

Humber Field Archaeology
Archaeological Consultants and Contractors



AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND AT
LAVENDER HOUSE
WELTON ROAD
BROUGH
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

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November 2008

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N.G. Adamson
HUMBER FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY, The Old School, Northumberland Avenue,
KINGSTON UPON HULL, HU2 OLN

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation consisting of the excavation of two trenches and recording of archaeological features was undertaken during November 2008 by Humber Field Archaeology on land at Lavender House, Welton Road, Brough, East Yorkshire, in advance of the construction of an extension to the existing residential home for the elderly. The evaluation was carried out at the request of Breathearchitecture Limited on behalf of their client Mr. J. Southgate.

The site is located within a significant archaeological landscape, with evidence of prehistoric and Romano-British settlement known from the vicinity, including the defended town of *Petuaria* (Brough) to the south-west, part of which is a scheduled ancient monument. A minor road leaving the east gate of Brough is thought to cross the southern part of the site, heading towards Welton, and lined for part of its route by extramural suburbs and cemeteries

During the course of the evaluation, several archaeological features and layers were identified in both trenches, including probable early Romano-British ditches below a later stone-lined post setting and spreads of limestone in Trench 1, presumably representing a building next to a hardwearing external yard surface. A similar limestone spread in Trench 2 sealed earlier external surfaces or dumps. These later features indicate activity in the area between the 2nd and mid 4th centuries, with the presence of samian tableware and an amphora fragment reflecting the site's proximity both to the urban settlement of *Petuaria* and to ribbon development stretching along the road which emerged from the town's east gate, and passed immediately to the south. The remains have been interpreted as part of a farmstead or small suburban villa complex, perhaps one of a number in the area producing surplus produce for the town.

The surfaces were overlain by silt deposits and windblown sand, possibly by the middle of the 4th century, suggesting that the farmstead may no longer have been used, at a time when *Petuaria* itself appears to have largely abandoned.

The report concludes that these remains constitute a significant addition to the understanding of the nature of the extramural area north of the minor Roman road leaving the east side of Brough.

2 Introduction

2.1 Site background

During early November 2008, Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, followed by targeted excavation, in advance of construction of an extension for a residential home for the elderly, on land immediately to the east of Lavender House, Welton Road Brough, East Riding of Yorkshire (Site Code LHB2008; National Grid Reference SE 9434 2692; see Figs 1, 2). The work was commissioned at the request of Breathearchitecture Limited, on behalf of their client, Mr J. Southgate, in order to evaluate the potential and survival of archaeological remains on the site.

The development site is bounded on the western side and northern sides by residential development. Welton Road forms the southern boundary of the site, and Tremayne Avenue the eastern boundary. The existing residential home occupies the north-western quarter of the site, with a car park to the south and gardens forming the eastern half.

The site lies immediately to the north-east of the Roman settlement of *Petuaria*, long assumed to be the local tribal capital of the Parisi, the Iron Age tribe which occupied much of what is now East Yorkshire in the pre-Roman and Roman periods. As the area had clear archaeological potential, the client was granted full planning permission for the development subject to an archaeological condition in response to a letter to the Local Planning Authority proposing an evaluation issued by the Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office (archaeological advisor to the LPA) on 7th August 2007:

'No development shall take place on the site until the applicant or their agent or their successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved in writing by the local Planning Authority (PPG16, para 30).'

A Project Design outlining a programme of works was accordingly prepared by Humber Field Archaeology at the request of Breathearchitecture on behalf of Mr Southgate, and issued on the 15th October 2008. HFA recommended that a trench was located along the centre of each of the two wings of the proposed building in order to provide an adequate sample of the site's potential archaeological sequence.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

Prior to this programme of excavation, no archaeological work had been undertaken on the site. The following section draws on the results of excavations and watching briefs in the general area to give an indication of site background.

Natural topography and geology

Brough occupies an area immediately to the east of a large area of former fen carr, Walling Fen. The underlying drift geology below the village consists of sands and gravels following the foot of the Wolds escarpment, with overlying calcareous loamy soils of the Landbeach 2 soil association, incorporating hillwash material.

The site is located on gently rising ground between *c* 9.0–9.5m OD, with the lowest lying area being to the south-west, and the residential development to the immediate north of the site occupying the highest point.

Archaeological and historical background

Although the archaeology of Brough is dominated by the evidence for Roman settlement, there are clear indications that the area as a whole was already intensively used during the prehistoric period, with a network of Iron Age settlements developing along the foot of the Wolds, extending across the well-drained sand and gravel terrace, and in some areas crossing onto the alluvial deposits which followed the course of the Humber. The presence of a potential ditch terminus or pit and a worked flint from the current excavation may constitute evidence for pre-Roman activity on the site.

Roman Brough probably owes its origin to the presence of a large natural harbour (the Haven) at the east side of an area of marshland surrounding the mouth of the River Foulness (Walling Fen); an auxiliary fort was constructed on its east bank after the Roman army pushed north in AD 71–2. Brough was quickly linked by road to other settlements as the frontier advanced, with the Malton and York road skirting the east side of the Walling Fen. A minor road from the east gate led towards Welton, where there was a villa on the wolds above and a complex network of rural settlements along the spring line. Brough's location opposite the line of Ermine Street, the main road south to London, gave it a further strategic importance as a ferry point for northbound traffic. The site became the cantonal capital of the Parisi tribe (or *civitas*), although some authorities have seen it as becoming a naval base as a response to an increase in piracy from across the North Sea and Scotland, with the town situated elsewhere, perhaps near North Ferriby, where a pre-Roman settlement (possibly a pre-Conquest tribal centre) survived into the Roman period (Wacher 1974, 393–7).

The early auxiliary fort was abandoned after a short period of use, but was briefly reoccupied in the early 2nd century. Earth and timber ramparts on the line of the later defences were constructed in the early 3rd century, and subsequently replaced in masonry, probably between *c* AD 270–90. Rectangular bastions were added at intervals to the circuit, probably after *c* AD 300, and the gates were modified. Whether Brough became a naval base or not, the archaeological evidence suggests that it would certainly have housed a civilian population within the walled area, with the settlement spilling out along the main roads, where there were also extra-mural cemeteries. The road to York was particularly important, and substantial houses were built along its route outside the walled area. Despite its strategic significance, the evidence so far suggests that the town did not survive beyond the mid 4th century, although further work may provide evidence to the contrary.

Lavender House lies outside the Roman walls. The east gate lay to the south-west with its attendant minor road flanked by an extra-mural settlement and cemeteries identified in excavations in the Welton Road and Wrygarth Avenue area of Brough. The results of excavations by the then Humberside Archaeology Unit to the south of Welton Road suggest that the course of the Roman road may have crossed the south end of the development site outside the proposed new extensions, passing through what is now a wooded area nearer the modern street (Steedman 1991).

Traces of a roadside settlement were found in 1991 and 1994 behind 49–52 Welton Road (Cavendish Park), dating from the early 2nd to early 4th centuries. These included the remains of buildings, a T-shaped kiln, and ditches marking plot boundaries south of the road leading from the gate. Part of a cremation cemetery was also found at the south end of Wrygarth Avenue in 2007, just outside the triple ditches of the town defences which passed to the west. Traces of a masonry building were found in 1958 at 87–88 Welton Road. South of the site, an evaluation in 1994 revealed seven phases of activity, including ditches containing 1st- to 3rd-century pottery, iron slag and other artefacts, following possible late Iron Age occupation.

In addition to these locally significant finds, Brough lies within a wider archaeological landscape which includes several Iron Age/Romano-British settlements west of North Cave and a nationally-important Iron Age weapons cache at South Cave.

The present building on the site is one of a number of ‘villa’-style houses built in and around Brough from the 1850s onwards. It is not shown on the 1855 1st Edition Ordnance Survey and was presumably constructed a little later; the site is shown as a field running eastward from Elloughton Villa at the Elloughton Road crossroads, and subsequently subdivided into large building plots. Originally called Lombardy Villa, the house was renamed Tremayne Lodge after *c* 1891, when it was occupied by a Mr James Rutter.

3 The Excavation

3.1 Methodology

Two linear trenches, each approximately 10m by 2m, were excavated within the area to be covered by the building footprint (Fig 3). Trench 1 was aligned north–south at the eastern part of the site, parallel with Tremayne Avenue immediately to the east. Trench 2 was orientated east–west, at the northern part of the site, parallel with the northern property boundary. Excavation took place between the 3rd and the 7th November 2008.

Excavation of the overburden to the uppermost significant archaeological horizon was undertaken using a mechanical excavator with a smooth-bladed dyking bucket. The trenches were then cleaned by hand. Features identified were then investigated and recorded to determine their extent and nature, and where possible establish their date.

Standard Humber Field Archaeology recording procedures were used throughout: each identified feature was allocated a context number, with written descriptions recorded on *pro forma* sheets. Plans and sections were drawn to scale on pre-printed permatrace sheets. A colour transparency and monochrome print photographic record was maintained, supplemented by digital photographs. The trench positions were surveyed using electronic distance-measuring (EDM) equipment to give exact locations. Finds recovered from each feature were labelled accordingly, with those of individual interest, other than pottery or animal bone, being allocated Recorded Find (RF) numbers.

A number of selected deposits were sampled for the purpose of analysing any surviving biological remains.

3.2 Results

The site sequence was relatively simple, with no complex stratigraphy, and the pottery suggested only a limited period of occupation in the Romano-British period, with no clear evidence for earlier or later activity until the 19th/20th century, although early or pre-Roman activity may be represented in Trench 1. The sequence was therefore divided into three phases:

Phase 1	Early or pre Romano-British occupation (<i>?1st–2nd century</i>)
Phase 2	Mid to late Roman occupation (<i>2nd–mid 4th century</i>)
Phase 3	Modern activity (<i>19th–20th century</i>)

Trench 1

This trench was *c* 10m long by 2m wide, aligned north–south, at the eastern edge of the site parallel with the property boundary and Tremayne Avenue, within the footprint of the eastern wing of the proposed extension (Fig 3).

Natural deposits

(Figs 4, 5; Plates 1, 2)

The underlying natural deposit was compact chalk gravel [1003] with frequent yellow sandy lenses. The upper surface of this natural deposit lay at *c* 7.94m OD at the southern end of the trench, and at *c* 8.0m OD at the northern end, with a slight ridge appearing to run east–west across the centre, the highest point of which lay at *c* 8.25m OD.

Phase 1

(Figs 4–7; Plates 1, 2)

The earliest feature found in Trench 1, cut into the natural at the northern end of the trench, was [1009], a rounded cut *c* 0.44m wide and 0.23m deep (Plate 1). This was filled by [1008], a loosely-compacted yellow-brown coarse silty sand with occasional chalk gravel and pebble inclusions. The upper limits of this feature appear to have been truncated from above by shallow east–west linear ditch [1007], *c* 0.66m wide and 0.13m deep, which extended beyond the limits of the trench (Fig 7; Plate 2). This was filled by firm grey-brown silty sand [1006] with occasional chalk gravel inclusions.

A soil sample taken from fill 1008 contained little of interest, and there was modern contamination, including rootlets and coal fragments. Traces of land snail shells, if contemporary with the feature, indicate a dry, open environment (*eg* calcareous grassland used as pasture).

Phase 2

(Figs 4–7; Plates 3, 4)

The early features were overlain by a layer of rough-hewn or shattered limestone fragments, [1005], some of which showed evidence of burning (Plates 3, 4). This deposit was *c* 2.70m wide north–south, and extended east–west beyond the limits of the excavated area; the upper surface lay at 8.11m OD. It contained a small assemblage of Romano-British pottery with a probable mid 3rd- to mid 4th-century deposition date, as well as a quernstone fragment (RF 2), oyster shell and animal bone, including cattle and horse.

Overlying this was loose mottled grey-brown coarse-grained silty sand [1004], which contained very occasional pebbles, and from which fragments of Romano-British pottery, a piece of curved roof tile (*imbrex*) and animal bone were recovered; the pottery suggested a 3rd- to 4th-century deposition date. This deposit was *c* 0.16m thick, and extended *c* 5m southwards from the northern end of the trench, petering out at the slight natural gravel ridge which ran across the trench.

Phase 3

(Fig 5)

Deposit 1004 was overlain by loose mid brown silty sand plough subsoil [1002], which varied in depth between *c* 0.35m at the northern end of the trench and *c* 0.62m at the southern end, the variation reflecting the undulations in the underlying natural gravel and sand 1003.

Overlying this in turn was *c* 0.50m of dark grey-brown to black loamy topsoil [1001] which covered most of the site; the upper surface lay at 9.31m OD at the northern end of the trench, and 9.17m OD in the south. This material may be related to the use of the area as a field, but could equally have been deposited as garden soil following the construction of the adjacent house.

Trench 2

This trench was *c* 10m long by 2m wide, orientated east–west at the northern edge of the site, parallel with the northern property boundary, and within the foundation footprint of the north wing of the proposed building.

Natural deposits

(Fig 8; Plate 5)

The underlying natural deposit, yellow-orange compact sand with chalk gravel [2011], was encountered at 8.19m OD at the eastern end of the trench, and at 8.11m OD at the western end.

Phase 2

(Figs 8, 9; Plates 5–11)

The natural subsoil was overlain by mottled yellow-grey coarse-grained silty sand [2008], with chalk gravel inclusions, which was *c* 0.30m thick along the extent of the trench. The layer contained a small assemblage of Romano-British pottery with a probable 2nd- to mid 3rd-century deposition date, and a utilised flint (RF 1). Visible within the section face, and appearing to overlie 2008 across the entire extent of the excavated area, was stiff dark grey-brown silty sand [2016], *c* 0.10m thick with chalk pea-gravel and limestone chunks (Plate 5). Three small undatable Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered. A soil sample from 2016 was assessed, and contained fragments of land snail shells, typical of species preferring dry, open conditions, such as grassland or pasture.

Approximately 2.70m from the eastern end of the trench was structure [2010] (Plates 7, 9), which was composed of four rough-hewn fragments of limestone, each on average 250 x 250 x 70mm (length x breadth x depth), arranged to form a square feature *c* 0.25m across, with a square central cavity. This appeared to be a post-setting, which had either been laid directly upon the surface of 2008 or set into 2016, although no cut was in evidence.

Around 0.5m to the south of 2010, and extending south beyond the limits of the trench, was structure [2009] (Plates 7, 8), consisting of angled (pitched) overlapping

rough-hewn limestone fragments and chunks, the largest of which was *c* 350 x 250 x 70mm, although the average size was within the 250 x 250 x 70mm range used in 2010. The structure seems to represent a truncated fragment, the surviving portion of which was *c* 0.80m east–west, 0.60m north–south, where it appeared to extend beyond the limits of the excavated trench. Like 2010, structure 2009 was either laid directly on the surface of 2008 or set into 2016 but there was no evidence of a cut.

At the eastern end of the trench and also sealing or cutting into 2016 was a layer of rough-hewn limestone chunks, [2012], some of which showed evidence of burning (Plate 10). This deposit lay at *c* 8.19m OD, and was probably related to 1005 seen in Trench 1; it contained an assemblage of 2nd- to mid 3rd-century pottery and oyster shell. Overlying 2012 and extending across the exposed portions of 2008–2010 was grey-brown silty sand [2004], possibly a subsoil horizon, and indicative of the abandonment of the stone surface and other features. It was followed by a layer of loose yellow-grey sand [2003] with no obvious inclusions, which could therefore have been a wind-blown deposit, possibly laid down in the later 4th century (Plate 5).

Cutting into 2003 was [2015] (Plate 11), a presumed posthole *c* 0.27m by 0.21m and *c* 0.09m deep. This was filled by firm to loose grey-brown silty sand [2014], which did, however, contain a fresh blade of grass. This may indicate that this feature was a result of machine-dragging of stone, and compaction of material during the initial excavation of the trench, although the lower fill and general regularity of form more closely resemble a genuine feature. It may have been cut from higher in the sequence, however, and be a much later feature.

Phase 3

(Figs 7, 8; Plates 5, 6)

Overlying the earlier features was thin grey-brown sandy silt [2002], *c* 0.05m thick, which was a plough subsoil or interface layer below a 0.35m thick layer of topsoil, [2001]. The upper surface lay at 9.27m OD at the eastern end of the trench, and at 9.04m OD at the western end. This may represent modern garden soil.

Cutting down through 2001 in the central area of Trench 2 was a substantial feature, [2007], which ran north–south across the width of the trench, and was *c* 3.0m wide east–west at the top, 2.0m wide at the limit of excavation (Plate 6). The full depth was not ascertained, but it probably extended some way into the underlying natural 2011. The cut was filled by dark grey to black gritty deposits [2005] and [2006], which contained concrete, rusting iron, broken glass and corrugated asbestos sheeting. This feature was too large for a rubbish pit, and may represent either an old machine trench or the cut for a feature such as an air raid shelter.

In the south-eastern corner of the trench, the topsoil was cut by pit [2013], which was filled with fragments of plastic, aluminium drinks cans, and broken modern plate glass. The cut was at least 0.3m across and *c* 0.78m deep, extending beyond the southern and eastern trench limits. It was interpreted as a modern rubbish pit, less substantial than 2007.

4 Specialist Reports

4.1 The Pottery

Peter Didsbury

Introduction and methodology

A total of 37 sherds, weighing 1006g, and having an average sherd weight (ASW) of 27.2g, was submitted for examination. All was of Romano-British date (it should be noted that the high ASW reflects the presence of a single, heavy amphora sherd; if this is excluded, the ASW is a more informative 14.3g).

All material was quantified by the two measures of count and weight, according to fabric type, within archaeological context. Data was entered onto an Access database, which now forms the site ceramic archive. It is supplied as an integral part of this report (Table 1), and should be consulted on matters of detail where appropriate.

Fabric codes employed in the database are presented below.

Discussion: the assemblages

Trench 1

Pottery came from two deposits, layer [1005] and the overlying layer [1004].

Layer [1005] contained 8 sherds, weighing 644g. One of these was the large amphora sherd noted above, which weighed 492g. The ASW for the layer is therefore 80.5g if the amphora is included, or 21.7g if not. The wares present were RA, RCG, RG, and RS (see fabric code list). The amphora (RA) and samian (RS) will require specialist identification before a fully informed date can be given for this layer, but a number of factors suggests a 3rd- or 4th-century *terminus post quem* (TPQ) for deposition. A possible published parallel for the amphora is cited in the database; if correctly identified, then the sherd may be from a Dressel 20 of mid 3rd- to mid 4th-century date; a heavy bead rim greyware dish (RG) is of a type that tends to occur from the very late 2nd century in this region (cf. May 1996, 519); and the wire-cut base of the calcite-gritted jar also suggests a 3rd-century or later date. Details of the samian and possible samian may be consulted in the database. It is of intrinsic interest that the calcite-gritted base has been chipped into a disk and then provided with a central perforation.

Layer [1004] contained 6 sherds, weighing 218g (ASW 36.3g). The wares present were DW, RCC, RG, possible RS, and RSH. The key diagnostic element in this context is the rim of a Dalesware (DW) jar, a type which has an overall production period from the very end of the 2nd century to the middle of the 4th. Sooting marks suggest the vessel has seen 'normal' domestic use as a cooking pot. A Nene Valley

colour-coated beaker sherd (RCC) is also probably of 3rd or 4th-century date. The database may be consulted for details of the other components in the assemblage.

Unstratified material from Trench 1, given the number [1000], comprised a single 20g sherd of undiagnostic greyware (RG).

Trench 2

Pottery came from three deposits, ‘subsoil’ [2008], and layers [2016] and [2012].

‘Subsoil’ [2008] produced 3 sherds, weighing 27g (ASW 9.0g). Fabrics present were RO(WS), RS and RSH. The samian is probably from a dish in the 18/31 to 31 series (2nd to mid 3rd century), while a small body of shell-tempered ware (RSH) is almost certainly from a Dalesware jar (see above). The white-slipped oxidized ware is a handle fragment, probably from a small flagon. Such wares were probably current in the Humber area from the late 1st or 2nd century onwards (May 1996, 519). It is probable that a TPQ for the latest material in this ‘subsoil’ lies in the Dalesware production period (see above).

Layer [2016] produced only 3 undiagnostic fragments of RCG and RG, weighing 20g (ASW 6.7g). Table 1 may be consulted for details.

Layer [2012] contained 16 sherds, weighing 82g (ASW 5.1g). Fabrics present were RG, RS and RSH. The samian is probably from a similar vessel to that in [2008]; the shell-tempered ware is, once again, probably Dalesware; and the small scrappy assemblage of greyware contains elements which might suggest a 2nd to mid 3rd-century date (see database for details). It seems likely that a TPQ for deposition of the layer lies within the Dalesware production period.

Conclusions and recommendations

The site assemblage is small, and of limited evidential value. The presence of an amphora sherd, and the high proportion of samian and other fine wares, is typical of urbanised or other ‘high status’ sites in the region. The pottery, all of which comes from layers, is of little use in the interpretation of the stratigraphic sequence; the most that can be said is that the assemblages seem to point to a phase of depositional activity at some time in the 3rd to mid 4th century.

No further work is thought to be necessary on this assemblage. Should the site be brought to full publication, however, then a short pottery report would need to be included. This would necessitate specialist identification of the amphora and the samian.

All material should be retained, in the interests of future ceramic research in the vicinity of the town.

Fabric codes employed in the database

Code	Common name/remarks
DW	Dalesware
RA	Amphorae

RCC	Colour-coated ware
RCG	Calcite-gritted
RG	Greyware
RO(W.S)	White-slipped oxidized ware
RS	Samian
RSH	Shell-tempered ware, other than Dalesware

Table 1 Pottery database

Trench	Context No	Fabric	No	Wt (g)	Remarks	
1	1000	RG	1	20	Body, thick-walled vessel (10mm). Hard, dense, close-knit, slightly sandy pale greyware. Well-smoothed surfaces. Apparently burned post fracture. Not HOSM.	
		1004	DW	1	31	Jar rim, diameter c 160mm. Fully reduced, carbonised deposits inside and out.
			RCC	1	11	Body. Dark brown colour coat, white paste with pink core. Probably NVCC, and from a 3rd-century (?) beaker. Other a fine pale pinkish fabric, samian-like but with too much sand. Very worn, but with traces of red colour coat.
			RG	1	28	Base in sandy greyware, fairly thick-walled (10mm). Underside turned, with broad circumferential groove.
			RS?	1	7	Body, fine pale pinkish fabric, samian-like but confirmation needed. Very worn, but with traces of red slip both sides. Similar in [1005].
			RSH	2	141	Reduced, small body. Oxidized base/lower body of jar. Both almost certainly DW.
	1005	RA	1	492	Rim and handle fragment. Possibly a Dressel 20 of mid 3rd- to mid 4th-century date, cf. rim of Peacock & Williams 1991, fig. 66, no. 46.	
		RCG	1	55	Jar base from wheel-thrown vessel (wire marks on underside). Common small (to 2mm) calcareous temper (chalk and calcite?), black with red margins and grey core. Chipped into disk and perforated with a central 10mm perforation. Very dense, weighty fabric.	
		RG	3	55	Bodies, possibly same vessel; heavy bead rim of open form, dark grey core with red margins and patchy dark brownish-grey surfaces. C 3rd or 4th century.	
		RS	1	32	Decorated lower body, possibly from an East Gaulish form 37, cf. Webster 1996, fig. 64, lower example, which is a late 2nd- to mid 3rd-century example from Rheinzabern. Rivet repair hole. Possible worn advertising label?	
		RS?	2	10	Joining sherds (fresh fracture), same fabric or vessel in [1004].	
	2	2008	RO(W.S)	1	10	Square-sectioned handle from small vessel, reddish fabric with pale grey core and white-slipped exterior. Incomplete cross-section, but lateral groove on one side. Small flagon?
RS			1	7	Carination from 18/31 or 31, 2nd to mid 3rd century.	
RSH			1	5	Body, almost certainly DW.	
2012		RG	8	52	Assorted bodies & small base, plus two rim sherds from same vessel. One body partly oxidized. Others burned post fracture. Rims from jar diam. C 140mm, everted with flattened top & interior surface, making it slightly reminiscent of Dalesware and other lid-seated types. Hard blue-grey fabric, some black mineral, darker surfaces. Perhaps the 2nd- and 3rd-century	

				Dragonby fabric (May 1996, 515–516). Not as exaggerated as Cataractonium Type J12.3 (Bell & Evans 2002, fig 180) but similar – mid 2nd to mid 3rd century, and broadly cf. some Blaxton Type E jars (Buckland <i>et al</i> 1980, fig. 5).	
		RS	7	25	Bead rim and carination fragments, 18/1 or 31, 2nd to mid 3rd century.
		RSH	1	5	Basal angle flake, probably from DW jar.
	2016	RCG	1	5	Fragment, pinkish grey with smooth black surfaces. Apparently chalk and quartz sand. Probably wheel-thrown.
		RG	2	15	Bodies, one partly oxidized.

4.2 The Other Finds

Sophie Tibbles

The Recorded Finds

Aims and objectives

The following report will assess the potential of the recorded finds assemblage, to answer questions posed within the original project design (Brigham 2008). It also aims to assess the potential for further analysis.

The structure of this report is based on guidelines recommended by the Roman Finds Group, Finds Research Group AD 700–1700 (1993) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists Finds Group (1991). It also aims to meet the requirements of MAP2, Phase 3, ‘Assessment of potential for analysis’ (English Heritage 1991).

Introduction and methodology

All artefacts were recorded using Humber Field Archaeology *pro-forma* ‘Recorded finds’ sheets. Access databases were created using this data. All finds were appropriately packed for long-term storage, in accordance with conservation and museum guidelines.

Quantification of Recorded Finds by material and function

Of the two trenches of the evaluation, two recorded finds were recovered.

Flint – Total 1

Function	Interpretation	Quantity
Tool	Utilised Flake	1
Total		1

Stone – Total 1

Function	Interpretation	Quantity
Milling	Quern	1

Catalogue

Utilised Blade-like Flake

Incomplete. Blue/brown, semi-opaque flint. One edge utilised. Good condition.

Length: 22mm Width: 7–16mm Thickness: 1–4.5mm

RF No.1 Context: [2008]

Quern

Incomplete. Lava quern. Probably from the Eifel region of West Germany. Friable condition. Five fragments, although non-joining, considered to be part of the same quern. Small areas of original surfaces noted on all but fragment 3. Crisp breaks evident. No dressing or tooling visible.

Maximum Dimensions:

Fragment 1: 55 x 48 x 41mm

Fragment 2: 38 x 28 x 26mm

Fragment 3: 30 x 25 x 17mm

Fragment 4: 32 x 29 x 23mm

Fragment 5: 33 x 16 x 21mm

RF No.2 Context: [1005]

Assessment of potential

Prehistoric activity may be reflected by the utilised blade-like flake.

The Romano-British period is represented by the lava quern fragment. This may also be an indication of trade via the Humber estuary, as Wright suggests (1996, 369) ‘for the direct import of these artefacts’.

On their own, the two recorded finds are of limited potential. There are no artefacts pertaining to craft or industrial activity. The small size of the assemblage would infer the area was used for agricultural activity, with domestic occupation elsewhere within the immediate vicinity.

Recommendations

No further work is deemed necessary on the recorded finds. Unless the land owner requests their return, the artefacts should be deposited within the appropriate museum.

Acknowledgements

The finds processing was undertaken by Claire Rose.

Archive Quantification

Table 2 LHB2008 Box Archive Table

Material	Storage type	Size (mm)	Quantity
Pot, Animal Bone, Shell, RB CBM, Flint RF, Stone RF	Museum Box	380 x 300 x 150	1
Environmental Samples*	Sample Bucket	10 litre Rectangular	2

Total			3

*The environmental samples may be reduced as a result of processing and any further work pending their intrinsic value.

4.3 The Ceramic Building Material

Sophie Tibbles

Introduction and methodology

The on-site retrieval policy for ceramic building materials involves the collection of all fragments from hand-excavated contexts. Assessment was based on a visual scan of the recovered material (in this instance a single fragment), including basic quantification by count and weight. Information regarding the dimensions, shape and fabric was recorded and compared with existing regional brick and tile typologies.

The assemblage

Roof Tile

One fragment of Romano-British roof tile was recovered from Phase 2 accumulation layer [1004], identified as part of an *imbrex* (a curved roof tile covering the joint between two flat tiles or *tegulae*). The fragment had a weight of 149g and a thickness of 16mm. Crisp breaks and finger striations from manufacture were noted. Remnants of grey mortar were evident on the underside, probably from the original use.

Discussion

Although evidence for structures and a road/track or yard surface were encountered during the evaluation (see main text), the stratigraphic location of the *imbrex* — an accumulation layer — does not suggest any association with these features. The tile is considered to be redeposited, most likely from buildings within the immediate area.

Recommendations

No further work is deemed necessary. Unless the land owner requests its return, the *imbrex* should be deposited within the relevant museum with the remainder of the finds assemblage.

4.4 The Biological Remains

John Carrott, Deborah Jaques and Alexandra Schmidl, Palaeoecology Research Services

Introduction

Two bulk sediment samples ('GBA'/'BS' *sensu* Dobney *et al* 1992) and very small quantities of hand-collected bone and shell, were submitted to Palaeoecology Research Services Limited (PRS), County Durham, for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

Methods

The lithologies of the bulk samples were recorded, using a standard *pro forma*. Subsamples from each were processed for the recovery of plant and invertebrate macrofossils, broadly following the techniques of Kenward *et al* (1980). Prior to processing, the subsamples were disaggregated in water for 24 hours or more and their volumes recorded in a waterlogged state.

Plant and invertebrate remains in the processed subsample fractions (washovers and residues) were recorded briefly by 'scanning' (using a low-power microscope where necessary), identifiable taxa and other components being listed on paper. The washovers and residues were largely mineral in nature and were dried before being recorded. Nomenclature for snails follows Kerney (1999).

Hand-collected shell

For the hand-collected shell, brief notes were made on the preservational condition of the shell and the remains identified to species where possible. The weight (in grammes) and maximum dimension (in millimetres) of shell from each context was recorded.

For oyster (*Ostrea edulis* L.) shell additional notes were made regarding: numbers of left and right valves; evidence of having being opened using a knife or similar implement; measurability of the valves; damage from other marine biota (*eg* polychaet worms and dog whelks); encrustation by barnacles. Preservation was recorded using two, subjective, four-point scales for erosion and fragmentation—scale points were: 0 – none apparent; 1 – slight; 2 – moderate; 3 – high.

Nomenclature for marine shellfish follows Hayward & Ryland (1995).

Hand-collected vertebrate remains

For the hand-collected vertebrate remains, subjective records were made of the state of preservation, colour of the fragments and appearance of broken surfaces ('angularity'). Additional information, such as fragment size, dog gnawing, burning, butchery and fresh breakage, was noted where applicable.

Where possible, fragments were identified to species or species group using the PRS modern comparative reference collection. Remains that could not be identified to species were described as the ‘unidentified’ fraction. Within this fraction, fragments were grouped into a number of categories: large mammal (assumed to be cattle, horse or large cervid), medium-sized mammal (assumed to be caprovid, pig or small cervid) and completely unidentifiable.

Results

The results are presented in context number order, by trench. Archaeological information, provided by the excavator, is given in square brackets. A brief summary of the processing method and an estimate of the remaining volume of unprocessed sediment follows (in round brackets) after the sample numbers.

Trench 1

Context [1008] [fill of ditch 1009; ?Romano-British]

Sample 1/T (2kg/2 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 1.5 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, light to mid brown, with orange-brown streaks and occasional patches of very light grey-brown, unconsolidated, slightly silty sand, with stones (2–20mm) present.

The tiny washover (to 1g; dried) was of sand and modern rootlets, with traces of coal (to 2mm) and unidentified fine charcoal (to 2mm). There were also traces of unidentified shell and three identifiable (at least in part) terrestrial snails – single representatives of *Pupilla muscorum* (L.), *Vallonia ?excentrica* Sterki and *Trichia* sp.

The small residue (dry weight 0.5kg) was mostly of sand and stones (chalk/limestone and flint; to 30mm), some iron-rich mineral concretions (to 12mm), with traces of coal (to 5mm) and unidentified bone (to 5mm; to 1g).

Trench 2

Context [2016] [buried soil surface; Romano-British]

Sample 2/T (3kg/2 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 4 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, mid to dark grey-brown, unconsolidated to slightly sticky, moderately stony (stones of 2–20mm were present and 20–60mm were common), silty sand.

The tiny washover (2g; dried) consisted largely of sand and iron-rich mineral concretions (to 10 mm), with some rootlets, cinder/slag (to 10mm), a little unidentified charcoal (to 10mm) and some land snail remains. The last consisted of one *Vertigo pygmaea* (Draparnaud), two *Pupilla muscorum*, five *Vallonia ?excentrica*, two ?*Trichia* sp. (apex fragments) and five unidentified land snail apices, together with some other unidentified shell fragments.

The small residue (dry weight 0.588kg) was mostly sand and stones (chalk/limestone and flint; to 40mm), with a few iron-rich concretions (to 10mm).

Hand-collected shell

Very small quantities of hand-collected shell with a total weight of just 90g were recovered from two contexts: [1005] (a Romano-British surface or consolidation deposit in Trench 1) and [2012] (another Romano-British surface or consolidation deposit in Trench 2).

The remains were all of fairly well preserved oyster shell – erosion of the shell was recorded as ‘slight’ from both deposits and fragmentation also as ‘slight’ for [1005] but ‘moderate’ for [2012]. The remains from [1005] consisted of a single left oyster valve (to 77mm; 40g) from which some more detailed metrical data could be recovered (additional measurements were not taken as part of this evaluation, however). This valve showed no definite indications of having been opened using a knife (or similar implement), had no fresh breakage damage and showed no evidence of damage or encrustation by other marine biota. Two oyster valves (one left valve and one of indeterminate side) were recovered from [2012] (to 76mm; 50g) but here the fragmentation would preclude the recovery of any additional useful measurements. Both valves showed ‘knife’ marks and one had a little fresh breakage damage but there was no evidence of damage or encrustation by other marine biota.

Hand-collected vertebrate remains

A total of 12 fragments of bone were recovered from the excavations; eight fragments came from Trench 1 and four from Trench 2. Five deposits were represented, all of which were layers or consolidation deposits of probable Romano-British date.

Preservation of the remains was described as ‘fair’, although most fragments were a little battered in appearance. Bones from Trench 1 were a dark ginger-brown in colour, whilst those from Trench 2 were a lighter brown. Evidence of dog gnawing and fresh breakage damage was apparent but was minimal in extent.

The small collection of animal bones included horse, cattle and caprovid remains, together with several medium-sized mammal shaft fragments (Table 3). A cattle mandibular third molar from [1005] was associated with the cattle mandible from [1004], whilst the two horse scapula fragments from [1005] probably represented the same bone.

Discussion and statement of potential

Ancient botanical remains recovered from the sediment samples were restricted to small quantities of unidentified charcoal of no interpretative value. The only invertebrate remains recovered from the samples were very small numbers of land snails. These were too few for definitive interpretation but those taxa present which show any strong ecological preference (*ie Pupilla muscorum, Vertigo pygmaea, Vallonia* species) suggested dry, sparsely vegetated conditions, such as calcareous short-turfed grassland, with areas of exposed rock surface in the vicinity during the Romano-British period.

The small quantity of hand-collected shell was recovered from just two Romano-British deposits. All of the remains were of oyster valves and almost certainly represent human food waste but were too few to provide any additional information. Similarly, the vertebrate assemblage was too small to be of any interpretative value.

Preservation of the snail remains from the samples and of the hand-collected material was reasonable but, on the evidence of this evaluation, it seems unlikely that further excavation at this site would produce useful assemblages.

Recommendations

No further study of the biological remains from this site is warranted.

Retention and disposal

All of the biological remains recovered from the evaluation subsamples and the hand-collected material should be retained as part of the physical archive of the site.

Unless required for purposes other than the study of biological remains, the remaining sediment from the bulk samples may be discarded.

Archive

All material is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 8, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon, County Durham), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to Sophie Tibbles and Neil Adamson, of Humber Field Archaeology, for providing the material and the archaeological information.

Table 3 Hand-collected vertebrate remains

Species		Trench 1		Trench 2			Total
		1004	1005	2008	2012	2016	
<i>Equus f. domestic</i>	horse	–	2	–	–	–	2
<i>Bos f. domestic</i>	cow	2	2	–	–	–	4
Caprovid	sheep/goat	–	–	–	–	1	1
large mammal		1	–	–	–	–	1
medium-sized mammal		–	–	1	2	–	3
unidentified		1	–	–	–	–	1
Total		4	4	1	2	1	12

5 Discussion and Recommendations

5.2 Discussion

Site sequence

Natural deposits

The site occupies what was originally very gently rising ground, with the gradient running from south-west to north-east. The upper surface of the underlying natural gravel lies at *c* 8.19m OD at the northern edge of the site, falling to 7.94m OD in the south, a difference of just 0.25m. The natural material is typical of the fluvio-glacial gravels forming a platform or former beach around the base of the shallow Wolds edge in this area, sealed in southern Brough by alluvial deposits.

Phase 1

Initial activity on the site seems to be represented by the cutting of [1009] (Plate 1), which may represent the western rounded terminal of a linear feature, although, as the full extent was not revealed in plan, it may equally represent part of an oval pit. No finds were recovered from the fill, which makes it impossible to date in anything other than broad, relative terms; it pre-dates later activity on the site which can be ascribed to the mid to late Roman period, and is therefore probably either earlier Roman (late 1st to 2nd century) or pre-Roman, perhaps late Iron Age.

[1009] was truncated by a further east–west linear feature [1007] (Plate 2), the presence of which may strengthen the assumption that [1009] was a ditch terminal, and that [1007] was either a re-cut or re-establishment of that boundary. The fill was undated but was sealed beneath late Roman rubble layer [1005] (see below).

Phase 2

Within the area of Trench 2, on the slightly higher ground to the north, the earliest event appears to have been the accumulation of a subsoil layer [2008], possibly as a result of early agricultural activity; it contained a utilised flint, indicating prehistoric occupation in the area. This layer was then sealed below [2016] (Plate 5), which represents a buried Roman land surface. It was overlain in turn by rubble [2012] (Plate 10), which was almost certainly an extension of [1005] in Trench 1 to the south (see below).

In Trench 1, rubble [1005] contained 3rd- to mid 4th-century pottery (Plates 3, 4). In section, it seemed to spread across the base of a slight hollow, and it was suggested at the time of excavation that it may be a segment of the Roman road leaving the east gate of *Petuaria* (P. Lings, *pers comm*), although it lies north of the formerly projected line, which (if correct) would pass through a wooded area at the south end of the site. An alternative and more likely interpretation is that [1005] forms part of either a secondary track or a yard surface, overlying pre-existing features. It may

therefore represent the southern and western boundary of a courtyard or farmyard, the south edge of which lies parallel to the course of the road proper. The presence of small patches of burned material within the stony surface could be a reflection of associated craft/industrial processes, which reinforces the likelihood that it did not form part of a thoroughfare.

Structures [2009] and [2010] within Trench 2 may represent the remains of a craft/industrial or farm building within or surrounding the yard area (Plates 7–9). They were probably inserted through ground surface [2016], resting on the exposed subsoil [2008]. [2010] appears to be a post setting with a neat ‘kerb’ surrounding a stone-packed post setting. [2009] was initially interpreted as a grave covering, but excavation proved that this was not the case, and it may be a pitched foundation for some form of installation or structure or alternatively the remnants of a robbed stone surface, perhaps a floor within the building represented by [2010]. The stones used are of similar size to those in [1005] and [2012], and they are all probably contemporary.

The proximity of farm buildings and local occupation or activity would account for the presence of pottery within [1005] and [2012]. The broken edges and small sherd size of some of the pottery fragments reflect wear or rough handling, so they may not have originated locally; the presence of samian ware and a single large amphora sherd are indicators of reasonably high-status (or at least urbanised) activity, involved individuals with Romanised tastes. While the stone may have been quarried freshly, both deposits may represent rubble originally obtained from the demolition of a nearby structure, although they could equally represent redeposited material brought in from elsewhere, since the stone may originally have been robbed from structures within *Petuaria*. If the latter was the case, however, fragments of ceramic building materials such as tegulae or box flue tiles, and possibly other materials such as mortar or wall plaster are more likely to have been present. Interestingly, both deposits contain small amounts of oyster shell, the only examples noted on site, perhaps also indicative of nearby occupation.

On balance therefore, it is likely that the yard surfaces and other features seen in Trenches 1 and 2 are part of a farm or a small suburban villa to the north of the road, perhaps producing food surpluses for the urban settlement. The pottery recovered, although sparse, suggests that the site may have been abandoned at the same time as the town, probably not much later than the middle of the 4th century.

Following this Roman activity on site, a probable period of abandonment led to the accumulation of layers [1004] and [2004], acting as subsoil deposits for the later plough topsoil. It is noticeable that [1004] does not appear to spread south beyond the ridge of natural gravel that runs across Trench 1, possibly suggesting that these deposits (which are likely to be the same) originated as hillwash material which accumulated from the slightly higher ground to the north. [1004] did, however, contain 3rd- to 4th-century pottery and a fragment of an *imbrex* (curved roof tile). Sand [2003] appears to be a windblown deposit, a relatively common feature of the area on both sides of the Humber.

Posthole [2015] (Plate 11) could be a truncated modern feature or simply have been created during the clearance of the trench, but it may be of late Roman date; if so it

was isolated and cut through deposits which appear to represent abandonment of the stone surface and building.

Phase 3

Further sandy accumulations [1002] and [2002] may be a separate phase of natural subsoil build-up, but may represent comparatively modern attempts to landscape and level the site during the construction of Lavender House (formerly Lombardy Villa), although they contain no datable artefacts or modern building material.

The final two phases of activity on site were the accumulation of the overlying topsoil deposit, which may again have been artificially augmented to reach the substantial depth recorded; and the excavation and backfilling of pits [2013] and [2007] in Trench 2. Rubbish pit [2013], with its modern soft-drink cans, broken modern glass and plastic is either a rubbish pit, old trial pit or backfilled treehole, but [2007] seems much too substantial for this (Plate 6), and could represent the cut for a structure such as a WW2 Anderson shelter, dismantled and filled with builders' rubble during or shortly after the construction of the rear extension to Lavender House, which appears to date from the 1970s.

Impact assessment

Archaeological deposits and features were recorded in both trenches below more recent subsoil and topsoil. The principal features in both trenches lay at least *c* 0.8m below the present ground level. Any construction activity above this depth should have no impact on preservation, but any proposed foundations and services exceeding 0.8m would intrude into archaeological levels.

As far as could be ascertained, there were no existing obstructions in the form of earlier foundations which would require removal prior to construction, and there should therefore be no collateral damage from this source.

5.3 Recommendations

The views and recommendations expressed in this section are those of Humber Field Archaeology, and will not necessarily be those of the local authority.

The site clearly contains some features of interest. These are, however, at least 0.8m below present ground level, and it is recommended that foundations and services are designed which remain in this upper zone in order to preserve the features *in situ*, the stated preference of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning), issued by the Department of the Environment in 1990. This would avoid the necessity for further works, unless the LPA determine that a limited watching brief should be carried out to ensure that no localised features are present at a higher level.

If the foundations or services extend below 0.8m depth, the LPA will require further archaeological work as the second stage in the site mitigation strategy in order to record features likely to be disturbed or damaged by the construction programme. If disturbance is limited in extent, this may entail a programme of observation,

investigation and recording (watching brief) during the course of the excavation of foundation and service trenches. If larger scale disturbance below *c* 0.8m is likely, such as the construction of deep raft foundations, or general area reduction to reach bearing ground, the LPA is likely to insist on the open area excavation of the affected areas.

For the evaluation stage, no further work is recommended on the site sequence, artefacts or soil samples; the results of the evaluation will be published as a note in the next available issue of *East Riding Archaeologist* and in the annual round-up section of the Roman period journal, *Britannia*. Should further work be undertaken on the site, the results of the evaluation will be incorporated into any new assessment report.

Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by Breathearchitecture Limited on behalf of their client, Mr J. Southgate.

The on-site work was carried out in accordance with recommendations by Mr D. Evans of the Humber Sites and Monuments Record. The site was excavated and recorded by Philip Lings and Richard George of Humber Field Archaeology (HFA), under the supervision of Neil Adamson.

The text and photographs in this report are the work of Neil Adamson; the figures are the work of Neil Adamson, with editing by Dave Atkinson. The pottery report was written by Peter Didsbury, with finds and ceramic building material assessments by Sophie Tibbles. The environmental assessment was produced by John Carrott, Deborah Jaques and Alexandra Schmidl, Palaeoecology Research Services.

The report was edited by Trevor Brigham, who also contributed to the Discussion and Recommendations. Administrative support was provided by Georgina Richardson and June Rooney.

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Figure 1: Site Location

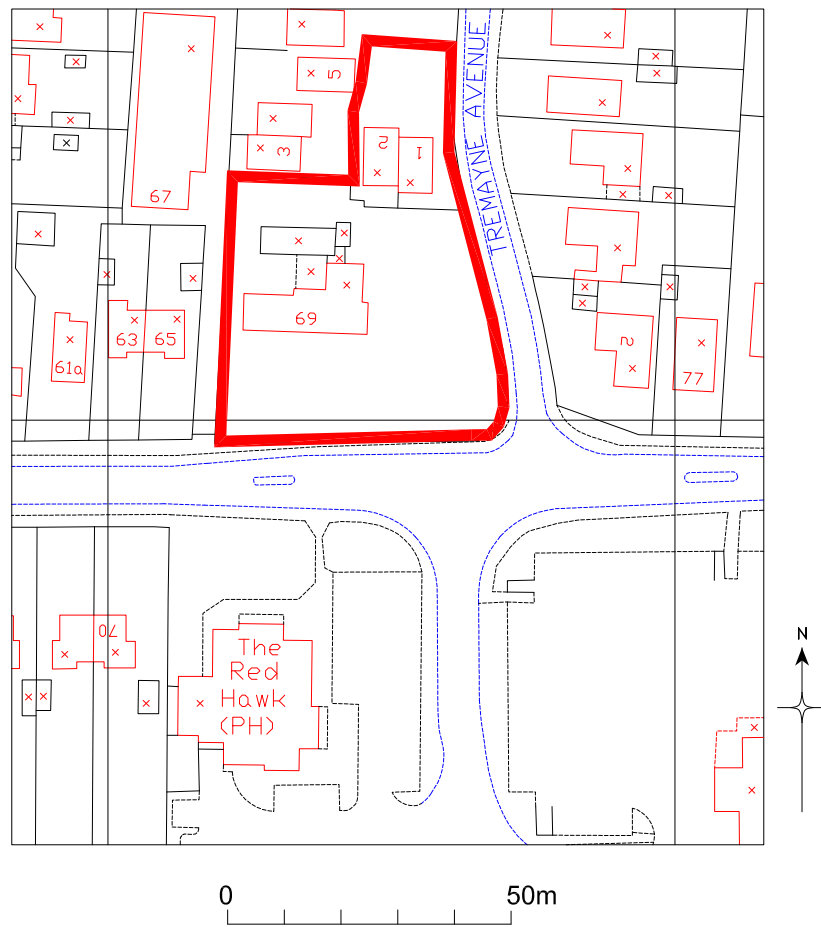


Figure 2: Location of site within Brough

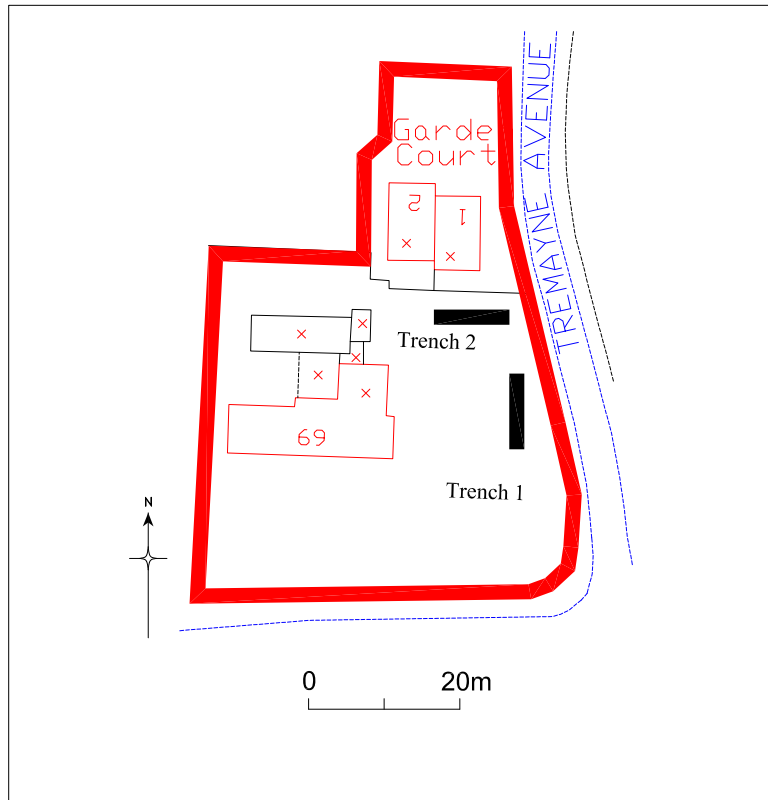


Figure 3: Location of trenches within site

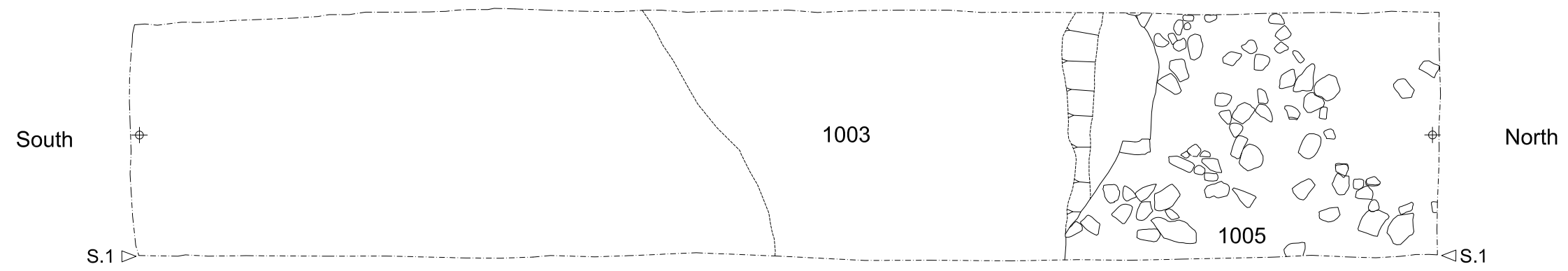


Figure 4: Plan 1: Trench 1 in plan

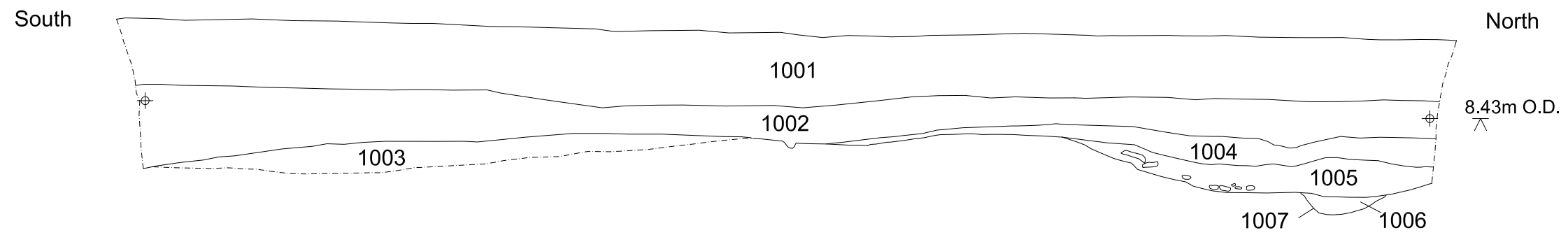


Figure 5: Section 1: East facing section of Trench 1

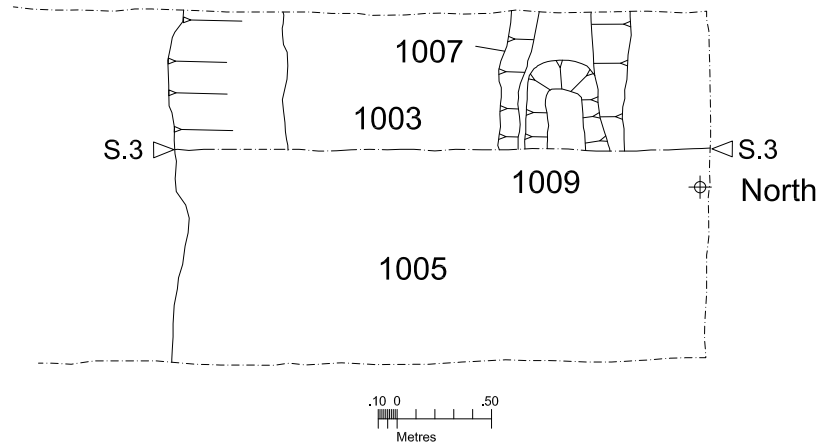


Figure 6: Plan 3: Trench 1, features below surface 1005

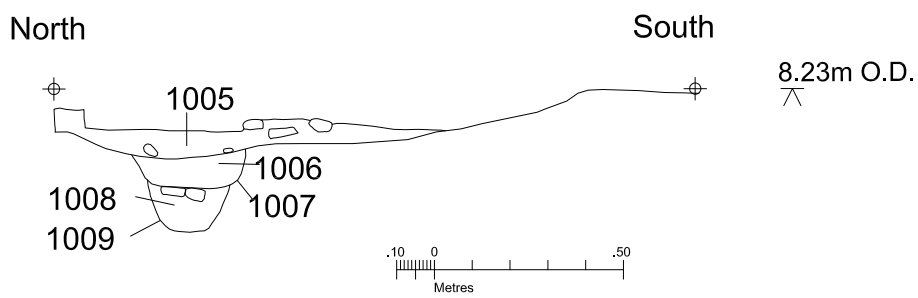


Figure 7: Section 3: West facing section of 1007 and 1009

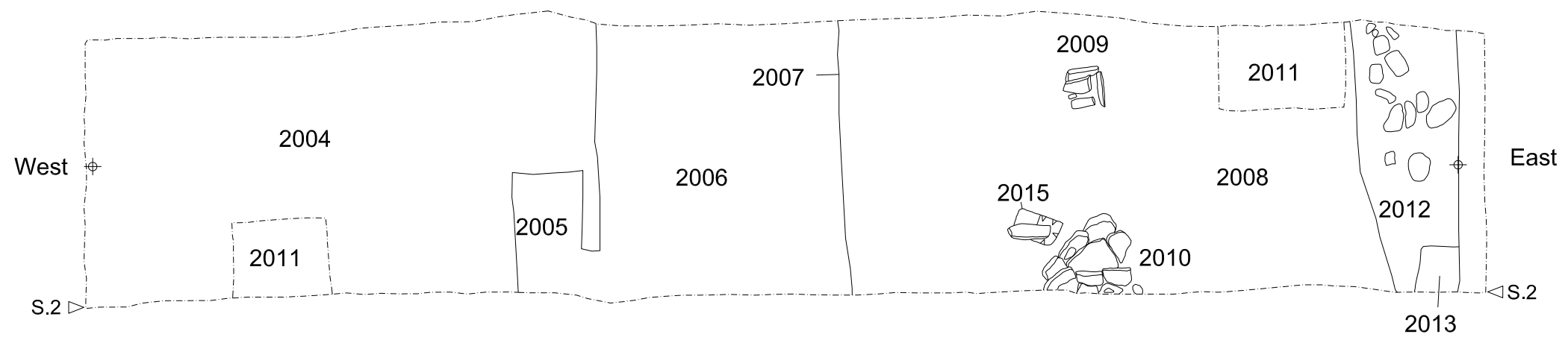


Figure 8: Plan 2: Trench 2 in plan

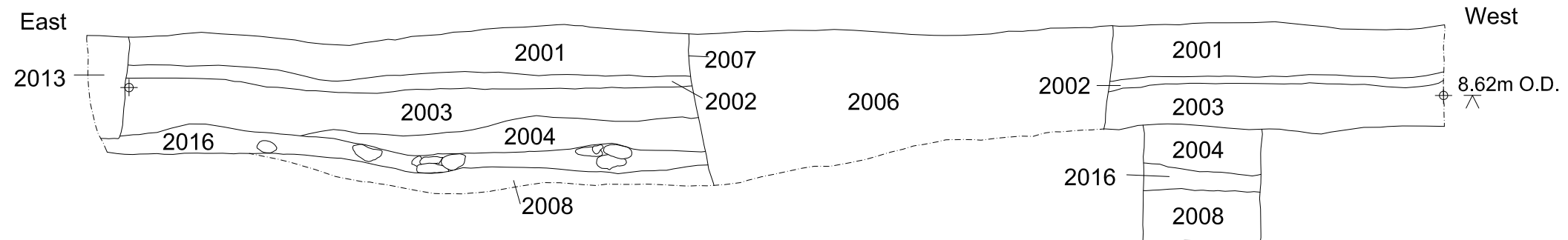


Figure 9: Section 2: North facing section of Trench 2



Plate 1 Trench 1, natural gravel [1003] cut by [1009] truncated in turn by ditch [1007], looking north (0.5m scale)



Plate 2 Trench 1, detail of ditch [1007], fill [1006] sealed by rubble layer [1005] in section (0.5m scale)



Plate 3 Trench 1 after cleaning with possible yard surface [1005] in the foreground, looking south (1m scale)



Plate 4 Trench 1, possible yard surface [1005], looking south (1m scale)



Plate 5 Trench 2, western sondage through natural [2011] and overlying stony deposit [2016], silt [2004], and windblown sand [2003] (0.5m scale)



Plate 6 Trench 2 during excavation, with modern cut [2007] below the scale, looking east (1m scale)



Plate 7 Trench 2, stone features [2009] and [2010] (0.5m scale)



Plate 8 Trench 2, detail of stone feature [2009] (0.5m scale)



Plate 9 Trench 2, detail of stone feature [2010] (0.2m scale)



Plate 10 Trench 2, detail of possible yard surface [2012] (0.2m scale)



Plate 11 Trench 2, detail of possible posthole or modern feature [2015] (0.2m scale)

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors

The Old School, Northumberland Avenue,

KINGSTON UPON HULL, HU2 0LN

Telephone (01482) 310600 Fax (01482) 310601



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