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**A1 DISHFORTH TO NORTH OF LEEMING  
IMPROVEMENTS, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**INITIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWALKING  
AREA 13: FINAL REPORT  
APRIL 1994**

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**A1 DISHFORTH TO NORTH OF LEEMING IMPROVEMENTS:  
INITIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWALKING  
AREA 13: FINAL REPORT**

DA Johnston, AWP

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## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1** As part of the Stage 2 archaeological investigations in advance of the proposed improvements to the A1 in North Yorkshire, a programme of initial and detailed fieldwalking was undertaken. Several areas around the A1/A61 junction at Baldersby Gate were allocated for initial fieldwalking. Due to access restrictions caused by agricultural operations, it was necessary to undertake the initial fieldwalking in the field south-west of the junction (OS field number 4900, designated Area 13 for the purposes of this report) in advance of the tendering process for the project as a whole. The work was therefore undertaken directly by Anthony Walker and Partners, and carried out on 7 September 1993. An interim report was produced immediately; this final report was delayed until comparative data could be included from subsequent fieldwalking on other sites. This comparison led to the conclusion that more detailed fieldwork was required, and the field was subsequently included in a programme of geophysical survey; this work is reported on elsewhere.
- 1.2** Following design modifications to the proposed road improvements, the area allocated for initial fieldwalking in Area 13 was amended to a narrow strip 30m wide and approximately 160m long, aligned east to west (see figure 2).
- 1.3** The solid geology of this area is Permian and Triassic sandstone, covered by glacial sands and gravels. The overlying soil is an Argillic Brown Earth (Escrick 2 Association). Large quantities of naturally-occurring flint or chert were observed in the field, usually in the form of small fragments broken by frost and ploughing.
- 1.4** The field had been planted with oilseed rape and the crop was showing as shoots up to 1cm high; the weather was overcast but bright, with a strong wind which rapidly dried the surface of the soil. Visibility was impeded by wind-blown dust.

## **2 Methodology**

- 2.1** The initial fieldwalking method is designed for rapid coverage at a low level of intensity, to determine whether more detailed fieldwork is justified. Artefacts are observed and their presence recorded in the field, but artefacts are not removed from the site except in the case of items worthy of individual study or items which are actively deteriorating. This minimises both any impact on the archaeological resource and the costs of artefact processing.
- 2.2** Four lines aligned due east-west (magnetic) were laid out using a hand-held compass, optical square and a nylon 60m tape. The lines were spaced 10m apart and marked at 50m intervals. The lines were numbered 1-4 from north to south; the average length of the lines was 152m. Figure 2 accurately indicates the position of these lines.
- 2.3** Each line was walked from west to east, recording all artefacts observed in

each 10m section on pro-forma sheets, each covering a total length of 50m. Artefacts were divided into nine categories for this purpose (Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon/Medieval pottery; Brick/tile; Flint/chert; Other stone; Iron; Other).

### **3 Summary of results**

- 3.1 A total of 46 artefacts were observed. Full tabulated results are presented in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The largest single category of artefact observed was flint/chert (18 flakes). Eight of these occurred on Line 1, including the only piece with any sign of retouch, a scraper found between 90 and 100m. One other fragment of flaked stone occurred, a flake of pitchstone or other similar black volcanic glass, found between 10 and 20m on Line 1.
- 3.3 No other prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon or medieval artefacts were observed. The remainder of the artefacts were dominated by post-medieval ceramics and glass, plus 1 piece of plastic, 1 iron bolt, 1 fragment of roofing slate, 1 piece of leather, and 1 bone.

### **4 Discussion and conclusions**

- 4.1 The total number of artefacts observed was relatively low for the size of area covered. This may in part reflect the conditions in the field at the time. The field had been ploughed, harrowed and seeded, producing a very smooth surface, the crop was sprouting and the weather was dry and windy, blowing dust across the field. These conditions are far from ideal for the recognition of artefacts. However, the quantities of artefacts observed during subsequent fieldwalking in other fields at Baldersby Gate, undertaken in better conditions, are comparable. This suggests that the density of artefacts in the field is genuinely low.
- 4.2 There was a noticeable reduction in the density of artefacts from north to south. However, the sample was so low that variations in density are unlikely to have any statistical significance.
- 4.3 The only artefact categories of archaeological interest found in Area 13 were flaked stone (flint/chert and black volcanic glass). The proportion of these categories was unexpectedly high (41.3% of the total), as was their overall density (41.3 per hectare or 3.125 per 100m walked). These figures compare with an average proportion of worked flint in the 10 initial fieldwalking areas of 21.13% of all finds, and an average density of 5.63 per hectare or 0.552 per 100m. It is also a higher density than in any of the 5 intensive fieldwalking areas. The absolute quantity of flint was also unusually large for this area; despite the fact that Area 13 was a fraction of the size of any of the other initial fieldwalking areas, only Area 11 produced more flint. Detailed comparisons of these figures are given in Appendix 2.
- 4.4 Despite the high density of flaked stone, only one retouched piece was

observed, a flint scraper. Intensive fieldwalking at Howe Moor (Areas 15 and 16), by contrast, produced 29 unretouched flakes and 18 retouched pieces (38%). This may be the result of differing techniques; only 13% of the flint observed during initial fieldwalking at Area 11 (immediately east of Area 13) was retouched, whereas tools made up 55% of the flint recovered by intensive fieldwalking in the same area.

- 4.5 The unusually high quantity of flaked stone artefacts at Area 13, combined with its proximity to a number of known prehistoric ritual sites to the west and to another flint scatter at Area 11, indicate the probability that there has been prehistoric activity on the site. There is, however, insufficient evidence to determine the nature of this activity.

## 5 Summary of subsequent and proposed fieldwork at Area 13

- 5.1 The results of initial fieldwalking in Area 13 led to its inclusion in a programme of geophysical survey carried out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford in early 1994. Several strong anomalies possibly representing prehistoric pits were recorded, as well as a very weak curvilinear anomaly of unclear origin. As there is now evidence from two different sources indicating the possible presence of a prehistoric site, recommendations for trial trenching have been made.



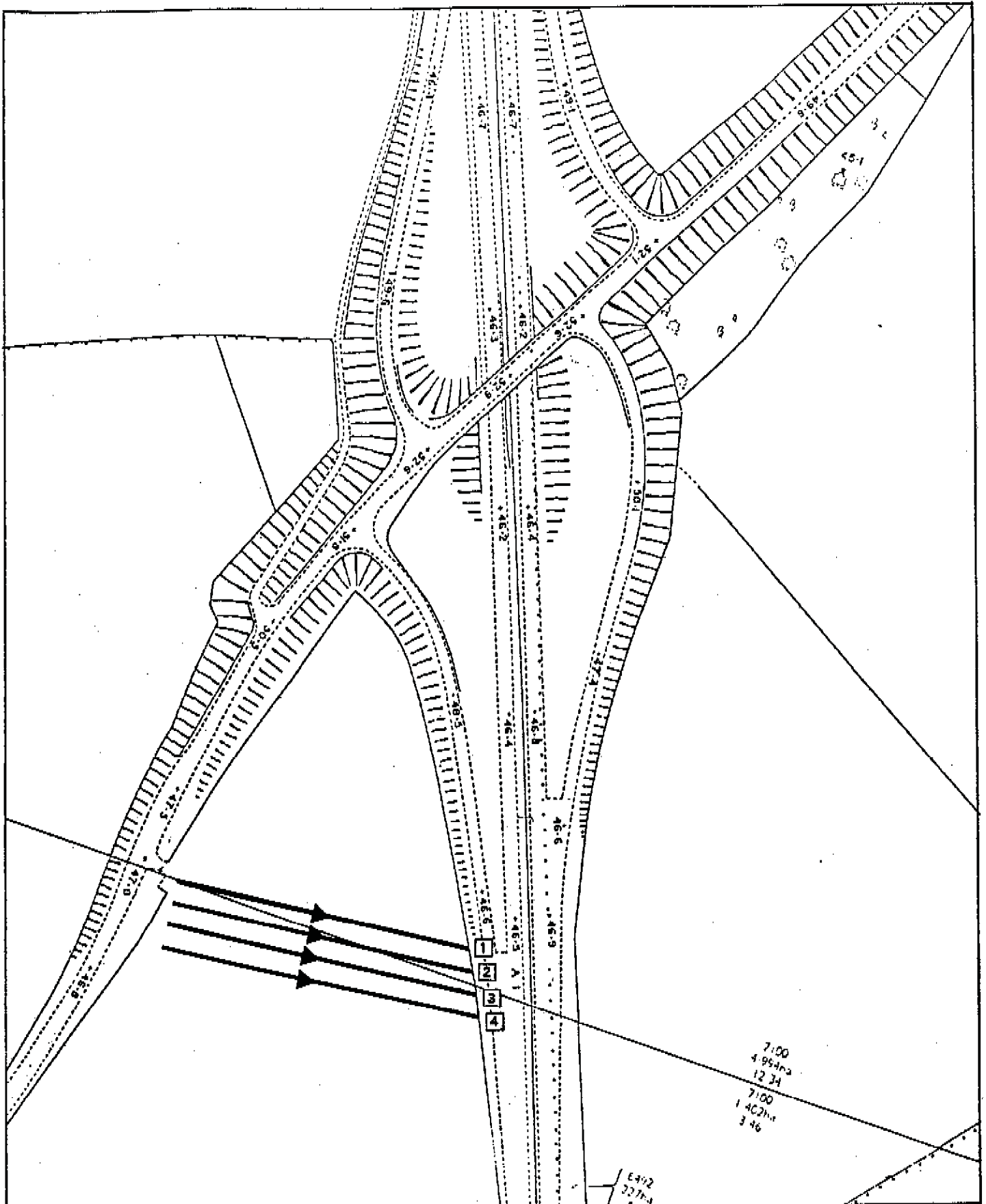
PROJECT  
**A1 DISHORTH TO NORTH OF LEEMING IMPROVEMENTS**

TITLE  
**LOCATION PLAN**

SCALE  
**1:50000**



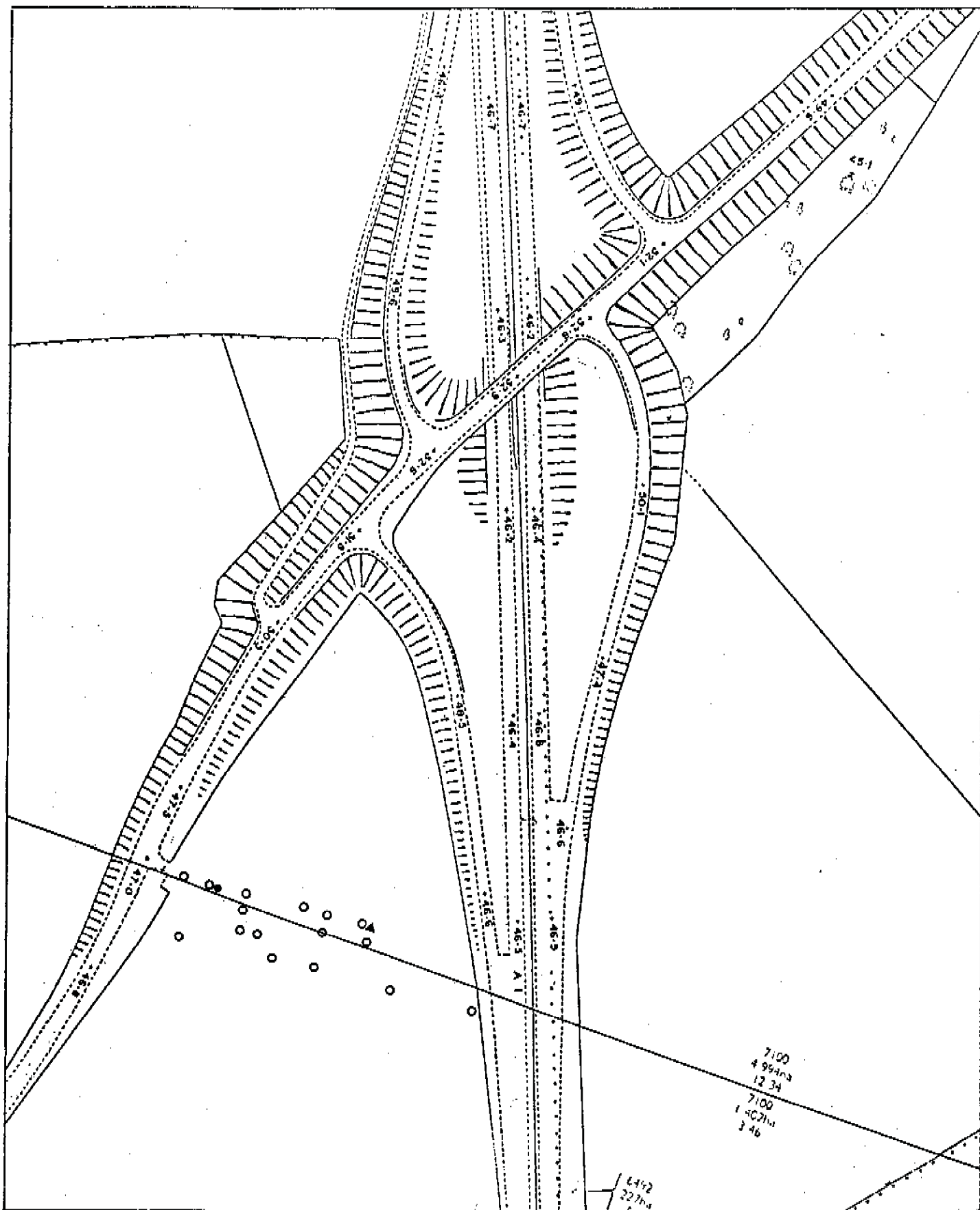
FIGURE No  
**1**




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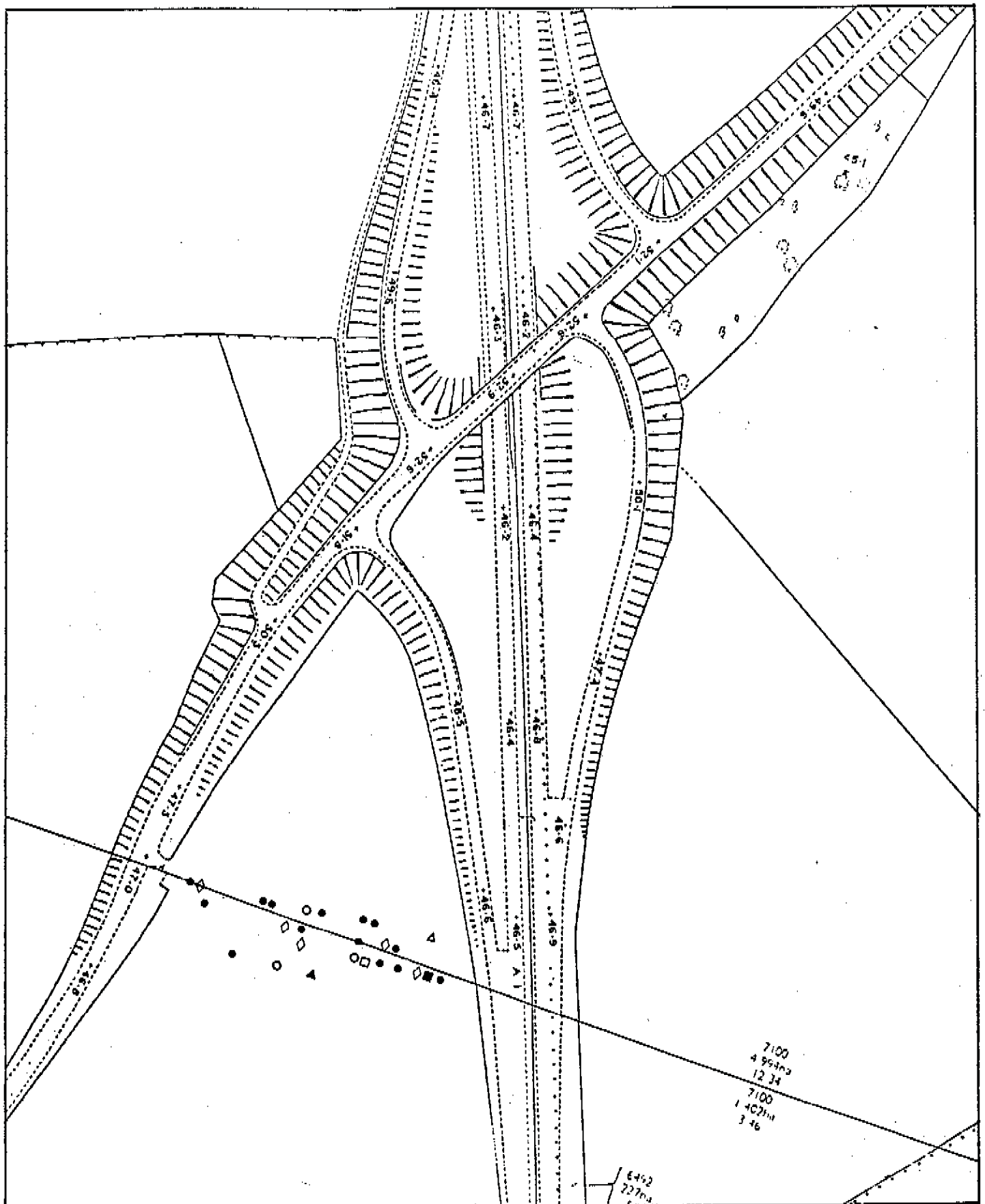
	<b>LINE No.</b>	<b>PROJECT</b> <b>A1 DISHFORTH TO NORTH OF LEEMING IMPROVEMENTS</b>	
	<b>DIRECTION OF WALK</b>	<b>TITLE</b> <b>SITE LAYOUT</b>	
<b>SCALE</b> <b>1:2500</b>			<b>FIGURE No.</b> <b>2</b>





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	<p>PROJECT</p> <p>A1 DISHFORTH TO NORTH OF LEEMING IMPROVEMENTS</p>
<p>○ FLINT/CHERT FLAKE X 1</p> <p>● PITCHSTONE OR SIMILAR (FLAKE) X 1</p> <p>▲ FLINT SCRAPER</p>	<p>TITLE</p> <p>DISTRIBUTION OF FLAKED STONE ARTEFACTS</p>
	<p>SCALE</p> <p>1:2500</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p> <p>FIGURE No</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">3</p>



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●	POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY X 1
◇	POST MEDIEVAL/MODERN GLASS X 1
○	BRICK/TILE X 1
△	IRON X 1
□	ROOFING SLATE X 1
■	LEATHER X 1
▲	BONE X 1

PROJECT  
A1 DISHFORTH TO NORTH OF LEEMING IMPROVEMENTS

TITLE  
DISTRIBUTION OF OTHER ARTEFACTS

SCALE  
1:2500

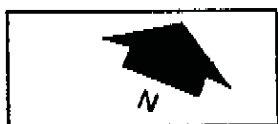


FIGURE No  
4

## Appendix 1: Results of fieldwalking

These tables include only those categories of finds actually observed. Other categories sought in the field, but which were not observed, were Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon/Medieval pottery.

### Line 1

Line section	Post-Med pottery	Brick/tile	Flint/chert	Other stone	Iron	Other finds
0-10m	1		1			2
10-20			1	1 <sup>1</sup>		
20-30						
30-40			1			
40-50	2		2 <sup>2</sup>			
50-60						
60-70		1	1			
70-80	1		1			
80-90						
90-100	2		2 <sup>3</sup>			
100-110						
110-120						
120-130					1	
130-140						
140-144						

### Line 2

0-10m						
10-20	1					
20-30						
30-40			1			
40-50						
50-60	1					
60-70	1					
70-80			1			
80-90						
90-100	1		1			
100-110	2					
110-120						
120-130						
140-149						

<sup>1</sup> flake of black volcanic glass - Arran pitchstone or similar

<sup>2</sup> possibly a natural flake

<sup>3</sup> including one flint scraper

Line 3

Line section	Post-Med pottery	Brick/ tile	Flint/ chert	Other stone	Iron	Other finds
0-10m						
10-20						
20-30						
30-40			1			
40-50			1			
50-60						
60-70	1					
70-80						
80-90						
90-100		1		1 <sup>1</sup>		
100-110	1					
110-120	1					
120-130	1					1
130-140	1					
140-150						
150-156						

Line 4

0-10m						
10-20						
20-30						
30-40	1		1			
40-50						
50-60		1	1			
60-70						
70-80			1			1
80-90						
90-100						
100-110						
110-120						
120-130			1			
130-140						
140-150						
150-160			1			

Overall totals

Line 1	6	1	9	1	1	1
Line 2	6	0	3	0	0	0
Line 3	5	1	2	1	0	1
Line 4	1	1	5	0	0	1
Total	18	3	19 <sup>2</sup>	2	1	3

<sup>1</sup> fragment of roofing slate

<sup>2</sup> including one probably natural

## Appendix 2: Comparative data

The tables are based on initial and/or detailed fieldwalking at 15 sites. All the other areas were fieldwalked by either MAP Archaeological Consultants or Northern Archaeological Associates. Density of flint from initial fieldwalking is given as flint/hectare and flint/100m. This technique only allows a strip averaging 1.5m wide to be searched. Each 100m therefore equals roughly 150m<sup>2</sup> searched. With lines 10m apart, this equates to a 16.5% sample of each area. The measure of flint/hectare refers to density within the area sampled, whereas flint/100m refers to density within a sample.

### Initial fieldwalking

Area	All finds	All flint	Ha	Flint/Ha	Flint/100m
3	14	5 (35.7%)	3.4	1.47	0.134
8	60	6 (10%)	2.0	2.96	0.405
9	32	1 (3.12%)	0.88	1.14	0.092
11	56	24 (42.8%)	3.6	6.67	0.672
12	36	10 (27.7%)	3.48	2.87	0.526
13	46	19 <sup>1</sup> (41.3%)	0.46	41.3	3.125
14	13	2 (15.38%)	5	0.4	0.031
19	188	0			
30	1362	0			
38	26	9 (34.6%)	1.57	5.73	0.535

### Detailed fieldwalking

Site	All finds	All flint	Ha	Flint/Ha
11	168	40 (23.81%)	3.6	11.11
15	46	31 (67%)	3.6	8.61
16	25	17 (68%)	1.68	10.12
21	132	3 (2.27%)	2.6	1.538
24	1186	17 (1.43%)	6.2	2.742
25	367	18 (4.9%)	2.9	6.207

### Proportion of retouched flaked stone

Site	All flaked stone	Retouched	% retouched
3	5	0	0
8	6	2	33.33
9	1	0	0
11	24	1	4.16
11 <sup>2</sup>	40	22	55
12	10	0	0
13	19	1	5.26
14	2	0	0
15 <sup>2</sup>	31	10	32.25
16 <sup>2</sup>	17	8	44.44
21 <sup>2</sup>	4	1	25
24 <sup>2</sup>	17	7	41.18
25 <sup>2</sup>	18	3	16.66
38	9	3	33.33

<sup>1</sup> This figure includes all flaked stone.

<sup>2</sup> Detailed fieldwalking.