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Northern Archaeological Associates

**NORTH YORKSHIRE POWER PROJECT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS
AT
KNAPTON GENERATING STATION**

NAA 94/5

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EXCAVATIONS AT THE SITE OF
EAST KNAPTON GENERATING STATION

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT THE SITE OF KNAPTON GENERATING STATION

1 0 INTRODUCTION

Excavations in advance of the construction of a gas-fired generating station and access road were undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates for Scottish Power Pic during June and July 1993. Additional work was carried out on the site of the contractor's temporary compound, adjacent to the site of the generating station, in December of the same year. The site was situated near East Knapton, in Scampston parish, approximately 11.5 km east-north-east of Malton in the Vale of Pickering (Fig 1). The access road was 1.6 km long and ran eastwards from the B1258 at Knapton maltings (SE 872 765), continued south of the York to Scarborough railway line and joined the 3 hectare generating station site at Claypit Plantation (SE 888 770).

The full area of the development was situated in Scampston civil parish and all the Ordnance Survey field numbers referred to in the text are within this parish.

1 1 Previous investigations

Until recently the attention of antiquarians and archaeologists focused more on the North York Moors and the Wolds rather than on the Vale of Pickering sandwiched between the two. However, intermittent excavations from the 1950s to the present day in the Vale have demonstrated the importance of the region. At the eastern end of the Vale, the sites of Star Carr and Seamer Carr are of European significance and have produced important evidence of mesolithic activity on the margin of Lake Pickering. Further to the west, excavations at Heselton (Powlesland 1986) recorded continuity of occupation from the early prehistoric to the Anglian period. Knapton, only 3 km west of Heselton occupies a similar geomorphological position to these sites but has not been the subject of intensive archaeological investigation. Roman pottery kilns, however, were noted in the vicinity (Corder and Kirk 1932).

2 0 ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

A pre-construction programme of desktop assessment and field evaluation was undertaken prior to the excavation of the site. Aerial photographs indicated linear and curvilinear cropmarks of probable archaeological significance in the fields affected by the development. Their interpretation was made difficult by a network of modern drains and large diffuse areas of crop darkening caused by underlying geological and morphological anomalies. The results of the assessment and evaluation, including a recommended mitigation strategy were presented in report NAA 93/4 (Abramson & Cardwell 1993).

Geophysical survey of a section of the access road corridor (OS field numbers 8465 and 0071) and within the area of the generating station (OS field number 5700) clarified the nature of several cropmarks and located additional archaeological features. Results of the geophysical survey were presented in report GSB 93/25 (Gaffney 1993).

In December 1992, 31 test pits were excavated as part of a geological assessment for engineering purposes along the route of the access road and within the generating station site. This was monitored by NAA and two features of archaeological significance were recorded. A detailed description of the

investigation incorporating both archaeological and pedological data was presented in report NAA 93/1 (Abramson & Cardwell 1993)

3 0 **METHODOLOGY**

Topsoil removal began at the western end of the access road where it joined the B1258 East Knapton to Snarnton road and continued eastwards towards the site of the generating station. It was undertaken with a 360 degree tracked excavator with a toothless bucket and was carried out under archaeological supervision throughout. The width of the corridor under investigation varied between 12m to 16m although in Field 1 topsoil was also removed from a narrower temporary access road leading to a works compound in the north-eastern corner of the field. This road corridor was 6m wide and the area stripped of topsoil within the compound measured approximately 22m by 22m.

At the eastern end of the development an area measuring 20m by 45m within Field 6 did not have its topsoil removed. The geophysical survey had identified a cluster of subcircular, 'pit-like' anomalies within an area designated as a bund on the western side of the field and these were preserved *in situ*.

Work started on the site of a temporary works compound adjacent to the western bund in Field 6 in December, after the completion of the main excavations. The procedures adopted for monitoring the topsoil stripping and recording archaeological features were the same as those employed for the access road and generating station.

The individual features in each field were planned and where possible each feature was at least sample sectioned. Where closely spaced features of a similar nature were encountered, only a representative sample was investigated.

Soil samples for flotation were obtained from those deposits which appeared rich in organic or burnt material. Dry sieving of feature fills was undertaken in order to establish whether small artefacts were present.

4 0 **SITE RECORDING**

The fields affected by the development are numbered Fields 1 to 6 in the report, starting at the west end of the access road. The corresponding OS numbers are as follows,

Field 1	-----	OS 3556
Field 2	-----	OS 5867
Field 3	-----	OS 8465
Field 4	-----	OS 0071
Field 5	-----	OS 3300
Field 6	-----	OS 5700
Field 7	-----	OS 5700

Context numbers began in Field 1 at 1000 in Field 2 at 2000 and proceeded in sequence to the 7000s in Field 6.

5 0 THE EXCAVATION RESULTS

5 1 Field 1 (Fig 2a)

No cropmarks were visible in Field 1 although they were recorded in fields to the west and south. Forty sherds of Roman pottery and a slightly higher concentration of medieval pottery than in the other fields were recorded during the rapid field survey. A shallow slot was excavated and recorded within Test Pit 3 and this was later identified during the excavation as part of a larger group of slots.

The principal features within Field 1 included a rectilinear enclosure and two ring ditches situated at the western end of the field. The enclosure probably stretched between ditches 1004 and 1022 and measured 104m east to west and continued for 22m on a north to south alignment before running into the edge of site. The parallel ditches 1004 and 1006 were 6.6m apart and measured 0.7m wide by 0.16m deep and 1.6m wide by 0.4m deep respectively. The different dimensions suggested that the ditches were dug at different times, but later Roman pottery came from both ditches and it is possible that they formed a double boundary to the enclosure on its western side. On its south side the enclosure ditch merged into a relict stream channel. A section cut across the stream channel revealed a sequence of four cuts and recuts (1099) each with a dark, organic basal fill sealed by a dark grey and brown silty sand, different in character from the paler fills of most other features in the field. The evidence indicated that the channel had been canalised, probably to control the water flow. Further evidence of relict stream channels was obtained in Fields 2 and 5.

Ring ditches 1014 and 1016 lay 30m and 80m to the east of the enclosure's external west ditch and were likely to have been the foundation trenches or drainage gullies of two round houses (structures 1100 and 1101). Structure 1100 measured 10.8m in diameter and the only internal feature was a shallow pit (1010) of unknown function. Structure 1101 was slightly smaller and measured 9.5m in diameter. A small area of burnt soil (1018) was situated close to its centre and a sherd of Huntcliff ware was recovered from the fill of gully 1016.

Pit 1076 was situated *c* 6m to the south-east of house 1100 and contained several carbonised seeds of hulled barley and oats in its fills (1044 and 1051). Huntley, in the palaeoenvironmental assessment, (Appendix III), suggested that a late to post-Roman date would be appropriate although a date as early as the Iron Age could be considered. Finds from the fills of this pit also included several small fragments of animal bone, a burnt flint flake and 11 sherds of Roman pottery, the latest of which was assigned to the later Roman period. The pit's close proximity to structure 1100 and the presence of later Roman pottery in each feature supports a contemporary usage for them both. A curvilinear slot (1048) immediately to the west of structure 1100 may have been the surviving remains of a third circular structure.

Several north to south aligned slots (1028, 1043) were present within the enclosure but only ditch 1026 extended northwards from the enclosure boundary. It also cut through structure 1100 and was therefore a land division created after the house went out of use, possibly as the area became progressively more waterlogged.

A series of four north to south aligned slots (1020, 1024, 1094-95) situated to the east of the enclosure were likely to have been field boundaries. In common with the boundaries of the enclosure, the southern end of these slots merged into the relict stream channel. Two small pits (1038 and 1082) were situated between two of the slots. A flint flake and two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the fill of the latter.

Fifty metres to the east of ditch 1024 a group of seven slots (1030, 1032, 1034, 1040, 1078, 1080 and 1085) aligned on a north to south axis cut across the corridor. Only one of the slots, 1032, contained pottery which was dated to the first or second century AD. The function of this tightly-knit group of slots could not be ascertained.

5.2 Field 2 (Fig 2b)

Cropmarks were not recorded in Field 2 but a moderate density of Roman pottery was recorded during the rapid field survey. A slot recorded in Test Pit 6 was later identified as a field boundary during the excavation.

A relict stream channel at the western end of Field 2 was likely to be a continuation of a major channel recorded to the north of the railway line. It appeared not to have been affected by canalisation, and the first identified field boundary ditch (2025) was recorded c 20m to the east of the channel.

A second boundary ditch (2039), 32m east of 2025, ran across the corridor and a curved slot (2017) and a pit (2030) were situated between the two ditches. The slot contained four sherds of pottery including Crambeck ware of the late third-fourth century. The fill of the pit (2031) was sampled for environmental evidence and carbonised seeds of bread/club wheat were regarded by Huntley as being of medieval date or later. A cluster of three circular pits (2002, 2007 and 2009) to the east of pit 2030 were characterised by an organic, peaty fill which was sampled for environmental evidence. Seeds recovered from the fill of 2009 were indicative of aquatic conditions and further supported the argument for waterlogged conditions on the site. A small amount of coal and clinker was recovered from the flots from the primary fill of pit 2007. There was no evidence to indicate the purpose of the pits and it is possible that they were water-filled hollows which gradually accumulated organic material during the post-glacial period. Pit 2007 was cut by a linear, east to west aligned slot (2006) which also cut through boundary ditch 2039.

5.3 Field 3 (Fig 2c)

Field 3 marked the western extent of the cropmarks associated with SMR 3376. The field had not been fieldwalked prior to topsoil stripping due to crop growth at the time of the survey but it was considered that geophysical survey would clarify and possibly enhance the evidence of the aerial photographs. The survey was restricted to the eastern end of the field and plotted several of the ditches belonging to the Roman field system.

At the western end of the field two slots (3004/3044 and 3013) formed a right angle and a large circular pit (3029) was recorded at the point where they joined. A possible tree bowl ran into the slot at its north-eastern end. Continuing eastwards, a north to south slot (3072) was situated adjacent to two ditches which again formed a right angle but they looked more likely to define part of a field system than the arrangement of slots described above. Ditch 3010 was aligned north to south and crossed the full 14m width of the corridor. It measured 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep. Three sherds of later Roman pottery were recovered from its fill (3011). Half way along its length a second ditch (3006) ran westwards for 39m before turning to the north. It then continued for 5.5m and entered the northern limit of excavation. It measured 1.5m wide and 0.4m deep. This field system may also have included the north to south orientated ditches (3023, 3040, 3059 and 3070) that lay to the east of ditch 3010. The spacing between them was broadly equidistant, with the exception of the outlying ditch 3070.

Slots 3019 and 3021 formed a possible trackway lying adjacent to field boundary 3023. Slots 3052 and 3056 may also have defined a track, but these were less clear and could not be plotted across the full width of the corridor.

5.4 Field 4 (Fig 3a)

Cropmarks were recorded within the field, but these were unclear and difficult to distinguish from an overlying network of drains. The field had been freshly ploughed at the time of the rapid field survey, and perhaps because the surface had not been 'washed' and exposed to the elements for a long enough period, no finds were recorded. A geophysical survey across the full length of the field was undertaken along the line of the road corridor. The east-west aligned modern slot at the western end of the field, and also at least one of the Roman field boundaries were plotted by the survey.

On excavation, only eight archaeological features were recorded in Field 4. All of the features were linear ditches, and of these four were probably post-medieval. Of the remaining ditches, three (4001, 4005 and 4007) were sample sectioned but did not produce any finds. Ditch 4026 remained unexcavated and ran parallel to ditch 4005.

A machine-dug sondage through a wide linear feature at the west end of the field exposed a series of parallel ditches which appeared to have been recut. These were considered to be contemporary with the existing trackway which divided Fields 4 and 5 and were not of archaeological significance.

5.5 Field 5 (Fig 4b)

No cropmarks extended into Field 5 but a moderate density of later Roman pottery was recorded during the rapid field survey.

Four north to south aligned, linear features were probably of archaeological significance, but only one of these (5010) contained Roman pottery of first or second century date. The irregular profile of this feature indicated that it may have been a relict stream channel. The remaining three features (ditches 5001, 5005 and 5015) were probably components of a field system. Two ditches at the eastern end of the field contained modern material in their fills. Three circular features with peat-rich fills, were investigated and were probably natural.

5.6 Field 6

The area initially under investigation in Field 6 comprised the last stretch of access road and the generating station area. At a later date, the area of a temporary works compound in the same field was also investigated (see 5.6.3 below). The access road measured approximately 280m long and 13m wide. The generating station area measured 200m north to south by 170m east to west. The fills of many of the excavated features became progressively more organic-rich and peaty as the excavation continued eastwards. This was likely to be a result of the clay sub-soil rising closer to the surface and inhibiting drainage on this part of the site.

No cropmarks were visible in Field 6 but a total of 154 sherds of pottery was recovered during intensive fieldwalking of selected areas of the field. The majority of the assemblage was composed of undistinguished wall sherds in a dark grey or black calcite gritted fabric, most of them likely to have come from jars. All the sherds were considerably abraded.

On excavation only a limited number of archaeological features were identified and recorded, with Roman pottery being found in only four features (6004, 6071, 6072/6073/6074 and 6069), the latter being a spread of sub-soil in a depression in the natural

5 6.1 Access road (Fig 3c)

Several irregularly shaped features filled with a dark, organic peaty soil were investigated in the road corridor and were found to be natural. There were several ditches of recent date. The latter appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1856 as a boundary running north to south and dividing Field 6 into two. The feature was later recorded during the excavation of the contractors temporary compound (see section 5 6 3 below). The only features of possible archaeological significance were two ditches (6023 and 6029) which appeared to meet at a right angle immediately beyond the southern edge of the corridor.

5 6 2 Generating station site (Fig 4)

The features in the area of the generating station could be divided into two categories, well-defined linear ditches, and amorphous curvilinear gullies. Included in the first category are ditches 6002 and 6004/6006 in the northeast corner of the site, ditch 6010 to the west and ditch 6068 on the extreme southern side of the field. The last two do not appear on the OS first edition map and are likely to be associated with the Romano-British field system. No pottery was recovered from their fills. The series of ditches in the northeast corner of the site were less extensive than those discussed above and pottery from the fill of cut 6004 was of 2nd or 3rd century AD date.

The curvilinear features were located mainly at the southern end of the field. They were difficult to distinguish from natural gullies, although slots 6071 and 6072 contained Roman pottery. Features 6058 to 6066 formed a rather uneven line but the absence of finds and the uneven alignment suggested that they may have been natural. It was not possible to determine a function for these deposits. The largest assemblage of Roman pottery was retrieved from a sub-soil layer (6069) filling a natural depression. It was also associated with medieval and modern glazed wares.

5 6 3 Contractor's temporary compound (Fig 4)

The site of a contractors temporary works compound was located alongside the western edge of the generating station compound bund. The area that was topsoiled measured 138m north to south and 82m east to west. Two features were recorded. The first was a north to south orientated ditch (7002) which ran for the full length of the stripped area and had also been recorded during the excavations along the access road. The feature appears on the first edition OS map of 1854 as a field boundary.

The second feature (7009), was also linear and ran in a northwest direction for 30m from the southern edge of the excavation before gradually fading away. It was possibly a partially canalised relict stream channel. No finds were recovered from either of the features.

6 0 CONCLUSION

The most commonly excavated and recorded features along the road corridor and on the site of the generating station were the linear ditches of a Romano-British field system. The ditches were mostly aligned north to south and were more numerous in

Fields 1, 3, and 4 In the case of Fields 3 and 4 this largely confirmed the evidence of the aerial photographs, but no cropmarks were recorded in Field 1

The function of the two ring ditches in Field 1 could have been structural, and if so, they provided the only direct evidence of settlement recorded on the excavation. However, the presence of a field boundary ditch cutting through the western house suggests that the area reverted to an agricultural use. This is significant and could indicate that settlement in this area of the Vale was not sustainable, possibly because of persistent flooding. The presence of seeds of aquatic species from the palaeoenvironmental samples points to a waterlogged environment and the numerous relict stream channels and a clay sub-soil provides the field evidence to substantiate this. The sequence of recuts recorded in a section across one such channel in Field 1 indicated that the stream had been canalised and periodically cleaned out to prevent it from silting up. It is likely that it had been incorporated into the network of field boundaries. This is common practice today and several of the fields along the access road corridor are bordered by water-filled drains.

A relatively small assemblage of pottery was recovered from the excavation and it was mostly calcite-gritted wares of later Roman date. Drawing a comparison with the field survey assemblage, it was clear that the quantity and distribution of sherds recorded in the topsoil did not directly equate to the density and location of the excavated features. The dates of the two assemblages however, compared favourably. In Field 6 in particular it was unlikely that much of the the topsoil assemblage was derived from the features recorded during the excavation. Instead, it probably originated from elsewhere and arrived on the site as a result of manuring.

Several trends can be inferred from the results, firstly the density of archaeological features became progressively greater towards the western end of the site. The concentration of field boundaries and the two structures within a large enclosure suggest that the focus of settlement activity is probably in the vicinity of Field 1. Secondly, the organic content within the fills of the archaeological and natural features increased towards the eastern end of the site. This was predominantly a function of the rising level of clay deposits in the sub-strata. Soil samples taken from natural and archaeological deposits may provide information on the development of the soil profile from the early post-glacial period. At the time of writing these samples are being prepared for analysis at Newcastle University Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. The results will be included in the report of the pipeline construction phase of the North Yorkshire Power Project.

Northern Archaeological Associates
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Report NAA 94/5
Text Jenny Lee, Philip Abramson and Peter Cardwell
Illustrations R K Simpson

Appendix I

The drawn record in the site archive

Within the archive is an A4 1:10,000 map showing a plan of the access road and generating station area in relation to West Knapton, The Maltings and the railway line

There are also 1:1250 location maps showing the excavated area in each field in more detail

Each field has a composite 1:200 plan showing features, whether excavated or not. Because of its large size, Field 6/5700 needed 5 plans to cover its area

1:200 plans can be found on the following A1 sheet numbers,

Field	A1 sheet no	Drawing no
1/3556	10	10
2/5867	212	213
3/8465	311	323
4/0071	410	413
5/3300	510	515
6/5700	627	657
	628	658
	629	659
	630	660
	631	661

Each field had its own grid. A baseline was constructed along the direction of the access road corridor and the easting started at 100 for each field. The northing was set at the field number multiplied by 100. For example, Field 2 grid began around 100/200 and Field 4 at around 100/400. The exceptions to this were Field 1 which began at 10/10, and Field 6 which began at 50/90.

Appendix II

Context Descriptions

FIELD 1/3556

ROMANO-BRITISH

Cut 1004

A linear ditch which ran north to south and turned to the east at the south end and continued for about 3m before being truncated by the relict stream 1008. 1004 entered the north baulk and was therefore probably more than 22m long. It was 0.7m wide and 0.16m deep with a flat base and fairly gently angled sides.

Fill 1003

This deposit was the fill of 1004 and consisted of a fairly compacted mid to light greyish brown clayey sand. It contained occasional charcoal flecks and sherds of locally made Roman pottery. About 0.04m of the fill was removed during topsoil stripping.

Cut 1006

This feature was a linear ditch which ran parallel to 1004 and also turned to the east at its southern end. An uncertain edge indicated that this east to west section continued for about 10 m. The north to south section was more than 19m long, running under the north baulk. It was 1.6m wide and 0.4m deep with a flat base and slightly convex sides.

Fill 1005

This deposit was the fill of 1006 and consisted of a moderately compacted mid to light brown clayey sand. It contained occasional charcoal flecks, occasional sub-angular flint pebbles about 0.01m long. There were also sherds of Roman pottery.

Cut 1016

This feature was a curvilinear ditch forming a ring ditch with an outer diameter of 9.5m. The width of the actual ditch was up to 1m and the depth 0.3m. The base of the ditch was rounded with convex or straight sides. The full extent of the ring ditch was not visible owing to the narrowness of the trench but one ditch terminal was recorded on the south-east side.

Fill 1015

This deposit was the fill of 1016 and consisted of a moderately soft grey or greyish brown clayey sand. It contained lenses of pale yellow sand, occasional charcoal flecks and occasional angular flint pebbles about 0.01m wide. There were also sherds of Roman pottery and animal bone fragments.

Cut 1026

This linear ditch ran north to south, was up to 1.5m wide and 0.4m deep. 13m of this ditch was visible in the trench, it had a rounded base with a convex edge on the west side and a concave edge on the east side. 1026 cut ditch 1012.

Fill 1025

This deposit was the fill of 1026 and consisted of a moderately compact yellowish brown clayey sand with occasional charcoal flecks. One sherd of pottery with a sandy fabric was recovered from this fill.

Cut 1032

This linear feature was a shallow ditch which ran north to south across the full width of the trench, i.e. 13m. It had a U-shaped profile, was 1m wide and 0.3m deep. It was filled by 1031 and 1041.

Fill 1041

This deposit was the lower fill of 1032 and consisted of a sticky dark grey silty clay with brown mottling. It contained dark brown organic material and was 0.05m deep. It was sealed by 1031.

Fill 1031

This upper fill consisted of a moderately compacted mid-brownish grey clayey sand with occasional charcoal flecks, Roman pottery and animal bone. It sealed 1041.

Cut 1076

A feature of uncertain shape but probably a shallow sub-circular pit. A box section dug through this dark spread ascertained that this feature was at least 0.4m deep and 3.8m wide east to west. It had a gently angled slope to the east and a steeper straight edge on the west with a rounded base. It was filled by 1044, 1051 and 1075.

Fill 1075

This deposit was the lower fill of 1076 and consisted of a fairly soft mid-blueish grey silty sand. It was 0.12m deep and sealed by 1051.

Fill 1051

This fill, which sealed 1075, consisted of a fairly soft mainly grey sand 0.04m thick sandwiched between a 0.02m thick lens of organic brown silty sand, and a 0.02m thick lens of dark grey black silty sand. It contained sherds of Roman pottery and animal bone including some burnt fragments. A flint flake was also recovered.

Fill 1044

The upper fill consisted of a moderately soft mid-blue/grey silty sand with moderate charcoal flecks and fragments, frequent ashy material and occasional burnt bone. It was 0.13m deep and sealed 1051.

Cut 1080

A linear 14m long feature which ran north to south across the full width of the access road trench. It was 1.37m wide and 0.47m deep with a rounded base. The west edge of this feature was angled gently whereas the east edge was slightly convex and steeper. One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this ditch. It was filled by 1079, 1086, 1087 and 1088.

Fill 1088

This lower fill of 1080 consisted of a compact pale to mid-greyish brown silty clayey sand. It was 0.2m deep and was sealed by 1087.

Fill 1087

This fill of 1080 consisted of a compact orangey brown silty clay with grey mottling. It contained occasional angular flint pebbles and was 0.14m deep. It was sealed by 1086.

Fill 1086

This consisted of a compact pale brownish silty clayey sand with occasional sub-angular flint pebbles. It was 0.1m thick and was sealed by 1079.

Fill 1079

The upper fill, which sealed 1086, consisted of a firm light brown sand with black and orange mottles. It was 0.08m thick and contained occasional small angular flint pebbles up to 0.01m wide.

Cut 1082

This feature was an irregular shaped pit, roughly oval measuring 0.7m wide east to west, 1.6m long north to south and 0.56m deep. The sides were uneven, for example the east edge near the half section was steeply concave to a depth of 0.31m then stepped before joining the base at 0.4m. The west side near the half section had been affected by slumping of the natural sand which the pit had been cut into, and was therefore markedly steep and convex. It was filled by 1081, 1083, 1089 and 1091.

Cut 1054

This ditch was 0.41m deep, 1.2m wide and cut ditches 1053 and 1055. It had a U shaped profile with a shallow stepped southern edge and was filled by 1061, 1063 and 1064.

Fill 1064

This primary fill consisted of a compact black sand and contained occasional degraded chalk fragments and occasional water-worn flint fragments. It was 0.01m deep and was sealed by 1063.

Fill 1063

Consisted of a compact dark brown silty sand with frequent degraded chalk fragments. It measured 0.23m thick and was sealed by 1061.

Fill 1061

The upper fill of 1054, which sealed 1063, consisted of a compact brown silty sand with occasional degraded chalk fragments. It measured 0.16m thick. There were no finds from these fills.

Cut 1056

This ditch cut 1055 and extended past the southern edge of the sondage. It was therefore more than 0.71m wide and 0.39m deep. The base was slightly concave and the northern edge was bi-concave. It was filled by 1069, 1070, 1072 and 1073.

Fill 1073

The lower fill of 1056 consisted of a firm dark grey silty sand with occasional degraded chalk fragments and water-worn flint fragments. It was 0.06m thick and was sealed by 1072.

Fill 1072

Consisted of a firm dark grey silty sand and was 0.03m thick. It was sealed by 1070.

Fill 1070

Consisted of a compact dark yellowish brown silty clay with frequent degraded chalk fragments. It measured 0.35m thick and was sealed by 1069.

Fill 1069

The upper fill of 1056, which sealed 1070, consisted of a compact brown silty sand with occasional degraded chalk fragments. It measured 0.19m thick. There were no finds from these fills.

Layer 1060

This deposit was a layer which sealed the ditch fills. It was a friable grey silty sand and contained occasional degraded chalk fragments. It was 0.18m thick and no finds were recovered from this deposit.

Layer 1059

This layer consisted of a firm very dark grey silty sand with occasional degraded chalk fragments and was 0.11m thick. No finds were recovered from this layer.

Layer 1058

This layer consisted of a firm dark brown silty sand with occasional tree roots. It was 1.05m wide and 0.22m deep. There were no finds.

Layer 1057

This upper layer in the sondage consisted of a firm very dark greyish brown silty sand. It measured 1.91m wide and 0.12m deep. One minute fragment of copper alloy was recovered from this layer and recorded as being m 2036.

UNKNOWN DATE

Cut 1010

This small feature was a shallow circular pit 0.65m in diameter, 0.06m deep with a rounded base and concave shallow angled sides

Fill 1009

The fill of 1010 consisted of a compact dark grey clayey sand with occasional mottles of orange sand. There were no finds.

Cut 1012

A shallow curvilinear ditch which ran roughly north-west to south-east. It measured about 5.5m long, 0.4m wide and 0.15m deep. It had a rounded base with fairly steep straight sides. It may have formed a ring ditch with cut 1014.

Fill 1011

This deposit consisted of a moderately soft dark brownish grey clayey sand. It contained occasional angular flint pebbles up to 0.01m wide. There were no finds.

Cut 1014

This feature was a curvilinear ditch which ran roughly north-east to south-west. It measured about 6m long, 0.5m wide and 0.05m deep. The base was flat with concave sides. This feature may have formed a ring ditch with 1012.

Fill 1013

This fill of 1014 consisted of a moderately soft mid brownish grey clayey sand. There were occasional charcoal flecks and occasional flint pebbles up to 0.01m wide. There were no finds.

Cut 1018

This feature was a very small circular depression only 0.15m in diameter and 0.05m deep with a rounded base and straight fairly steep sides.

Fill 1017

The fill of 1018 consisted of a moderately soft pale reddish grey silty sand. There were no finds.

Cut 1020

This linear ditch which ran north to south was more than 10m long, 1.3m wide and 0.28m deep. It had a flat base and concave sides.

Fill 1019

The fill of 1020 consisted of a moderately compact mid to light brownish grey sand with occasional charcoal flecks. There were no finds.

Cut 1022

This linear feature was not excavated. It was 5m long and 1.5m wide. It ran parallel to 1020 about 4m to the west of 1020.

Cut 1024

This linear feature was not excavated. It ran north to south for the full width of the trench i.e. 11m, and was 0.9m wide.

Cut 1028

A linear ditch which was orientated north to south and visible in the trench for 7m. It was 1m wide and 0.22m deep. The base was rounded with slightly steep concave sides.

Fill 1027

The fill of 1028 consisted of a moderately soft mid to light brownish grey clayey sand. It contained occasional manganese flecks and occasional angular flint pebbles.

Cut 1030

A linear ditch which was also orientated north to south and ran across the full width of the trench i.e. 14m. It was 0.16m deep, 0.5m wide with a flat base and slightly convex sides.

Fill 1029

The fill of 1030 consisted of a moderately soft rich dark brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and chalk flecks. There were no finds.

Cut 1034

This feature was a curvilinear ditch that curved north east to south east across the full width of the trench i.e. 13.5m. It was 1m wide and 0.17m deep with a rounded base and shallow angled convex edges.

Fill 1033

The fill of 1034 consisted of a soft rich dark brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and chalk flecks. There were no finds.

Cut 1038

This small oval shaped pit was 0.5m wide, 0.7m long and 0.06m deep. It had a flat base with shallow angled concave sides.

Fill 1037

The fill of 1038 consisted of a soft mid reddish brown silty sand. There were no finds.

Cut 1040

A linear north to south running ditch which ran across the full width of the trench i.e. 13m. It was 0.6m wide, 0.33m deep with a sharp 'V' shaped profile. It ran closely parallel to 1032.

Fill 1039

The fill of 1040 consisted of a moderately compact dark brownish grey silty clayey sand. It contained a moderate amount of manganese fragments, occasional rounded pebbles and some patches of pale yellow sand. There were no finds.

Cut 1043

A linear ditch, this feature ran north to south across the full width of the temporary access road. It was 0.5m wide, 0.1m deep with a flat base and straight shallow sides.

Fill 1042

The fill of 1043 consisted of a moderately compact mid brownish grey silty sand. It contained occasional manganese flecks and occasional angular flint pebbles. There were no finds.

Cut 1048

This small curvilinear ditch was orientated roughly north east to south west. Measuring approximately 4m long it was 0.18m deep and 0.4m wide.

Fill 1047

The fill of 1048 consisted of a moderately soft pale brownish grey clayey silty sand. It contained occasional charcoal flecks occasional patches of pale yellow and pale orange sand. There were no finds in this feature.

Cut 1078

This linear feature was approximately 5m long and ran north to south from the north baulk of the access road to the edge of Test Pit 3. It was 1.6m wide, 0.08m deep with a flat base and shallow straight sides. It cut ditch 1085.

Fill 1077

The fill of 1078 consisted of a loose to firm dark reddish brown sandy clay loam with occasional flint. There were no finds.

Cut 1085

This linear feature also ran from the north baulk of the access road to the edge of Test Pit 3. It was 0.53m wide, 0.24m deep with a 'U' shaped profile.

Fill 1084

The fill of 1085 consisted of a loose to firm mid yellowish brown sandy clay loam with occasional flint. There were no finds.

Cut 1093

This linear ditch was recorded in Test Pit 2 but not found during the main excavation. It measured 0.4m wide, 0.28m deep and 1.5m long, the width of the Test Pit. The base was rounded and the sides were straight.

Fill 1092

The fill of 1093 consisted of a moderately compact mid grey sand with some flint gravel. There were no finds from this feature.

NATURAL FEATURES

Cut 1008

This feature was roughly curvilinear and ran east to west. It measured 1.5m wide, only 0.15m deep and about 10m long with a slightly rounded base and shallow concave sides.

Fill 1007

The fill of 1008 consisted of a moderately soft mottled rich dark brown and mid grey silty clayey sand. It contained occasional charcoal flecks and occasional flint pebbles. There were no finds.

FIELD 2/5867

ROMANO-BRITISH

Cut 2006

A narrow linear ditch which ran 42m east to west before turning 90 degrees northwards at its western end and gradually petering out. The ditch measured up to 0.2m deep and 0.65m wide, with a 'U' shaped profile. The ditch was filled with 2005.

Fill 2005

A loose, mid-red/brown clayey sand with occasional fragments of mussel shell and chalk. The deposit was the fill of ditch 2006.

Cuts 2017 and 2019

The two context numbers relate to sections cut across the same feature. The feature was a 'horn' shaped curvilinear hollow whose north end was its narrowest point and which widened to the south to 3m before entering the south bank of the access road. It measured 0.23m deep and had a flat base. Filled with 2018 and 2020.

Fill 2018

A friable humic dark brown silt with patches of greyish blue clay and occasional angular fragments of flint gravel and fragments of Roman pottery. The deposit was the fill of cut 2017.

Fill 2020

A friable dark brown humic silt with a depth of 0.06m deep. The deposit was the fill of cut 2019.

UNDATED PIT GROUP

Pit 2007

An oval shaped pit which measured 2.8m long north to south, 2m long east to west with a depth of 0.53m. It had a flat base with stepped concave sides. The pit was filled with deposits 2008, 2011-15 and 2022.

Fill 2014

A firm dark grey sand with a thickness of 0.09m. The deposit was the fill of cut 2007. This was a primary fill of 2007 which was sealed by 2013.

Fill 2015

A firm dark grey sand with a thickness of 0.12m. The deposit was a primary fill of 2007 and was also sealed by 2013.

Fill 2013

A firm very dark grey silty clay with inclusions of organic material. The deposit was 0.18m thick and was contained within cut 2007. It was sealed by 2012.

Fill 2012

A black organic silty clay which measured 0.15m thick and was contained within cut 2007, sealed by 2011.

Fill 2011

A firm, very dark greyish brown sandy clayey loam with lenses of yellow and black sand. The deposit measured 0.14m thick and was contained within cut 2007. It was sealed by 2008.

Fill 2022

A firm grey silty sand which measured 0.15m thick and was contained within cut 2007. This fill was also sealed by 2008.

Fill 2008

A firm black silty sand which was the latest fill of cut 2007 and measured 0.07m thick, this sealed fill 2011

Pit 2009

A circular pit 3m in diameter and 0.43m deep. It had a flat base with a gently angled eastern edge and a slightly convex western edge. The pit was filled with deposit 2010.

Fill 2010

The fill of 2009 consisted of 5 compact layers. The primary fill was 0.15m thick and it consisted of a mid-orange brown silty clay. Above this were two lenses of dark grey to black organic material, between which lay a lens of grey clayey sand. The upper fill consisted of a mid-orange brown clayey silt.

Pit 2030

This pit was only partially recorded as it continued beyond the edge of the trench. The recorded plan was roughly semi-circular in shape and it measured 2m north to south and 4m east to west with a depth of 0.65m. The north edge only was visible in section and was irregular and stepped. The base was concave. The pit was filled with 2026, 2031-33 and 2036.

Fill 2026

A sticky black clayey sandy peat with lenses of yellow sand. It contained occasional chalk fragments and frequent fragments of wood and bark. The deposit was 0.2m thick and was the primary fill of pit 2030 and sealed by 2033.

Fill 2033

A sticky grey clay which measured 0.07m thick and was contained within cut 2030 and sealed by 2036.

Fill 2036

A sticky yellowish grey clay which measured 0.05m thick and was contained within cut 2030 and sealed by 2032.

Fill 2032

A friable black silt with brown mottles and occasional inclusions of gravel and frequent wood fragments. The deposit measured 0.08m thick and was contained within cut 2030. It was sealed by 2031, the latest fill of 2030.

Fill 2031

A very compact mid-greyish brown clayey sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments. It measured 0.16m thick and was the latest fill of cut 2030.

UNDATED DITCHES

Cut 2025

A linear ditch which ran north to south for 13m across the full width of the access road trench. The ditch measured 1.2m wide and 0.37m deep. The base was flat and the sides were slightly convex. The ditch was filled with deposits 2027-29.

Fill 2029

The primary fill of 2025 consisted of a friable mottled greyish brown sand and measured 0.07m thick.

Fill 2028

A compacted dark grey silty clay with reddish brown mottles. The deposit was contained within 2025.

Fill 2027

A compacted light greyish brown silty sand with occasional water-worn flint fragments. The deposit measured 0.27m thick.

Cut 2039

A linear ditch which ran 13m north to south across the full width of the access road trench. It was located 33m to the east of ditch 2025 and measured 0.75m wide and 0.38m deep. It was straight sided with a shallow gradient and a rounded base. This ditch was excavated during the digging of Test Pit 6, not during the main excavation. The ditch was filled with deposit 2038.

Fill 2038

A moderately compact dark grey humic sand with inclusions of flint gravel. The deposit was contained within cut 2039.

RELICT STREAM BED CHANNELS

Cut 2021

A curvilinear feature which headed southwest from the northern baulk of the access road and then curved to the south with perhaps another stream bed joining it from the east. It measured about 20m long, 2m wide increasing to 8m, and was 0.37m deep. Due to the nature of the feature its edges could not be precisely defined. It was filled with deposit 2037.

Fill 2037

A soft sandy silt the colour of which varied from grey to white and yellow. The deposit was contained within the relict stream bed 2021.

Cut 2023

A well-defined linear feature which emerged from the west edge of the field and ran east for approximately 80m before turning into the south baulk of the access road corridor. It was 0.28m deep and 2.46m wide, with a fairly flat base. The northern edge was shallow and convex and the southern edge was steep and concave. The feature was filled by deposit 2024.

Fill 2024

A slightly compacted light to mid-brown/grey sandy silt with many inclusions of purple/black manganese. The deposit was contained within cut 2023.

Cut 2041

A wide curvilinear feature which emerged from the western edge of the field baulk and ran approximately 90m into the northern baulk of the access road corridor. The base was not visible in section owing to the level of the water table. The edges were very shallow and slightly concave. The feature was filled with deposits 2040, 2042 and 2044-45.

Fill 2045

A moderately compacted mid-brown clayey sand and sandy clay with occasional lenses of mottled yellow and grey sand. The deposit measured more than 0.4m thick and was contained within cut 2041.

Fill 2040

A compacted mid-brown sandy clay with occasional chalk flecks. It measured more than 0.4m thick and was contained within cut 2041.

Fill 2042

A moderately soft patchy orange, greyish brown and pale yellow clayey sand. It measured more than 0.4m thick and was contained within cut 2041.

Fill 2044

A moderately compacted mixed orange and pale yellow patches of sand, and mid-grey clayey sand with occasional manganese flecks and rounded pebbles. It measured more than 0.4m thick. This deposit was one of the upper fills of 2041.

Fill 2043

A compacted mid-grey brown sandy clay with occasional small rounded pebbles and manganese flecks. The deposit measured more than 0.4m thick and was contained within cut 2041.

NATURAL FEATURES

Cut 2002

A circular pit which measured 0.61m diameter wide and 0.1m deep. It had a rounded base and shallow, concave sides. The pit was filled with deposit 2001.

Fill 2001

Soft alternating lenses of pale greyish brown sand and dark brown sandy silt with occasional small fragments of chalk. The deposit was contained within pit 2002.

Cut 2034

A sub-circular depression which measured 0.61m in diameter and 0.11m deep. The base was fairly flat and the sides were shallow and concave. The depression was filled with deposit 2035.

Fill 2035

A slightly compacted dark brown to black clayey sand with lenses of light and dark grey clayey sand. The deposit was contained within depression 2034.

FIELD 3/8465

ROMANO-BRITISH

Cut 3006

This linear ditch was orientated east to west for 39m before turning north for 5.5m and entering the north baulk of the access road trench. At the eastern end this ditch joined ditch 3010, no relationship was visible in plan. 3006 measured 1.5m wide and 0.41m deep with a concave base. The sides varied in profile, being slightly convex and in places, stepped. It was filled by 3005, 3006 and 3033.

Fill 3012

This primary fill consisted of a moderately compact dark grey sandy clayey silt. It contained occasional organic material and was 0.13m thick. It was sealed by 3033.

Fill 3033

This fill consisted of a loose light to mid orangeish grey clayey sand. It contained occasional manganese nodules and measured 0.48m deep, and was sealed by 3005.

Fill 3005

The top fill of 3006 consisted of a moderately compact grey with orange mottling sandy silt. It contained occasional manganese flecks and small angular and sub angular pebbles. It measured 0.29m in depth and sealed 3033.

Cut 3010

This linear ditch ran north to south across the full width of the trench, i.e. 14m. It measured 1.4m wide and 0.4m in depth with a fairly flat base. The sides were slightly concave and were stepped in places. It was filled by 3011.

Fill 3011

This deposit consisted of a slightly compact light grey clayey sand. It contained frequent manganese staining and lenses orangeish yellow clayey sand. 3 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this context.

UNDATED PIT AND DITCH GROUP

Cut 3004

This narrow linear ditch ran north to south from the north baulk into pit 3029. It measured 3.9m long, 0.63m wide and 0.1m deep. It had a deeper section about 1.5m from 3029 which measured 0.23m deep and 1.5m long north to south. There was no discernible difference in fill between the deep and shallower parts of the ditch. The base was flat and the sides were concave and steep, with steps in places. It was filled by 3003.

Fill 3003

This fill of 3004 consisted of a moderately compact dark blue/grey sandy clayey silt. It contained orange and pale grey mottles and occasional sub angular flint pebbles. There were no finds from this context.

Cut 3013

This narrow linear ditch ran from the north baulk in a southwesterly direction before also joining pit 3029. It measured 0.5m wide, 0.3m deep and 24m long. Like 3004, it too had a deeper and slightly wider section, situated 9m from pit 3029 and again had no discernible fill difference. The deeper section measured 0.8m wide and 0.38m deep with a fairly flat base and steep, almost vertical sides. The shallower section had a rounded base and slightly concave fairly steep sides. It was filled by 3015, 3016, 3031, 3032, 3035 and 3036.

The fills visible in section number 311 were

Fill 3016

The primary fill consisted of a moderately compact mid brown clay. It measured 0.2m thick and sealed 3015.

Fill 3015

This consisted of a moderately compact dark brown sandy clay. It contained orange mottling and measured 0.1m thick. It sealed fill 3016.

The fill visible in section number 315 was

Fill 3036

This consisted of a moderately compact mid brown clayey silty sand.

The fills visible in section number 316 were

Fill 3035

The primary fill of 3013 in section number 316 consisted of a soft mid brown clay. It measured 0.2m thick and was sealed by 3032.

Fill 3032

This consisted of a compact grey clay and contained fragments of orange coloured iron compound. It measured 0.1m thick and was sealed by 3031.

Fill 3031

This upper fill of 3013 which sealed 3032, consisted of a soft mid brown silty clayey sand. No finds were recovered from these fills.

Cut 3029

This roughly circular pit measured 2.6m north to south and 2.7m east to west. It was 0.53m deep, with steep concave sides levelling out to a fairly flat base with a central bowl shaped depression. This feature had 3 ditches running into it: 3003 from the north, 3013 from the east and 3038/3044 from the south. It was filled by 3028, 3046, 3047, 3048 and 3049.

Fill 3028

The primary fill of 3029 consisted of a compact greyish green peaty deposit and contained moderate inclusions of angular flint pebbles. It also consisted of patches of shiny yellowish cream clay, it was suggested that this was decayed stone. There were quantities organic material, much of it lying beneath the water table. This fill measured 0.26m thick and ran into the bottom of the ditch 3013 to the east. It was sealed by 3049.

Fill 3049

This consisted of a compact greyish brown silty sand with some iron staining. It contained occasional small fragments of gravel. The extent of this deposit was confined to the western section of the pit and may relate to the 2 ditches running into the pit at this end. That is, 3038 from the south and 3003 from the north. It measured 0.28m thick and was sealed by 3048.

Fill 3048

This fill consisted of a compact dark brown clayey silt and was mottled with orange coloured iron staining. It contained occasional fragments of angular gravel. It measured 0.17m in depth. The full extent of this deposit was not known as it appeared to be the same deposit as that which filled the ditch 3013. This deposit seemed to represent the final major silting of the pit, originating and contemporary with the ditch 3013. It was sealed by 3047.

Fill 3047

This fill of 3029 consisted of a compact orange granular silty sand, the colour of which was probably due to iron staining. It measured 0.04m deep and was sealed by 3046.

Fill 3046

This fill consisted of a friable mid brown silt containing small fragments of sub-rounded pea-grit and occasional angular gravel. It was the upper fill of 3029 and measured 0.06m thick. It sealed 3047. There were no finds recovered from any of these fills.

Cut 3038

This linear feature ran north from the south baulk before joining pit 3029. It measured 1m wide and 0.23m deep with a rounded base and shallow concave sides. It was the same context as 3044. It was filled by 3037 and 3039.

Fill 3037

The primary fill of 3038 consisted of a friable mid to dark brown silt which contained grey and orange sand mottling. There was occasional angular flint gravel inclusions. It measured 0.18m thick and was sealed by 3039.

Fill 3039

The upper fill of 3038 consisted of a loose dark greyish brown silty sand and measured 0.07m thick. It sealed fill 3037. There were no finds recovered from these contexts.

Cut 3044

This linear feature ran north from the south baulk before it joined ditch 3029. It measured 1m wide and 0.3m deep, and its full length visible in the trench measured 7.3m. The base was rounded with stepped concave and convex sides. It was filled by 3050 and 3051. This feature was the same as cut 3038.

Fill 3051

The primary fill of 3044 consisted of a moderately compact dark brown sandy clay and contained black mottling. It measured 0.2m thick and was sealed by 3050.

Fill 3050

The upper fill of 3044 consisted of a moderately compact mid brown silty clayey sand and measured 0.14m thick. It sealed fill 3051. There were no finds recovered from these contexts.

3 DITCHES WHICH RAN CLOSELY PARALLEL

Cut 3019

A shallow linear ditch which ran the full width of the access road trench, i.e. 14m. It measured 1.4m wide and 0.3m deep with a concave base. It had a straight shallow eastern edge and a steeper concave western edge. This feature was the middle of the 3 ditches. It was filled by 3020 and 3025.

Fill 3025

The primary fill of 3019 consisted of a friable blue/grey sand. It contained frequent ironstone fragments and reddish yellow mottling. It measured 0.05m thick and was sealed by 3020.

Fill 3020

This upper fill of 3019 consisted of a friable light greyish brown sand and contained a moderate amount of gravel. It measured 0.1m thick and sealed 3025. There were no finds from these contexts.

Cut 3021

This shallow linear ditch ran roughly parallel to the east of 3019 and measured 0.5m in width and 0.25m deep. The base was rounded with straight fairly steep sides. It was filled by 3022 and 3026.

Fill 3026

The primary fill of 3021 consisted of a friable blue/grey sand with reddish yellow mottling. It contained frequent ironstone fragments. It measured 0.14m thick and was sealed by 3022.

Fill 3022

This fill consisted of a friable light greyish brown sand. It contained a moderate amount of gravel and was mottled with a reddish yellow colour. It sealed fill 3026. There were no finds from these contexts.

Cut 3023

This shallow linear ditch ran roughly parallel to the west of 3019 and measured 0.9m width and 0.2m deep. The base was concave with concave plough damaged edges. It was filled by 3024 and 3027.

Fill 3027

This primary fill consisted of a friable blueish grey sand and contained frequent fragments of ironstone as well as reddish yellow mottling. It measured 0.14m in depth and was sealed by 3024.

Fill 3024

The upper fill of 3023 consisted of a friable light greyish brown sand with a moderate amount of ironstone fragments. It measured 0.18m thick. No finds were recovered from this feature.

OTHER UNDATED DITCHES

Cut 3040

A shallow ditch which ran the full 14m width of the access road trench and measured 1.13m wide and 0.39m deep. The base was 0.1m wide with irregularly stepped sides. It was filled by 3041, 3042 and 3043.

Fill 3043

The primary fill of 3040 consisted of a friable blueish grey sand and contained a moderate amount of ironstone fragments. It also had reddish yellow mottling and measured 0.17m thick. It was sealed by 3042.

Fill 3042

This consisted of a very soft light brownish grey sand with reddish yellow streaks. It measured 0.2m thick and was sealed by 3041.

Fill 3041

The upper fill of 3040 consisted of a loose mid grey silty sand with occasional chalk and flint fragments. It measured 0.12m thick and sealed fill 3042. There were no finds from this feature.

Cut 3059

This feature was a shallow linear ditch which ran the full 14m width of the access road trench and measured 1.69m wide and 0.3m deep. The base was cut by a field drain and the sides were slightly stepped convex and concave.

Fill 3065

The fill of 3059 consisted of a firm dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional waterworn gravel. There was heavy iron staining and mineralisation present. There were no finds from this ditch.

Cut 3052

This narrow linear ditch ran from the north baulk in a south easterly direction and petered out after 8.9m. It ran roughly parallel to ditch 3056 which was located 1m to the north east of 3052. It measured 0.25m wide and 0.11m deep with a flat base and straight fairly steep sides.

Fill 3053

The fill of 3052 consisted of a grey fine sand and contained iron compound fragments. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Fill 1091

This deposit was the lower fill of 1082 and consisted of a soft mottled pale orange and pale grey silty clay which was 0.12m thick. It was sealed by 1083.

Fill 1083

This fill consisted of a loose and granular black with brown fibrous material. It contained fragments of flint and chalk up to 0.01m wide. The fill was 0.18m thick and could have been a buried turf layer. It was sealed by 1089.

Fill 1089

This fill of 1082 consisted of a compact mottled pale orange and pale grey sandy clay. It was 0.15m thick and contained dark reddish brown flecks of presumably iron panning. It was sealed by 1081.

Fill 1081

The upper fill of 1082, which sealed 1089, consisted of a greyish brown silty sand with orange flecks. It contained occasional manganese nodules and was 0.26m thick. Roman pottery was recovered from this fill.

SONDAGE GROUP

Cut 1053

One of the two earliest ditches observed in the sondage, it was 0.3m deep and 0.77m wide with a narrow concave base leading up to slightly concave gently angled edges. It was cut by ditch 1054. The fills of 1053 were as follows:

Fill 1068

The primary fill of 1053 consisted of a compact black sandy silt with occasional waterlogged roots. It measured 0.06m thick.

Fill 1067

This secondary fill of 1053 consisted of a dark yellowish brown sandy silt and was 0.11m thick. It was sealed by 1066.

Fill 1066

Consisted of a firm dark brown silty sand which measured 0.14m thick and was sealed by 1065.

Fill 1065

The upper fill of 1053, which sealed 1066, was a firm dark grey silty sand and measured 0.05m thick. There were no finds from these 1053 fills.

Cut 1055

This feature was the second of the two earliest ditches and was cut by ditches 1054 and 1056. It was 0.39m deep, 0.57m wide, with a slightly concave base and slightly concave northern edge. The southern edge was not visible in section. 1055 was filled with the following deposits:

Fill 1071

The primary fill of 1055 consisted of a compact very dark grey sandy silt and contained frequent degraded chalk fragments and water-worn flint fragments. It was 0.15m thick and slightly lighter than the other three associated primary fills.

Fill 1062

The upper fill of 1055, which sealed 1071, consisted of a firm yellowish brown silty sand and was 0.23m thick. There were no finds from these fills.

Cut 3056

This feature comprised of a shallow linear ditch which ran from the north baulk in a south easterly direction before petering out after 8.5m. It ran roughly parallel to ditch 3052, and measured 0.67m wide and 0.17m deep with a flat base and steep straight sides. It was filled by 3054 and 3055.

Fill 3055

The primary fill of 3056 consisted of a loose yellowish brown sand and contained iron pan. It measured 0.13m deep and was sealed by 3054.

Fill 3054

This upper fill consisted of a loose dark grey silt which contained frequent iron panning. It measured 0.13m deep and sealed 3055. No finds were recovered from these contexts.

Cut 3066

This shallow linear ditch ran north to south and was cut by ditch 3006. It measured 4.1m long, 0.2m wide and 0.13m deep, with a rounded base and straight fairly steep sides. It was the same context as 3068.

Fill 3067

The fill of 3066 consisted of a soft light brown sand. No finds were recovered from this ditch.

Cut 3068

This shallow linear ditch was orientated north to south and was cut by ditch 3006. It measured 4.1m long, 0.4m wide and 0.09m deep, with a rounded base and straight fairly steep sides. It was the same context as ditch 3066.

Fill 3069

This fill of 3068 consisted of a soft light brown sand and there were no finds.

Cut 3070

A linear ditch which ran the full 14m width of the eastern end of the access road trench. It measured 0.5m wide and 0.11m deep with a fairly flat base and concave sides.

Fill 3071

This fill of 3070 consisted of a friable mottled orange brown sand which contained occasional small rounded pebbles. There were no finds from this feature.

Cut 3072

This linear ditch ran the full 14m width of the trench and measured 0.95m wide and 0.08m deep. It had a rounded base and shallow concave sides.

Fill 3073

The fill of 3072 consisted of a soft pale brown sand with manganese fragments. It also contained occasional angular flints. No finds were recovered from this context.

UNDATED MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES

Cut 3007

This feature comprised of a shallow sub-circular hollow 0.8m wide and 0.17m deep, with a flat base and shallow concave sides.

Fill 3008

Consisted of a friable dark brown silt with occasional pea grit and patches of sand. No finds were recovered from this context.

Layer 3009

This layer was sub-circular in shape and measured 4.4m east to west by 5.2m north to south. It was 0.25m deep and consisted of a friable dark brown silt with frequent pea-grit and occasional fragments of angular flint and chalk. It measured 0.25m deep. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Cut 3057

This circular feature cut into the top of pit 3029 and measured 0.7m in diameter and 0.25m deep. The base was flat and the sides concave. It was filled by 3058, 3060, 3061 and 3062.

Fill 3062

The primary fill of 3057 consisted of a loose grey sand with some orange mottling. It measured 0.1m deep and was sealed by 3061.

Fill 3061

This fill of 3057 consisted of a loose orange brown sand which measured 0.08m thick. It was sealed by 3060.

Fill 3060

This fill consisted of a loose light grey coarse sand with some orange mottling. It contained occasional chert fragments and measured 0.12m thick. It was sealed by 3058.

Fill 3058

The upper fill of 3057 consisted of a loose mixed orange and brown silty sand and measured 0.03m thick. It sealed fill 3060. No finds were recovered from these contexts.

FIELD 4/0071

There were no Romano-British features in Field 0071

3 UNDATED DITCHES

Cut 4001

This feature was a linear ditch which ran the full 13m width of the access road trench. It measured 1.2m wide and 0.25m deep. The base was concave, the eastern edge was straight and stepped, and the western edge was slightly concave and stepped.

Fill 4002

This fill of 4002 consisted of a sticky black sandy silt with yellow mottling and frequent lenses of yellow sand. It also contained occasional flint pebbles. There were no finds.

Cut 4005

A linear ditch which crossed the full 13m width of the access road. It measured 1.2m across and 0.2m deep with a fairly flat base. The sides were uneven, shallow and slightly concave.

Fill 4006

The fill of 4005 consisted of a sticky brownish black sandy peat and contained occasional flint and chalk fragments. There were no finds from this feature.

Cut 4007

This narrow linear ditch ran north from the south baulk for 1.6m and was bisected by ditch 4003 before possibly continuing for another 3m. It measured 0.45m wide and 0.12m deep with a flat base and vertical sides.

Fill 4008

The fill of 4007 consisted of a soft greyish brown clayey sand. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

MODERN DITCH

Cut 4003

This wide linear ditch ran in a north westerly direction from the south baulk for about 47m. It measured 2.5m wide and excavated down to 0.4m.

Fill 4004

This fill of 4003 consisted of a loose to slightly compact mottled orange brown clayey sand. It contained flecks and lumps of reddish brown clay and occasional fragments of chalk. 19th century pottery and brick were recovered from this feature.

MACHINE DUG SONDAGE

Cut 4009

This feature was a wide linear ditch which ran north to south across the full width of the access road trench. It measured 5m wide and 0.5m deep. The base was rounded, the east side being uneven and shallow, and the west side steeper and convex. It was filled by 4017, 4018, 4019, 4020, 4021, 4022 and 4023.

Fill 4023

This deposit consisted of a moderately compact silty sand coloured in swirls of yellow, orange and grey. It was visible only in section and measured 0.2m thick. It was stratigraphically earlier than 4022 but may be stained natural rather than a fill.

Fill 4022

This consisted of a moderately compact dark grey sandy silt and measured 0 15m deep It contained occasional fragments of twigs and was the primary fill of 4009

Fill 4021

This deposit consisted of a moderately compact greyish brown sandy silt It was 0 35m thick and contained occasional manganese flecks It sealed 4022

Fill 4020

This consisted of a compact yellow and orange silty sand with occasional manganese and chalk flecks There was some brown mottling and it measured 0 15m thick It overlay 4021

Fill 4019

This deposit consisted of a moderately compact greyish brown sandy silt and contained orange mottling It measured 0 07m deep and sealed 4020

Fill 4018

This consisted of a moderately compact mid orange brown sandy silt It contained occasional manganese flecks, occasional small angular pebbles and occasional chalk flecks It measured 0 15m thick and sealed 4019

Fill 4017

The upper fill of 4009 consisted of a compact yellow and orange silty sand with some brown mottling It contained occasional manganese flecks and occasional chalk flecks It measured 0 12m thick and sealed 4018 There were no finds from any of these fills

Cut 4024

The eastern edge of this linear ditch was visible in plan for 8m in the machine dug sondage It ran north to south and parallel to ditch 4025 It measured 2m wide and 0 8m deep with a rounded base and an uneven stepped west edge The east edge was convex and shared with 4009 It was filled by 4013, 4014, 4015 and 4016

Fill 4015

The primary fill of 4024 consisted of a moderately compact greyish brown sandy silt with occasional pea grit It measured 0 2m thick and was visible only in the south facing section of the machine dug sondage it was overlaid by 4014

Fill 4016

This fill consisted of a moderately compact dark blue grey organic deposit with roughly equal amounts of silt and sand It contained a moderate amount of twigs and measured 0 3m thick It was sealed by 4014

Fill 4014

This fill consisted of a fairly loose orange and yellow silty sand with grey mottling It contained occasional black flecks and occasional small fragments of twigs It measured 0 3m deep and was sealed by 4013

Fill 4013

The upper fill of 4024 consisted of a fairly loose orange brown silty sand with occasional black flecks It measured 0 5m thick This was the upper fill of 4024 and it was cut by ditch 4025 There were no finds from any of the fills in 4024

Cut 4025

Of this linear ditch only the east edge was visible in plan for 8m running north to south It measured 1 8m wide and 0 4m deep with a fairly flat base The east edge was concave, and the west edge, which it shared with 4009, was convex It was filled by 4010, 4011 and 4012

Fill 4012

The primary fill of 4025 consisted of a sticky dark greyish brown sandy silt. It contained some organic material including twigs, and also occasional manganese flecks and occasional small angular stones. It measured 0.06m thick and was visible only in section number 412. It was sealed by 4011.

Fill 4011

Consisted of a moderately compact greyish brown sandy silt with orange mottling. It measured 0.08m thick and was sealed by 4010.

Fill 4010

The upper fill of 4025 consisted of a fairly compact greyish brown sandy silt. It contained occasional small angular pebbles, occasional chalk flecks, occasional manganese flecks and small patches of orange sand. It measured 0.27m thick and sealed fill 4011. There were no finds from any of the contexts in ditch 4025.

FIELD 5/3300

ROMANO-BRITISH

Cut 5010

This feature was an irregularly shaped curvilinear ditch that ran across the full 12m width of the access road trench. The ditch varied in width from between 2m to 4m. It measured 0.2m deep with a concave base and shallow irregular sides. It was filled by 5011 and 5021.

Fill 5021

The primary fill of 5010 consisted of a soft cream sand with ginger streaks and lenses of light grey sand. It measured 0.28m thick and was sealed by 5011. There were no finds from this deposit.

Fill 5011

This fill consisted of a soft mid to dark grey silty sand with occasional orange coloured iron panmng. It measured 0.2m deep and one sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this fill. It sealed 5021.

3 DITCHES OF UNKNOWN DATE

Cut 5001

This shallow linear ditch ran the full 12m width of the access road trench. It measured 0.75m wide and 0.1m deep with a flat base and concave sides.

Fill 5002

The fill of 5001 consisted of a friable greyish black peat with occasional lenses of sand and frequent roots. There were no finds from this feature.

Cut 5005

This linear ditch ran north to south across the access road trench and measured 1.2m wide. It was not fully excavated owing to the presence of the water table and therefore was dug to a depth of 0.45m. The sides were concave and stepped near the top of the cut and then dropped vertically. It was filled by 5006 and 5012.

Fill 5012

This lower fill consisted of a plastic black sandy peat with lenses of orange yellow sand. It contained moderate amounts of wood and occasional blue coloured flint. It measured at least 0.25m thick. Wood was recovered from this fill for C14 dating.

Fill 5006

Consisted of a compact to loose mid brown sandy silt. It measured 0.19m deep and sealed 5012.

Cut 5015

A wide linear ditch which crossed the full width of the access road trench. It measured 2m wide and 0.33m deep with a flat base and concave sides. It was filled by 5016 and 5017.

Fill 5017

The primary fill of 5015 consisted of a soft pale grey sand mottled with patches of orange iron compounds and layers of black peat. It measured 0.27m deep and was sealed by 5016.

Fill 5016

This fill consisted of a friable mid brown sand with some grey silt patches. It measured 0.07m thick and sealed 5017.

FIELD 6/5700

ROMANO-BRITISH

Cut 6004

This was a long roughly oval shaped feature which measured 9m east to west, 1 4m north to south and 0 25m deep The base was concave with shallow and concave sides

Fill 6003

The fill of 6004 consisted of a compact reddish brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments 0 05m to 0 01m wide One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this feature

Cut 6071

This roughly curvilinear shallow ditch measured 13 5m long, 0 8m wide and only 0 12m deep The base was rounded with shallow concave edges It was orientated north-west to south-east

Fill 6070

This consisted of a soft mid brown silty fine sand It contained occasional clay, frequent angular and sub rounded pebbles, occasional dark shale like flecks and flecks of orange sand 1 flint flake and 2 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from this feature

Cut 6072

6072, 6073 and 6074 represent sections cut through a curvilinear ditch which ran east to west and measured about 40m long 6072 measured 0 6m wide and 0 3m deep with a flat base and straight steep sides It was filled by 6081, 6082 and 6083

Fill 6083

The lower fill of 6072 consisted of a soft and wet dark brown organic silt which measured 0 03m deep There were no finds from this fill It was sealed by 6082

Fill 6082

Consisted of a soft mid greyish brown silt with occasional sand It also contained a lens of whitish silty clay and measured 0 18m thick It was sealed by 6081 There were no finds from this fill

Fill 6081

Consisted of a compact mid greyish brown silty clay with some sand It contained occasional small rounded chalk fragments and measured 0 11m thick it sealed 6082 There were no finds

Cut 6073

6073 represented a section cut across a long curvilinear ditch which here measured 0 5m wide and 0 33m deep The ditch ran east to west See also 6072 and 6074 The base was uneven with steep and straight sides It was filled by 6075, 6076 and 6077

Fill 6076

This primary fill, which was sealed by 6077, consisted of a soft mid orange brown clayey silt with occasional sand and peaty flecks It measured 0 2m thick There were no finds

Fill 6077

A soft mid greyish brown clayey silt with frequent flecks of peat and some whitish silty clay patches It measured 0 2m thick and was sealed by 6075 There were no finds

Fill 6075

The upper fill of 6073, which sealed 6077, consisted of a compact mid greyish brown silty clay containing a moderate amount of sand and occasional chalk fragments 7 sherds of Roman pottery were found in this fill

Cut 6074

6074, along with 6072 and 6073, formed part of a 40m long east to west orientated curvilinear ditch. This particular section measured 0.62m wide and 0.41m deep. It was filled by 6079 and 6080.

Fill 6080

The primary fill of 6074, which was sealed by 6079, consisted of a compact pale orange brown silty clay. It contained occasional flecks of orange sand and occasional whitish flecks. It measured 0.18m thick and no finds were recovered from this fill.

Fill 6079

The fill of 6074 consisted of a compact mid greyish brown silty sandy clay with occasional fragments of chalk. It measured 0.22m thick and sealed 6080.

FEATURES OF UNKNOWN DATE

Cut 6002

This feature was a narrow linear ditch with 2 'branches' at its southern end. It measured 26m long and ran south from the north baulk of the Bund B area. At its deepest it measured 0.35m and its width was 0.45m. The base was flat with vertical sides rising from the base for 0.25m before shallowing out and becoming concave. It was filled by 6001, 6086, 6087 and 6088.

Fill 6088

The primary fill of 6002, which was sealed by 6087, consisted of a soft dark brown silty sand. It contained occasional rounded chalk fragments and occasional patches of pale brown sand. It measured 0.23m deep. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Fill 6087

Consisted of a soft dark blueish grey silty sand and measured 0.04m deep. It was sealed by 6086. There are no finds.

Fill 6086

Consisted of a compact pale greenish grey fine sand with occasional manganese flecks. It was sealed by 6001. It measured 0.05m deep and no finds were recovered.

Fill 6001

The upper fill of 6002 consisted of a compact dark brown sandy silt with frequent rounded chalk fragments and frequent angular flint fragments.

Cut 6008

6008 represented part of a long wide linear ditch that ran east to west near the southern edge of Field 5700. 6013 and 6068 also refer to this ditch which measured 148m from east baulk to west baulk. It was 2m wide and 0.3m deep with a rounded base and shallow concave edges.

Fill 6007

The fill of 6008 was of a moderate compaction and consisted of an orange brown silty sand with grey and yellow sandy mottles. It contained occasional flecks and fragments of chalk and occasional small pebbles. There were also occasional fragments of shale and some iron panning. No finds were recovered.

Cut 6013

This formed part of a 148m long ditch along with 6008 and 6068, and although not excavated in this section the fill was described as follows:

Fill 6012

The fill of 6013 consisted of a compact reddish brown and grey silt with frequent fragments of chalk. There were no finds.

Cut 6023

This linear ditch ran obliquely across the access road trench from the north east to south west and measured 24m long It was 1.2m wide and 0.25m deep The base was rounded with shallow stepped concave edges

Fill 6024

The fill of 6023 consisted of a soft mid brown sandy silt and contained chalk and flint fragments One bone fragment was found

Cut 6029

This linear ditch ran north west to south east across the access road trench and measured 14m long, 0.65m wide and 0.19m deep The base was rounded with shallow stepped concave edges

Fill 6028

The fill of 6029 consisted of a moderately compact pale yellow and pale grey sand with some silt It contained frequent small angular flint fragments There were no finds from this feature

Cut 6068

This feature formed part of a 148m long ditch which ran east to west along the southern edge of field 5700 It measured 1.89m wide and 0.16m deep with a flat base and shallow concave sides

Fill 6067

The fill of 6068 consisted of a very compact reddish and orange brown silty clay with frequent patches of orange and blue clayey sand There were no finds from this deposit

Cut 6085

This shallow roughly oval shaped feature measured 3m east to west, 1.55m north to south and only 0.07m deep The base was flat with very shallow edges

Fill 6084

The fill of 6085 consisted of a loose mid purplish brown silty sandy clay and there were no finds or inclusions

3 GROUPS OF FEATURES WITH SIMILAR FILLS TO EACH OTHER

GROUP 1

Cut 6041

This sub circular feature measured 1.7m north to south, 1.2m east to west and 0.2m deep It had a rounded base with shallow concave sides It was filled by 6042, 6090 and 6091

Fill 6090

The lower fill of 6041, which was sealed by 6091, consisted of a soft reddish brown clayey sandy silt with a moderate amount of blackish crystalline nodules It measured 0.1m thick and there were no finds

Fill 6091

Consisted of a soft pale greyish brown clayey silt that measured 0.08m thick It was sealed by 6042 There were no finds

Fill 6042

The upper fill of 6041 consisted of a soft and loose pale yellowish brown clayey sandy silt with mottles and patches of whitish silty material It also contained a moderate amount of blackish crystalline nodules and measured 0.2m thick It sealed 6091 There were no finds

Cut 6050

This curvilinear ditch measured about 22m east to west, 1m wide and 0.18m deep with a flat base. The north edge was shallow and straight, whereas the south edge was steep and straight. It was filled by 6048 and 6049.

Fill 6049

The primary fill of 6050, which was sealed by 6048, consisted of a soft mid brown sandy silt and measured 0.1m thick. There were no finds.

Fill 6048

The upper fill of 6050 consisted of a firm white clay containing very fine lines that looked like root hairs. It measured 0.07m thick and there were no finds.

GROUP 2

Cut 6046

A small oval shaped feature which measured 0.74m east to west, 0.25m north to south and 0.09m deep with a 'U' shaped profile.

Fill 6043

The fill of 6046 consisted of a soft and fairly loose light yellowish brown clayey silt with white mottles. It contained occasional dark crystalline nodules and there were no finds.

Cut 6046

This oval shaped feature was only 0.03m deep and measured 0.22m wide east to west and 0.41m north to south. The base was flat with shallow concave edges.

Fill 6045

The fill of 6046 consisted of a soft pale yellowish brown clayey silt. It contained white mottles and occasional crystalline nodules. There were no finds.

Cut 6052

This shallow sub circular feature measured 0.31m east to west, 0.5m north to south and 0.05m deep. It had shallow concave edges and a flat base.

Fill 6051

The fill of 6052 consisted of a soft pale yellowish brown clayey silt and contained whitish mottling and occasional crystalline nodules. No finds were present in this feature.

Cut 6054

This small sub circular feature measured 0.71m north to south, 0.84m east to west and 0.08m deep. It had shallow concave sides and a flat base.

Fill 6053

The fill of 6054 consisted of a soft pale yellowish brown clayey sandy silt with whitish mottling and a moderate amount of black crystalline nodules. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Cut 6056

This was a shallow sub circular feature which measured 1.3m east to west, 0.62m north to south and only 0.05m deep. It was cut by a modern field drain and therefore no base was visible. The sides were shallow.

Fill 6055

The fill of 6056 consisted of a soft pale yellowish brown clayey sandy silt. It contained occasional crystalline nodules and occasional manganese flecks. There were no finds.

GROUP 3

Cut 6058

A shallow sub circular feature which measured 0 6m north to south, 0 65m east to west and 0 08m deep with a flat base and very shallow concave edges

Fill 6057

This fill of 6058 consisted of a soft and loose dark reddish brown clayey silt and there no finds from this feature

Cut 6060

This shallow sub circular feature measured 0 44m m diameter and 0 03m deep, with a flat base and shallow concave sides

Fill 6059

The fill of 6060 consisted of a soft mixed whitish and dark brown clayey silt It contained occasional sand and crystalline nodules and a moderate amount of manganese nodules There no finds from this feature

Cut 6062

A shallow sub circular feature which measured 0 65m north to south, 0 42m east to west and only 0 05m deep with a flat base and shallow concave sides There no finds

Fill 6061

The fill of 6062 consisted of a soft clayey silt with patches of white, reddish brown and orange brown It contained frequent manganese flecks and nodules There were no finds

Cut 6064

A shallow sub circular feature which measured 0 55m long north to south, 0 44m long east to west and 0 09m deep It had a rounded base and shallow concave edges

Fill 6063

The fill of 6064 consisted of a soft mixed pale whitish brown and reddish brown clayey silt It contained occasional sand and occasional manganese flecks There were no finds

Cut 6066

This sub circular feature measured 0 8m east to west, 0 72m north to south and 0 11m deep, with a flat base and very shallow concave edges

Fill 6065

The fill of 6066 consisted of a soft reddish brown clayey silt with whitish brown mottling It contained a moderate amount of crystalline nodules There were no finds

FIELD 6, AREA 7 - TEMPORARY SITE COMPOUND

POST MEDIEVAL FIELD BOUNDARY

Cut 7002

This number applied to the most northerly section dug across this linear ditch It measured 1 43m wide and more than 0 4m deep It was filled by 7002 and 7003 and was not fully excavated owing to the high water table

Fill 7003

The fill of 7002 consisted of a compact mid blue/grey sandy silt with frequent well preserved twigs and occasional angular flint pebbles. It measured more than 0.1m deep and was not fully excavated. There were no finds.

Fill 7001

The top fill of 7002 consisted of a moderately compact dark brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks, patches of yellowish orange sand and small angular flint pebbles. It measured 0.3m deep and there were no finds.

Cut 7004

This was the same ditch as 7002 and was not excavated owing to flooding by a burst field drain. It measured approximately 1.4m wide and more than 0.3m deep. The top fill of 7004 was 7005.

Fill 7005

The top fill of 7004 consisted of a compact dark brown sandy silt which contained occasional flint pebbles. It measured more than 0.2m deep and there were no finds.

Cut 7006

This number referred to a section cut across the same ditch as 7002 and 7004. It measured 1.41m wide and more than 0.42m deep. It was filled by partially excavated 7007.

Fill 7007

The fill of 7006 consisted of a moderately compact dark brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles. There were no finds.

Cut 7012

This number referred to a section cut across the same ditch as 7002, 7004 and 7006. At this point it measured 0.9m wide and 0.21m deep. It had a rounded base and slightly convex sides, and was the only section across the ditch that was able to be fully excavated. It was filled by 7011 and was the most southerly section.

Fill 7011

The fill of 7012 consisted of a moderately compact mid reddish brown sandy silt with occasional flint pebbles. There were no finds.

?CANALISED STREAM

Cut 7009

This linear feature measured 1.69m wide, 0.16m deep and more than 30m long north west to south east. It had slightly convex sides with a rounded flat base and was filled by 7010. There were no finds.

Fill 7010

The fill of 7009 consisted of a moderately soft mid reddish brown sandy clayey silt with off white patches of clayey silt and moderate manganese flecks. There were no finds.

Apperidix III

East Kriapton Romari Pottery

by

J Dore

One hundred and twenty two sherds of pottery were examined. Of these, six were of post-Roman date. The majority of the Roman material dates to the later third or fourth centuries AD, though only three sherds can be positively assigned to the later fourth century AD (context 6069). Only three sherds are likely to date to before the third century AD (contexts 1031, 5011 and 6003).

Catalogue

1003

1 rim sherd bead and flange bowl. Probably Crambeck fabric. Late third-fourth century AD.

1005

4 wall sherds calcite gritted fabric.

1015

2 wall sherds calcite gritted fabric.

1025

1 wall sherd grey ware.

1031

4 wall sherds jar or flagon, grey with orange surface. First or second century AD.

1044

7 wall sherds, 2 rim sherds same vessel. everted rim jar in calcite gritted fabric.

1051

3 wall sherds calcite gritted fabric.

1 wall sherd hand-made calcite gritted fabric.

1080

1 wall sherd jar in grey ware. Probably a large narrow-mouthed jar.

1081

2 wall sherds.

2005

1 wall sherd calcite gritted fabric, dark grey with pale buff surface. Probably from a jar.

2018

1 rim sherd, 3 wall sherds, probably from the same vessel, grey brown with some calcite inclusions, wide mouthed jar or bowl. Crambeck. Late third-fourth century AD.

3011

3 wall sherds calcite gritted fabric.

5011

1 wall sherd jar or flagon, medium grey with pale orange surface Probably first-second century AD

6003

1 wall sherd, red brown, dark grey core Probably second-third century rather than any later

6021

1 wall sherd calcite gritted fabric

1 sherd ? brick

1 base sherd modern porcelain bowl

6039

3 wall sherds calcite gritted fabric

1 rim sherd modern glazed ware

6069

Total sherds 68

3 rim sherds calcite gritted jar, Huntcliff type Late fourth century

2 rim sherds everted rim jar m calcite gritted fabric

6 rim sherds calcite gritted fabric All different vessels

1 rim sherd glazed - ?medieval

3 wall sherds modern glazed ware

6070

2 small wall sherds calcite gritted fabric

6075

1 rim sherd bowl m calcite gritted fabric, third-fourth century AD

2 rim sherds calcite gritted fabric Different vessels Date uncertain

4 wall sherds calcite gritted fabric

Appendix IV

Assessment of the Palaeoenvironmental Samples

by

Jacqui Huntley

1 0 INTRODUCTION

Archaeological work was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates during the summer of 1993 along the line of an access road through the Vale of Pickering in North Yorkshire. The western section of the work centred upon NGR SE/8776.

The site was situated c 3km west of West Heslerton where extensive Romano-British and Saxon occupation has been excavated. East Knapton therefore had the potential to investigate the agricultural activity of an area known to have been densely occupied for some millennia.

2 0 METHODOLOGY

The site line was well drained and therefore only carbonisation preservation was expected. Bulk samples were taken from negative features as they were excavated and sent to the Durham Biological Laboratories for processing and assessment. The samples were floated to 500mm, both flots and residue, and sorted for their biological and artefactual remains. Notes were made of the nature and size of the flots and seeds/fruits identified. As most of the flots were small they have, in fact, been completely analysed. The large flots had a proportion of their material scanned only.

Table 1 sample details

Context	initial weight (kg)	initial volume (litre)	nature of material	size of flot	nature of flot
1041 AA	18.25	16	brown clay sand	small	mineral concretions coal clinker few frags charcoal
1044				small	mineral concretions coal and clinker
1051 AA	17.08	11	sandy loam and organics	small	iron concretions coal and clinker
1064 AA				moderate	mod roots and amorphous organic
1068 AA	5.28	6	brown sand	moderate	fine roots and amorphous organic
2008 AA	10.9	8.5	dark brown sandy clay	small	coal and clinker
2010 AA				medium	modern roots and stems
2012 AA	6.26	6	dark brown clay/loam	large	modern roots and stems
2031				tiny	mod roots and little charcoal
2032				tiny	modern roots and clinkery charcoal
3003 AA	10.25	9	brown sand with clay lumps	small	coal and clinker
3025				huge	modern roots, odd frags charcoal
3030				small	iron-ore material
3031 AA	14.1	16	brown clay/loam	small	coal and clinker
4002 AA	18.35	15.5	brown clay and sand		
4005 AA	20.38	15	brown sand	small	coal and clinker
4016 AA	21.4	14	sandy soil and twigs	huge	predom twigs odd pieces coal
5006 AA	22.18	17	brown sandy loam	medium	mod roots coal and charcoal
5012 AA	23.63	17	black clay and mud	large	wood and twigs

Most of the flots produced some seeds although few were carbonised. Some of these were clearly modern - particularly the *Polygonum* and *Chenopodium* species which contained endosperm (visible when broken) - and are considered no further.

A second group of "waterlogged" material was produced from a selection of samples with distinct organic layers in them - visible in the field. These layers had been overlain by sands and probably "hill wash" and therefore may be of some age. The species cannot, however, give any indication of this age. Table 2 presents the botanical data from these contexts.

The nature of the taxa suggests that water was present and relatively long standing in at least some of these features. Taxa such as *Menyanthes trifoliata* (bog bean), *Carex rostrata* (bottle sedge) and *Zannichellia palustris* require consistently wet conditions although can tolerate some level of fluctuation in water level. At least some of these features must therefore have had water in them for some years if not tens of years. Other of the aquatic group are taxa commonly found on wet muddy ground around ponds rather than growing in water themselves.

Table 2. "waterlogged" botanical data.

Context	1064	1068	2010	3003	3025	4016	5006
Aquatics							
<i>Isis pseudacorus</i>					1		
<i>Carex</i> (trigonous)	3	1	2		4		+
<i>Carex</i> (lenticular)		*	1				
<i>Carex rostrata</i>					1		
<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>	++	++					
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>			5				
<i>Potamogeton</i> sp.	1						
Muddy denizens							
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	+	*			1		
<i>Isolepis setaceus</i>							+++
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>					1		
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>							1
<i>Montia fontana</i> sso <i>chondro</i>	1						
<i>Ranunculus repens</i> -type	3	1	1			1	
Hedge/scrub							
<i>Crataegus</i> fruit stone						1	
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>						5	1
<i>Viola</i> sp.						1	
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>				1			
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>							1
<i>Linum catharticum</i>	1						
Weeds/ruderals							
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	1	1					1
<i>Stellaria media</i>							1
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	1						
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	1						
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	1						1
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i> agg.	1						
<i>Myosotis</i> sp.	1						
<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>						1	
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>				1			
<i>Sonchus asper</i>		1					
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	1						
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>		1					
<i>Cirsium</i> sp.		1					

The group of hedge or scrub taxa suggest that the local landscape was not totally open grassland/agricultural land and that shrubs may have been growing quite close to the pond-like features. The taxa are characteristic of nutrient-rich areas.

The weeds and ruderals group are varied with taxa representing acidic soils (*Spergula arvensis* and *Rumex acetosella*) and basic soils (*Linum catharticum*). Those at the top of the group grow amongst annual crops and in open places in general whereas those towards the bottom of the list include perennials/biennials (*Urtica dioica*)/(*Sonchus asper*) and are therefore plants of disturbed or waste ground rather than cultivated ground. Other than some of the aquatic species, none are abundant, and they simply indicate that a variety of ecological habitats was available for colonisation.

Table 3 carbonised botanical data

Context	1051	2031	1044	3031
<i>Triticum aestivum/compactum</i>		7		
Avena grain	1			
Hordeum hulled	2			
Cerealia indet	1			
Hordeum undiff			1	
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> *floret base		2		
<i>Triticum</i> brittle rachis internode		1		
Hordeum rachis internode		1		
Culm node	2	1	1	
<i>Stellaria media</i>				1
<i>Siegingia decumbens</i>			1	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> -type	1			
<i>Carex</i> (trigonous)/(lenbicular)	1(L)		2(T)	
<2mm Gramineae	1		1	
<i>Calluna</i> twigs	++			
Equisetum node				2

Carbonised cereal grains and chaff fragments were present in three of the samples. Their numbers are always low and any interpretation offered must, therefore, be tentative. The few weed seeds are from taxa characteristically associated with cereal cultivation as represented by archaeological deposits.

The presence of hulled barley and oats in one sample suggests a late to post-Roman date for context 1051 although the oats could be from the wild species and thus the material could be from the early Iron Age. There is a transition from naked to hulled barley about 500BC-0AD throughout much of Britain although more data are needed to both tie the date down more closely and to suggest testable reasons for the change.

Triticum aestivum/compactum - bread/club wheat - is generally a species of the medieval period onwards, thus suggesting a late date for context 2031. The grains themselves were not well preserved although the brittle wheat rachis fragment was - the hairs along its edges were clearly preserved. The presence of chaff and straw fragments suggests that these crops were locally being processed and were probably of local origin.

In summary, the samples produced some indications of a varied landscape at unknown period(s) of time. There were clearly times at which some of the shallow features contained water and that they retained it for some years thus allowing the development of a true aquatic vegetation. There are also indications of muddy surrounds to these features - possibly as a result of usage or trampling by people, but this is pure speculation. Hedges or scrub was clearly present in the vicinity and fruits from these fell into the ponds and were preserved. There is no indication of deliberate dumping by

humans and the features are considered to have naturally filled in at least in the early stages. The layers of overlying sands may have been deliberate or may simply reflect material being blown in from adjacent cultivated fields. The very limited carbonised material indicates samples of possible Iron Age to medieval or later date. No evidence for prehistoric occupation is seen.

The low levels of plant remains are disappointing especially given the rich deposits from West Heslerton. However, it may be that the land at East Knapton was agricultural (arable or pastoral) but that occupation as such was not nearby.

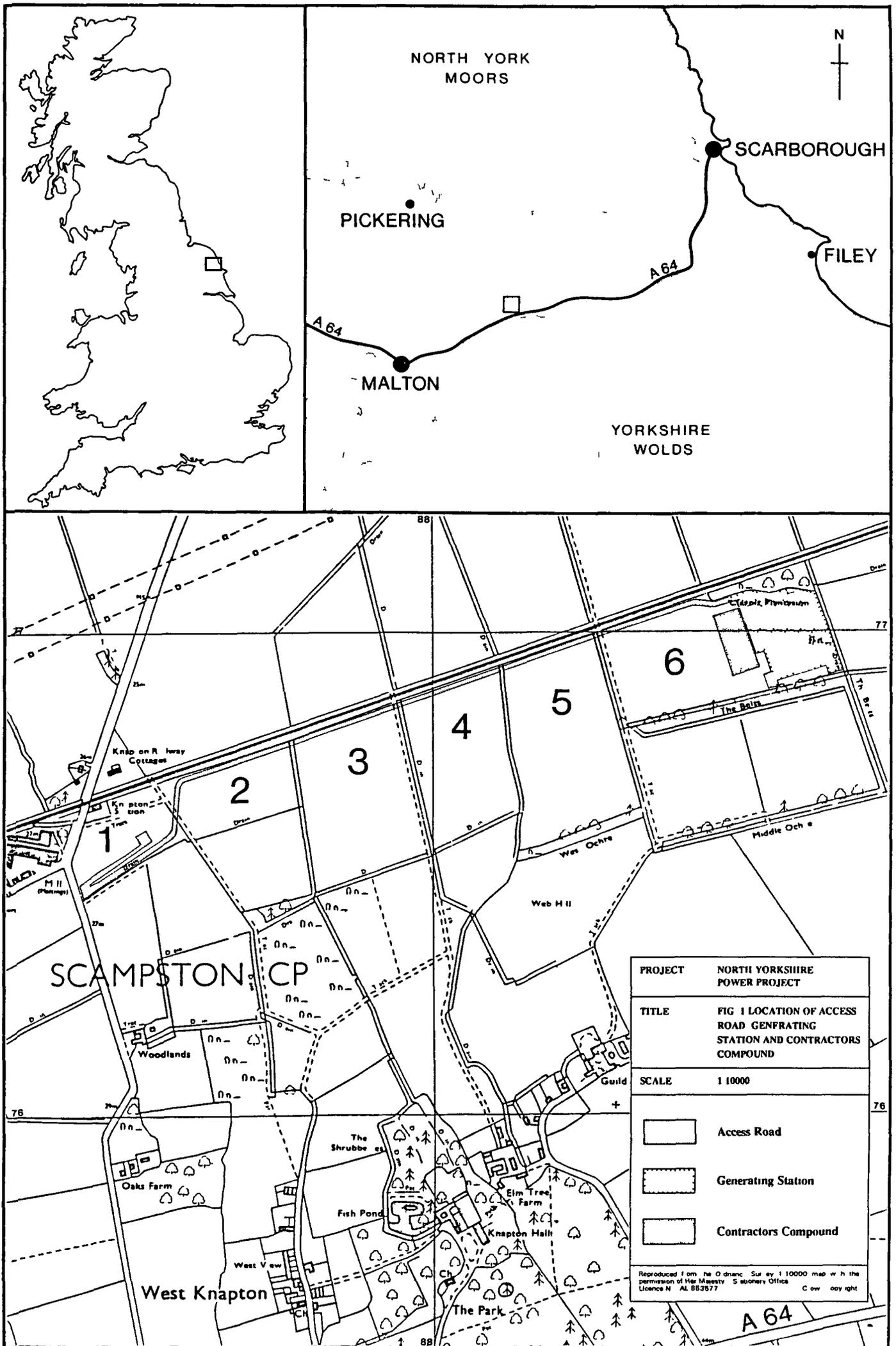
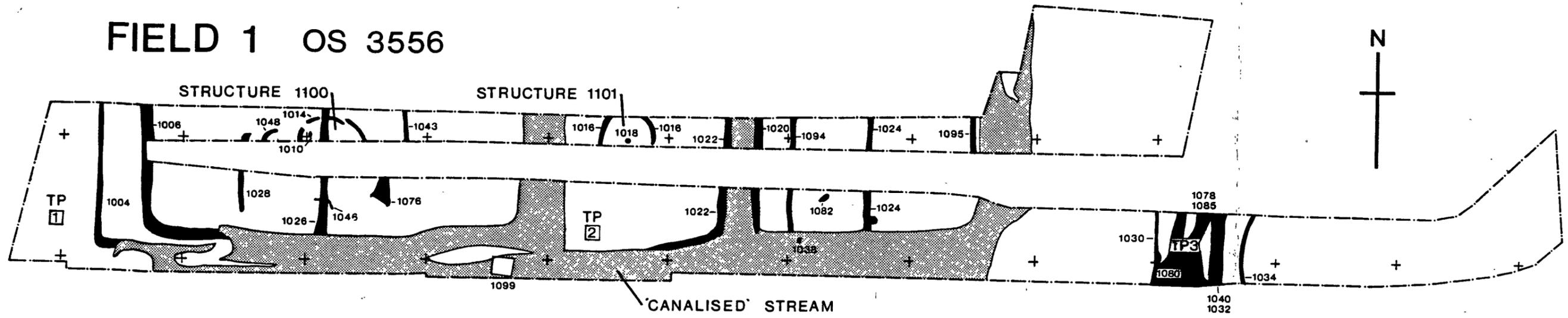
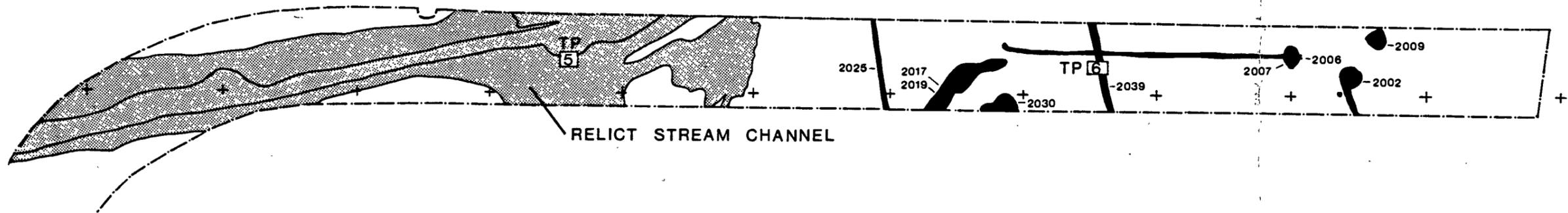


Fig 1 General location of the excavations

FIELD 1 OS 3556



FIELD 2 OS 5867



FIELD 3 OS 8465

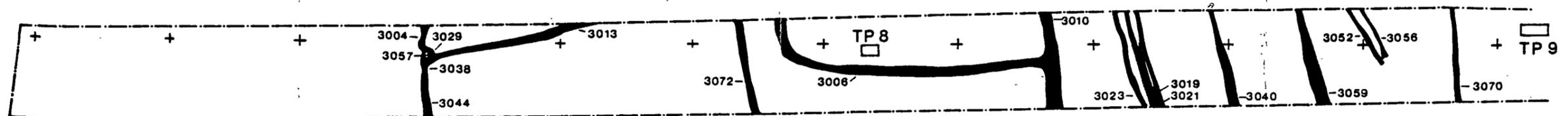
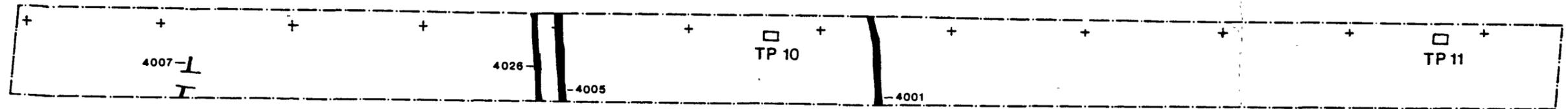
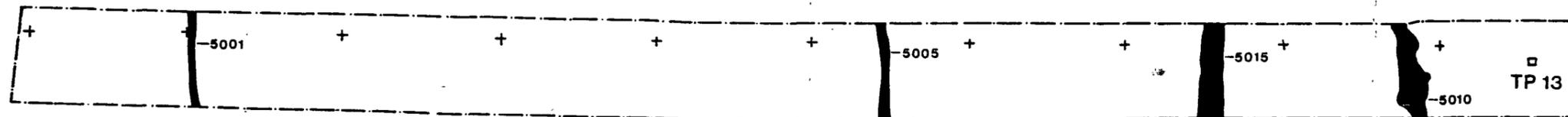


Fig.2 Features in the road corridor in Fields 1, 2 and 3.

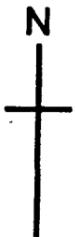
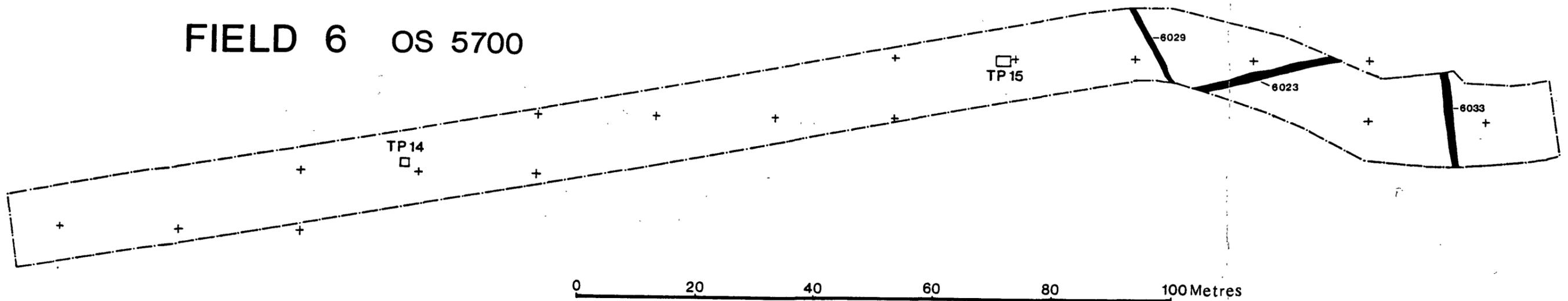
FIELD 4 OS 0071



FIELD 5 OS 3300



FIELD 6 OS 5700



0 20 40 60 80 100 Metres

Fig. 3 Features in the road corridor in Fields 4, 5 and 6.

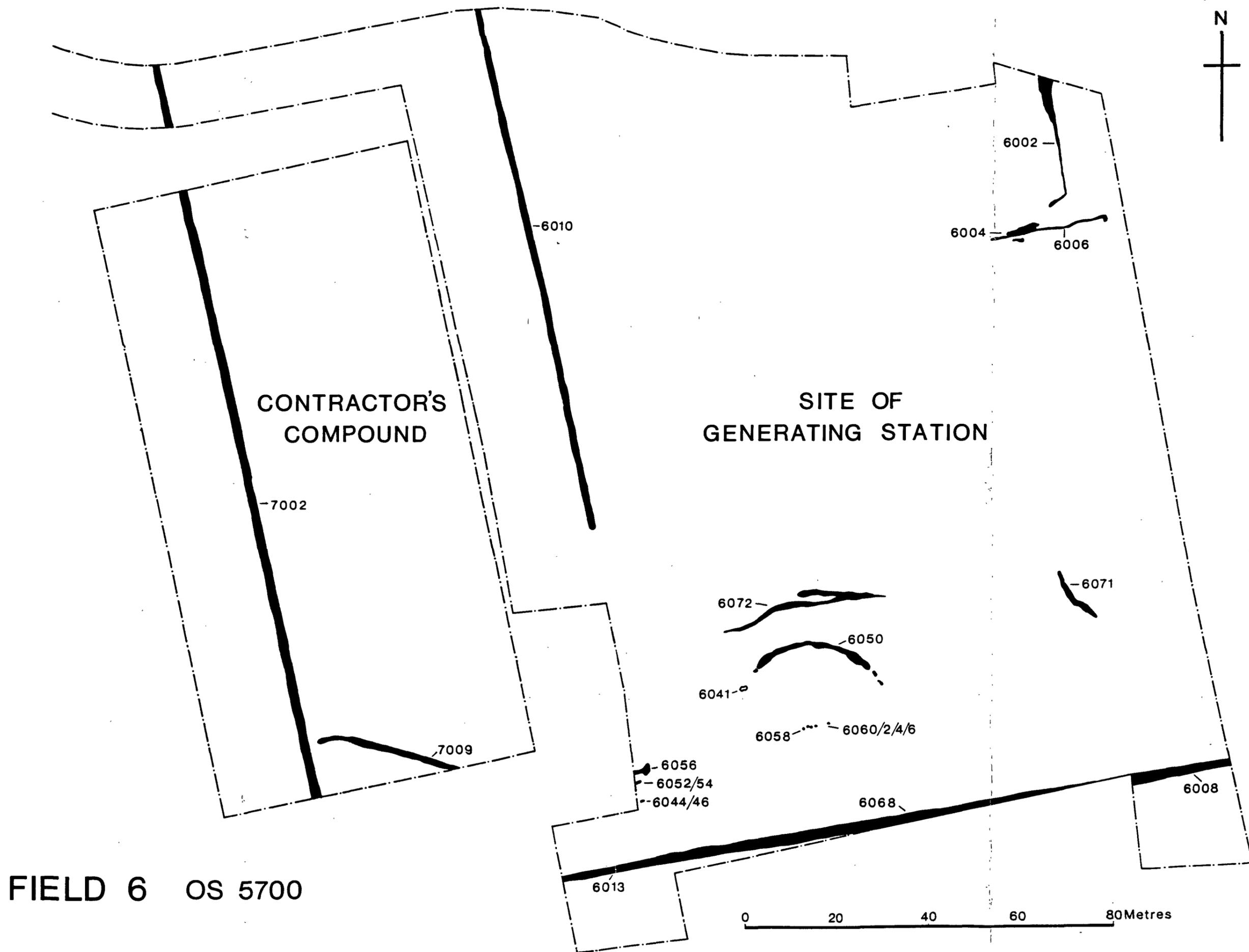


Fig. 4 Features in Field 6.