West Yorkshire

Earthwork sites

Barwick-in-Elmet **SE 3985 3760**

The medieval motte and bailey castle and manorial centre at Barwick-in-Elmet to the north-east of Leeds included two enclosures around 6.1 hectares in area, one or both of which might have been part of an earlier Iron Age hillfort, situated on an elevated spur of ground with steep sides to the north, and close to a series of springs and becks. Substantial prehistoric earthworks survive, especially on the northern and western sides of the site. There might have been entrances to the north-west and south-east of the larger enclosure on Wendel Hill. It has not been excavated, and so lacks any dates. It is possible that some banks and ditches reflect post-Roman and medieval occupation.

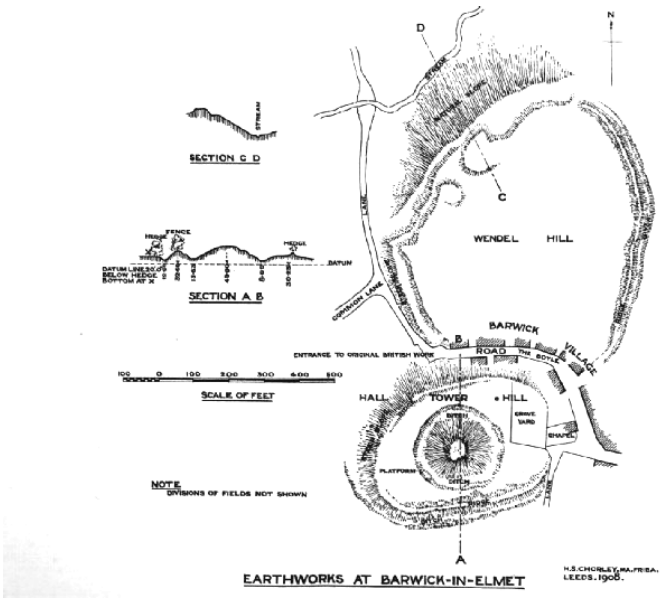


Figure G.11. (left). *Early survey of the earthworks at Barwick-in-Elmet, W. Yorks. (Source: Colman 1908).*

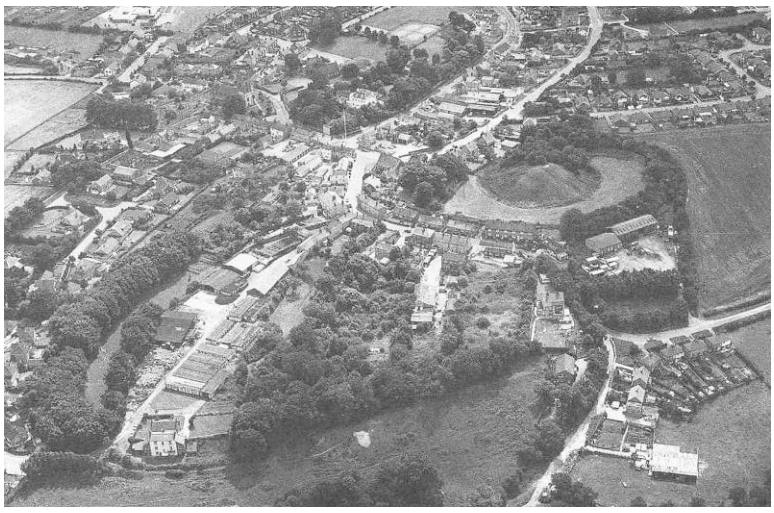


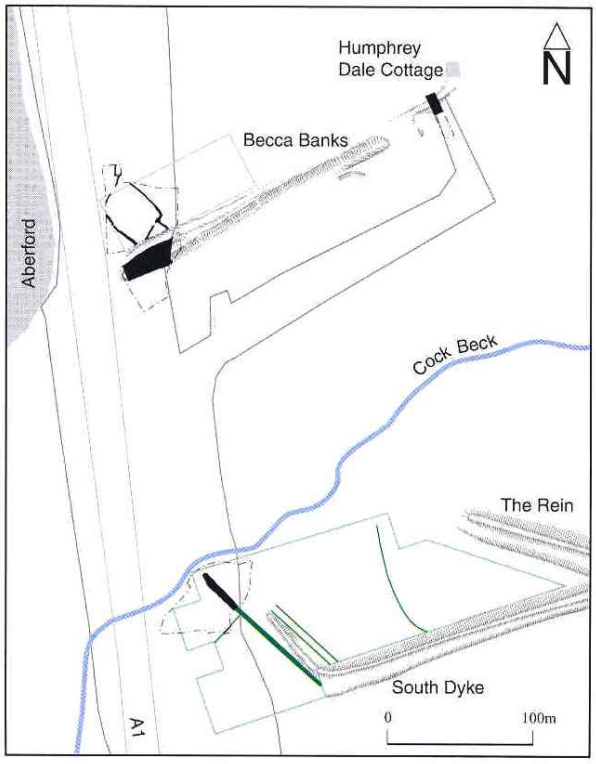
Figure G.12. (left). *Aerial photograph of the earthworks at Barwick-in-Elmet. (Source: Yarwood and Marriott 1988a: 40).*

References: Colman 1908; Keighley 1981: 116; Ramm 1966.

Becca Banks SE 4370 3780

Figure G.13. *Part of the Becca Banks east of Aberford, showing both as an earthwork and as a soilmark in the ploughed fields. (Yarwood and Mariott 1988a: 38, plate 28).*

This large earthwork has been traced for at least 5.5km from Potterton Bridge near Barwick-in-Elmet to the west to Hayton Wood in the east. It seems to have not attracted much antiquarian interest, and was first described by O.G.S. Crawford (1953: 247), although his claim of a stone revetment seems doubtful. Small sections were excavated in 1962 and 1967 (Brooks 1967; Wilson and Hurst 1963), but in the absence of artefactual evidence the earthwork was regarded as early medieval in origin.



More recently, construction of the M1-A1 Link Road has allowed the earthwork to be investigated in two locations. Interestingly, aerial photographic evidence suggested that to the north-east of Aberford, the earthworks cut across the line of a double-ditched trackway (Deegan 2001b: 25), and geophysical survey and excavation revealed that the section just to the north of Cock Beck had been constructed across a subrectangular enclosure and associated ditches (Burgess and Wheelhouse 2001: 138-140).

Figure G.14. (left). *The line of Becca Banks east of Aberford, broadly parallel to Cock Beck. (Source: Deegan 2001b: 34).*

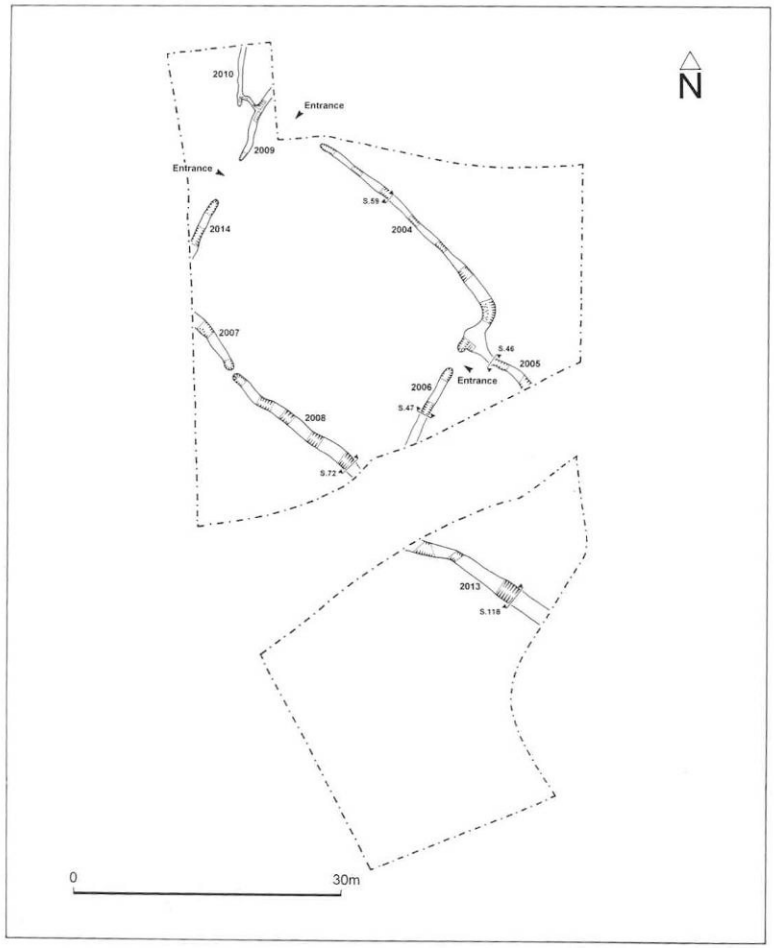


Figure G.15. *The enclosure and associated ditches pre-dating the construction of the Becca Banks earthwork. (Source: Burgess and Wheelhouse 2001: 138, fig. 106).*

The enclosure was 30m long and 25m wide, with three possible entrances to the north-east, north-west and south-east, and ditches up to 1.2m wide and 0.95m deep. No internal features were identified, and no finds were recovered, but soil micromorphology indicated that only a short amount of time had elapsed between the construction of the enclosure and the building of the earthwork (Carter, Long and Tipping 2001). Pollen analyses suggested a largely open landscape of grassland and uncultivated heathland, this information coming from the buried soil underneath the bank which also contained three sherds of hand-made, possibly late Iron Age pottery. The bank proved to be at least 13m wide and was still upstanding to a height of 2.8m, with a ditch approximately 3m deep. The ditch fills contained some Roman pottery and animal bone, and a ^{14}C date of AD 559-674 was obtained from some of this bone (Burgess and Wheelhouse 2001: 144). Upper ditch fills contained Saxon and medieval pottery. A construction date between the late Iron Age and seventh century AD is thus possible, although given the Iron Age dates obtained from excavations of the South Dyke earthwork (see below), a very late prehistoric origin is perhaps more likely.

References: Brooks 1967; Wheelhouse and Burgess 2001; Wilson and Hurst 1963; Yarwood and Marriott 1988a.

Camp House, Bramhope SE 2480 4220

This is a small rectangular earthwork with a single bank and ditch, surviving as very faint earthworks on a very gentle south-east facing slope near Camp House Farm.

References: Keighley 1981.

Castle Hill hillfort, Almondbury SE 1525 1410

Castle Hill, south-east of Huddersfield, was excavated by Varley during 1936-1939 but has only been published in interim form. Castle Hill was located on a prominent, steep-sided hill overlooking the River Holme to the east and south, the River Colne to the north, and the Fenay Beck to the north-east. Around 3.2ha in area, it was once proposed as the 'headquarters' of the Brigantian leader Cartimandua.

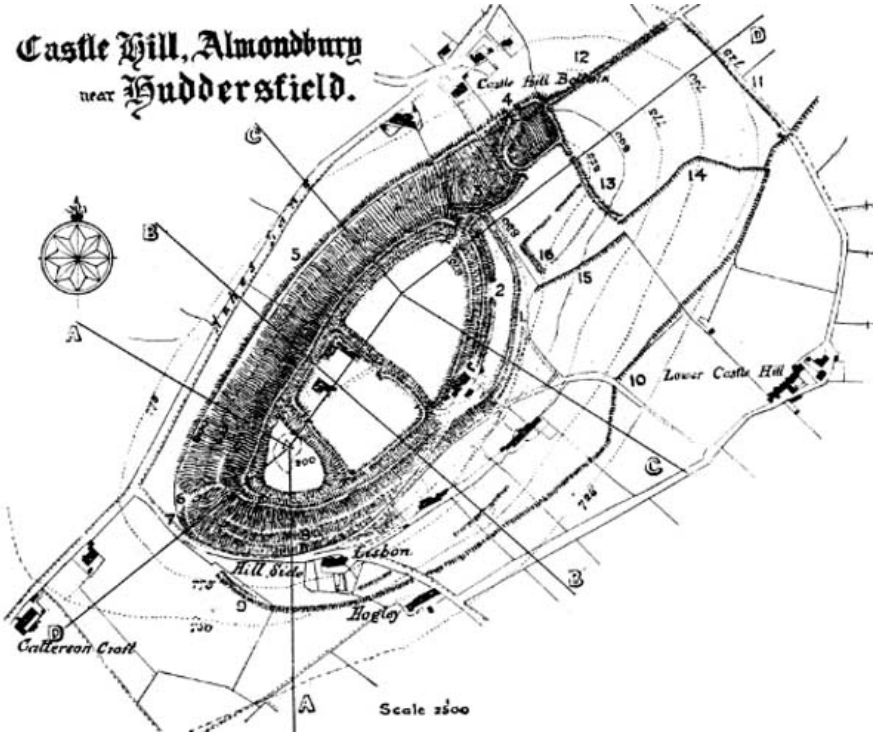


Figure G.16. *Plan of the earthworks at Castle Hill, Almondbury. (Source: Armitage 1900).*

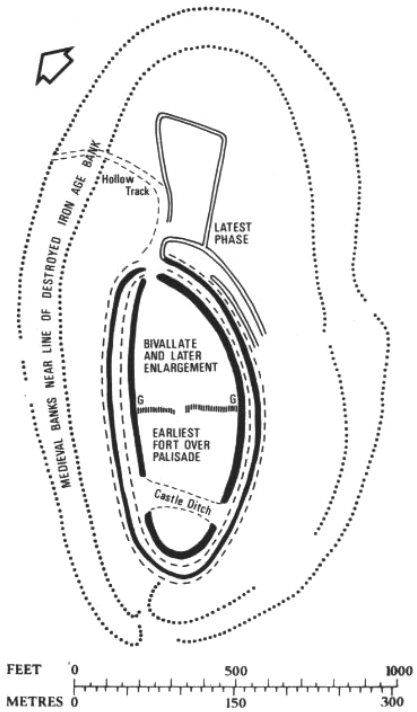


Figure G.17. (left). *Interpretative plan of Castle Hill, showing the several possible phases of development and elaboration. (Source: World Wide Web http://www.brigantesnation.com).*

Further excavation in 1969-1972, and radiocarbon dating demonstrated that much of the occupation took place during the earlier first millennium BC, beginning in the later Bronze Age, perhaps with a univallate, then a bivallate structure. Further work on the ceramic assemblage recovered by Varley identified some sherds as early Iron Age pottery (Gilks 1992).

Interestingly, three sherds of later Iron Age pottery have been identified from excavations at Pontefract Castle (Cumberpatch and Robbins n.d.), which suggests that at that location too there may have been later prehistoric occupation underneath the medieval archaeological remains. Castle Hill was probably destroyed or abandoned by 500 BC, and although Roman pottery was found during excavations the site seems to have been largely disused until the medieval re-fortification. The landscape setting of this site is interesting. It is situated on a very pronounced local hilltop (below) in quite an undulating landscape, but overlooks the junction of the Rivers Holme and Colne, a locale that was undoubtedly of great strategic, social and symbolic importance.

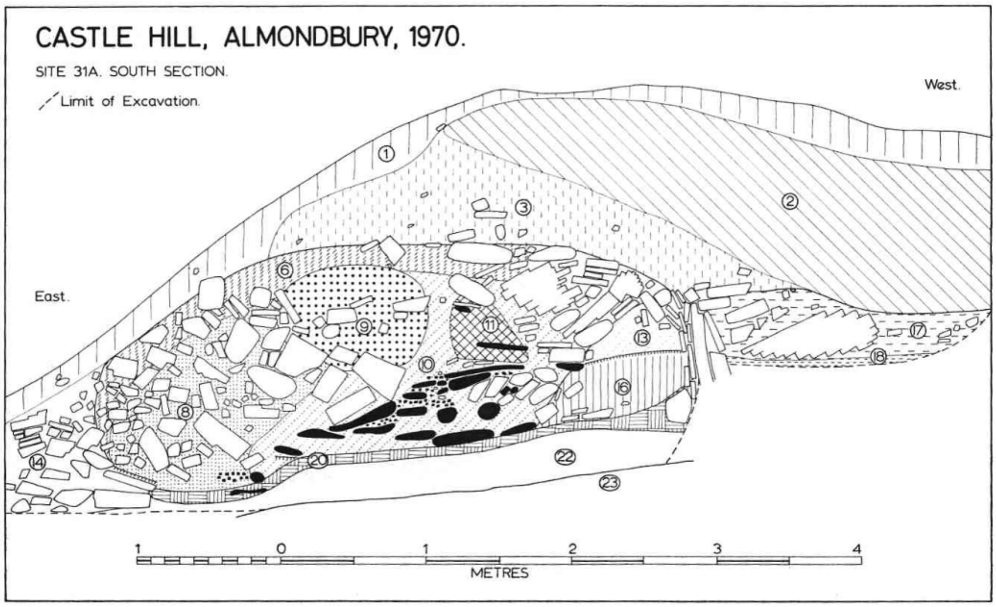


Figure G.18. *Section through part of the ramparts. (Source: Challis and Harding 1975).*

Figure G.19. *Vertical image of Castle Hill, Almondbury, with later medieval features on the hilltop showing as dark lines. (Source: © Google Earth).*

Figure G.20. (left). *Ground view of Castle Hill, emphasising its dramatic topography. (Source: World Wide Web http://www.themodernantiquarian.com).*

Fig. G.21. *Castle Hill in profile against the skyline. (Source: World Wide Web http:// www.themodernantiquarian.com).*

References: Armitage 1900; Chadwick 1900; Challis and Harding 1975; Gilks 1992; Haselgrove 1984; Keighley 1981: 116; Preston 1950a; Richmond 1954: 44; Varley 1948, 1969.

Castlestead Ring, Cullingworth SE 514 3625

This site is approximately 90m in diameter, but has suffered greatly from early modern ploughing, especially the southern half. The earthwork had a bank with an outer ditch, but also a probable counterscarp bank too (Keighley 1981; Yarwood and Mariott 1988a). Two slight linear depressions joining its southern edge are probably later holloways. Excavations in 1911 recovered lead, coal and iron fragments, but the site remains undated.

Figure G.22. *Castlestead Ring. (Source: Yarwood and Marriott 1988a: 14).*

References: Keighley 1981: 127; Villy 1911; Yarwood and Marriott 1988a: 14-15.

Catstones Ring, Bingley SE 0680 3808

This subrectangular enclosure is on the south-western edge of Harden Moor in a commanding position at 270m OD, and is approximately 6.5 hectares in area. The bank and ditch were noted in the early twentieth century (Villy 1921), together with a possible outwork, but the enclosure was badly damaged by ploughing on its western side, and almost completely destroyed by quarrying on its southern side, although aerial photographs taken in 1977 showed some earthworks surviving. A small section dug through the ditch by an amateur fieldworker did not recover any finds (Keighley 1981: 123).

References: Keighley 1981: 123; Villy 1921.

Danefield Wood, Otley

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SE 2217 4460

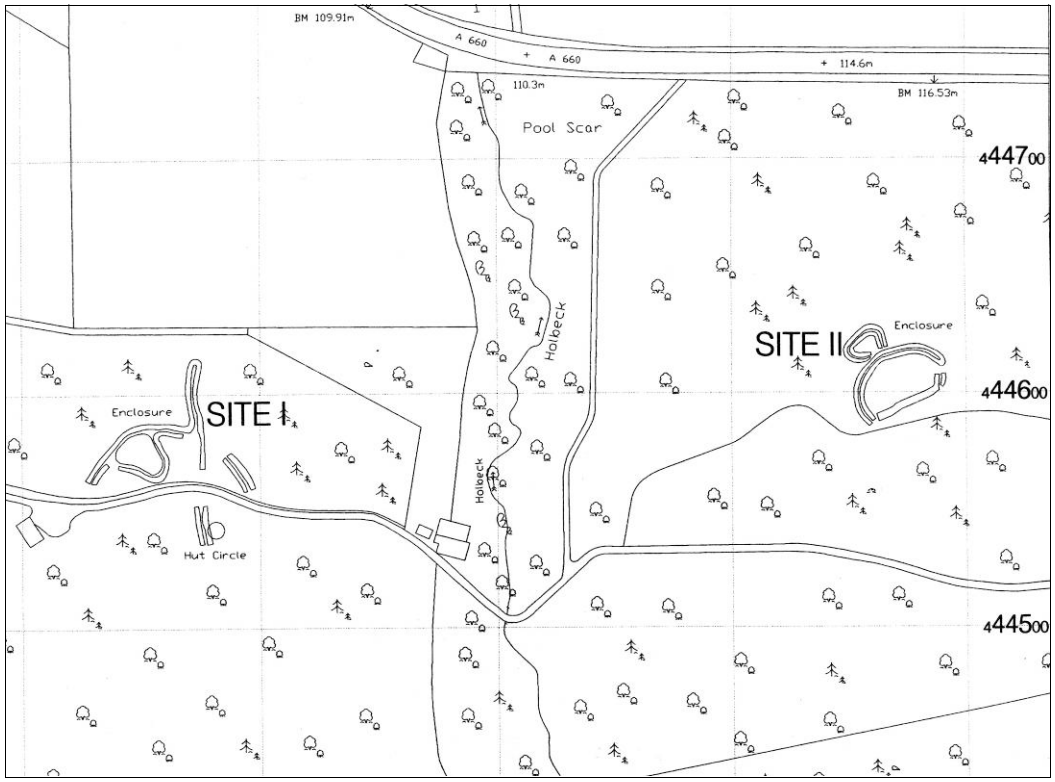


Figure G.23. *Location map of the two enclosures and associated earthworks in Danefield Wood, near Otley, showing the spatial relationship between the two earthwork complexes (Source: Holbrey 2000).*

The earthworks preserved in Danefield Wood, Otley, are situated at approximately 145m OD on a slight 'shelf' on an otherwise north-facing slope on the south side of the Wharfedale Valley, in a locale that may in the past have commanded extensive views out across the valley and the modern position of Otley. They were originally recorded and investigated by Cowling in the 1940s (Cowling 1946), but since then they unfortunately became gradually degraded through tree root action and bioturbation, erosion and a series of tracks that were cut or formed across the sites. The area has only been re-wooded since 1946 (Holbrey 2000). As part of a woodland and land management programme, the site was subjected to detailed earthwork survey and geophysical survey in 1997, and subsequently to limited hand dug test pit and trial trench excavation.

Site I consists of one trapezoidal enclosure subdivided into two areas, or two abutting enclosures, the complex being up to 40m long and 22m wide, abutting a north-south sinuous bank. The walls of the enclosure and the north-south bank are formed by large orthostatic blocks of Millstone Grit, incorporating some natural large earthfast boulders. A possible structure is located within the enclosure (c in Fig. G.24 below), and there may have been narrow entrances to the north, east and south-east. Outlying features consist of a series of banks, terraces or platforms, and to the south-west of the north-south bank, two further possible roundhouses or building platforms (marked as o and p).

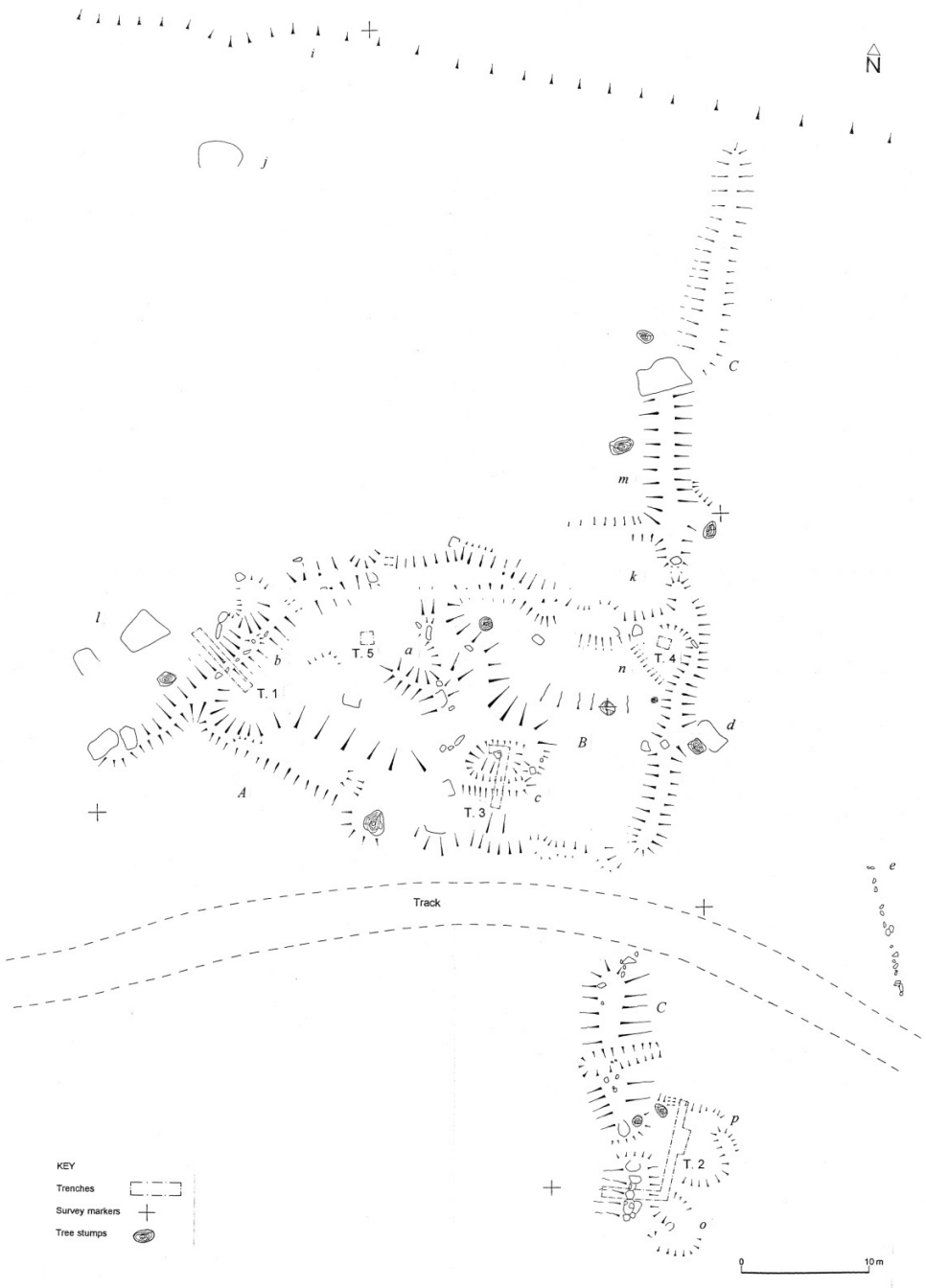


Figure G.24. *More detailed survey plan of Site I, Danefield Wood. A possible structure within the enclosure is located at c, and externally at o and p. (Source: Holbrey 2000).*

Cowling recorded finding the remains of hut circles and hearths at Site I, and prehistoric flints nearby. The geophysical survey results from Site I were not that informative, and merely served to confirm the position of orthostat banks. The test pit and trial trench investigations confirmed that features c and p were probably stone-built buildings (Trenches 3 and 2), the former a subrectangular building up to 6m long and 4m wide, and the latter a roundhouse possibly originally *c*. 7.5m in diameter; and both had traces of compacted cobbled flooring surviving (Holbrey 2000). Some burning was recorded, but no

hearths. Trench 4 recorded a possible stone surface within the north-east corner of the enclosure too. No finds were recovered from any of the Site I trenches.

Site II is approximately 320m east of Site I, and consists of a subrectangular enclosure up to *c*. 40m long and 25m wide, with an east-facing entrance. Few internal features were noted on the topographic survey, and Cowling only recorded finding some fire-cracked boulders (Cowling 1946: 136). During the more recent excavations, Trench 6 was dug near the eastern entrance, and suggested that there might have been two phases of orthostat bank construction, with a later rubble core faced with boulders on top of an earthen bank (Holbrey 2000). A deposit within the bank produced a single sherd of possible second century AD greyware, whilst a shallow pit or gully just inside the entrance contained a single small flint flake and carbonised spelt, emmer and rye grains. This cut feature truncated a deposit that produced another sherd of Romano-British greyware.

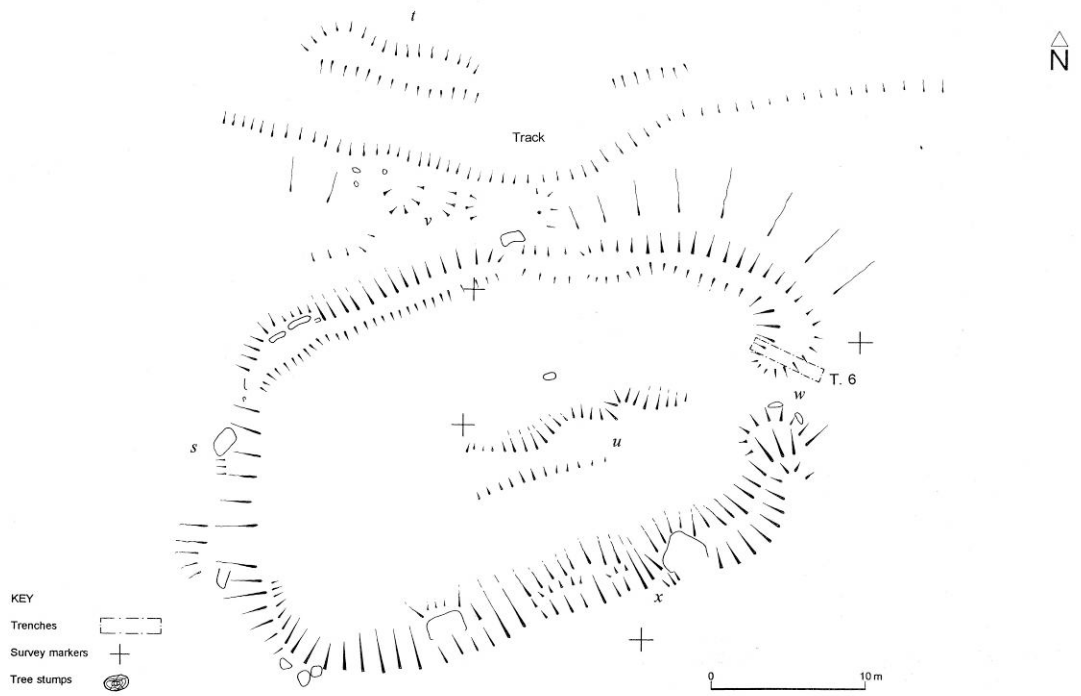


Figure G.25. *More detailed survey plan of Site II, Danefield Wood. (Source: Holbrey 2000).*

The enclosures at Danefield Wood are thus likely to be late prehistoric and Romano-British date, although their chronological history would be difficult to ascertain even with full excavation. Several other similar earthwork enclosures occur at Green Crag Slack near Ilkley, at Brackenhall Green near Shipley and at Crosley Wood, Bingley (Mayes 1967). Given the lack of evidence for sustained domestic occupation, and the relatively exposed nature of the Danefield Wood enclosures, it is likely that they were used as part of upland grazing practices, perhaps on a seasonal basis. Interestingly, a cup and ring marked boulder of is located just to the north of Site I (marked as j on Fig. G.24), and this may have influenced the siting of the enclosure.

References: Cowling 1946; Holbrey 2000.

Gipton, Potter Newton SE 3270 36 50

These earthworks, possibly of one or more enclosures, are located in Gipton Wood, and are approximately 65m long and 45m wide, but they have not been surveyed in detail or investigated further.

References: Keighley 1981: 123.

Grim's Ditch, Colton SE 3752 3222

The length of Grim's Ditch can be traced for approximately 6.7 kilometres, running northwards from a palaeo-channel of the River Aire, and also to the north of Cock Beck, where its course then becomes unclear, although it may be preserved in the line of some modern boundaries. In places it made use of a natural scarp, and it still survives as an earthwork with a bank up to 2.4m high, and on the eastern side of the bank a silted-up ditch still up to 2m deep and 9-12m wide. It was once thought to be the *agger* of a Roman road (Codrington 1918; Margary 1973; Pope 1958), and some of its earlier names included Riknild Street, Roman Rig and *Via Vincalis* (Wheelhouse and Burgess 2001: 125). Small-scale excavations and geophysical surveys in the 1990s established it was a linear earthwork of unknown date (Brown 1995; Morris 1998, Webb 1997; Wilmott 1993). Faull (1981: 174) suggested that it formed part of defensive works associated with the fifth to sixth century kingdom of Elmet.

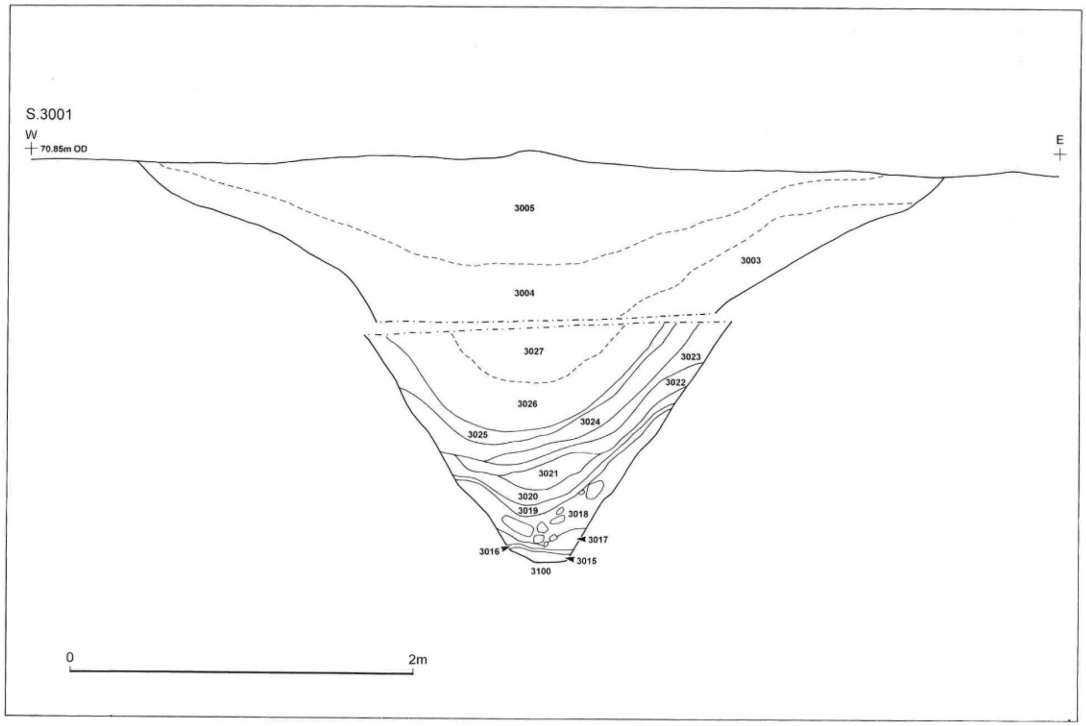


Figure G.26. *Section across Grim's Ditch. (Source: Wheelhouse and Burgess 2001: 130).*

Two excavations through the Grim's Ditch earthworks (Grim's Ditch North and South) were recently undertaken as part of the M1-A1 road improvement project. Only post-medieval and early modern objects were recovered from upper fills, but a ^{14}C date of AD 86-335 was obtained from charcoal in primary silts of Grim's Ditch North, whilst ^{14}C dates of 777-396 BC and 790-400 BC came from Grim's Ditch South (Wheelhouse and Burgess 2001: 129). A date of AD 33-321 came from a sample slightly higher in the Grim's Ditch South sequence. There was possible evidence for ditch re-cutting found in some sections, so the initial phase of construction was probably during the early or middle Iron Age, with possible redefinition either in the first century AD prior to the Roman invasion of the north, or in the later Roman period. Palaeoenvironmental evidence suggested that the earthwork was

created in a fairly open landscape with some grassland present, but also with evidence for the cultivation of wheat and barley nearby (Carter, Bunting and Tipping 2001).

References: Brown 1995; Codrington 1918; Faull 1981; Margary 1973; Morris 1998; Pope 1958; Webb 1997; Wheelhouse and Burgess 2001; Wilmott 1993.

Meg Dyke, Barkisland SE 0498 1745

This is a subrectangular enclosure with double banks and ditches, approximately 0.5ha in extent, and still surviving as a well-defined earthwork with ditches up to 3m deep. A section dug across the ditch and part of the rampart in 1976 found only an undiagnostic iron fragment.

References: Keighley 1981: 124.

Oldfield Hill, Meltham SE 0874 1008

Figure G.27. *Oldfield Hill, Meltham. The slight scarp to the south is clear, as is the possible linear earthwork along it. The north-east facing entrance, possible internal platform and later medieval ridge and furrow are also visible, as is a holloway of unknown date to the south. (Source: © Google Earth).*

Figure G.28. *The earthworks at Oldfield Hill viewed from the south, showing the linear bank and ditch and the enclosure beyond. Two holloways are also visible in the foreground. (Source: www.themodernantiquarian.com).*

Oldfield Hill was situated in a locally prominent hilltop position, making use of a possible slight natural ridge situated on a north-east sloping valley side south-west of Meltham, within the Peak District area of West Yorkshire. This consisted of a subrectangular enclosure with a north-east facing entrance. On aerial photographs, medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow has clearly reduced the earthworks somewhat, although slight platforms are still visible within it.

There were small-scale excavations in 1909 and 1923, which both proposed that the earthwork was a Roman camp, despite any finds or features to support this hypothesis (Richmond 1924; Wrigley 1909). It was further excavated by Toomey in the 1960s and 1970s, who suggested that an earlier palisaded enclosure 0.2ha in area was replaced by a later 0.4ha enclosure delineated by a stone rampart and ditch. Furnace linings, ironstone and the upper part of a rotary quern were recovered, in addition to stone pot lids; but no pottery was found, although some 'much softened red burnt clay' (Toomey 1976: 11) may have been poorly fired ceramics not recognised by the excavators. An Iron Age date is likely though. A linear bank and a ditch might have led off to the east and west along the scarp edge from the enclosure, emphasising a natural feature, but it is not know if this was contemporary with the occupation. Clearly, as Fig. G.29 below demonstrates, much more of the interior needed to be excavated.

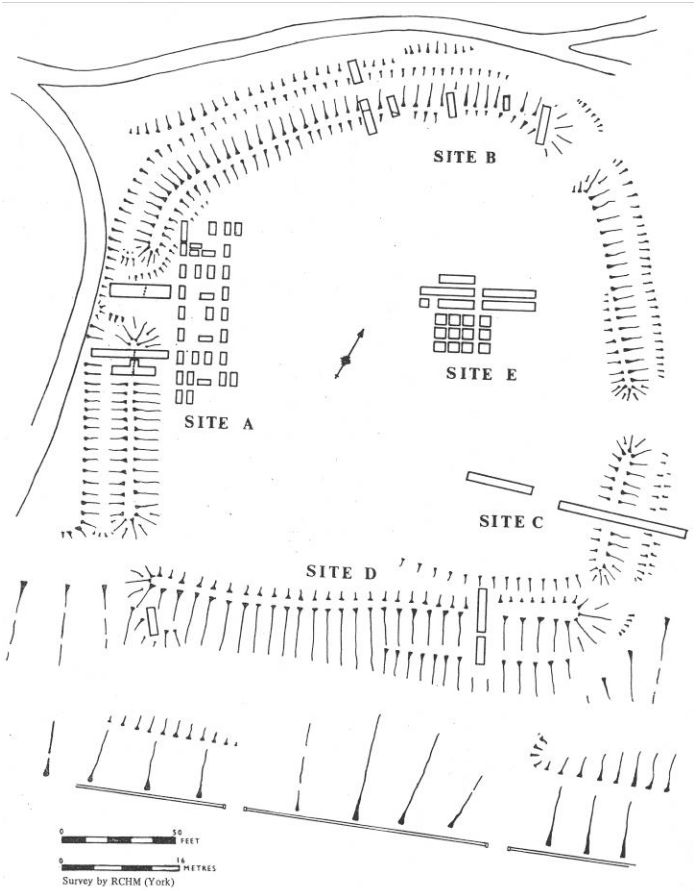


Figure G.29. (left). *Plan of the earthworks and excavations at Oldfield Hill undertaken between 1960-1967. The limited investigations of the interior hampered interpretation, along with the over reliance on box-grid and narrow trenching techniques rather than open-area excavation. (Source: Toomey 1976: 4).*

References: Challis and Harding 1975: 134; Richmond 1924; Toomey 1960-1964, 1976; Wrigley 1909; Yarwood and Marriott 1988a: 12-13.

Round Dikes, Addingham SE 0552 5011

Along with Woofa Bank, this was part of another interesting possible 'pair' of enclosures near Addingham. Round Dikes was subcircular, with a possible eastern entrance (see Chapter 9, Fig. 9.13). A limited geophysical survey of part of this enclosure identified at least nine possible roundhouses. It was defined by a single bank and ditch, but like Woofa Bank appears to have been associated with a large, linear bank and ditch earthwork, and which might have restricted access to this hilltop from the west and east, or demarcated this area from the surrounding landscape. The dates of this enclosure and the linear earthworks are not known though.

Figure G.30. *Round Dikes, near Addingham, W. Yorks., SE 0550 5015. (Source: © Google Earth).*

References: Keighley 1981: 127; Yarwood and Marriott 1988a: 14-15.

Royd Edge, Meltham SE 0910 0964

This scarp-edge enclosure, also south-west of Meltham, and only around 400m south-east of Oldfield Hill, had one entrance facing east and another possible entrance facing west. There are also traces of a circular building visible within the enclosure. It was situated in an exposed position at the end of a ridge. Like Oldfield Hill, it seems to have been subject to ploughing in the historical period. Unlike most other enclosures within the study region, at Royd Edge the ditch is meant to have been internal to the bank rather than external to it. This is a most unusual arrangement, only paralleled by the enclosure in Scabba Wood in South Yorkshire. Closer examination of the aerial photographs suggests that there probably was originally an internal bank, but also an external counterscarp bank.

Figure G.31. *Royd Edge earthwork enclosure, under a light snowfall. In addition to the two entrances, a possible roundhouse is visible in the lower right (north-west) corner of the enclosure, and linear banks of unknown date leading off to the west. (Source: Yarwood and Marriott 1988a: 12).*

Royd Edge was also excavated by Toomey, and had evidence of an early phase with a palisaded enclosure on top of an earlier roundhouse, with a later box rampart and inner ditch. Finds included clinker, baked clay and a lead spindle whorl, suggesting a later Iron Age date. If it was occupied at the same date as Oldfield Hill (and there is no real evidence for this), then Oldfield Hill might have been the main settlement, with the more exposed Royd Edge as an ancillary enclosure, the inner ditch perhaps helping to contain livestock (Keighley 1981: 125; Toomey 1982; Yarwood and Mariott 1988a: 13). However, whilst this unusual feature may reflect local innovations in construction, it might also reflect a different function altogether.

References: Challis and Harding 1975: 134; Toomey 1982; Yarwood and Mariott 1988a: 12-13.

Figure G.32. *The Royd Edge enclosure on a vertical image. The internal ditch is evident, but also possible traces of an outer ditch and an inner bank too. (Source: © Google Earth).*

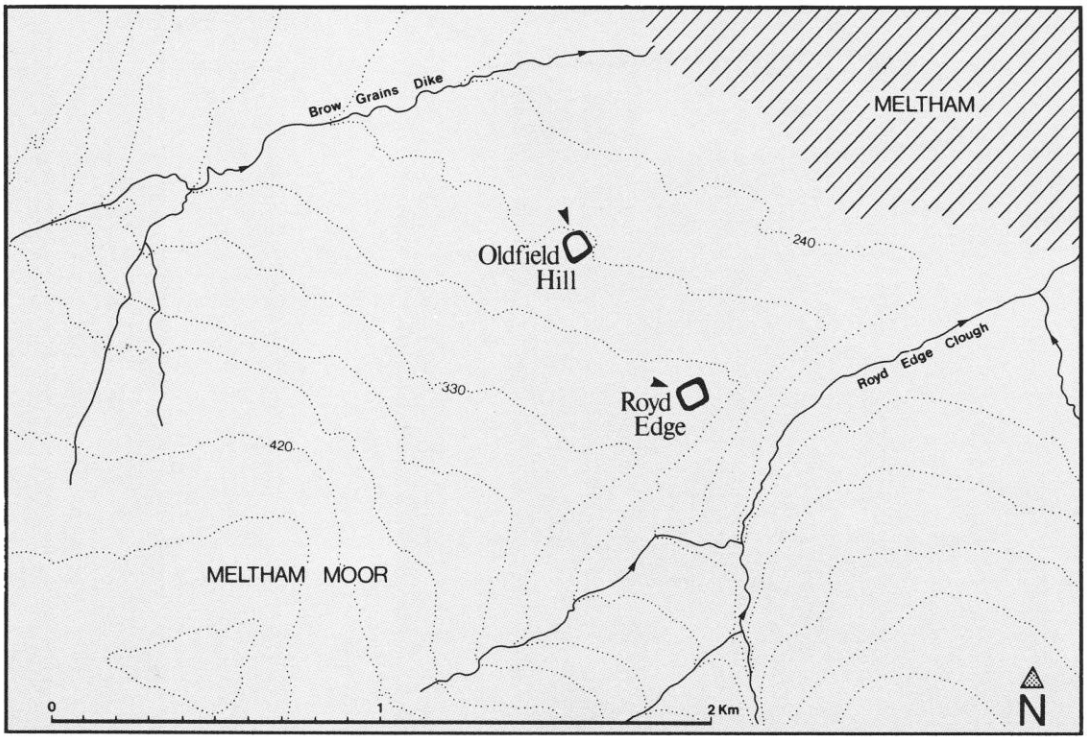


Fig. G.33. *Royd Edge earthwork enclosure, only 450m from Oldfield Hill. (Source: Yarwood and Marriott 1988a: 12-13).*

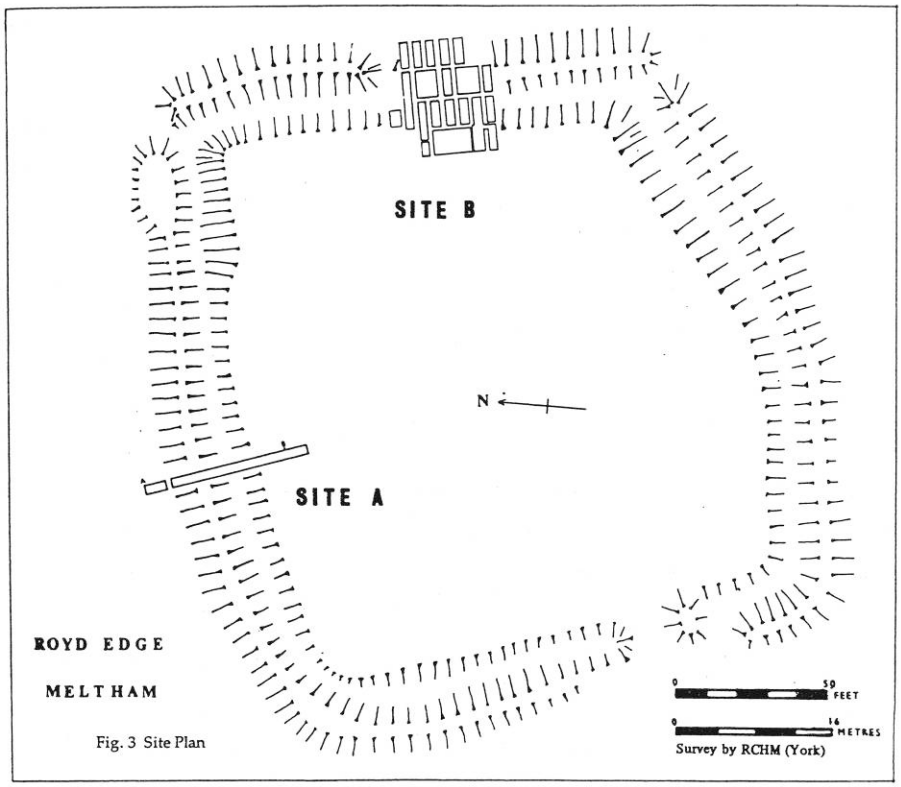


Figure G.34. *Detail of the Royd Edge enclosure, showing its unusual inner ditch, in addition to the location of some of the excavation trenches of Toomey. (Source: Toomey 1982: 9).*

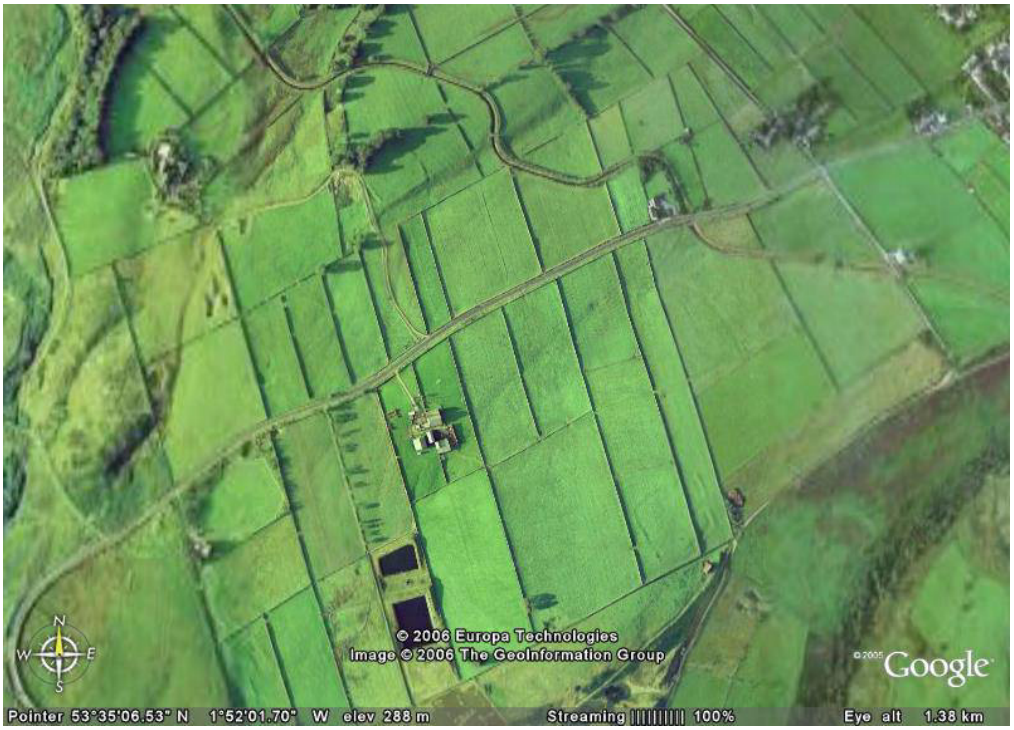
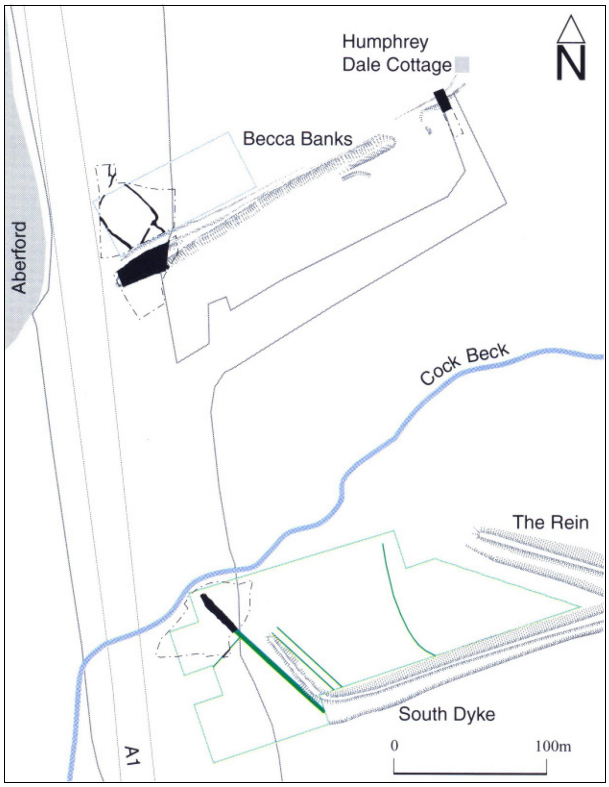


Figure G.35. *The close spatial relationship between the Oldfield Hill (upper left) and the Royd Edge (lower right) earthwork enclosures, Meltham, W. Yorks. (Source: © Google Earth).*

South Dyke, Aberford SE 4360 3760

South Dyke runs partly along a natural scarp edge formed by limestone bedrock known as Woodhouse Moor, east of modern Aberford on the southern bank of Cock Beck, and was clearly sited to make use of these two natural features, perhaps to channel movement through the area (Wheelhouse and Burgess 2001: 148). It has a short gap in its length where it may once have intersected with The Rein, another linear bank and ditch earthwork forming part of the Aberford Dykes complex, but this is by no means certain. The Rein may have post-dated South Dyke, but again this is unclear (Alcock 1954; Boucher and Webb 1994). South Dyke was aligned broadly east-west, except where it turned to run north-west to south-east as it drops down into the Cock Beck clough.



Several topographic and geophysical surveys indicated that South Dyke may have consisted of several different phases of bank and ditch (Boucher and Webb 1994). During the M1-A1 project, the north-west terminal of this feature was excavated, along with a section of Becca Banks to the north.

Figure G.36. (left). *Plan showing the relationship between the excavated section (black), cropmarks (green) and earthworks (hachured) of South Dyke (lower left of image) in relation to Becca Banks and Cock Beck. (Source: Deegan 2001b: 34, fig. 19).*

At this point only *c.* 10m from Cock Beck, no earthwork bank was visible, but a large ditch feature was recorded, intersecting with an earlier, sinuous shallow and water-rutted channel that was probably a natural watercourse (Wheelhouse and Burgess 2001: 132). The north-west to south-east orientated ditch was up to 4.5m wide and 1.40m deep, and would have been situated along the southern edge of any associated bank, as is apparent further to the south-east and east. It too contained evidence for pronounced water rutting. A charred cereal seed from a secondary fill within this ditch yielded a ^{14}C date of 104 BC – AD 112, suggesting a later prehistoric date for construction, and palaeo-environmental evidence indicated a largely open contemporary landscape. The ditch was recut at least once, and secondary fills of this later recut produced a sherd of amphora and ^{14}C dates of AD 212-413 and AD 141-404 (ibid.: 135). The uppermost fills of the recut contained eleventh to thirteenth century pottery, indicating that this feature had survived in the landscape for a protracted period indeed.

More recently, another section of South Dyke was investigated by Network Archaeology in advance of the construction of the Aselby to Pannal gas pipeline construction project (Daniel 2007; Daniel and Noon 2007). In an area that had probably once been sealed by the South Dyke bank, and thus pre-dating it, five rock-cut pits were recorded, some containing burnt and heat shattered cobbles, animal bone and worked flint (Daniels and Noon 2007: 4-5). Some samples of charcoal and bone were retrieved for radiocarbon analyses, but these had not been analysed at time of writing. It is possible, however, that these pits may have formed part of a prehistoric pit alignment boundary pre-dating the construction of the major linear earthwork. A 15m long section of the South Ditch was excavated, and this was up to 3.50m wide and 1.13m deep. Although the excavation report states that no recutting of this ditch was evident, at least one possible recut is actually visible in the section illustrated in the report (cf. Daniels and Noon 2007: fig. 5a). Some of the ditch contained a very large quantity of burnt stone, in places forming a deposit up to 0.30m thick. In total, 1.3 tonnes of this material was recovered from the ditch, along with numerous animal bone fragments, but no artefacts. The nearest 'domestic' appearing enclosure recorded on cropmarks is some 300m to the south (Daniels 2007: fig. 17), so perhaps this material represents feasting debris rather than domestic refuse. Such feasts might have had great social and political importance if conducted near to such a large boundary.

Figure G.37. *Photograph of the recently excavated section through the South Dyke ditch (at the right of the image), also showing the earlier pit complex (centre) and the later Romano-British curvilinear ditch (to the left). The natural break of slope followed by the South Dyke is also apparent in the background. (Source: Daniel 2007: plate 1).*

The ditch and the pits were sealed by a layer of colluvium up to 0.40m thick, possibly formed as a result of upslope disturbance such as tree loss or cultivation. It contained numerous sherds of Romano-British pottery (Daniels and Noon 2007: 6), and was cut by a curvilinear ditch on the northern side of South Dyke. This feature was up to 3m wide and 1.25m deep, but its relationship to the South Dyke ditch could not be established within the excavation area. Romano-British pottery, a Roman coin and a

copper alloy ring were recovered from the middle and upper fills of this feature, and although not yet analysed in detail and closely dated, this suggests that the ditch was some form of Roman period reinscription of South Dyke, though whether it was another linear boundary or a small D-shaped enclosure appended to South Dyke is not clear. Further detailed geophysical survey and/or excavation might be able to elucidate this.

References: Alcock 1954; Boucher and Webb; Daniel 2007; Daniel and Noon 2007; Wheelhouse and Burgess 2001.

South Kirkby SE 4350 1045

At South Kirkby, a single ditch and bank enclosed 1.8ha (Keighley 1981: 116). The ground slopes away to the north-east and east, but the western part of the site lies on a flat plateau overlooked by a hill to the north-west. A sizeable stream gully now runs past the site, and although it is not clear if this was originally the case, the defensibility of the locale is questionable. Unpublished small-scale excavations only found medieval pottery (Atkinson 1949), and the interior of the fort seems to have been largely destroyed by ridge and furrow (Whittingham 1998). A claimed annex (Atkinson 1949; Thorp 1975) has not been positively identified. Cropmarks have revealed at least ten smaller enclosures around it, which may have been used as livestock corrals (see Chapter 6, Fig. 6.09), together with trackways and boundaries that appear to respect and thus post-date the earthwork.

Figure G.38. (top left). *The earthwork enclosure at South Kirkby from the air. Only much later ridge and furrow is evident in the centre. (Source: D. Riley, SLAP 187, SE 435 104).* **Fig. G.39. (top right).** *The earthworks at South Kirkby in April 2006, looking north-west. A gentle hill overlooks the site. (Source: author).* **Fig. G.40. (bottom).** *The earthworks at South Kirkby, looking east. The clough running past the middle of the earthworks is visible. (Source: author).*

Unpublished small-scale excavations in 1949 only found medieval pottery, but the interior of the fort seems to have been largely destroyed by ridge and furrow. Infra-red aerial photographs identified a possible annex to the north-west and a possible entrance to the south, but this has been questioned, and geophysical survey has found no trace of this. It has, however, shown the extent of the medieval

disturbance, confirmed the existence of the bank and ditch where it has been ploughed out; but has also identified a possible enclosure or inhabitation area within the hillfort. The relationship between the cropmark enclosures and the main earthworks is unknown, but the field boundaries respect the NEE-SWW long axis of South Kirkby, and the other enclosures appear to cluster around it, which implies they respect and thus post-date the earthwork.

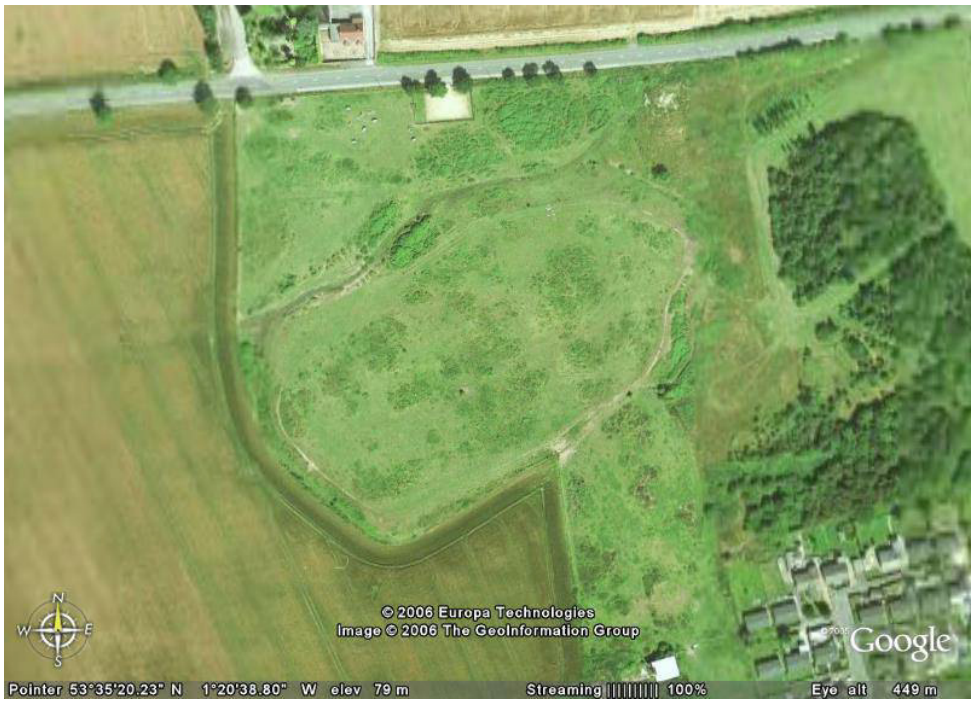


Figure G.41. *South Kirkby from the air. The stream gully along the northern part of the site is particularly noticeable. (Source: © Google Earth).*

References: Keighley 1981: 116; Thorp 1975; Whittingham 1998.

Woofa Bank, Addingham SE 0478 4987

Woofa Bank was a subrectangular hilltop enclosure, and may have had entrances to the west and east, although it too has suffered from more recent ploughing. At least two possible circular structures or building platforms within it are faintly visible on aerial photographs. It is around 800m south-west of Round Dikes, and the large linear earthwork passed close to this enclosure though no clear relationship between them is visible. A possible holloway leads off to the east, but this may be a later feature.

Figure G.42. *Woofa Bank, Addingham. In addition to the subrectangular enclosure (lower centre of the image), the linear boundary is also visible as an earthwork to the north and west of the enclosure. (Source: © Google Earth).*

Figure G.43. *Woofa Bank, Addingham. The linear bank and ditch feature is also visible, between the enclosure and the modern farm. (Source: Yarwood and Marriott 1988a: 14).*

References: Keighley 1981: 127; Yarwood and Marriott 1988a: 14-15.

Excavated cropmark/geophysical survey sites

Adel **SE 2770 4120**

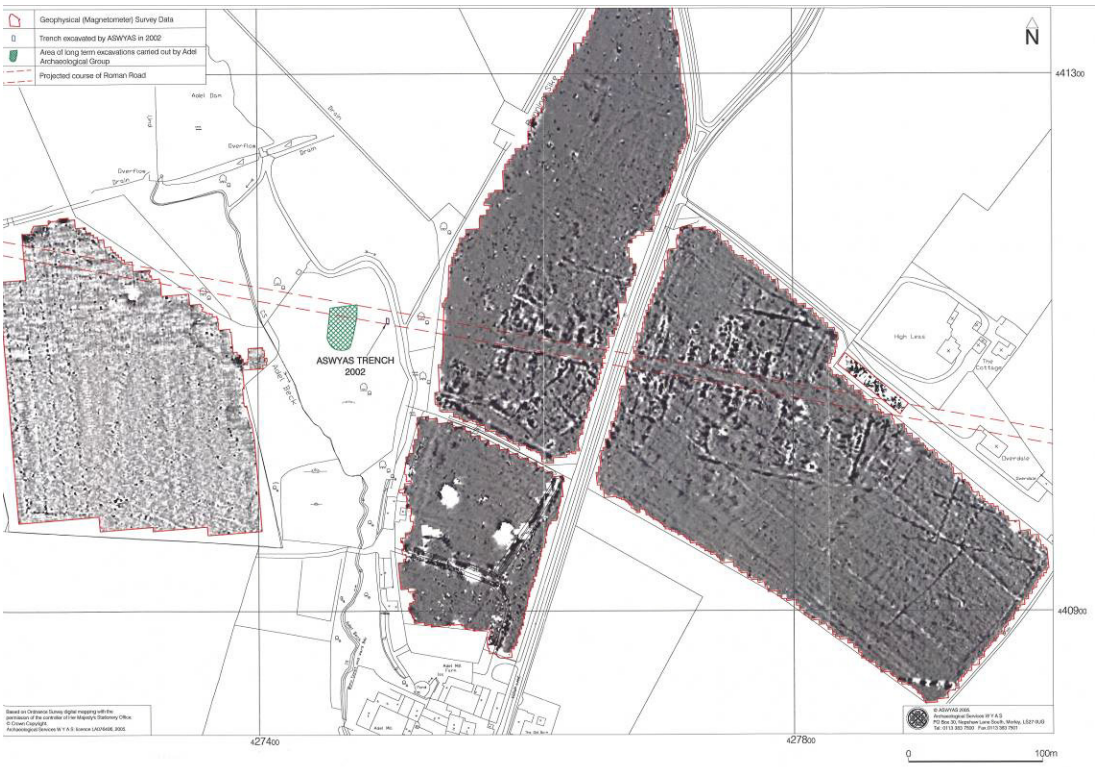
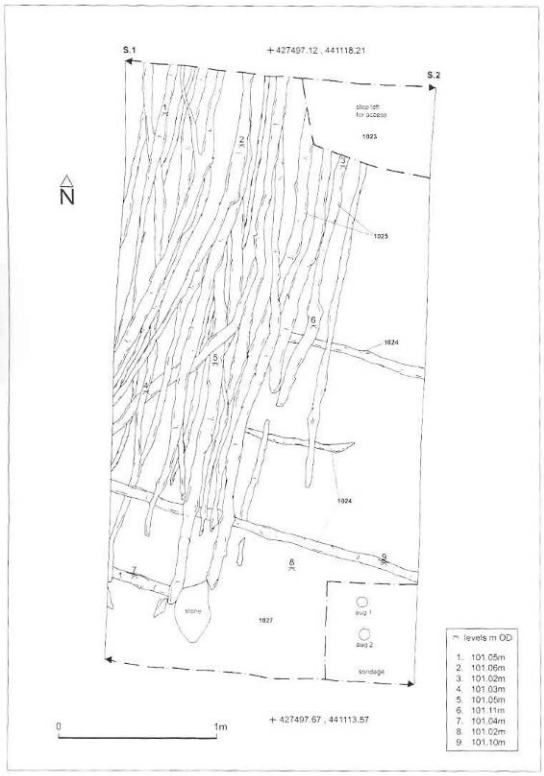


Figure G.44. *Geophysical survey at Adel, apparently showing a possible 'fort' near the centre of the image, and an associated vicus on the eastern side arranged on either side of the road to the fort. However, it may all represent one larger settlement. (Source: Jefferson and Roberts 2006).*



Recent geophysical survey by AS WYAS has shown details of a possible Roman fort and associated *vicus* at Adel. In 2002 AS WYAS staff and members of a local archaeology group investigated a section of the Ilkley-Tadcaster road west of the fort. In this low-lying marshy area the metalled *agger* surface was found to be supported on a corduroy raft of horizontal timbers and brushwood, similar to that at Scaftworth in Nottinghamshire. A ^{14}C date of 180 BC–AD 30 (Jefferson and Roberts 2006) suggests either an earlier, pre-conquest trackway was re-used, or timbers derived from another structure.

Figure G.45. (left). *Part of the timber trackway excavated at Adel. (Source: Jefferson and Roberts 2006).*

It is perhaps more likely, however, that rather than being a separate fort and *vicus*, the geophysical survey results indicate one large civil settlement stretching along either side of the road, with a band of different geology merely rendering some features less visible (S. Harrison pers. comm.). There are no distinctive 'playing card' corners such as those visible at forts such as Burghwhallis and Rossington Bridge. This interpretation would need to be tested through more detailed geophysical survey and trial excavation, but may indicate that any fort at Adel is situated elsewhere and remains to be discovered. A subrectangular earthwork located approximately 100m to the south was investigated in 1913, but the results proved largely negative (Atkinson 1913), although this would be worth investigating again in case any more insubstantial remains of timber structures were not recognised.

More recently, excavations from 1986 onwards by a local amateur group near Adel Mill Farm have uncovered the remains of substantial stone-footed buildings with walls over 1m thick and internal stone paving (Sykes, Hulme and Teal 2006). Unfortunately, no written or drawn records for the investigations carried out during 1986-1996 have been located following the death of the principal excavator, but subsequent work has found Roman pottery, evidence for iron working and even a coin hoard of third century radiates. These structures may represent a continuation of the ribbon roadside settlement, or conceivably even internal buildings within a fort. Clearly, however, there is great potential for further research at Adel, which should include open-area excavation and further geophysical survey.

References: Atkinson 1913; Jefferson and Roberts 2006; Sykes, Hulme and Teal 2006.

Apple Tree Close, Pontefract SE 4490 2060

Figure G.46. *The cropmark enclosure complex at Apple Tree Close, Pontefract, looking north. From the west (upper left of the image), a trackway links two enclosures, and its eastern L-shaped end may have been a race or a similar feature for handling livestock. (Source: Yarwood and Marriott 1988a: rear cover).*

This enclosure complex was situated on the north-eastern end of a hilltop to the south-east of modern Pontefract, only *c.* 200m from the course of a known Roman road, and adjacent to a spring where a beck runs off down a clough. A double-ditched trackway 10-15m wide and aligned north-west to south-east (broadly parallel to the Roman road) led to two conjoined enclosures. The trackway abutted a large subrectangular enclosure (Enclosure A), but led to a D-shaped enclosure (Enclosure B), although the cropmarks suggested several phases of development. Proposals for a housing development led to the excavation of the D-shaped enclosure during 1987. Excavation showed that it was later than and added to the earlier subrectangular Enclosure A (Wrathmell 2001: 5). The 2m wide and 1m deep ditch of Enclosure A contained a few second century AD Romano-British sherds in lower fills.

The second major phase of activity at the site saw the construction of Enclosure B, originally 30m long and 24m wide and defined by relatively narrow palisade trenches, with a north-east facing entrance up to 4m wide. This construction may have occurred during the late second and third centuries AD. Some internal features associated with this phase included an oven and flue containing pottery, charcoal, coal and slag in its backfill, an associated post-built structure, and a series of depressions or possible 'working hollows' that contained quern fragments, pottery and hobnails from a boot that had decayed *in situ* (Wrathmell 2001: 8). In the third major phase Enclosure B was expanded in size to 52m in length and 37m in width, and the eastern ditch was extended across the line of the earlier trackway. The enclosure entrance was re-modelled with the palisade slot replaced by a ditch, and near the entrance the fill of a subdividing east-west palisade slot contained late second and third century pottery and two quern fragments. A subrectangular post-built structure (M151) was located near the entrance, although this does not seem to have been a 'domestic' structure. There was a complex of keyhole-shaped flues and circular ovens towards the centre of the enclosure, and these contained lumps of slag, charcoal and calcined bone; but also produced spelt wheat residues. This suggests that although there was little evidence for sustained 'domestic' inhabitation, the enclosure was used for a variety of crop-processing and industrial purposes. The hilltop location may have been utilised for its up draughts to aid the heating processes.

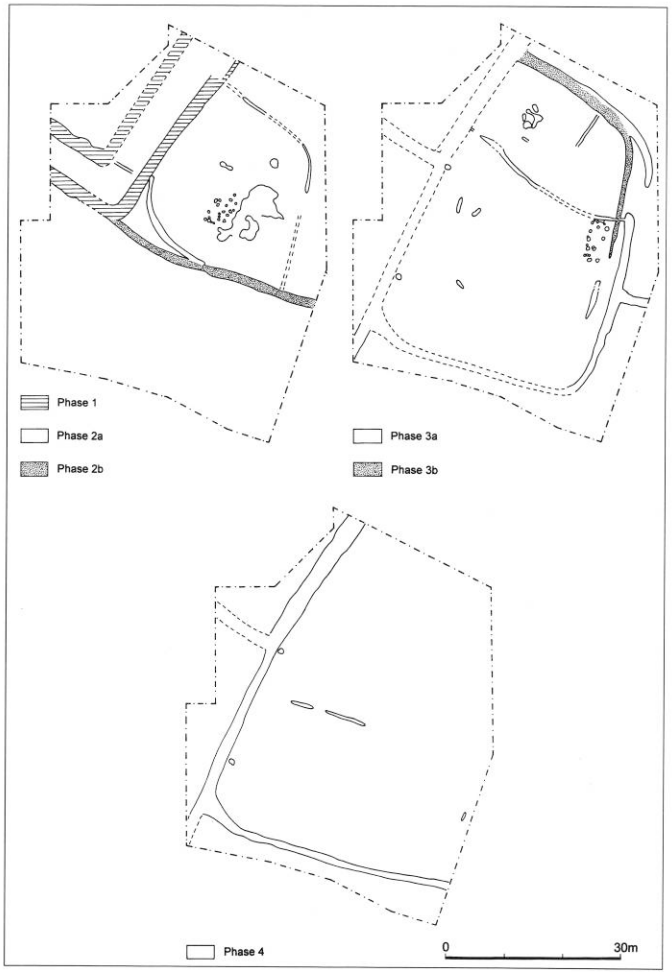


Figure G.47. (left). *Proposed phasing of the site at Apple Tree Close. (Source: Wrathmell 2001: 24, fig. 19).* **Fig. G.48. (above).** *Excavation of one of the keyhole-shaped flues. (Source: Wrathmell 2001: cover).*

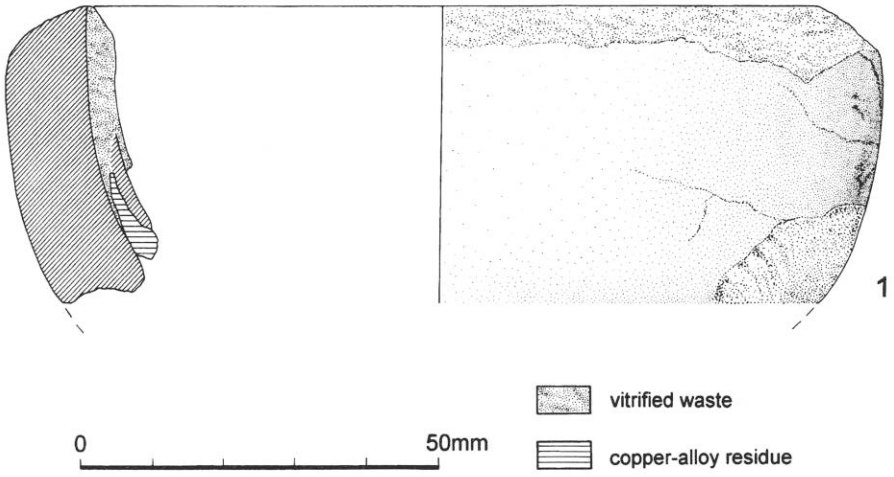


Figure G.49. *The crucible fragment excavated at Apple Tree Close. (Source: Wrathmell 2001: 23, fig. 18).*

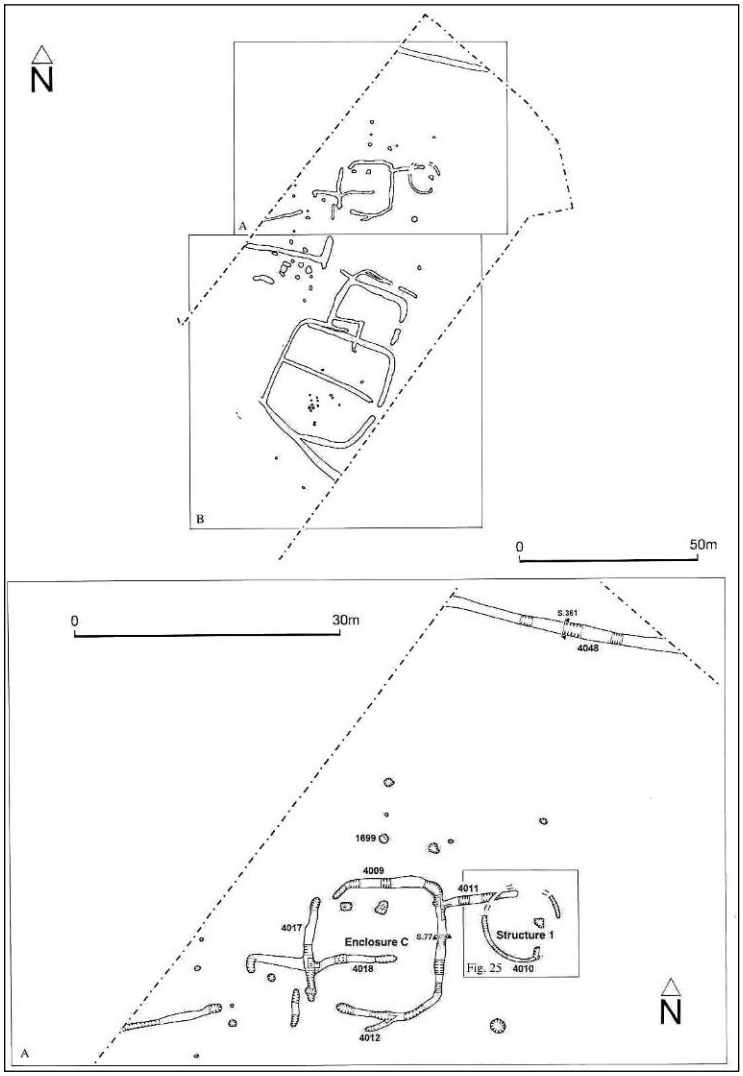
In the final phase of occupation, the northern and eastern enclosure boundaries were either extended beyond the area of excavation, or more likely abandoned altogether, although the southern and western boundaries were re-cut and produced quite large quantities of mid to late third century and early fourth century pottery and hobnails, in addition to part of a crucible containing copper-alloy residue. (Wrathmell 2001: 15). Several ovens and flues might have belonged to this phase. The results from Apple Tree Close show that Enclosure B was utilised only for crop processing and metalworking activities. Enclosure A might have been the 'domestic' focus, or it may be that both these enclosures in their relatively exposed location had particular practical uses within the landscape.

References: Wrathmell 2001.

Barnsdale Bar, Norton/Kirk Smeaton SE 5150 1450

Part of this area of investigation lies within West Yorkshire, but other areas just over the modern county boundaries in South and North Yorkshire, and it has been grouped together with the rest of the sites within South Yorkshire for convenience. Please see the South Yorkshire section of this Gazetteer, therefore, for further details of the archaeology.

Bullerthorpe Lane SE 3750 3130



This was one of the sites excavated as part of the AS WYAS M1-A1 Link Road investigations, and was situated on a flattish hilltop with the ground sloping down into cloughs containing becks 200m to the south-east and 600m to the north-west, in an undulating landscape. Four main phases of activity were identified, phase 1 consisting of two late Iron Age pits. In addition, two beehive quern fragments representing upper and lower stones from different pairs were recovered from subsoil near one pit.

Figure G.50. (left). *Plan of the features excavated at Bullerthorpe Lane (above), with detail of Enclosure C and Structure 1 below. (Source: Wheelhouse 2001: 39, fig. 22).*

In phase 2, subsquare Enclosure A was constructed, 27m long and wide with a south-east facing entrance 2.8m wide. The enclosure ditches were up to 1.5m wide and 0.9m deep, and were probably re-cut at least once (Wheelhouse 2001: 40). They may have been deliberately backfilled. The pottery recovered from the ditches was concentrated around the entranceway, and was of early second century AD date. An internal gully divided the enclosure into two, and a series of postholes in the southern half suggest some form of structure here, though whether this was a further fenced division or an insubstantial building is unclear as the features do not form any coherent pattern. In phase 3, the subrectangular annex Enclosure B was added to the northern side of Enclosure A. This was 17m long and 14m wide, again with a south-east facing entrance, and was itself been partially re-cut in a later fourth phase to form a smaller but more well-defined annex. Only one sherd of second to early third century Romano-British pottery was recovered from the third phase ditches of Enclosure B, and no clear internal features were identified. Pottery of second to fourth century date was found in the smaller phase 4 annex, and two right-angled gullies may have formed an internal subcompound for this phase (ibid.: 41), but might conceivably have reflected earlier or later activities.

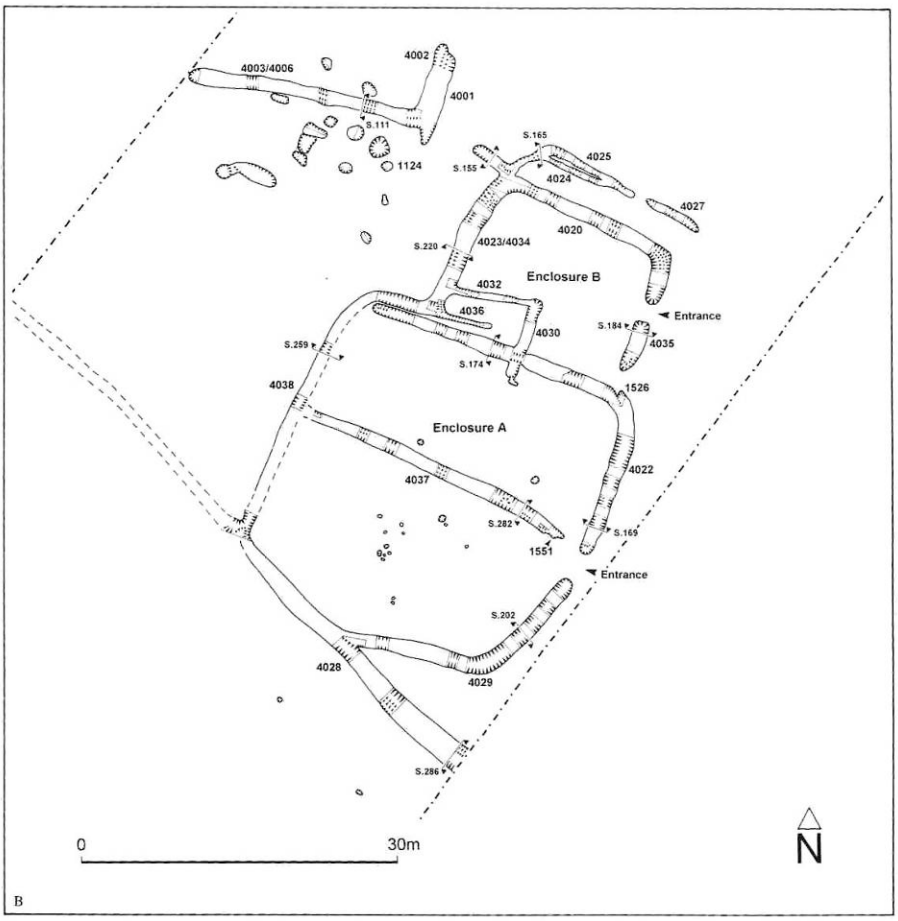


Figure G.51. *More detailed plan of Enclosures A and B, and possibly associated features. (Source: Wheelhouse 2001: 40, fig. 23).*

To the north-west of Enclosures A and B were a series of pits and linear ditches, some of the latter producing second to fourth century AD Romano-British pottery, and forming an L-shaped boundary with a gap or entrance on the western side of an extension of the Enclosure B ditch. This L-shaped ditch was itself re-cut at least once.

Figure G.52. (left). *The re-cut, L-shaped boundary ditches. Although only a primary ditch and one re-cut were noted in the drawn section, this photograph suggests that the terminals at least were re-cut on an additional two occasions. (Source: Wheelhouse 2001: 41, plate 3).*

In phase 5 probably dating to the later Romano-British period, Enclosures A and B seem to have gone out of use and were backfilled, and a north-west to south-east field or boundary ditch subsequently truncated the southern former ditch of Enclosure A (Wheelhouse 2001: 45). A small enclosure 14m square in plan was constructed approximately 40m to the north (Enclosure C). This had shallow ditches 1.3m wide and 0.45m deep, with possible entrances to the south-west and north-west, and itself cut through two shallow east-west gullies. Just to the east of Enclosure C was the ring gully of a roundhouse 8.5m in diameter, with an offset hearth pit within it. No other internal features or dateable artefacts were recorded, but a ^{14}C date of AD 261-537 was obtained from charcoal within the ring gully.

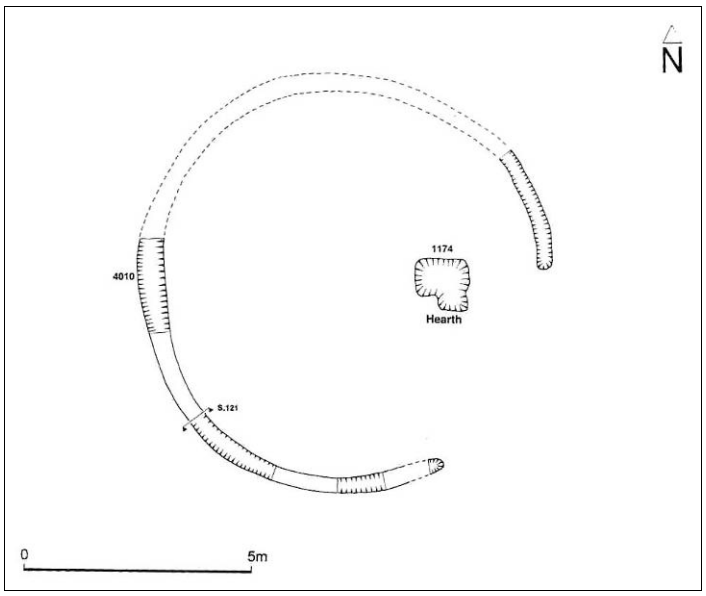
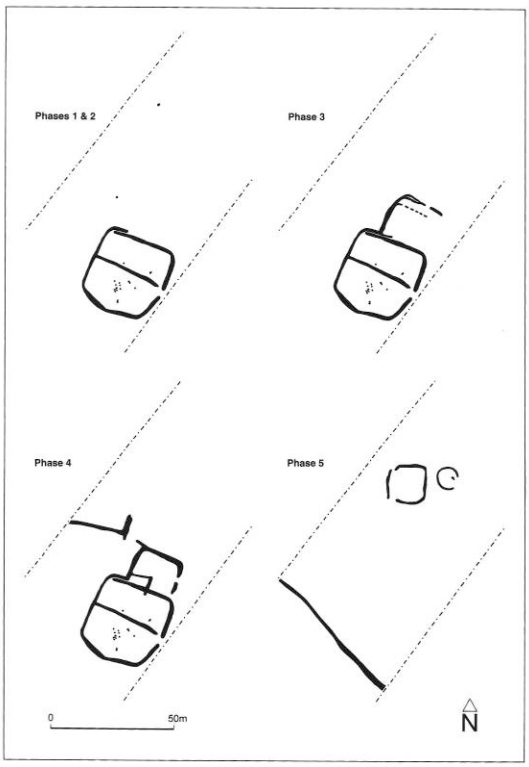


Figure G.53. (left). *The Romano-British roundhouse (Structure 1) excavated at Bullerthorpe Lane. (Source: Wheelhouse 2001: 44, fig. 26).*



Around 130m north-west of Enclosures A-C, further boundaries and part of a subrectangular enclosure with a south-east facing entrance were recorded, the latter producing third century AD pottery (Wheelhouse 2001: 46). The enclosures excavated at Bullerthorpe Lane had no evidence for sustained domestic inhabitation, and only one insubstantial roundhouse was identified. Added to its relatively exposed location on what was probably an 'open' hilltop, this suggests that they were used for ancillary or agricultural purposes, probably as livestock pens or corrals.

Figure G.54. (left). *Proposed phasing for the features at Bullerthorpe Lane. (Source: Wheelhouse 2001: 42).*

References: Wheelhouse 2001.

Dalton Parlours SE 4025 4454

This enclosure complex and villa site lies on relatively flat ground south-east of Collingham and south-east of Wetherby, in an undulating landscape with the land rising to the north and several springs less than 1km to the west. The site was thus only some 1.3km to the south of the large 'ladder' settlement at Wattle Syke (see below). During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the area had yielded Roman coins and supposedly a silver ring with a blue onyx intaglio, and in 1854 a workman found numerous stone and brick pillars that were the *pilae* of a hypocaust system (Procter 1855). In 1854 this find prompted several local gentlemen to direct excavations at the site, and they found the remains of three stone buildings, one of which contained a mosaic floor portraying Medusa (see Chapter 9, Fig. 9.83).

The site was deeply ploughed from the 1960s and 1960s, and when heavy masonry began to be disturbed in 1976, a rescue excavation was mounted between 0ctober 1976-June 1979 by WYAS, funded by West Yorkshire County Council. This project represents one of the most complete excavations of a Roman villa in northern England. However, the excavated area of 1.43ha was only part of a much larger cropmark complex of enclosures, trackways, paddocks and fields (Yarwood 1990: 273). Two sinuous trackways may have formed the earliest main structuring features in this landscape, as at Swillington Common (see below). The enclosure complex seems to have developed where at least three trackways converged, and consists of a roughly rectangular block of abutting and/or overlapping enclosures.

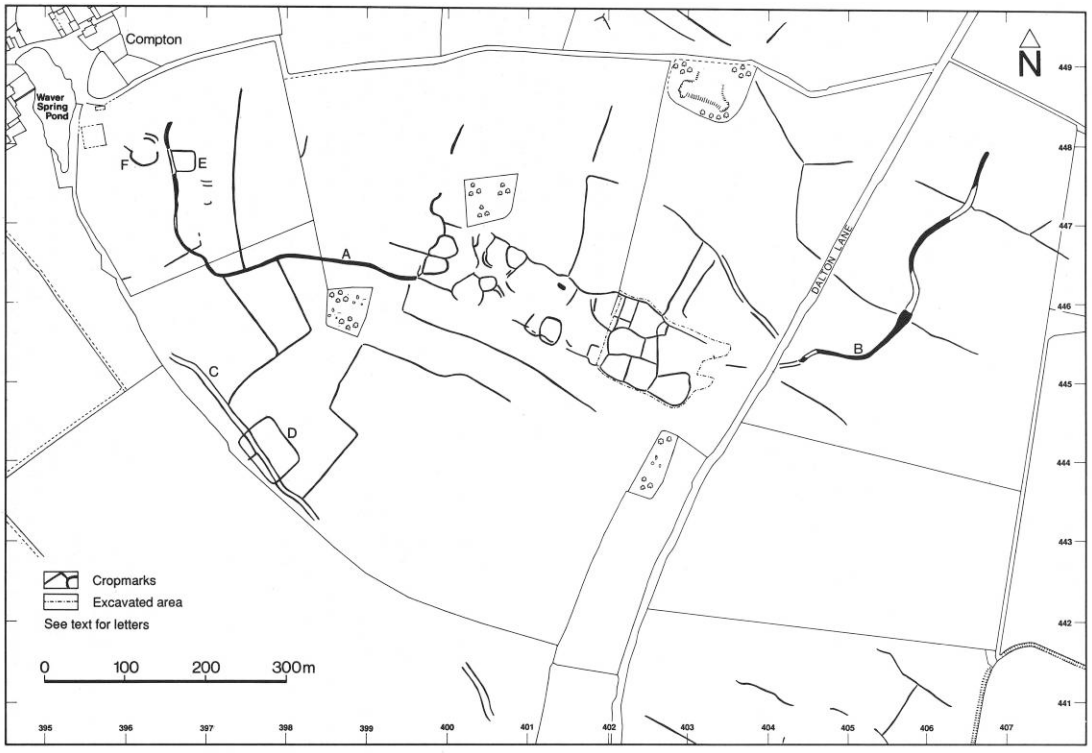


Figure G.55. *The cropmark complex at Dalton Parlours. The excavation took place over the eastern part of the complex, just to the west of Dalton Lane. Note the sinuous trackways with evidence for rutting or holloways at A and B, and additional enclosures or paddocks at D, E and F. (Source: Yarwood 1990: 274, fig. 155).*

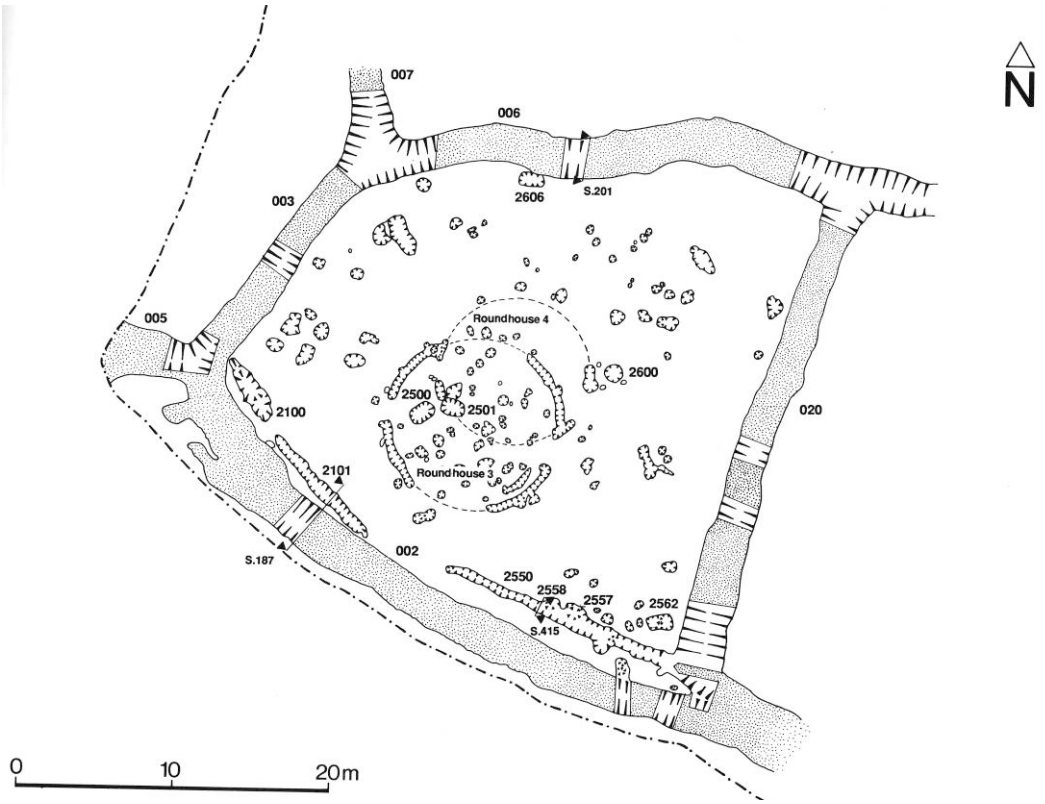


Figure G.56. *More detailed plan of Enclosure I, showing the position of two of the roundhouses excavated. Note too the palisade on the south-west side of the enclosure, probably representing an earlier phase, with a possible earlier entrance indicated at 002. (Source: Sumpter 1990: 13, fig. 10).*

The excavations revealed a series of at least nine different enclosures, with large rock-cut ditches, some with evidence for re-cutting, although this was not always noted in the publication report. In some instances, these enclosures seem to have been preceded by palisaded phases. Enclosure II may have been the primary phase, with additional enclosures progressively added to this (Wrathmell 1990: 277, fig. 156). The remains of eight least roundhouses were recorded defined by both ring gullies and postholes, most between 9-11m in diameter, and some having two possible entrances (see Chapter 9, Figs. 9.46-9.47). One especially large roundhouse was 17m in diameter, and many of the ring gullies seem to have been wall slots rather than eavesdrip gullies. Four to five four-post structures were also identified, in addition to large numbers of pits and postholes. Large quantities of animal bone, beehive quern fragments and nearly three hundred sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered, mostly jar and bowl forms. Some of the pits contained placed deposits of animal remains, and some of the more substantial groups of pot sherds and beehive quern fragments might have been placed deposits in ditches and ring gullies too. Several external hearths were also excavated. This occupation may have taken place between the mid-fourth century BC until the later first century AD.

The area excavated then seems to have been largely abandoned until the early third century AD, although it was clear from the position of the buildings that the earlier lines of ditches had affected their orientation. Full excavation of the building associated with the Medusa mosaic took place, demonstrating that the mosaic had been laid within an apsidal western end of a winged-corridor style

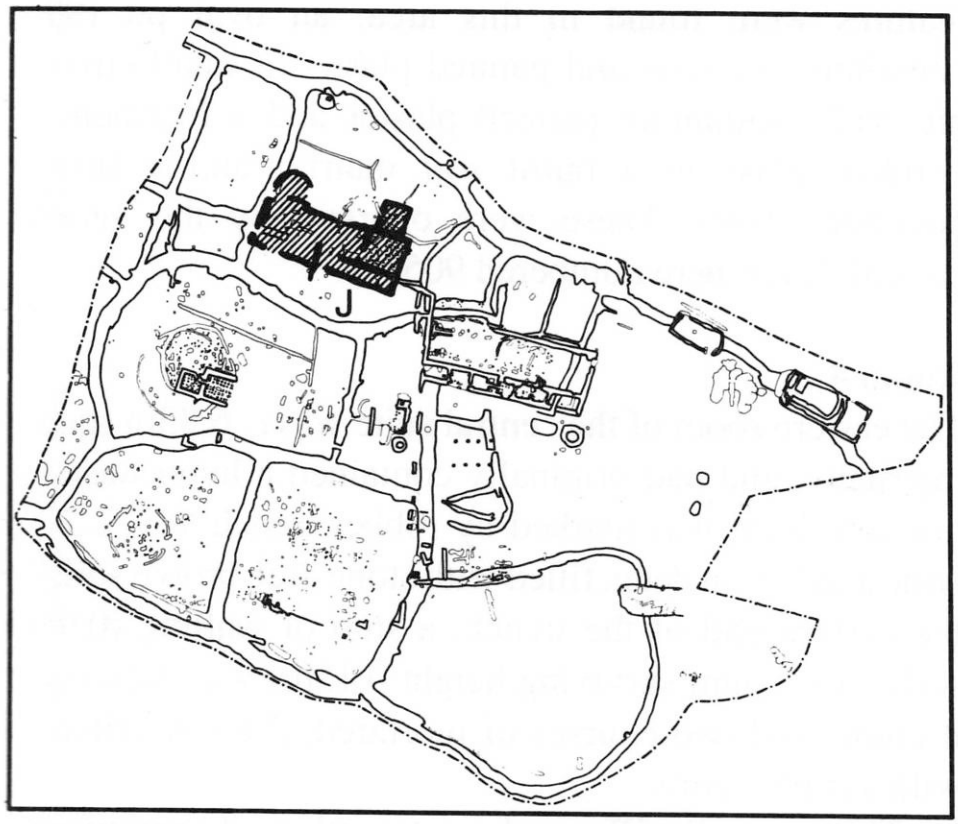


Figure G.57. *More detailed plan of the Dalton Parlours excavation, showing the mainly Iron Age enclosures, and the main villa building (J). (Source: Tindall 1990: 33, fig. 36).*

building (Structure J) (Tindall 1990; Wrathmell 1990). A large aisled building (Structure M) was also probably occupied concurrently with the main villa building (see Chapter 9, Figs. 9.79, 9.82), and this also had a hypocaust system underneath it. Another stone-walled, hypocausted building was Structure B, which also had painted plaster walls, and was probably a bath-house (see Appendix E, Figs. E.31-32). A series of stone-walled, sunken floored buildings were also recorded (e.g. Structures P and R, Figs. E.26-E.28). Some of these were very similar to structures being excavated at Wattle Syke. A variety of internal and external ovens and flues were also found (e.g. Appendix E, Figs. E.12-13), and two wells were investigated, one being completely dug out. This contained large quantities of pottery, including many complete or near complete vessels, some used for drawing water from the well, others probably placed deposits, along with waterlogged wooden buckets, numerous quern fragments, iron objects, waterlogged leather shoes and animal and human bone. These indicated a complex sequence of silting, accidental loss and deliberate backfill, including probable placed deposits.

Large quantities of Romano-British pottery, coins, glass bracelets, vessels and beads, several brooches and other fine metalwork items including an openwork mount and a candlestick were also found during the excavations (Appendix F, Figs. F.23-F.24), in addition to many flat quernstones and items of dressed stone. A relatively large assemblage of animal bone was also recovered (see Appendix C), and many human inhumation burials, most probably dating to the later Roman period. Many infant and neonate remains were also found, mainly within upper fills of ditches. The burial of babies and infants

at boundaries, perhaps as a means of reinforcing family or community identity, is a phenomenon that is also seen at the ongoing investigations at Wattle Syke, where larger numbers of neonates and infants have been recorded.

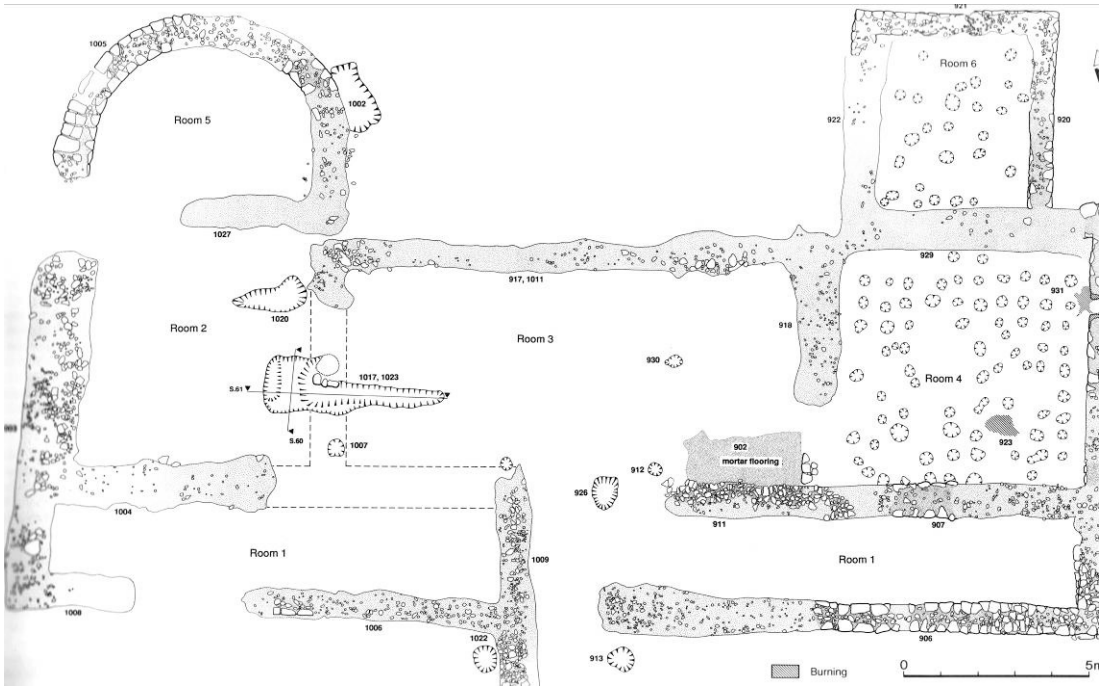


Figure G.58. (above). *Plan of Building J, the main villa structure at Dalton Parlours. The Medusa mosaic was laid in the apsidal-ended Room 5, probably a fourth century addition to the earlier main villa structure. Note the largely robbed remains of hypocausted rooms (4 and 6) at the eastern end of the building. (Source: Tindall 1990: fig. 37).* **Fig. G.59.** *Box flue ceramic 'springer' tile from Dalton Parlours. This would originally have been incorporated within a wall. (Source: © WYAAS).*

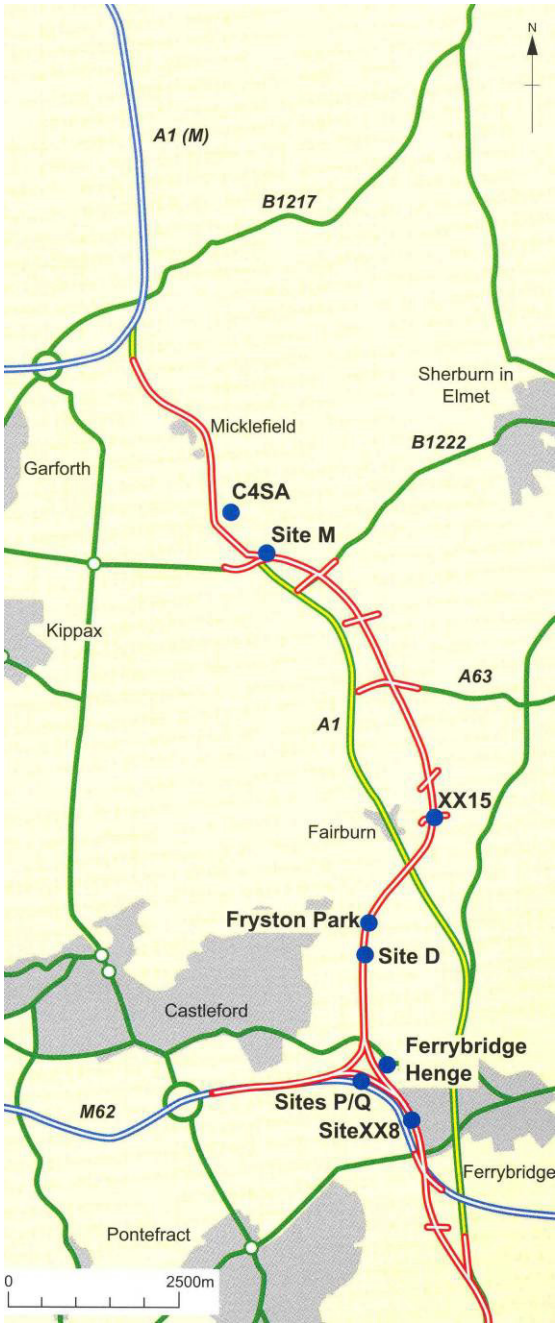
Although it was originally felt that there was no direct continuity between the late Iron Age phases and the villa buildings (Sumpter 1988), only about a third of the enclosure complex was excavated, and the focus of first and second century AD occupation might have been close by (Wrathmell 1990: 279, fig. 155). The villa has been interpreted as the 'plantation' of a high-status Romano-British household with military associations in the early third century AD, but it is also possible that Dalton Parlours represented the ultimate success of one particular leading local lineage. Interestingly though, there does not seem to have been a major reorganisation of the landscape in this later period, and the villa was not set within a rectangular ditched enclosure as was the case in other such estates around Britain, including examples within the study region such as Cromwell in the Trent Valley of Nottinghamshire.

Nevertheless, at the same time it also seems that there was a series of principal alignments employed during the layout of the villa structures at Dalton Parlours (Wrathmell 1990: 280, fig. 158), making use of symmetry, proportion and lines of site. Discourses of surveillance and display were clearly implicitly or even explicitly part of this construction process.

Detailed geophysical survey and further targeted excavation at Dalton Parlours might help resolve this question. A methodical metal detecting survey undertaken by archaeologists or carried out with archaeological supervision is also necessary, as illicit metal detectorists have been finding many artefacts on or in the vicinity of the site, and such a project would 'rescue' such artefacts from such unscrupulous individuals and 'night hawkers'. Individuals of clearly dubious background who approached this author and other AS WYAS staff members during the initial soil stripping phase at Wattle Syke produced coins, brooches and a fine enamelled seal box lid which they claimed had been recently found by them at the Dalton Parlours site. They laughed when we reminded them that Dalton Parlours was a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

References: Wrathmell and Nicolson 1990.

Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Road Scheme – A1 (M)



This section covers a variety of sites excavated as part of the A1 (M) Darrington to Dishforth DBFO Road Scheme by Oxford Archaeology North. Unlike the AS WYAS A1-M1 Link Road projects, the alpha-numeric names of each individual site do not exactly lend themselves to separate consideration, so they have been grouped together.

Although AS WYAS had undertaken the excavations of the main Holmfield Interchange construction area (Roberts 2005c, see the various individual sites below), the second main phase of evaluation and excavation work was put out to tender again, and Oxford Archaeology North won the contract, carrying out their investigations between February-December 2003 (Howard-Davis, Lupton and Boyle 2005: 1).

Figure G.60. (left). *Map showing the location of the various Oxford North sites mentioned below in relation to the Ferrybridge to Hook Moor section of the A1(M). (Source: Howard-Davis, Lupton and Boyle 2005: inner cover).*

Site C4SA SE 4480 3255

The area of Site C4SA was located to the east of Micklefield and north-west of the agglomerated or ladder enclosure complex at Castle Hills (see below), on the relatively flat end of the Castle Hills ridgeline with the ground falling off steeply to the north-east down into a clough with Sheep Dike/Newthorpe Beck running through it. To the south and west of its location is undulating land rising to further hilltops, with the summit Castle Hills itself to the south-east. This area had originally been earmarked for spoil stockpiling, but evaluation trenches showed that it contained extensive and well-preserved settlement remains. The entire area was stripped of topsoil and cleaned and recorded, but

once the extent of the archaeology became clear the short-sighted preservation *in situ* approach was once again adopted and the site was backfilled (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 109). The information on the site thus reflects only partial stratigraphic and artefactual evidence that will be inevitably biased towards the final phases of activity.

A large north-west to south-east aligned ditch was recorded for 75m across the centre of the site, continuing to the north-west as a cropmark for another 60 m. Three evenly spaced and roughly parallel ditches were perpendicular to this, and these ditches probably formed part of a broadly co-axial field system. Romano-British pottery recovered from some of the upper ditch fills included East Gaulish samian of late second or early third century date, and third to fourth century Cranbeck ware (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 111). Several short lengths of further ditches were recorded in evaluation trenches, and seemed to be part of the same co-axial field system, which might have had a late Iron Age or early Romano-British origin. Close to one of the ditch junctions was a rounded grave pit dug into the top of a silted up tree throw hollow, and this contained a flexed inhumation of a young adult man buried face down, ^{14}C dated to AD 20-130.

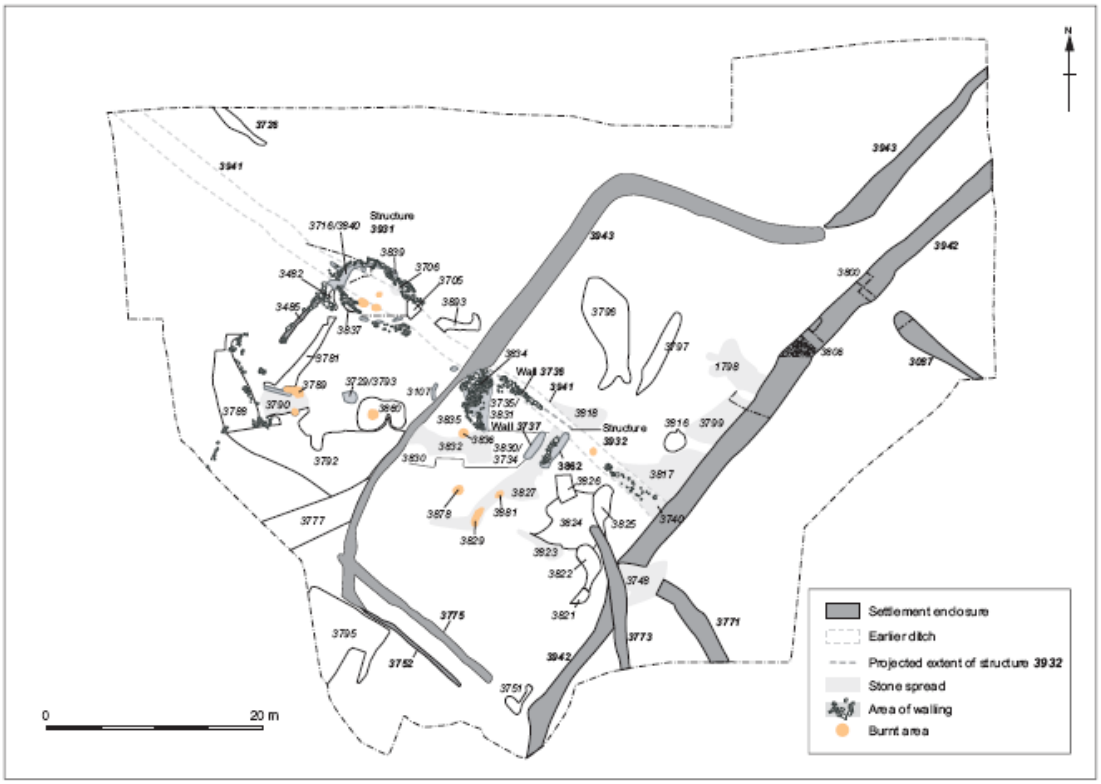


Figure G.61. *Plan of the main excavation area at Site C4SA, showing the later enclosure and associated structures. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007:113, fig. 76).*

In a later period, perhaps during the late third or fourth century AD, a subrectangular enclosure was constructed cutting across the north-west to south-east ditch, but re-using one of the north-east to south-west aligned ditches as its south-eastern side, a phenomenon also seen at Wattle Syke (see below). This enclosure was approximately 48m long and 20m wide, with an open north-east end leading into a double-ditched trackway, and another possible entrance to the south-west. A range of

third to early fifth century pottery including Huntcliff ware was recovered from fills within the enclosure ditches (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 112). Within the enclosure, a stone-built rectangular building was identified (Structure 3932), built over the top of the disused field ditch but orientated along its length. This building was *c.* 9m long and 5m wide, with low stone footings probably supporting a timber frame – large quantities of nails were recovered, in addition to late third to fourth century pottery found within the upper demolition or collapse layers within it. Outside the north-west side of the enclosure was another stone-footed building Structure 3931, 7 m long and 5.5 m wide, and also built along the same north-west to south-east earlier ditch. A wall of unbounded stone extended towards the south-west from this building. This may have been an ancillary structure outside the enclosure, or perhaps a slightly later building that post-dated occupation within the enclosure itself, forming part of an 'open' settlement instead. Again, this has similarities to some of the smaller structures excavated at Wattle Syke.

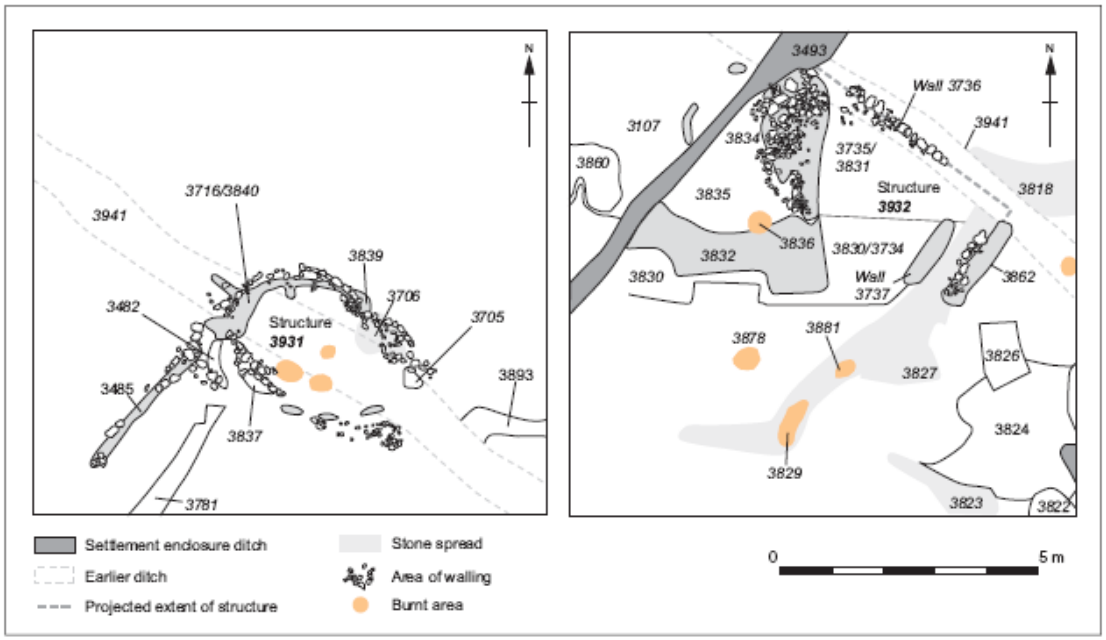


Figure G.62. *More detailed plan of the two rectangular structures found at Site C4SA. Note that the horizontal scale bar is incorrect, and should read 10m rather than 5m. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 113, fig. 77).*

Several spreads or layers identified within the enclosure might have represented the mixed upper fills from many different underlying features, but although these layers were sampled they were not fully excavated, nor were underlying features investigated. Pottery recovered from these layers included one large Iron Age sherd, and a range of second to late fourth or early fifth century Romano-British forms (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 112). Further excavation might thus have demonstrated a long sequence of activity in the locale beginning in the late Iron Age and extending through into the late Roman or even post-Roman period, but once again the risibly thin excuse of preservation *in situ* was used by consultants and developers to justify a lack of appropriate investigation and research. The chance to recover a valuable stratified sequence of pottery extending across this period of time should have been regarded as a clear research priority.

Site CFAT SE 4825 2052

In the area north of Darrington, aerial photographs suggested the presence of a subrectangular enclosure, a series of tracks or droveways, and rectilinear enclosures or fields. The field system here was largely co-axial in form, with boundaries aligned on a predominantly north to south axis. A double-ditched trackway over 1km in length seems to have formed one axial 'spine' of this field system, and this may have been one of the earliest components of the Iron Age and Romano-British landscape, perhaps similar to Swillington Common (see below). The fields appeared to have been smaller in size adjacent to the enclosures, and were perhaps livestock pens and 'infields', but were larger alongside the major boundaries and trackways.

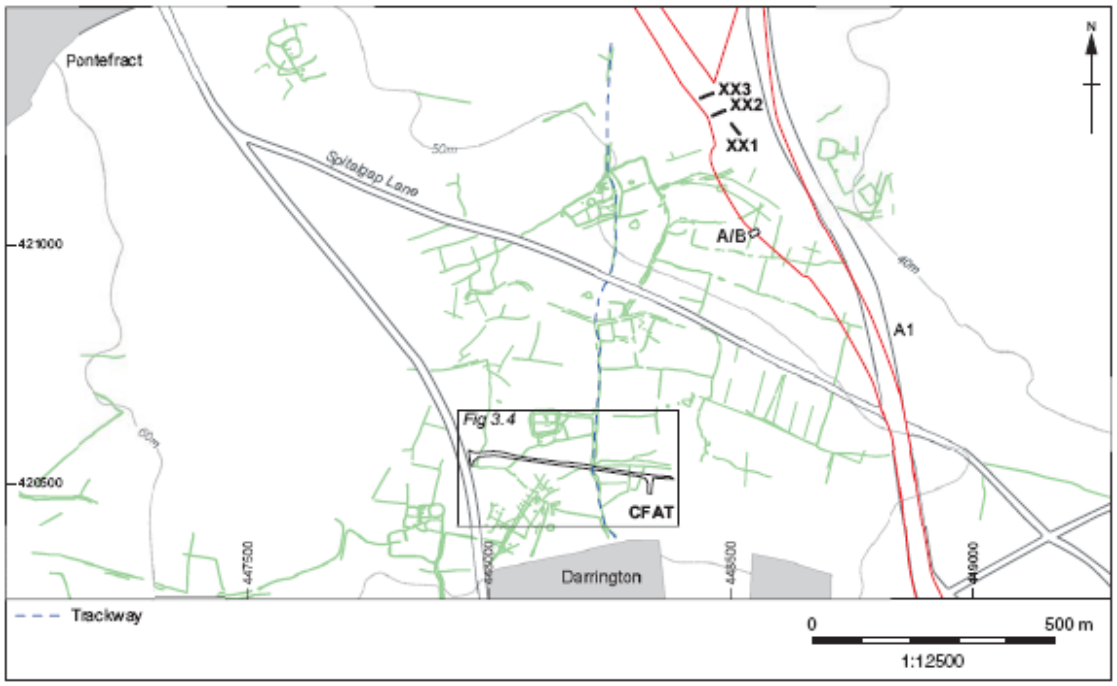


Figure G.63. *Location of the CFAT site, in relation to the cropmark field systems in the area. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 47, fig. 18).*

The Church Farm Access Track site consisted of a watching brief maintained along the line of an access road constructed between two probable enclosure sites, and led to part of the trackway, a series of field ditches and other features being excavated. The unexcavated enclosure to the north was subrectangular in plan with double ditches and a possible south and/or east facing entrance, and had evidence for an internal partition (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 48). This enclosure has many similarities with another unexcavated double-ditched enclosure identified during the evaluation phase of the ongoing Wattle Syke project, near Wetherby (see below). The cropmark complex to the south of the CFAT area is more enigmatic, but seems to have consisted of a large enclosed subrectangular area with a possible north-east to south-west aligned trackway on its western side. A series of further boundaries and pens or paddocks may have been associated with this, but some chronological and stratigraphic complexity is apparent. These features were also on a slightly different alignment to the rest of the trackways and field boundaries.

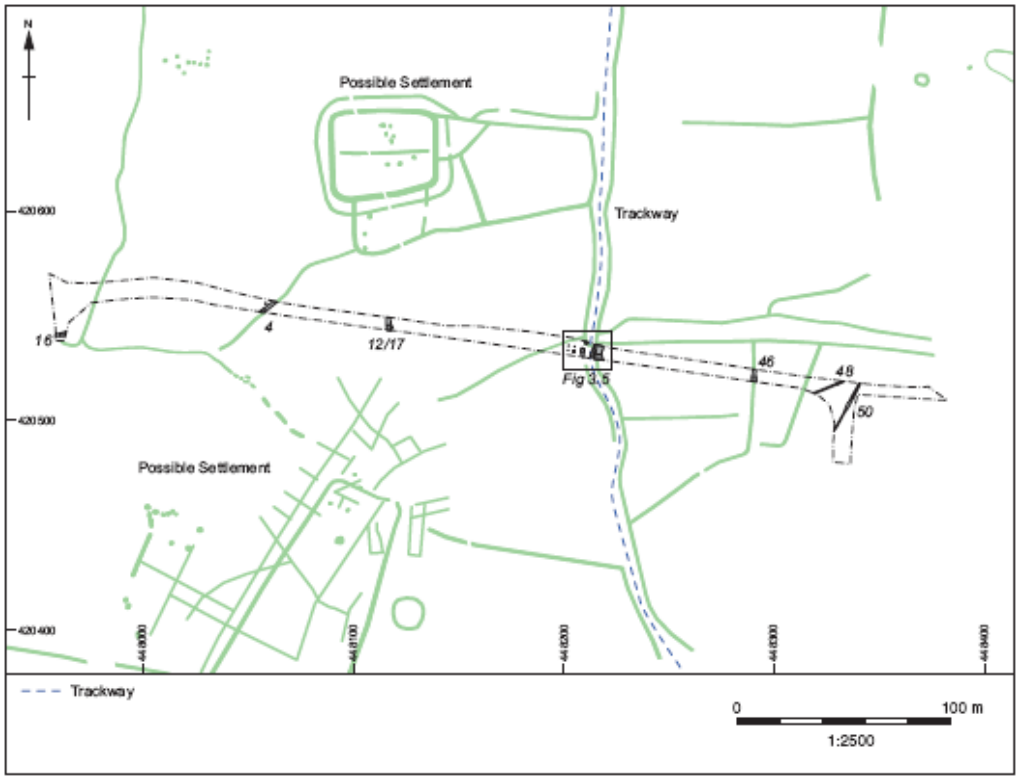
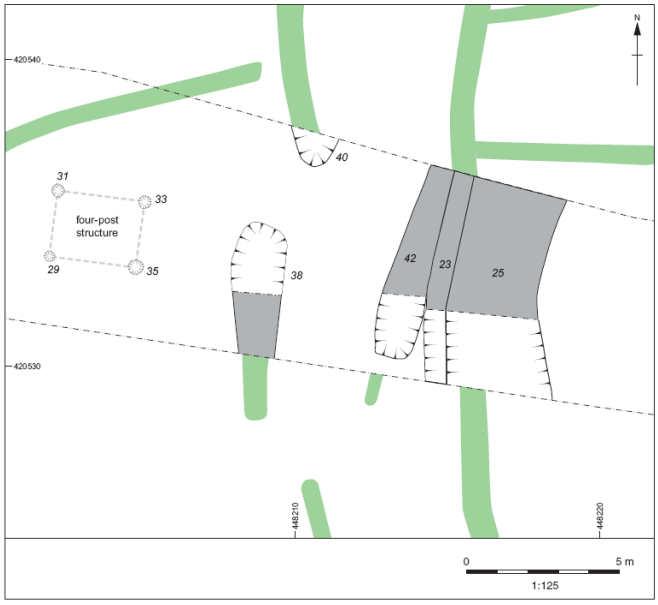


Figure G.64. *Location plan of the CFAT watching brief site, in relation to plotted cropmarks in the vicinity. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 48, fig. 19).*



A series of largely north-south aligned ditches were identified in several locations along the CFAT watching brief area, one of which (ditch 12) contained a small quantity of quartz-tempered Iron Age pottery, and another (ditch 46) contained sherds of Central Gaulish samian dating to around AD 120-160. The trackway itself was approximately 4m wide, and its north-south ditches were up to 2m wide and 1m deep.

Figure G.65. *Detail of the double-ditched trackway, entranceway and four-post structure excavated at Site CPAT. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 49, fig. 20).*

A gap in the western side of the trackway *c*. 2.3m wide gave access into the fields to the west. The southern terminus of ditch 38 contained sherds of a third or fourth century Dales ware jar (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 48). The eastern trackway ditch may also have originally had an entrance at this point, as ditch 42 had a terminal here, but in later phases it was repeatedly re-cut. To the west of the trackway and just inside the probable field entrance, a four-post structure was identified.

Site D (Ferry Fryston) SE 4690 2590

This area was located approximately 1km to the north-west of Ferrybridge henge, where cropmarks and geophysical survey indicated another cluster of ring gullies. Excavation work discovered a well-preserved flat Beaker inhumation grave, probable remains of a second Beaker burial and several middle Bronze Age cremation burials, the latter within three ring ditches that were within this area, at least two of which were probably upstanding round barrows. The largest ring gully had been truncated by a post-medieval ha-ha ditch, but in such a way that indicated it had still been an upstanding landscape feature used as a marker to lay out this estate boundary. A small timber post circle probably also dated to the late Neolithic or Bronze Age. The location of Iron Age mortuary features close to these earlier monuments cannot have been a coincidence. In addition to the square barrow carriage burial described in Chapter 11 and Appendix F (Figs. 11.62-11., F.60-F.67), a square enclosure was identified measuring 17.6m long on each side, and featuring a shallow ditch and 25 internal postholes, reflecting an unroofed structure with plank or palisade walling. All the features had been heavily truncated by later ploughing, and no artefacts or other such dating evidence were found. However, charred cereal grain from the ditch fill produced a ^{14}C date of AD 1020-1210, whilst charcoal from one of the postholes gave a date of AD 890-1160 (Boyle et al. 2007: 152). These may be intrusive materials, although it is possible that this might indicate a hitherto unrecognised early medieval phase of activity, which given the location and the unusual nature of the feature must still have been of some symbolic significance. However, the enclosure is very similar in size and plan to a probable Iron Age feature excavated at Kirkburn in East Yorkshire (Stead 1991: 25-28, fig. 24). As suggested in Appendix F, it is possible that the Ferry Fryston square feature was a shrine or mortuary enclosure.

Figure G.66. *Oblique view of the square palisade enclosure excavated at Ferry Fryston. (Source: Howard-Davis, Lupton and Boyle 2005: 12).*

If the adult man buried in the carriage inhumation was indeed from another region, as isotope evidence seems to indicate, than the location of this burial (and possibly the square enclosure) near earlier features in the landscape may have been a desire to reference a legendary past, or even an exercise in

legitimation through the creation of a fictive genealogy. The inclusion of sherds of Beaker pottery, two worked flints and a saddle quern within the barrow ditch (Boyle et al. 2007: 124) might have been a deliberate part of these processes. The landscape situation of the burial was also close to the River Aire and a potential east to west route through to the Humber and the North Sea, and a north to south route along the Magnesian Limestone ridge. This was probably also a factor influencing the location of the Ferrybridge henge itself earlier in prehistory (Roberts 2005a: 196).

Site M SE 4542 3180

This site was located on the south-eastern end of the same elevated Castle Hills ridgeline as Site C4SA, and only 400m south of the Castle Hills ladder enclosure complex at Highfield. A trackway led south from the Castle Hill complex, leading obliquely upslope to the Site M features. The evidence suggested that the main phase of settlement dated to the middle Iron Age, but many of the features did not intercut and so ^{14}C determinations suggest a broad date range of 400-200 BC (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 83). Although some of the features continued in use into the early Romano-British period, the locale was probably largely abandoned by the second century AD.

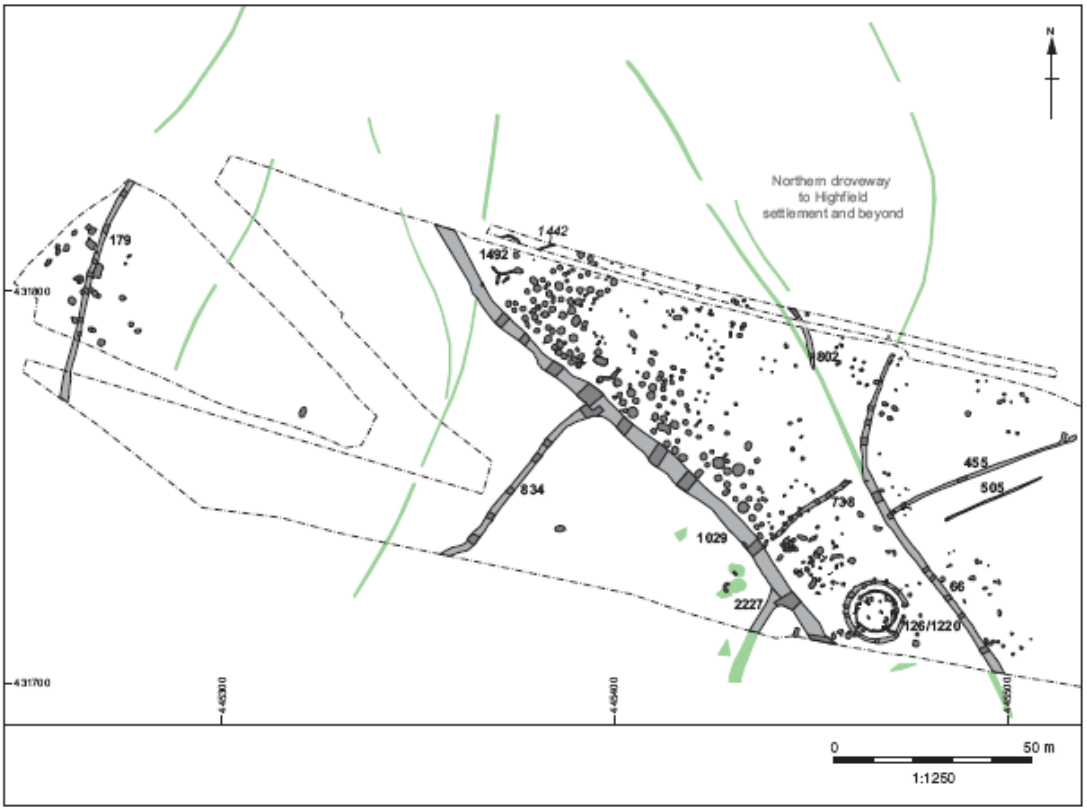


Figure G.67. *Overall plan of Site M, showing the dense concentration of features. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 85, fig. 54).*

The north-south trackway leading into the settlement was defined by ditches (66 and 802), which cropmarks suggested opened out into a 'funnel' immediately north of the excavated area. The northern part of the western trackway ditch and the eastern trackway ditch continued in use for some time, and additional field boundaries seem to have abutted these features. The southern part of the settlement was

defined by another major ditch aligned north-west to south-east (ditch 1029), and a ditch or gully dug at right angles to this (738) seems to have formed an internal subdivision, with entrances through it at each end. Within the area defined by these ditches was a marked concentration of pits, four-post structures, burials and roundhouses, apparently with some form of spatial zoning. The relationship of these features to the ditches suggests that the latter were in existence before most of the smaller features were dug or constructed, and there might not have been banks along the 'inner' internal edges of the ditches. To the north-east of 1029 was a dense concentration of pits, eight burials, two roundhouses, and a number of four-post structures. To the north of ditch 66 there were far fewer features, with a few shallow pits, postholes and four-post structures beyond, probably post-dating the infill of this ditch. At the north-west end of the settlement, the densest concentration of pits appeared to turn to the north-east, perhaps implying the presence of a less tangible barrier between this zone and the roundhouse located there (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 87). The numerous four-post structures seemed to concentrate to the east within the 'arms' of the L-shape, again suggesting different spatial zones of social practices. Two roundhouses were built at the north-west and south-east ends of the excavation area. The south-west structure (roundhouse 126/1220) was separated from the pits and four-post structures by ditch 738, while the north-western structure (1492) was located beyond the dense band of pits, dividing it from the four-post structures.

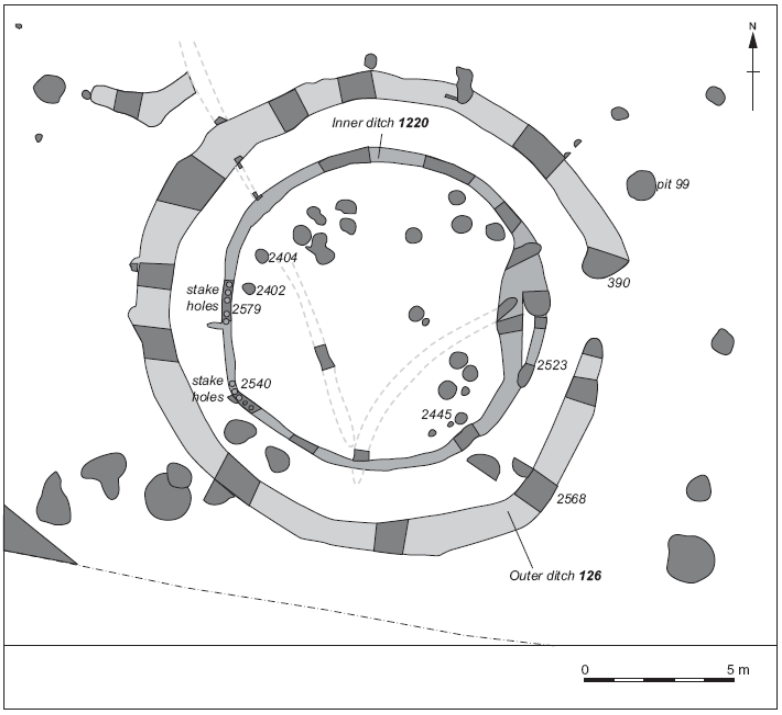


Figure G.68. (left). *Detailed plan of roundhouse 126/1220 at Site M. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 88, fig. 57).*

Roundhouse 126/1220 was defined by an outer ditch 16m in diameter, 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep, that may have been an eavesdrip gully, or a surrounding ring ditch similar to examples such as those at Balby Carr in South Yorkshire and one at the Methley MAP site. Within this was a smaller, narrower and shallower ring gully 11m in diameter, which may have been a wall slot (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 89). This seemed to have been re-cut on several occasions, and traces of stakeholes within it may suggest that it was a foundation wall slot. A series of postholes and stakeholes were

excavated within this area, forming roof supports and internal divisions although none contained dateable artefacts. Several pits between the two circular features incorporated sherds of Iron Age pottery and animal bone, with concentrations of pottery and bones also being found on the north and south-east sides of the outer ring gully. Roundhouse 1492 only survived as two shallow, subcircular arcs of gullies approximately 9.7 m long and 5.5 m wide, but no artefacts were recovered from these or from internal and external pits nearby.

Within the central and northern part of the excavated area, at least fifteen four-post structures were identified (see Appendix E, Figs. E.19-E.20, E.22). The central group was possibly divided by a south-east to north-west corridor or track with little evidence for other activity, which may have acted as an access route or pathway, linking the two main foci of settlement. Iron Age pottery, a small quantity of cattle and horse bone and carbonised barley and wheat deposits were recovered from some of the postholes of these four-post structures – one of the grain concentrations was probably a placed deposit (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 92-93). A ^{14}C date of 390-180 BC was obtained from some of this grain. Immediately north of ditch 738 was a rectangular, seven-post structure (10151), either a larger version of the four-post structures or a possible shrine (see Appendix E, Fig. E.22). The total number of pits investigated at Site M was 336, and as with the Ferrybridge and Ledston pit complexes (see below) it was not clear what the original function of these pits may have been. Eight contained human burials, described in Appendix F (see Figs. 11.66, F.53-F.55), and probably dating to between 400-200 BC. Strontium isotope analyses suggested that all but one of the people buried in these graves had been born outside of the region (ibid.).

The remaining pits (see Appendix E, Fig. F.34) were between 0.2-3.44m in diameter and 0.5m-2m deep, the distribution of these again indicative of spatial and perhaps cognitive or cosmological zoning practices (see Appendix F, Fig. F.15). As at Ledston and Ferrybridge, most did not inter-cut, suggesting the visibility or knowledge of previously dug pits, and some contained interesting groups of pottery, animal bone and disarticulated human bone suggestive of placed deposits (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 94). Some animal burials were identified, including a cow and calf burial (see Chapter 11, Fig. 11.24), and in addition to cattle and sheep/goat bone, red deer and dog remains were also identified. Some of the pits may have been used as charnel features, where some human bodies were exposed and left to partially decay. A fragment of stone bracelet, part of a beehive quernstone and a possible stone weight were also recovered from some of these pits. The deposition of pottery appears to have been highly selective, both in the pits chosen and the sherds deposited. It was notable that no ceramic sherds occurred in the pits that contained or might in future possibly contain human burials. Other organic materials such as foodstuffs, leather, wood, and textiles may also have been included, but did not survived. In contrast, very little pottery was found in association with the roundhouses, where 'domestic' occupation practices would have been expected to have been concentrated.

Most occupation at Site M seems to have ceased during the late Iron Age, although many of the enclosure ditches continued to be utilised as boundaries into the earlier Romano-British period. Some

ditches were re-cut and their alignments modified. The construction of ditch 737 removed access to the northern trackway, but may have formed part of a further track or droveway leading north-west. A series of shallow, inter-cutting gullies were dug between ditches 1029 and 737, and sherds of Huntcliff Ware recovered from the last in the sequence suggest that as late as the fourth to early fifth century at least some of these boundaries formed part of an extant system of fields and paddocks, although the symbolic significance of the site seems to have been lost. Only a few sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from a single pit alongside one of the later boundaries.

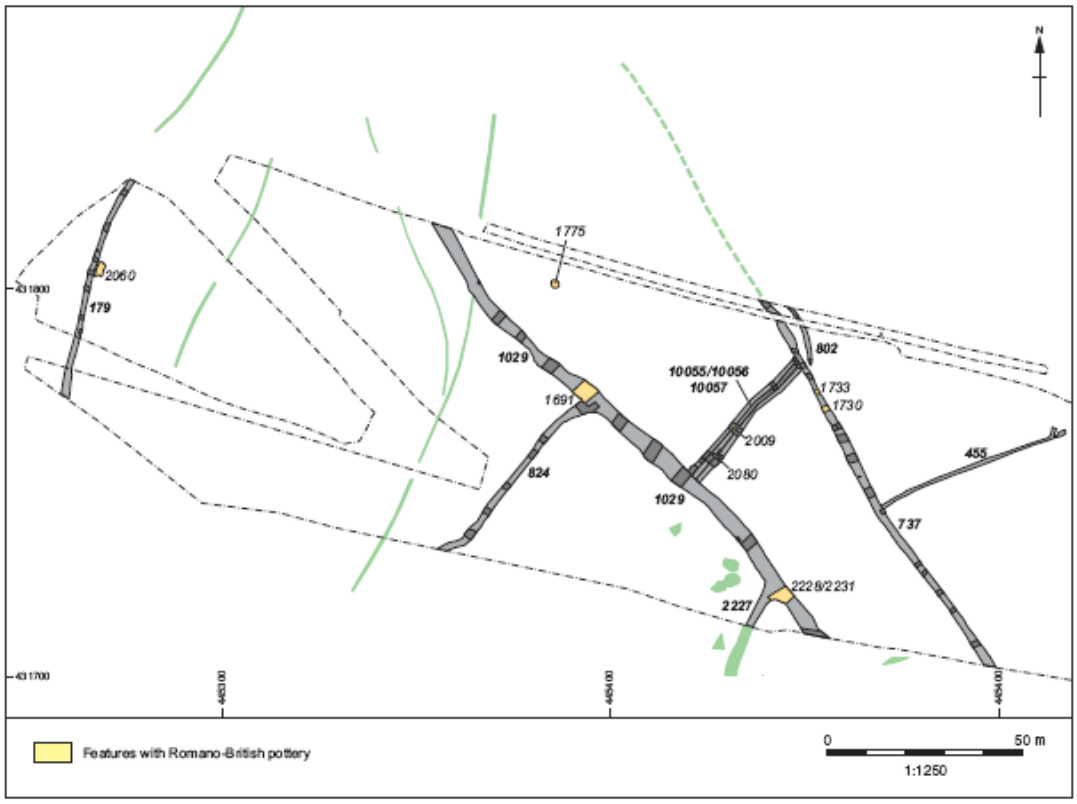


Figure G.69. *The Romano-British phase features at Site M. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 105, fig. 68).*

Site P SE 4720 2390

Site P consisted of a narrow linear excavation approximately 1.2 km long in total, on either side of Site Q (see below), south of the M62. Many of the features had been excavated by AS WYAS as part of the Holmfield Interchange investigations (Roberts 2005c), and others had been recorded as cropmarks or through geophysical survey. Although the majority of the features excavated at Site P were medieval or post-medieval in date, some were undoubtedly later Iron Age or Romano-British in origin. A series of ditches were excavated that produced Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, and many of these features had evidence for repeated re-cutting (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 71). At the eastern part of Site P this included part of a trackway ditch previously examined by AS WYAS, in addition to a series of field boundary ditches. The gully of a small enclosure or livestock pen was also recorded, but this did not produce any dating evidence.

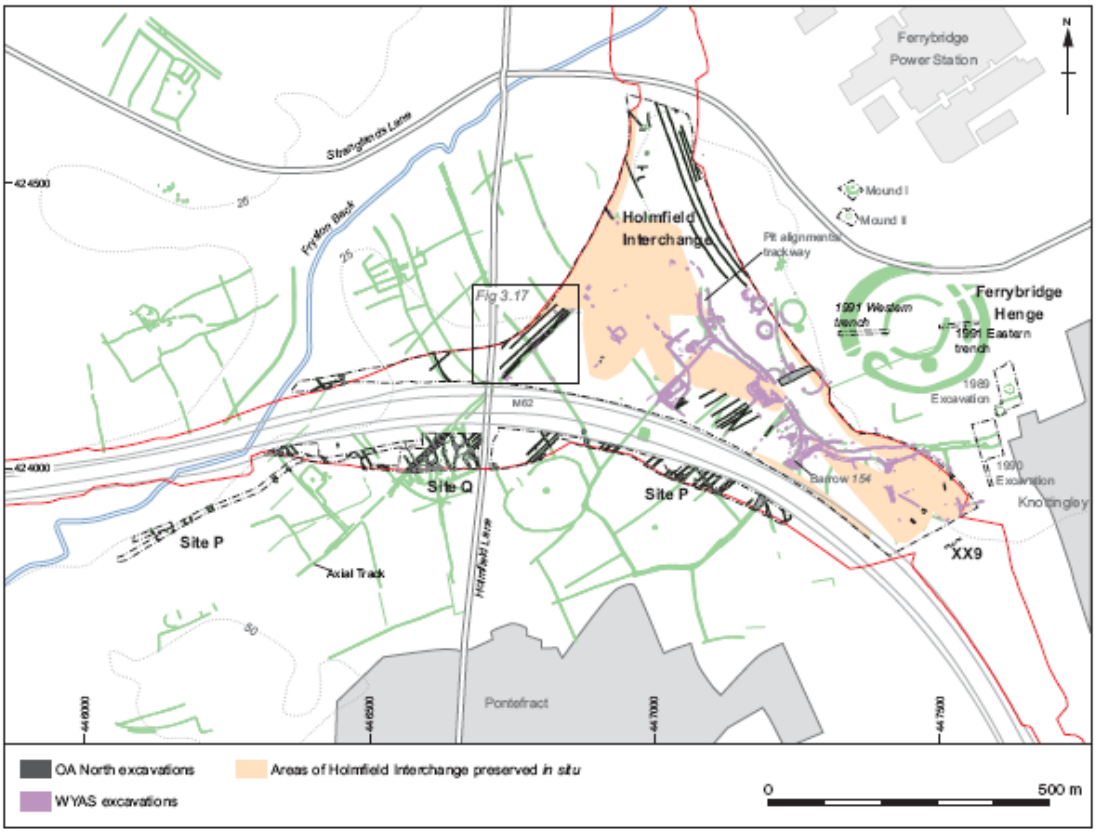


Figure G.70. *Plan of Ferrybridge and the Holmfield Interchange area showing Oxford Archaeology North Sites P and Q, in relation to the features excavated by AS WYAS, and those recorded as cropmarks. Note the unexcavated rectangular enclosure between Sites P and Q (lower left), the large subcircular enclosure (lower centre) and the small square cropmark now under the M62(right of centre). (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 58, fig. 27).*

At the western demarcation between Site P and Site Q, a dry valley in the limestone was identified, at least 160m long, 26m wide and filled by around 3m of natural silts. Unfortunately, the approximate period in which these sediments had begun to accumulate was not established, but they were truncated by a re-cut boundary ditch that formed part of the same system of north-east to south-west orientated field boundaries as those investigated at Site Q (see below). The western part of Site P also contained a series of north-west to south-east orientated ditches forming part of the axis of a subrectangular enclosure to the south of Site P, but this was only identified from cropmarks alone and was not excavated as part of the A1 (M) road scheme (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 71, 73, fig. 39). This unexcavated enclosure had some morphological similarities with Enclosure D investigated to the north-east at Ferrybridge (Martin 2005), and it too might have contained a corn drying kiln within it. In addition, some further field boundary ditches were excavated, but these only produced a few sherds of second to third century greyware. Another notable cropmark in the area takes the form of a large subcircular enclosure approximately 150m across, potentially earlier than and partly recut by some field system trackway ditches, and containing an unusual ovoid or circular ring ditch cropmark near its centre. This may have been a large livestock corral. Another significant cropmark recorded on old aerial photographs but now buried underneath the M62 is a small square ditched feature, possibly another square barrow or some form of ritual enclosure.

Site Q SE 4640 2400

To the immediate south of this site, cropmarks suggest the existence of a series of broadly co-axial, sub-rectangular field boundaries that appear to respect a possibly pre-existing subrounded enclosure approximately 150m wide, with a ring ditch or roundhouse near its centre. This feature is similar to some of the subrounded features recorded by Derrick Riley as at Broom Hill and Thoresby Park in Nottinghamshire (Riley 1980: 28, 102-103, fig. 4, map 12), and is perhaps also a larger variant of some of the enclosures or corrals identified at South Kirkby and South Hiendley (see below). This feature may have originated in the earlier or middle Iron Age, and might have been a large livestock corral. This then appears to have become incorporated into at least two broad phases of field system. The enclosure complex that was investigated at Site Q was situated just 130m to the north-west of this large subcircular enclosure (see Fig. G.70 above).

One of the earliest structuring features of the landscape at Site Q seems to have been a prominent north-east to south-east orientated trackway, which was part of the same feature excavated as ditches 102 and 103 by AS WYAS at the main Holmfield Interchange Ferrybridge site (e.g. Richardson 2005b: 73, fig. 62). As ditches recorded on excavations or as cropmarks, this particular trackway can be plotted for at least 800m. Many field boundaries are arranged perpendicular to it, and it thus seems to have acted as an axial spine, which together with the repeated re-cutting of its ditches suggests a long chronology for its use. The westernmost ditch (634) was the smallest at 1.3m wide and 0.5m in depth, and may have been a land or field boundary before the double-ditched trackway was constructed. In places it only existed as a series of segmented gullies and pits, and might have begun in the middle Iron Age, although no artefacts were recovered from it (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 63). Several field system ditches were arranged at right angles to and on the north-western side of this boundary, but these likewise contained no finds. The south-eastern trackway ditch (378/631/687) was re-cut on several occasions, and might have been broadly contemporary with or post-dated the D-shaped enclosure described below. It was up to 4.4m wide and 1.4m deep, and no dating evidence was found from its earliest phases, although a coin of Carausius (AD 286–296) indicates that a re-cut was still open and silting up during the later third century AD, as was found at Ferrybridge (Richardson 2005b: 73). There however, first century AD pottery was also recovered from a second re-cut fill. Further to the north-east, the two trackway ditches seem to have actually crossed over, again suggesting that in at least one phase one or both of its ditches were important boundaries.

In between trackway ditches 631 and 634 was a third central feature (632/642), the first phase of which was 1m wide and up to 0.80m deep, but which was then re-cut as a ditch up to 5.7m wide and 0.92m deep (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 63). It is possible that the early phase feature began as a holloway within the trackway, but was then later re-cut as a ditch, and perhaps may even have formed one phase of the north-west boundary of the trapezoidal enclosure (see below). Late second to early third century pottery was found in the upper fills of the second phase ditch.

Towards the south-west of Site Q, part of a D-shaped enclosure was excavated, cropmarks suggesting this was 37m long and 27m wide, with a south-west facing entrance approached via a small sub-rectangular annex with a restricted south-east facing entrance. This annex may have been a later addition, and originally the D-shaped enclosure might have had a northern entrance, as the western side of its enclosure ditch terminated within the trackway. This might in turn imply that only the northern trackway ditch (634) was in existence when the enclosure was constructed, or that the southern trackway ditch (631/687) was dug at the same time as the enclosure but not before (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 59). The enclosure ditch was up to 1.20m wide and 0.65m deep, and was subsequently partly incorporated into the re-cut southern trackway ditch. A ^{14}C date of 360-50 BC was obtained from carbonised grain in the primary fill of the D-shaped enclosure ditch. A fragmentary human ulna was recovered from the fill of the north-eastern part of the original enclosure ditch.

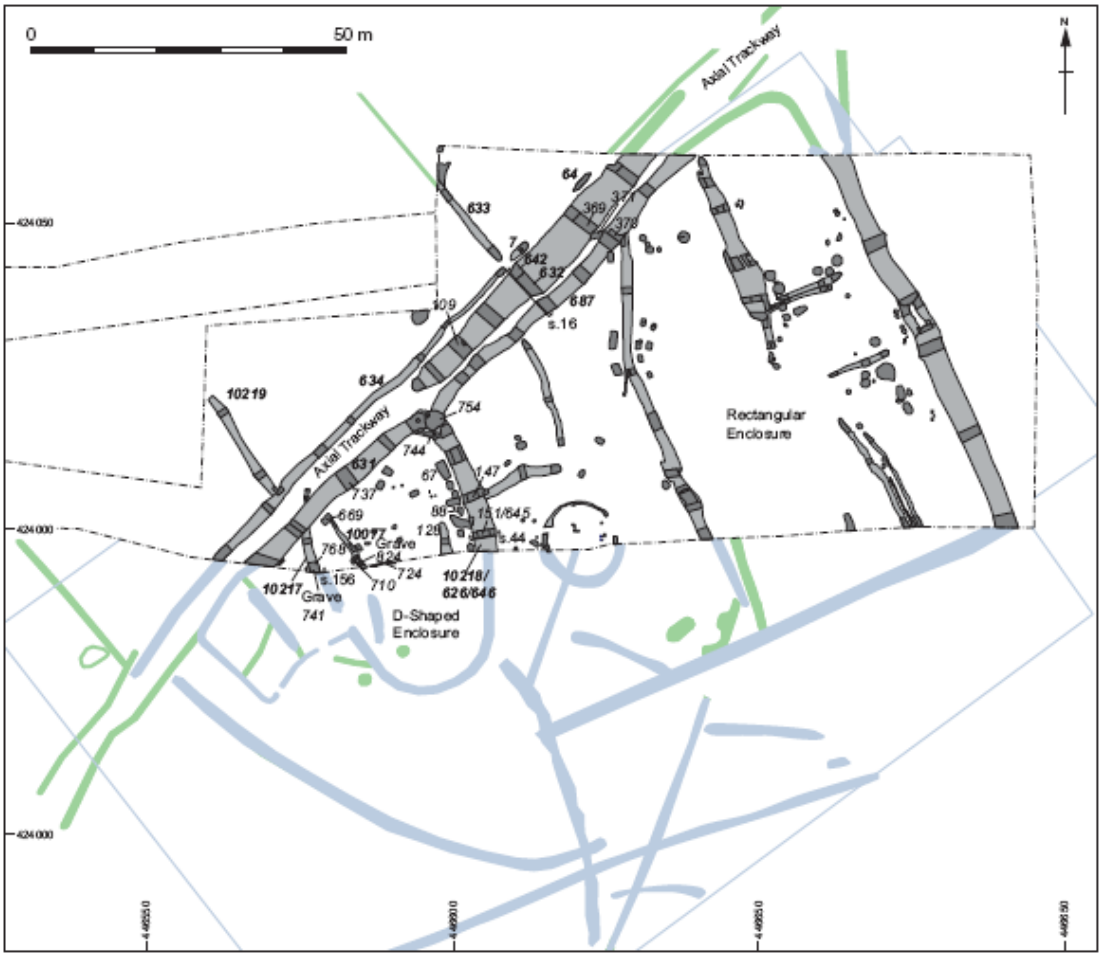


Figure G.71. *More detailed plan of the enclosure complex excavated at Site Q. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 60, fig. 28).*

Within the D-shaped enclosure were some internal partition ditches and gullies, sixteen large pits and a few postholes, but there were few stratigraphic relationships and little dating evidence was recovered, although from any of these features, except for intrusive post-medieval pottery, and there were few stratigraphic relationships. The alignment of many of the pits was very close to the enclosure ditch, and this may indicate that either there was no internal bank, or that they had been dug during an earlier,

palisaded phase of the enclosure prior to its re-modelling with a ditch. Part of a Roman stone column base and a building block were found in pit 669, suggesting activity at this later date. In an elongated pit (824) cutting into internal ditch 10077 was the extended inhumation of an adult male aged 35-45, and a ^{14}C date of 90 BC-AD 60 was obtained from his remains (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 61). This ditch may have formed part of an earlier internal 'screen' behind the west-facing entrance. A second inhumation burial was found in a pit (741) dug into the western side of the enclosure ditch, and this was a crouched burial of a male aged 25-35 with a grave lining of rough limestone blocks, dating to AD 0-130. The evidence suggests that the D-shaped enclosure was never a focus for domestic inhabitation, but was used for other purposes. The two sub-rectangular annexes on its western side may have served as livestock pens. In the very late Iron Age and earlier Roman period though, the largely disused enclosure might nevertheless have been used as a burial place. The architectural fragments also hint at a large, Roman-style building located somewhere close nearby.

A large trapezoidal enclosure was constructed on the eastern side of the D-shaped enclosure, and although it was not completely excavated cropmarks indicate that it was approximately 80m long and 80m wide at its widest part. Through re-cutting the trapezoidal enclosure used the existing D-shaped enclosure ditch as its western edge and the southernmost trackway ditch as its northern edge, and the southern trackway ditch had the upper edge of its re-cut lined with a revetment of limestone blocks, similar to those encountered at Barnsdale Bar, Ferrybridge and at Wattle Syke (see below). Two re-cuts of the trapezoidal enclosure's ditches were identified, the first probably dating to the late second to early third century (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 66). These re-cuts were larger than the original ditches, being up to 4m wide and 1.80m deep. The latest ditch in the sequence contained late fourth to early fifth century pottery and a copper-alloy pendant in upper fills, the latter being of Roman military origin. The eastern side of the enclosure might originally have been formed by two parallel ditches or gullies, although these were not necessarily contemporary, and it is unclear if these could have been associated with an earlier palisaded phase. These were later re-cut by a large enclosure ditch containing late second to third century pottery, with a 4.30m wide east-facing entrance. Several postholes in this area probably formed a timber gateway.

Figure G.72. (left). *Site Q seen under excavation, showing the large trapezoidal enclosure and the roundhouse visible at the upper left. The D-shaped enclosure has not yet been exposed. (Source: Howard-Davis, Lupton and Boyle 2005: 16).*

Within the trapezoidal enclosure, a series of north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west orientated gullies seem to have formed a series of fencelines or screens controlling and channelling movement from the east. Some of these were re-cut at least once, and the two north-east to south-west examples contained both late Iron Age and third to fourth century Romano-British pottery (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 66-68). A group of mostly sub-rounded pits also seem to have respected this line of movement – none of these produced any dateable artefacts, but one was truncated by the re-cut enclosure ditch. A larger north-west to south-east orientated ditch divided the trapezoidal enclosure in half, and this too had been re-cut on several occasions. There may originally have been one or more gaps through it, and several regular sub-rectangular pits were dug on either side of the northern line of this subdivision. Small fragments of pig or cattle bone were recovered from two, and charcoal produced a ^{14}C date of 400–200 BC, which if not residual suggests that some may have been contemporary with the D-shaped enclosure, but pre-dated the ditched phase of the trapezoidal enclosure. In the north-western corner was a square sub-enclosure 16m long and 15m with a south-east facing entrance, and the ditches of this had been truncated by the later re-cuts of the enclosure.

Towards the south-western part of the trapezoidal enclosure was a roundhouse ring gully 10.60m in diameter, although only the northern half of this feature was excavated. It had a north-east facing entrance, and the southern entrance terminal contained calcite-tempered pottery, probably fourth century AD Huntcliff ware (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2008: 69). Several internal postholes were identified, but it is not known how the two segments of the gully related to the structure. These may have been linked to a cropmark ditch or gully pre- or post-dating the building. The close juxtaposition of these features is notable though, suggesting deliberate architectural referencing and some form of social memory.

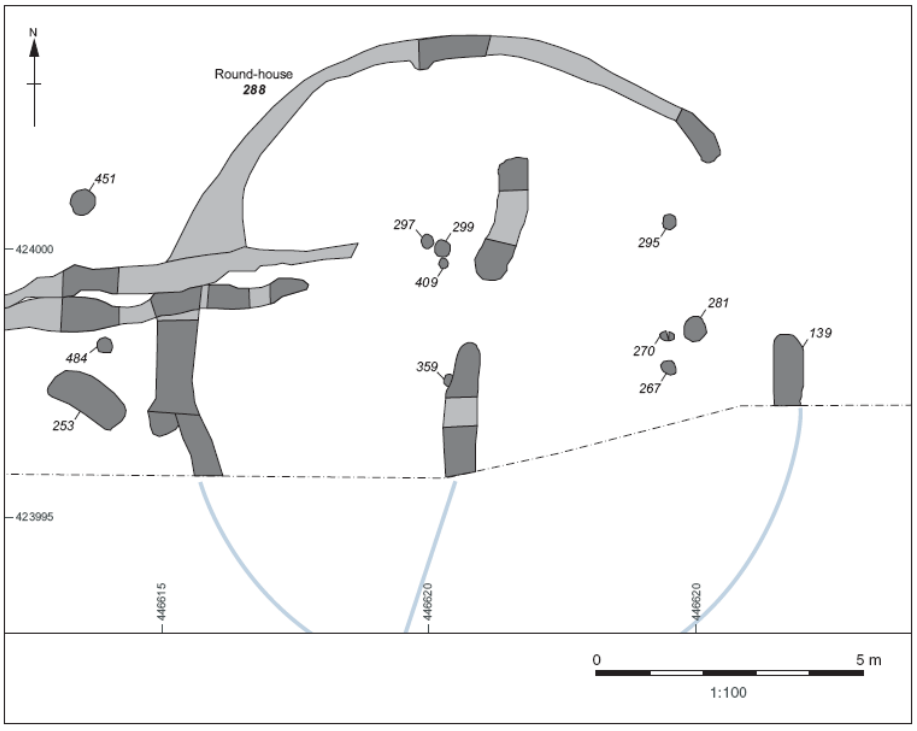


Figure G.73. (left). *Detail of the roundhouse at Site Q. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 68, fig. 36).*

Site R SE 4490 3225

Site R was located to the west of Castle Hills on the crest of a north-facing slope, within the area of the designated Scheduled Monument (SM 31531). Until recently it was covered by woodland, and a topographic survey by AS WYAS in 2001 recorded earthworks in this locale. With removal of the trees and the topsoil stripped, a large south-west to north-east aligned ditch at least 55m long was revealed, up to 4m wide and 2m deep, probably with a bank originally on the northern side (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 105). A single worn sherd of Iron Age pottery was found in a lower fill, but the ditch may have remained open well into the Romano-British period. The ditch survived as an earthwork to the north-east of Site R.

Approximately 3m south-east of this ditch were a series of segmented ditches or elongated pits parallel to it, and some had been deliberately backfilled. Although no pottery was recovered from these features, in comparison with other similar features excavated in West Yorkshire they are likely to have been an earlier boundary, perhaps early to mid-Iron Age in date. At the southern end of Site R were two ditches both initially aligned east-west but then turning south to form a double-ditched trackway up to 5m wide (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 106). The ditches had been re-cut several times, and late second to fourth century pottery was recovered from the later re-cut fills. This feature survived as a holloway until recently (AS WYAS 2001), and formed the Norman and medieval boundary between the townships of Ledston and Micklefield (Faull and Moorhouse 1981: map 15). As with the trackway at Adwick-le-Street in South Yorkshire therefore, a late Iron Age or Romano-British routeway survived as a significant routeway through the landscape, demonstrating a measure of post-Roman continuity. Its significance as a later medieval social and political boundary might even reflect something of its status during the Romano-British period.

Site XX8 SE 4780 2340

Site XX8 was located immediately east of the M62 and just 600m south-east of Ferrybridge henge. The site investigated in more detail a subrectangular double-ditched enclosure that previous work by AS WYAS had suggested was an Iron Age or Romano-British settlement. However, only the western edge of this settlement was examined, and the main focus of the enclosure lay outside the excavation area to the east. The two parallel ditches were aligned north-west to south-east, turning at right-angles onto a north-east to south-west orientation. These probably formed the western side of the enclosure, with the northern side visible on cropmarks beyond the limit of excavation. The inner ditch 163 was a sizeable feature up to 5.20m wide and 1.60m deep, and a lower fill produced abraded sherds of East Gaulish samian dated to AD 160-190, and a single sherd of second or third century Romano-British pottery (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 54). There was a later, less substantial re-cut that contained further second century samian sherds, but also third to fourth century coarsewares.

This inner ditch seemed to have been respected by two external boundary ditches to the east and south-east (ditches 166 and 160/161), which also contained some Romano-British pottery. The outer

enclosure ditch (162) was broadly parallel to the inner ditch, and was up to 2.5m and 1.13m deep. This outer ditch cut through ditches 160/161 and perhaps 166 too, and this might indicate that it was later than the inner ditch, although possibly contemporary with the re-cut of the latter. Pottery from upper fills of the outer enclosure ditch included Central Gaulish samian of AD 120-200, rare finds (for the region) of Dressel 20 amphora, fourth century shell-gritted ware and late fourth to fifth century Huntcliff ware (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 54). This might suggest that the samian was residual or had been curated prior to deposition. The skeleton of a late-stage human foetus or neonate child was recovered from a fill of this ditch, similar to examples of such burials at Dalton Parlours and Wattle Syke. At the point where ditch 162 seemed to cut ditch 166, a large pit had been dug containing fourth century pottery.

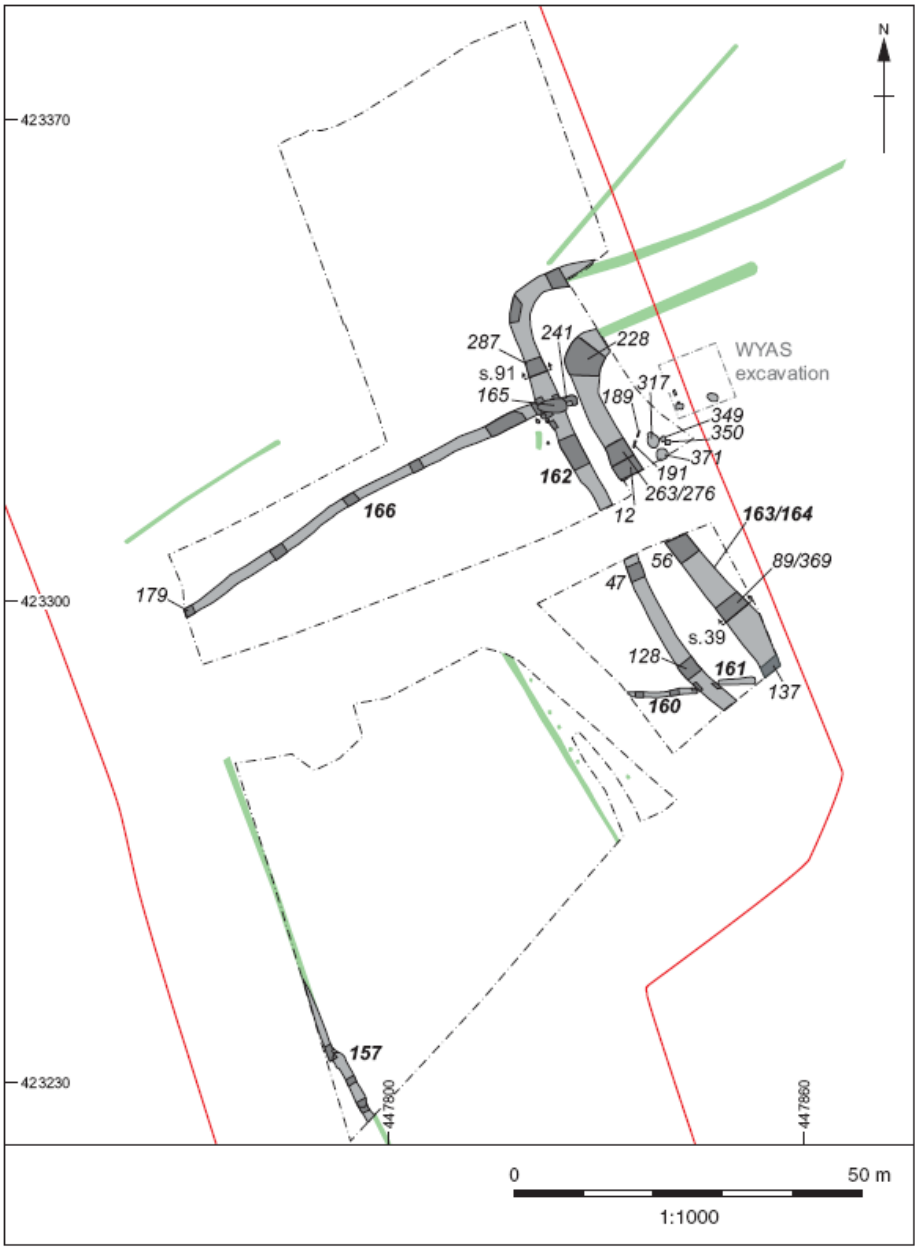


Figure G.74. *Plan of the features excavated at Site XX8. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 55, fig. 25).*

Within the north-west corner of the enclosure were several sub-circular pits, one of which (317) contained several small Iron Age pot sherds of Iron Age pottery, and this might suggest an earlier phase of occupation. The AS WYAS investigations had earlier found second to fourth century pottery in two small pits or postholes within the interior (AS WYAS 2002). Unfortunately, no more of this enclosure was excavated.

Site XX15 SE 4785 2830

This site was located just east of Fairburn, on a relatively gentle south-east facing slope just *c*. 500m north-east of the River Aire floodplain. A large boundary ditch (402) orientated north-east to south-west was excavated, up to 2m wide and 0.60m deep, and with a segmented boundary on its western side arranged at right-angles to it. An inhumation burial was located nearby, perhaps truncated by a re-cut of the boundary ditch, and this grave contained the disarticulated long bones and lower jawbone of an adult human, the bone producing a ^{14}C date of 340-50 BC (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 75). It was not clear whether these bones were disarticulated when placed in the grave, or whether this resulted from later disturbance. The lack of any other bones would indicate the former.

The northern re-cut of the boundary ditch formed part of the south-western corner of an enclosure or field, and this was a more sizeable feature 2.80m wide and up to 1.20m deep. Lower ditch fills contained second century pottery and third or fourth century Dales ware, and a copper-alloy object, some iron chain links, a bone 'toggle' or horse harness cheek-piece and animal bone were also recovered from the ditch. One pit was identified on the 'inside' of the possible enclosure, with evidence for *in situ* burning and with carbonised grains of barley, wheat and possibly oats (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 75).

The southern extent of ditch 402 was also re-cut as an L-shaped ditch (404), which turned at a right-angle towards the north-west along the line of the earlier segmented boundary. This ditch may have defined a second enclosure or field, and Central Gaulish samian and greyware of second century AD date was recovered from it. Another inhumation burial had been inserted into this ditch too, and this grave pit contained the crouched or flexed remains of an adult woman with a copper-alloy necklet and a near-complete South Yorkshire Black Burnished ware of the late second or third century AD (see Appendix F, Fig. F.68). A ^{14}C date on her bones provided a range of AD 70-230 (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 76-77). Immediately north of the ditch was a small sub-circular pit containing a cremation burial within a greyware jar, the bone producing a ^{14}C date of AD 80-320 whilst the pottery was thought to be second or early third century. These boundaries that may have been created in the later Iron Age thus continued in use into the Romano-British period, and might have retained some social significance even after they had silted up.

Site 16 SE 4105 5205

North of Wetherby at Wetherby Lane, and approximately 350m north of where geophysical survey had detected a subrectangular enclosure, a large ditch (10011) up to 1.75m wide and 0.70m was recorded for at least 63m on a broadly north-east to south-west axis, and this produced a small amount of Iron Age pottery and a beehive quern. A smaller ditch on approximately the same alignment (10016) lay some 20m to the south-east. These may have been associated with the shallow ring gully of a possible roundhouse *c.* 11m in diameter (10013), with a probable north-east facing entrance (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 117). This contained no evidence for postholes or other internal features, probably due to plough truncation, and a single sherd of Iron Age pottery was found near the southernmost entrance terminal of the ring gully. To the north-east was a more irregular penannular gully feature forming a semi-circle approximately 6m across, and a relatively large amount of Iron Age sherds was recovered from the two gully terminals of this structure. Once again, no internal features were recognised, and the gully is similar to one excavated at the MAP site at Methley (see below). Carbonised plant material from this irregular gully produced a ^{14}C date of 100 BC-AD 90. Some Iron Age sherds were also found in what was probably a natural hollow some 130m south of these two structures, indicating more general landscape-based activity of this date.

Both linear ditches were cut by north-west to south-east ditch 10008, up to 2.5m wide but only 0.25m deep, with a slightly irregular course. Second or early third century AD pottery was found in its primary and secondary fills (Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 117). It articulated with ditch 10016 and passed close to structure 10013 and may have used a standing building or traces of it as a landscape marker. Some spatial connections were thus made over several centuries.

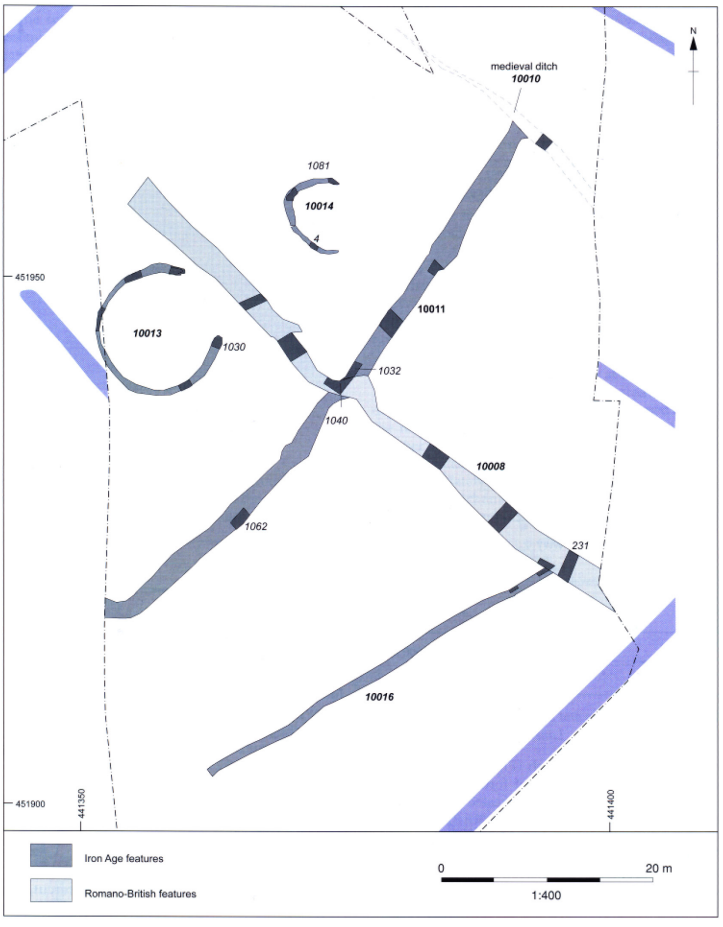


Figure G.75. (right). *Plan of features at Site 16. (Source: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007: 116, fig. 81).*

References: Boyle et al. 2007; Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007.

Dawson's Wood SE 4380 3580

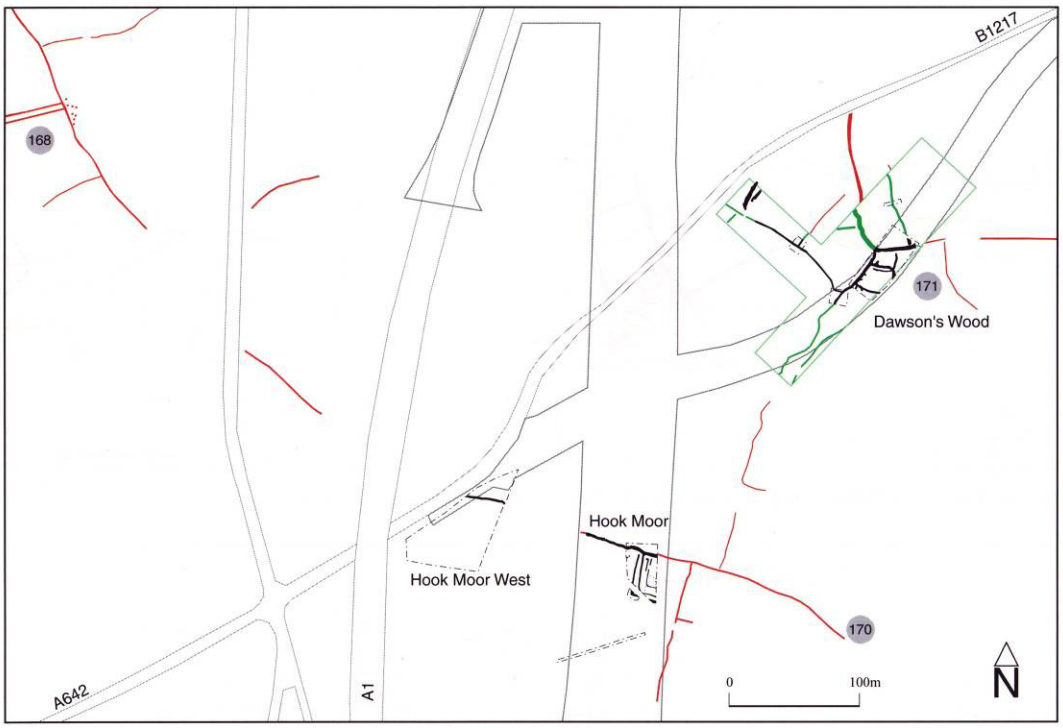


Figure G.76. *The excavated features (black), cropmarks (red) and results from geophysical survey (green) at Dawson's Wood (upper right), also showing the relationship of these features to the triple-ditched enclosure at Hook Moor (see below). (Source: Deegan 2001b: 34, fig. 18).*

This cropmark complex was investigated by AS WYAS as part of the M1-A1 Link Road works, and was situated just 250m north-east of the Hook Moor triple-ditched enclosure and boundaries (see below), on a slight terrace or plateau on an otherwise very gentle south-east facing slope with a slight rise to the south-east, in an undulating landscape. On the other side of this low rise some 800m to the south-east are a series of cloughs and becks. The enclosures at Dawson's Wood seem to have been associated with the same system of major sinuous boundaries also identified at Hook Moor. Two of these features probably represented the first phase of activity recorded during the excavation, where a right-angled boundary that appeared as an east-west ditch within the excavation area (1001/1008), up to 2.4m wide and 1.60m deep (O'Neill 2001b: 121). Only one sherd of late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery was recovered from its primary fill, and the pattern of infilling suggested that a bank might have existed along its northern side. At a later date, a north-east to south-west ditch was appended to the right-angled 'corner' of the earlier main boundary, cutting through the primary fills of the former ditch, but once dug probably contemporaneously open and infilling with secondary deposits at the same time. This later, smaller ditch (1000) might have extended as far south as Hook Moor. Part of it at least might have formed the western side of a trackway or funnel, narrowing to a notable constriction visible on aerial photographs. Confusingly, the site publication report later suggests that there may originally have been a gap 3m wide between the east-west and the north-east to south-west ditch (ibid.: 123), but there were indications from the profile of the latter that it had been re-cut.

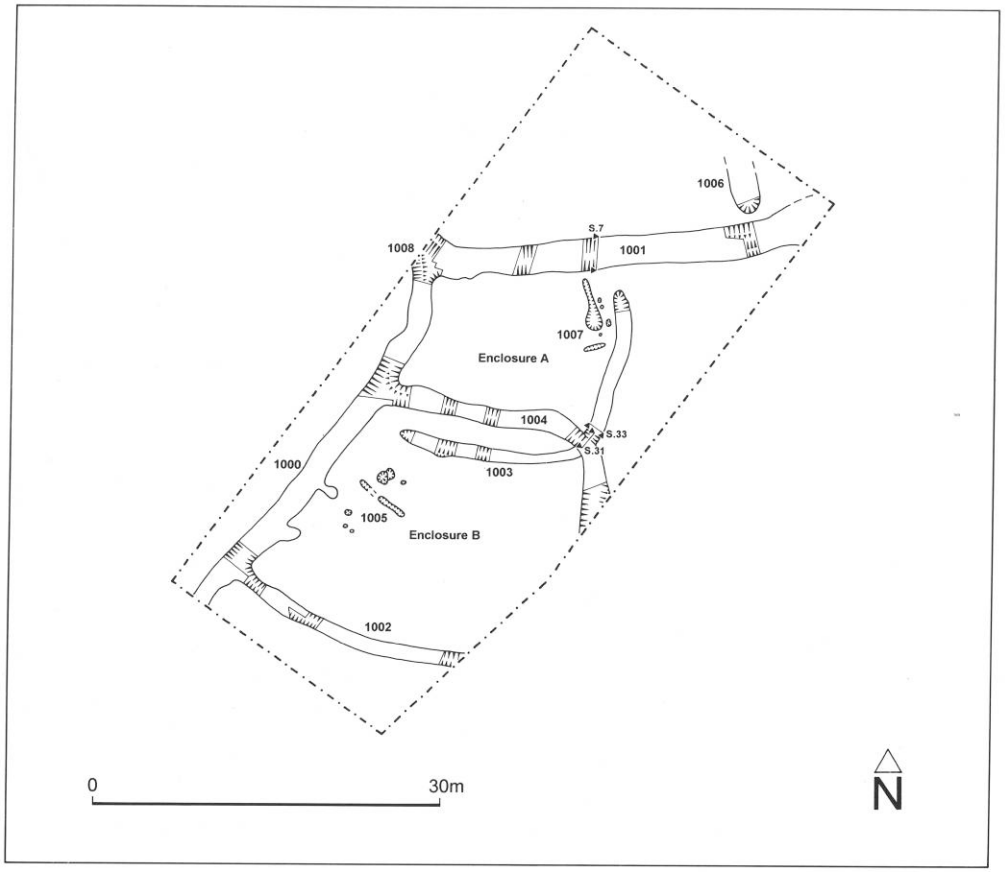


Figure G.77. *More detailed plan of the enclosures excavated at Dawson's Wood. (Source: O'Neill 2001b: 120, fig. 93).*

As part of this second phase, or possibly slightly later in date, a right-angled ditch (1003) was dug in the corner formed by these two boundary ditches, creating a subsquare enclosure (Enclosure A) that was 15m long and 15m wide. This enclosure ditch was up to 1.1m wide and 0.45m deep, and two c. 3m wide gaps between it and the two earlier ditches might have reflected entrances or indicate the presence of a bank, although as noted above it was thought that the bank of the major east-west ditch on the northern side. Similarly, there might have been an entrance on the north-western side, if the north-east to south-west ditch had originally stopped short of the east-west ditch – the publication report says a constriction in ditch 1000 may be further evidence for a north-eastern entrance (O'Neill 2001b: 121), but this was on the *western* side of the enclosure. There is thus some confusion in the published account. Few internal features were identified, but two segmented linear gullies and a series of postholes in the north-east corner may, however, have reflected some form of timber entrance structure, although it is possible that some of these features may have been a later phase of subenclosure. One sherd of early Romano-British pottery was found in the enclosure ditch, along with an undiagnostic greyware sherd and a lump of flint.

A third phase of activity was identified at Dawson's Wood, when Enclosure B was constructed. This 'clothes line' enclosure was approximately 25m long and 20m wide, and cut across the infilled ditch of earlier Enclosure A. The enclosure ditches were up to 1.7m wide and 0.8m deep, and it is not clear if

they formed a continuous circuit, if there was an entranceway in the south-eastern corner of the enclosure, or if two unexcavated gully projections on the inner edge of ditch 1000 on the western side of Enclosure B might represent a timber entrance structure bridging the ditch at this point. A few gullies and postholes towards the western side of Enclosure B might have been some form of insubstantial fenceline or other structure, and the only finds recovered were from the enclosure ditch and included a few animal bone fragments, a lump of worked flint, a fragment of daub and one sherd of greyware (O'Neill 2001b: 122). Some or all of the undated gullies and postholes in the north-eastern corner of Enclosure A might have actually belonged to this later phase, representing a northern subenclosure within the corner of the two main boundary ditches. The lack of artefacts and internal features suggests that these enclosures had an agricultural function, perhaps as animal pens.

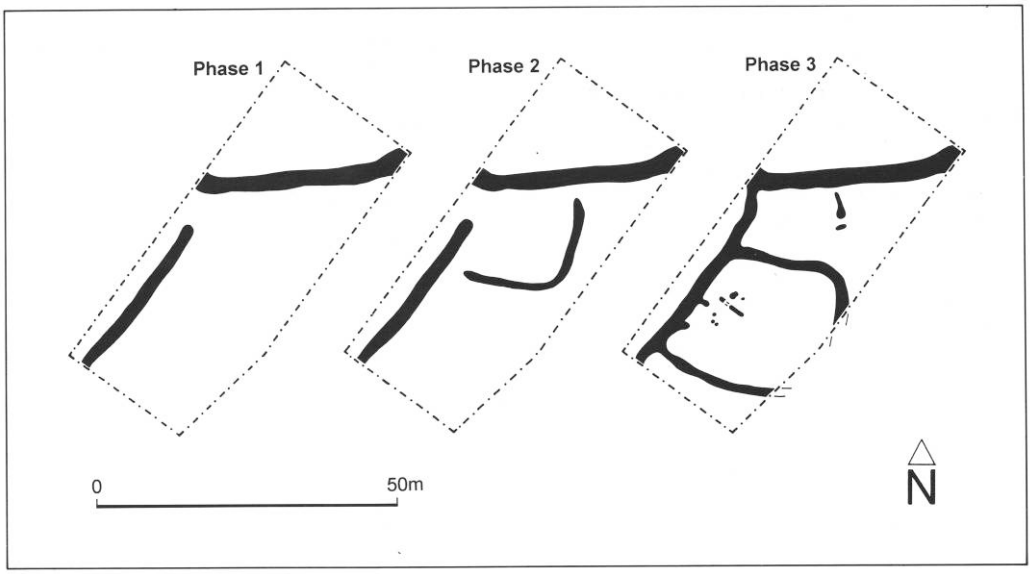
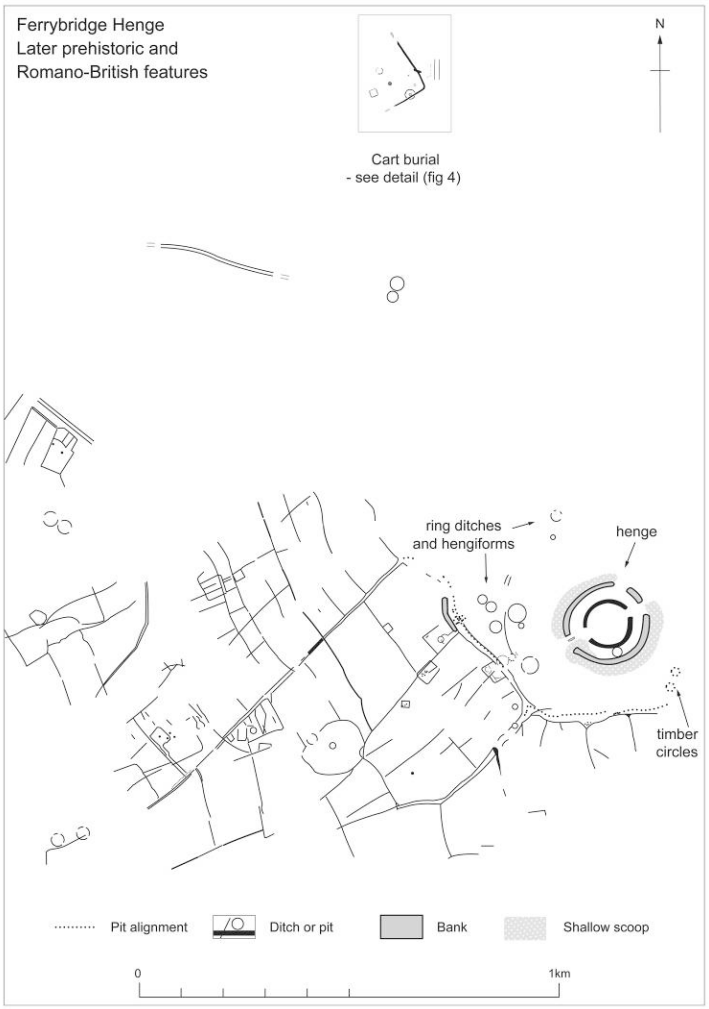


Figure G.78. *Proposed phasing of the Dawson's Wood boundaries and enclosures, although there are some problems with this. (Source: O'Neill 2001b: 121, fig. 94).*

References: O'Neill 2001b.

Ferrybridge SE 4700 4400



Although there had been earlier archaeological work in the vicinity of Ferrybridge henge, investigation of the later prehistoric and Romano-British landscape was conducted during 2001-2202 in advance of construction of the Holmfield Interchange as part of the A1 upgrade work. In total, over 7ha were eventually excavated (Roberts et al. 2005: 18).

Figure G.79. (left). *Simplified map of the Ferrybridge complex, showing the late Neolithic henge and timber circles, Bronze Age ring ditches/round barrows, the pit alignment skirting the western side of the ritual monument complex, and the later Iron Age and Romano-British enclosures and field systems. Note too the location of the Ferry Fryston cart or carriage burial c. 1km to the north. (Source: A. Leaver, from Chadwick 2007).*

Figure G.80. *Part of the later Iron Age and Romano-British pit alignment at Ferrybridge under excavation. (Source: Richardson 2005a: 64, plate 13).*

The earlier ritual monuments at Ferrybridge were respected by a sinuous pit alignment that contained at least 164 pits and was just over 800m in length. Although these eventually formed a near continuous north-west to south-east boundary, it was clearly constructed in many different segments and pit clusters, and each of these in turn was probably the result of accretive digging and depositional practices over time. Some of the pits were later re-cut as linear boundaries. Many pits contained little or no artefacts and bone, but others contained metalwork, glass, pottery, animal and human bone ranging in date from the late Iron Age through to the early medieval period (Richardson 2005a: 54-56). Some of these pit groups and the artefacts and human burials contained within them have been described in more detail in Chapter 11 (Fig. 11.55) and Appendix F (Figs. F.18-F.19, F.33). Many of these objects were placed deposits, and the wide chronological range of the artefacts and the human burials suggests that the pits were an important social and symbolic boundary, whose significance, although potentially re-worked and re-interpreted, persisted for many centuries. The deposit of a decorated but deliberately bent and damaged La Tène sword scabbard in the ditch of the henge itself (see Appendix F, Figs. F.16-17) also reiterates the importance of the area beyond the pits, which was otherwise left relatively undisturbed during the late Iron Age and Romano-British period. The location of the Ferry Fryston carriage burial near further Bronze Age ring ditches approximately 1km north of the henge indicates the strong cosmological associations of the locale.

In the later Iron Age, a segmented boundary and then a series of linear ditches were used to mark out at least four main fields or blocks of land (Richardson 2005b). Many of these ditches were re-cut, and at least two, possibly three double-ditched trackways were laid out within this landscape, both ending in funnel-shaped entrances that opened out towards the ritual complex, which still formed a focal point. A third trackway was constructed using a single ditch that was parallel to part of the pit alignment, showing how this would have affected the everyday movements of people and animals around this landscape. Parts of these trackways were hollowed indicating extensive and protracted use, and some parts of them were metalled. Three late inhumation burials of Iron Age and Romano-British date were recorded in pits dug at ditch intersections or parallel to field ditches (ibid.: 87). Some of these ditches continued in use well into the Romano-British period, but many were abandoned, and there might have been a period of land re-organisation or consolidation (Roberts 2005a: 216-217).

Associated with these blocks of fields were several enclosures. Enclosure A was initially defined by a curvilinear ditch with a south-east facing entrance 5.8m wide, placed in the corner of two intersecting field ditches. This may have been later Iron Age in origin, although no dateable artefacts were recovered from it. The enclosure was then expanded slightly in area with two right-angled ditches, creating a subrectangular enclosure 22m long and 20m wide, also with a south-east facing entrance and with postholes suggesting some form of timber gateway structure. These ditches may have been infilling between AD 1-240 (Martin 2005: 91). In a third phase of development, a continuous L-shaped ditch defined an enclosure 27m long and 19.5m wide, and this contained first and second century AD pottery. No entrance was discovered, although this may have lain outside the area of excavation to the north-east. A mass of postholes near the western side of the enclosure represent the remains of at least

Figure G.81. *Plan of Enclosure A, showing all excavated features. (Source: Martin 2005: 90, fig. 77).*

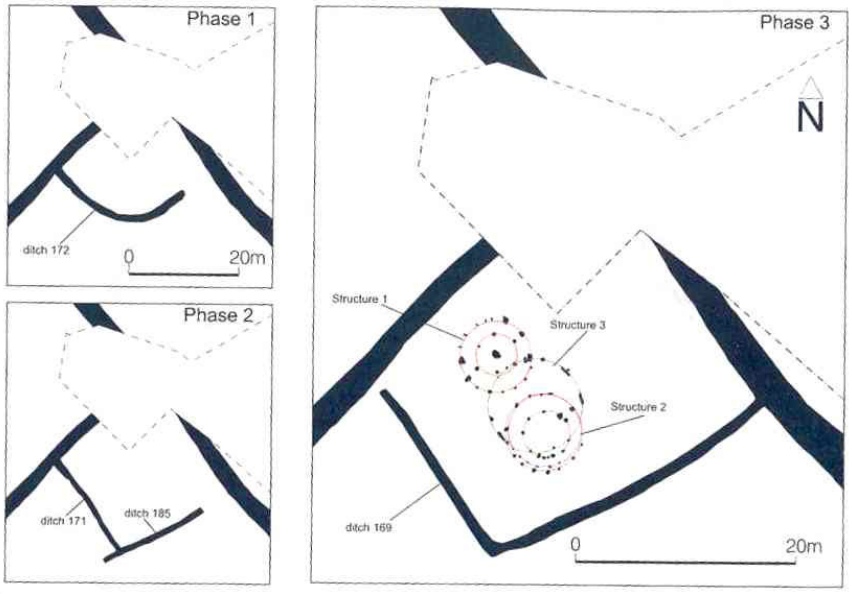


Figure G.82. (left). *Broad phases of development of Enclosure A. (Source: Martin 2005: 92, fig. 78).*

three phases of post-built roundhouse with diameters of 6.7-8.4m, at least one of which had an internal hearth, and two may have had double entrances. Structure 2 possibly contained an internal pit with a probable placed deposit of a rare carinated cup of 1-70 AD, and this building might itself have consisted of two phases of construction. Internal pits and postholes within the enclosure contained late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, and one pit contained sherds from crucibles used for heating brass. Some postholes appeared to form a line dividing the area of the roundhouses from the north-eastern side of the enclosure, and in that area Structure 4 may have been an elevated granary or storage structure, or perhaps a bridging structure over the enclosure ditch.

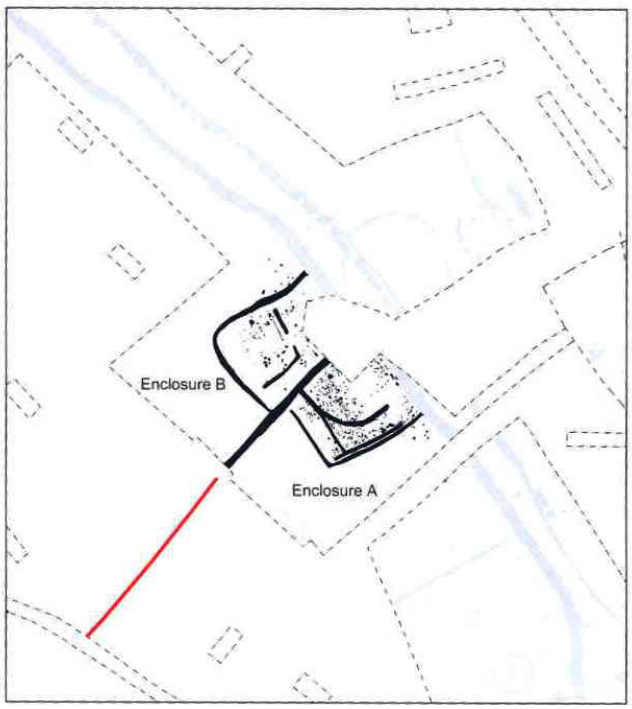


Figure G.83. *Enclosures A and B. (Source: Martin 2005: 89, fig. 76).*

Enclosure B was situated immediately to the north-east of Enclosure A, and made use of the same ditch as a common back boundary. In an early phase, there was possibly a curvilinear gully, which although undated might have been a Bronze Age ring ditch. In the second phase, a continuous L-shaped ditch was dug in a field corner where two ditches intersected, on the opposite side of the ditch junction to Enclosure A. This enclosure, 29m long and 23.5m wide, had no obvious entrance, and once again this might either have been outside of the limit of excavation, or may have involved a timber bridging structure.

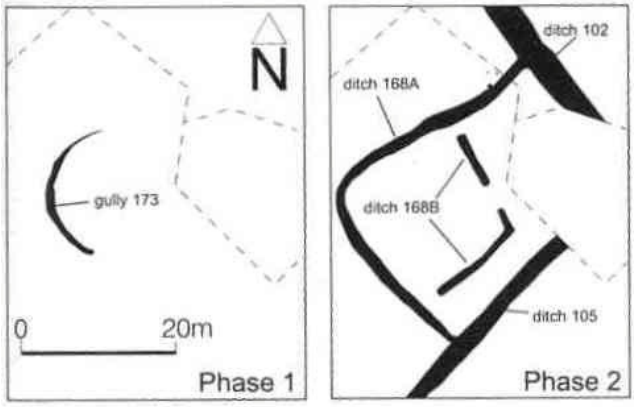
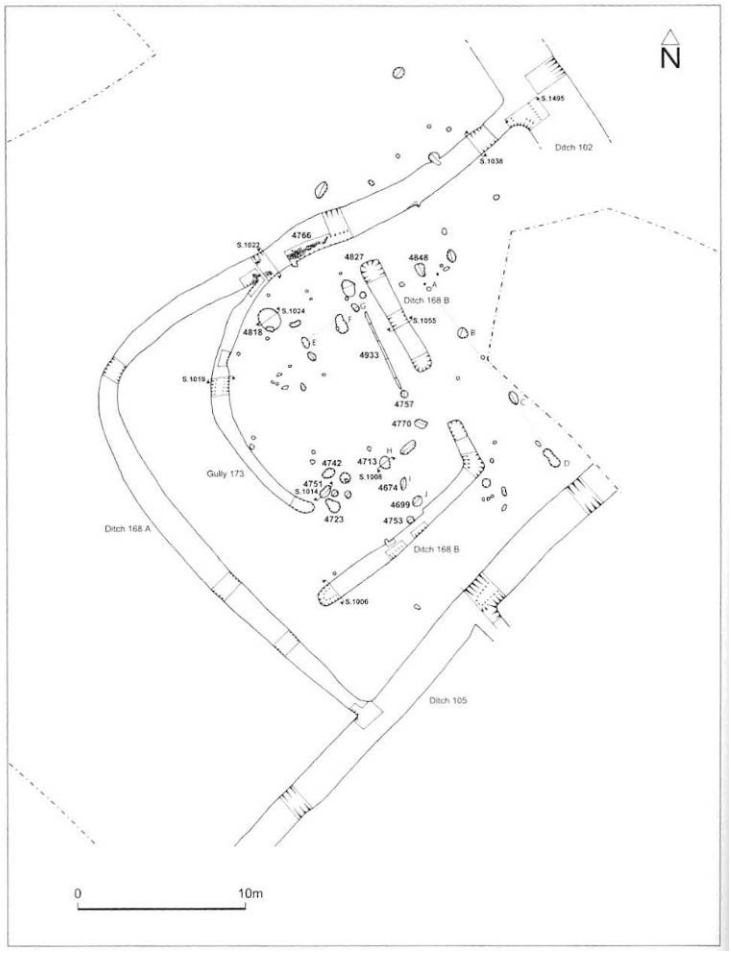


Figure G.84. *Enclosure B phases. (Source: Martin 2005: 99, fig.876).*

Another right-angled ditch formed an internal subenclosure with a 3.4m wide entrance facing north-east – this may imply an entrance into the main enclosure in this direction as well (Martin 2005: 99). This subenclosure ditch produced first century to early second century pottery, including samian.

A series of postholes outside of the subenclosure may have defined another division, or an earlier or later phase of fence, whilst a series of postholes and slots within the subenclosure might have been additional different phases of partitioning, or perhaps even represented a subrectangular building with a



north-east facing entrance and a largely open south-west side, although this possibility was not noted in the publication report. A few further postholes and pits were recorded within Enclosure B, and a few of the latter had evidence for in situ burning and contained burnt and heat-shattered stone. A few other sherds from these discrete features supported a later first to early second century AD date for occupation within the enclosure.

Figure G.85. (left). *All excavated features in Enclosure B. (Source: Martin 2005: 98, fig. 85).*

Enclosure C was subrectangular in plan and 75m long and 60m wide, with a north facing entrance 30m wide, although this may have been badly truncated by modern activity, as aerial photographs suggested a smaller *c.* 9m wide entrance had originally existed. The ditch of this enclosure was particularly prominent, being at least 3m wide and 1m deep, and most unusually near the eastern corner part of the base of the internal bank deposit had been preserved – this was up to 2.5m wide and up to 0.4m thick (Martin 2005: 102). In Enclosure C, the central roundhouse (Structure 5) had two gullies leading two it that screened the north-eastern entrance into the roundhouse from the main enclosure entrance to the north. Interestingly, a four or six-post structure was also located 'behind' this screen, perhaps a desire to not attract too much attention to stored food.

The roundhouse was 12.5m in diameter with a deep, rock-cut segmented curvilinear wall trench, a concentric ring of internal postholes, and a possible hearth pit (see Chapter 9, Figs. 9.43-9.44. It had a north-east facing entrance, and although there may have been an additional south-west facing entrance this is slightly less convincing. There was a shallow hearth pit just off-centre. Outside the south-west side of the roundhouse was a very large post-pit over 2m wide and 1m deep. This could have supported a massive timber, perhaps some form of clan or totemic structure, and coupled with the dimensions of the roundhouse this may suggest that this building was a 'great house' (q.v. Evans and Hodder 2006: 278); either of higher-status people or of some different social function such as a clan lodge. Another pit in the north-west corner of Enclosure C contained burnt stone and oak charcoal, and the pattern of

scorching suggested that some form of timber cover or structure had burnt on top of the pit and then collapsed down into it (Martin 2005: 110). What this pit held, and why it was cut into what was probably the inner edge of the bank is not clear. Few dateable artefacts were recovered from Enclosure C, and the lack of evidence for occupation suggests that it was not the setting for sustained 'domestic' inhabitation. Some ^{14}C dates from the enclosure ditch, one of the gullies and the pit with burnt oak fragments suggest a broad date range of 400 BC – AD 60.

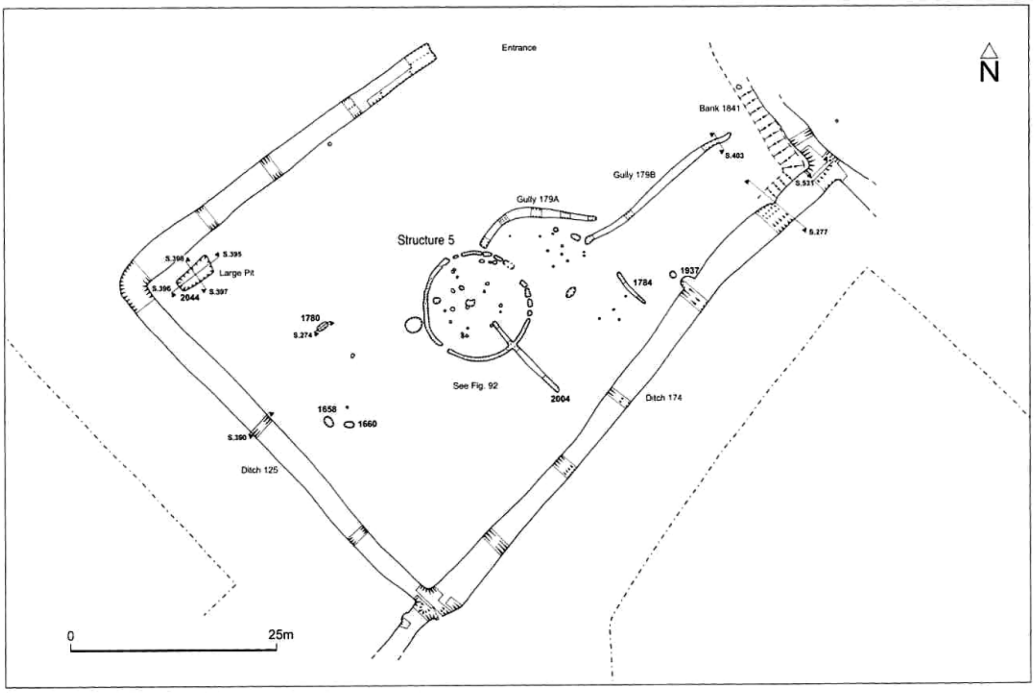
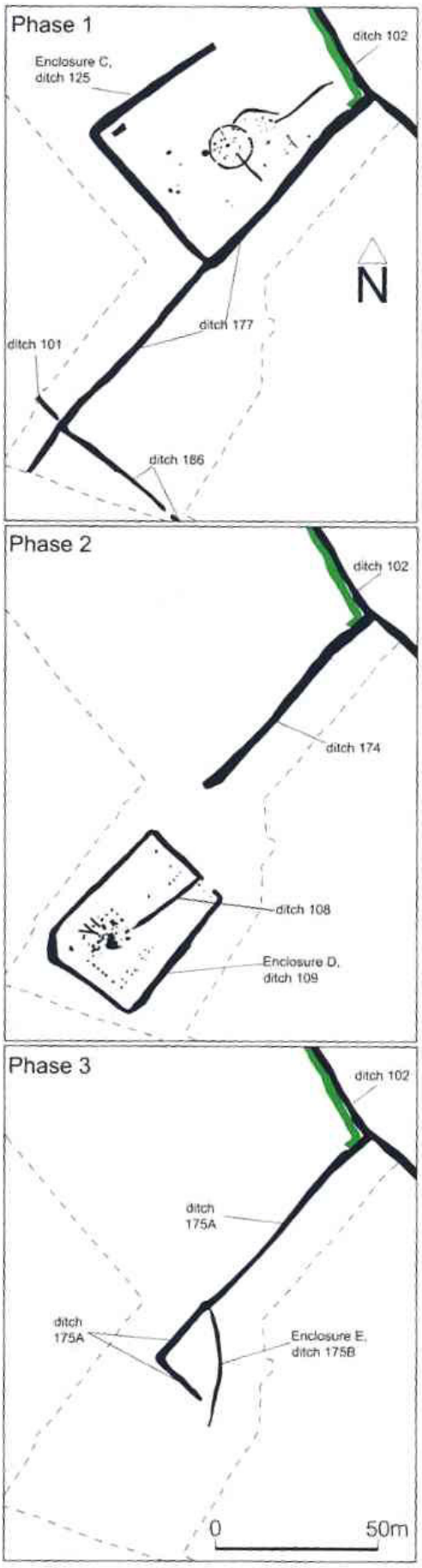


Figure G.86. *Enclosure C at Ferrybridge. (Source: Martin 2005: 103).*

Although Enclosure C may have fallen out of use by the first century AD, its south-eastern ditch might have been incorporated into a longer-lived boundary. Enclosure D seems to have replaced Enclosure C, and at the same many of the field system ditches seem to gone out of use as well. This subrectangular enclosure was 45m long and 32m wide, with a narrow north-east facing entrance *c*. 3m wide. The ditch was up to 2.8m wide and 0.8m deep in places, and had been re-cut at least once (Martin 2005: 110-111). In the earliest phase of Enclosure D, extending from the entrance to the south-west was a straight ditch creating a funnel-shaped entrance into the enclosure, and three postholes by the entrance may have belonged to this phase and formed part of a timber gate structure. A pit by the entrance contained a beehive quern fragment, two flints regarded as 'intrusive' (residual surely?), but more likely curated objects, and four sherds of mid to later second century greyware. The re-cut and upper fills of the ditch contained first to third century AD pottery, including samian, and some small fragments of Neidermendig lava quern were also recovered.

In a second phase of occupation, the south-western part of Enclosure D contained a subrectangular, post-built structure 11.8m long and 4.1m wide. This seemed too narrow to be even a barn or byre, and might have had a storage function. Associated with this were two pits, one of which contained an interesting collection of metalwork including iron structural fittings and a copper alloy ferrule (see



Appendix F, Fig. F.20). To the south of this was a large kiln or corn-drier, partly lined with stone and with horizontal timber joist positions still surviving in the side of the cut (see Appendix A, Figs. A.02-A.03). Large quantities of charred cereal grains were obtained from within this feature. Other postholes in this area might have been part of a windbreak or light structure associated with this corn drier. Two further linear groups of postholes along the south-west and south-eastern sides of the enclosure might have been further windbreaks (Martin 2005: 117). The northern part of the enclosure contained few features, but a crouched inhumation (in grave 1526) of an adult male was excavated here, and this was ^{14}C dated to AD 80-330. This individual had severe (and probably fatal) blunt force trauma to the skull, but also healed injuries to his vertebrae. Enclosure D might have gone out use during the third century AD.

After Enclosure D had been abandoned, Enclosure E was constructed, a small subrectangular enclosure constructed in the corner between the field boundary ditch and the old north-eastern boundary ditch of Enclosure D, although the latter's entrance may still have been in use (Martin 2005: 122). The Enclosure E ditch contained a section of stone revetment at the point where it cut earlier ditches. Its function and date are unclear. A final phase of activity within Enclosure D consisted of another inhumation burial inserted into a ditch junction just to the west of the corn drier, that of a crouched adult woman with the remains of a small dog found next to her head – the dog had possibly served as a pillow. Six large stones had been placed on her chest.

Figure G.87. (left). *How enclosures C, D and E were stratigraphically related. The two main phases of occupation in Enclosure D are not shown. (Source: Martin 2005: 102, fig. 89).*

Unexpectedly, ^{14}C dating suggested a date range of AD 540-720 for this individual, who may have been buried within the enclosure centuries after its abandonment. Although the position of the grave at a ditch intersection was seen as 'merely coincidental' (Martin 2005: 122), this may belong to a wider post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon tradition of the insertion of burials into Roman buildings and enclosures. This might have been a deliberate homage to the past, or a claim of legitimacy.

It has been argued that the shifting patterns of land division and enclosure construction at Ferrybridge represented a response to changes in the local Roman economy, and that the 'expansion' and 'rationalisation' of land holdings seen during the earlier second century with the construction of Enclosure D and the abandonment of most of the field boundaries was affected by developments at Castleford (Roberts 2005a: 216-217). But we must not simply equate changes in land division with changes in production. Enclosure C may not have been a usual 'domestic' farmstead, replaced by Enclosure D as some kind of production centre within a rationalised Roman-style estate. And the abandonment of Enclosure D was probably not driven by the emergence of larger estates elsewhere. There may have been changes in tenure, access and ownership, but these did not necessarily lead to increased agricultural production, and it is unlikely that these were simply geared to serving one specific urban market. Economic factors were undoubtedly important, but they were just part of a much more complex weave of social, political and environmental changes taking place in the third and fourth centuries AD. If agricultural expansion was required, why were no fields constructed across and within the area of the henges and round barrows? For me, it is the landscape and symbolic continuities at Ferrybridge that are most important – this area seems to have remained a 'significant locale' from the late Neolithic through into the medieval period. The wide-scale excavations at Ferrybridge nevertheless permit such issues to be investigated in more detail.

References: Roberts 2005c.

Garforth SE 4200 3400

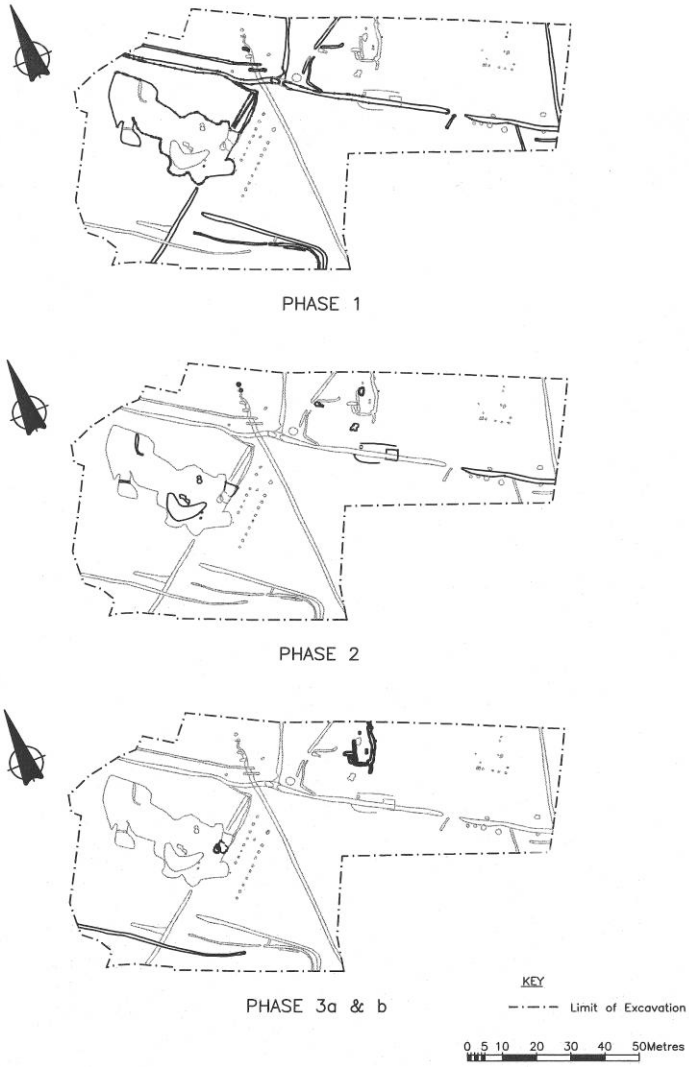


Figure G.88. *Basic phase plan of the Garforth site. (Source: Owen 2000: fig. 3.*

This site was situated on the north-east side of Garforth, on the west-facing slope of a gentle north-south running ridge in an undulating landscape, just 1km to the west of the Doncaster to Tadcaster road. The fields immediately to the east of the site had produced cropmarks, and an evaluation by AS WYAS found a series of rock-cut ditches and limestone wall footings (AS WYAS 1998). Excavations were undertaken by Gifford and Partners Ltd in 1998.

The earliest main phase identified at the site seems to have been a large stone quarry, and pottery recovered from the backfill of this feature, including samian and mortaria sherds, proved to be of mid second century AD date (Owen 2000: 2).

Large quantities of brick and tile fragments from the quarry suggest that there were substantial Roman-style buildings nearby. A series of ditches then seem to have been dug forming a series of trapezoidal and subrectangular field blocks, some with entrances visible. Two of these ditches respected the quarry, indicating that it was used or at least still partially open when the ditches were dug (Owen 2000: 3). These ditches contained animal bone fragments and several sherds of Romano-British pottery, mostly of undiagnostic form. There were clearly several different phases of ditch construction, however, with some changes in alignment evident in plan. A north-west to south-east aligned trackway may have been formed by ditches 75 and 139, and this may have originally had a funnel-shaped entrance opening up into a series of field junctions. There may have been another phase of funnel opening up towards the north. Frustratingly, in the only available archive report it is almost impossible to establish the full sequence of boundary development, as the locations of key ditch intersections are not illustrated as

sections. A small 'keyhole-shaped' oven was also assigned to this phase, and its backfill contained mid to late second century pottery and fired clay fragments.

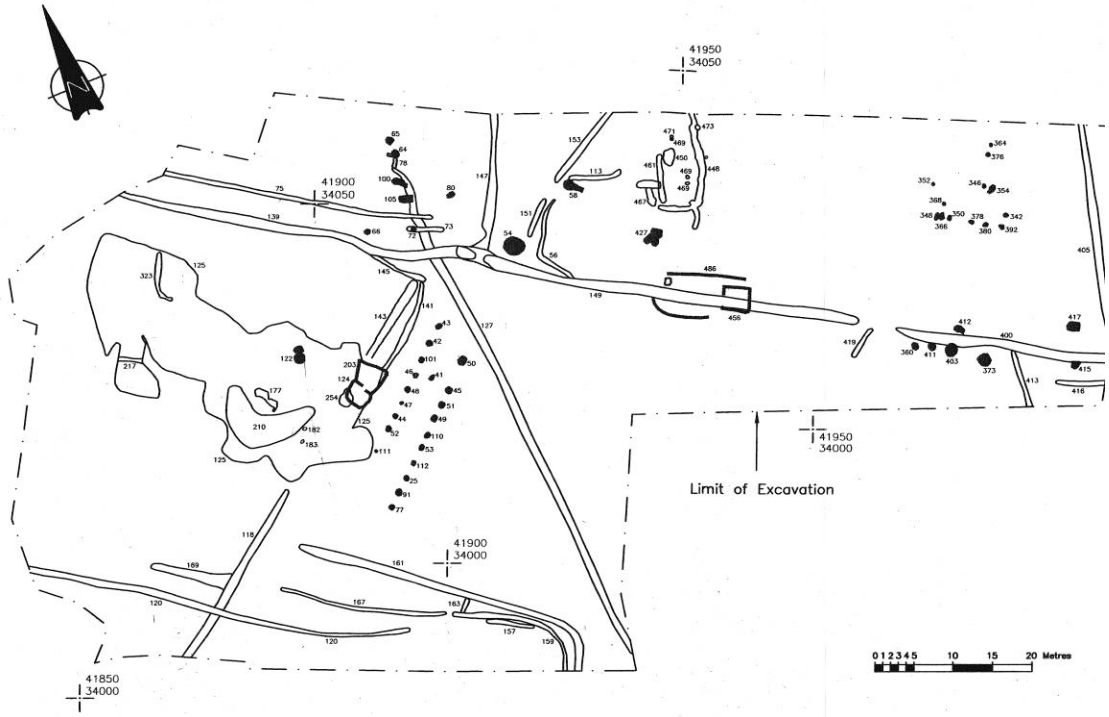


Figure G.89. *More detailed plan of the Garforth site. (Source: Owen 200: fig. 2).*

A second major phase of activity was identified, dated to the fourth century AD. This included a series of furnaces and possible corn driers, some of the latter containing charred grain, and several irregular features cut into quarry backfill (Owen 2000: 4-5). A crescent-shaped feature (210) contained fourth century pot and the skeleton of an immature pig, pit 203 contained pottery and a substantial amount of animal bone including an almost complete but headless (decapitated?) skeleton of a small 'lap-dog', and posthole 182 contained the partial skeleton of a raven (Jacques 2000). Two pits near the northern edge of the site also contained interesting deposits – pit 64 contained fourth-century pottery and a large quern fragment, whilst pit 80 had pottery and the articulated front leg of a goat. Some or all of these might have been placed deposits (ibid.: 23).

Structure 486 may have dated to this period, and this was a rectangular stone-footed building 12m long and 5.6m wide, with an apsidal western end. It had been built directly on top of an earlier ditch, a phenomenon also seen at Wattle Syke (see below). The walls were formed out of rough, unmortared limestone blocks and were probably just the bases of a timber and wattle and daub structure (Owen 2000: 5). At the eastern end of the building was a large, stone-lined oven or corn-drier with an L-shaped flue, and a charred quantity of charred grain were recovered from this, mostly wheat grains. Within the north-western corner of the building was a subrectangular pit into which had been set part of a rectangular stone trough. Fourth-century pottery was recovered from collapse or demolition layers within the building.

Figure G.90. *The rectangular Romano-British building excavated at Garforth. Note the possible oven or corn-drier structure at the eastern (right) end of the building. (Source: Owen 2000: fig. 8).*

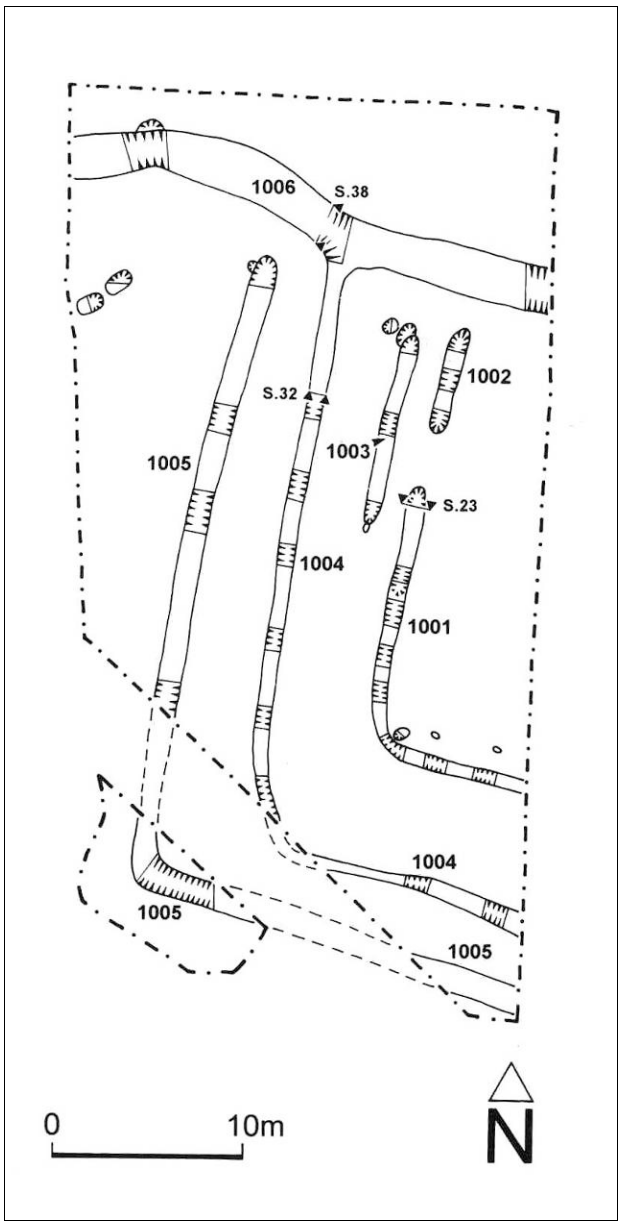
A third phase identified at Garforth included features containing fifth to sixth century pottery. One of these was a subrectangular, sunken-featured building that may have been a *grübenhäuser* (Owen 2000: 7). This may indicate some post-Roman continuity of settlement in the area, and is supported by some of the discoveries at Ferrybridge and Wattle Syke. In addition, a series of undated features excavated at Garforth included a large structure 15m long and 6m wide, formed by two parallel rows of postholes 0.70m wide and 0.30m deep, although they were probably originally much deeper, and the full extent of this structure may not have been identified. Although it could perhaps be a post-Roman hall, it appears to run parallel to ditches 118, 141 and 143, which might be part of the phase 1 occupation of the site. If it is a Romano-British building, than it may represent a barn or byre.

Metal detecting finds from Garforth. **Figure G.91. (left).** *A fine enamelled Romano-British headstud brooch.* **Fig. G.92. (right).** *An enamelled Roman seal-box lid. These finds indicate rather high status, 'Romanised' settlement. (Source: © PAS).*

The excavation at Garforth seems to have been carried out in short space of time (just two months), and the final archive client report is not very detailed. At the present time, it is not clear if the site is being written up in more detail for publication. Fieldwalking by AS WYAS immediately to the north of the site, and just south of the excavated enclosure complex at Parlington Hollins; found small scatters of Roman pottery, brick, roof and flue tile and a few Saxon sherds across a wide area including over a D-shaped enclosure visible on cropmarks.

References: Owen 2000; Webb 1999.

Hook Moor SE 4360 3550



This was another site excavated by AS WYAS as part of the M1-A1 Link Road project, and was situated on a gentle north-east facing slope in a gently undulating landscape with several springs emerging within 1.5km to the west and east. Until recent years it had been under woodland before being grubbed up and ploughed (O'Neill 2001b: 118). The first phase of activity identified was a sinuous, broadly east-west boundary ditch (1006). This can be seen on aerial photographs continuing to the north-west and south-east (Deegan 2001b: 34, fig. 18), and was clearly a major structuring feature within the landscape. At a later date, probably in the Romano-British period, a series of concentric ditches forming a square enclosure were appended to the line of the earlier ditch, although only one of the ditches investigated intersected with the boundary feature.

Figure G.93. (left). *Plan of the Hook Moor enclosure. (Source: O'Neill 2001b: 118).*

Only the western part of the enclosure was excavated, but aerial photographs suggest that an existing north-south boundary formed the eastern edge of the enclosure, making it a possible unusual form of field corner enclosure. The excavated ditches were up to 1.5m wide and 0.8m deep (see also Chapter 9, Fig. 9.04), and these became narrower and shallower towards the centre of the enclosure. Only the middle and outer ditches may have had banks associated with them, and the inner ditch may have been a palisade slot (O'Neill 2001b: 119). It contained numerous stones suggestive of packing. The gap between the outer and inner ditches was consistently 10m wide, suggesting that these at least may have been contemporary at some point, whereas the distance varied between the inner and middle ditch and the middle and outer ditch. The inner ditch or slot had a 3m wide gap on its western side, apparently partially blocked or screened by another short section of ditch or gully, and it is also not clear if the gap

between the inner and outer ditches and the east-west ditch reflected the existence of an upstanding bank on the southern side of the earlier feature.

Only a few internal features were identified within the excavation area, and none produced any artefacts, whilst only one sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from an upper ditch fill between 1004 and 1006, and a secondary fill of 1006 contained a fragment of Roman brick. The triple-ditched form is very unusual, and together with the 'hidden' entrance has some resonances with Roman military camps (O'Neill 2001b: 119), but the field corner location might suggest that this is an unlikely origin for the enclosure. It is also possible, though again unlikely, that at least one of the ditch circuits may form part of a race around the side of the enclosure, used for handling livestock, and the restricted entrance could also have been associated with such practices. The lack of artefacts may indicate that there was little sustained 'domestic' occupation. Clearly, despite partial excavation this site remains highly enigmatic, and it would be worth returning to it to undertake detailed geophysical survey and further excavation in order to try and understand its chronology and function.

References: O'Neill 2001b.

Ledston SE 4340 2960

North of Back Newton Lane, Ledston and west of Garforth is part of the high and undulating ridge forming the northern edge of the Aire valley, overlooking the River Aire floodplain and Castleford to the south. On the elevated ground centred at SE 4350 4315 a series of ditched boundaries have been identified from cropmarks, forming a broadly north-south orientated system of co-axial fields, trackways and small enclosures (Fig. G.348). Some of the D-shaped and subrectangular enclosures have clearly been appended to earlier sinuous boundaries. Immediately south of Sheepcote Wood (an interesting place-name) was an apparent focus of some of these boundaries and trackways, a series of irregular and subrectangular enclosures that might have been upland corrals and pens. From this ridgeline, further linear boundaries, trackways and possible holloways led off southwards downslope.

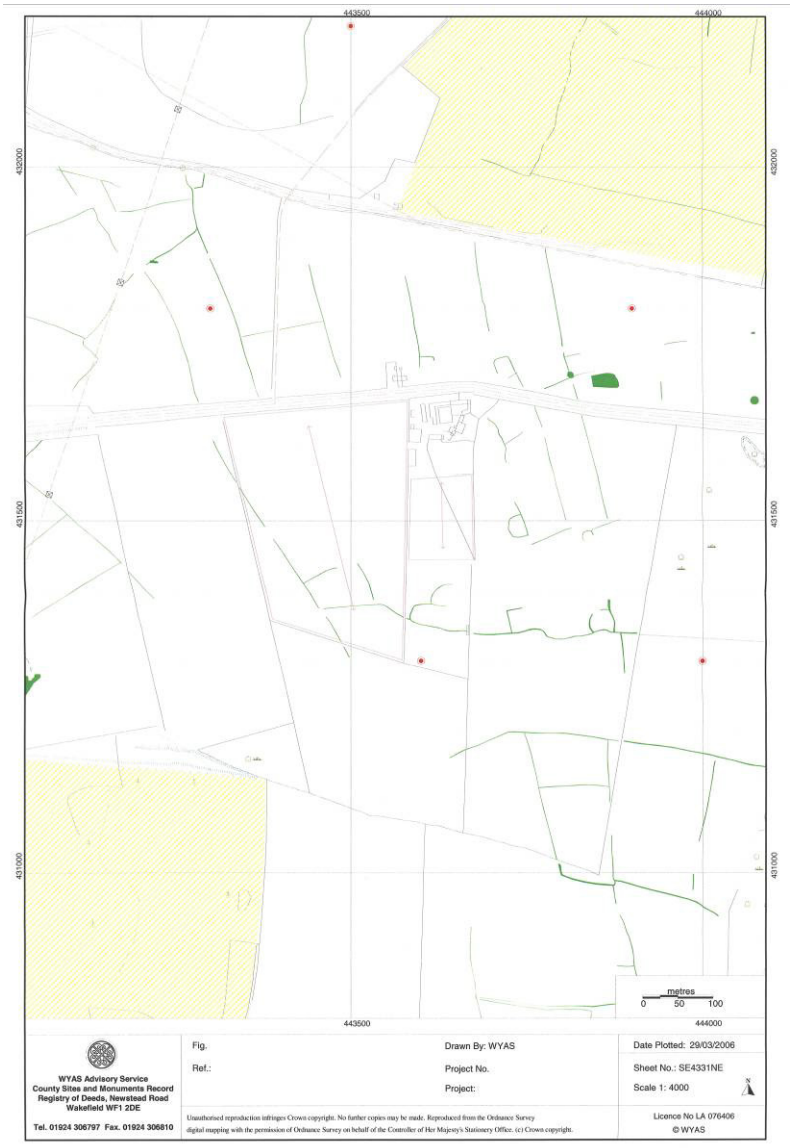


Figure G.94. *The broadly co-axial field boundaries and small enclosures between the A63(T) and Sheepcote Wood, Ledston. (Source: © WYAAS).*

At least two double-ditched trackways with wear hollows visible within them lead down a slight clough or depression in the hillside, a natural routeway through the landscape. On this south-facing slope, four circular features 10-15m in diameter probably represent Bronze Age round barrows, which were incorporated into the field systems landscape. One field ditch bisected a ring ditch, one ring ditch formed the corner intersection of two field ditches, another was respected by a later field ditch as a landscape marker, and a fourth ring ditch was incorporated into the edge of an enclosure boundary ditch.

Figure G.95. *The north-south aligned trackways and field boundaries south of Sheepcote Wood. Note the sinuous trackways, the eastern example added to some fields but pre-dating others, and the two or three subrectangular enclosures. (Source: © WYAAS).*

These ring ditches or round barrows seem to have been more than just useful landscape markers, and as in places on the Yorkshire Wolds (Fenton-Thomas 2003, 2005, forthcoming; Giles 2000, 2007a), it may be that this represented a deliberate respect for and harking back to the past, perhaps even an attempt to legitimise the enclosure of previously open land. The holloways within the two main trackways suggest that these may already have been old routes by the time that they were 'formalised' by double ditches. The trackways and long boundaries led past two or three subrectangular enclosures one with an east-facing entrance and evidence for internal subdivision, and another with a north-west facing entrance, possible internal subdivisions and also pit groups. These boundaries perhaps divided the fields into three major north-south blocks, associated with two or three settlement enclosures. The two major trackways, and another possible east-west example, converged close to an unusual, partially double-ditched, subtriangular or D-shaped enclosure, located on lower-lying ground near the head of a beck on a slight natural platform on the hillside. Another D-shaped enclosure was sited just to the north-east.

Outside of this enclosure where the two, possibly three trackways converged was a dense agglomeration of up to 280 rock-cut pits, perhaps forming the focus for the trackways (see Chapter 11, Fig. 11.49). These pits may have themselves been defined by further ditches and perhaps a polygonal enclosure or series of ditches and fences. The landscape context of the enclosure and pits is interesting, as this made use of the natural platform in the hillside from which there would have been extensive views out across the valley of the River Aire. South of this complex of pits and enclosures, several natural cloughs leading southwards downslope may well have become emphasised and worn deeper over time with the passage of hooves and human feet.

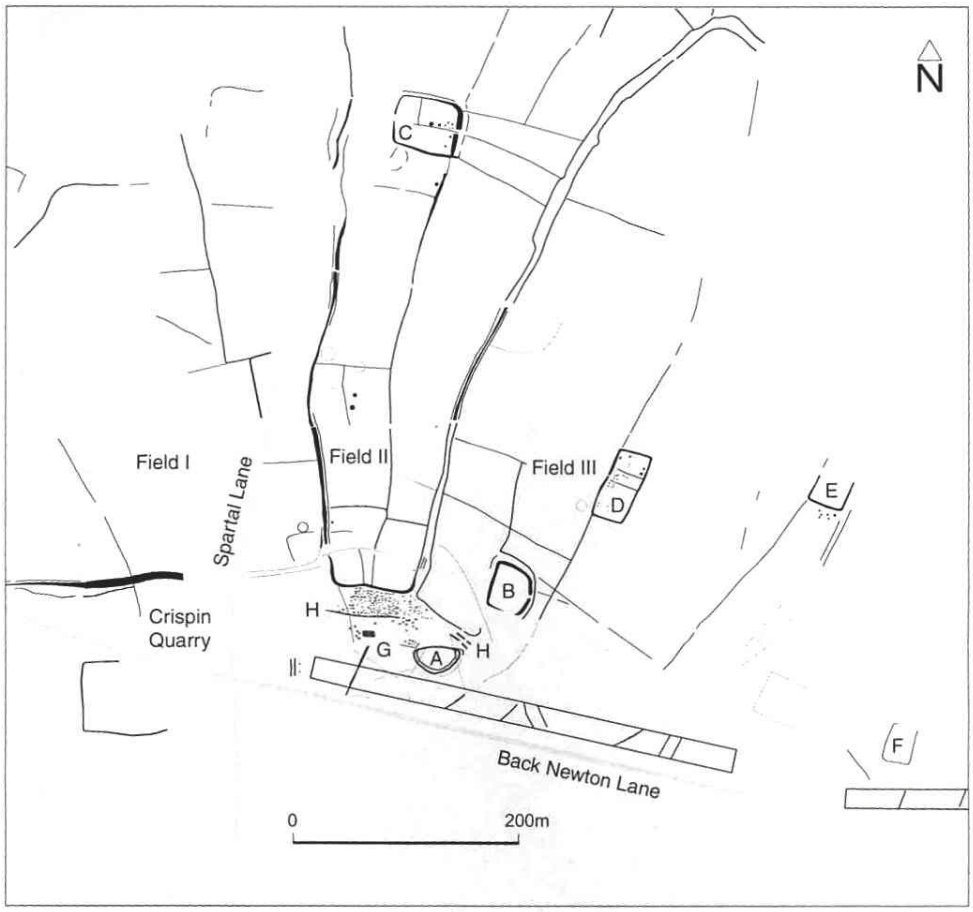


Fig. 2. Rectified plan of the Ledston crop mark complex with two areas of geophysical survey parallel to Back Newton Lane.

Figure G.96. *Plan of the pit and enclosure complex of cropmarks and excavated features at Ledston, highlighting the dense concentration of rock-cut pits partly excavated in 1976, and the 1996 investigations. Note the position of the ring ditches. (Source: Roberts 2005: 4, fig. 2).*

In 1976 some of these ditches, part of the subtriangular enclosure and around 60 pits were excavated by WYAS and students from the University of Leeds, directed by a young Ian Hodder (see Appendix F, Figs. F.10-F.12). A possible roundhouse defined by postholes and a partial ring gully was identified, approximately 11m in diameter, but with no clear entrance visible (Roberts 2005). Just to the north-west of this structure there was a flexed inhumation burial of an adult human male 25-30 years old, buried with cattle bones (haunches of meat?) and covered in large limestone blocks. On either side of the grave pit were two flanking gullies with corner postholes that probably represented a four-sided timber mortuary structure, and flint flakes, a flint scraper and animal bone fragments were recovered from the fills of the slots and the postholes (see Appendix F, Figs. F.51-F.52). At a later date, a four-post timber structure was built just to the north of the mortuary structure, and re-used two of its postholes. One of the postholes of the four-post structure contained Iron Age pottery sherds from two different vessels. In the south-west portion of the roundhouse was another possible four-post granary structure which pre- or post-dated the building. The stratigraphic relationship between the roundhouse, the grave pit and mortuary structure and the four-post structures could not be established, and all cannot have been upstanding at the same time. It could not be demonstrated whether the four-post structure pre- or post-dated the 'mortuary' plank and post construction, but one of the postholes of the

four-post structure was a re-cut, representing a fifth post associated with the burial (perhaps a grave marker or a signifier of identity), so it is more likely that the four-post structure was built after the burial and its associated timber monument. It might have been simply the pragmatic reuse of an existing upright post, but the association seems too fortuitous. It seems probable that they were referencing each other, even if chronologically separated. The close physical link between the human burial, mortuary structure and northern four-post structure is especially interesting, and there do seem to have been spatial, temporal and perhaps symbolic associations being drawn between the roundhouse, a burial, and possible granaries. This in turn suggests cosmological connections being drawn between life, death and fertility. It is interesting that the four-post structure was not built directly above the burial, which may imply that the mortuary structure was still partly upstanding, and/or that building on top of this particular burial was proscribed.

Figure G.97. *Pits and an enclosure ditch exposed at Ledston, 1976. (Source: © AS WYAS).*

To the north, in an area of pits defined to the north and south by large ditches, pit 704 contained a flexed inhumation burial of another adult male aged 25-30 years, who had also been covered in limestone rubble, and was dated to 390 BC-120 AD (Roberts 2005: 12). The enclosure ditch produced the disarticulated and fragmentary remains of an adult human and two human infants, whilst just to the west pit 107 contained the near complete remains of a cow. Very few of the pits identified through aerial photography and excavation appeared to intercut one another, which may indicate knowledge of previous pit cutting episodes and a deliberate desire not to dig into earlier features. Their function is unclear, although contrary to earlier interpretations it now seems unlikely that they were storage pits. They may be related to unusual late Iron Age and Romano-British pit complexes at Micklefield and Ferrybridge. Around two thirds of the pits produced fragments of animal bone, but there were indications of more deliberate placed deposits from features in close spatial association with the possible roundhouse (ibid.: 11). Pit 332 contained the matching stones of a complete beehive quern,

whilst pit 357 contained a beehive top stone fragment and a fragmented horse skull. A bone weaving comb and coarse handmade pottery sherds were found in pit 351, and 75 sherds of a large later Iron Age jar were recovered from pit 202. Fifteen sherds from three different pottery vessels were found in pit 350, though it is not clear from the published report how structured this deposit was, if at all. Given the proposed diameter of the putative roundhouse, it is possible that pits 350 and 351 were within its 'footprint' and might represent foundation or closure/abandonment deposits for this structure.

When Ledston was first excavated, it was seen as the first possible example within the region of groups of storage pits similar to those encountered in southern England at sites such as Danebury (Keighley 1981: 121-122). Subsequent palaeoenvironmental analyses of pit samples, however, found no traces of grain, and the editor of the published report concluded that there was little evidence that they had served as storage features (Roberts 2005: 32). Nevertheless, they had clearly been carefully dug, and the lack of intercutting suggests that they were marked in some way, or at least partly visible from above ground, perhaps as shallow depressions. These seem to have been more than simple quarry pits for lime or daub, and may have associations with other pit complexes excavated in West Yorkshire such as those at Site M near Micklefield and at Ferrybridge.

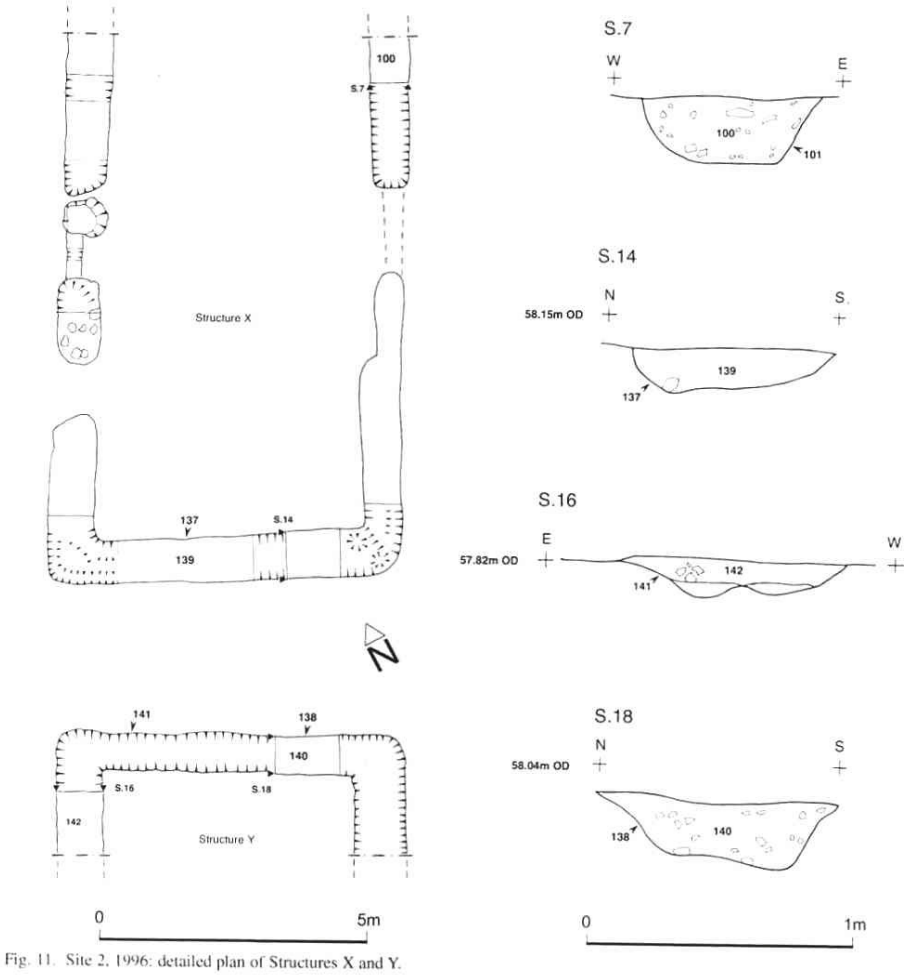


Fig. 11. Site 2, 1996: detailed plan of Structures X and Y.

Figure G.98. *Two adjacent rectangular structures excavated along Back Newton Lane, Ledston in 1996. (Source: Roberts 2005: 17, fig. 11).*

In 1996, AS WYAS undertook further excavations at Ledston in advance of the construction of a water pipeline. Further field and trackway ditches were excavated, and one enclosure ditch at Site 1 contained iron slag, animal bone and two sherds of possible Iron Age pottery (Roberts 2005: 15). At Site 2 along Back Newton Lane, two unusual rectangular structures were identified, defined by shallow beam slots or wall trenches. These were undated, but may have been Romano-British or medieval buildings.

Figure G.99. *Immediately south of Back Newton Lane and the Ledston pit and enclosure complex, this natural clough may have formed a routeway southwards down onto the River Aire floodplain, and may have become exaggerated over time through the passage of people and animals. (Source: author).*

References: Roberts 2005.

Ledston, Back Newton Lane SE 4450 2870

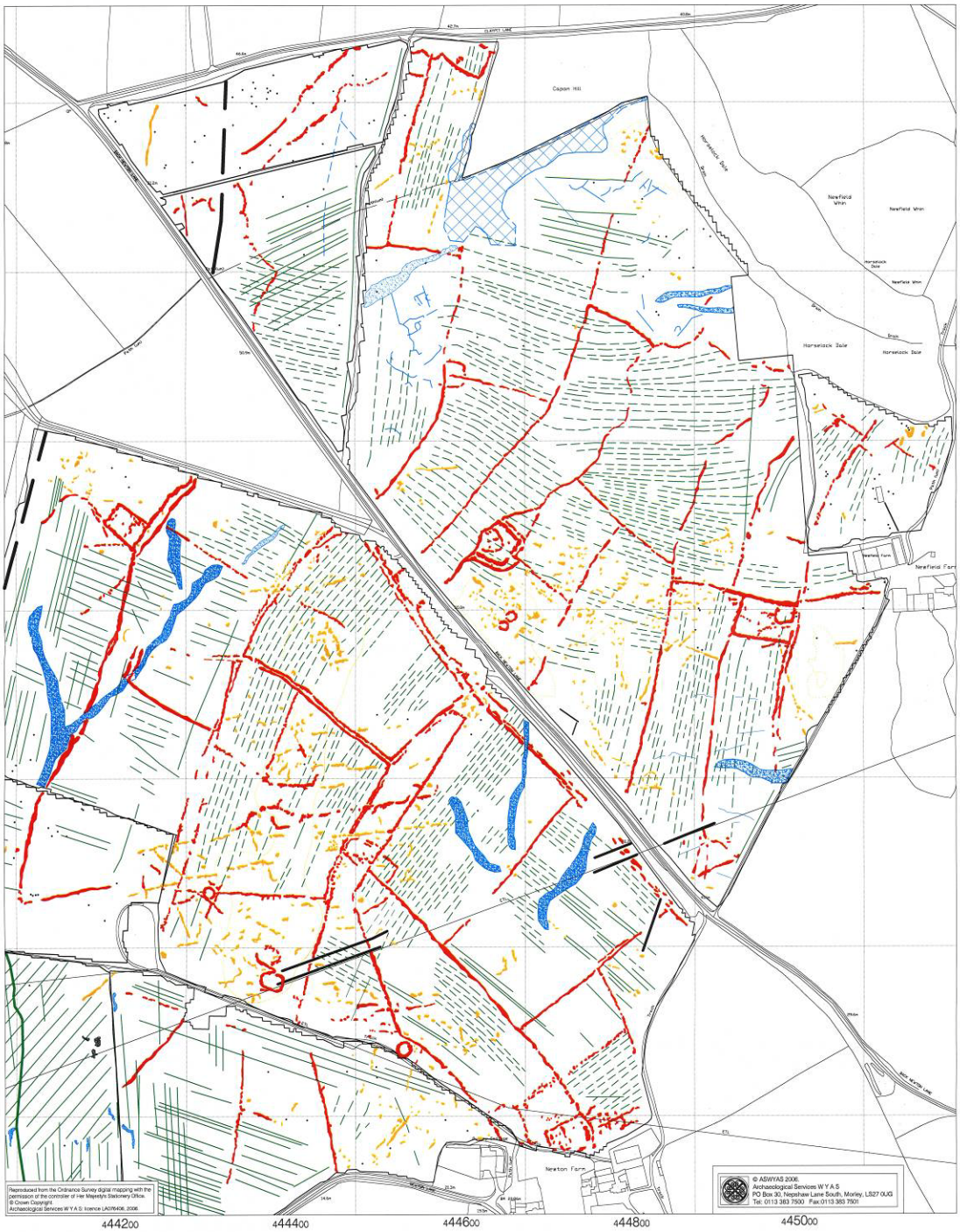


Fig. 7. Interpretation of magnetometer data: north-east of Back Newton Lane (1:4000 @ A3)

Figure G.100. *Back Newton Lane, Ledston, with north to the top of the image. Negative features detected by the geophysical survey are in red, with probable ridge and furrow marked in green. (Source: Webb 2006).*

This is not strictly a cropmark site, although cropmarks are present, but much of the archaeology here has been identified through an extensive programme of geophysical survey. The archaeological features lie to the north and south of Back Newton Lane, approximately 120m to the south-east of the

cropmark complex previously investigated at Ledston (Roberts 2005), and on the hillside opposite Castleford on the other side of the River Aire valley. Several ring ditches that may represent Bronze Age round barrows are apparent, two located near the edge of the ridgeline. In addition, there are at least four enclosure complexes, with subsidiary enclosures, trackways and field boundaries. The long boundaries reflect the same sinuous, attenuated layout recorded from the Ledston cropmarks (Deegan 2001b). They follow a broadly north-east to south-west orientation, following the main lie of the land sloping to the south-west. Most but not all of the enclosures, trackways and boundaries may be Iron Age or Romano-British in date, and it is interesting to note that although in some places ridge and furrow runs across enclosures and boundaries, in other places it respects them, suggesting the potential longevity of some features within the landscape.

A proposed opencast quarry scheme currently seeking planning approval is enabling further evaluative archaeological work to be undertaken on this very important and interesting complex of features. Evaluation trenches have been targeting some of the ring ditches, and the enclosure and field boundaries.

References: Webb 2006.

Lingwell Gate Lane SK 3190 2620

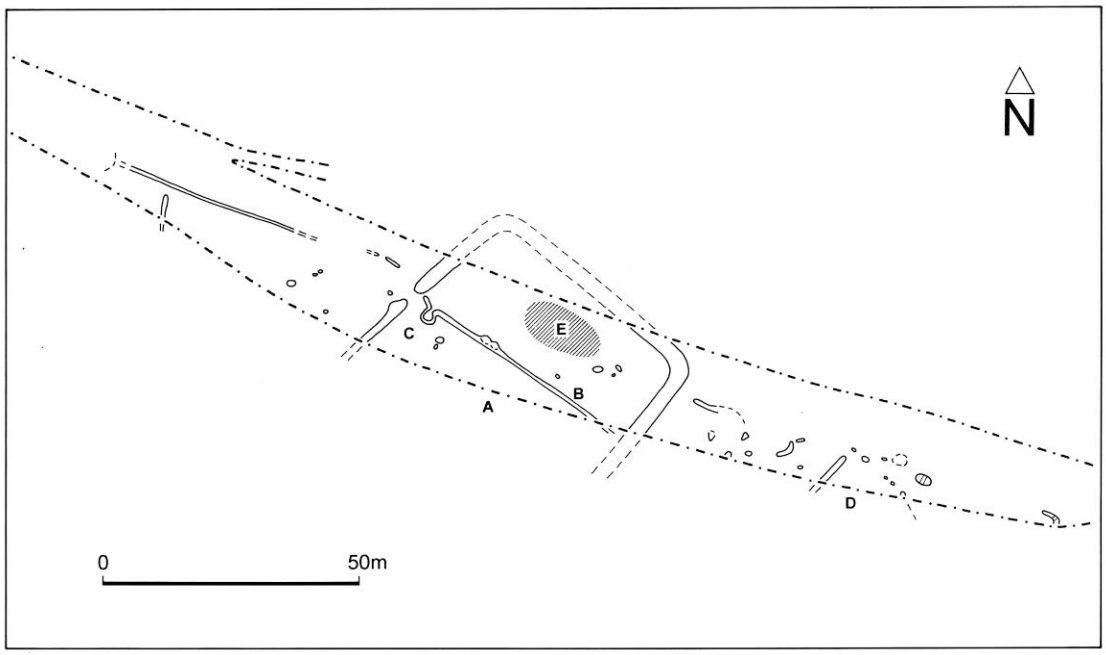


Figure G.101. *Plan of the partially-excavated Lingwell Gate enclosure, W. Yorks, showing the extent of a probable midden area (E) identified within it. (Source: Roberts and Johnston 2001: 293).*

This site along the M1-A1 road corridor was located just to the south-east of a known location of coin and coin mould finds, and 300m north-west of a large subsquare enclosure 70m long and 60m wide identified from cropmarks. The area was subject to a strip and record investigation undertaken by Babtie. This recorded a subrectangular enclosure approximately 50m long with a north-west facing entrance, and a possible internal ditch, gully or palisade slot dividing the internal area in two (Roberts 2001b: 291). This appeared to have an unusual semi-circular deviation near its north-western extent (C above). In addition, an area of 'discoloured subsoil' roughly 20m long and 10m wide (E) may have marked the location of a former midden or a dense area of occupation. To the east of the enclosure, a series of possible postholes, pits and gullies might have represented external structures such as livestock pens. No dating evidence was recovered, and no further excavation took place.

References: Roberts 2001b.

Low Common SE 3880 2500

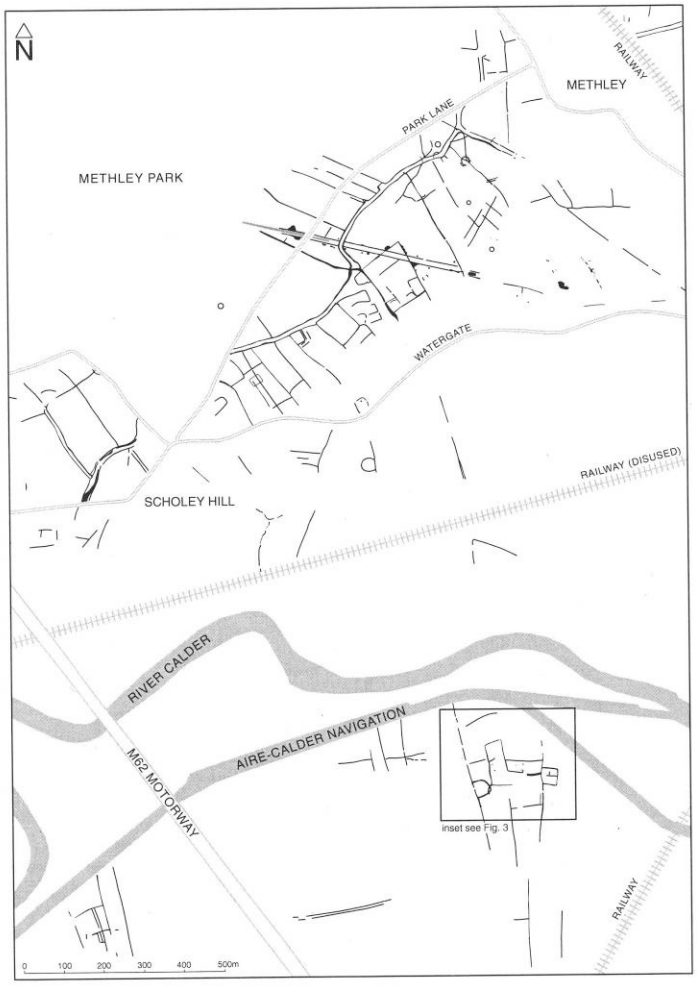


Fig. 2. Crop mark evidence in the vicinity of Low Common.

Cropmarks of these enclosure and field complexes have been identified west of Castleford on relatively flat, low-lying ground at 15-20m OD on the edge of the floodplain of the River Calder on a gravel terrace (Deegan 1999b), although they were first detected through geophysical survey. In advance of commercial and industrial development, AS WYAS undertook geophysical survey, trial trenching and open-area excavations, the latter during August-December 1995. East of subenclosure A, a series of ditched fields, paddocks or pens were investigated, but these did not produce any dateable artefacts (Burgess and Roberts 2004: 5-7).

Figure G.102. (top left). *The cropmarks at Low Common, in relation to the River Calder and the cropmarks at Methley. (Source: Burgess and Roberts 2004: 3).*
Fig. G.103. (bottom left). *Low Common evidence from cropmarks (red), geophysics (green) and excavation (black). (Source: Burgess and Roberts 2004: back cover).*

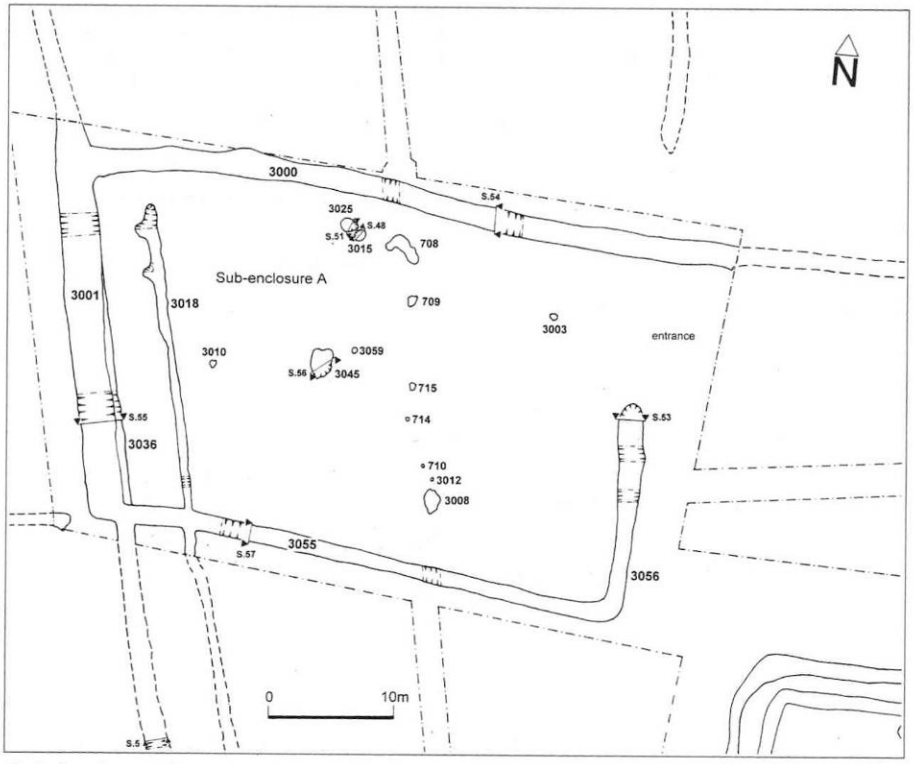


Fig. 7. Low Common: plan of Sub-enclosure A.

Figure G.104. *Plan of Subenclosure A at Low Common. (Source: Burgess and Roberts 2004: 8, fig. 7).*

Subenclosure A post-dated an earlier double-ditched trackway 4m wide, and the eastern ditch of the trapezoidal enclosure had partly re-cut the westernmost trackway ditch. Subenclosure A was 42m long and 29m wide, with a north-east facing entrance 11m wide. Its ditches were up to 2.2m wide and 1.5m deep, and contained a few sherds of second century AD pottery. A few pits, postholes and postpads were identified within the enclosure, and these produced sherds of second century pottery, quern and stone fragments and a few iron objects (Burgess and Roberts 2004: 10). No clear structure could be discerned though.

Subenclosure B was located just to the south-east, and was another trapezoidal enclosure 37m long and 30m wide, and probably set into the angle formed by two pre-existing field ditches. The eastern ditch was 2.5m wide and 1.6m deep, with evidence for at least two re-cuts, although other ditches were smaller. No clear entrance into the enclosure was identified, and the north and west sides of the enclosure seem to have been formed by two parallel ditches 2m apart (Burgess and Roberts 2004: 11). These may have been dug on either side of an upcast bank, but alternatively might have formed part of a narrow 'race' for livestock. A few sherds of second to fourth century pottery were recovered from ditch fills. The likely eavesdrop gully of a 9.2m wide roundhouse was located in the north-western part of Subenclosure B, and this building might have had east and south-west facing entrances. The eastern terminal end of this gully contained charcoal, burnt clay, stone and a sherd of hand-made late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery. Some internal pits and postholes were excavated, whilst at least one of the gullies within the 'footprint' of the building might have been an internal partition. The roundhouse was probably built across an earlier gully, and itself cut by a later gully.

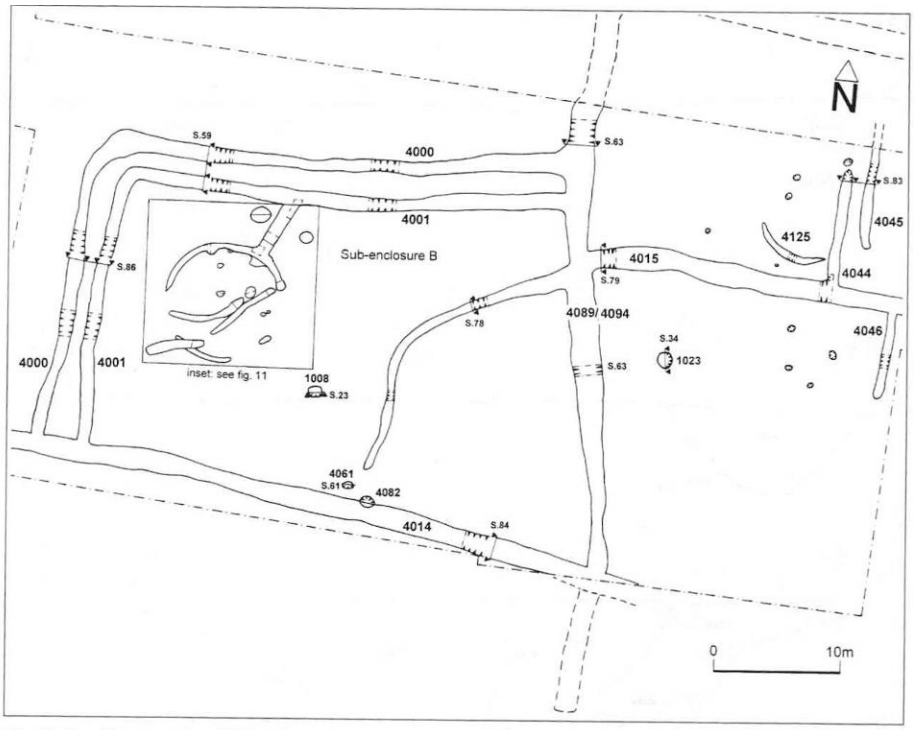


Fig. 10. Low Common: plan of Sub-enclosure B.

Figure G.105. *Plan of Subenclosure B at Low Common. (Source: Burgess and Roberts 2004: 11).*

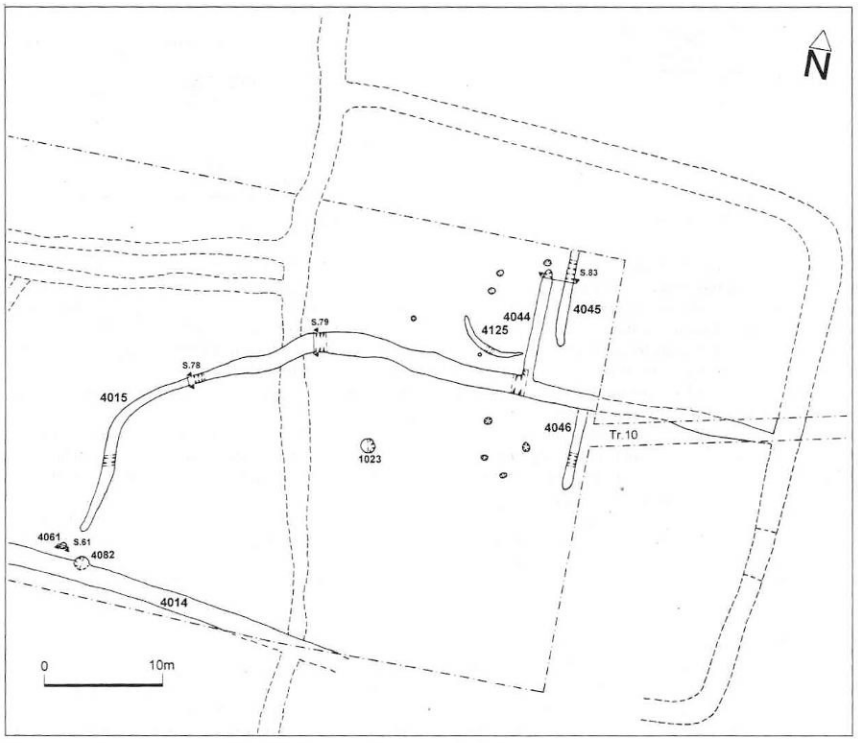


Fig. 14. Low Common: plan of Ditch 4015 and associated features.

Figure G.106. *The later phase at Low Common. (Source: Burgess and Roberts 2004: 14, fig. 14).*

On the other side of the north-south boundary ditch that Subenclosure B was built against was a square enclosure 40m across with a possible southern entrance. This was probably broadly the same date as Subenclosure B, although only a small part of it was exposed within the area of excavation.

In this same area, a second phase of activity was identified, consisting of a D-shaped subenclosure ditch (Ditch 4015) built across the major north-south boundary but probably re-using part of the square enclosure to the east. This appeared to have a narrow west-facing entrance only 2.5m wide, with two postholes forming part of a timber gateway structure, one containing a beehive quern fragment

(Burgess and Roberts 2004: 14). The eastern terminal of the ditch at this point contained second to fourth century pottery. Two ditches projected north and south of this later subenclosure ditch, and part of a curvilinear gully of a possible roundhouse up to 10m in diameter was also recorded, in addition to a series of postholes and pits.

The features excavated at Low Common were situated within a series of fields formed by long, narrow linear boundaries. Only 60m to the south-west was a D-shaped enclosure with a probable west-facing entrance, itself possibly appended to or cut by a linear boundary. Although a roundhouse was present in Subenclosure B and perhaps in a later phase to the east, this might not have been the focus of sustained 'domestic' occupation. Although plough truncation may have removed some internal features, it is more likely that these enclosures and fields were associated with the seasonal movements of livestock to and from the River Calder floodplain. If so, then the roundhouse(s) might have only been inhabited during the summer and autumn.

References: Burgess and Roberts 2004.

Manor Farm SE 4050 3360

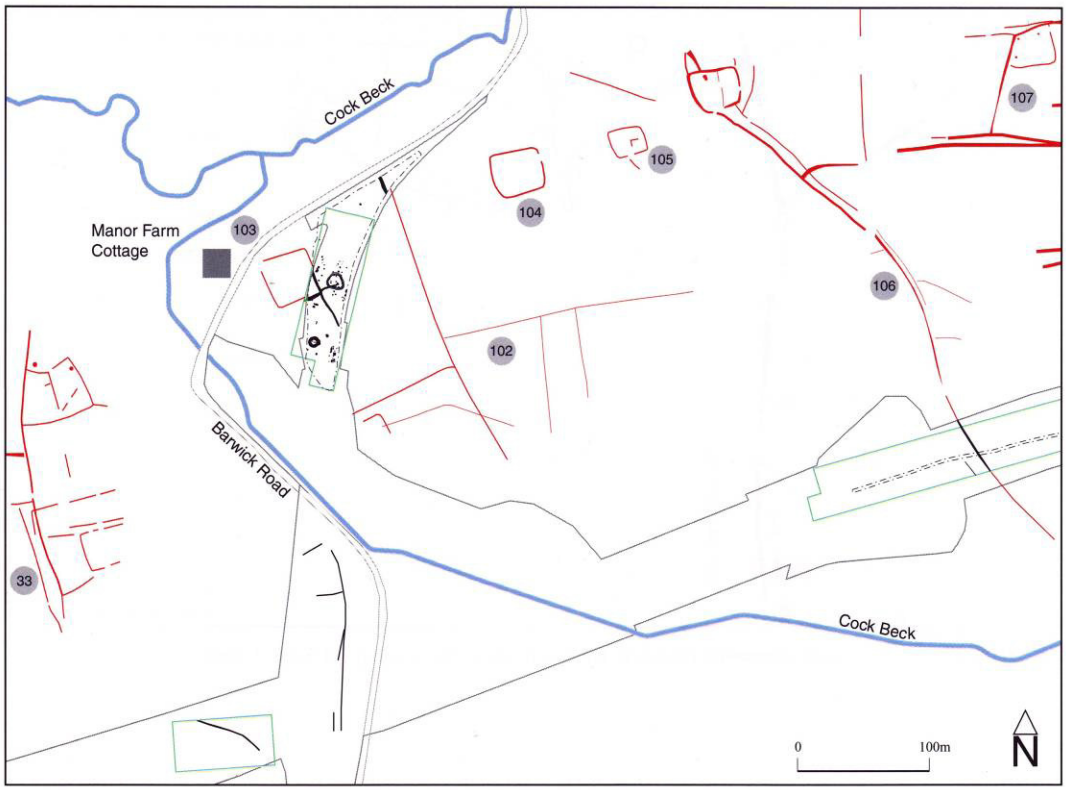


Figure G.107. *The location of the Manor Farm site (upper left), in relation to other enclosures and ditches identified through cropmarks (red) and geophysical survey (green). (Source: Deegan 2001b: 32, fig. 15).*

This was another site excavated by AS WYAS as part of the M1-A1 Link Road scheme. It was located on the flattish end of the western end of a gentle east-west ridge, with the ground falling off to the north, west and south-west down to Cock Beck, in an undulating landscape. To the north-east, the ground rises gently to Parlington Hollins. In addition to a Neolithic pit, a small Bronze Age barrow was excavated containing an urned cremation burial, and in the early Iron Age, the barrow seems to have formed the focus of a right-angled, partly segmented ditch (2501) from a field boundary or enclosure that produced a ^{14}C date of 763-263 BC from its primary fill (Burgess 2001a: 74-80). Within the angle or enclosure formed by this ditch were six pits and postholes that contained cremated human and possibly animal bone ^{14}C dated to 800-410 BC, 390-30 BC and 370 BC – AD 20.

The next phase identified at Manor Farm consisted of an unusual subtriangular feature located 40m north-east of the Bronze Age barrow, and cutting at least two of the group of pits and postholes. The subtriangular structure consisted of two phases, the first of which (Structure 1) defined by a shallow gully with a possible north-facing entranceway 4.5m wide, forming a structure or area 11m across (Burgess 2001a: 78-79, fig. 59, plate 7) (see Chapter 11 Fig. 11.64, Appendix F Figs. F.45-F.46). A ^{14}C date of 380-10 BC was obtained from this gully. The entrance may have been associated with two lines of pits and postholes orientated north-east to south-west, apparently forming a 2m wide 'avenue', but these features could not be dated. A Group VI Neolithic stone axe or adze was recovered from the

surface of one pits (2095), and although this could mean that this feature was of a similar date, the stone adze could have been a curated artefact (see Appendix F). The subtriangular gully was then re-cut (Structure 2) and made slightly wider and deeper, forming a feature 14m across with no apparent entranceway. A ^{14}C date of 380 BC – AD 20 was obtained from this (Burgess 2001a: 79). A group of fifteen postholes may have formed a later east-west line across the northern side of the subtriangular feature, and one of these postholes produced a ^{14}C date of AD 80-390. These postholes might have been a deliberate, formal blocking or closure of the earlier entrance. Further pits and postholes to the north-west and south-east produced a variety of artefacts including Bronze Age pottery and flints, an Iron Age pot sherd, and the stone mortar used for producing powdered iron ore mentioned in Chapter 11 and Appendix F.

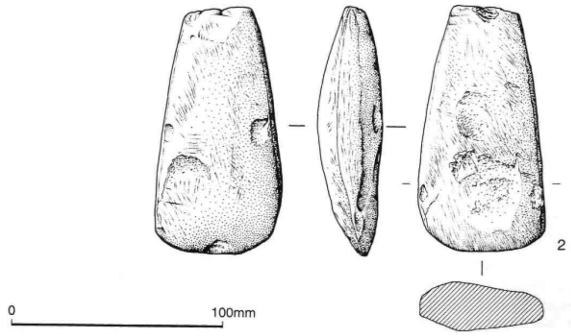


Figure G.108 (above). *Excavating Iron Age Structures 1 and 2 at Manor Farm, W. Yorks. The northern line of postholes is also visible, although these were left off the detailed plan. (Source: Burgess 2001a: 79, pl. 7).* **Fig. G.109 (right).** *The Neolithic polished stone adze from Langdale, Cumbria, possibly curated item re-deposited in an Iron Age pit. (Source: Burgess 2001a: 73, 79; Edmonds and Davis 2001: 198, fig. 127).*

Another right-angled ditch (2500) dug to the west of the subtriangular feature formed the south-east corner of a square enclosure (Enclosure B) identified on aerial photographs (see Fig. G.107 above). This ditch was up to 2.5m wide and 0.75m deep, and it was positioned to cut the corner of the earlier Enclosure A ditch. Only a small piece of slag was recovered from its upper fill, but it is likely to be late Iron Age or Romano-British in date.

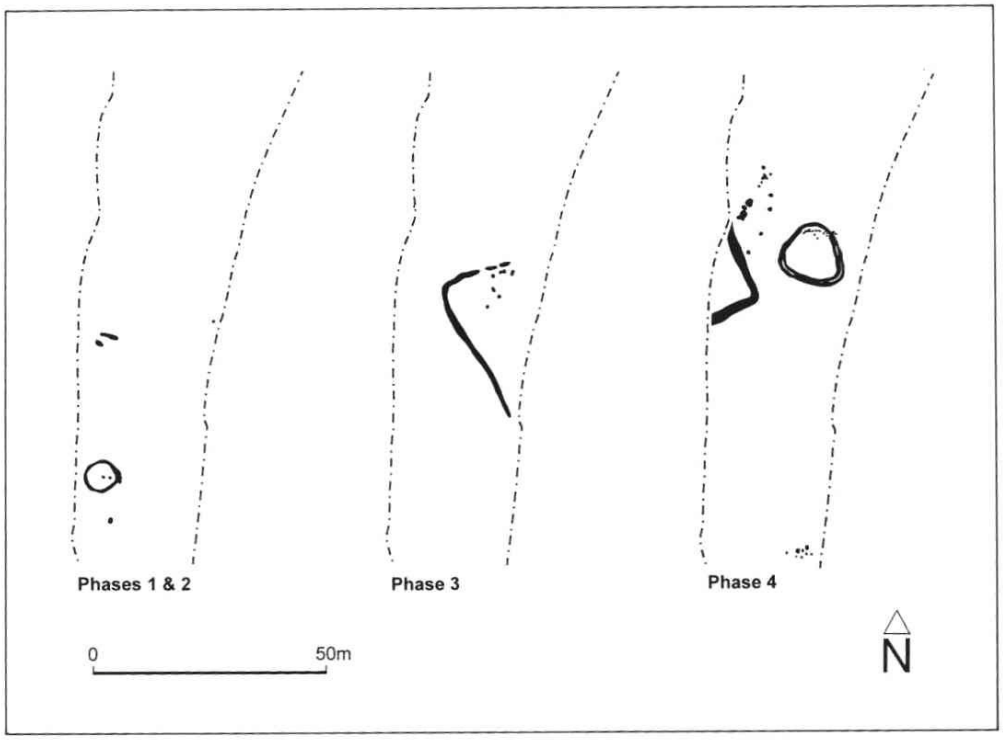


Figure G.110. *Proposed phasing of the features excavated at the Manor Farm site. (Source: Burgess 2001a: 74, fig. 54).*

Although interpretation of this site was not conclusive, it was proposed that the subtriangular features could have been a building (Burgess 2001b: 265-266), although it was noted that it was in a very exposed position on the ridge. I feel that the many unusual features of this site suggest that it was a small shrine, located in a relatively liminal place within the landscape, but also making reference to earlier features such as the Bronze Age barrow and the possible early to middle Iron Age structure or marker posts containing cremated human bone, and materialities such as the earlier pottery and flints. Perhaps this was perceived as an ancestral location, or was strategically appropriated as such. The unusual shape makes it unlikely to have been a roofed structure, whilst the possible fencelines running to it suggest the deliberate structuring of human movements around it and approaching it. Some features of Manor Farm such as the apparently long chronology of use, the presence of small amounts of early Iron Age cremated bone, the insubstantial structures and the landscape location on a raised area near a junction between watercourses, all have similarities with the enclosure excavated at Normanton Golf Course (see below). The feature may have been some form of shrine, or at least a setting for occasional ritualised practices.

The later rectangular enclosure was one of a series of four or five arranged roughly north-east to south-west along the ridge, apparently not closely integrated into field system boundaries. Approximately 300m to the north-east was a subrectangular enclosure linked to a pronounced trackway that may have originated as a sinuous linear ditch boundary. The enclosure has evidence for internal subdivisions and other features, whilst the north-west to south-east alignment of this trackway was different from other boundaries forming part of possible field boundaries to the south-east of the Manor Farm site. Whether

this line of enclosures were corrals or livestock pens on an exposed ridge used for grazing, or whether they had a more specialised function, is not known. Detailed geophysical survey and targeted excavation would potentially be able to address some of these questions.

References: Burgess 2001a; Deegan 2001b.

Methley

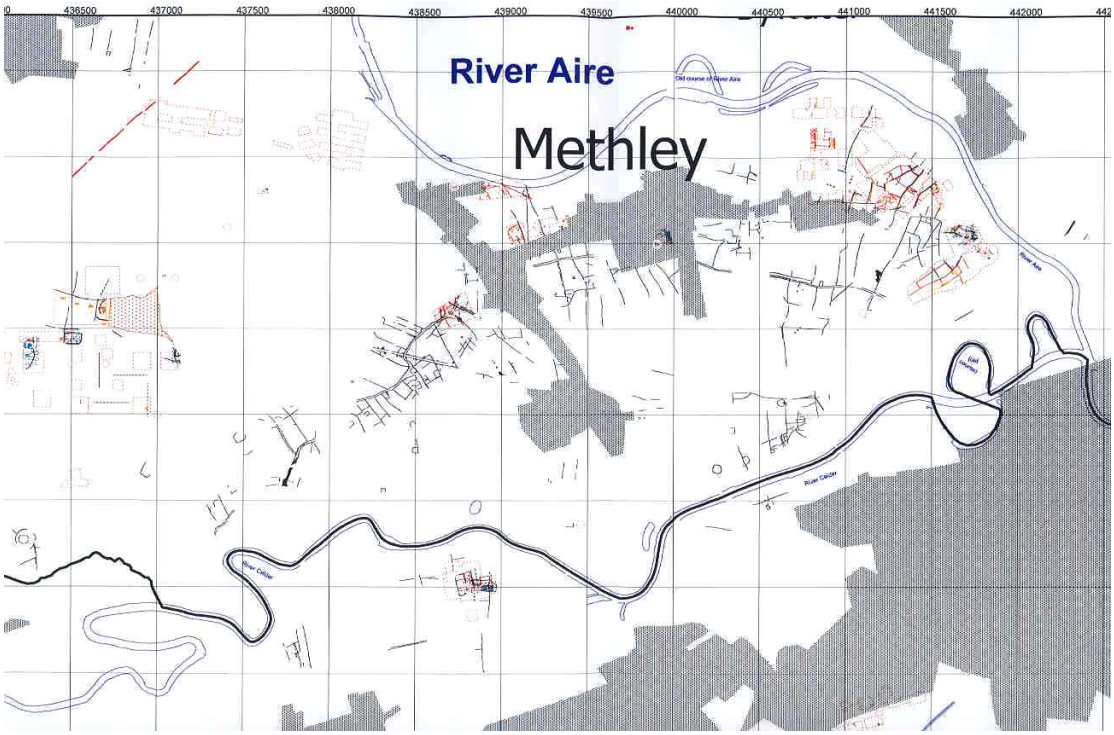


Figure G.111. *Cropmarks on the interfluves between the Rivers Aire and Calder at Methley. Areas of excavation are shown in red. The sites at Moss Carr, Methley can be seen at the far left of the image, and those at Low Common just to the lower left of centre. The MAP site lies east of Methley near the River Aire, and St. Aidan's Remainder north of Methley. The Park Lane site is situated immediately to the west of Methley. (Source: © AS WYAS).*

The following section summarises the results from a series of Iron Age and Romano-British sites that have been evaluated and excavated since the late 1980s on the interfluve between the Rivers Aire and Calder around Methley and Mickletown, west of Castleford, mostly by WYAS/AS WYAS. This area was relatively flat and low-lying, and many parts of it would have flooded in winter and spring. Many of the Methley sites described below thus probably reflect seasonal inhabitation of the floodplain during the summer or autumn months. A major double-ditched trackway was orientated approximately east-west along the north and central areas of the interfluve (see Methley, Park Lane below), and this may have been associated with the movements of hundreds or even thousands of livestock.

Few of these projects have been published, and most remain as unpublished archive reports. The detail in some of the older archive reports is also extremely minimal, however, sometimes consisting of just a multi-phase plan of the site in question, and there is little detailed information available concerning the features and artefacts that were excavated. A concerted programme of post-excavation work is urgently needed to collate and publish the results of the many disparate investigations, particularly as for some projects the bulk of the information concerning them remains on context sheets and field drawings in site archives, inaccessible to most researchers and members of the public. Aggregates Levy funding is currently being sought by AS WYAS in order to undertake such compilation, interpretation and publication (I. Roberts pers. comm.).

Methley, MAP SE 4170 2700

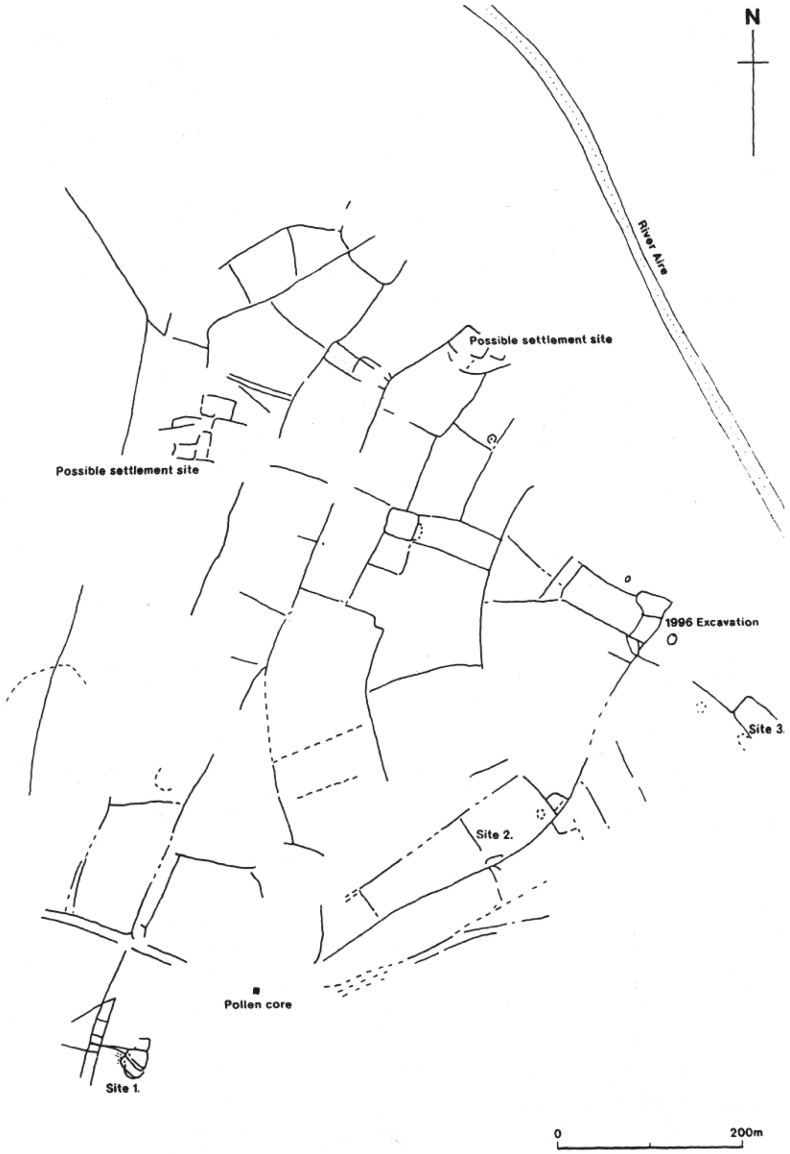


Figure G.112. *The location of the 1996 MAP site, shown at far right of centre, in relation to other cropmarks of fields and enclosures at Methley. The Willow Grove site (Site 1) excavated by WYAS is located at the bottom left. Sites 2-3were also investigated by WYAS – Site 2 was Methley Quarry Phase 1 Part 1. (Source: MAP 1996).*

Excavations by MAP in 1996 examined a series of conjoined enclosures on the floodplain of the Aire-Calder confluence east of Methley and north of two distinctive oxbow lakes formed by old river channels of the River Calder. The site was excavated in advance of sand and gravel extraction, and lay on the edge of the flat gravel terrace between 11-15m OD approximately 200m from the modern course of the river, just before the land falls away onto the alluvial floodplain itself. A series of conjoined and overlapping enclosures were investigated, along with associated internal features and boundaries. The only available report on the site from MAP is very poorly laid out and difficult to use, and so corroborating the basic proposed stratigraphic sequence is difficult. Many key sections were either not excavated to begin with, or have not been illustrated in the available report.

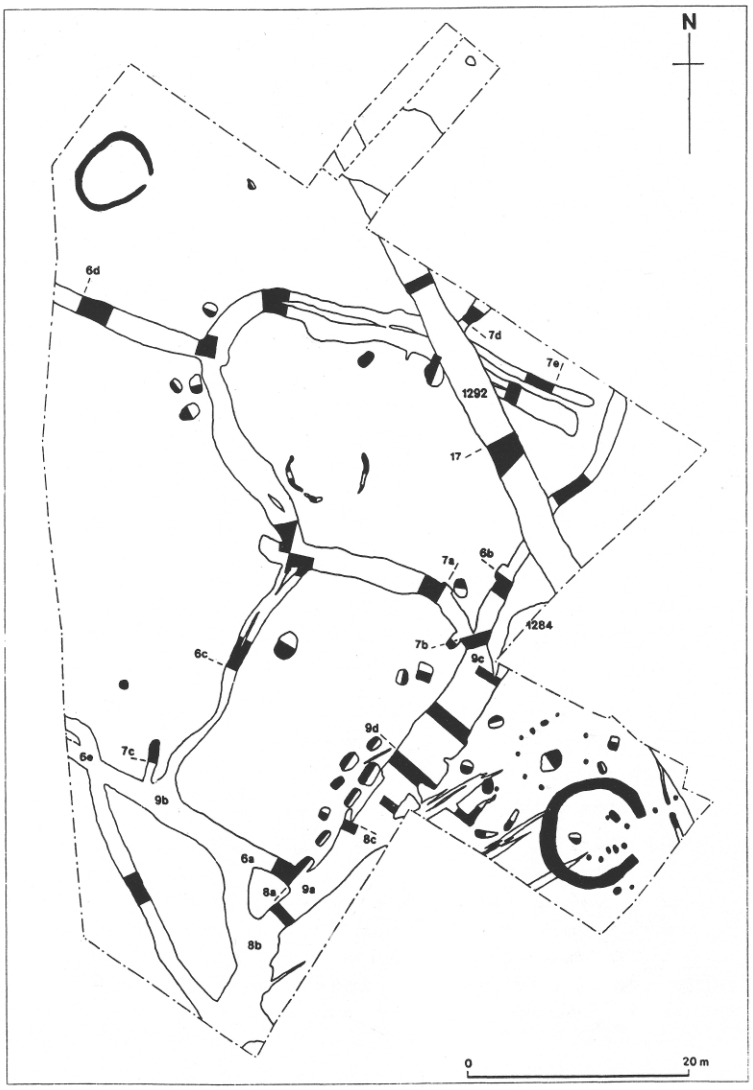
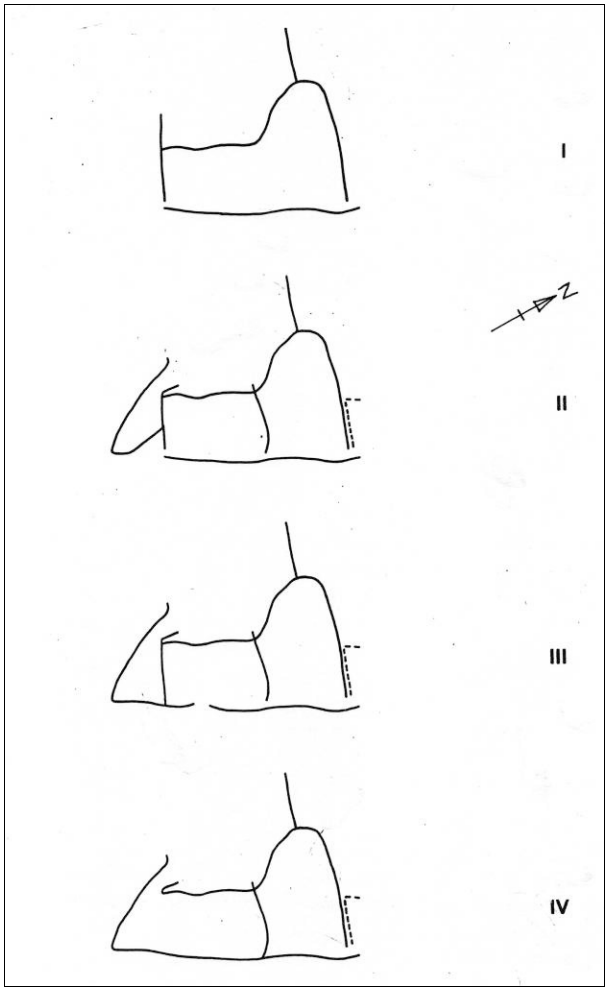


Figure G.113. *The excavated enclosures and internal features at the MAP site, Methley. (Source: MAP 1996: 6, fig. 4).*

The first phase identified (Phase I) consisted of an unusual enclosure – rectangular at one end, and trapezoidal or even almost apsidal ended at the other, forming an enclosure approximately 45m long and 30m across at its widest extent. This had possible entrances to the north-east and south-east. Further field or enclosure boundaries led off to the north-west (MAP 1996).

I believe that there are several problems with this interpretation, however. The report admits that the sub-rectangular southern part of the enclosure consisted of two phases, with an inner ditch or gully in some cases cutting an outer gully slightly greater in extent. This feature was only *c*. 0.40m wide and 0.18m deep, and seems likely to have been a palisade slot. From the plan, it seems more likely that the sub-rectangular part of the enclosure itself pre-dated the trapezoidal part, which may have been added afterwards to the north. The 'internal' division between these two parts of the enclosure identified in Phase II is more likely to be the original northern edge of a sub-rectangular enclosure, although this might have been re-cut in a later phase. The report actually admitted that it was contemporary with the inner ditch of the sub-rectangular area, and also noted that it had been re-cut (MAP 1996: 8). At some



point at least, there might have been an entrance from the sub-rectangular enclosure through into the trapezoidal area to the north. In addition to the putative internal partition, Phase II was supposedly marked by a very odd sub-triangular extension to the south, but once again it is possible that the excavators have misinterpreted the relationships. The south-east entrance may have continued in use during this phase. In Phase III, this triangular pen or sub-enclosure was remodelled and appended to the main south-east enclosure ditch, whilst a south-east facing entrance just over 4m wide was created in the sub-rectangular enclosure.

Figure G.114. (left). *Proposed phasing for the MAP site. I have added the north arrow. (Source: MAP 1996: 9, fig. 5).*

In Phase IV, the southern ditch of the subrectangular enclosure forming the boundary with the sub-triangular enclosure may have been removed to create a much larger contiguous trapezoidal space (MAP 1996: 15-16). Only two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the enclosure ditches, so added to the many problems presented by the excavation methodology and report presentation, attempting to phase what was obviously a very complex sequence of cuts and re-cuts is extremely problematic.

One possible post-built roundhouse was excavated, approximately 7m in diameter and perhaps with an east facing entrance. It might have been associated with a large internal pit (1186) that contained burnt sand and carbonised wood, perhaps a foundation or closure deposit. Alternatively, as suggested by the excavators (MAP 1996: 22), these postholes might have formed a screen or unroofed windbreak around the pit (Structure 3). A roundhouse 8.5m in diameter (Structure 1) was recorded immediately south of and possibly post-dating the post-built structure. It had a broad ring gully up to 1.47m wide and 0.43m deep surrounding it, and whilst it might have been an eavesdrip gully a slot in the base and a series of postholes suggested that this was a wall trench, although it is possible that these were later supports. A series of internal postholes were also identified, and the roundhouse entrance probably faced east. No dating evidence was recovered, only flint and calcined bone in the ring gully.

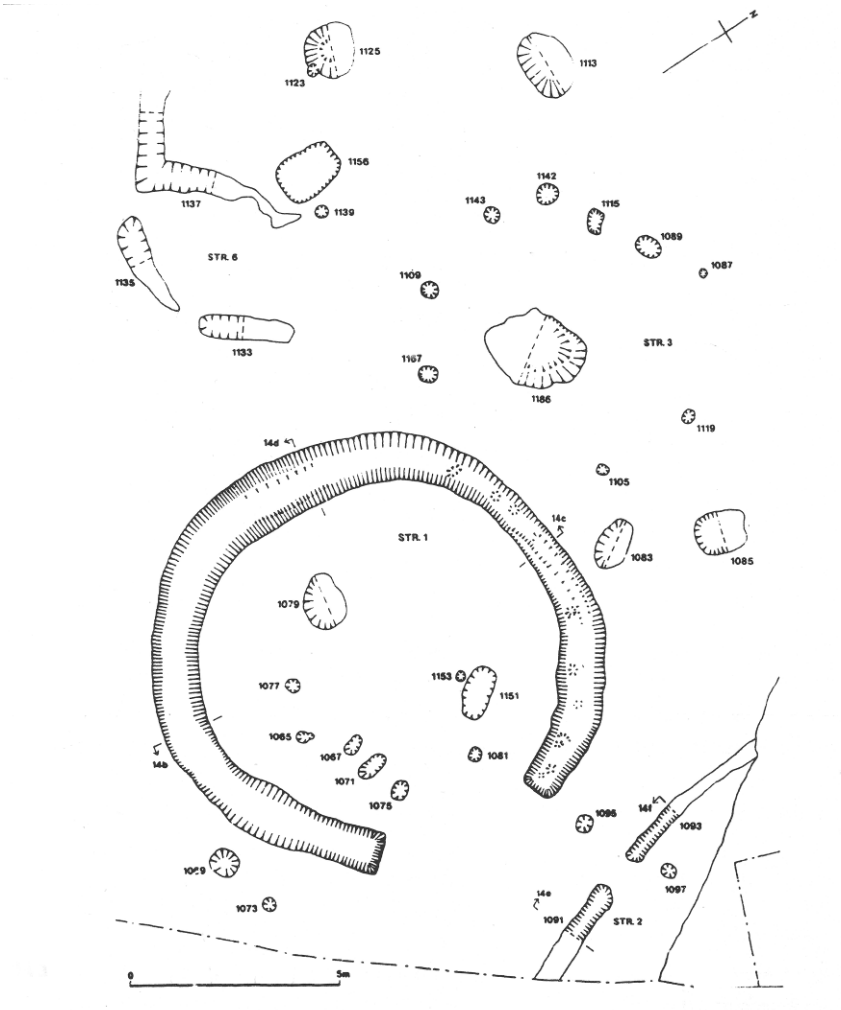


Figure G.115. *Detail of the post-built structure around/containing pit 1186, the roundhouse with the broad wall gully (Structure 10), and the possible wall or fence slot of another structure (Structure 2). (Source: MAP 1996: 26, fig. 14).*

Figure G.116. (left). *Photograph of the broad roundhouse ring gully (Structure 1) during the excavation. (Source: MAP 1996: plate 3).*

To the south-east of Structure 1 was a linear or curvilinear gully up to 0.50m wide and 0.22m deep, with a narrow 0.85m wide south-west facing entrance gap. It is possible that this feature was the ring gully or wall slot for a very large diameter roundhouse (Structure 2), but it is more likely that it formed

part of a fence or a screen. The narrow entrance is notable. Towards the centre and north-west of the site were two irregular penannular gullies that may represent further roundhouse eavesdrip gullies, or drainage around hay or fodder ricks. Structure 4 was a 'flattened' penannular form or sub-ovoid in plan, 7.30m long, 5.50m wide and with a south-east facing entrance gap. Only burnt stone, daub, a broken flint blade and a lump of slag was recovered from the gully (MAP 1996: 29), and no internal features were found. Structure 5 comprised three unequal and irregular lengths of gully defining a sub-circular area approximately 7.50m across, but no other features were closely associated with it, and no finds were recovered.

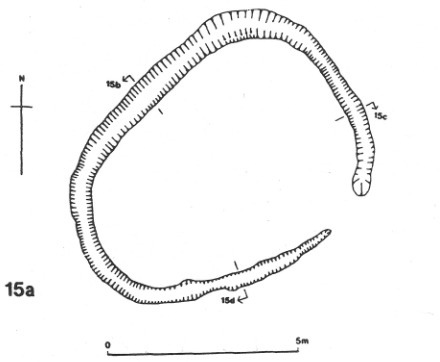
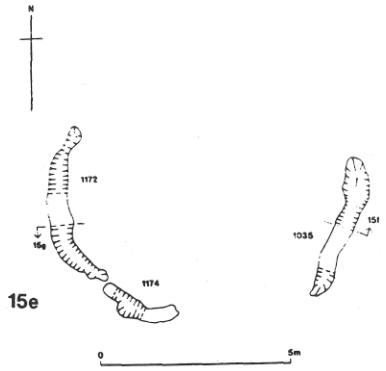


Figure G.117. (left). *Two irregular sets of gullies at the MAP site, perhaps marking rather more ephemeral structures (Structures 4 and 5). (Source: MAP 1996).*
Fig. G.118. (above). *Photograph of the penannular gully Structure 4, shown at left as 15a. (Source: MAP 1996: plate 4).*



Thirty-two pits were excavated, including a series of 'empty' but very regular subrectangular pits recorded in several distinctive groups, and these have parallels with some of the pits excavated at Billingley Drive, Thurnscoe in South Yorkshire. Although some might have been storage pits, there is absolutely no evidence for this, and they would have needed clay or wicker linings for which no evidence survives. Some might even have been 'empty' graves where bone had decayed away completely, as suggested for Thurnscoe. Those pits along the south-east boundary of the subrectangular enclosure only contained three sherds of Iron Age pottery, daub, flint and a few lumps of slag. Two pits further east displayed *in situ* scorching of their sides and bases (MAP 1996: 20), and had single postholes immediately adjacent to them, though their function is unknown. A burial of an adult cow in a pit in the northern part of the trapezoidal enclosure, adjacent to the ditch and perhaps an internal bank, was probably a deliberate placed deposit. Its mandible displayed a congenital condition which, coupled with its small size, suggest it was a Roman period beast (Jacques and Dobney 1996).

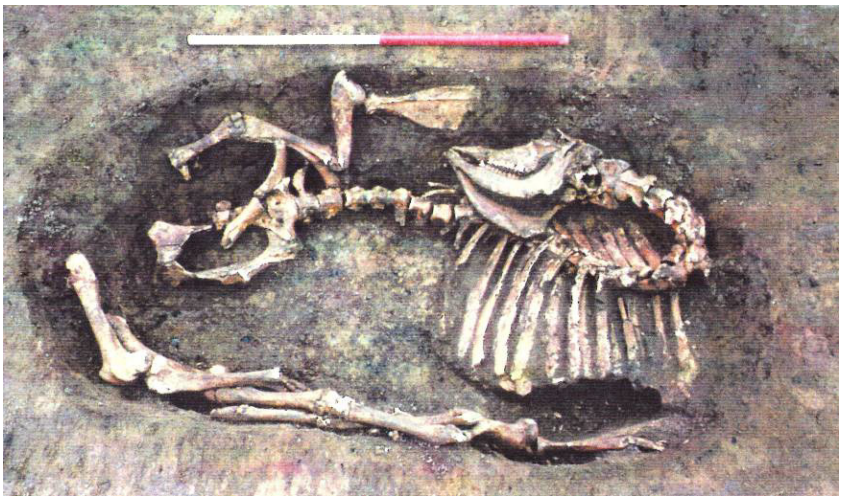


Figure G.119. (left). *The complete adult cow burial found at the MAP Methley site. (Source: MAP 1996: plate 2).*

Most of the features at the MAP Methley site were probably late Iron Age in date, although only a few sherds of this period and a handful of Romano-British sherds were recovered. A single upper beehive quernstone was found, but only as a subsoil find (Heslop 1996). It is interesting that the most convincing example of a roundhouse and two of the other structures were all apparently located outside of the enclosure complex to the south-east, although it is not clear if these lay within further enclosures. This might reflect one or more 'open' phases of settlement, however. As with Willow Grove, St Aidan's Remainder and Methley Quarry, it is probable that this site on the Methley interfluves only saw intermittent seasonal occupation.

Unfortunately, the quality of excavation and recording at this site, and especially the post-excavation archive report, left a lot to be desired.

References: MAP 1996.

Methley, Moss Carr SE 3670 2630

Excavations were undertaken during 2001 by AS WYAS at three locations at Moss Carr, Methley in advance of opencast mining, and following cropmark study, geophysical survey and trial trenching. The areas were situated on a largely flat ridgetop in an undulating landscape, with the ground sloping north-east towards the River Aire, and to the south towards the River Calder. Several springs emerge from the slope just to the south of the excavated areas too. This would have given the enclosures excavated at Moss Carr access to two river floodplains, both within 1.2km of the settlements.

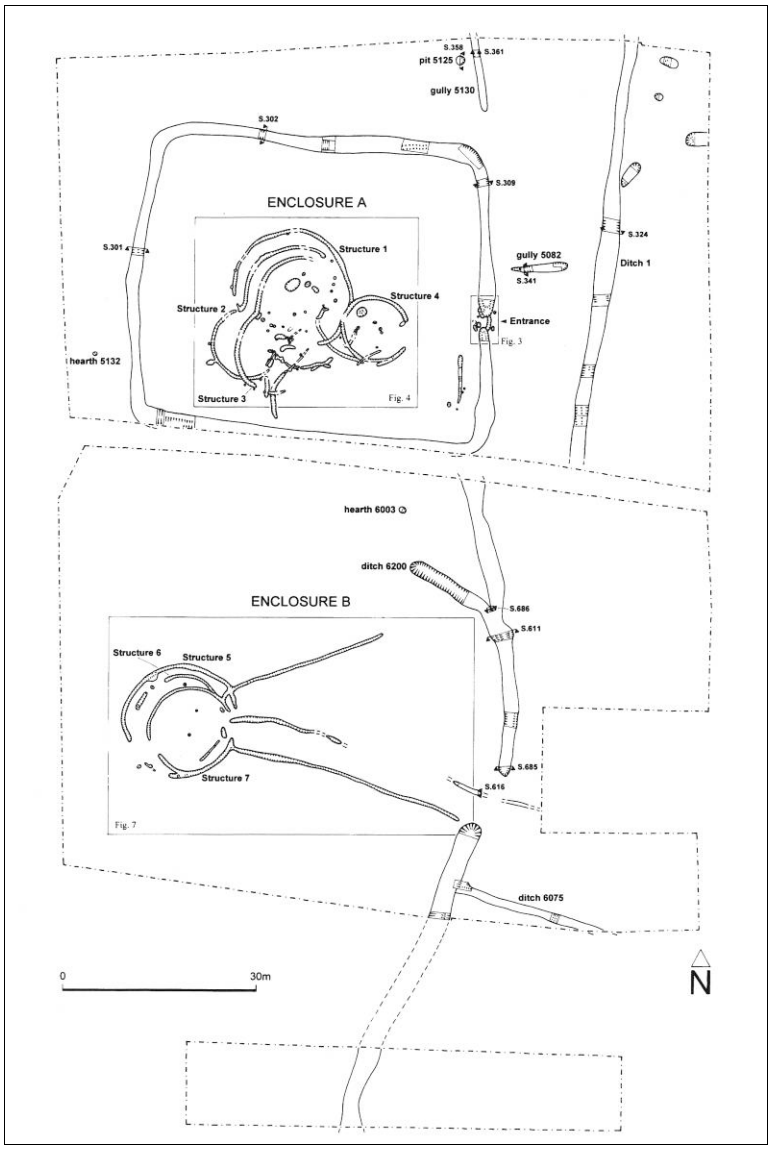


Figure G.120. *Moss Carr Site 1 Enclosures A and B, Moss Carr, Methley. (Source: Roberts and Richardson 2002: 3).*

Site 1 consisted of two probably subrectangular and conjoining enclosures, approached in a later phase from the north by a double-ditched trackway up to 25m wide. Enclosure A was a subrectangular or subsquare enclosure with an east-facing entrance. The entrance was very constricted – only 2m wide, and this suggests that it may have been intended for people and dogs only, not livestock. Excavated

postholes suggest that there was some kind of timber entrance structure or gateway (Roberts and Richardson 2002: 4, fig. 3), which although at a relatively small-scale may nonetheless have been intended to impress anyone entering the enclosure. It would also have meant that strangers or anyone from outside the immediate kin-group could be stopped and interrogated. It is likely that there was an informal north-south axis of movement through the landscape, as in a later phase this was manifested as a ditched trackway. However, a short length of east-west gully just north of the enclosure was probably a screen or fence, which would have further restricted free movement and controlled access.

The enclosure ditch was a substantial construction up to 1.7m wide and 1m deep even after truncation. In the centre of the enclosure, the remains of ring gullies demonstrate that there were successive phases of roundhouse construction, including two possible phases of conjoined structures (Roberts and Richardson 2002: 5-6). At least one of these roundhouses (Structure 4, probably late Iron Age) had an east-facing entrance, towards the enclosure gateway. The other roundhouses may have had south-east or south facing entrances. Structure 4's ring gully cut precisely through part of the ring gullies of earlier Structures 1 and 2 (see Chapter 9, Fig. 9.73). The repeated reconstruction of roundhouses on almost exactly the same spot demonstrates a deep attachment to place, and clearly it was important to people that these different buildings should be so closely linked through space and time. This is unlike the situation on some excavated Iron Age and Romano-British rural settlements in the Thames Valley, where different phases of roundhouse have been shown to 'migrate' around within an enclosure.

An iron knife blade was recovered from the ring gully of Structure 2, at the point where it was bisected by the later ring gully of Structure 4. Iron is an extremely rare find on these rural settlement sites, as it was normally recycled into other objects. Because of this, and its spatial location, the excavators suggested that it was extremely unlikely to have resulted from chance loss (Roberts and Richardson 2002: 5), and it may thus represent a placed deposit. Within the area of the structures, pit 5401 contained a beehive quern fragment, whilst two adjacent postholes that were very close together (5380 and 5389) contained body sherds of handmade middle or late Iron Age pottery. Although the exact stratigraphic and chronological relationship between the pit and the structures could not be established, it is likely that the quern fragment represented either a foundation or closure deposit for one phase of roundhouse. The introduction of the pottery to the fill of the postholes may also not have been through refuse disposal or chance loss. Elsewhere in the enclosure, two beehive querns were recovered from postholes on either side of the entrance structure (Heslop and Gaunt 2002: 32), and a saddle quern from the ring gully of Structure 3. Two saddle querns were also found in the enclosure ditch (though the report does not specify exactly where), along with a worn copper alloy bow brooch.

The northern boundary of Enclosure B was shared with Enclosure A, but the western extent could not be determined. Geophysical survey suggested that the southern, east-west boundary of the enclosure was approximately 100m to the south of the northern boundary. This enclosure was also probably accessed off the same north-south corridor of movement as Enclosure A. The eastern boundary ditch was very substantial, up to 3.5m wide and 1.25m deep despite truncation, and it had been re-cut. There

was an east-facing entrance through it roughly 8m wide, which would have permitted the movement of both people and livestock. This access was further defined and restricted by an east-west gully, which might have been part of two phases of 'avenues' leading up to the two phases of buildings within the enclosure (Roberts and Richardson 2002: 10). To the south, a roughly east-west boundary ditch effectively blocked any further movement to the south. This might also suggest a role in regulating the movements of people and/or animals.

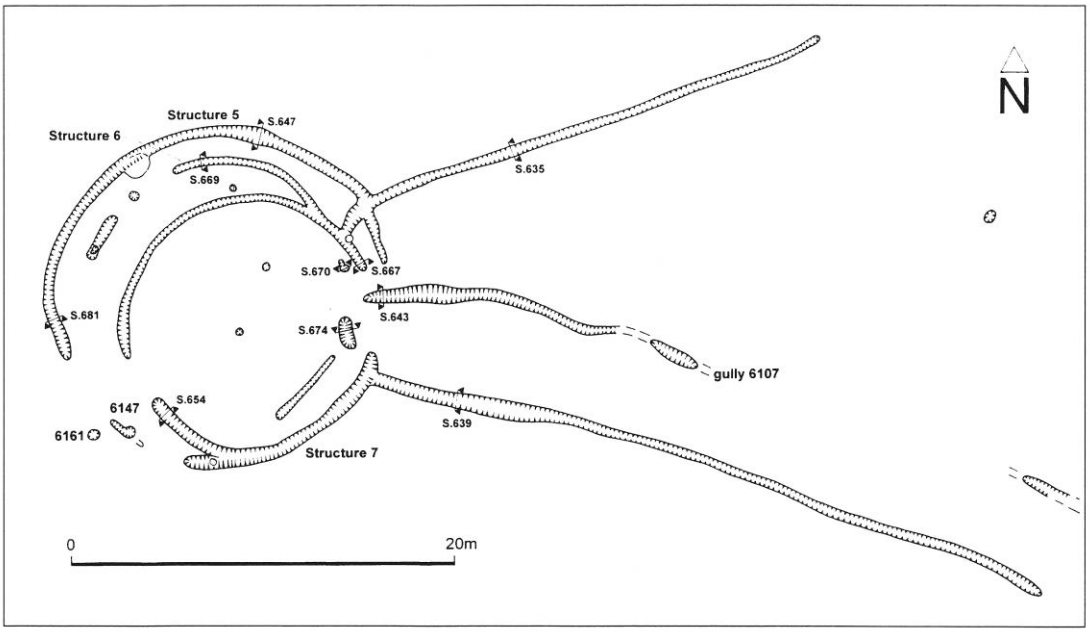


Figure G.121. *The two phases of gullies leading to the two or three phases of roundhouses in Enclosure B at Moss Carr, Methley. (Source: Roberts and Richardson 2002: 9).*

Within the enclosure were up to three phases of a circular building, which, like Enclosure A, also demonstrates that replacement buildings were constructed in approximately the same place. These roundhouses faced east, although both may also have had subsidiary south-west facing entrances. There were two phases of gullies or 'avenues' leading to the roundhouses from the eastern enclosure entrance (Roberts and Richardson 2002). In the earlier Iron Age phase the gully was straight and appended to the north-east edge of the roundhouse. The later Iron Age structure was funnel-shaped, narrowing from *c*. 28m to the west, to about 6m to the east. These gullies might have been associated with hedged banks, or more likely with timber palisades or wattling fences, but they formed an impressive, possibly even ceremonial means of approaching the roundhouses. To the north of the roundhouse, a curving ditch could also have directed people and animals around the northern side of the building, whilst in the earlier Iron Age, people and animals seem to have more option in moving both north and south (Roberts and Richardson 2002: 37). Structure 5 was a roundhouse *c*. 18m in diameter, and its curvilinear wall trench contained two base stones from beehive querns, and a broken iron bar. Structure 7 was *c*. 13m in diameter, and at the southern terminal of the wall trench by the south-western entrance was a deposit of charcoal, fire-cracked stones and cremated animal bone (ibid.: 12). The wall trench also contained two quern fragments and a complete top stone from a beehive quern, the latter from the intersection with the southern arm of the avenue gully.

Site 2 was approximately 140m east of Site 1, and also consisted of conjoined subrectangular enclosures. Enclosure C seems to have been the main focus of inhabitation, and was approximately 62m long and 52m wide, and again had an east-facing entrance 5m wide that was further defined by the postholes and beam slots of a timber gateway or entrance structure (Roberts and Richardson 2002: 15). Its enclosure ditch had also been substantially re-cut at least once, and mid to late Iron Age pottery was found in it. Although a clear stratigraphic relationship between Enclosure C and D could not be established, it is likely that the latter was added to the former. Two curvilinear gullies directed movement from the Enclosure C entrance and towards or around a roundhouse located just west of them. Roundhouse 8 was approximately 15m in diameter and defined by a curvilinear wall slot and some possible postholes, and although much of its north-eastern extent was truncated it probably had a broadly east-facing entrance. Within its extent, pits 2148 and 2166 contained beehive quern fragments, and these were probably placed deposits, perhaps even foundation or closure events.

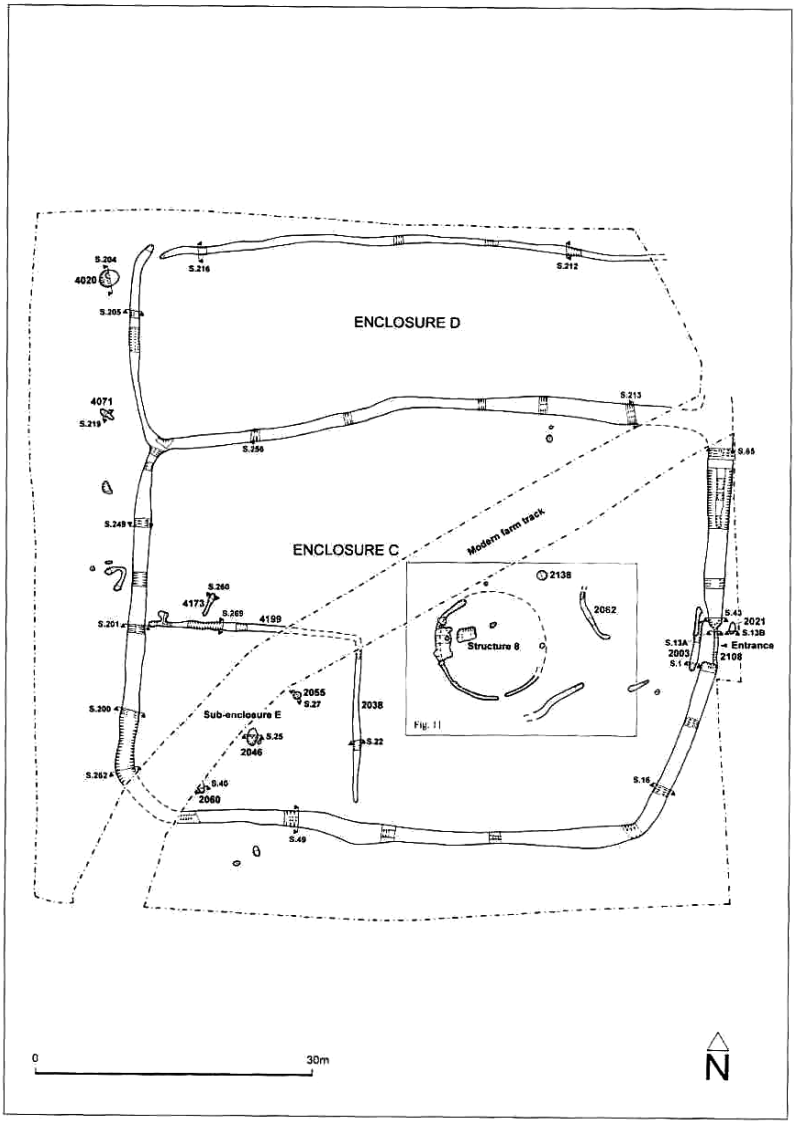


Figure G.122. *Moss Carr Site 2 Enclosure C, Methley, W. Yorks. Roundhouse structure 8 was emphasised by two curving lengths of gully that may have supported hurdle fences. These channelled movement to the roundhouse from the restricted main enclosure entrance. (Source: Roberts and Richardson 2002: 14).*

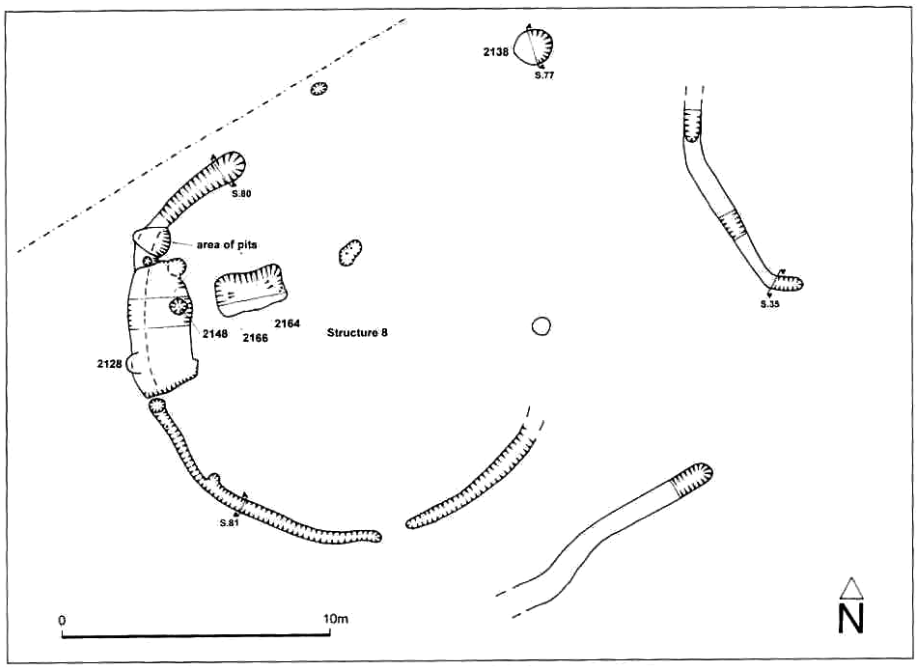


Figure G.123. *Detail of structure 8 and the two curvilinear channelling movement towards it gullies. (Source: Roberts and Richardson 2002: 15).*

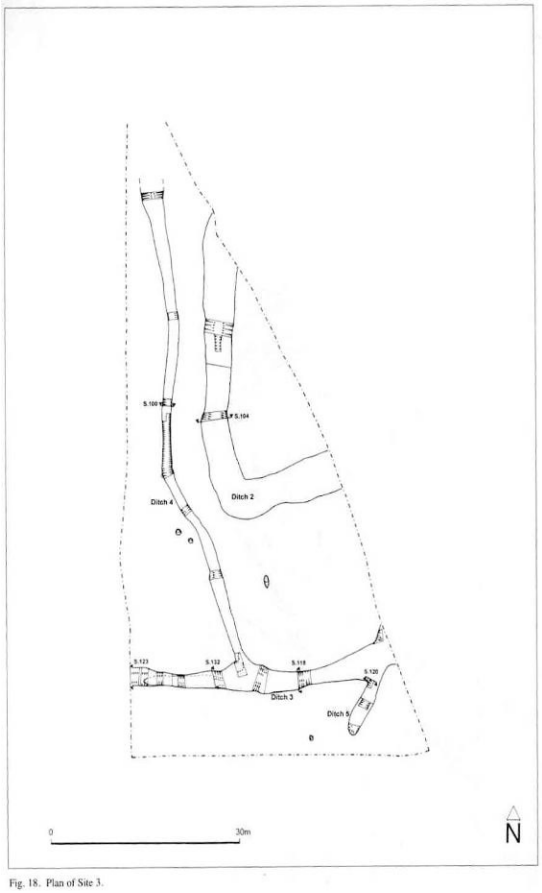


Fig. 18. Plan of Site 3.

In the south-west corner of Enclosure C was a rectangular subenclosure defined by shallow gullies. This might have been a livestock pen, and possibly belonged to a later phase of occupation. It is not clear where the entrance into this compound was, and due to later disturbance only a few internal postholes were recorded. Some 550m further east of Site 2 was Site 3, where a small open-area recorded the south-west corner of a field or enclosure ditch, with another ditch 3-6m parallel to it (Roberts and Richardson 2002: 22-24). If this was contemporary, it was either an outer boundary or a narrow trackway or race for livestock. This outer ditch joined a field boundary ditch, and these features were probably late Iron Age or early Romano-British in date.

Figure G.124. (left). *Plan of Site 3, Moss Carr, Methley. (Source: Roberts and Richardson 2002: 23).*

References: Roberts and Richardson 2002.

Methley, Park Lane SE 3870 2660

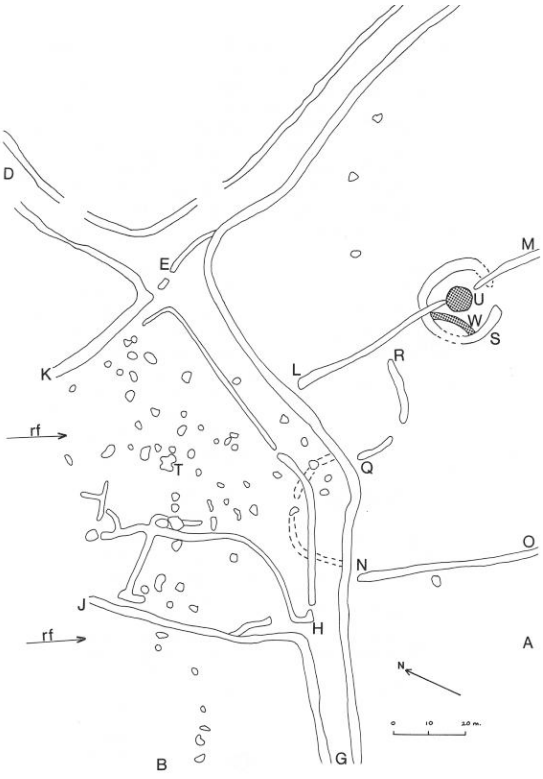


Figure G.125. (top). *Cropmarks of the 'kinked' trackway, field boundaries and possible pits at Park Lane, Methley. (Source: Yarwood and Marriott 1988a: 46).* **Fig. G.126. (left).** *Geophysical survey of the same area. (Source: Marriott and Yarwood 1991, fig. 2).* **Fig. G.127. (right).** *Interpretation of the geophysical survey results. (Source: Marriott and Yarwood 1991: fig. 3).*

This area adjacent to Park Lane on gently undulating ground west of Methley was investigated with a resistivity survey in 1985 and gradiometer survey and fieldwalking in 1991, as a private research project (Marriott and Yarwood 1991). Although part of the area lay on a gentle rise at *c*. 12-15m OD,

formed by the gravel terrace of the River Aire, the ground slopes away to the north to as little as 2-5m OD. A double-ditched trackway with a north-east to south-west alignment and several ring ditches were identified from aerial photographs (e.g. Yarwood and Marriott 1988a: 46), and the trackway had an unusual 'kink' or 'dogleg', turning to a NNE-SSW orientation. The reason for this change in direction is not clear. Only some earlier prehistoric flints were recovered through fieldwalking over this area, but the geophysical survey revealed evidence for several phases of activity, including a probable Bronze Age ring ditch or round barrow with a central inhumation, apparently slighted but used as a landscape maker by a later field boundary abutting the trackway. At some point in time another east-west trackway had either pre- or post-dated the kinked trackway (Mariott and Yarwood 1991: figs. 2-3, E). Further field boundaries and a possible concentration of pits were also identified, and some of the pits might have formed part of a north-east to south-west orientated pit alignment.

Where a boundary had been constructed perpendicular to the trackway, a possible D-shaped field corner enclosure had been constructed (Q-R), although this might have been related to further curvilinear gullies or ditches apparently underlying the main trackway. It is even possible that this was another Bronze Age ring ditch, and the kink in the trackway might have been a deliberate means of incorporating it, as at Swillington Common (see below). This was similar to the feature at Parlington Hollins West (see below). A trapezoidal enclosure was also apparent (between J to H), with a complex entrance structure and internal features. Targeted excavation would be productive at this site, in order to try and obtain dating and stratigraphic evidence, and assess the nature of the enclosures and the possible groups of pit features. The trackway seems to have been part of a major route on and off the low-lying interfluve area, and might have been associated with the seasonal movement of large numbers of livestock.

References: Marriott and Yarwood 1991; Yarwood and Marriott 1988a, 1988b.

Methley, St Aidan's Remainder SE 3890 2730

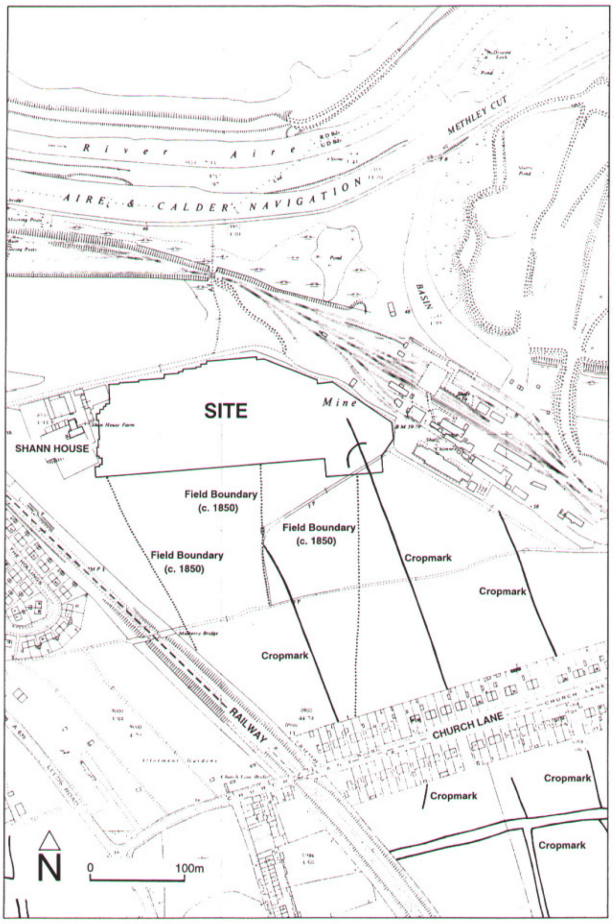


Fig. 1. Site location map showing cropmarks and 1850 field boundaries.

This site was located on the northern edge of Methley, on flat, low-lying land immediately adjacent to the modern course of the Aire and Calder Canal, with the ground sloping to the north and the watercourse. The area was investigated because it was threatened by the diversion of the canal prior to opencast quarrying. Although cropmarks suggested a series of co-axial field boundaries and trackways were in the immediate area, and a possible enclosure, geophysical survey indicated that many more boundaries and features were present within the development area.

Figure G.128. (left). *Location of the St Aidan's Remainder site. (Source: © AS WYAS).*

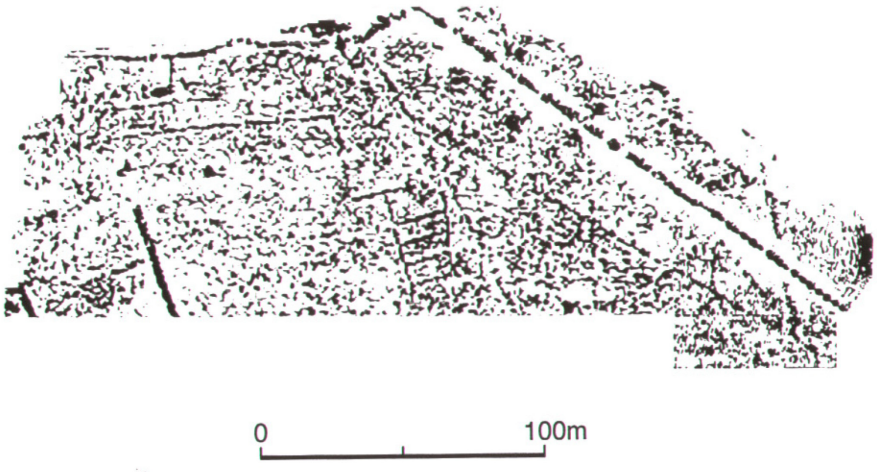


Fig. 2. Grey density plot of the magnetic data (-1.5nT to 3nT).

Figure G.129. *Geophysical survey of the St Aidan's Remainder development area. The electricity cable runs obliquely across the site from upper left to lower right. Only the eastern half of this area was excavated in detail. (Source: © AS WYAS).*

An area of 1.7ha was stripped of topsoil, and the eastern part of the development area formed the focus for the subsequent investigation, so a possible 'ladder' arrangement of enclosures was not excavated. Dating and phasing of the archaeological features was difficult due to a lack of stratigraphic relationships and a paucity of artefactual evidence, but one of the earliest phases may have consisted of a roughly north-west to south-east alignment of pits, some of which produced heat-shattered stones, earlier Iron Age pottery, and worked flint, some of the latter clearly residual (AS WYAS 1995; Haughton 1995). Part of a possible enclosure was identified (M1387, M1581-M1582), consisting of a series of irregular gully segments with a possible south-east facing entrance, although the northern and north-western parts of this area seem to have been unenclosed. To the south of the site, M1605 represented part of a possible ring ditch 22m in diameter, but only the north-eastern part of this feature was investigated in detail, so is full extent and purpose are unclear. It may have been Iron Age and might have cut an earlier north-south gully, and although too large for a roundhouse might have been part of a subcircular enclosure. It could also have been a Bronze Age ring ditch or barrow, however.

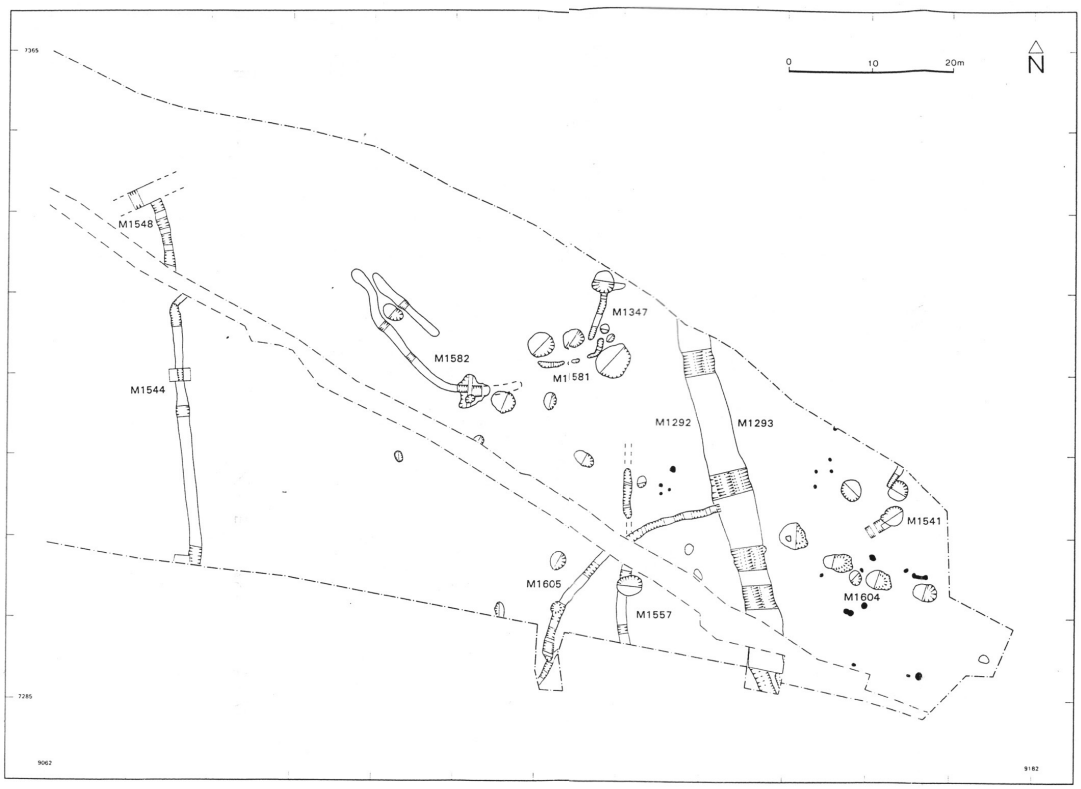


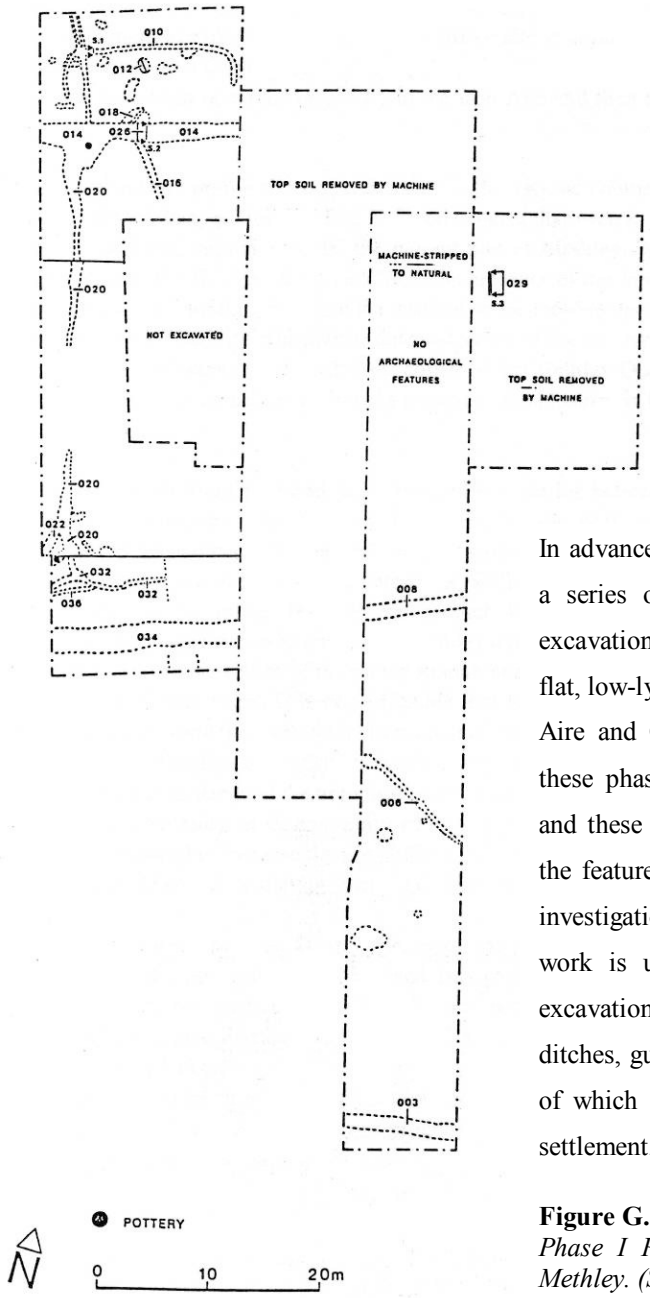
Figure G.140. *Composite plan of the main excavation area at St Aidan's Remainder, Methley. (Source: AS WYAS 1995).*

At a later date, two NNW-SSE orientated ditches were dug across the area, the eastern one of which had been re-cut at least once, and truncated the earlier ring ditch M1605 (AS WYAS 1995). The western ditch was smaller and had an entranceway 4.5m wide through it, just before a junction with a north-east to south-west orientated ditch whose full extent was not determined. These ditches may have been late Iron Age or Romano-British in date, but no dateable artefacts were recovered from them. The lack of Romano-British ceramics suggests that there was not an immediate adjacent focus of more

intensive occupation during this period, but the evidence for possible early Iron Age pit boundaries on the floodplain is intriguing, and reminiscent of some developments in the Trent Valley during this period. Very little animal bone was recovered due to the acidic soils, but this included cattle and pig remains. It is a pity that the western part of the development area could not also have been excavated, as some of the possible enclosures and boundaries present on the geophysical survey might have proved to be of later Iron Age or Romano-British date, and this may reflect a shift in activity westwards over time. The features found at St Aidan's Remainder might reflect largely seasonal occupation of the Aire-Wharfe interfluves floodplain, perhaps mostly during the summer and autumn months.

References: AS WYAS 1995.

Methley Quarry SE 4150 2670



In advance of gravel extraction at Redlands Quarry, a series of geophysical surveys, evaluations and excavations took place on an area east of Methley on flat, low-lying ground in the interfluves of the Rivers Aire and Calder. Only interim reports of some of these phases of archaeological work are available, and these do not have detailed plans or sections of the features investigated. Hopefully, these series of investigations will be collated and published, as this work is urgently required. In the first phase of excavation (Yarwood and Marriott 1990), a series of ditches, gullies, slots and pits were excavated, some of which seem to have formed part of a focus of settlement.

Figure G.141. (left). *The only available plan for the Phase I Part 1 excavations at Redlands Quarry, Methley. (Source: Yarwood and Mariott 1990).*

Samian ware of first to second century date was recovered (Yarwood and Mariott 1990), and a complete Romano-British pot with external sooting was found in one slot – this was probably a placed deposit. Two third century Roman coins were also found. Geophysical survey in the Phase I Part 2 area detected a series of field boundaries, enclosures and possible ring gullies (Yarwood and Marriott 1991). I have not been able to locate any available plans or archive reports of the results of the excavations over targeted areas of these features. A small enclosure excavated more recently at Methley Quarry contained evidence for industrial activities and a relatively large assemblage of later Romano-British pottery (Burgess 2003b), but only a draft interim report with no site plan was produced.

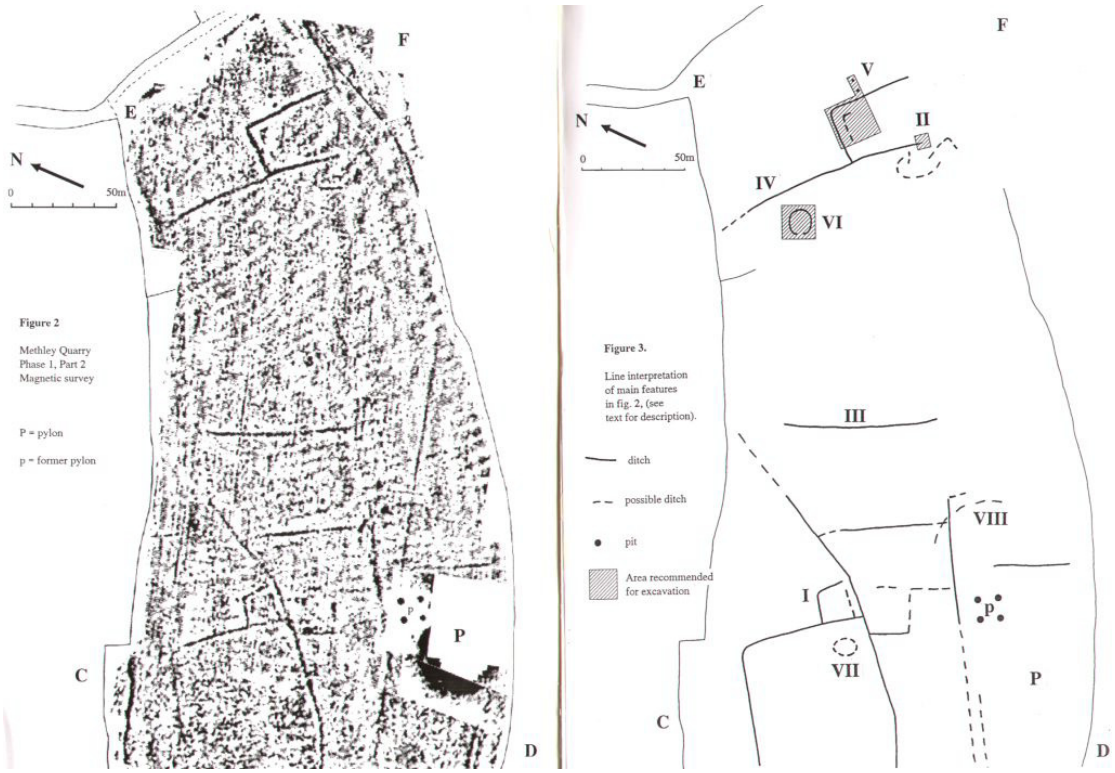


Figure G.142. (left). *Geophysical survey results from Methley Quarry.* **Fig. G.143. (right).** *Interpretation of these results, also showing some of the areas targeted for detailed excavation. (Source: Yarwood and Marriott 1991: figs. 2-3).*

Other finds in the nearby area include a hoard of 300 Roman coins dating to 50 BC – AD 180 found in a churchyard in 1923, and a small Roman glass vessel found in Mickletown in 1957 (Keith 2001).

References: Burgess 2003b; Keith 2001; Yarwood and Marriott 1990, 1991.

Methley, Willow Grove SE 4110 2660

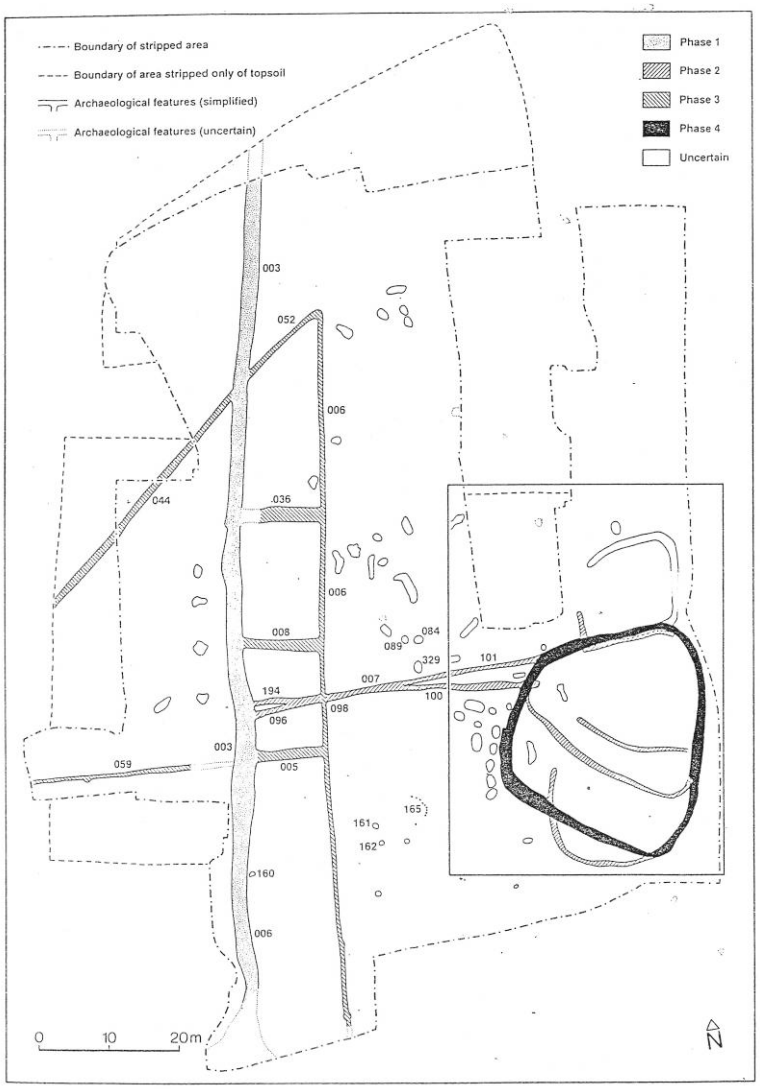
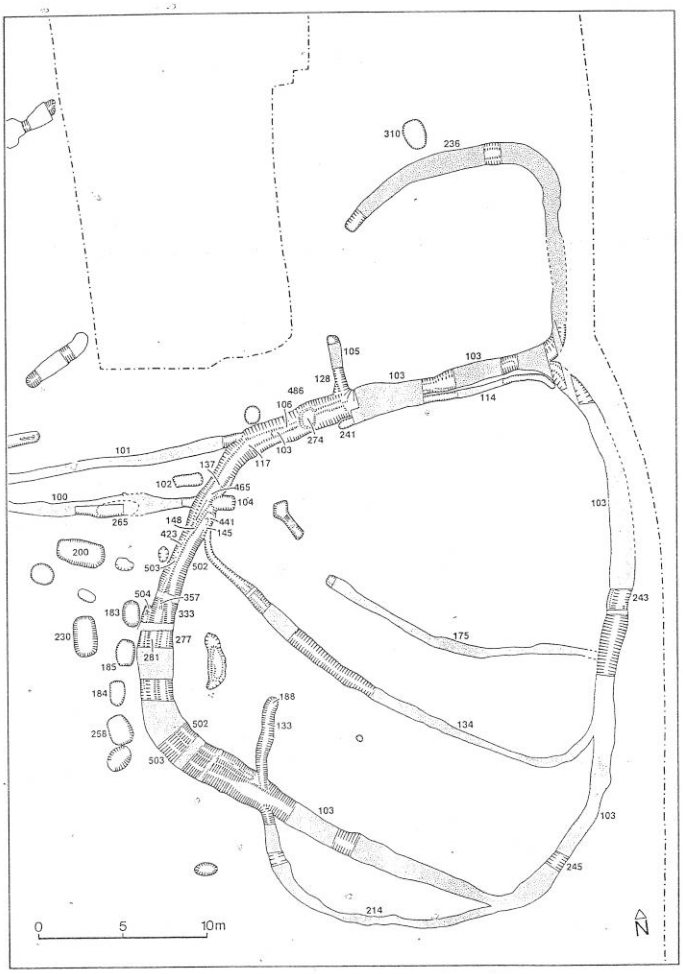


Figure G.144. *Plan of Willow Grove, Methley. (Source: Yarwood and Marriott 1988c).*

This site was located to the south-east of Mickletown and Green Lane, on flat, low-lying ground between 15-17m OD, with quite steep slopes to the south and east dropping down to the River Calder floodplain which before canalisation had pronounced bends and loops near this locale. As the name Methley Mires suggests, this lower zone would have been subject to seasonal flooding in the past. Prior to gravel extraction, a rescue and salvage excavation was undertaken, initially by WYAS during August-September 1988 (Yarwood and Marriott 1988b), but then continued part-time until November by Bob Yarwood and Jenny Marriott (Yarwood and Marriott 1988c). The earliest phase of activity identified consisted of one or two curvilinear or D-shaped enclosures, with possible north-west or west-facing entrances. Several small gullies may have been part of entrance structures. These enclosures were later re-cut and re-modelled by two roughly east-west ditches, that seem to have been connected to an unusual series of small rectangular enclosures or pens towards the western side of the site, linked at different phases to a major north-south ditched boundary, but also a very unusual triangular-shaped



feature formed by two gullies. A later feature seems to have been a single larger D-shaped enclosure, whose ditch was itself re-cut at least once. No clear entrance into this enclosure was identified, although a narrow stretch of ditch to the south-east may have been bridged by a timber structure. A series of regular pits were aligned along the western outer edge of the later enclosure. Although they did not contain any dateable artefacts, these have some parallels with the groups of pits found at the MAP site further to the north-east (MAP 1996, see above).

Figure G.145. (left). *More detailed plan of the main enclosures identified at Willow Grove, Methley. (Source: Yarwood and Marriott 1988c).*

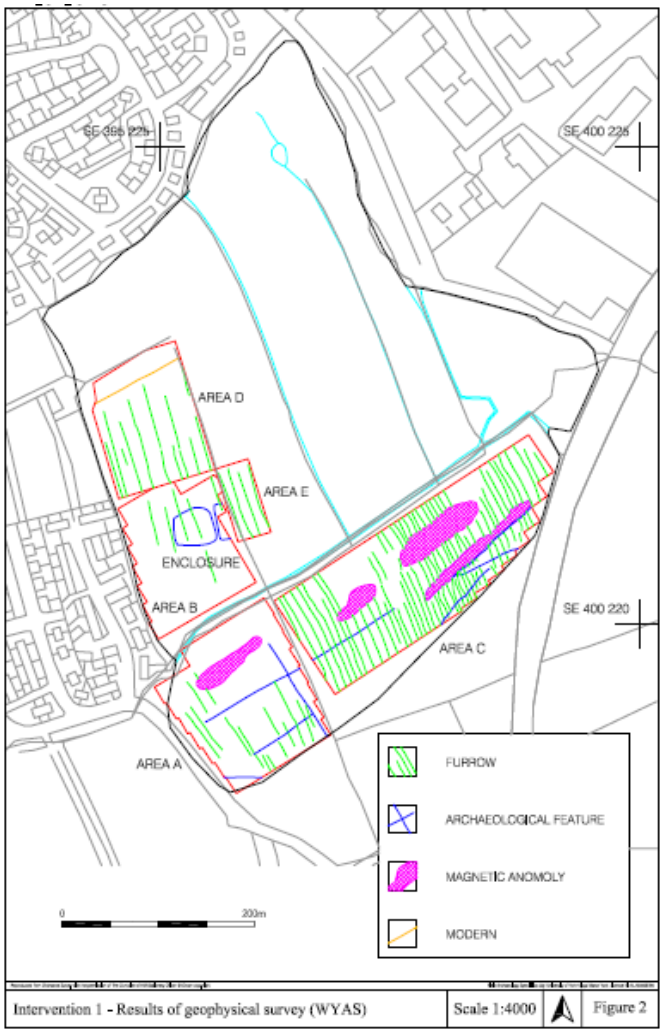
Many other groups of pits and gullies were also recorded, including one shallow pit with a clay-lined channel leading into it, perhaps a truncated tuyère, which contained metalworking slag (Yarwood and Marriott 1988c: 5). The vast majority of features found on the site did not contain any dateable artefacts, but a few sherds of probable later Iron Age pottery were found, in pits 102 and 199, and ditch 502 of the later, larger D-shaped enclosure. In addition, a fragment of a lower beehive quern was found, and two badly corroded copper alloy studs. Only two small fragments of animal bone were found in pits, and the lack of Romano-British ceramics suggests that activity was not intensive in this area during this period. As with St. Aidan's Remainder, it is possible that many of these features were a result of episodic, perhaps seasonal inhabitation of the interfluve floodplain. Such practices were clearly important, but would have left less artefactual remains than more permanent foci of sustained 'domestic' occupation.

Sadly, the detailed archive for this site is still not available in a report, but this is another Methley site that could form part of a collated, interpretative volume.

References: Yarwood and Marriott 1988b, 1988c.

Normanton Golf Course SE 3950 2215

Figure G.146. *Cropmarks south-east of Normanton, centred at SE 3925 2220. (Source: Timms 2005).*



Cropmarks of field systems and enclosures had previously been identified on the south-east side of Normanton, and in advance of the development of a former golf course in this area, AS WYAS undertook a geophysical survey that identified some field system ditches and a possible enclosure, although it was evident that the area had been heavily disturbed by later ridge and furrow, themselves preserved as earthworks across many parts of the golf course. An archaeological evaluation and excavation was then undertaken by Mike Griffiths Archaeological Associates in 1998.

Figure G.147. (left). *Results of the geophysical survey by AS WYAS, showing the location of the possible enclosure. (Source: Timms 2005: 5, fig. 2).*

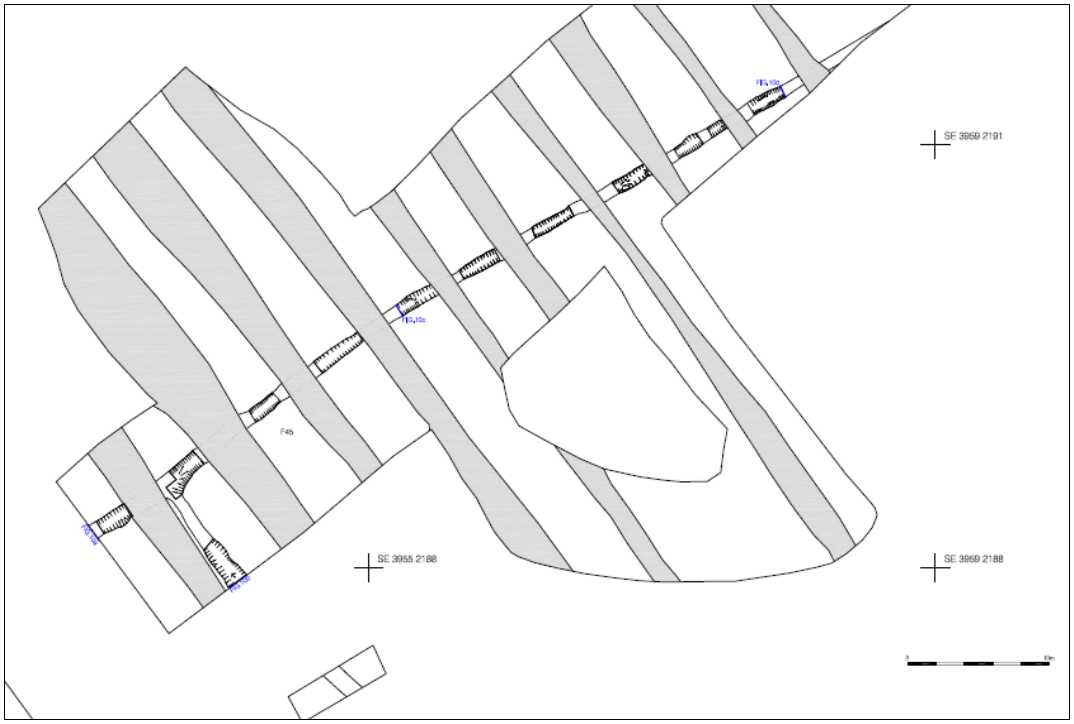


Figure G.148. *Late Iron Age or Romano-British field system ditches recorded, partly masked and disturbed by the broad 'stripes' of later ridge and furrow. (Source: Timms 2005: 23, fig. 9).*

At several locations across the development area, field system ditches were identified and excavated, and these did not produce any dateable artefacts, although it is likely that some of these ditches had a late Iron Age or Romano-British origin. Their slighting by medieval ridge and furrow also suggest this.

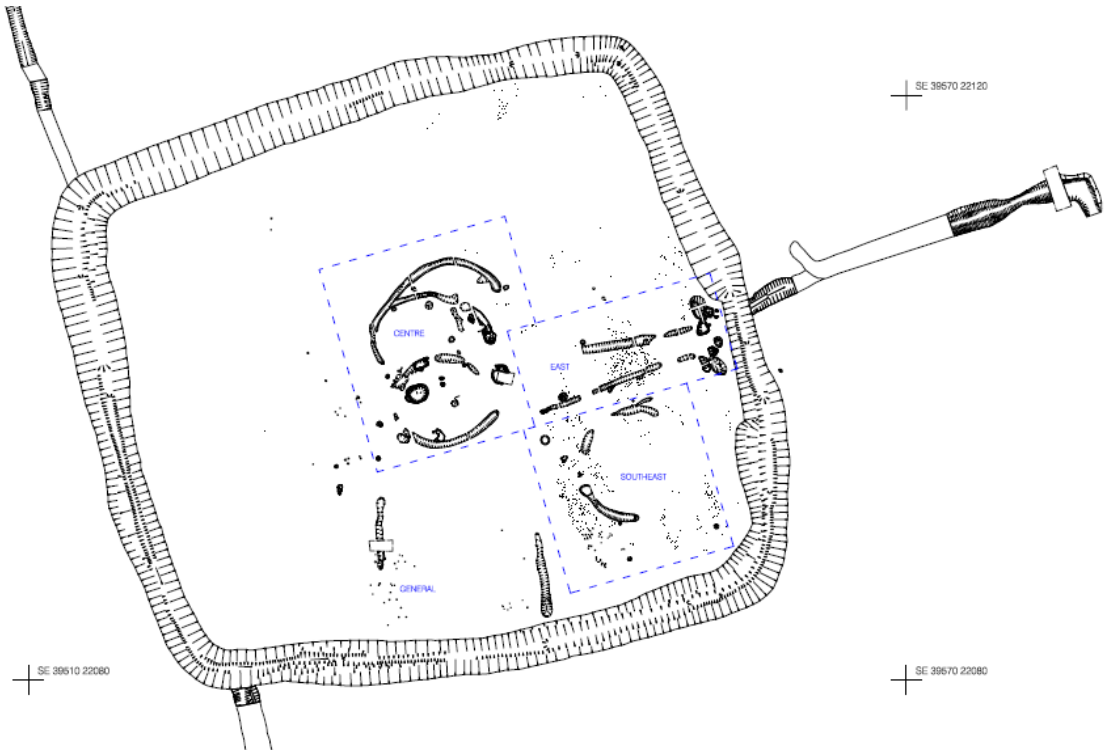


Figure G.149. *The subrectangular enclosure with internal roundhouses, gullies and posthole and stakehole features. (Source: Timms 2005: 48, fig. 24).*

The enclosure proved to be a subrectangular feature with a pronounced ditch that had been re-cut on many different occasions, and which in a primary phase might have been 46m long (east-west) and 42m wide, and up to 3.5m wide and 1.4m deep. There was probably originally an east-facing entrance causeway 11m wide, and this first phase ditch had a pronounced narrow, steep-sided slot in its base, interpreted by the excavators as a channel to facilitate drainage away from the entrance terminals (Timms 2005: 33), though why drainage would be required in the bottom of a ditch is not clear. It is possible that this feature was actually a palisade slot. When this ditch had almost completely silted up, it was re-cut along its length, leaving a narrower 2.6m wide entrance to the east. This re-cut too had a narrow slot in its base. The disuse of this second phase was ^{14}C dated to 398-261BC. A third re-cutting phase seems to have removed the narrow enclosure gap, but the postholes for a timber bridging structure were found in the same area. Sherds of hand-made, late Iron Age pottery were recovered from deposits within this third re-cutting phase (Vyner 2005).

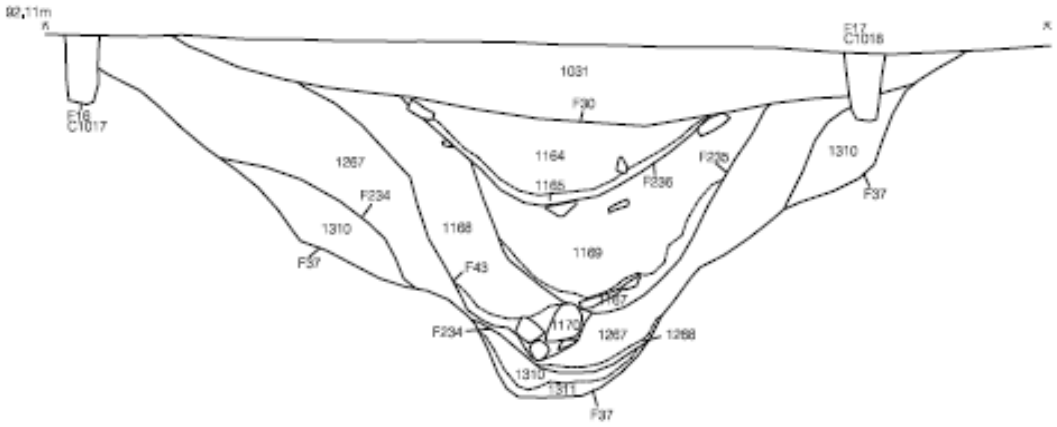


Figure G.150. (above). *Section across one of the enclosure ditches by the entrance, showing the multiple re-cuts. (Source: Timms 2005: 34, fig. 17b).* **Fig. G.151. (left).** *Metalled surface within the enclosure by the entrance. (Source: Timms 2005: 56, plate 11).*

In a fourth phase, the entire enclosure circuit was re-cut once more, and this ditch was linked to another ditch leading off 25m to the east, which turned at a right-angle to run south for 12m before terminating in a shallow scoop. This feature was interpreted as additional drainage for the main ditch (Timms 2005: 42), and the levels on the base of this external ditch did seem to indicate that this was a possibility. However, it also seems likely that this ditch served to direct movement towards the enclosure entrance. Only one sherd of hand-made pottery was recovered from the fill of this re-cut, and it is not clear where the entrance was during this phase, although it might have been moved to the south. The disuse of internal gully divisions possibly associated with this phase was dated by radiocarbon analysis to 39 BC

– AD 77). The fifth and final identified phase of the enclosure ditch consisted of another complete re-cut, this ditch being more shallow (0.4-0.7m) than previous remodelling episodes, and this is also when the enclosure seems to have been incorporated into a wider field system with the addition of two north-south aligned ditches leading off from the south-west and north-west corners of the enclosure, whilst the western end of the east-west ditch on the eastern side of the enclosure was backfilled whilst the other section was re-cut, leaving a gap 4.2m wide between it and the eastern side of the enclosure ditch. A fragment of late Iron Age or early Romano-British jar and the base of a greyware Romano-British jar were found in the fills of this final re-cut, along with a corroded bronze finger ring.

Figure G.152. (far left). *Copper-alloy finger ring excavated from the ditch fill at Normanton Golf Course.* **Fig. G.153. (left).** *Some of the sherds of later Iron Age pottery. (Source: Timms 2005).*

Within the enclosure, a series of large posts by the eastern ditch marked a timber entrance structure, and two gullies or palisade slots and lines of postholes formed a narrow funnel leading into and then opening out into the enclosure, in a manner reminiscent of the Moss Carr Methley Enclosure B palisade slots (see above), albeit in reverse. This suggests a desire to structure movement and create a highly formalised approach to the centre of the enclosure. Some of the apparent breaks in the gullies were caused by later truncation by ridge and furrow and land drains. Interestingly, a shallow scoop cut by one of the gullies (F35) contained cremated sheep/goat bone and charcoal ^{14}C dated to 1206-917 BC (Timms 2005: 49). A section of the southernmost gully produced six sherds of probable late Iron Age pottery, and one of the entrance postholes (F209) contained charcoal that produced a ^{14}C date of 402-265 BC. Many of the posts of the possible entrance structure(s) were sealed by a cobbled surface that formed part of another entrance into the enclosure, probably in the later phases when there was a continuous circuit.

In the central area of the enclosure were four crescent-shaped gullies that appeared to be associated with a number of postholes and a large pit, but few had direct stratigraphic relationships with one another. Significantly, none of the gullies appeared to form a true semi-circle or part of a circle, and the excavators felt that that differences in the colour and makeup of the fills suggested that these were all separate features, not fragmented and truncated sections of overlapping ring gullies, or truncated surviving halves of ring gullies (Timms 2005: 60). It is possible that these gullies and associated

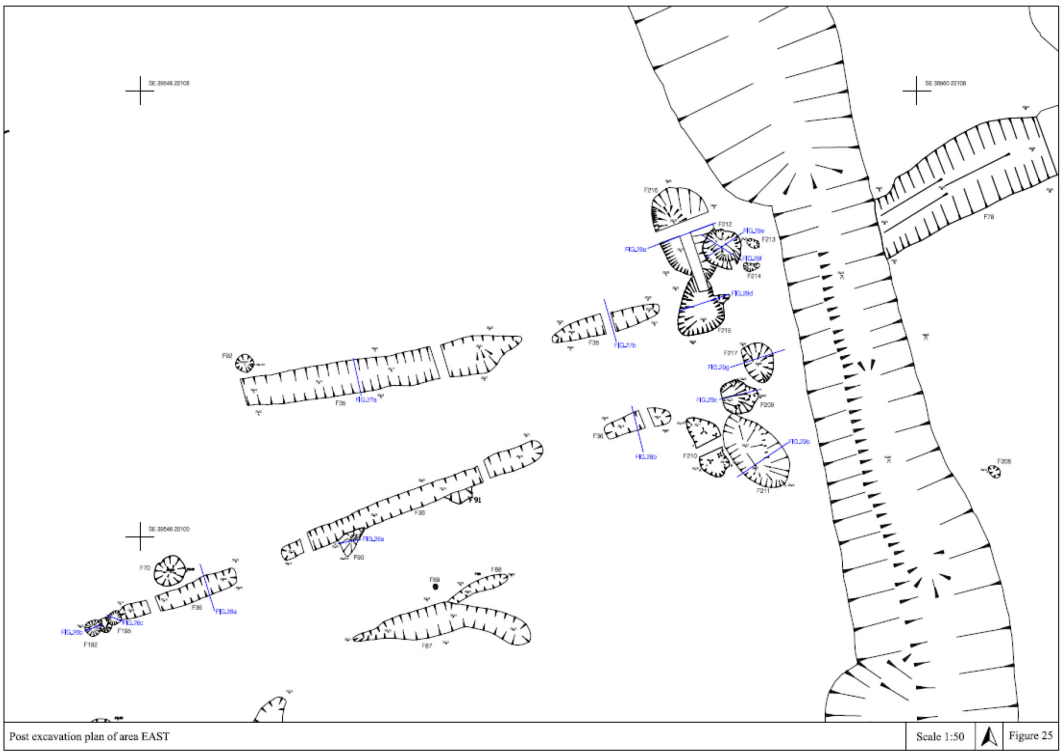


Figure G.154. *Detail of the postholes and gullies forming several phases of a timber entrance or gateway structure, and the diverging gullies comprising a fenced approach to the centre of the enclosure. (Source: Timms 2005: 50, fig. 25).*

postholes formed arcing fenced screens largely open on one side, or similar insubstantial buildings with one curved wall and one open side, though it is probable that these were non-roofed structures. A subrectangular pit or posthole truncated by one of these gullies and another posthole contained many sandstone fragments and burnt and heat-shattered cobbles. Charcoal recovered from this feature produced a ^{14}C date range of 1767-1642 BC, which if not residual might suggest an extraordinarily long sequence to the activities at this enclosure. A large pit (F40) near the southern two arcing gullies contained a deposit of burnt grain and other plant remains, calcined or cremated bone and charcoal, sealed by an additional layer of charcoal or ash, burnt hazelnut shells and burnt and heat-shattered cobbles and sandstone fragments. The pit was sealed by additional deposits of burnt stone and charcoal, and may originally have had a clay or organic lining. The cereals included hulled barley, spelt wheat and some oats, and in addition to hazelnut shells there were also some remains of weeds of cultivated or waste ground (Hastie and Holden 2005). Three ^{14}C dates of 167 BC – AD 16, 347-94 BC and 350-119 BC were obtained from charcoal in different layers within the pit, indicating that it had been backfilled during the late Iron Age.

A roundhouse ring gully approximately 9m in diameter was excavated in the south-east corner of the enclosure. This roundhouse was badly truncated by the later ridge and furrow, but it is possible that it originally had two opposed entrances. Many lumps of fired clay were recovered from the stretches of ring gully, and these were possibly fragments of moulds or furnace structures (Timms 2005: 70). A ^{14}C determination of 381-202 BC was obtained from charcoal within it. A possible break in the southern palisade slot at this point suggests that there may have been an entrance here to what was otherwise a

largely screened structure. Another north-south gully excavated within the main enclosure suggests that this south-east roundhouse was situated within its own subrectangular subcompound, with another west-facing entrance. Lines of stakeholes to the west and south-east of the roundhouse suggest additional or different phases of fenced screens. Another interesting group of stakeholes suggested a circular feature that perhaps pre-dated the construction of the double entrance gullies.

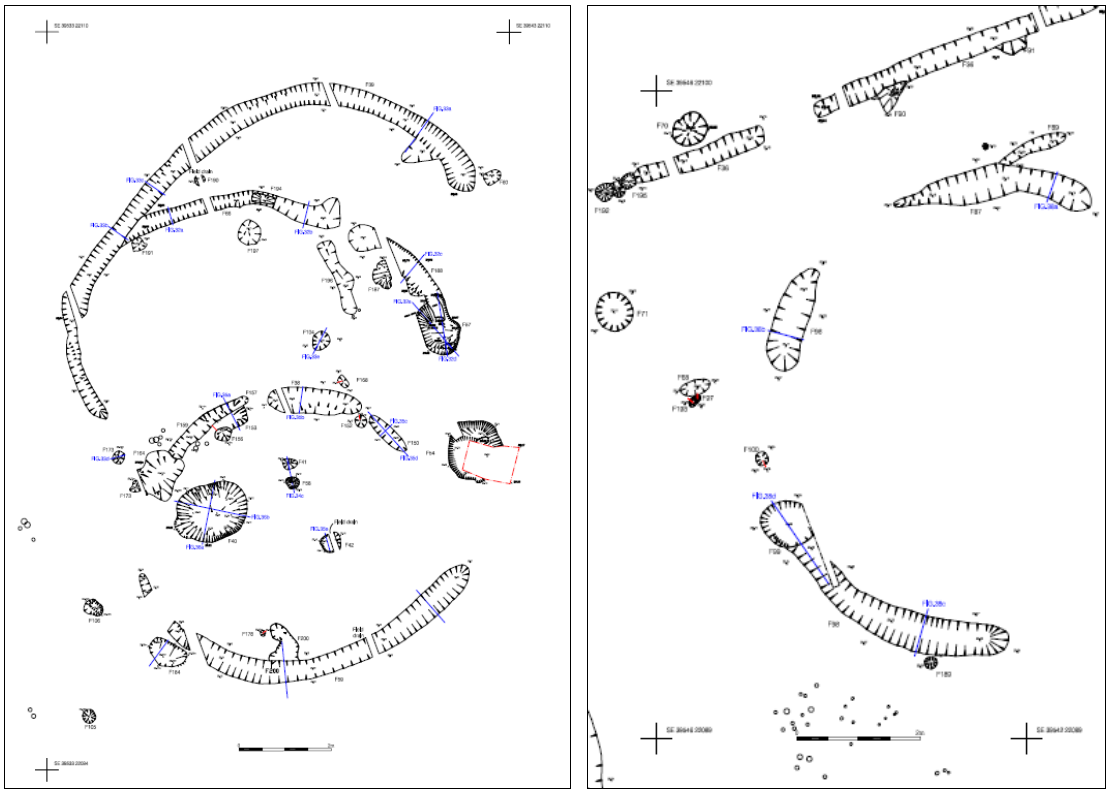


Figure G.155. *Details of the gullies, postholes and pits near the centre of the enclosure at Normanton Golf Course, and* **Fig. G.156.** *(right) detail of the roundhouse in the south-eastern corner of the enclosure. (Source: Timms 2005: 39, 59, figs. 31, 37).*

Outside of the enclosure were a series of linear boundaries to the north, west and south. Only two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from these, one of them dating the silting up of one of these ditches to at least the third century AD (Timms 2005: 96). Approximately 200m to the north of the enclosure, a major NE-SW boundary was created, the eastern end of which was aligned along the edge of the marsh or lake to north-east. To the south, this ditch appeared to link with the northern end of Whin Beck, before turning to the west to form a large bounded area around 130m wide. Located towards the south of the development area, Whin Beck itself appears to have been partly canalised and managed during this period, and probably formed a significant social boundary. A crossing formed by a gravel surface and several timber settings seems to have bridged the stream to the south during the late Iron Age. After a possible hiatus in occupation in the area, Whin Beck may have been re-used as an important social boundary during the early medieval and medieval periods – a ^{14}C date of AD 645-687 was provided by a waterlogged tree trunk or log recovered from a later channel cutting, and Whin Beck may have formed part of the later Saxon Normanton township boundary (ibid.: 115.

Figure G.157. *Proposed landscape phasing for the Normanton Gold Course development area. (Source: Timms 2005: 112, fig. 65).*

The enclosure was situated on a slightly raised area of drier ground within a shallow valley bottom, this being bounded by Whin Beck to the south, a more sinuous north-south stream to the west and a precursor to the modern Sewerbridge Beck to the east, with much of the north-east forming a marshy depression or even a shallow lake – this may have been a seasonal mere. Even if the earliest Bronze Age date recorded for the enclosure area is discounted, activity seems to have begun in this locale during the early Iron Age, with the backfill of a shallow pit. The construction of the enclosure at this same site might have been influenced by these previous events, and perhaps also by the landscape location near to the confluence of two streams and on top of the more elevated area. The significance of this enclosure seems to have continued into the Romano-British period, and it was incorporated into a later system of land boundaries. Even taking later truncation into account though, there was a marked lack of evidence for any sustained 'domestic' occupation within the enclosure. As with Enclosure B at Moss Carr, Methley, it is therefore possible that this enclosure and its structures had a more specialised social function, and it has even been proposed as a possible shrine or site of symbolic and/or ritual significance (Timms 2005: 124-125). The evidence indicates that the site of the enclosure was visited and modified repeatedly, but perhaps fleetingly, over centuries. Its long history, unusual depositional practices and insubstantial structural features are reminiscent of some aspects of the Manor Farm subtriangular feature (see above), and it was unlikely to have been a domestic farmstead.

References: Timms 2005.

Normanton Industrial Estate SE 4409 4230

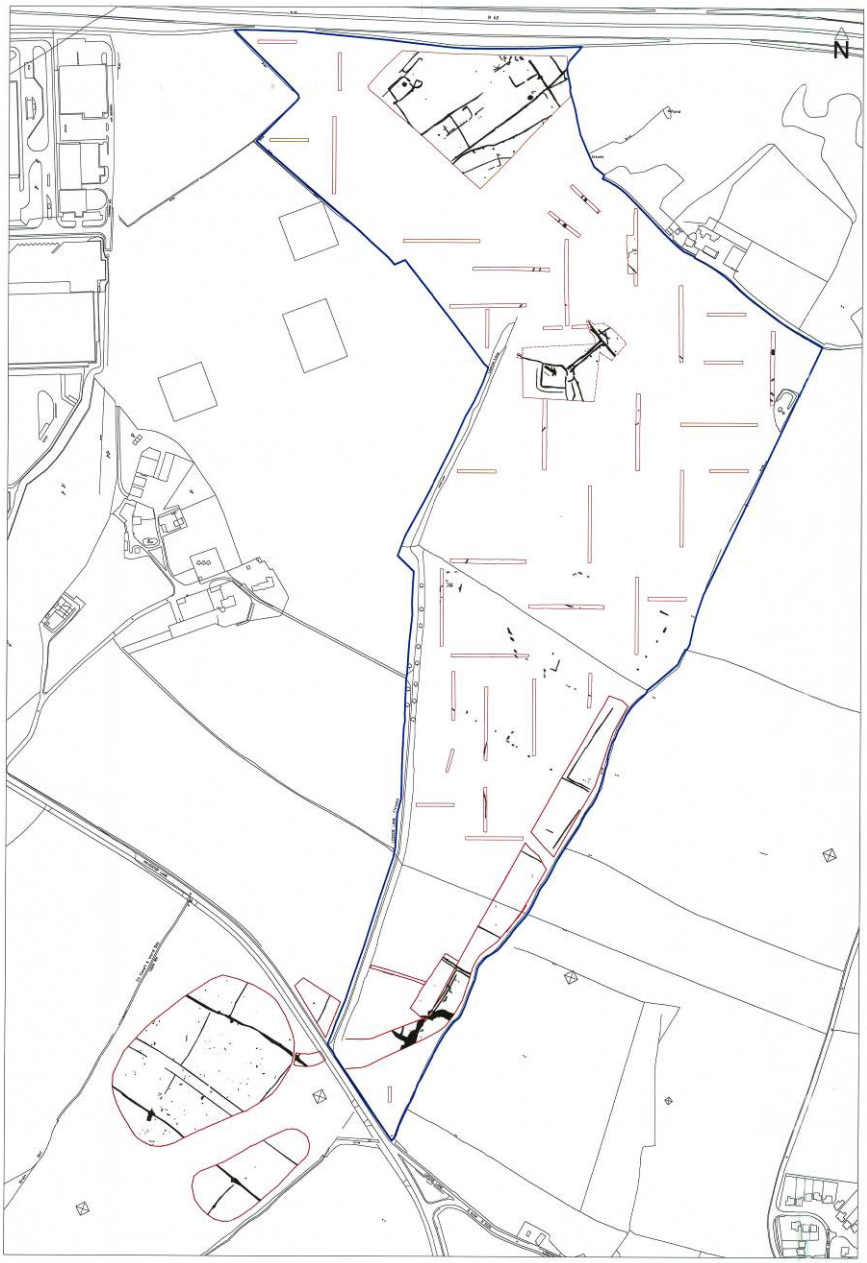


Figure G.158. *Location plan of the trenches and areas of archaeological features at Normanton Industrial Estate. (Source: Wylie 2007).*

A proposal to extend an industrial and retail estate at Normanton led to a programme of fieldwalking, geophysical survey, evaluation and excavation by AS WYAS during 2006. A late Iron Age or Romano-British settlement enclosure site or possible shrine had been excavated at Normanton Golf Course (Griffiths 1998; Timms 2005, see above), and the enclosures excavated at Low Common and Whitwood Common were less than 2km to the north-east and north-west. Cropmarks had revealed the presence of other features of this possible date nearby. The development area was approximately 53ha in extent, on a flat hilltop in a gently undulating landscape. Fifty-eight machine-dug evaluation trenches were employed, and five areas were then selected for open-area excavation (Wylie 2007).

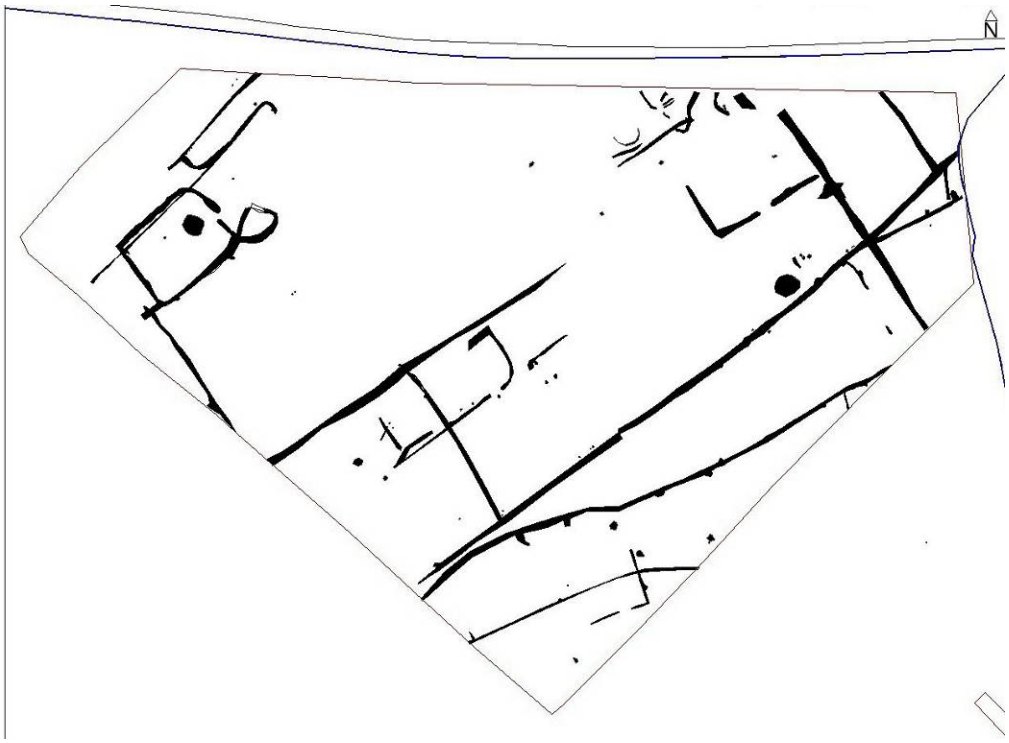


Figure G.159. *Area 2, Normanton Industrial Estate. The main north-east to south-west boundary runs from the upper left to the lower centre of the image. (Source: Wylie 2007).*

In the northernmost Area 2, adjacent to the modern M62 and Ackton Pasture Wood, a series of rectilinear fields and three enclosures were investigated, the latter including one with a north-east facing entrance, one with a north-east and a south-facing entrance, and another with a south-east facing entrance. The north-western enclosure had a small sub-oval enclosure of unknown function appended to it, with no visible entranceway (Wylie 2007: 12). None of the enclosures had discernible internal features. These enclosures and field ditches were all broadly on the same alignment, and the main north-east to south-west linear boundary one of the several of the main linear boundaries had evidence for repeated re-cutting. A few sherds of Romano-British pottery were found in these features. The more sinuous south-east of the main north-east to south-west boundary marked the edge of later ridge and furrow, and may indicate that the basic layout of the landscape persisted for many centuries.

In Area 1 towards the north-east side of the development area, a subsquare enclosure with an east-facing entrance was recorded. This may have had double ditches with intervening bank or banks around its southern and western sides, or this may have been a 'race' for livestock handling. There were few internal features. Two trackways approached this enclosure, one from the north-east (Fig. 6.37) and a wider one from the south-east, and a series of gullies, ditches and gateways outside the enclosure entrance probably represented livestock handling features such as races and drafting gates. The north-east to south-west orientated double-ditched trackway had some postholes dug into the inner sides of its ditches, possibly part of palisade structures within the trackway (Wylie 2007: 11). Once again, only a few sherds of Romano-British pottery and some later post-medieval pottery were recovered from these features, although more Romano-British sherds were found as topsoil finds. An as yet undated cremation burial was also recorded in this area.

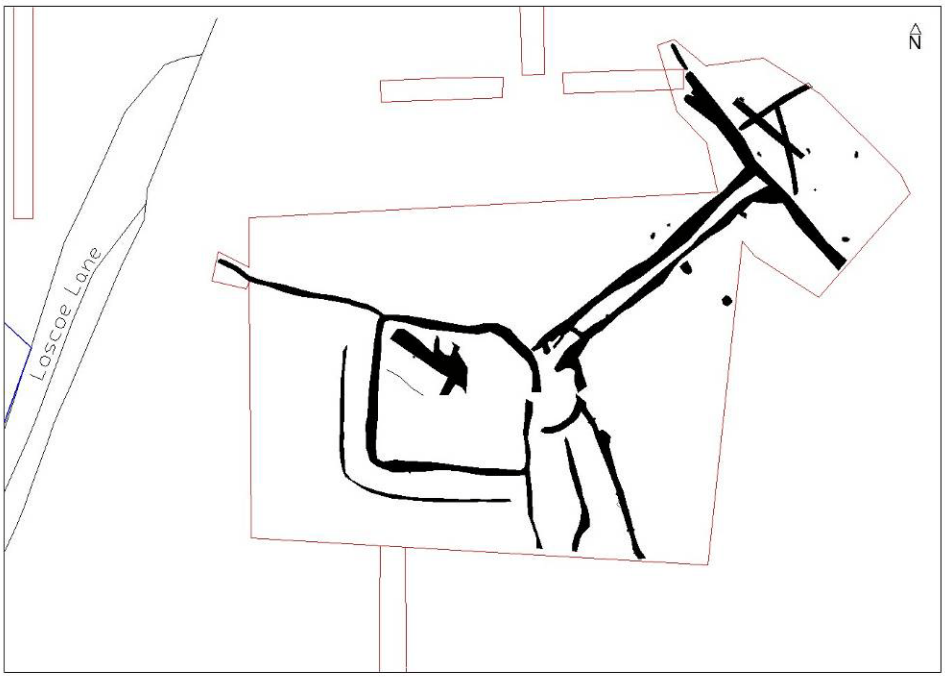


Figure G.160. *Area 1 at Normanton Industrial Estate. (Source: Wylie 2007).*

Area 3 was located at the eastern side of the development area, and contained three large curvilinear ditches that did not contain any dating evidence. The interim report suggests that they were medieval or post-medieval osier beds to encourage willow growth for coppicing (Wylie 2007: 12), but this is rather speculative, and further interpretation must await additional post-exavation work. South of Havertop Lane was Area 4a, with a series of apparently regular, co-axial boundaries aligned north-west to south-east, including a likely double-ditched trackway.

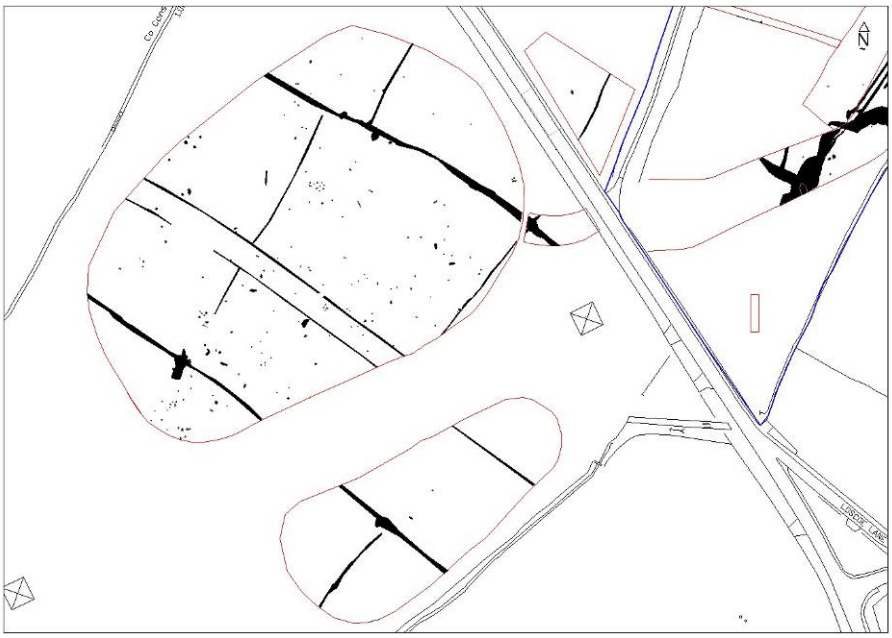


Figure G.161. *Area 4a at Normanton (bottom), with Area 3 to the upper right. (Source: Wylie 2007).*

It was noted that one ditch in Area 4a was aligned with a nearby modern boundary, and thus elements or indeed all of these field boundaries may not have been Iron Age or Romano-British in date but much later in origin (Wylie 2007: 13). Certainly, few finds of any date were recovered from this area (although none were recovered from the field ditches at Normanton Golf Course, see above), and these boundaries appeared slightly different in plan to those further north. It may be that some post-medieval or early modern boundaries actually re-cut earlier ditches, or as at Armthorpe in South Yorkshire, followed the line of earlier boundaries. Further post-excavation work will have to explore this, and compare the features in Area 4a with those on early maps. Havertop Lane appears to cut across the predominant axes of the boundaries in Area 4a, however, so that road at least may post-date the construction of the fields.

Figure G.162. (left). *Aerial view of the Normanton Industrial Estate during the evaluation, showing the extensive scale of trial trenching. (Source: © AS WYAS).* **Fig. G.163. (right).** *View of excavations in progress. (Source: © AS WYAS).*

The landscape and archaeological features at Normanton Industrial Estate were intensively sampled, and the clayey subsoil, lack of finds and large number of sections required across the features proved rather dispiriting to many of the excavators. It was important that this area should have been sampled so intensively, however. Although these enclosures were subsequently found to have been probably associated with stock herding rather than 'domestic' occupation, this could not have been predicted from the cropmark and geophysical survey data, and such 'negative' evidence is nevertheless crucial in understanding these Iron Age and Romano-British rural landscapes. As at Armthorpe in South Yorkshire, intensive sampling can provide much archaeological information, but given the depositional practices of the period (see Chapter 11, Appendix F) this often cannot easily be predicted from cropmarks, geophysical survey, fieldwalking and even trial trenching. Why are artefacts concentrated in some areas, but not in others? Why were some enclosures inhabited year-round, others seasonally, and others visited perhaps even more episodically? Future post-excavation at Normanton and other sites will have to address such questions.

References: Wylie 2007.

Parlington Hollins SE 4230 3450

This was another group of enclosures investigated by AS WYAS as part of the A1-M1 Upgrade works, after an earlier walkover survey had identified scatters of Romano-British pottery and tile, and geophysical survey had detected a series of conjoined enclosures. The cropmark evidence from the locale, however, was rather sparse. The area is situated just north of Garforth, on a relatively flat hilltop in a gently undulating landscape. The site was divided into two areas, Parlington Hollins West and Parlington Hollins East, separated by the line of the A642 (see Chapter 9, Fig. 9.23).

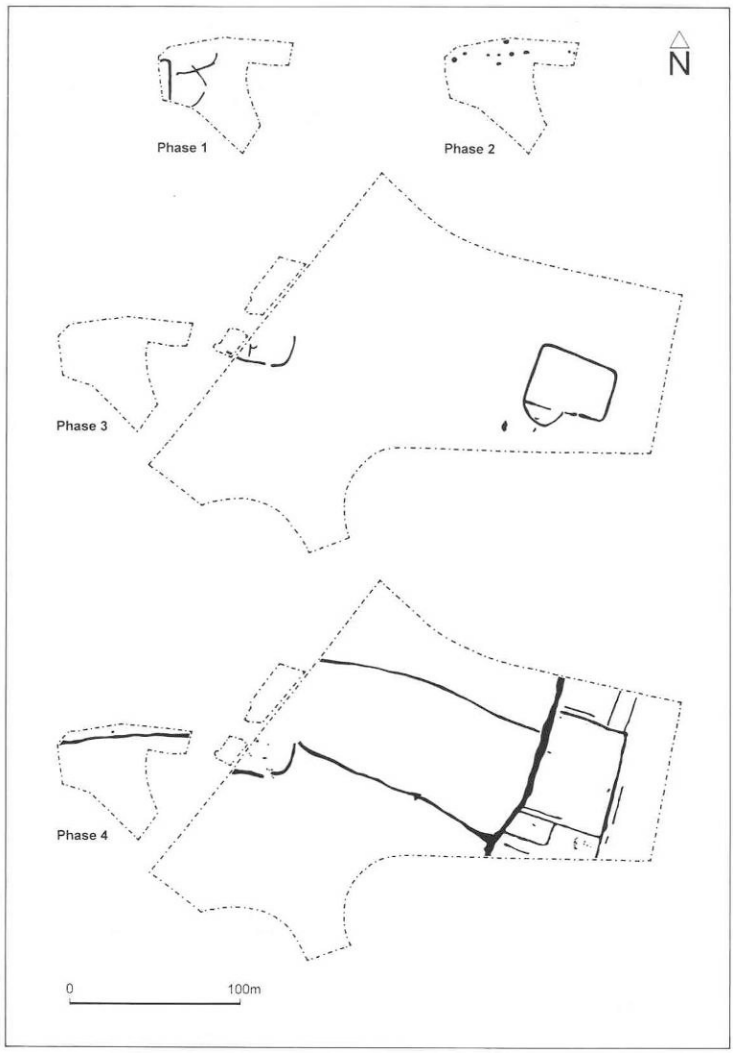


Figure G.164. *Proposed main sequences of development at Parlington Hollins East and West. (Source: Holbrey and Burgess 2001: 87, fig. 64).*

The first main phase of activity identified was at Parlinton Hollins West, where the eastern edge of a subrectangular or trapezoidal enclosure was identified, with a small D-shaped ditched annex created in the corner between this enclosure and a field ditch, with a south-facing entrance. This small field corner enclosure was then re-organised into another larger D-shaped enclosure with an east-facing entrance 4m wide. Some internal postholes might have formed a fenceline within it, but no dateable artefacts were recovered. A ^{14}C date of 362 BC – AD 52 was obtained from the primary fill of the ditch.

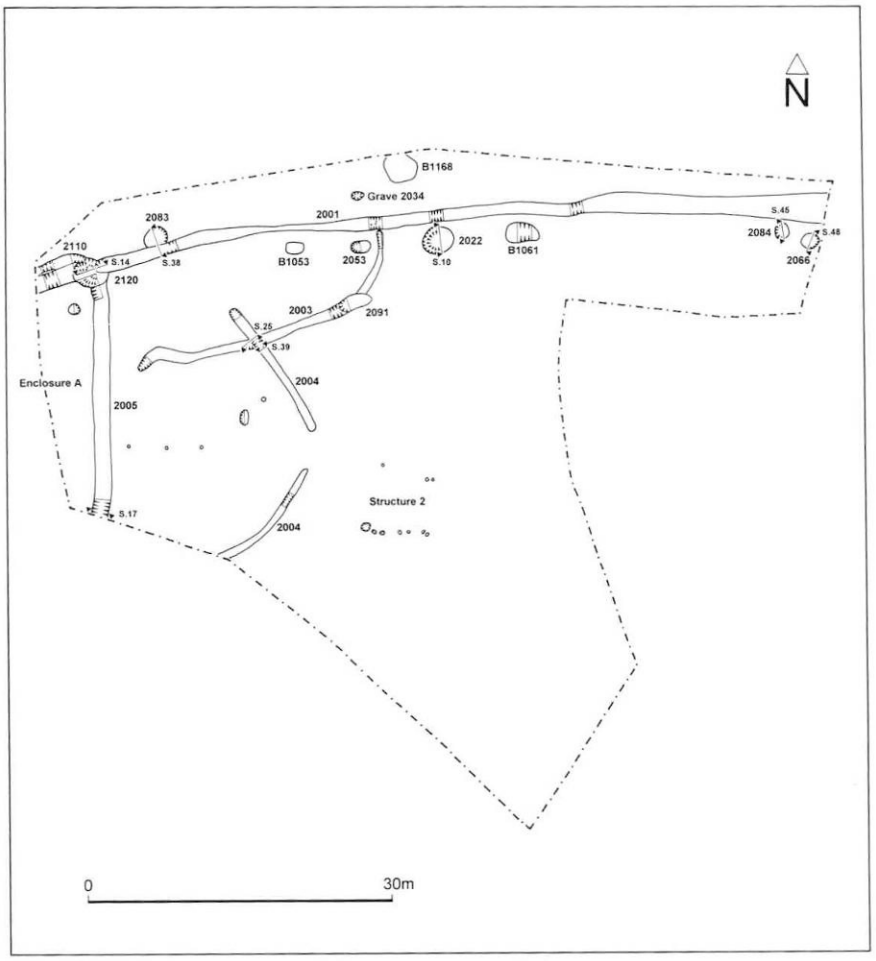


Figure G.165. *The two phases of field corner enclosures identified at Parlington Hollins West. (Source: Holbrey and Burgess 2001: 86, fig. 63).*

In a second phase of activity, a series of pits were dug forming an east-west alignment or boundary, and although no dateable artefacts were found in these, one pit (2066) contained placed deposits of cattle bone, ^{14}C dated to 400 BC – AD 52 (Holbrey and Burgess 2001: 90, see Chapter 11, Fig. 11.23). At Parlington Hollins East, a small subrectangular enclosure (Enc. B) was then created in phase 3 with a south-facing entrance. Additional postholes there suggest some form of timber gateway. Only a few sherds of greyware and mortaria were recovered from the enclosure ditch, which was slightly enlarged in a later phase. There were a series of gullies and postholes within the enclosure, but these did not form a coherent structure. Further to the east was the subrectangular Enclosure C, 50m long and 35m wide with a south-facing entrance in a an early phase, this later partially blocked by a semi-circular annex. Second to third or fourth century greywares, Black Burnished ware, samian and amphorae sherds were found in the enclosure ditch, but few internal features were detected.

In the middle Roman period there seems to have been a major expansion of the field systems and enclosures, with a series of subrectangular fields created across the area, probably incorporating the later phase of Enclosure B. Romano-British pottery of second to fourth century date was recovered from these ditches. At the far eastern edge of the area, a series of subrectangular enclosures (D and E) developed. A small subrectangular subcompound was created in the north-west corner of Enclosure D,

but although several postholes and gullies were identified within this area, no discerniable structure was identified. In the north-east corner of the enclosure, a possible subrectangular building was identified, represented by a few truncated postholes (see Appendix E, Fig. E.25). Several crouched and extended inhumation burials and a cremation burial were recorded, in graves generally located near entrances or along the lines of the enclosure D and E ditches (see Appendix F, Fig. F.72) (Holbrey and Burgess 2001: 96-97). Few other internal features were identified. Enclosure E represented a late Romano-British phase enclosure, with two phases of north-east facing entrances. Relatively large quantities of Romano-British pottery and Mayen lava querns were recovered from Parlington Hollins East, suggesting that this settlement might have had higher levels of consumption and perhaps slightly different social status to other farmsteads. Animals do not seem to have been bred on site but were brought in as meat, and the settlement might have specialised in training horses – a relatively high proportion of horse bones were recovered, all from adult animals. There were also placed deposits of sheep, pig, horse and deer remains (Richardson 2001a: 219). Parlington Hollins was only a few hundred metres north of the occupation at Garforth (see above), which also appeared to be more 'Romanised' than surrounding settlements (see Chapter 10).

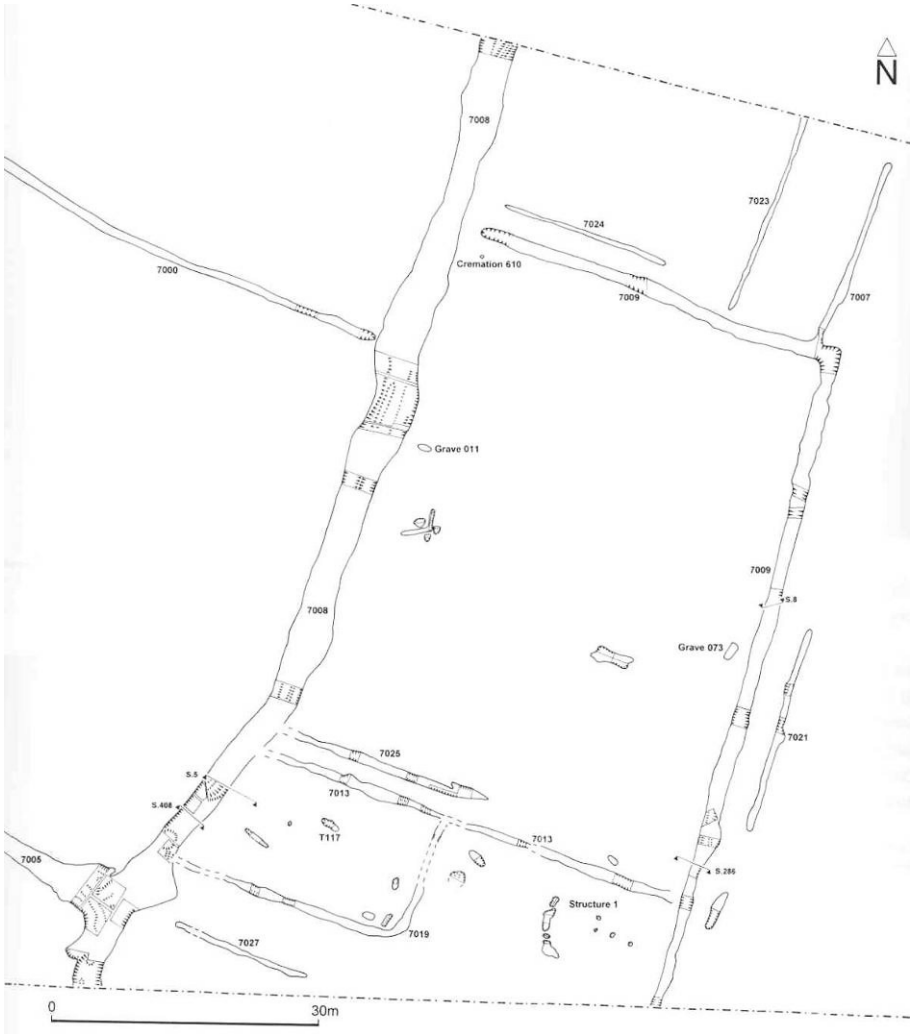


Figure G.166. *Enclosure D, showing the subcompound and possible rectangular building (lower left and right), and the locations of some of the burials. (Source: Holbrey and Burgess 2001: fig. 70).*

Also significant was the evidence for post-Roman occupation at Parlington Hollins. Three late Roman and post-Roman inhumations were identified, including a decapitated adult female in a stone-lined grave (Holbrey and Burgess 2001: 101-103). Two widely spaced and apparently isolated sunken-featured buildings or *grübenhäuser* were recorded, and a post-built structure near the enclosure at Parlington Hollins West also produced a late Roman or post-Roman date. Along with the evidence from Garforth, this perhaps suggests a measure of settlement continuity in the area, although the ditched field systems went out of use and the intensity of occupation seems to have been much lower.

References: Holbrey and Burgess 2001.

Roman Ridge SE 4323 3464

This site was another investigated by AS WYAS as part of the M1-A1 Link Road project, and was focused on the Roman Ridge, the Roman road between Castleford and York (Margary 1973). An interesting sequence of features was identified, however, and some of these features pre-dated the construction of the road itself.

Figure G.167. (left). *The two major later phases of activity identified at Roman Ridge. (Source: O'Neill 2001b: 110, fig. 86).*

In addition to some later Neolithic or early Bronze Age pits and postholes, some perhaps part of a structure, on the western side of the road a series of segmented ditches formed two boundaries (O'Neill 2001b: 108). One was aligned north-east to south-west, and another north-west to south-east. A sinuous enclosure ditch identified by geophysical survey (Deegan 2001b: 33, fig. 17) was also partly excavated, and may have been part of this phase, likely to date to the later Iron Age. In a third phase of activity, the remnants of the earlier field system were incorporated into a broadly co-axial field system featuring a prominent NWW-SEE aligned double-ditched trackway up to 10m wide. A series of north-south ditch boundaries were arranged on either side of this trackway. Cropmark and geophysical survey evidence indicates that several subrectangular enclosures or annexes were appended to this trackway (see Chapter 2, Fig. 2.11), although only one of these was excavated. This was approximately 39m long and 36m wide, and despite truncation the ditch was up to 2.9m wide and 0.9m deep, and although no clear entrance was identified this may have lain on the south-eastern side. This ditch contained some animal bone fragments, flint, industrial debris, metal objects including a flesh hook and second century AD Romano-British pottery. A ^{14}C date of AD 34-242 was obtained from material in a ditch fill.

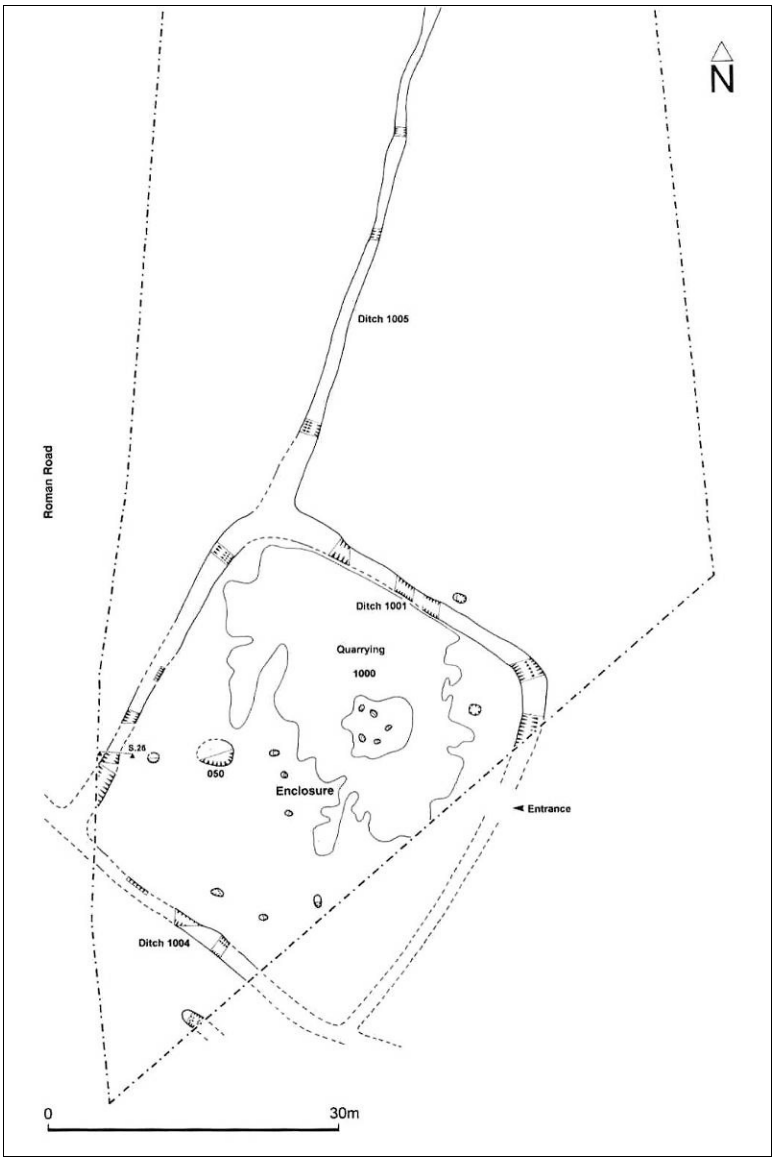


Figure G.168. *More detailed plan of the Roman Ridge enclosure. (Source: O'Neill 2001b: 109, fig. 85).*

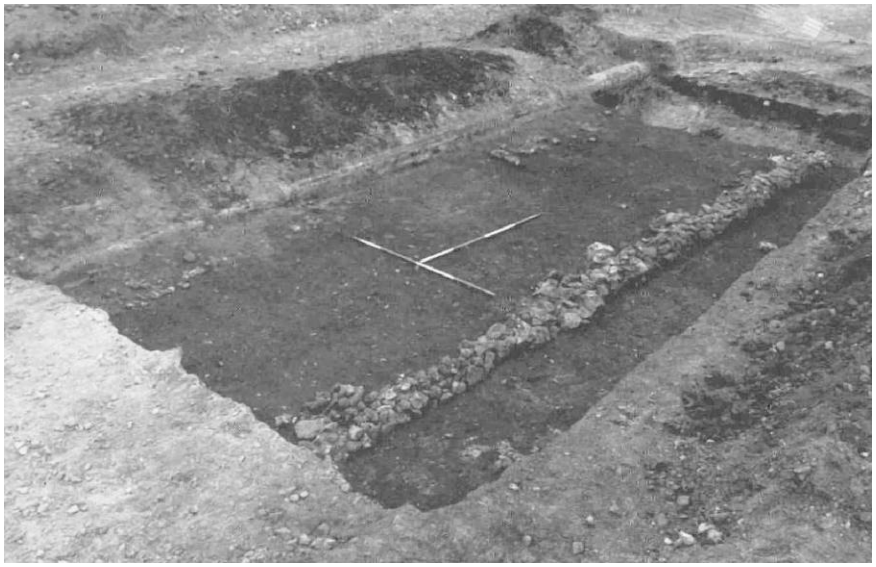


Figure G.169. (left). *The two linear banks found underneath the agger of the Roman road. (Source: O'Neill 2001b: 116, plate 15).*

Due to truncation by later quarrying pits only a few internal features were identified within the enclosure, largely, but animal bone, slag, cinder fragments, hearth lining daub and uncharred grains of barley were recovered from some of these (O'Neill 2001b: 114). This enclosure would have been situated on the southern end of a flattish hilltop in an undulating landscape, and the exposed location may have assisted with the metalworking activities. The quarrying pits were associated with a fourth major phase of activity that saw the construction of the Roman road, and the fact that some of them respected the enclosure ditch suggests that this was still very much a feature of the landscape when the Roman engineers arrived. Prior to the laying of the *agger* surfaces, formed of crushed limestone obtained from the quarry pits, two linear stone banks were constructed from weathered surface stones, and these may have formed markers for the road's route. Later still, ditches were dug on either side of the road, and sandy layers that built up on either side too might have been from windblown deposits, or were possibly deliberately dumped to help the passage of unshod animals (see Chapter 2).

References: O'Neill 2001b.

Rothwell Haigh **SE 3520 2970**

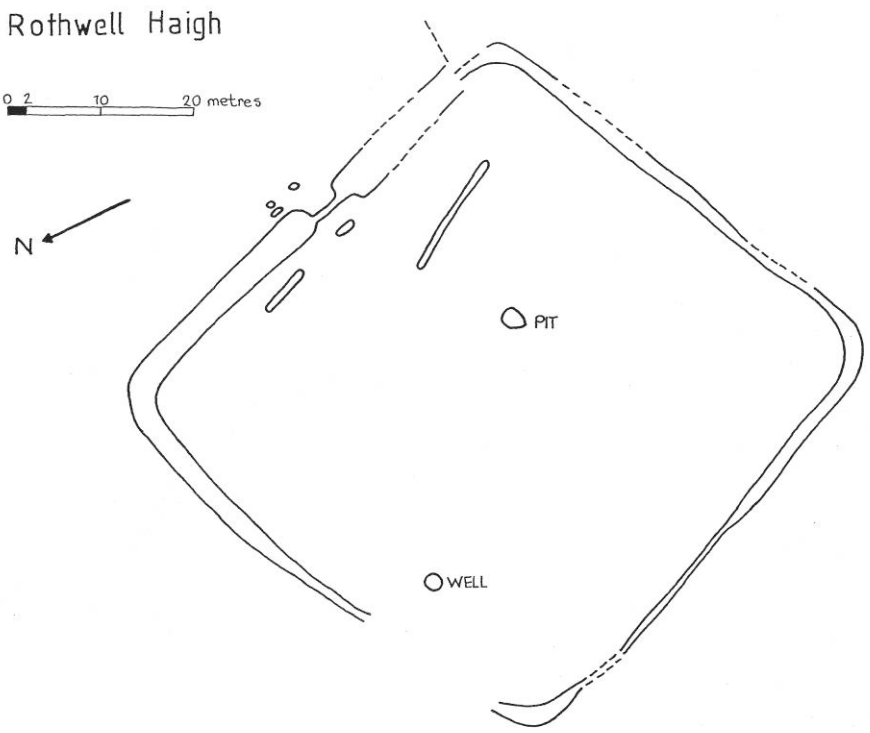


Figure G.170. *The only existing plan of the enclosure at Rothwell Haigh. (Source: Richardson 2004b).*

This enclosure was identified as a cropmark in 1977, on a ridge on the edge of a north-facing slope leading down onto the River Aire floodplain. It was excavated by WYAS in the same year in advance of colliery tipping, but the site had been severely truncated in places, and the ditch varied in depth from 1.5m by the entrance to only a few centimetres in other areas (Keighley 1981: 125). The square enclosure had a north-west facing entrance *c*. 4m wide, and a gully and several pits or postholes outside the entrance may have been part of a timber gateway. A pit and two linear gullies were identified within the enclosure, the latter forming 'screens' inside the entrance, and these features produced two beehive quern halves, tile fragments and three sherds of hand-made, possibly Iron Age pottery.

In the north-west part of the enclosure was a 12m deep well containing waterlogged wooden artefacts and leather objects including shoes, further quern fragments, and fourth century AD pottery (Faull 1981: 152), in addition to animal bone and a human skull minus the mandible towards the base (Richardson 2004b). Unfortunately, much of the archive including most leather and wooden objects, the human skull and a 'cattle skeleton' from an unknown context has been lost over the years, some by Doncaster Museum and Bradford University. A recent assessment report (Richardson 2004) highlighted the lack of scale plans, sections and photographs from the site and listed the known missing artefacts and other material, but identified some potential in the surviving palaeoenvironmental remains from the well.

References: Faull 1981; Keighley 1981; Richardson 2004b.

Sharp Lane, Middleton, Leeds SE 3116 2775

Evaluation and excavation by ARCUS at Sharp Lane, Middleton, Leeds revealed a four-post structure, with ^{14}C dates of 770-410 BC and 790-420 BC obtained from two of its postholes (Davies 2006: 17). In addition, a series of north-west to south-east orientated ditches containing second to fourth century Romano-British pottery were also investigated, many of them running parallel to one another and probably representing repeated re-inscriptions of a boundary. Some of these multiple ditches had themselves been recut. Two saddle quern fragments were also recovered from the fills of this ditch complex. It was suggested that this evidence for repeated recutting indicated a much more significant boundary than that just between two fields (ibid.: 22), but what the nature of this boundary was remained unclear. A single north-south ditch probably represented some form of subdivision. A group of six pits may have been Romano-British in date too, along with a series of shallow (0.05m deep) north-south linear features that apparently respected the line of the main ditch complex. These may have been Romano-British plough furrows, or later medieval ridge and furrow.

Unfortunately, the copy of the client report supplied to the Historic Environment Record of the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service did not include illustrations or photographs from the site, so it has been impossible to include any of these here. The site is important evidence, however, that parts of Leeds might have significant Iron Age and Romano-British archaeology surviving underneath more recent developments.

References: Davies 2006.

South Elmsall SE 4865 4895

The area to the north and north-east of South Elmsall has seen a long-running programme of archaeological investigation in advance of development, which can only be briefly summarised here as they included aerial photographic studies, geophysical surveys and evaluations, in addition to open-area excavation.

On land at the junction of Doncaster Road and Field Lane, a series of ditches was identified, arranged broadly north-south and east-west. Variations in profile and depth along these ditches suggested that they had originally been constructed as much shorter, interrupted segments (McNaught 2001). West of these were the remains of three post-built roundhouses with east or south-east facing entrances and possible 'porch' structures, and ^{14}C dates obtained from two of these structures provided dates of 1294-1006 BC and 1740-1518 BC, or the late Bronze Age and middle Bronze Age respectively. One of these roundhouses was partially screened to the west by a curving palisade with a west-facing entrance, but this did not completely surround the roundhouse. It was therefore similar to examples of such fences or palisades excavated elsewhere in Britain, as at Westhampnett in West Sussex (Chadwick 2006).

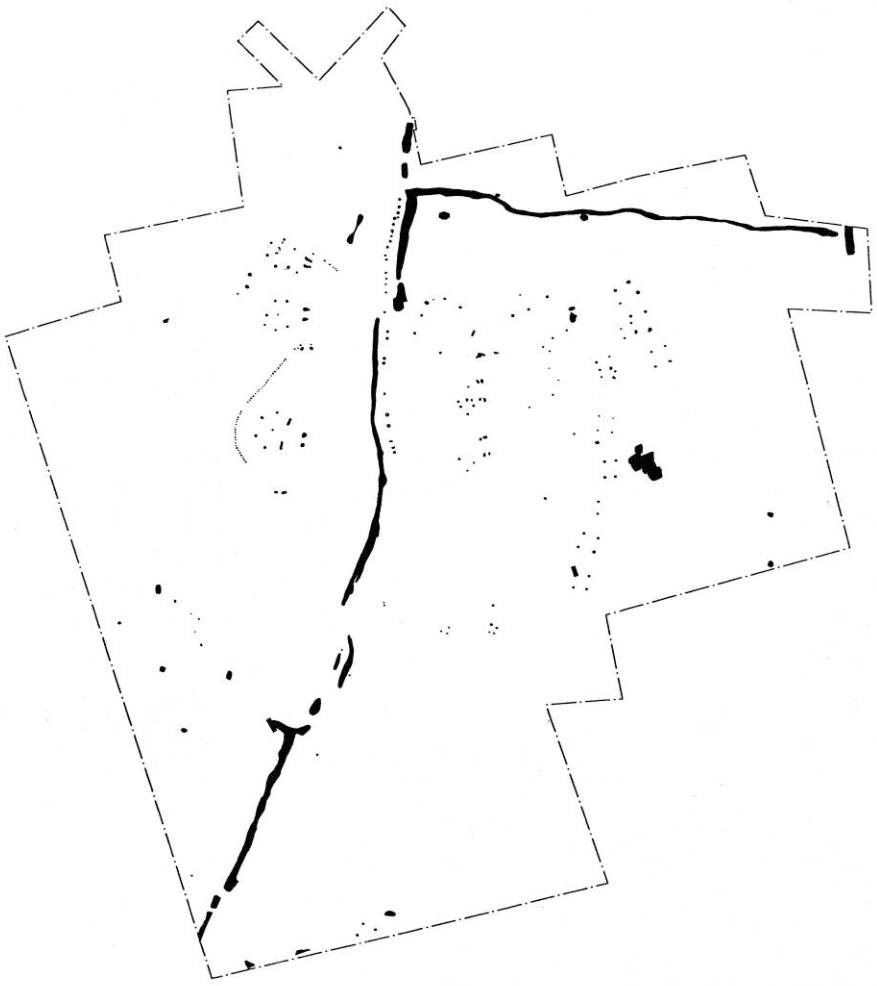


Figure G.171. *The area of excavation between Doncaster Road and Field Lane, South Elmsall. (Source: McNaught 2001).*

A fourth, larger roundhouse was located to the east of the main north-south ditched boundary, but this was more truncated than the other examples. Also east of this boundary were the postholes of at least ten four-post structures. These were arranged in two main curving north-south rows, and were perhaps originally constructed on either side of a trackway (McNaught 2001), perhaps designed to be displayed. A ^{14}C date of 918-799 BC was obtained from the posthole of one of these, indicating a very late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age date for this structure. The major north-south ditched boundary was followed at some point by a fence or palisade of timber posts, and an Iron Age date of 757-214 BC was obtained from one of these features (Burgess 2001c: 264). Little animal bone was recovered, and although later prehistoric pottery sherds were found, Romano-British pottery was notable by its absence.

Clearly, the features seen at the site developed over time, and only one roundhouse and two or three four-post structures might have been in existence at any one time, although the two lines of the four-post structures implies that they were added to one another. However, the broad alignment of the ditches matches those of other later Iron Age and Romano-British examples excavated elsewhere at South Elmsall, and this suggests a very early beginning to land division in this part of the study region. Along with Swillington Common and Site D some 600m to the west (see below), this is one of the few places in the study region where there appears to have been identifiable Bronze Age settlement, and a measure of continuity and landscape development into later periods.

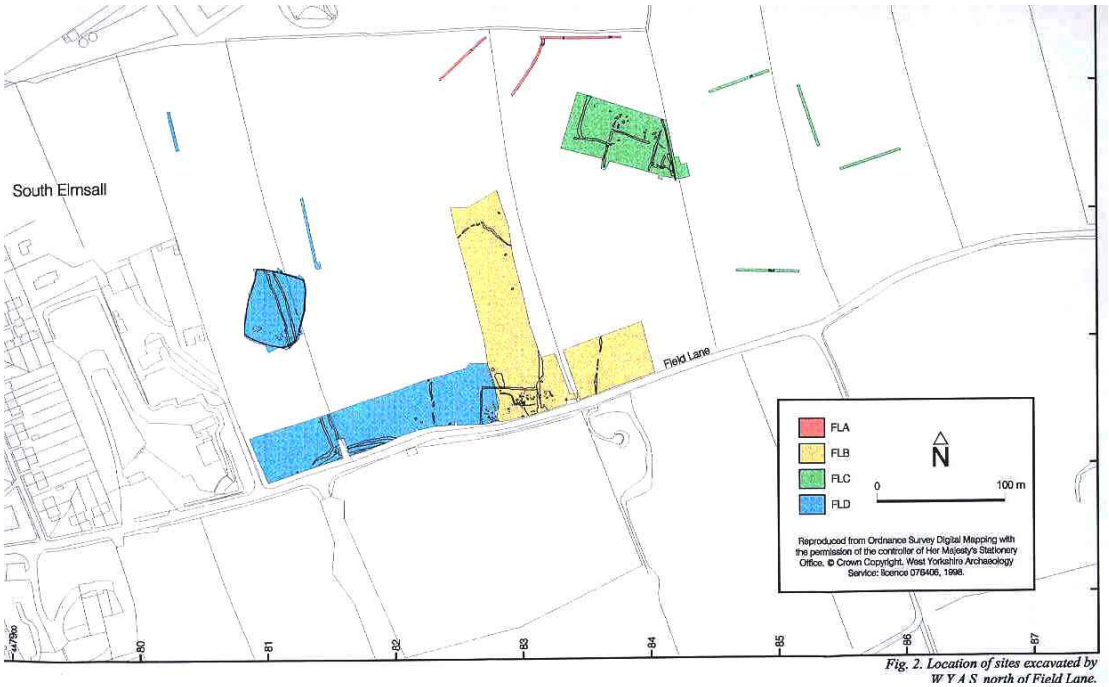
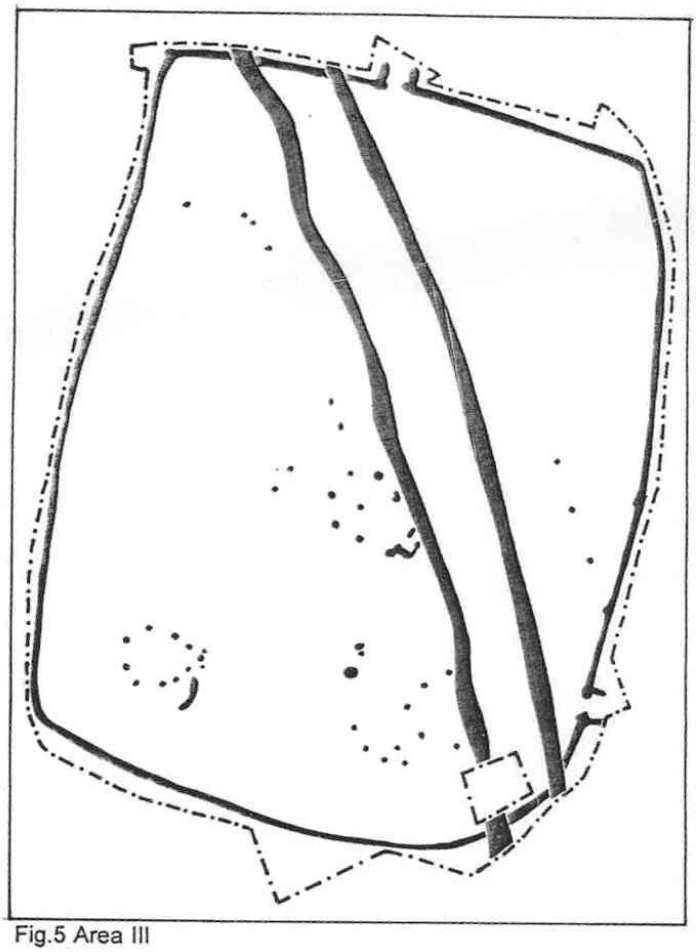


Figure G.172. *The various phases of investigation north of Field Lane, South Elmsall. The Bronze Age enclosure forms part of Area D, highlighted in blue. (Source: © AS WYAS).*

More interesting evidence for late Bronze Age or early Iron Age inhabitation was discovered further to the west, as part of a series of phased investigations there. Although geophysical survey had detected a north-west to south-east aligned double-ditched trackway and a series of fields and enclosures on a north-east to south-west alignment (McNaught 1997), this had not detected a subrectangular enclosure defined by a palisade slot. A trench positioned to sample the double-ditched trackway (Area III),



however, located the enclosure which was 60m long and 45m across, defined by a narrow slot up to 0.45m wide and 0.36m deep, a relatively slight feature that can only just be identified (with the benefit of hindsight) on the geophysical survey plot. The enclosure had two entrances to the north-east and south-east defined by timber 'porch' structures, and contained postholes including two or three post-built roundhouses (Howell 1998). These had south-east facing entrances, and one at least was partly defined further by a curvilinear eavesdrip gully.

Figure G.173. *The subrectangular, palisaded enclosure identified in Trench III, Area D, South Elmsall, truncated by a later double-ditched trackway. Note the post-built roundhouses, and the 'porch' entrance structures. (Source: Howell 1998).*

The postholes of these structures contained some coarse, hand-made pottery including a large comb-decorated sherd likely to be later Bronze Age or earlier Iron Age in date. The palisade slot was dated to 1524-1319 BC, but some of the internal features produced dates in the range of 813-542 BC (Burgess 2001c: 265), so the chronology here is also problematic. The ditched trackway cutting across this enclosure did so obliquely and almost precisely from corner to corner – this suggests a deliberate reference to the earlier feature, which must have still been visible in some form when the trackway was constructed. This trackway may be of late Iron Age or Romano-British date. Further to the south, the western ditch of the trackway turned abruptly westwards, whilst the eastern ditch turned eastwards, thus forming a T-shaped junction at this point with a probable east-west aligned trackway (Howell 1998). Close to this point, three graves were excavated, containing the remains of at least four different individuals. One crouched inhumation of an adult male was found within a deeper grave cut, and this individual might have had a different diet and lifestyle to the others (Start 1998). The other burials included a crouched adult female, and an extended supine adult female, the latter also containing some remains from an individual of indeterminate age and biological sex. Although ^{14}C dates from the skeletons were unavailable at time of writing, these burials are probably of Iron Age or Romano-British date. If so, their location close to the trackway junction is undoubtedly significant (Howell 1998).

Further to the east at Field Lane was a subrectangular ditched enclosure, the easternmost part of which was excavated as part of Area B, and the western extent as part of Area D (Howell 1998; O'Neill 1998). The ditch of this enclosure was up to 2.5m wide and 1m deep, and the enclosure may have been built in two phases, with the northern and western ditches ealier than the eastern section. It did not have a discernible entrance, but this may have lain to the south-east or south, where it was cut by the line of Field Lane (O'Neill 1998). Within the north-east part of the enclosure was an apparent subcompound formed by a curvilinear and a straight gully, a gap at the eastern end reflecting the original position of an internal bank, but the western gap was also probably also an entrance into this area. Possible late Iron Age sherds, Romano-British pottery, animal bone and slag were found in these gullies. Within this area were a series of postholes possibly representing the remains of a structure, although no clear plan of this could be identified. Several pits were noted here too, including one with a placed deposit of a partial cattle skeleton. Another cluster of postholes in the south-west part of the enclosure had substantial post-packing and clear post-pipes, and an unstratified saddle quern was recovered from near this area. Towards the south-eastern corner of the enclosure, two phases of four-post structure were identified, some posts with stone packing, in an area bounded to the north and west by gullies.

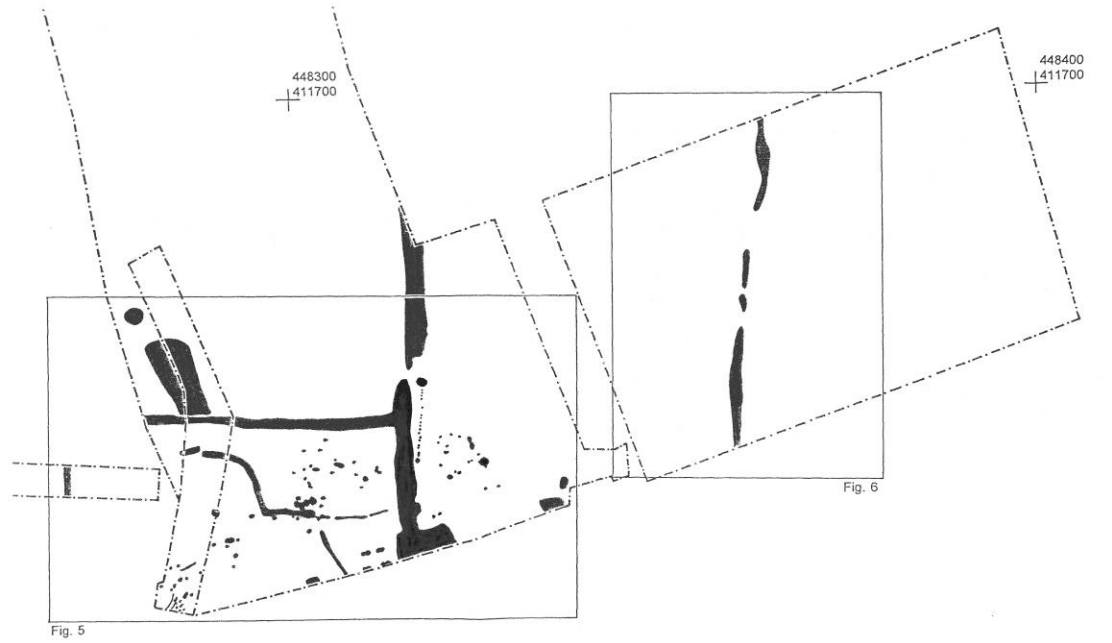


Figure G.174. *The subrectangular enclosure excavated as part of Areas B and D at South Elmsall, shown here before full excavation of the western part of the enclosure. Note the internal subcompound, and the possible roundhouse to the east of the enclosure. (Source: O'Neill 1998).*

In the western part of the enclosure was a group of pits, one of which (4122) contained hammerscale. The most notable was cut 4062, however, a large pit that contained many sherds of late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery, animal bone, a copper alloy rod, a circular iron clasp or brooch, small fragments of slag, charcoal and charred grain, and sixty-six beehive quern fragments representing at least twelve different querns (Howell 1998). Some of these materials were deposited in distinctive bands within the pit, and this must surely indicate highly structured deposition. The fragmentation of the querns is especially noteworthy, and may reflect attempts to 'kill' or decommission these objects.

North of the enclosure was an entrance through a north-south field boundary, and this layout might have post-dated the construction of the enclosure. Near to this entrance was a north-south posthole alignment, that may have formed a fence between a first phase ditch gap (O'Neill 1998). Just to the east of both this and the enclosure was another group of postholes and pits. Only animal bone and flint was recovered from these, and their roughly circular plan suggests that they may have formed a possible roundhouse, although this was not mentioned in the archive report. Elsewhere in Area B, a series of ditched boundaries were excavated, and those in the northern part of this area produced slag and an unidentified copper-alloy object. In addition, two further pits containing partial articulated cattle skeletons were located to the south-eastern part of the site near Field Lane. These were likely to have been placed deposits.

In Area C, a series of ditched boundaries were excavated that probably represented at least two main phases of boundary alignment and a complex sequence of re-cutting (McNaught 1998). The north-east to south-west aligned boundaries probably curved round to the south to link up with the north-south orientated boundaries excavated in Area B. One of the earlier phase north-east to south-west ditches (3007) was, at the southern limit of excavation, cut by a later pit containing a sheep skeleton. This was interpreted as being relatively modern in date, but the reasons given for this are not made clear in the archive report. It has to be noted that the pit largely matched the alignment and sides of the ditch, suggesting that the latter was still a partly visible feature when the pit was dug. This might hint that the pit burial is older than previously thought, although it is feasible that the ditch was still just visible in the medieval period, for example.

Several different phases of areas of cobbling were identified in the eastern part of Area C, preceded by trampled earth layers containing a small quantity of metalworking slag. Relatively large quantities of animal bone fragments were recovered from the cobbled layers, whilst silts that formed over the cobbled surfaces contained further iron slag and hammerscale (McNaught 1998). Three fired clay fragments with slag adhering to them were possibly part of a furnace superstructure. A number of pits and postholes were then dug across this area, some truncating the cobbles. Only seven sherds of late Iron Age and/or Romano-British pottery were found across the whole of Area C, and a fragment of quern was discovered in a ditch terminal. A single crouched inhumation was also recorded, probably of an adult male individual. This grave was located close to the entrance through one of the field ditches.

Area A consisted of three trial trenches excavated some 300m to the north of Field Lane. No stratified finds were recovered, and only one ditch of uncertain date was identified (O'Neill 1997b). Many of the linear field boundaries excavated in Areas B-D at South Elmsall consisted of short segments. In other parts of West Yorkshire it has been observed that these may be slightly earlier than more continuous ditches, and this might mean that at least of the fields and trackways laid out at South Elmsall were of Iron Age rather than Romano-British date. On the northern edge of South Elmsall, a proposed extension of the Dale Lane Industrial Estate led to a programme of geophysical survey by GeoQuest Associates and archaeological evaluation by AS WYAS. An open-area excavation was then undertaken

by AS WYAS in 1997 of a possible enclosure, centred at SE 3832 1225 just south of the A638 Doncaster Road. This identified an irregularly-shaped enclosure 50m long and a maximum of 43m wide, with two pronounced 'kinks' in its western ditch broadly similar to the early phase enclosure excavated at Whitwood Common (Burgess and Roberts 2004, see below). The narrower, northernmost end of the enclosure lay under the boundary with the A638. The enclosure ditch was up to 2.7m wide and 1m deep, variations in width and depth probably caused by variations in later plough truncation across the site (Burgess 1998). Although no clear entrance into the enclosure was identified, in the southeast corner the ditch narrowed considerably, and might have been spanned by a timber structure at this point. The ditch fills contained worked flint, animal bone fragments, smithing slag and a few sherds of probable Iron Age pottery from upper fills (Elsdon 1998). A possible fragment of human humerus was also found in a ditch fill, and a ^{14}C date of 370-50 BC was obtained from charcoal in this ditch (Burgess 1998).

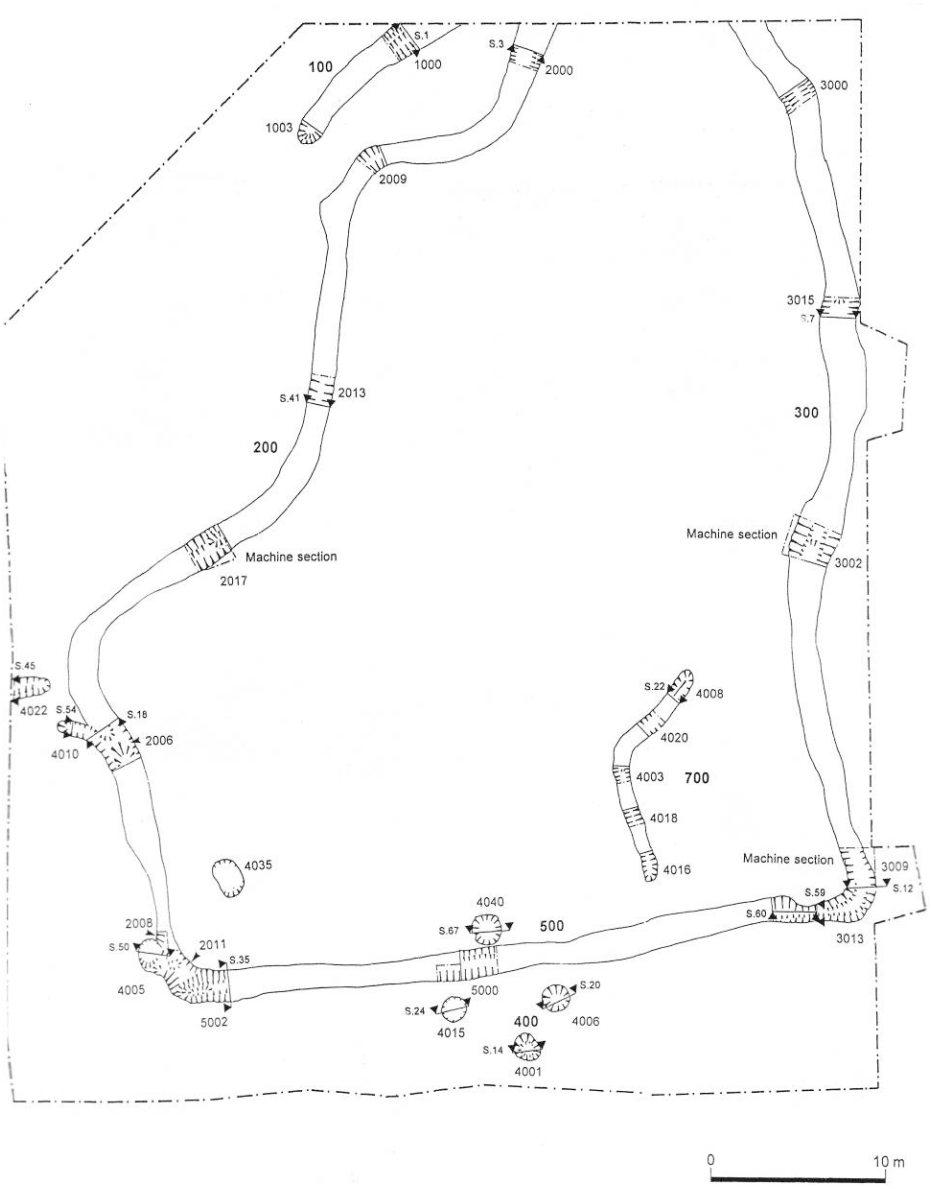


Figure G.175. *The enclosure excavated at Dale Lane, South Elmsall. (Source: Burgess 1998).*

Few internal features were identified within the enclosure. A short length of curvilinear gully extended across the south-eastern corner of the enclosure. This produced some animal bone and a single sherd of Iron Age pottery, and may have acted as a 'screen', preventing those entering the enclosure from the possible south-east entrance from seeing immediately what was taking place inside the enclosure. The gap between this feature and the southern ditch probably marks the line of an internal bank. In the south-west corner, pit 4035 contained some slag and a sherd of Iron Age pottery. A ^{14}C date of 99 BC – AD 25 (at one sigma) or 165 BC – AD 80 (at two sigma) was obtained from charcoal in this pit.

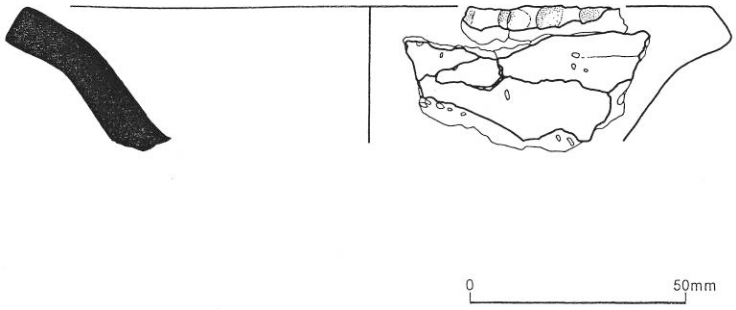


Figure G.176. (left). *Iron Age shell-tempered ware from Dale Lane, South Elmsall. (Source: Burgess 1998.*

Four circular pits were located near the southern margin of the site. Two (pits 4001 and 4006) contained only a single sherd of Iron Age pottery and a flint flake respectively, but pit 4015 contained the partially articulated remains of an adult, possible female individual (Burgess 1998). It was mainly only the right arm and cranium fragments that were represented. The body may have been buried when incomplete and partially articulated, perhaps after exposure elsewhere, or were simply disturbed remains from a burial elsewhere. The position of these pits suggests that they formed part of one structure, even though their palaeoenvironmental remains suggested differences in their depositional histories, and their profiles were very different. It is just possible that these might originally have formed a four-post structure pre- or post-dating the construction of the enclosure ditch, with the posts then being withdrawn, but there is no clear evidence for this. If so, however, the burial of disarticulated human remains in one of these features could have assumed even greater symbolic significance.

Figure G.177. (left). *A recent metal detectorist find from South Elmsall – a Romano-British trumpet brooch. (Source: © PAS).*

The various projects at South Elmsall have demonstrated that Iron Age or earlier, Bronze Age activity can often only be identified through open-area excavation and radiocarbon dating. Although fragmentary, these remains indicate that as at Swillington Common, in some parts of the study region the development of field system and enclosure landscapes might have begun in the early Iron Age or late Bronze Age, and were not just aspects of later Iron Age and Romano-British activities. The different phases of fieldwork at South Elmsall need to be drawn together and published as a coherent study, but it is not yet clear whether there is funding available to do this.

References: Burgess 1998; Howell 1998; McNaught 1997, 1998, 2001; O'Neill 1997b, 1998.

Stile Hill, Colton SE 3740 3320

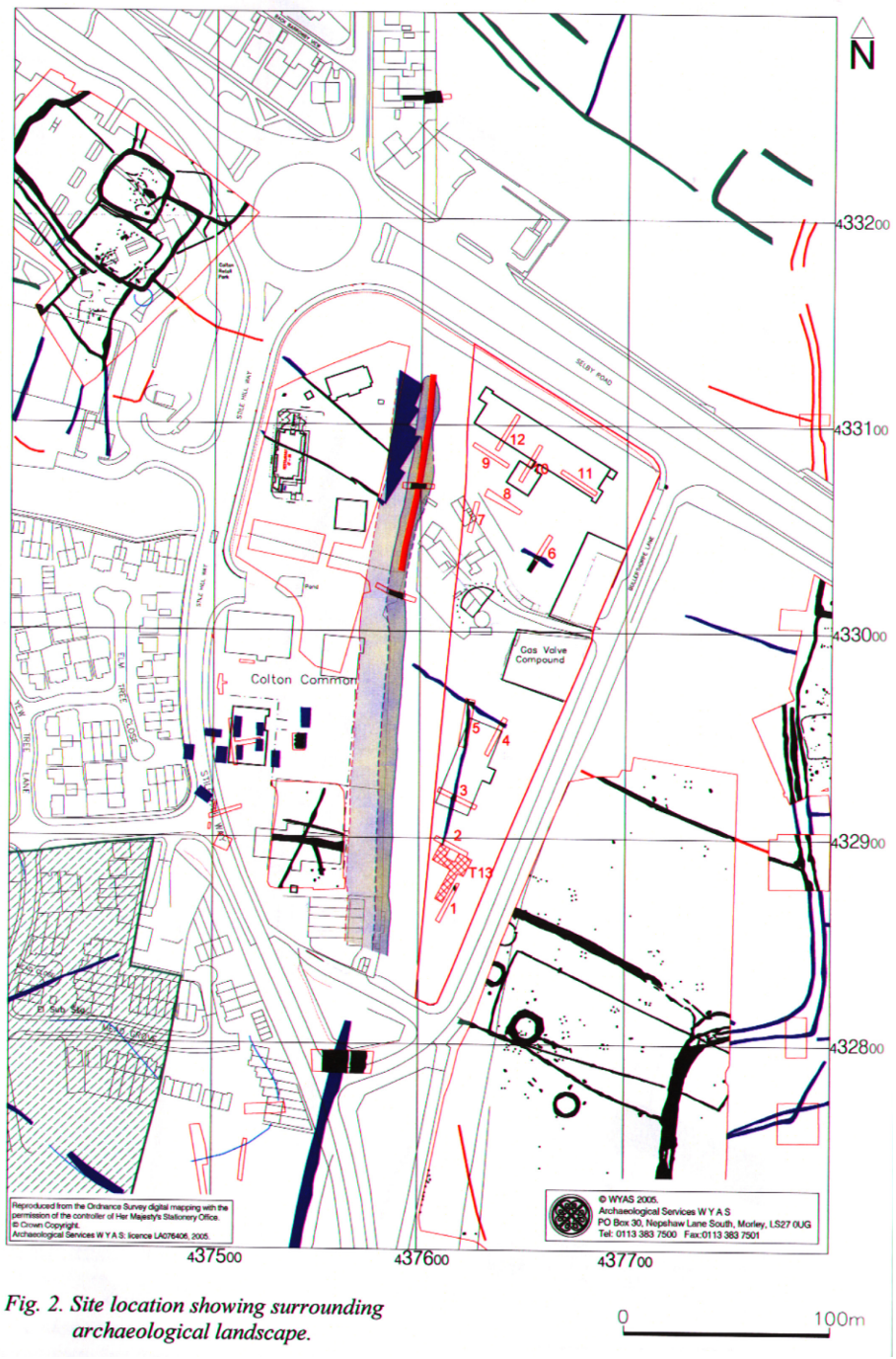


Figure G.178. *The location of Stile Hill, Colton (upper left), in relation to the features identified at Swillington Common (lower right), and Grim's Ditch (centre). (Source: © AS WYAS).*

The enclosures investigated at this site lay only *c.* 300m from the main north-south trackway at Swillington Common, and also close to those at Swillington Brickworks. Excavation was undertaken by WYAS in advance of light industrial and retail development. Aerial photographs had indicated cropmark enclosures on the site, and excavation revealed a series of conjoined enclosures (Barkle 1995a). These were added to one another and elaborated in a series of phases.

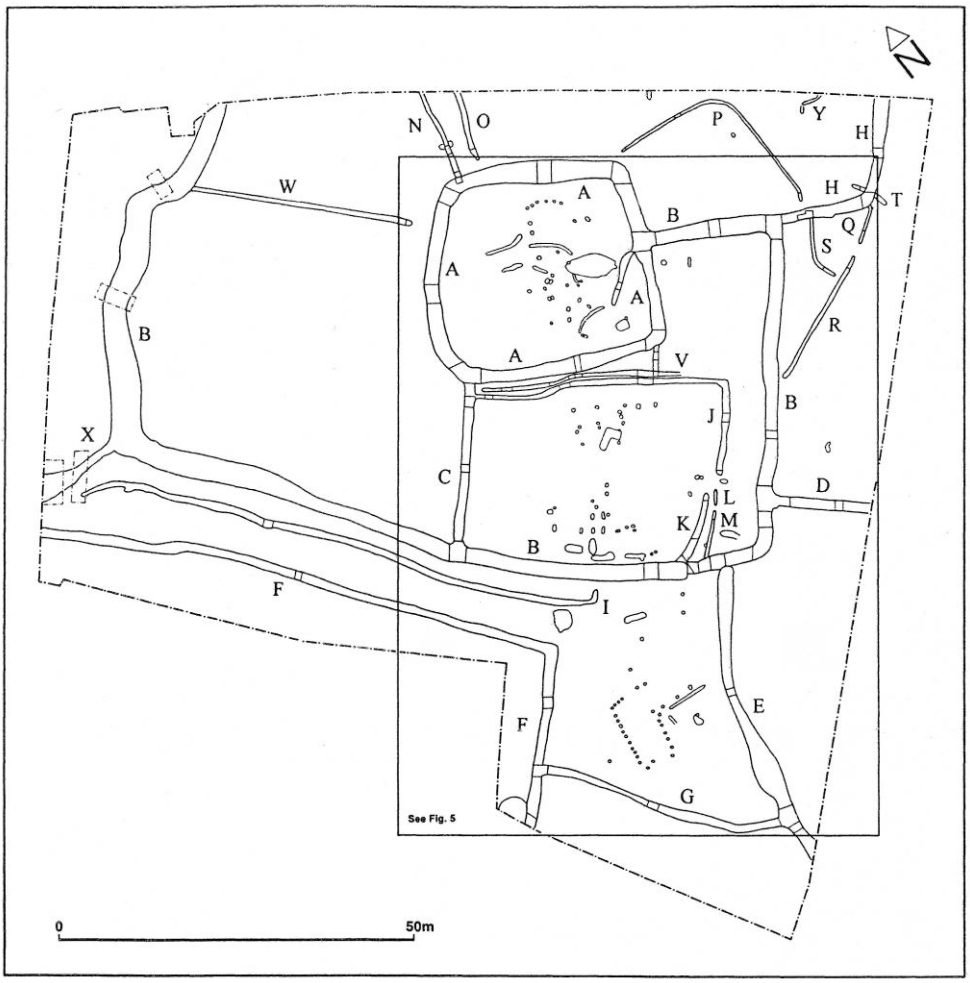


Figure G.179. *Overall plan of the Stile Hill, Colton enclosures. (Source: Barkle 1995, fig. 4).*

The first phase identified consisted of Enclosure III, 36m long and 25m wide and marked by ditches J-M and V (see Fig. G.480 above), which had a narrow 2.5m wide entrance probably defined by a timber gateway. It may have had an earlier, palisaded phase, and contained a series of postholes representing the remains of at least one subrectangular post-built structure (Structure II). Mid to late second century AD pottery was recovered from the ditch fills. Phase 2 saw an expansion of the enclosures with the subsquare Enclosure I added to the north (defined by ditch A) and a series of subrectangular fields or paddocks (marked by ditches B, H and D above). Enclosure I was 25m long and 24m wide, with a large ditch up to 2.11m wide and 1.05m (Barkle 1995a). A terminal excavated at the bottom of this ditch on its eastern side suggest that there might have been an east-facing entrance here prior to a recut, although a later entrance into the enclosure was not identified, and might have consisted of planks or another form of timber structure. An internal gully aligned south-west from this point also hints at an entrance here. A series of gullies or beam slots and postholes within Enclosure I might have formed at least one north-south aligned rectangular structure (I), approximately 18m long and 5m wide, but it is likely that several different structures were represented by these features. Some of the more curvilinear gullies might even have been roundhouse gullies. A large wear or working hollow was also identified.

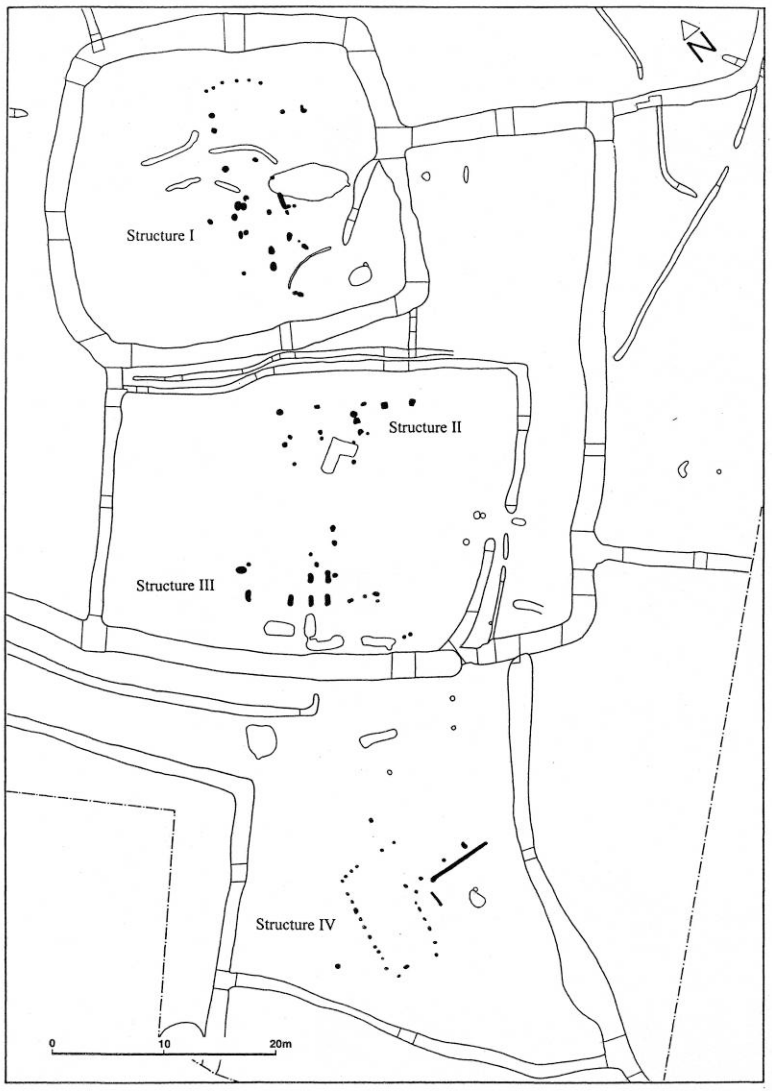


Figure G.180. *More detailed plan of the Stile Hill enclosure complex, showing Enclosure I (top), Enclosure III (middle) and Enclosure IV (bottom), and Structures I-IV. (Source: Barkle 1995).*

A third major phase of activity consisted of the re-cutting of Enclosure I, the enlargement of ditch B to delineate Enclosure II, and the re-cutting of ditches H and D. Small quantities of pottery suggested that this may have taken place during the mid-second century AD. Structure III was probably built during this period within Enclosure III, and this had especially deep postholes. It is possible that it was a four or five-post structure, associated with several possible corn driers or ovens and a fenceline (Barkle 1995a). The fourth main phase of activity was provisionally dated to the later second century AD, when ditches E-G, I and X were dug creating a trackway leading into the trapezoidal Enclosure II. This trackway may have contained a race within it (ditch I), used for separating and sorting livestock. Ditch G may have been a later addition when Structure IV was built. This was a post-built, L-shaped building 12m long and 12m wide, and was also defined by a beam slot (see Appendix E, Fig. E.24). It was aligned roughly north to south, on a slightly different orientation to the other buildings.

Although a complex sequence of ditch re-cutting and enclosure construction and re-inscription was identified at Stile Hill, Colton, it proved difficult to attribute reliable dates to these activities due to a lack of artefacts. Some evidence for cereal processing and storage were identified, and many of the features identified at Stile Hill seem to have been associated with livestock herding, but there was a lack of evidence for sustained 'domestic' inhabitation within the enclosures. Only 66 sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered.

References: Barkle 1995.

Swillington Brickworks SE 3850 3100

This enclosure complex lies just to the west of Swillington Common, on a gentle north-facing slope within an undulating landscape. Cropmarks had indicated two possibly conjoining enclosures with additional external field and enclosure boundaries (see Chapter 9, Fig. 9.21), and geophysical survey undertaken by WYAS had added further detail to these basic observations, such as the south-east facing entrance on the main subrectangular enclosure. In advance of a proposed extension to the brickworks, WYAS undertook an open-area excavation of the site in late 1991 and early 1992.

Figure G.181. *The enclosures at Swillington Brickworks. Cropmark data in red, geophysical survey data in green, and excavated features in black. (Source: Roberts et al. 2007, fig. 2.16).*

These excavations demonstrated the existence of several overlapping roundhouse eavesdrop gullies, including one roundhouse possibly set within a much larger circular gully, although this may be a palimpsest of two different superimposed features. Few internal features were evident within the possible roundhouses, probably due to later ridge and furrow plough truncation. The earliest phase of occupation might have been unenclosed settlement in the later Iron Age, with the enclosure constructed in the first century AD (Eyre-Morgan 1992). This ditch was sizeable indeed, being up to 8m wide and 3.25m deep, and although medieval pottery recovered from its upper fills may have been intrusive, it is likely that this feature survived as a visible hollow for many centuries after it had fallen into disuse, and might then have been deliberately backfilled and slighted in the medieval period. One or more of these

roundhouses may have been set behind a screen or palisade that partially divided the enclosure from south-west to north-east. Another fenceline may have directed people towards the entrance to this subenclosure, but also separated the northern half of the enclosure from the southern half. Again, there seems to have been an architectural grammar of restriction of movement and enclosure. The south-east corner of the enclosure might have been used as a livestock pen, and trackway seems to have been appended to the eastern side of the two enclosures. In addition to some possible late Iron Age or conquest period sherds, Romano-British pottery and a quersntone fragment were also recovered (Eyre-Morgan 1992). Occupation seems to have continued until the third century AD, and other excavated features included a possible T-shaped corn drier or oven. Another possible corn-drier or oven to the east was apparently built within an encircling ring ditch 9m in diameter, although this might well have been an earlier roundhouse.

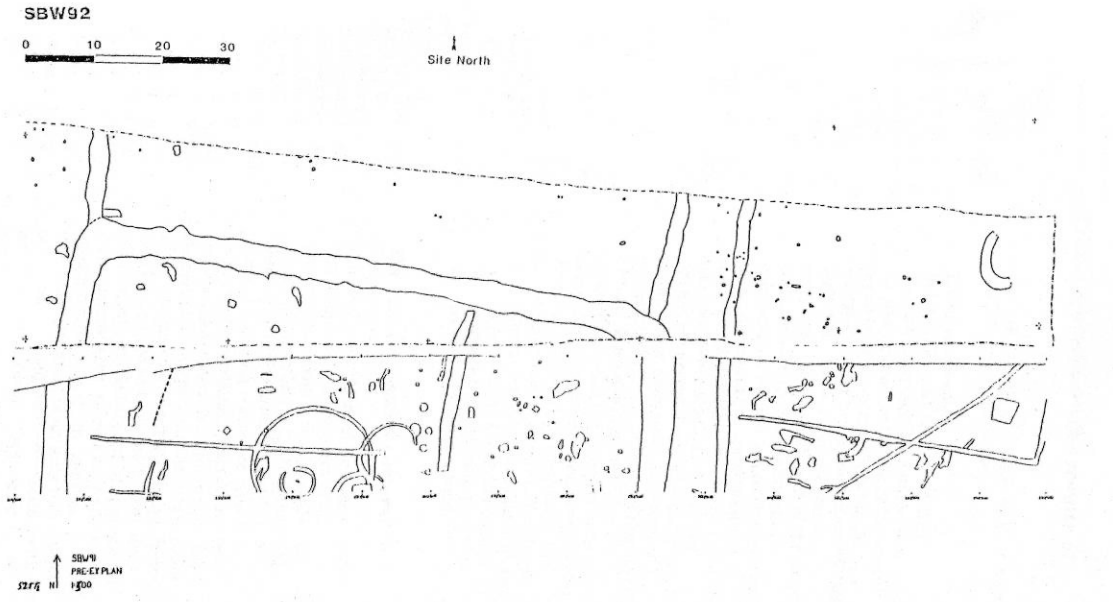


Figure G.182. *Detail of the two open-area excavation phases at Swillington Brickworks, showing features excavated by WYAS in the bottom half of the plan, and those excavated by the York Environs Project in the northern half. (Source: Vyner 1992: fig. 3).*

The area to the north of that excavated by WYAS was also investigated in 1992 under the auspices of the York Environs Project. This did not record many features in the northernmost part of the main enclosure, although one pit contained sandstone flags which suggested a collapsed stone structure of uncertain function (Vyner 1992). Clearly, it is a shame that more of this enclosure could not be excavated, particularly the southern part of the main enclosure.

References: Eyre-Morgan 1992; Vyner 1992.

Swillington Common SE 3790 3280

Archaeological features at Swillington Common, just south-east of Leeds, were investigated by AS WYAS as part of the A1-M1 Upgrade scheme, and as this area was located underneath a major road junction it was extensively excavated. This revealed one of the most significant and intriguing sequences of landscape inhabitation in the region, including Bronze Age, Iron Age and Romano-British features, and demonstrating considerable continuity.

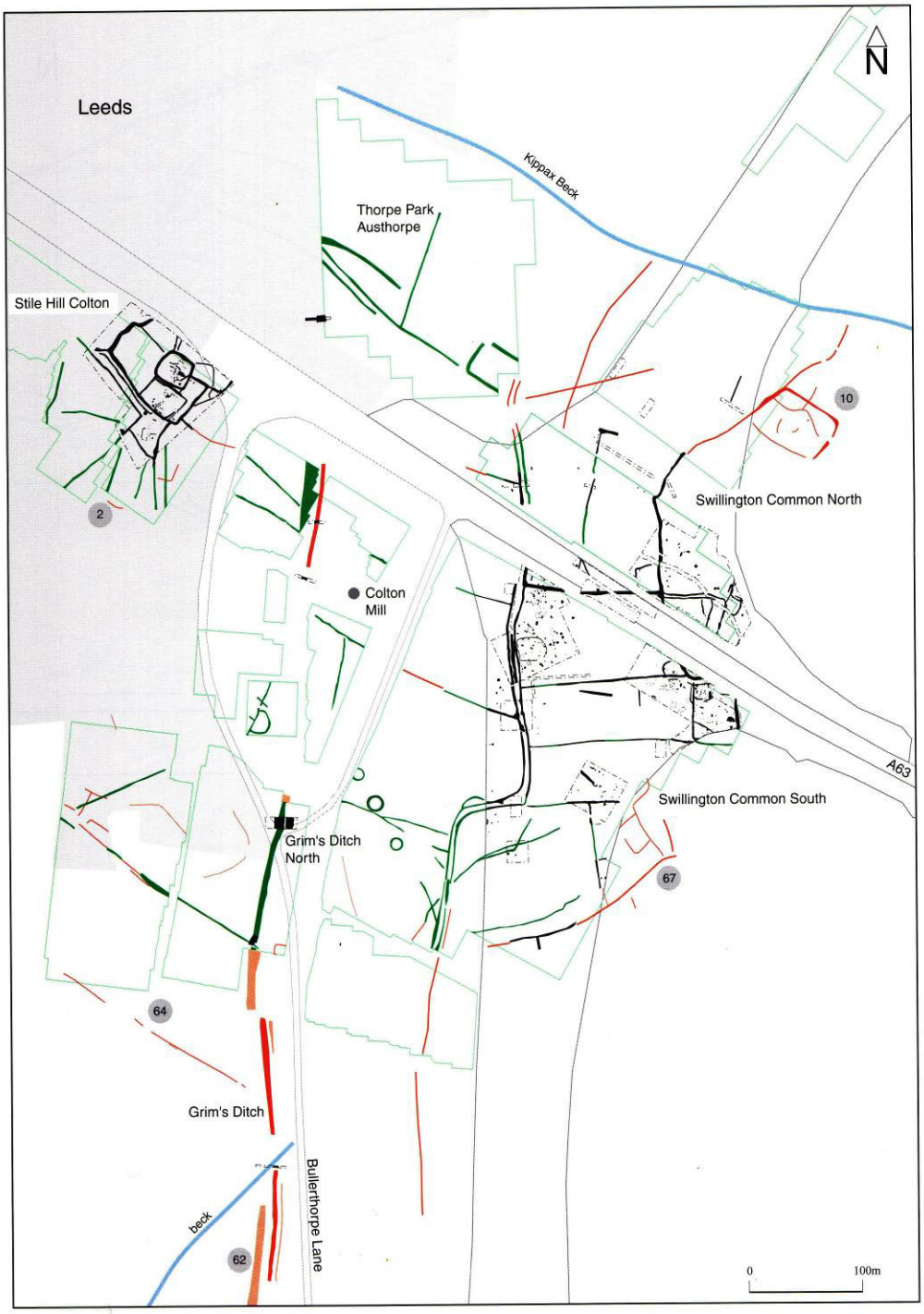


Figure G.183. *Composite image of the multi-period archaeology at Swillington Common, including cropmarks (red), geophysical survey data (green) and excavated features (black). Note too the close proximity of the enclosures at Stile Hill, Colton. (Source: Deegan 2001b: 31).*

The area investigated consists of gently undulating ground on a broad ridgeline, with the ground sloping away to the south, with a beck to the north and then a rising slope to a hilltop. A further beck runs off down a clough to the south-west. Although a series of four to five ring ditches recorded on aerial photographs and confirmed by geophysical survey were thought to be probably Bronze Age in date, open-area excavation to the east of these revealed an 'open' settlement of at least two post-built Bronze Age roundhouses (see Chapter 9, Fig. 9.40), and two post-built subrectangular buildings. These relatively slight features had proved impossible to detect on aerial photographs or geophysical surveys. Two four-post structures may have been associated with this phase, although they were undated.

Figure G.184. (left). *One of the Bronze Age post-built roundhouses excavated at Swillington Common (foreground), with the middle Iron Age palisaded enclosure in the background, looking south. The possible four-post structure is at the extreme right of the image. (Source: Roberts et al. 2001, rear cover).*

A major structuring feature within the landscape seems to have been the north-south earthworks of Grim's Ditch (see above), a linear bank and ditch feature now believed to be of later Bronze Age or earlier Iron Age date (Burgess and Wheelhouse 2001). During the earlier Iron Age, a major double-ditched trackway was laid out that matched the general north-south alignment of Grim's Ditch, although it had an interesting pronounced almost right-angled westwards kink in its length (see Temple Point, Colton synopsis below). A ^{14}C date of 800-190 BC was obtained from charcoal in a lower fill of one of its ditches (Howell 2001: 54), and although it is possible this could be residual material, on landscape stratigraphic grounds the trackway also appears to be relatively early. As with trackways in East Yorkshire, the double-ditched feature may only have been formalising a track for people and animals through the landscape that had already been used for centuries (Fenton-Thomas 2003, 2005, forthcoming; Giles 2000, 2007a). This double-ditched trackway itself continued in use for a protracted period – a pronounced holloway developed within it, and second century Romano-British pottery was recovered from the upper ditch fills.

The next feature in the landscape seems to have been a D-shaped palisaded enclosure with a south-east facing entrance, and some form of timber structure on its north-eastern side, possibly an integral four or five-post structure, or another entrance, or even a small tower (Howell 2001: 60-61; see Chapter 9, Fig. 9.19, and Fig. G.184 above). This unusual feature was thought to be middle Iron Age in date, and the closest similar example known to the author was a teardrop-shaped palisaded enclosure excavated near

Fairford, Gloucestershire in 2002-2003 (Lamdin-Whymark, Brady and Smith 2009: 66, fig. 14). This also had one 'flattened' side, restricted entrances and was similarly associated with four-post structures and perhaps several post-built roundhouses of an 'open' settlement. The Gloucestershire enclosure was ascribed a late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date, largely on landscape stratigraphic grounds. Another possible, closer parallel is the equally unusual subrectangular palisaded enclosure excavated at South Elmsall (see above). The enclosure closely matches and respects the eastern ditch of the double-ditched trackway, but the two features were probably quite similar in date. The few internal features identified within this unusual enclosure did not elucidate its function – one contained some tap slag.

In the very late Iron Age or early Romano-British period, the north-south double-ditched trackway became incorporated into a system of field boundaries that were appended to and oriented towards its ditches, eventually forming an axial 'spine' in a co-axial field system that may have been used until the late Roman period (Howell 2001: 63). These were associated with several subrectangular enclosures. Enclosure C was defined by segmented ditches forming a corner enclosure approximately 16m square, with possible entrances to the east and south-west (see Chapter 9, Fig. 9.20). Several concentrations of charred grain were found within these. It is not clear if there was a continuous bank around the enclosure, or if this was segmented as well. Elongated and circular pits within it had evidence for *in situ* burning and contained burnt stone and charcoal, but one pit in the north-west corner contained a fragmented but complete middle Iron Age vessel and two rim sherds from other pots (ibid.), but the enclosure might have continued in use into the second or third centuries AD.

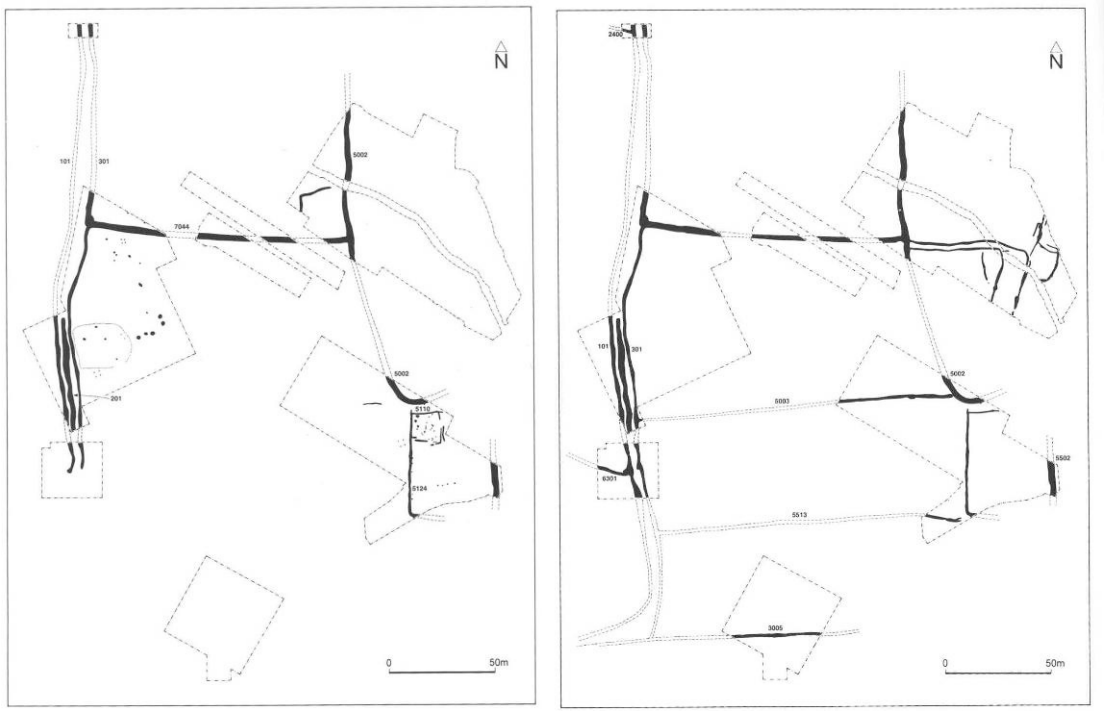


Figure G.185. (left). *The developing field system and enclosures at Swillington Common during the later Iron Age and early Romano-British periods, and* **Fig. G.186. (right)** *during the later Romano-British period. (Source: Howell 1998: 60, 66, figs. 44, 49).*

During the Romano-British period additional boundaries and enclosures were added and some existing ditches were re-cut, forming a broadly co-axial field system. Another double-ditched trackway, one with a pronounced southwards bend in it, was also incorporated into this system, and its east-west extent was very narrow, forming a race more than a trackway. Animals may have been funnelled into this feature from the south.

The results from Swillington Common demonstrate the importance of intensive sampling and large-scale open-area excavations, particularly for detecting more subtle traces of earlier activity such as the Bronze Age settlement. As at South Elmsall, this hints that in some places within the study region land allotment might have been earlier in date than across most areas, even if this was not formalised through ditched boundaries.

References: Howell 2001.

Temple Point, Colton SE 3770 3280

This site was located between the excavation at Stile Hill, Colton to the west, and that at Swillington Common to the east (see Fig. G.183 above). It was excavated in 2002 by the York Archaeological Trust, who recorded three round barrows previously revealed on aerial photographs (e.g. Deegan 2001b: 31, fig. 13). Only a few sherds of late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery were recovered from the upper fills of the ring ditch of one of the three barrows during the YAT excavations (Johnson 2002: 14-17), but only small sections across the circular ditches were excavated. Three cremation burials were found in small pits away from the barrows, two associated with late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery. The West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS) later commissioned AS WYAS to re-excavate the inadequate YAT investigations, and this later more methodical work in 2003 recorded a sherd of Beaker pottery in a pit within Barrow 2, and worked flint from the ring ditch of Barrow 1 and a central pit or tree bole feature within this feature (Brown and Signorelli 2005).

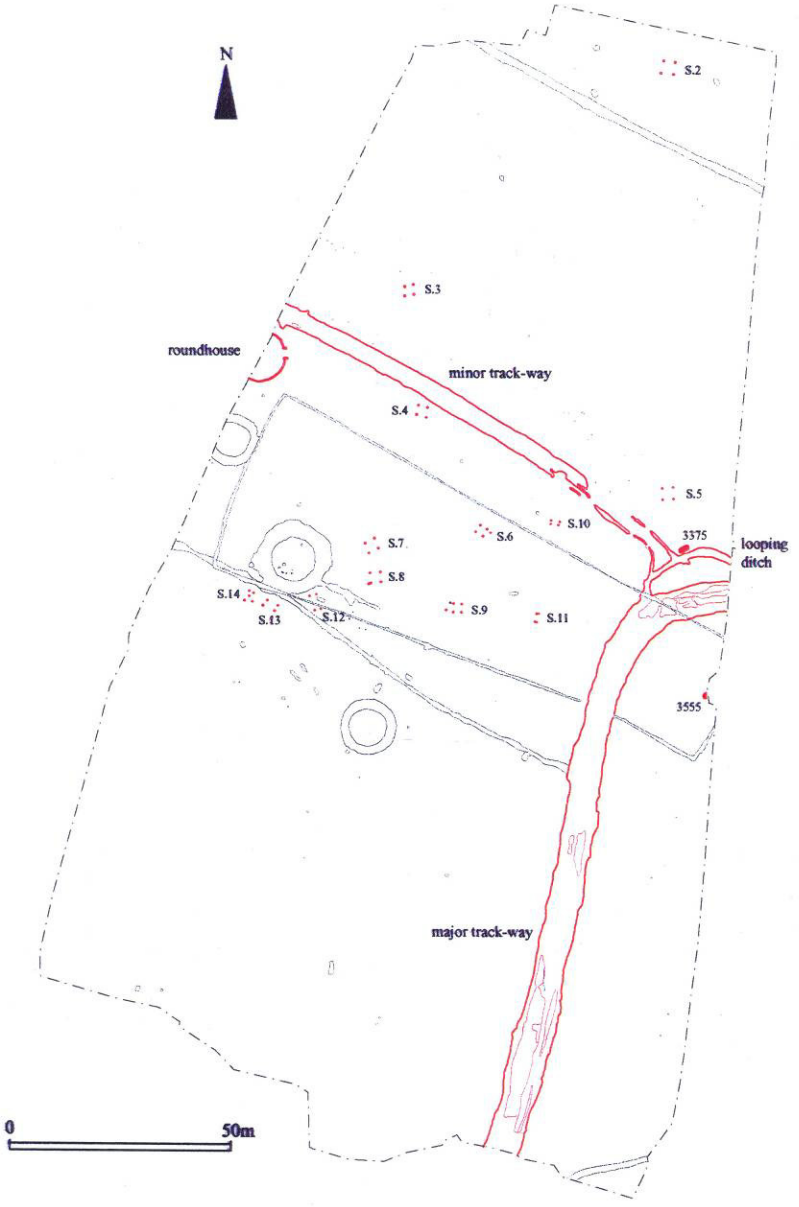


Figure G.187. (left). *Iron Age features excavated by YAT at Temple Point, Colton. (Source: Johnson 2002: fig. 8).*

Interestingly, ^{14}C dates obtained during AS WYAS excavation of carbonised material in the primary fills of the ring ditches of Barrows 1 and 2 produced dates of 750-390 BC and 760-400 BC, suggesting that the barrow ditches may have been recut and the barrows re-emphasised during the early to mid Iron Age (Brown and Signorelli 2005). This is highly significant, as at least five of the fourteen of the four-post structures also found during the YAT investigations clustered around the central Barrow 3 (Johnson 2002: 36-41, 2003: 8). This may suggest a focus upon earlier monuments during the early to middle Iron Age. No radiocarbon dates were available in the YAT reports submitted to WYAAS, but samples were taken for analysis, and at least some of these will probably prove to be similar in date to some of the four-post structures found at Swillington Common during the AS WYAS M1-A1 investigations (Howell 2001, see above).

Part of a roundhouse approximately 11.80m in diameter was also excavated by YAT, and this was located close to Barrow 3. It had an east facing entrance defined by four postholes, and the location of the shallow U-shaped ring gully in relation to these suggests that it was probably the setting for a wattle and daub or plank wall, rather than an eavesdrop gully. The roundhouse contained no evidence for internal postholes or a hearth, although there had been modern plough truncation on the site. The form of the roundhouse is slightly unusual, with no direct parallels nearby, and dating evidence for it would prove useful as no artefacts were associated with it.

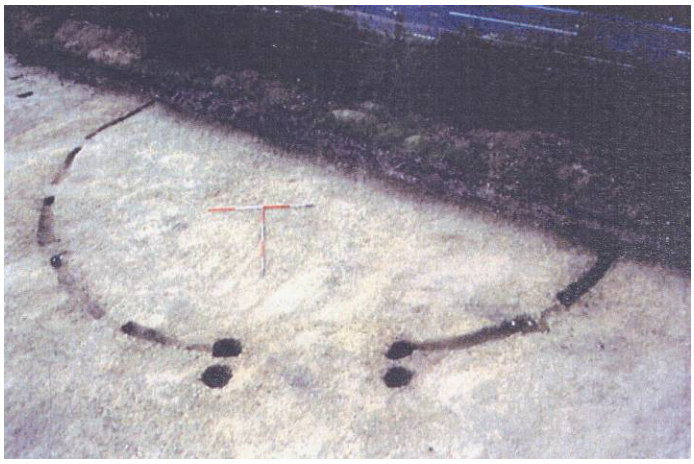
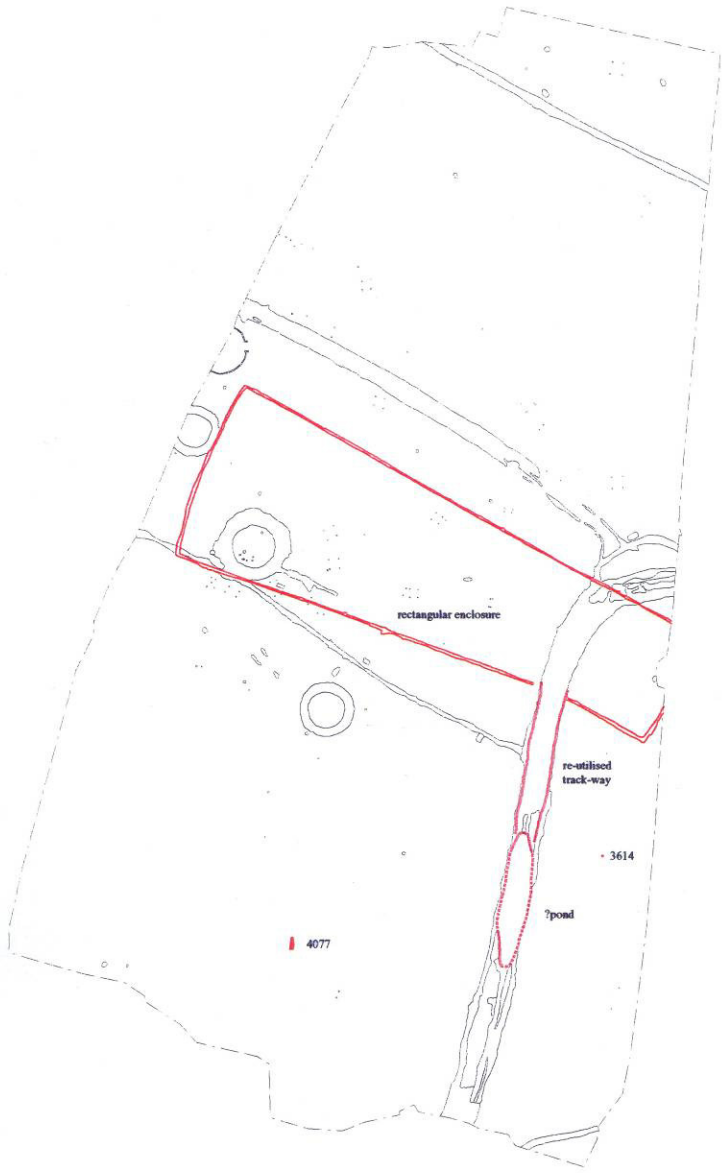


Figure G.188. (right). *Photograph of the roundhouse excavated by YAT at Temple Point. No detailed plans of the feature were included in the client report. (Source: Johnson 2002: 36, plate 7).*

YAT also recorded further lengths of the broadly north-south double ditched trackway investigated during the M1-A1 Swillington Common excavations (Howell 2001, see above). In some of the sections of trackway deepened by wear into a holloway, wheel ruts approximately 1.50m apart were revealed, from wheeled vehicles such as carts or carriages (Johnson 2002: 26, plate 4). Late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery and late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fills of the holloway, whilst late Roman pottery was found in the upper fill of one of the trackway ditches. This again suggests an extremely lengthy sequence of use for this feature, as suggested by the AS WYAS excavations (Howell 2001: 54-56). At the point where the major trackway 'kinked' round, a short curvilinear ditch of a 'trackway loop' was excavated, apparently post-dating the construction of the major trackway, but perhaps contemporary with some of the use of it, maybe when the major trackway was largely defined by a holloway and traces of flanking banks (Johnson 2002: 31). It is not clear what

purpose the 'trackway loop' served – it might have been a passing place, or simply a later reinscription of the major trackway corner. No finds are noted as having been found within it, but the 2002 YAT report suggests that it was also Iron Age in date.

A north-west to south-east aligned minor trackway was also recorded by YAT, defined by shallow ditches and a holloway. This too had evidence for wheel ruts 1.45-1.50m wide within it (Johnson 2002: 32, plate 6). This minor trackway post-dated the 'trackway loop', but at some point was presumably contemporary with one phase of use of the major north-south trackway. Two north-west to south-east orientated ditches were judged to be part of a phase of Romano-British land division, but the northern example produced no artefacts, and the southern one contained later prehistoric and greyware sherds, so they could just as equally have late Iron Age origins. It is also notable that they were both parallel to the minor trackway, and that the southern example used Barrow 2 as a landscape mark.



In the post-Roman period, a large subrectangular ditched enclosure partly cut across the line of the major trackway, although it used the holloway of the earlier feature as its southern entrance (Johnson 2002: 53). It also seems to have deliberately intersected the point where the late Iron Age or Romano-British field ditch met the Bronze Age ditches of Barrows 2 and 3. Only four sherds of tenth to twelfth century pottery and a small undateable copper alloy fitting were recovered from the ditch sections of this large enclosure.

Figure G.189. (left). *Post-Roman features at Temple Point, Colton. Note how the post-Roman enclosure seems to have used the major hollowed trackway as its entrance, and how it also referenced Barrow 2. (Source: Johnson 2002: fig. 15).*

A livestock-related function was proposed for the large rectangular enclosure (Johnson 2002: 58), but a possible 'pond' feature within the holloway of the major trackway containing clayey primary fills may have served as a watering hole. Interestingly, however, the inadequate YAT sampling of the round barrow ring gullies completely missed an extended inhumation that had had been placed into a grave dug into the silted up north-west part of the ring ditch of Barrow 1, and these remains returned a ^{14}C date of AD 810-1000 (Brown and Signorelli 2005), indicating an Anglo-Scandinavian re-use of the barrow as a later burial monument. In this light, the subrectangular enclosure could be considered to be a deliberate re-appropriation of earlier monuments in the landscape, a significant practice in post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon England (Semple 1998; Williams 1998b). It may thus not have had such a simple utilitarian purpose, and hopefully full publication of the YAT excavations will provide further evidence for this extremely important site.

Unfortunately, when this author e-mailed to Mark Johnson at YAT early in 2009 in order to enquire how far post-excavation analysis and report writing had progressed, he replied that YAT management had not yet allotted him any time or resources for this, and it was not part of his budgeted future work programme. The site seems to have a low overall priority in YAT's post-excavation programme. It is absolutely imperative that YAT provide the necessary resources to allow this important site to be written up and fully published, with a full suite of radiocarbon dating. If necessary, the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service should compel YAT and their client to undertake post-excavation and publication work, as this was presumably a condition of the original planning condition and consent. It is utterly unethical for YAT to continue to ignore this significant site.

References: Brown and Signorelli 2005; Johnson 2002, 2003a, 2003b.

Thorntree Hill, Walton **SE 3700 1680**

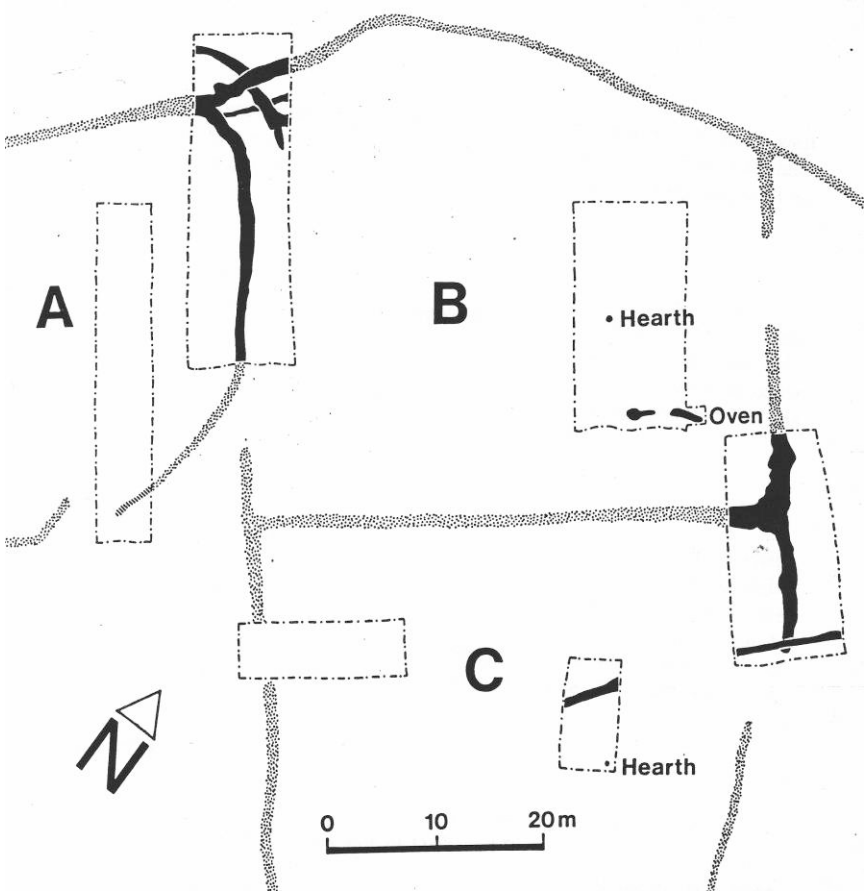


Figure G.190. *Plan of the excavation at Thorntree Hill, Walton. (Source: Eyre-Morgan 1991).*

This site was located to the south-east of Wakefield and Crofton, and was identified from cropmarks in 1974. It was situated on a hilltop in an undulating landscape. In advance of opencast mining, WYAS carried out a gradiometer survey, followed by open-area excavation in 1991. This confirmed the existence of a subrectangular or trapezoidal Enclosure B (Eyre-Morgan 1991), approximately 50m long and 40m wide with ditches up to 2m wide and 0.80m deep and a north-east facing entrance *c*. 8m wide. Apparently appended to the south of this was another slightly more irregular enclosure (Enclosure C) at least 50m long and 0.35m wide, again with a north-east facing entrance. To the south-east was the D-shaped Enclosure A, which possibly pre-dated Enclosure A and had a ditch 1m wide and 0.50m deep. Enclosure A may originally have had a narrow trackway or race associated with its north-east side, prior to the construction of the main Enclosure B ditch, but possibly with an earlier palisaded phase of Enclosure B post-dating it. Unfortunately, only very small excavation trenches were opened within the enclosures – these identified a hearth, a keyhole-shaped oven or flue and another oven within Enclosure B, and a hearth within Enclosure C, which appeared to have been truncated by a later boundary ditch, though interestingly this cut right across the enclosure entrance. A large dump of second to third century Romano-British pottery was found at the junction of enclosures A and B, including samian and Black Burnished ware (ibid.). A whetstone and some slag was also recovered.

References: Eyre-Morgan 1991.

Upton SE 4755 1353

A small D-shaped enclosure was investigated here in 1990. This was 30m long (north-south) and 25m wide (east-west), with an east-facing entrance (Roberts 1995). Aside from the single ditch, with depositional evidence for an internal bank, posthole and slot features were excavated that probably represented gate structures and internal divisions such as pens, stalls or ricks, whilst an unusual curvilinear structure in the south-east corner may have represented a 'storage bin' structure of some sort, or perhaps even a small herder's shelter. However, it seemed to have been cut by the enclosure ditch, so it is possible it pre-dated the enclosure, and may even have represented a small pennanular ditch around a small burial mound (Roberts 1995: 20), though no additional evidence supports this. A rectangular pit feature with a lower fill of ash may also have represented a prehistoric burial, as this would have lain beneath the presumed line of the bank.

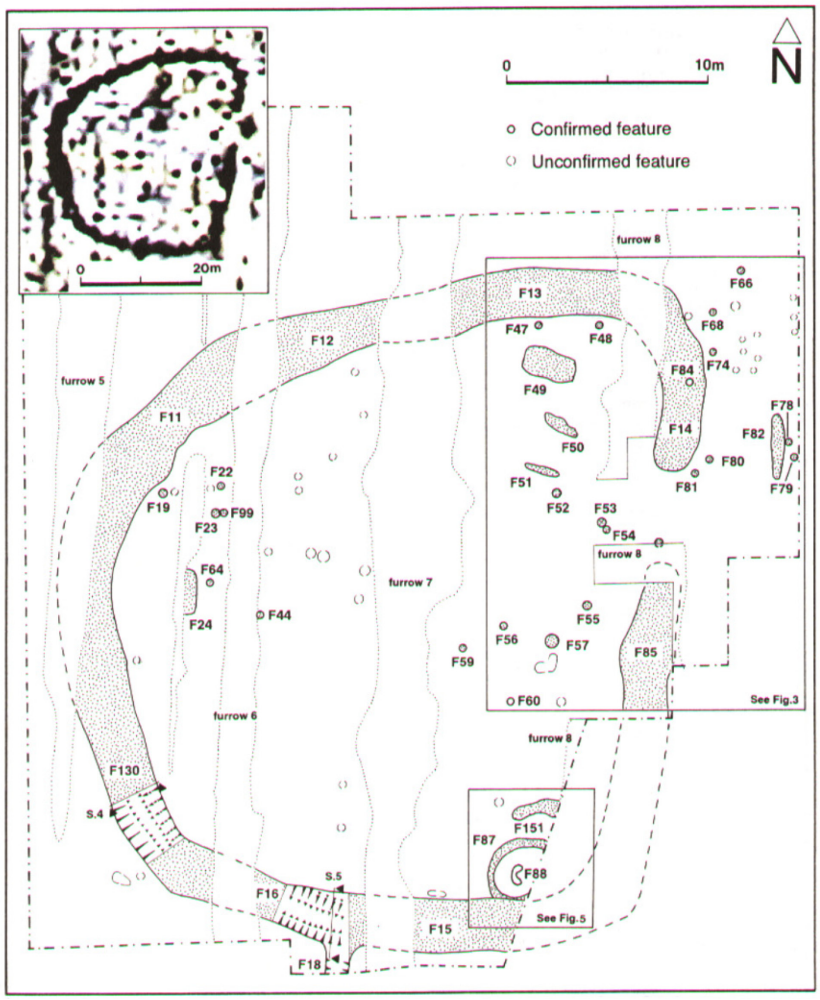


Figure G.191. *The excavated enclosure at Upton, W. Yorks. (Source: Roberts 1995: 11, fig. 2).*

Animal bone fragments recovered from the ditch and other features included two cattle mandibles and a scapula, but sheep and a few pig bone fragments were also recovered. After the ditch had silted up, a possible late Roman cremation burial in a partial ceramic jar was inserted into the ditch fills (see Chapter 11 and Appendix I), and a few flint flakes and worn sherds of third or fourth century Romano-

British pottery were also recovered during the excavation. The enclosure existed in apparent isolation, and its D-shape in plan was similar to other isolated enclosures identified by cropmarks at Bottom Boat near Methley, and at Sandal Magna near Wakefield (Roberts 1995: 21; WYAAS). The lack of many internal features and any evidence for 'domestic' occupation, and the location of the site on the south-eastern side of Upton Beacon hill at around 75m OD, also suggests that it was primarily a stock enclosure.

References: Roberts 1995.

Wattle Syke, Collingham SE 4070 4590

Figure G.192. *Cropmarks at Wattle Syke, Collingham. (Source: © AS WYAS).*

At Wattle Syke near Collingham and Wetherby, a complex 'ladder' settlement has been revealed by cropmarks adjacent to the A1. Unusually, the settlement seems to consist of three different 'lobes', each consisting of a series of enclosures apparently incrementally appended to one another. Many of the enclosures contain evidence for internal features, and appear to 'hang off' sinuous linear ditches linked to field system ditches. It is not clear why there was such a large triangular space between the three lobes of the settlement. There may have been an unmarked trackway running north-west to south-east with the enclosures on either side, or the central area might have been used for corralling livestock, with trackways allowing access to fields and open grazing areas beyond the enclosures.

In 1988, excavation of part of the eastern side of the cropmark complex took place in advance of road improvements associated with the A1. Most of the area of one subrectangular enclosure was recorded, along with its ditched boundaries, internal subdivisions, a roundhouse ring gully, a T-shaped corn drier, and three possible four-post structures. Limited quantities of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery were found. In addition, three inhumation burials were discovered. One was a crouched inhumation in a pit, and this was presumed to be Iron Age in date, although no dating evidence was recovered. Another inhumation had the head of the body resting on a stone 'pillow', underneath which were the disarticulated and butchered remains of a dog (Turner 1991). A third inhumation was in a central pit within an oval ring ditch thought to represent the remains of a barrow. Although these two other inhumations were also thought to be Iron Age, no ^{14}C dating was carried out on the skeletons, and therefore this assumed dating is contentious (Burgess 2001c: 268). For example, at Enclosure D at Ferrybridge, one inhumation dated to AD 540-720 contained dog remains near the head of the body. This dog was possibly used as a pillow (Martin 2005: 121). This similar burial rite might thus suggest a post-Roman date for the Wattle Syke example. Most of the burials excavated as part of the recent 2007 Wattle Syke excavations were probably late Roman or post-Roman in date.

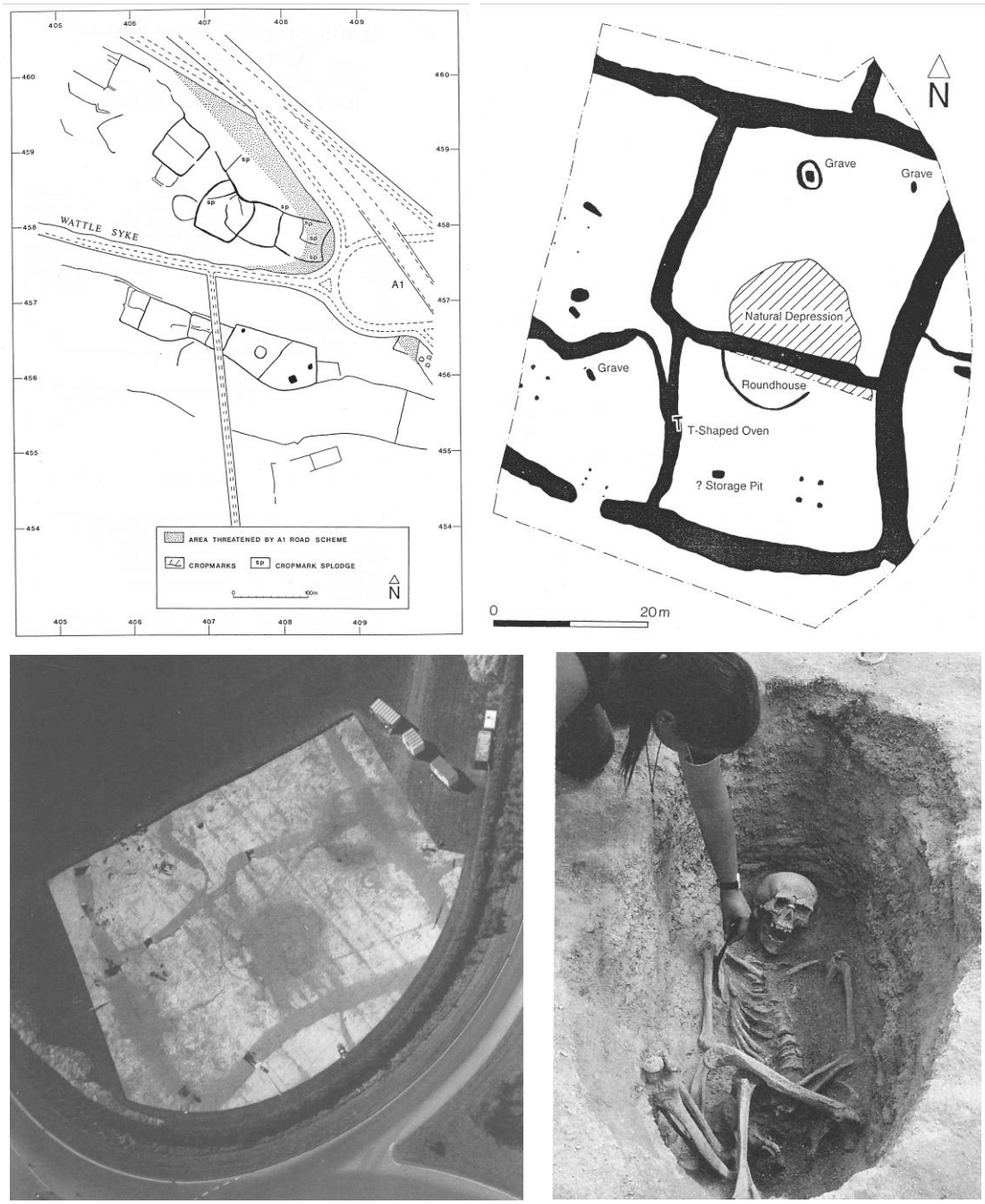


Figure G.193. (top left). *The eastern part of the site, showing the area affected by the road improvement works. (Source: Turner 1991: 2).* **Fig. G.194. (top right).** *Plan of the excavated enclosure, showing the roundhouse ring gully cutting through the natural depression in the underlying limestone, and the locations of the four-post structures and the corn drier. (Source: Turner 1991: 5).* **Fig. G.195. (bottom left).** *Aerial photograph of the enclosure under excavation. (Source: WYAS 1992: 56).* **Fig. G.196. (bottom right).** *The crouched inhumation burial in a pit. (Source: WYAS 1992: 57).*

Following a decision to upgrade the section of the A1 between Bramham and Wetherby, extensive geophysical survey and fieldwalking was undertaken by AS WYAS, along the line of a proposed link road between Bramham to Wetherby (Webb 2003, 2004). This then led to an evaluation, during which over a hundred 20m long trial trenches were excavated over selected cropmark and geophysical features. This work confirmed the presence of an extensive settlement and associated field boundaries, including large enclosure ditches with revetments of stone on their inner faces, a hitherto unrecognised

feature in West Yorkshire (Signorelli 2005). Romano-British pottery of second to late fourth or early fifth century date was recovered, including significant quantities of material from the very end of the period, and also possible post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon sherds from some upper ditch fills. Disarticulated and partially articulated human infant and dog bones were also retrieved from some ditch fills, in addition to other animal bone. The results clearly demonstrated that there had been a major settlement of some social significance at the site, and the presence of post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon pottery hinted at possible direct continuity of settlement, a very rare feature of the region and previously only found at Garforth and Parlington Hollins (see above), although post-Roman burials were found at Parlington Hollins, Ferrybridge and one example at Dalton Parlours.

Figure G.197. *Aerial photograph from 2005 showing the A1 to the right and the A659 running left to right, with exceptional cropmarks revealing large enclosure ditches. Some dark 'blobs' may reflect fluvio-glacial solution hollows in the underlying limestone, but at least two match the positions of stone-walled buildings revealed during the full excavation (see below). (Source: Signorelli 2005).*

These results did not lead to a re-design of the proposed route of the road corridor, and despite the evaluation clearly indicating the likely scale and importance of the site further archaeological work was inexplicably delayed for two years until June 2007 when topsoil stripping of the road corridor commenced under AS WYAS supervision. Predictably for such a major enclosure complex, this work revealed the presence of many hitherto unidentified smaller features such as pits and gullies, and during machining large quantities of Romano-British material including pottery, quern stones and metal artefacts including a fine enamelled fan-tailed brooch were exposed and retrieved. Features previously interpreted as shallow, stone-filled pits during the evaluation (Signorelli 2005) proved to be the remains of at least eight subrectangular Roman or post-Roman buildings, some with sunken floors.

Figure G.198. *Photograph taken in 2007 just before the commencement of the roadworks and the excavation phase of the archaeological investigations. (Source: © English Heritage).*

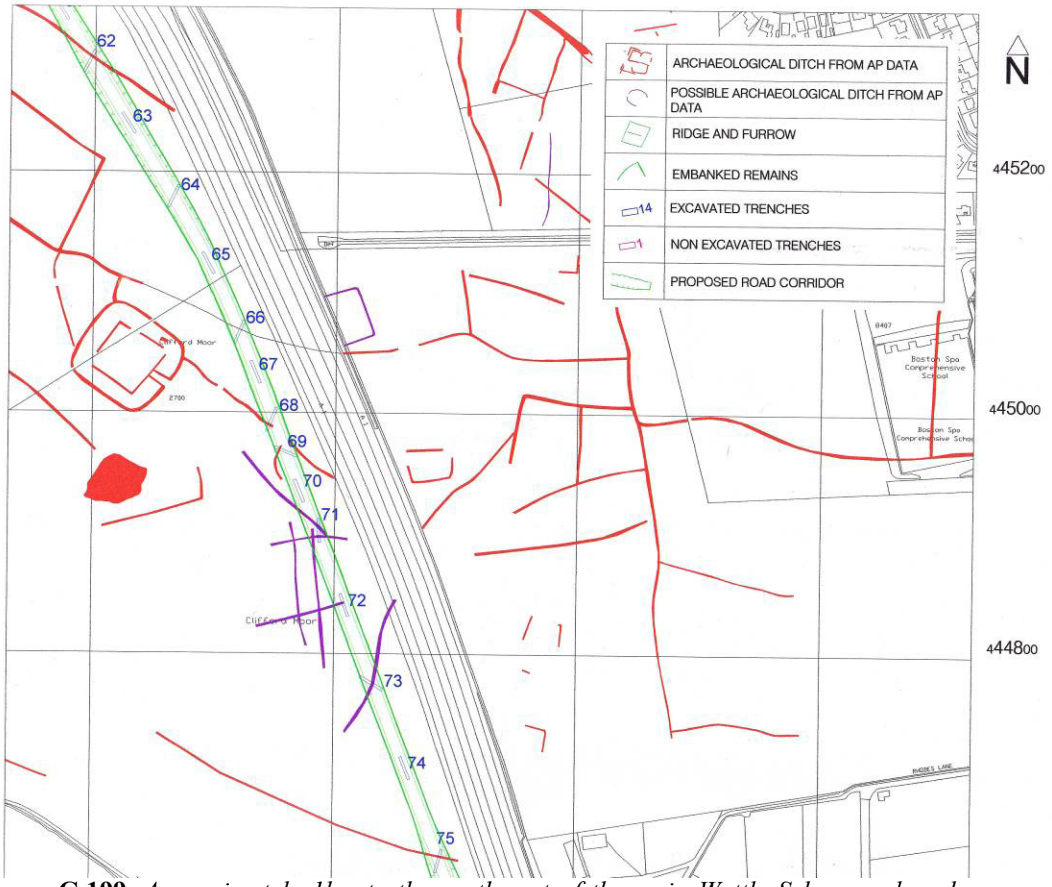


Figure G.199. *Approximately 1km to the south-east of the main Wattle Syke complex above, aerial photographs and geophysical survey identified an unusual double-ditched enclosure (to the middle left of the image), and a series of irregular field boundaries associated with it. (Source: Signorelli 2005).*

Figure G.200. (top left). *A large ditch revealed during topsoil stripping at Wattle Syke, and behind it in the arable field, the positive cropmark showing in the wheat crop. (Source: author).* **Fig. G.201. (top right).** *Higher oblique image of part of the stripped area, showing positive cropmarks of enclosure ditches in the field behind. Compare with the cropmarks in Figs. G.410-G.411. (Source: author).* **Fig. G.202. (bottom left).** *Dave Williams metal detecting a stripped enclosure ditch. (Source: © AS WYAS).* **Fig. G.203. (bottom right).** *Part of the area stripped of topsoil, showing the outline of the ring gully of a roundhouse, cut by later features. (Source: © AS WYAS).*

Due to the presence of numerous metal detectorists in the area, many of whom repeatedly came onto the site during the day and had to be asked to leave, or were observed on the site illegally in the evenings and weekends, AS WYAS staff themselves metal-detected the features within the road corridor. This work recovered further metal artefacts including copper-alloy coins and the unusual double-looped iron fitting noted in Appendix F (Fig. F.22). The archaeological consultants on the road scheme were clearly caught unawares by the scale and complexity of the features recorded, despite the caveats within the geophysical and evaluation reports that there would probably be many features not detected during these initial phases. The initial timescale proposed for excavation in advance of the roadworks was thus far too short, and in the end the excavations took six months. These excavations produced extremely large quantities of artefacts including Romano-British pottery and coins, but also some potential late Iron Age and post-Roman ceramics. The large quantities of animal bone included many placed deposits and complete animal burials (see below, and Chapter 11 Figs. 11.27-11.32). Many human burials were also been recorded, including crouched inhumations and extended inhumations, some of the latter within stone-lined grave cuts (see Chapter 11, Figs. 11.70-11.76); and numerous infant burials (Chapter 11 Figs. 11.77-11.78).

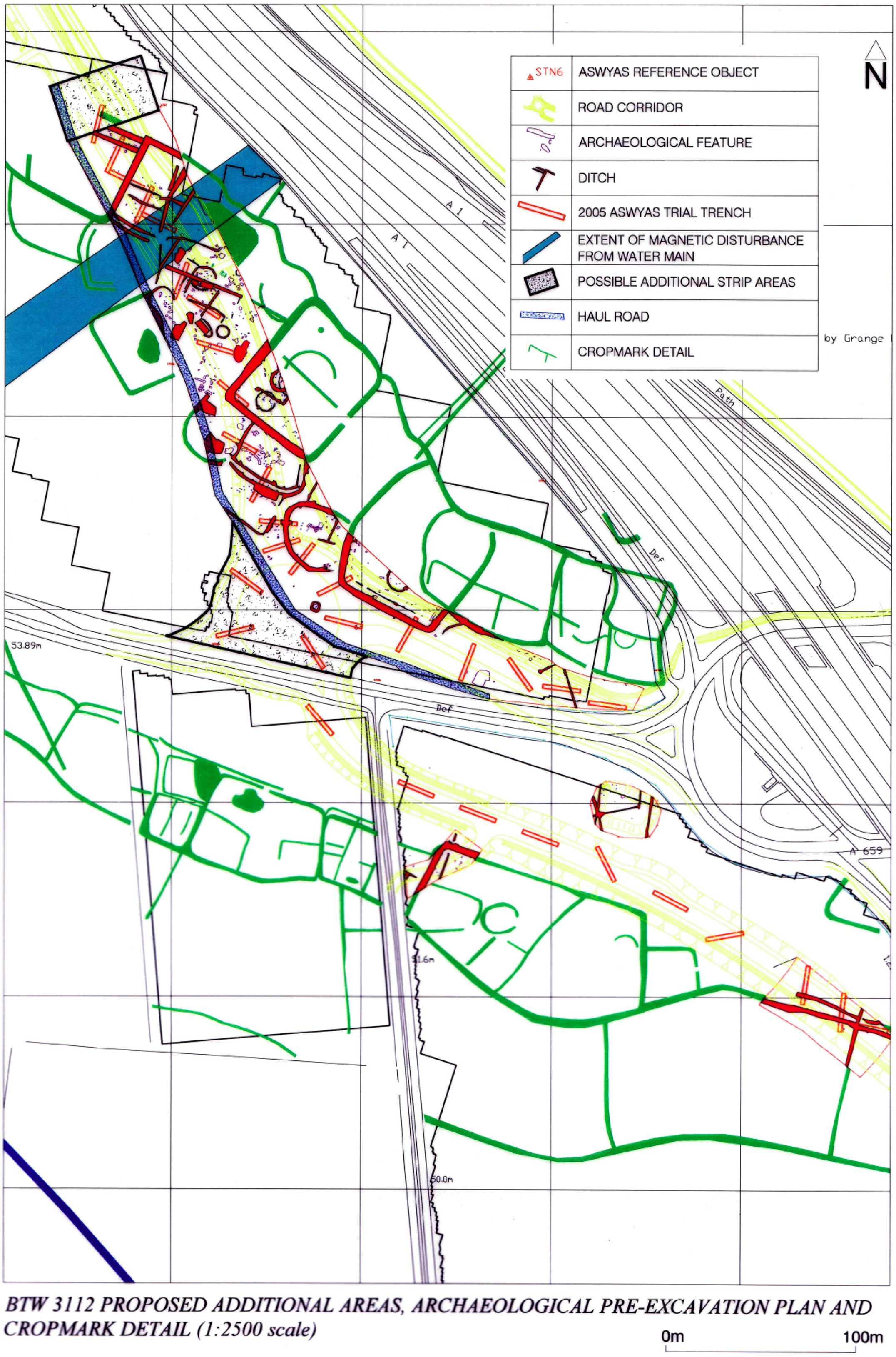


Figure G.204. *Composite plan of features recently investigated at Wattle Syke, including cropmark data (green), and features revealed during topsoil stripping (red), which have been or are currently being excavated. In the main area of the site to the north of the A659, note the 5-6 roundhouses to the north and east parts of the area, a small circular or 8-sided structure and at least 6-8 rectangular buildings. South of the main complex and towards the A659, an isolated square barrow feature is also visible. The impressive width of some of the enclosure ditches is also apparent. (Source: © AS WYAS).*


Figure G.205. (left). *Complete articulated cow skeleton from a pit at Wattle Syke, placed on its back. The neck of the cow was apparently broken in at least one place in order to get the beast into the small rectangular pit. (Source: author).* **Fig. G.206. (right).** *Complete articulated horse skeleton from a pit at Wattle Syke, minus the skull. The skull was later found underneath the rest of the skeleton, suggesting that the horse had been decapitated before burial. (Source: author).*



Figure G.207. (left). *Building 2 during excavation and recording, showing a flagged floor surface being recorded.* **Fig. G.208. (top right).** *Building 3 during excavation, demonstrating the build-up of colluvium silt deposits within the sunken floor of this structure after its abandonment.* **Fig. G.209. (bottom right).** *One excavated quadrant of Building 3, showing that it had a partially stone-flagged surface within it. See also Appendix, E Figs. E.29-E.30. (All images source: © AS WYAS).*

Despite the shallow ploughsoil, in some cases only 0.15m thick, preservation across the site was generally excellent. In addition to several roundhouses (at least five), many relatively well-preserved subrectangular buildings survived, most sunken-floored structures similar to examples excavated at Dalton Parlours (e.g. Structures P and R). It is possible that some of these structures at least will prove to be very late Roman or even post-Roman upon post-excavation analysis. Finds of Roman brick and tile also suggest that much more substantial Roman-style buildings existed in the immediate vicinity. A small annular or perhaps even eight-sided ring ditch approximately 5m in diameter with two shallow internal postholes appears superficially similar to the possible 'shrine' Structure 6 excavated at Topham Farm, Sykehouse in South Yorkshire (Roberts 2003), and detailed excavation and post-excavation analyses will have to establish if such a use is a possibility.

Wattle Syke is thus of considerable national and regional significance, and is probably the most important settlement in West Yorkshire to have been excavated since Dalton Parlours. It offers the unparalleled research opportunity to study one settlement from the late Iron Age through the Romano-British period and on into the post-Roman centuries. The excavation and post-excavation work will hopefully also allow the other extensive parts of the complex still under arable cultivation to be protected in some way from further destructive ploughing.

References: Burgess 2001b; Signorelli 2005; Turner 1988, 1991; Webb 2003, 2004.

Whitwood Common SE 4076 2387

At Whitwood Common, excavated by AS WYAS in advance of commercial and industrial development, medieval ridge and furrow and modern ploughing had heavily truncated the site. The irregular enclosure was defined by ditch up to 2.7m in width and 1.10m deep with a pronounced kink on its western side, possibly to avoid a pre-existing feature in the landscape, perhaps a tree. If that was the case, it is interesting that this was left in place within the landscape, rather than being removed.

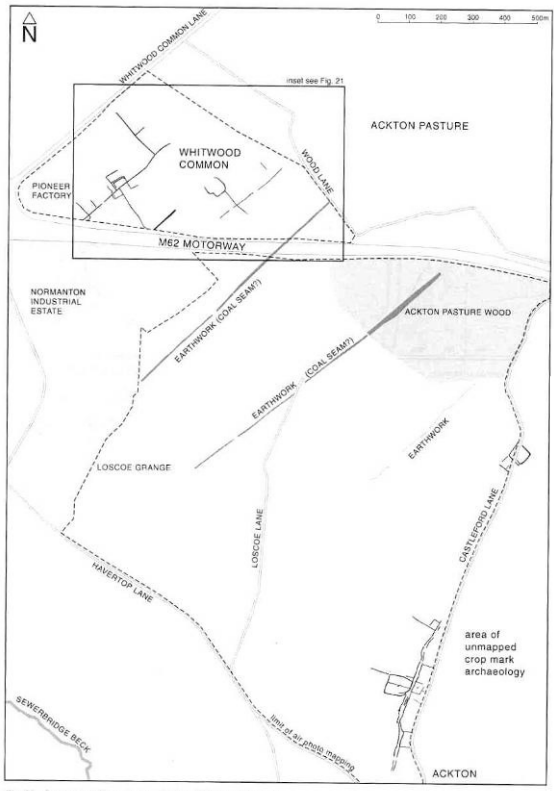


Fig. 20. Crop mark evidence in the vicinity of Whitwood Common.

Fig. 21. Whitwood Common; composite plan showing crop mark evidence, geophysical evidence and excavated enclosure.

Fig. G.210. (left) *and* **Fig. G.211. (above).** *Plans showing the excavated enclosure at Whitwood Common in relation to other features identified from cropmarks and geophysical survey. (Source: Burgess and Roberts 2004: 23-24).*

The east and south-east side of the main ditch of the Phase 1 enclosure was re-cut and emphasised more than the lengths of ditch elsewhere, as on sections S5, S19 and S22 (Burgess and Roberts 2004: 25, 27-28). No entrance through this enclosure ditch was found, but it may have lain to the north or north-west, unless there was a wooden 'bridge' over the ditch at some point. People and/or animals would therefore have entered the enclosure from this north-westerly direction, and this NW-SE movement also appears to have been the predominant axis within the local landscape.

In the southern half of the enclosure was a roundhouse consisting of at least one, possibly two phases of ring gully. This was approximately 10m in diameter, and had a south-east facing entrance. This was directly south of a series of 'screens' comprised of a NW-SE gully, a curvilinear gully, and two additional two short lengths of gully, with a *c*. 5m wide entrance through it, postholes also suggesting that this gap was further emphasised by some form of post structure (Burgess and Roberts 2004: 25-26). The roundhouse thus lay behind a series of demarcated spaces. Some people and animals may have been able to proceed southwards directly into the southern part of the enclosure, but others might

have had to approach the roundhouse through the entrance in the screen. Only the wall and roof of the roundhouse would have been apparent, not its east facing entrance, the orientation of which does not appear to conform to 'common-sense' logic of allowing the inhabitants to view people or animals entering the enclosure. The subrectangular space in the north-east corner of the enclosure might have been for stock, with the southern area defined as an area of more 'domestic', human inhabitation.

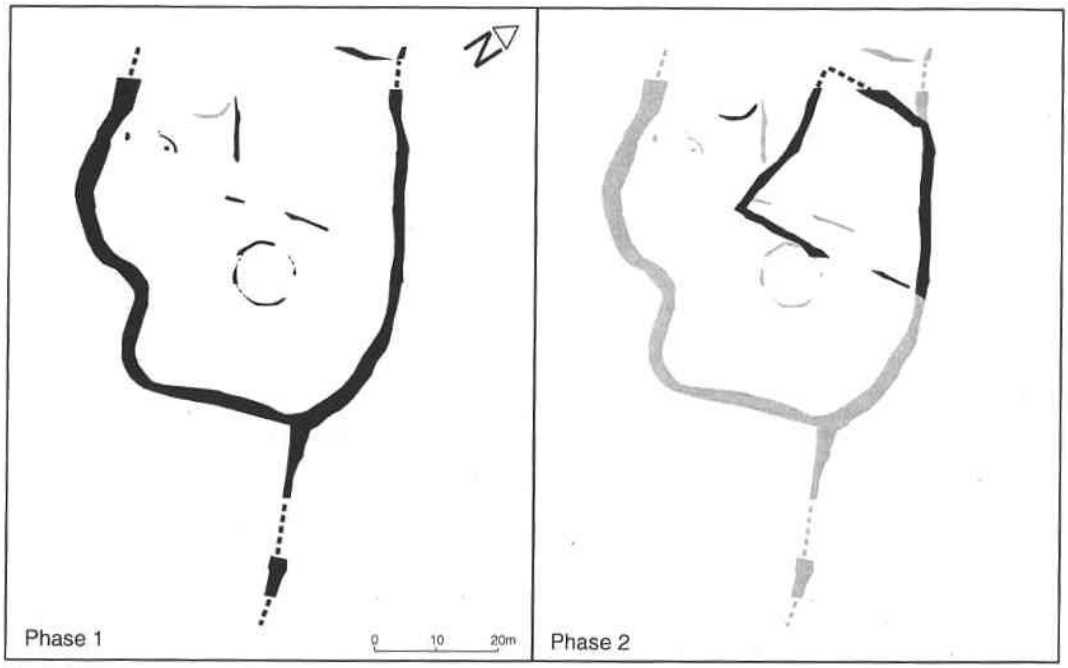


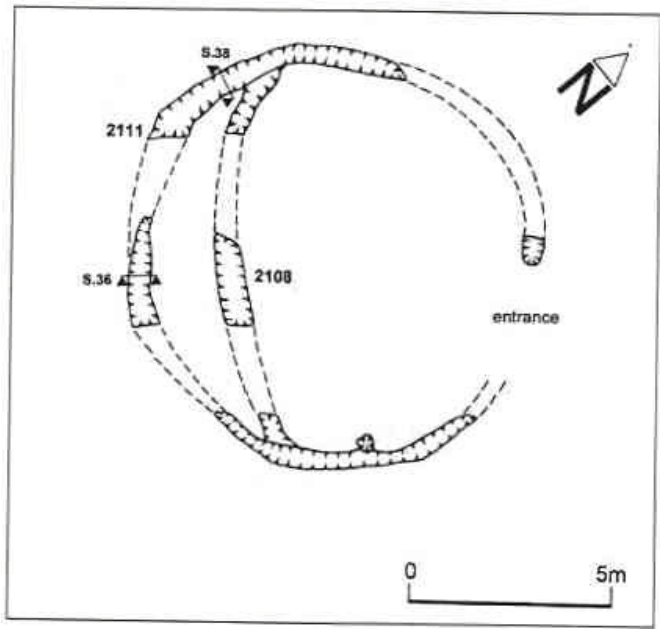
Fig. 33. Whitwood Common phase development plans.

Figure G.212. *The two major phases of inhabitation identified at Whitwood Common. (Source: Burgess and Roberts 2004: 34, fig. 33).*

As usual with many of these small rural enclosure sites, finds were meagre, and only fifty-six sherds of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery were recovered. The Phase 1 roundhouse gully contained five sherds of Iron Age pottery. To the south-west of the roundhouse, within the more intimate and perhaps 'domestic' space, pit/posthole 2146 contained a quern fragment, burnt sheep bone fragments, and early second century AD pottery (Burgess and Roberts 2004: 32; Evans 2004: 32-33). There was little pottery elsewhere, but the base of a South Yorkshire greyware bowl was recovered from a field boundary ditch close to where it appended the main enclosure ditch to the north.

There may then have been a period of abandonment on the site, followed by the Phase 2 occupation, suggested as taking place in the third and fourth centuries AD. In phase 2, the north-east part of the enclosure was demarcated by a series of right-angled gullies forming a trapezoidal sub-enclosure with a south-east facing entrance *c.* 6m wide (Burgess and Roberts 2004: 26, 30, fig. 29). Interestingly, the gully of this sub-enclosure cut precisely through the northern part of the ring gully of the Phase 1 roundhouse. This would seem to be a deliberate reference to the earlier structure. A possible Phase 2 roundhouse was suggested by part of a curvilinear gully that was identified. Most of the third and fourth century pottery recovered was from this feature. Movement into the enclosure now had to proceed right past this possible roundhouse structure, which might have placed it in a controlling

position. The spatial grammar of the settlement had clearly changed. The deposits in pit 2156 and the disposal of the bowl base may also have been structured or 'placed'.



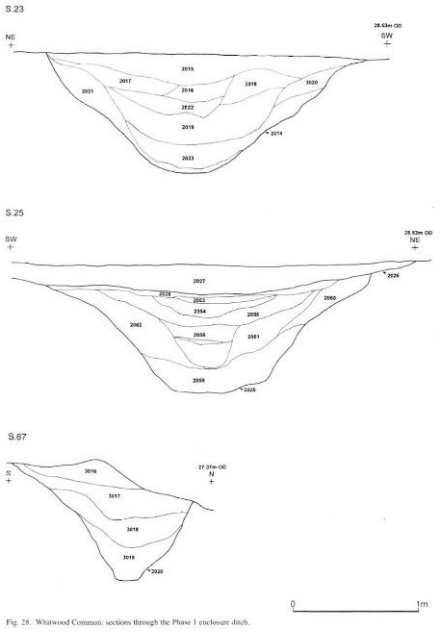


Figure G.213. (left). *The Phase 1 roundhouse. Gully 2108 may either be the remains of an earlier roundhouse, or an internal structure.* **Fig. G.214. (right).** *Sections across the Phase 1 enclosure ditch, showing re-cuts evident in the two upper sections. (Source: Burgess and Roberts 2004: 26, 29).*

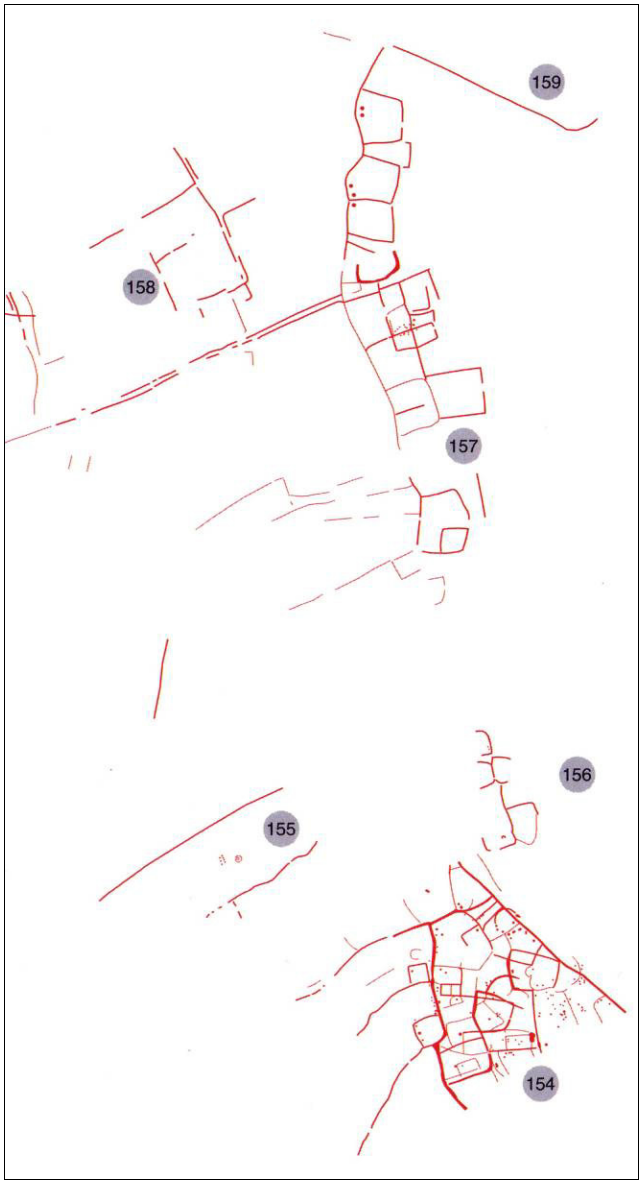
Figure G.215. (left). *Reconstruction illustration of the Phase 1 enclosure excavated at Whitwood Common. (Source: Burgess and Roberts 2004, cover illustration, © R. Causer).*

References: Burgess and Roberts 2004.

Unexcavated cropmark/geophysical survey sites

Aberford SE 4250 3700

Approximately 600m west of Aberford, and 2km east of Barwick-in-Elmet, is a very interesting complex of field systems, linear boundaries, trackways and enclosure complexes. These have been plotted and described by Alison Deegan on behalf of AS WYAS as part of the M1-A1 Link Road project (Deegan 2001b). There are two main enclosure groups, one a 'ladder' settlement orientated roughly north-south, with 600m to the south a very unusual agglomerated enclosure complex.



The landscape context of both enclosure complexes is notable, as they are situated on gentle north-east facing slopes, with a marked north-east to south-west scarp edge and clough forming a natural boundary to the south, below which is the modern line of Parlington Lane. A less prominent clough on the same alignment also separates the two enclosure groups, whilst the northern limit of the area is formed by another pronounced north-east to south-west scarp edge, at the foot of which flows a beck. The earthworks of Becca Banks and The Ridge occur on the opposite side of the valley to the north, but another earthwork south-west of the ladder settlement may also be part of this dike system.

Figure G.216. (left). *Plot of the cropmarks west of Aberford, showing the 'ladder' settlement (no. 157) and the agglomerated enclosure complex (no. 154). (Source: Deegan 2001b: 26, fig. 9a).*

The northern 'ladder' settlement complex extends for approximately 600m north-south, and may originally have consisted of a sinuous boundary ditch with a series of at least eighteen subrectangular enclosures appended to it (Deegan 2001b: 19), many of these clearly added progressively to one another over time. Some were probably paddocks and livestock pens, but others have evidence for

internal features including pits. The eastern boundary of the complex was probably formed by the north-west to south-east scarp edge at the foot of which modern Aberford is located, whilst to the west many linear boundaries and a double-ditched trackway are orientated along the line of the other scarp edge to the north. The possibility that some earlier Iron Age linear earthworks were also constructed along the edge of the same northern north-east to south-west aligned scarp edge suggests a long history for boundary alignments in this locale, similar to late prehistoric boundaries on the East Yorkshire Wolds (e.g. Fenton-Thomas 2003, 2005; Giles 2000, 2007a, 2007b). The elevated area west of the ladder settlement forms a relatively flat plateau, and some apparently regular rectangular fields were also laid out in this locale.

To the south of the ladder complex was another clough broadening out to the east, and there seem to have been few boundaries within this narrow valley. To the south on the other side, however, was the second major enclosure complex. This was apparently sited within two converging major sinuous ditch boundaries, with a series of enclosures and boundaries constructed within this broadly subtriangular area (see Chapter 9, Fig. 9.25). Some are perpendicular to the two major ditches, others at different alignments, and some of the enclosures within this area may pre- or post-date the use of the main boundaries. It is also possible that at least one of the major boundaries developed into a holloway over time (Deegan 2001b: 19). Although some of the smaller enclosures were probably infields and livestock pens, the cropmarks suggest others had many internal features such as internal subdivisions, possible roundhouses and pits. In fact, there seem to be large numbers of pits associated with these enclosures, and it is possible that some were a pit complex similar to those at Ledston, Ferrybridge, and Site M along the M1-A1 road corridor (see above). Several larger, darker features might be solution hollows in the limestone, or perhaps sunken-floored buildings of later Roman or post-Roman date.

Clearly, many different phases of occupation are represented by the southern enclosure complex, but at least some of these features were probably contemporary with the ladder enclosure complex just 600m to the north. It may be that the southern complex formed the main settlement focus, but the numerous pits suggest the possibility of placed deposits and more ritualised practices too. There are some interesting questions posed by these cropmarks – for example, they appear to form two discrete but linked foci of activity on this raised plateau area, but were also situated very close to earlier important boundaries within the landscape, perhaps hinting at added social significance too. Detailed geophysical survey, fieldwalking, metal detecting survey and targeted excavation would be extremely useful in establishing the nature and date of occupation of many of these features, and this area west of Aberford would be an ideal location for a long-term landscape research project. Thought should also be given to minimising the impact of ploughing upon these remains.

References: Deegan 2001b.

Ackton, Pontefract SE 4080 2150

Approximately 80m long, this enclosure was connected via a short 20-25m wide 'avenue' to a sinuous trackway 8-10m wide (Yarwood and Marriott 1988: 22-23). Where the east-facing avenue joined the settlement there was a much narrower, constricted entrance. The enclosure was located on a spur or ridge at 30-35m OD, with the ground falling away to the north and west, and more steeply to the south into a pronounced clough with a beck running through it. Although this may have been a farmstead and the entrance might have reflected a desire to impress others or display status differences, it would also have been suitable for corralling stock. It is similar to enclosures at Flockton in West Yorkshire and Pastures Road, Mexborough, in South Yorkshire.

Figure G.217. *Ackton, W. Yorks. The enclosure was located on the end of a prominent ridge, with the ground falling away on three sides, on two to cloughs with becks running through them. The 'avenue' was approximately 80m long and 20-25m wide, connected to a much longer trackway with darker marks within it evidence of wear hollows and/or rutting from intensive use. Note also the restricted entrance into the enclosure. (Source: Yarwood and Marriott 1988a: 22).*

References: Yarwood and Marriott 1988a.

Castle Hills, Micklefield SE 4550 3225

At Castle Hills near Micklefield, cropmarks have revealed a T-shaped trackway junction with subrectangular and D-shaped enclosures arranged alongside (see Chapter 9, Fig. 9.25). This complex was located along the side of a north-facing slope in an undulating landscape, with the ground sloping down to Newthorpe Beck some 300m to the north. Part of it actually lies within modern North Yorkshire. Around 300m to the south, a series of enclosures, roundhouses and pits were situated along the northern side of a north-west to south-east trackway, which may have led to the enclosures further north. Some of these features survive as earthworks within Micklefield Plantation and Highroyds Wood (McNaught 1998b). Oxford Archaeology North recently excavated part of the southern complex, called Site M (see above; Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007). Although some enclosures were associated with human occupation, others seem to have been used as animal pens and corrals.

In the light of the results of the ongoing excavations at Wattle Syke and previous investigations at Dalton Parlours, the 'ladder' settlement at Castle Hills may well represent another enclosure complex with potentially rich and complex archaeological remains dating from the late Iron Age through to the Roman or post-Roman periods. Some geophysical and topographical survey has been undertaken and has revealed pits and possible roundhouses (McNaught 1998b), but detailed geophysical survey of this complex by both gradiometer and resistivity techniques would be useful (S. Harrison pers. comm.). Caesium vapour magnetometry may even prove rewarding at this site.

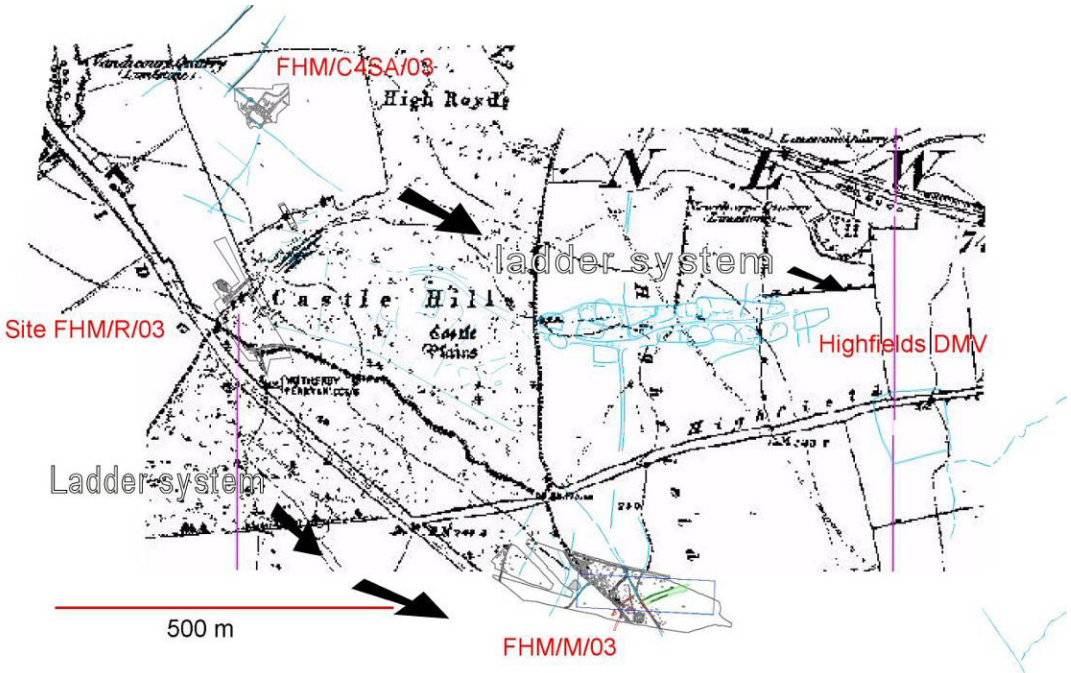


Figure G.218. *Plan of the Castle Hills, Micklefield area showing the' ladder' settlement (in blue to the right of the image), in relation to other cropmarks of trackways, boundaries and enclosures in the area. The locations of Sites M, R and C4SA investigated by Oxford Archaeology North are also indicated. (Source: © Oxford Archaeology North).*

Metal detecting finds from Micklefield. **Figure G.219. (left).** *Roman lock bolt.* **Fig. G.220 (centre).** *Trumpet-derivative brooch.* **Fig. G.221. (right).** *Miniature chisel, possibly a votive item. (Source: © PAS).*

Large numbers of objects have been recovered from the Micklefield area by metal detectorists, some of these obtained illegally by 'night hawkers'. These items again suggest Roman period settlement of some status, and with a high degree of 'Romanisation' – Roman-style lock bolts and locks, for example. An archaeological metal detecting survey should therefore be implemented to recover ploughsoil finds and save them from night hawkers, and in lieu of any future investigation this complex should be protected from any further ploughing

References: Brown, Howard-Davis and Brennand 2007; McNaught 1998b.

Darrington, Wenthill Plantation SE 4810 1825

Figure G.222. *The results of the geophysical survey at Darrington. The main foci of enclosures are just to the upper left and lower right of the centre of the image. Note too the possible trackway funnel in the northern survey area. (Source: Webb 1999).*

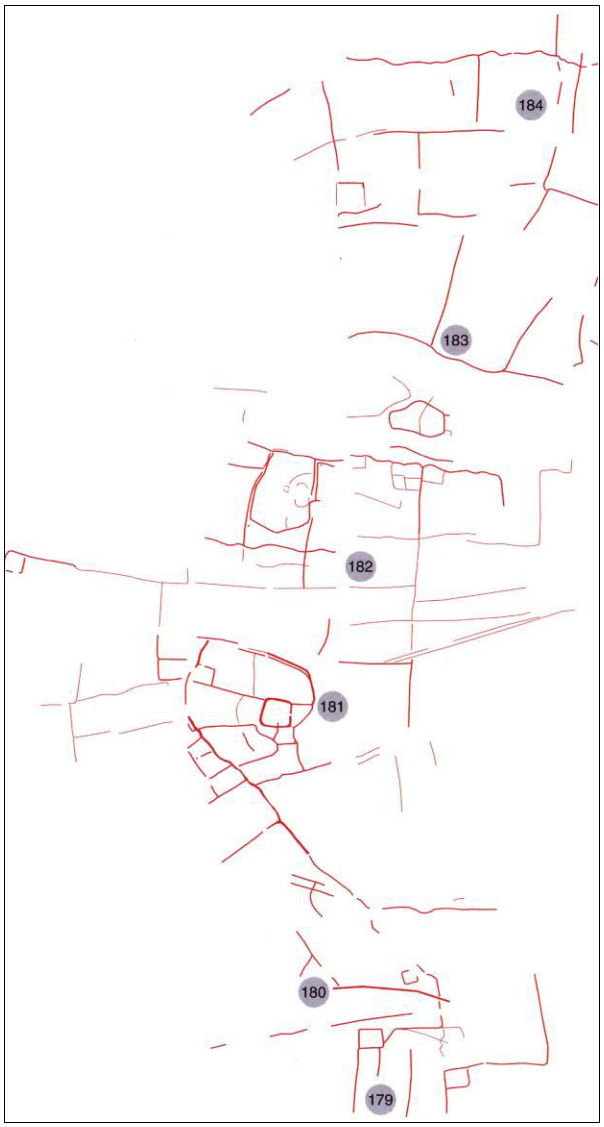
A geophysical survey undertaken by AS WYAS was commissioned by WYAAS in order to investigate an area of land north of Wenthill Plantation at Darrington. The site is situated on gently north-east sloping ground just to the north of a steep north-west to south-east running ridge, with several springs situated at the foot of this escarpment. The River Went is only *c.* 600m to the south. Aerial photographs held by WYAAS showed a possible concentration of cropmarks in this area, and finds of Roman pottery including an amphora sherd were made during fieldwalking by the Pontefract Young Archaeology Club in 1996, although these finds have subsequently been lost (Webb 1999).

The survey demonstrated the existence of a very interesting group of features, consisting of a series of major ditches laid out at right angles to the line of the ridge. Associated with these are a series of curvilinear and subrectangular enclosures, some possibly overlapping one another, several trackways and smaller boundaries representing fields and pens. Many of these features are also laid out at right angles to or parallel with the line of the scarp edge, in a manner highly reminiscent of the cropmark enclosures and boundaries at Barnburgh Cliffs in South Yorkshire (Deegan 2001c). Two converging ditches in an area to the north of the main cropmark complex may mark a major 'funnel' for concentrating livestock. Several of the enclosures also have evidence for pits and concentrated activity within their areas. Clearly, this complex seems to have been significant, and would benefit from further investigation, including more detailed fieldwalking and targeted excavation.

References: Webb 1999.

Micklefield/Hook Moor SE 4450 3450

Within Micklefield parish, north of Micklefield itself, is a series of interesting field systems, linear boundaries, trackways and enclosure complexes plotted and described by Alison Deegan on behalf of AS WYAS as part of the M1-A1 Link Road project (Deegan 2001b). These were only c. 2.5km north-west of the ladder settlement at Castle Hills (see above), on a relatively gentle east-facing slope in an undulating landscape. The general ridge that Castle Hills is itself part of forms a western side to the cropmark complex, with several east-west boundaries orientated perpendicular to this. An east-west clough now called Bragdale forms a northern edge to the main focus of enclosures, although a series of irregular and subrectangular fields continue northwards beyond this natural topographic feature. A beck rises in this clough and at the bottom of the ridge. The line of the slope is north-west to south-east, and many of the linear boundaries are aligned along this.



There are two main apparent foci of enclosures and settlement. The northernmost example, catalogued by Deegan as no. 182, is a large irregular enclosure with possible internal subdivisions, at least one possible roundhouse, and a right-angled trackway or race on its eastern side. Its northern edge forms part of an east-west corridor of movement partly defined by the Bragdale clough, with only a small irregular enclosure and a few boundaries within this depression. East is a series of small enclosures or pens. North of this on the next slope are a series of irregular and more subrectangular boundaries and fields, and several enclosures including the Hook Moor and Dawson's Wood enclosures excavated by AS WYAS (see above).

Figure G.223. (left). *Plot of the cropmarks identified north of Micklefield, including two main enclosure foci (nos. 181-182). (Source: Deegan 2001b: 26, fig. 9b).*

The southern enclosure group (no. 181) is even more complex. A sinuous, wide north-west to south-east aligned boundary ditch follows the line of the natural slope, just below its crest, and flanked by

irregular ditches broadly perpendicular to this. The irregular nature of both the major ditch and the fields next to it suggest that they were progressively added to one another over time. Downslope from the major boundary on a slight natural platform or plateau was a subrectangular enclosure with an east-facing entrance (Deegan 2001b: 19-20), set within a series of further enclosures, pens and irregular infields that seem to have developed organically around the enclosure. A short length of east-west trackway or race is situated just to the north, with a possible funnel on the north-east corner of the enclosure opening out to the north. Some of the boundaries to the east of the enclosure funnel outwards onto the higher ground. To the south are further small enclosures, corrals or livestock pens. The higher ground to the west is relatively free of boundaries, and may have originally been unenclosed grazing land. There were clearly many different phases of activity represented by the boundaries and enclosures, and the two more irregular enclosure groups and boundaries might have been incorporated within a more regular, co-axial series of fields and boundaries over time, such as those immediately to the east of 182.

Detailed geophysical survey, fieldwalking, metal detecting survey and targeted excavation would be extremely useful in establishing the nature and date of occupation of many of these features, but the time depth represented by the cropmarks may extend from the earlier Iron Age through to the late Roman period or beyond.

References: Deegan 2001b.

South Hiendley SE 4080 1330

At this locale there were at least five subrectangular or subrounded enclosures, some apparently with annexes added to them, associated with some boundaries and trackways (Yarwood and Marriott 1988a: 16-17). This was an elevated but undulating locale between 80-90m OD, and it is likely that by the late Iron Age this would have been an open area of grassland or heathland, used for upland grazing. Fieldwalking, detailed geophysical survey and targeted excavation would be beneficial here.

Figure G.224. *Plot of cropmarks at South Hiendley, showing trackways linked to five or six enclosures, many of which were probably corrals for livestock. (Source: © WYAAS).*

Figure G.225. *Some of the enclosures recorded at South Hiendley, including one irregular example associated with a trackway near the centre of the image, and a D-shaped enclosure to the lower right. (Source: D. Riley, SLAP 109, SE 409 131).*

Figure G.226. *The gently undulating landscape at South Hiendley, looking north-east across the area of the enclosures shown above. (Source: author).*

References: Yarwood and Marriott 1988a.