane, the course of which was shown on William Fairbank's 1795 map of Brightside and which was marked as a bridle path on the 1837 Wincobank Hall sale plan. The establishment of this feature, probably during the post-medieval period, will have damaged the interior of the

hillfort, while the breaches in the banks through which it enters and exits the site have destroyed the banks and damaged the ditch in these areas. The breaches were formerly interpreted as the sites of original entrances into the hillfort but are currently classed as post-medieval insertions.

Aerial photographs from 1947 and 1948 showed extensive areas of erosion in the land to the west of the lane. The cause of this damage, along with the reason for its localisation within the western part of the hillfort, is unclear. It is possible that military vehicles or temporary structures were stationed in this area throughout the Second World War. No evidence of this past erosion was visible in these areas during the site visits. The course of the late 20th-century track that ran parallel with the lane before exiting the fort through a small opening in the south bank could not be established during the site visits.

Due to the position of the hillfort along the 'hog's back' ridge of Silkstone Rock sandstone, ground level is initially relatively flat on the west side of the lane, but slopes down to the banks on the east side (Plate 60). The course of the lane itself rises towards the centre of the fort, but slopes down towards the opening in the south bank.

Plate 60: Interior of hillfort, showing Winco Wood Lane

The banks and ditches at the south of the site had been damaged extensively by excavation and stone removal prior to Howarth's 1899 excavation (Howarth 1905b, 2). George Parkin is known to have removed stone from the site during this period and it is possible that the hillfort's rampart wall had been used as a source of informal 'stone-getting' since at least the early post-medieval period.

Much of the former arrangement of the banks and ditches at the centre-south of the hillfort was damaged further by the construction of the anti-aircraft gun emplacement at this location during the First World War and its removal during the 1970s. To the east of the lane, several

metres of the bank and ditch have been levelled in association with these works. The site of the gun emplacement appears to be marked by a large area of erosion or redeposited ground to the east of the lane's course through the hillfort's south bank. A raised and metalled sub-circular area to the south-west marks the site of the Second World War anti-aircraft searchlight that was installed to complement the earlier gun emplacement (Plate 60).

Plate 61: Winco Wood Lane, looking north-east towards sites of Second World War searchlight and First World War gun emplacement

8.1.2 Roman Ridge

Within the study area, the Roman Ridge is represented by an extant section of the Parkgate Rock outcrop on top of which the earthwork was constructed. The sandstone 'spur' runs along the eastern perimeter of the landscaped area on which football pitches were created in the mid-20th century (Plate 62). The former tip and the subsequent land reclamation works have raised the ground level on the west side of the Ridge, with only the uppermost 0.75-1m of the Parkgate Rock outcrop remaining above ground in this area.

Plate 62: Former football field, looking east towards Roman Ridge

Rough grass covers the Ridge, with the exception of an eroded track that has been established by walkers along the top of the outcrop (Plate 63). Sandstone is visible within the thin, compacted earth at various points along the track. No evidence for the artificial earthwork that formerly occupied the crest of the outcrop was visible during the site visits. It is not clear if this has been removed through erosion, human activity or a combination of both.

Plate 63: Roman Ridge, looking north-east towards Sandstone Drive

The Silkstone Rock outcrop that was mistakenly identified as the Roman Ridge during the 19th century is visible to the west of the Parkgate Rock spur. The two outcrops are separated by the former playing field, which is no longer marked out as a football pitch and is currently overgrown.

The Parkgate Rock outcrop decreases in height towards its northern end and appears to have veered down the hillside to the south-east. The modern track on top of the outcrop follows this alignment, although the sandstone spur itself is difficult to discern in this area. From this point, however, the ground level falls steeply away for over several metres, giving an indication of the original height of the outcrop (Plate 64).

Plate 64: Looking south-west towards crest of Roman Ridge from path on probable alignment of sandstone outcrop

The ditch on the south side of the Ridge was not readily apparent during the site visits. Topsoil on this side of the outcrop is present at depths sufficient to support mature and adolescent trees, however, and it is possible that the ditch has been infilled through natural silting or from mass movement of earth from the top of the bank. In that case, the ditch may survive as a sub-surface feature.

Several tracks run along the south bank of the outcrop; at least two of these features follow linear dips or gulleys and it is possible that one of these represents the former ditch of the Roman Ridge (Plates 64 and 65). Abundant vegetation overgrowth obscures much of the eastern side of the Parkgate Rock outcrop. It is possible that a programme of vegetation clearance may reveal the course of the ditch.

Plate 65: South slope of Roman Ridge, looking towards summit of sandstone outcrop

Extensive quarrying has disturbed much of the land between the extant section of the Roman Ridge and Grimesthorpe Quarry, the former site of Winco Knowle. No unambiguous evidence for the former course of the Ridge was evident in these areas during the site visits; however, an exposed rectilinear band of sandstone was identified within a wooded area on the lower ground to the south-east of the former football field (Plates 66 and 67).

Plate 66: Sandstone band to south-east of Roman Ridge

This large stone bank, the northern extent of which could not be accessed due to dense undergrowth and tree-cover, runs up the hill towards the Roman Ridge at the north-east. Twentieth-century Ordnance Survey maps indicate that this area was formerly within Grimesthorpe Quarry, however, and this feature's form and alignment may thus derive from quarrying activity. It is not known if this band of sandstone formed part of the Parkgate Rock outcrop on which the Roman Ridge was constructed or was quarried from Winco Knowle.

Plate 67: Exposed sandstone in wood to south-east of Roman Ridge

8.1.3 Wincobank Wood

The present-day Wincobank Wood is substantially less extensive than the woodland that was marked on Ordnance Survey maps prior to the 1920s and is situated largely to the west of the hillfort and to the west of the outcrop of Silkstone Rock on the south face of Wincobank Hill. Other wooded areas, such as the former site of Grimesthorpe Quarry and the area to the south-east of the Roman Ridge, were formerly within Wincobank Wood but had been clear of trees for many decades until these regrew or were planted by Sheffield City Council during the late 20th century.

The northern part of the wood extends from the outer bank at the north-west of the hillfort towards the new buildings that were constructed on part of the former Flower Estate during the first decade of the 21st century. Ground level slopes steeply down from the hillfort, before it becomes shallower towards the west. A series of steps have been inserted into the course of the footpath at the north-west of the fort.

Plate 68: 2009 aerial photograph showing Wincobank Wood at west of hillfort

Mick Bruin of the Friends of Wincobank Hill located a small mound at the eastern edge of the wood, adjacent to the track along the Silkstone Rock outcrop to the south-west of Wincobank hillfort (Plate 69). The nature of this feature could not be determined through observation, but it should be noted that Elijah Howarth excavated several small, irregular mounds in this area in 1899 and recovered items of jet and evidence of a hearth (Howarth 1905b, 4).

Plate 69: Small mound to south-west of hillfort

Due to vegetation overgrowth and dense leaf-cover, the majority of the parallel lines of pits that were visible on LiDAR data within the wood to the west and south-west of the hillfort could not be traced on the ground. Those that were located and surveyed were typically

between 2 and 5m in diameter and between 0.35 and 0.60m in depth. Several pits were identified in the bank or ditch of the hillfort (Plate 70).

Plate 70: Possible iron or coal extraction pit in hillfort's west ditch in Wincobank Wood

Several members of the Friends of Wincobank Hill were sceptical of the interpretation of these features as iron and coal prospection/extraction pits that had been created from the late 17th century onwards. David Green, Chairman of the Friends, recalled that similar pits were dug in the wood by local people seeking coal during the early 20th-century and that many of these features were also modified by local children during the creation of 'dens' in the 1950s.

A large track that runs within the wood along the western side of the hillfort was interpreted as a possible post-medieval woodland boundary during the 2001 Northern Archaeological Associates survey (NAA 2001, 73). This feature cuts several of the pits, indicating that many of them pre-date the track and were thus created prior to the 20th century.

Plate 71: Former boundary track in wood at south-west of hillfort

Plate 72: Possible regenerated coppice 'stool'

Wincobank Wood was managed for timber production for at least 340 years. The present-day woodland has retained a good quantity of genetic material (oak spp) which is descended from the post-medieval wood, particularly around the hillfort (SCC 2010, 30). Several trees in the

wood to the west of the Silkstone Rock outcrop appear to have grown from former 'stools', where a mature tree was felled and allowed to regenerate from the stump, suggesting that these are descendants of coppiced trees (Plate 72).

Ground-level within the wood slopes steeply down along the south-west face of the hill, before levelling off to the west of the former football pitch near the Roman Ridge. Various tracks lead north from this area and may have led to the allotments that stood to the west of the wood during the early 20th century. Traces of former allotment boundaries were visible occasionally within the extremely dense vegetation overgrowth that occupies much of this area.

Several areas to the east of the former allotments retain signs of relatively recent damage, such as wheel-ruts created by off-road vehicles. Access to the wood has been controlled to a greater extent in the 21st century than was the case during the second half of the 20th century, however, and vegetation has begun to regrow within the damaged areas.

No evidence of any features associated with the former Grimesthorpe Colliery, such as the tramway, engine house or spoilheaps that were shown in this part of the wood on the early 20th-century Ordnance Survey maps were observed during the site visit. Several quarry pits were identified in the woods, the majority of which were situated to the east of the main track leading to the former allotments (Plate 73).

Plate 73: Former quarry pit

Coppiced woodlands were protected by earthworks, such as banks and ditches, but few such features could be identified unambiguously during the site visits. Several earthen banks located within the wood may represent former boundary features but all had been truncated or were otherwise degraded and their former arrangements could not be determined accurately.

Small sections of iron railings that were visible occasionally within the western part of the wood appear to have been part of the fencing erected around the north-west part of the wood following its acquisition by the Corporation of Sheffield in 1904. These were not found *in situ*, however, and appeared to have been removed and discarded many years previously.

8.1.4 Winco Wood Lane Cottages

Plate 74: Site of former cottages at Winco Wood Lane

Vegetation overgrowth obscures the site of the Winco Wood Lane cottages and neither the locations of the buildings nor the perimeters of their former gardens can be readily distinguished. Traces of walling are visible in parts of the area, although the majority of the boundaries that were depicted on the historic maps do not appear to have survived as above-ground features. However, the site of a well that was marked in association with the cottages on the 1892 Ordnance Survey map has been identified within a wooded area several metres to the east of Winco Wood Lane by Mick Bruin of the Friends of Wincobank Hill. Several small areas of dumped red brick, including broken pieces of handmade brick, may derive from the former cottages or their associated outbuildings.

8.1.5 Wincobank Castle

Wincobank Castle was demolished during the 1960s. Its site is overgrown, contains large areas of uneven ground and is not easily distinguished from adjacent areas that were not developed in the past. It is not clear if occasional areas of rubble in the vicinity of the castle site consist of material deriving from the house or from incidents of later, unrelated dumping. The stone that was used to construct the castle has been removed from the site.

Neither the stone-topped earthen banks that ran along the boundary between the castle and Winco Wood Lane, nor any of the other perimeters of the plot in which the building stood, were visible during the site visit. Due to undergrowth and tree-cover, several pits that were

identified by LiDAR in the area between the hillfort and the castle also could not be traced on the ground.

Plate 75: Site of Wincobank Castle

8.1.6 Allotments

Dense vegetation overgrowth and areas of woodland and open grassland occupy the site of the mid-20th-century allotments that occupied the former field immediately to the east and north-east of Wincobank hillfort. No evidence of features associated with the former allotments were visible during the site visit, although the ground is uneven throughout this area and this may be due in part to the presence of former allotment features that may remain extant beneath the present-day overgrowth.

Uneven ground at the east of this area may indicate dumping and ground disturbance associated with the construction of the housing estate to the east. Garden waste and domestic items such as mattresses indicate that dumping continues to take place in this area.

Plate 76: Allotment site in former field owned by Steven Bright in 1637

Plate 77: Track through former allotments, shown on 1837 map, looking north-east

The former footpath that was shown crossing the field on the 1837 Wincobank Hall sale plan remains extant as a track through the wooded area (Plate 77), while the 17th-century lynchet that was constructed over the course of the hillfort's destroyed east bank and ditch also survives (Plate 78). The line of the outer edge of the counterscarp bank was traced to the east of the lynchet during the 2001 NAA survey (NAA 2001, 72). Dense vegetation overgrowth was

present in this area during the 2011 site visits, however, and the line of the destroyed counterscarp could not be traced.

Plate 78: 17th-century enclosure lynchet constructed over the site of the hillfort's destroyed north-east bank and ditch

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

Research conducted for the desk-based assessment has identified several previously unknown or little-known documentary and cartographic sources for various features on Wincobank Hill, including the earliest known illustration of the course of the Roman Ridge to the south of Jenkin Road, dating from 1788, original photographs and site drawings from the 1899 archaeological excavation at Wincobank hillfort and the previously undocumented 1903 excavation at the hillfort. Following consultation with all interested parties, this study has also identified areas of potential further work – these are outlined below. Any one of these pieces of work could also be used to provide training in archaeological techniques for community participants and volunteers.

9.1 Wincobank Hillfort

Artefacts recovered from the 1899, 1903 and 1979 archaeological excavations at the hillfort should be located and catalogued, with photographs taken for the Friends of Wincobank Hill archive. Many of these artefacts, including flints, jet, an iron 'lance head', Roman ceramic and a silver coin, are described in various textual sources and are known to have been deposited with Weston Park Museum. Accession numbers exist for the artefacts recovered by Elijah Howarth in 1899.

Further research could be conducted on the little-known 1903 excavation at the hillfort. The aims of the excavation, its site supervisor, timespan and outcome are currently unknown. Any

artefacts that were recovered should be located, catalogued and photographed. Site drawings and photographs should be located and copies procured, if possible.

Should permission be received to excavate a trial trench within the Scheduled Ancient Monument, analysis of the stonework of the hillfort's rampart (including the rubble core) could be undertaken to determine if this material was indeed 'charred by fire' and also to discover if the rampart was constructed using Silkstone Rock sandstone, which forms the outcrop on the south slope of Wincobank Hill, or from the Parkgate Rock sandstone that carried the Roman Ridge along the hill's eastern slope.

Given the 'barrows' that Joseph Hunter recorded near the hillfort and the various 'mounds' excavated in the vicinity of the fort by Elijah Howarth, the mound discovered by Mick Bruin in the trees to the south of the hillfort should also be excavated.

Information boards containing key maps, illustrations, photographs and text relating to the hillfort should be placed in appropriate positions, perhaps close to the curtilage of the Scheduled Ancient Monument where Winco Wood Lane enters the site at the north-east and exits at the south-west.

9.2 Roman Ridge

An attempt should be made to locate the ditch that should be present on the south side of the unscheduled section of the Roman Ridge. This could involve a programme of undergrowth clearance, followed by geophysical survey. Areas of archaeological potential identified by geophysics could be investigated with targeted trial trenches. This programme could also attempt to locate the site of the 'small camp' to the south-west of the Ridge.

Analysis of the large sandstone bank in the wooded area on the lower ground to the south-east of the Roman Ridge could be undertaken to determine if this consists of Parkgate Rock sandstone and so may have been part of the outcrop on which the Roman Ridge was constructed. This would contribute to the understanding of the monument by potentially adding a new section to the known parts of the Ridge and helping to determine the course that the monument took through this area.

Further LiDAR data could be procured in an attempt to follow the course of Sidney Addy's 'ancient way' between Wincobank hillfort and the Scheduled section of the Roman Ridge to the north of Jenkin Road. This may reveal if there was indeed a feature that connected the hillfort to the Roman Ridge. Alternatively, LiDAR data may reveal the alignment of levelled sections of the Roman Ridge.

Following the removal of vegetation overgrowth, geophysical survey could be conducted in the same area in an attempt to determine if Howarth's possible 'old causeway' exists as a sub-surface archaeological feature. Should positive results be forthcoming, trial trenching could be conducted along the line of the causeway/ancient way.

Information boards containing key maps, illustrations and text relating to the Roman Ridge should be placed in appropriate positions, perhaps on the edge of the former football field close to the northern extent of the Ridge. An information board detailing Winco Knowle, Grimesthorpe Quarry and their association with the Roman Ridge could be placed in the park that occupies the former quarry site in the south of the study area.

9.3 Wincobank Wood

Several good quality examples of the potential post-medieval iron and coal prospection pits could be surveyed and excavated. This may help to determine if these are post-medieval or 20th-century features or a combination of both.

Information boards containing key maps, illustrations and text relating to the wood's history as a managed woodland from at least the 16th century, with information on practices such as coppicing, should be placed at various points along the main tracks within the wood.

9.4 Winco Wood Lane cottages

Targeted trial trenches could be excavated on the site of the Winco Wood Lane cottages. In addition to the buildings that stood until approximately 1970, trenching could investigate the site of the large building that was shown to the east of the main block on William Fairbank's 1790 map. This structure had been demolished by 1837 and, as its site was not redeveloped subsequently, any sub-surface archaeological deposits at this location could be preserved in good condition. An archaeological excavation at this location would form an appropriate community project for the Friends of Wincobank Hill.

An information board containing key maps, illustrations, photographs and text relating to the castle should be placed in an appropriate position, adjacent to Winco Wood Lane.

9.5 Wincobank Castle

Trial trenches could be targeted on the site of Wincobank Castle, perhaps as part of a community excavation with the Winco Wood Lane cottages. The pits that are located in the area between the hillfort and the former castle site could also be investigated archaeologically during this programme.

An information board containing key maps, illustrations, photographs and text relating to the castle should be placed in an appropriate position, adjacent to Winco Wood Lane.

9.6 Allotments

A programme of vegetation clearance could be undertaken at the former allotments to the east and north-east of Wincobank hillfort. This may reveal the former allotment boundaries and identify the extent of survival of any associated features. This would tie into a project investigating the history of Sheffield's allotments being undertaken by Dr Robert Johnston at the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield.

9.7 Oral history

A programme of recorded interviews could be undertaken with members of the local community, with the aim of recording their memories of Wincobank Hill. This would preserve valuable local information that might not be included in more formal studies of the area. This would be enhanced by the use of recorded interviews, which would have the added benefit of preserving authentic local accents and dialect that may also be lost over time. Extracts from the oral history transcripts could be used in the on-site interpretation panels, and contribute to printed leaflets or booklets that may be produced in the future.

9.8 Survey

Various forms of survey could be undertaken to identify any surviving features that may have been shown on historic maps. These could range from simple walkover surveys, to record features in the field, to geophysical surveys in an attempt to identify potential sub-surface features.

9.9 Printed materials

Material collected during the production of this desk-based assessment, and any further works as outlined above, could be synthesised for inclusion in information leaflets or booklets which will help to promote an understanding of the historical complexity of the site.

10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND FINDSPOTS

The location of sites is shown on Figure 2.

Site no	Description	NGR	Identifier
1	Earthwork (site of). No further information on NMR.	437570, 390470	NMR 314843
2	Wincobank hillfort. The remains of an Iron Age slight univallate hillfort overlooking the Don Valley. The hillfort comprises an oval enclosure with an internal area of 1.1 hectares surrounded by a single rampart with an external ditch and counterscarp bank. Scheduled Ancient Monument.	437770, 390990	NMR 314855
3	Roman coin. *Folles* of Magnentius.	438200, 390700	NMR 314852
4	Road bridge, Jenkin Road. The bridge is mainly of 20th-century design, (deck and north-west abutment), carrying Jenkin Road over the railway.	438580, 390740	NMR 955776
5	Railway Bridge Weedon Street. Late 19th-century railway bridge carrying the Sheffield District Railway. The bridge is of blue brick with a segmental arch.	438680, 390550	NMR 955784
6	Roman Ridge. Scheduled section of possible Iron Age or early medieval defensive dyke or boundary. Scheduling accuracy doubted.	438100, 391000	NMR 1032985
7	Steel Works, Naseby Street. Mid-19th-century steel works of stone and brick.	438420, 390520	NMR 955789
8	Brightside Nursery and First School. Late 19th- to early 20th-century brick school of two main blocks. The main block is two storeys with two wings. The infant block is of the same style but single-storey, with the north wing incorporating housing in the form of a three-and-a-half-storey tower.	438580, 390680	NMR 955777
9	Pump House Meadow Hall Road. Late 19th- to early 20th-century single-storey brick shed of five bays. The building has segmental-headed windows in recessed panels.	438510, 390520	NMR 955782
10	Crown Inn. Late 19th- to early 20th-century public house. Brick building, now pebble-dashed with stone dressing to doors and windows.	438500, 390550	NMR 955781
11	Site of a First World War anti-aircraft battery and Second World War searchlight emplacement at Wincobank Camp. Scheduled.	437800, 391000	NMR 1106883
12	Possible Mesolithic flint working site.	437560, 390840	NMR 314846
13	White Swan Hotel. Mid- to late 19th-century brick public house. The building is of three storeys with decorated, paired round-arched windows.	438660, 390630	NMR 955779
14	Railway Bridge Colliery Road. Mid- to late 19th-century bridge with rusticated masonry to the entrance, ashlar piers flanking the opening and a segmental arch.	438300, 390430	NMR 955790
15	Railway Bridge Brightside Lane. Late 19th-century bridge built for Brightside Works and linking the site with the main line. The deck has been removed but the abutment remains.	438460, 390400	NMR 955793

Site no	Description	NGR	Identifier
16	Roman coin. Brass of Constantius Chlorus.	437750, 390860	NMR 314849
17	Brightside Works. The first activity on the site was in 1835, although the steel-works is now mostly demolished. It was situated on either side of the River Don, the Top Works and Low Works. A three-storey office block, perimeter wall and other buildings survive.	438510, 390310	NMR 955792
18	Railway Bridge. Brightside Lane. Late 19th-century railway bridges and viaduct over the River Don. Blue brick viaduct with round-headed archways. The bridge over river is of steel/iron construction in lattice-work style and the bridge over road is of steel.	438500, 390500	NMR 955783
19	Grimesthorpe Steam Grinding Wheel. This works dates from around 1840 and was occupied by William Wilkinson and Sons, sheep-shear makers until around 1898. The original two-storey building is built of stone and retains its engine house and chimney. It is an important example of a grinding wheel.	437560, 390090	NMR 1222430
20	Bridge Inn. Mid-19th- century public house. The building is of stone and brick with a hipped roof. Flower Estate, Wincobank. Desk-based assessment.	438490, 390460 437700, 391200	NMR 955786 NMR 1455379
21	Jenkin Road, Wincobank. WAT. No further details on NMR.	438300, 391200	NMR 1408310
22	Land Adjacent to Roman Ridge View, Wincobank. EVA. No further details on NMR.	438500, 391200	NMR 1352603
23	Daffodil Road, Flower Estate, Wincobank. Monitoring of groundworks along the west side of Daffodil Road recorded no trace of the Roman Ridge.	437700, 391200	NMR 1520099
24	Wincobank Hall. Excavation in advance of proposed development revealed the remains of Wincobank Hall and its outbuildings.	437700, 391200	NMR 1512929
25	Wincobank Hill. Excavation. No further details on NMR.	437800, 391000	NMR 630180
26	Land at the rear of 249 Jenkin Road, Wincobank. A single evaluation trench was excavated in advance of proposed works. No archaeology was recorded.	438300, 391200	NMR 1510030
27	Wincobank Hill. Exc. No further details on NMR.	437800, 391000	NMR 931463
28	Land adjacent to Ridge View Road. Desk-based assessment.	438500, 391200	NMR 1351076
29	Sandstone Road, Wincobank. Eva. No further details on NMR.	437800, 390700	NMR 1030836
30	Jenkin Road, Wincobank. Eva. No further details on NMR.	438280, 391180	NMR 1131651
31	Flint arrowhead, Wincobank. Casual find of an arrowhead at Wincobank, presently located in Sheffield City Museum.	437680, 390970	SMR 10930

Site no	Description	NGR	Identifier
32	Wesleyan Chapel and Burial Ground, Wincobank Lane. The old chapel appears on the 1923 OS map with BG (for Burial Ground) in the chapel yard. Built in 1883 on Wincobank Lane. An old Sunday School building used to exist at the rear (houses have now been built in that area). In 1925 the church amalgamated with the Methodists of Don Road, Attercliffe, and a new building was erected on the opposite side of Wincobank Lane, a little further down the hill. The older building was demolished sometime after 1925, possibly in the 1930s. Rev. John Vincent stated that there had been 'about half a dozen' gravestones in the old chapel yard, but that they had been placed up against the walls surrounding the plot of land. Today, the site of the old chapel is still clearly defined and overgrown. I suspect that the grave stones are still there against the far wall, which is invisible behind the vegetation. It is not clear whether the graves themselves were ever cleared. The fact that the plot of land is still intact, surrounded by the remains of the original walls would seem to indicate that the graves do remain.	437592, 390259	SMR 12134
33	Wincobank Wood. Iron Age and post-medieval Sites. 19 sites of post-medieval date were recorded during Level 2 and 3 survey of Wincobank Wood between December 2000 and July 2001. These include the scheduled (SM 13375) Iron Age Hillfort and associated field boundaries, quarries, platforms and hollows. Post-medieval prospection pits, banks, trackway, hollows and quarries and modern allotments and greenhouse building. The Iron Age hillfort and post-medieval prospection pits were subject to Level 3 survey.	437619, 390877	SMR 12328
34	Firth Park and Hinde Common post-medieval Sites. 11 sites of post-medieval to modern date were recorded during Level 2 survey of Firth Park and Hinde Common between December 2000 and February 2001. These include a pit, platforms, terraces, quarrying pit trackway and hollows.	437081, 390854	SMR 12330
35	Roman Ridge, Wincobank. North-east of Jenkin Road. Section 550m long between Jenkin Lane and Tyler Street. Scheduled Ancient Monument.	438619,391391	SMR 3739
36	Roman Ridge, Wincobank. Section 180m long on south-east slopes of Wincobank Hill.	437700, 390600	SMR 3740
37	Unclassified earthworks, now lost. In early 1930s, slight traces of a low bank on the western side of the summit of the low hill. 1965 OS investigation indicates that any trace had been obliterated by the construction of a playing field.	437570, 390470	SMR 4198

Site no	Description	NGR	Identifier
38	Wincobank Hillfort, Wincobank, Sheffield. Comprises an oval enclosure with an internal area of 1.1ha surrounded by a single rampart with an external ditch and counterscarp bank. Although eroded in places, the rampart survives to a height of up to 2.8m from the bottom of the ditch, which has an average width of 10m. A partial excavation of the rampart and counterscarp bank was carried out in 1899 by Elijah Howarth, curator of Sheffield Museum. Rampart was originally built as a wall, 5.5m thick, consisting of large stones facing a core of earth and rubble bonded by timber lacing. The counterscarp bank was built from earth and stone cast up from the ditch. Radio-carbon dates from Pauline Beswick's 1979 trench indicate a construction date of *c*.500 BC. Burnt and vitrified stone and charred timber found by Howarth show that the rampart was fired, possibly as an attempt at strengthening vitrification or as a result of inter-tribal warfare during the later Iron Age. In May 1979, drainage channels and a soakaway were cut through the rampart at the north east end of the hillfort. Pauline Beswick, Keeper of Antiquities at Sheffield City Museum, observed the work and recorded the archaeological features revealed. The rampart was found to be built of stone, timber-laced and badly burnt. There was no indication of the rampart terminating for a gateway, as was suggested by F. Preston in 1954. Beswick believed that the gap on the south east side was the original entrance, as the ramparts turn inwards slightly at that point. A mound set close to the rampart is likely to be the site of a guard tower. Two radiocarbon dates were recovered from sealed contexts. These indicate that the excavated area of the rampart was constructed around 500 BC. This makes Wincobank broadly contemporary with Almondbury (Yorkshire) and Castercliff (Lancashire) hillforts. Howarth's 1899 excavations of Wincobank were not published, but records remain in Sheffield Museum. Howarth recovered some of the only material culture found at the fort, including Roman pottery from the ditch on the south side of the fort and flints from the rampart on the north side. Mesolithic flints dating from 5000-1000 BC have been found on the hill, as have a Bronze Age axe head and quartize macehead. Joseph Hunter referred to possible barrows on the south and west slopes of the hill. Howarth also excavated several mounds outside the fort, in one of which he found a hearth and pieces of worked jet, shale or cannel coal. In the 1940s, J. Radley found 20 flints within the hillfort and a further 70 on a small 'flat' fringed by the Roman Ridge. The flints from the latter site appeared to be Mesolithic in date. The fort, from which there are extensive views in every direction, overlooks the Don Valley from Sheffield to beyond Rotherham, and also dominates the route northwards through the Blackburn Valley.	437770, 390990	SMR 4199
39	Hearth. South of Wincobank hillfort. A hearth containing 3 pieces of unworked jet was found in a mound outside the fort on the south. Roman pottery, probably early 2nd-century in date was found in the ditch above a possible earlier turf line.	437800, 391000	SMR 4200
40	Wincobank hillfort. First World War anti-aircraft battery and Second World War searchlight. Scheduled.	437770, 390990	SMR 4201

Site no	Description	NGR	Identifier
41	Tyler Street Munitions Huts. Temporary houses were built on this site for use by munitions workers. They were occupied during the First World War by Belgian refugees and by 300 Sheffield families until their demolition in 1939.	438700, 391000	SMR 6919
42	Grimesthorpe Grinding Wheel, Sheffield. Situated on Chambers Lane, Grimesthorpe. The west section, running east-west, is built of stone & is two- storeys high. The east section is three- storeys high and brick-built, running north-south. The west section has a slate roof, and the frontage has been partly refaced. A 1795 map shows no building on the site but an 1825 directory shows a manufacturer of steels, knives & shears in the area. An 1851 map shows the building.	437561, 390091	SMR 6961
43	Sandstone Road, Wincobank. A total of four trenches were excavated during the evaluation work. However, no evidence of archaeological deposits were discovered and no finds were retained. The area was generally found to be heavily disturbed by 19th- and 20th-century earthmoving and landscape modelling.	437830, 390716	SMR 7143
44	Jenkin Road, Wincobank. Two phases of test pitting/trial trenching were carried out here that revealed a ditch thought to be associated with the Roman Ridge, which does not survive as an earthwork at this location.	438280, 391180	SMR 7145
45	Roman coin, High Wincobank. Silver *denarius* of Vespasian found *c*.1908.	437700, 391400	SMR 9464
46	Mesolithic flints, Wincobank Wood. Many artefacts, including two microliths, now in Sheffield Museum have been found at Wincobank Hill.	437560, 390840	SMR 9466
47	Roman coin, Wincobank. Very worn coin of Constantius Chlorus, AD 305-306. Found before 1925 near east entrance to hill fort.	437750, 390860	SMR 9467
48	Roman coin, Wincobank. Roman coin, a *follies* of Magnentius, AD 350-53. Found in garden west of Limpsfield Road.	438200, 390750	SMR 9468