

The archaeological investigation

Spread over three years, this set out to seek evidence that might answer the questions.

2016 - Geo-physical survey

Using magnetometers and electrical resistivity probes, the whole field was surveyed. These devices can reveal the presence of buried walls, ditches and pits.



2017 - Earthwork survey

Using GPS and theodolites, the "humps and bumps" were quantified, measured and plotted on a scale drawing.



2018 - Excavation

The two surveys were then used to identify targets for the excavation. A total of four trenches were dug in 29°C heat, during the hottest two weeks of summer.



What did we learn?

Trench A revealed a long-house building, as indicated by the line of pad stones (below left). The building faced the hollow-way and was aligned parallel to it.

Trench D revealed a series of ditches that had formed a boundary line facing the hollow-way.

All four trenches produced lots of pieces of pottery, nearly all of the type known as East Cleveland ware. There is documentary evidence of a kiln at Skelton. Could these pieces have been made close by?

As ever, excavation answers questions but also poses new ones.

For more information contact:
skeltonhistorygroup@gmail.com



Skelton Villages Civic



BOROUGHGATE: SKELTON'S MEDIEVAL PAST

Introduction

The "gate" part of the name comes from old Scandinavian and means a street or path. A "borough" was a formally planned centre for commercial activity - a medieval town.

Guisborough is an example of a town that survived and thrived. Skelton's borough didn't. Why not? When was it occupied? Was there just one attempt to establish it or more than one?



The site today

The field (above) is just a series of humps and bumps. Some of these are the remains of medieval "rigg and furrow" cultivation. But others could be embankments or boundary features.

Skelton's Medieval Past

There are two information boards, one at each end of the Boroughgate footpath. The southern one includes an outlier from the main mosaic trail (see bottom right).



The long-house would have been of cruck-frame construction (bottom left) with the larger pad stones taking the ends of the cruck frames.

A selection of finds is shown below:



Boroughgate

LEGEND

- Public footpaths
- Access via Wiltshire Road
- Access via South Terrace
- Access via Back Lane

