

INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A1 Dishforth to North of Leeming Improvements	Details Arch Fieldwalking Area E
Road Number A1	Date 1993
Contractor MAF	
County North Yorkshire	
OS Reference SE29	
Single sided <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Double sided	
A3 <input type="checkbox"/>	
Colour <input type="checkbox"/>	

A1  
DISHFORTH TO NORTH OF LEEMING  
IMPROVEMENTS

Archaeological Fieldwalking

AREA E

*Records 93*

# A1 DISHFORTH TO NORTH OF LEEMING IMPROVEMENTS

## Archaeological Fieldwalking

### Area E

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# A1 DISHFORTH TO NORTH OF LEEMING IMPROVEMENTS

## Archaeological Fieldwalking

### Area E

#### Introduction

Area E is situated to the west of the A1 road (Fig. 1), NGR SE 2760 9175 (centre) and to the south of Little Holtby.

The area is situated on a solid geology of Permian and Triassic Sandstone with a drift geology of glacial sands and gravel with overlying soils of typical brown earths (Wick Association).

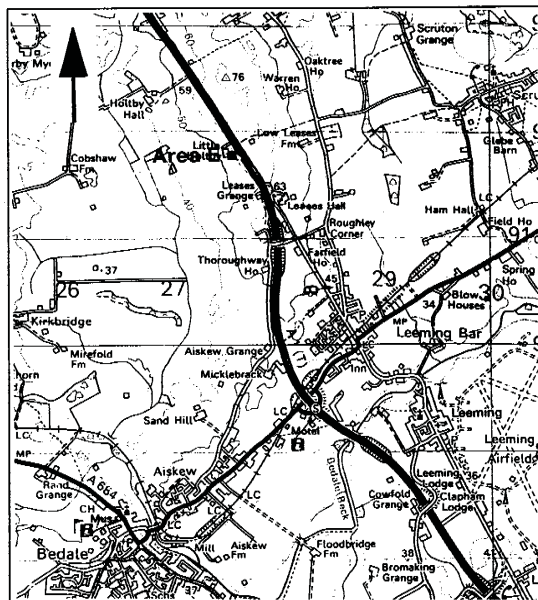


Figure 1 - Site Location. Scale 1:50000

Previous history of the area suggests that a battle was fought in the vicinity of the area.

The site is flat and level where it is adjacent to the side of the A1 but from Line D the land slopes downwards dramatically to the west. The field had been drilled with the crop showing to a height of approximately 0.05m; no traces of sub-soil were noted.

The area measured 210m north-south x 70m east-west giving an area of 1.57ha to be initially fieldwalked. The area was line walked at 10m intervals between the walkers. The longest axis was in a north-south direction and parallel to the A1 road. The origin of the grid was formed by the south-east corner of the field, and line segments were numbered 1-21 from south - north. Lines A, B, C, G & H were walked south - north; the rest were walked from north - south (Fig. 2).

Area E was walked in a single day with good weather conditions and bright sunlight.

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## Results

A total of 26 artefacts were observed from the initial fieldwalking of Area E (Figs 3 & 4: Table 1).

### Pottery

A total of 9 sherds were observed, comprising of 2 medieval sherds from line segments E16 and H18. The modern pottery consisted of 7 sherds, 3 of white glazed earthenware from line segments C15, D5 and H14, 1 cream glazed earthenware sherd from F1 and 3 sherds of blue and white transfer ware from line segments H1, H19 and H21.

### Brick and tile

A total of 7 modern/post-medieval brick/tile fragments were observed. There were 5 fragments positively identified as brick, in line segments B6, B16, D16, D18 and E12; and 2 tile fragments in line segments F4 and F6. In total the brick and tile weighed less than 0.005kg per individual piece and was randomly scattered throughout the area.

### Glass

A single piece of glass was observed in line segment B19. This fragment was of modern clear glass from a bottle.

### Flint

A total of 9 pieces of worked flint were observed (Fig. 4). This assemblage included 5 flakes, 1 core and 3 tools which comprised a blade, a ?knife and an end scraper. Waste products (i.e. flakes) outnumber the tool assemblage by almost 2:1. Two categories of flint were distinguished, of which the most common type was the poor quality grey-white flint (4 items c.50%), 3 mottled grey (28%) and 2 blue-grey (22%). Artefacts of the mottled/opaque type have a widespread distribution within the north of England, the nearest source being the Yorkshire Wolds. The white-grey patinated flint is possibly of drift origin.

The flint artefacts are concentrated in the southern half of the field. Whereas they do not form dense clusters, their absence from the northern part of the area does suggest that this distribution is of significance.

### Other Finds

In addition to the above, a single piece of bone was observed in line segment H1 from a small bird and of modern date. To the west of line segment E10 a large single piece of weathered limestone was observed.

## Conclusions

To the south-east of Boltby Kennels human remains and pieces of armour from a battle are reported to have been located in an area known as 'Cloven Hills' (Dennison 1993; Speight 1897; Whellan 1859). It was for this reason that Area E was initially fieldwalked.

No human bone or metal artefacts were observed. Instead, the small assemblage was characterised by predominantly modern pottery, and brick and tile. In addition, a small collection of struck flint was observed, restricted in distribution to the southern part of the area. An explanation of this distribution pattern is problematic without further work, but the geographical location of the site on an area of high flat land with potentially good drainage and good visibility to the west may have direct relevance. It is interesting to note that the flint artefacts are not located solely on the higher ground, but also on the slope.

### Recommendations

Due to the occurrence of worked flint in only one part of the area, it is suggested that further fieldwalking is undertaken to provide additional information on the quantity and category of artefacts occurring on the site. It is suggested that the original width of the grid is extended to 120m. It has been postulated that where 'settlement' occurs on high ground it is necessary to evaluate the surrounding area for waste materials which may occur through human and natural deposition (D Powlesland pers comm).

The flint scatter is confined to the southern part of the site and the field to the south (OS 5750) has not yet been ploughed. It is therefore suggested that it may prove worthwhile instigating a programme of initial fieldwalking in this field to assess the extent of prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

## 2. Spatial Analysis

At the time that this report was produced comparative material for fieldwalking projects in North Yorkshire was limited. Reports on the large scale evaluations of the Easingwold Bypass are still not available for general consultation nor are other sections of the A1 improvement scheme. Therefore this section is based solely on the results from the sections of the A1 improvement Dishforth to Leeming and Walshford to Dishforth. Below are the spatial results for Areas A, B, D, and E which were line walked. The analysis for Area E has concentrated on flint as it is felt that the medieval pottery assemblage from the site is too small to warrant further attention.

The spatial results for the flint assemblages from the initial/rapid fieldwalking from Areas A and E (p. 8) are followed by comparative data from a fieldwalking programme carried out along the A1 motorway extension from Walshford to Dishforth (Fig. 5: data kindly supplied by the Archaeology Section: North Yorkshire County Council and Northern Archaeological Associates: pp. 8 & 15).

Areas A and E are situated on a solid geology of Permian and Triassic Sandstone with a Drift geology of Glacial Sands and Gravel. The soil type is an Argillic brown earth of the Escrick 2 Association in Area A, with a soil type of a Typical brown earth of the Wick 1 Association in Area E, thus in the main establishing a constant geological base.

For the comparative material Fields 7, 74, 76 and 115 have Stagnogleyic Argillic brown earth soils of the Bishampton 1 Association over Till and Glacio-fluvial drift. Fields 84, 85, 86, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, and 96 have Argillic brown earths soils of the Escrick Association over Glacio-fluvial drift. Field 78 (southern part) has pelo-alluvial soils of the Fladbury 3 Association over river alluvium; Argillic brown earth of the Escrick 2 Association extend to the north. Fields 87 and 88 have Typical brown earth soils of the Wick 1 Association.

### Flint Assemblage

The density of flint artefacts per hectare varied greatly within areas evaluated in the Dishforth to North of Leeming improvement. As mentioned above, the geology is fairly constant and therefore provides a good base for comparison. Of the areas initially fieldwalked, where worked flint occurred (Areas A1-5, and E) the density per hectare varies from 0.4 (Area A5) to 6.67 (Area A4i), this variation is also paralleled by area in density per 100m line (0.031 v 0.672). In the areas evaluated in the Walshford to Dishforth improvement, of the initial fieldwalking sections (Fields 74, 76, 89, 94-96, 101 and 115) density per hectare varied from 1.192 (Field 115) to 11.761 (Field 89); per 100m line density varied from 0.101 (Field 115) to 1.409 (Field 101). In addition to this data are the results of the fieldwalking by M Griffith and Associates of Fields 85-88, and 90-91. The results have to be treated with care but they are interesting as the densities, which vary from 0.229 per ha. (Field 88) to 1.571 (Field 86), can be compared to the results of the watching briefs (see below).

Comparison of ratios of flint tools to waste products (i.e. flakes) for both sections of the improvement schemes are relatively similar with wide variations in ratios between individual sites.

The problem with comparing these two sets of data is that the initial fieldwalking methods are dissimilar. Evaluation of the Dishforth to Leeming section was by linewalking at 10m intervals; the rapid fieldwalking of Walshford to Dishforth was at 5m intervals. Equally, Fields 7, 89 and 94 were of known AP sites, with Field 74 adjacent to a major known site (Devils Arrows). Therefore the evaluation of these fields provided dating evidence for the features as opposed to actually locating new sites. However, the evaluation of Field 76 did provide information which located an unknown Roman site with earlier prehistoric activity.

Within the evaluation of the Dishforth to Leeming section, of the initial fieldwalking only Area A2 possessed an AP data site; the remainder of the areas where flint occurred, especially Area A4, do not possess such information, therefore the occurrence of flint in such high densities suggests the probable presence of an undiscovered prehistoric site. Equally, in Area E, where evaluation was designed to assess medieval activity relating to a battle site, a high density of flint suggests prehistoric activity of an undefined nature.

As mentioned above, it is possible to comment on the fieldwalking compared with the results of subsequent watching briefs (information supplied by Northern Archaeological Associates):

**Field 85** (covers fields 84, 85, and 86) a watching brief located no features associated with the flint assemblage.



**Field 87** (part of 86 and 87) a few undated pits were observed in Field 87.

**Field 89** : a moderately sized pit concentration which extended into the northern part of

**Field 88**; the fieldwalking results from these areas were negative. Finds from the pits included flint and Neolithic pottery.

**Field 90**: topsoil stripping produced a small cluster of pits associated with Neolithic pottery and flint. Fieldwalking had only produced a low density of flint.

**Field 91**: a small cluster of pits with Neolithic pottery and flint.

**Field 92**: isolated pits

**Field 93**: low density of flints, but isolated pits and a double row of postholes were located  
- ?Neolithic boundary.

It would appear from the above information that the occurrence of flint within a defined area may or may not indicate prehistoric activity of more than a transient nature. Where no firm conclusions can be made, further evaluation should be considered. It must be stressed that even geophysical survey may not produce conclusive results in regard to small features such as pits and postholes; topsoil stripping under archaeological supervision and excavation may be required.

Total Flint				Flint Waste				Flint Tools			
Linewalking Distribution				Linewalking Distribution				Linewalking Distribution			
Area	No.	Ha.	per Ha. per 100m	Area	No.	Ha.	per Ha. per 100m	Area	No.	Ha.	per Ha. per 100m
A1	5	3.4	1.47	A1	5	3.4	1.47	A1	-	3.4	-
A2	6	2.03	2.96	A2	4	2.03	1.97	A2	2	2.03	0.985
A3	1	0.88	1.14	A3	1	0.88	1.14	A3	-	0.88	-
A4(i)	24	3.6	6.67	A4(i)	23	3.6	6.39	A4(i)	1	3.6	0.27
A4(ii)	10	3.48	2.87	A4(ii)	10	3.48	2.87	A4(ii)	-	3.48	-
A5	2	5	0.4	A5	2	5	0.4	A5	-	5	-
E	9	1.57	5.73	E	6	1.57	3.82	E	3	1.57	1.91
			0.535				0.357				0.179

Comparative Data

Total Flint			Flint Waste			Flint Tools		
Linewalking Distribution			Linewalking Distribution			Linewalking Distribution		
Field No.	Ha.	per Ha. per 100m	Field No.	Ha.	per Ha. per 100m	Field No.	Ha.	per Ha. per 100m
74	9	2.493	74	5	3.61	74	4	3.61
76	10	2.375	76	-	4.21	76	10	4.21
84	5	3.24	84	-	3.24	84	5	3.24
85*	9	6.93	85	-	6.93	85	9	6.93
86*	12	7.64	86	-	7.64	86	12	7.64
87*	14	11.2	87	-	11.2	87	14	11.2
88*	4	17.48	88	-	17.48	88	4	17.48
89	164	14.2	89	79	14.2	89	85	14.2
90*	10	15.84	90	-	15.84	90	10	15.84
91*	10	12.92	91	-	12.92	91	10	12.92
92	10	16.56	92	-	16.56	92	10	16.56
94	35	5.266	94	11	5.266	94	24	5.266
95	13	5.894	95	8	5.894	95	5	5.894
96	5	6.031	96	5	6.031	96	-	6.031
101	42	8.40	101	31	6.2	101	42	8.40
115	1	0.839	115	1	0.839	115	-	0.839

\* The line and hectare figures for these fields are approximate.

### 3. Bibliography

Dennison, E., A1 Dishforth to North of Leeming Improvements: Archaeological Desktop Survey.  
Vol. 1. Factual report – Appendices (second draft 8.3.93.).

Northern Archaeological Associates: 1993. A1 Walshford to Dishforth: Fieldwalking Survey.  
Bulleyn & Partners.

Speight, H., 1897. Romantic Richmondshire, 148–9.

Whellan, C., 1859. History and topography of the City of York and the North Riding of Yorkshire,  
Vol. 2, 112.

### 3. Finds Catalogue

#### Area E

##### Pottery

- C15 - 1 body sherd, white glaze, modern
- D5 - 1 body sherd, white glaze, modern
- E16 - 1 body sherd, unidentified, medieval
- F1 - 1 rim sherd, cream glaze, modern
- H1 - 1 body sherd, blue/white transfer ware, modern
- H14 - 1 body sherd, white glaze, modern
- H18 - 1 body sherd, ?York ware, medieval
- H19 - 1 body sherd, blue/white transfer ware, modern
- H21 - 1 base sherd, blue/white transfer ware, modern

##### Brick and Tile

- B6 - 1 brick fragment, 0.002kg
- B16 - 1 brick fragment, 0.005kg
- D16 - 1 brick fragment, 0.002kg
- D18 - 1 brick fragment, 0.001kg
- E12 - 1 brick fragment, 0.005kg
- F4 - 1 tile fragment, 0.002kg
- F6 - 1 tile fragment, 0.001kg

##### Flint

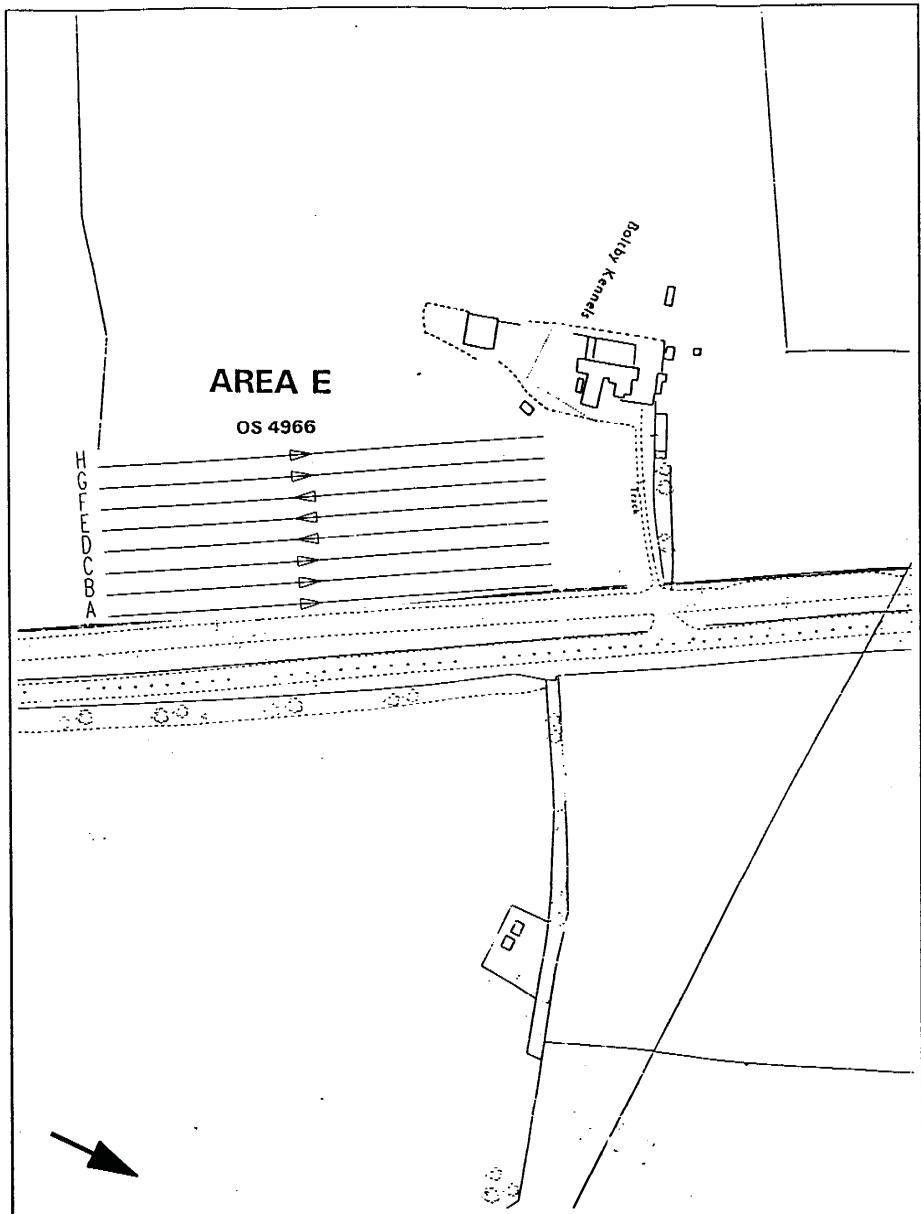
- B4 - 1 flint flake, blue/grey
- B6 - 1 flint flake, blue/grey
- D11 - 1 ?knife, grey/white
- E4 - 1 end scraper, grey/white
- F6 - 1 flint flake, mottled grey
- F9 - 1 flint flake, mottled grey
- G1 - 1 flint blade, grey
- G6 - 1 flint flake, grey/white
- H9 - 1 flint core with single flake scar, grey

##### Animal Bone

- H1 - 1 bird bone

##### Glass

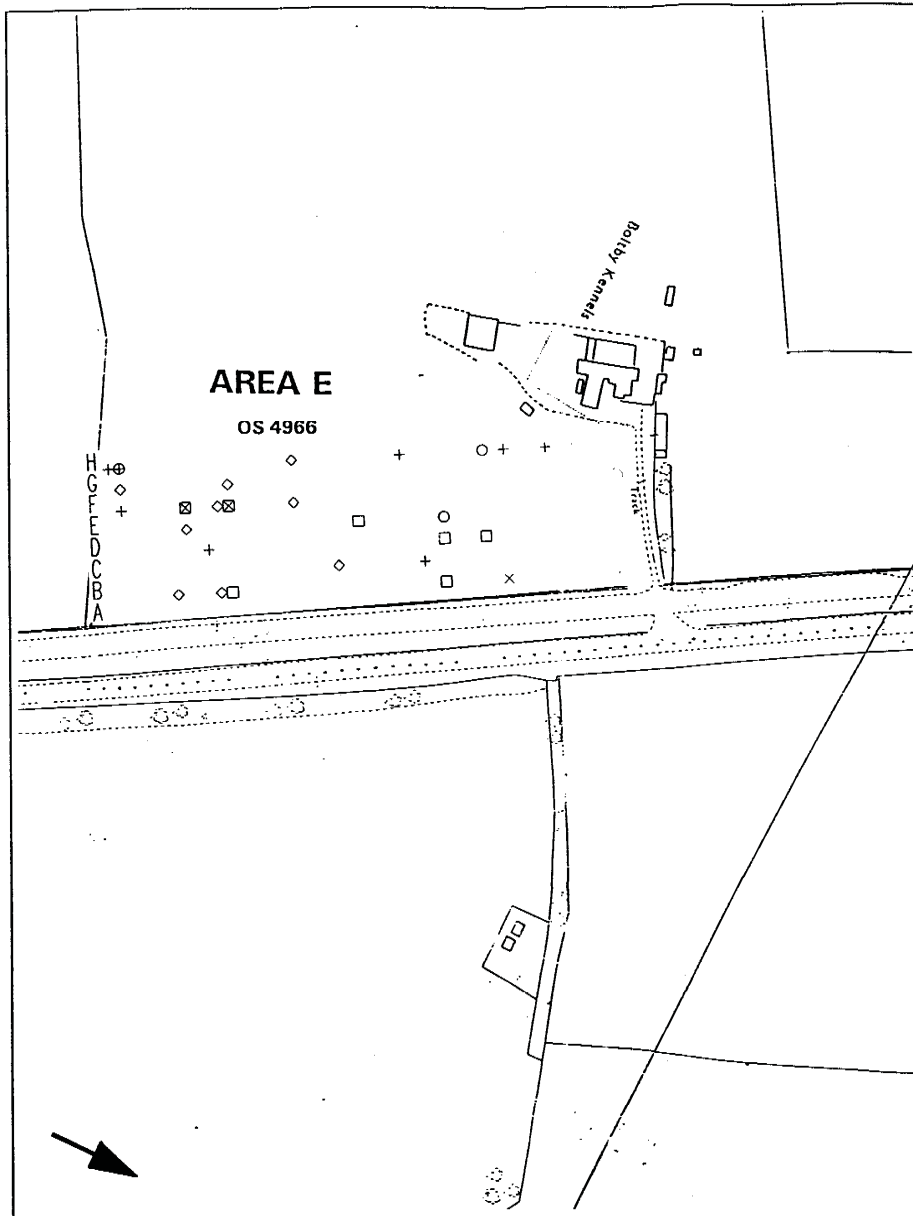
- B19 - 1 clear bottle glass fragment



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		<b>A1 DISHFORTH TO NORTH OF LEEMING IMPROVEMENTS</b>	
		Title Area E - Linewalking Grid	
Scale	1:2500	Figure	2

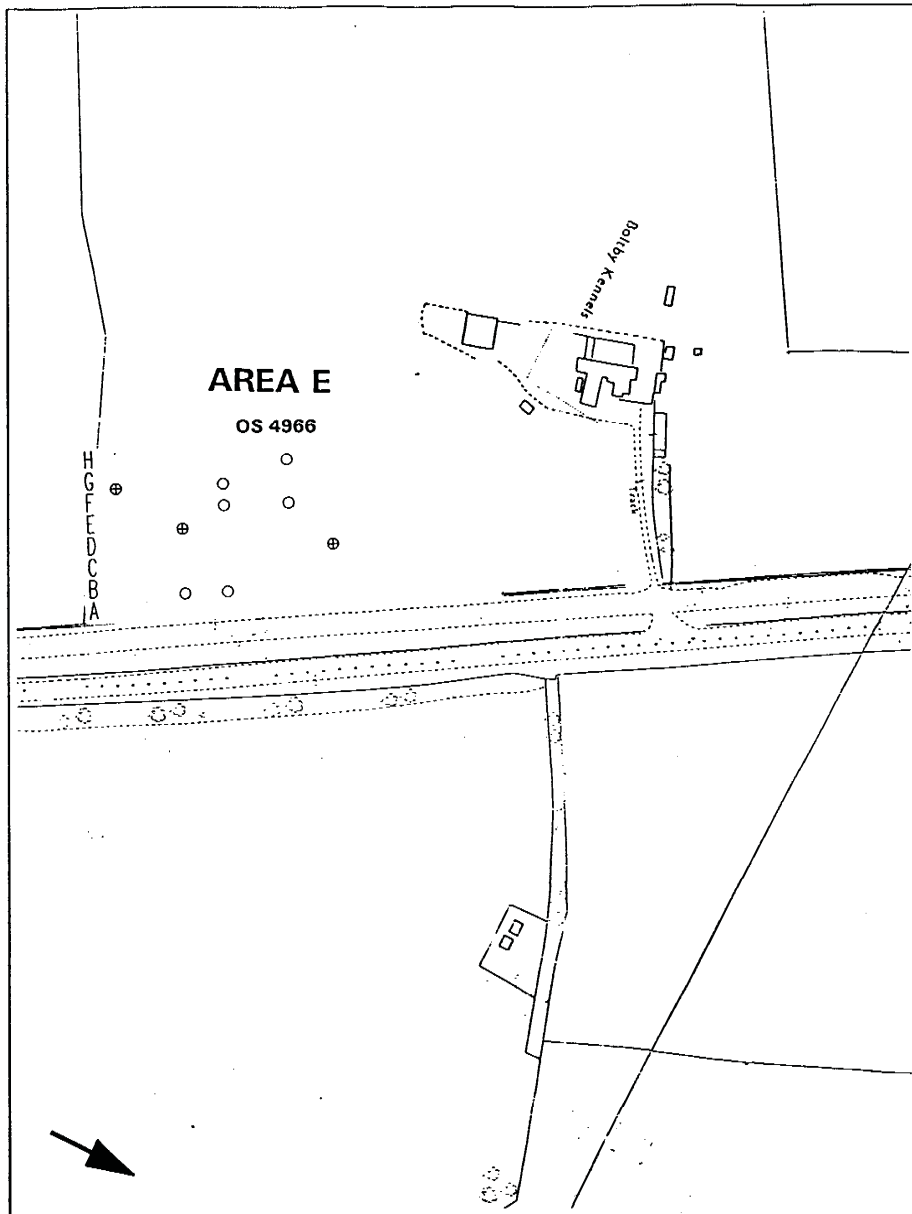
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 Medieval Pottery Sherd</li> <li>+ 1 Modern Pottery Sherd</li> <li>◇ 1 Flint Artefact</li> <li>□ 1 Brick Fragment</li> <li>⊗ 1 Tile Fragment</li> <li>× 1 Glass Fragment</li> <li>⊙ 1 Bone Fragment</li> </ul>	<b>A1 DISHFORTH TO NORTH OF LEEMING IMPROVEMENTS</b>	
	<b>Title</b> Area E - Artefact Distribution	
<b>Scale</b> 1:2500	<b>Figure</b> 3	

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Flint Artefact Distribution ○ 1 Flint Waste ⊕ 1 Flint Tool	<b>A1 DISHFORTH TO NORTH OF LEEMING IMPROVEMENTS</b>	
	Title <b>Area E - Flint Artefact Distribution</b>	
Scale <b>1:2500</b>	Figure <b>4</b>	

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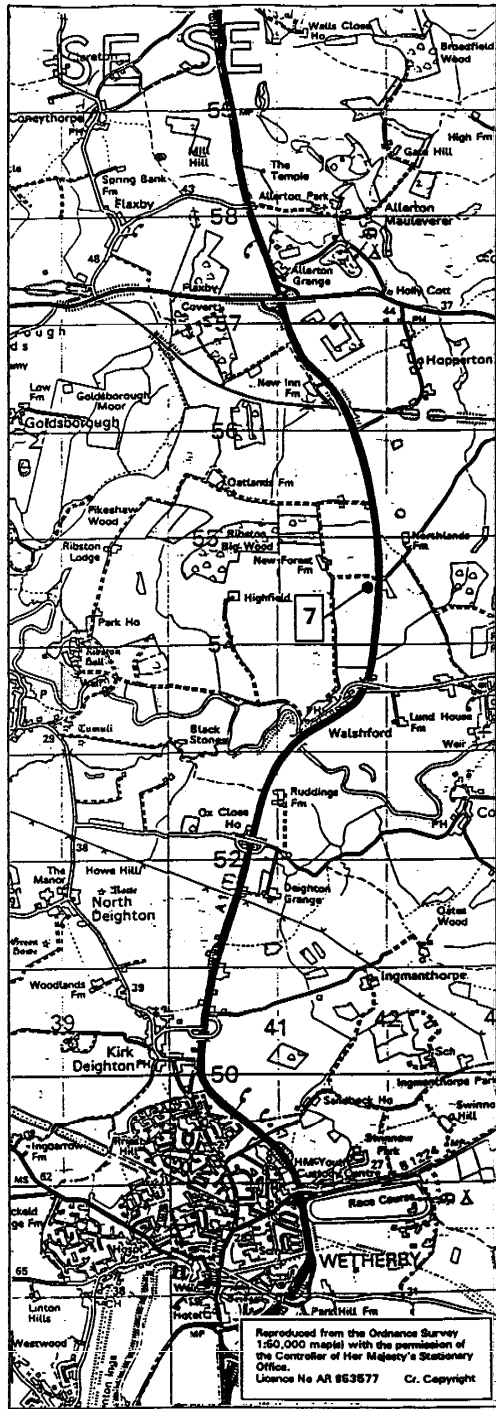
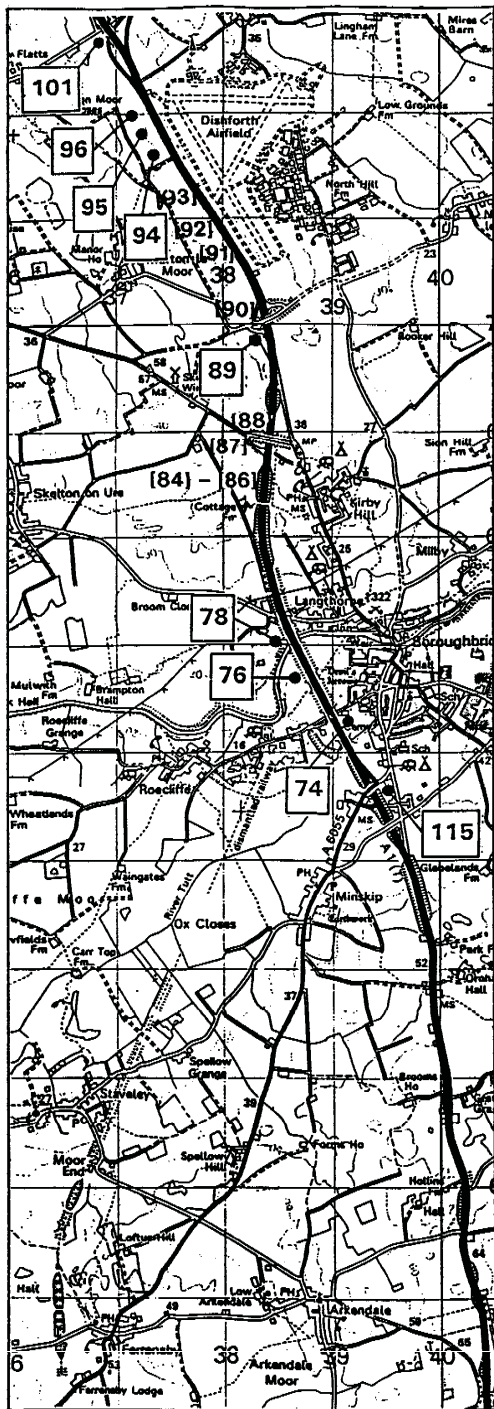


Figure 5  
 Walshford to Dishforth - Site Locations, Scale 1:50000

TABLE 1  
AREA E

Initial Fieldwalking  
Finds Distribution

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
A																						
B				F		BF										B			G			
C															MD							
D					MD						F					B		B				
E				F								B				M						
F	MD			B		BF			F													
G	F					F																
H	MD								F					MD					M	MD		
A																						MD

KEY

- MD - Modern Pottery
- M - Medieval Pottery
- B - Brick and tile
- F - Flint
- A - Animal Bone
- G - Glass