

**Humber Field Archaeology**  
*Archaeological Consultants and Contractors*



**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**ON LAND AT**

**LISSETT AIRFIELD**

**LISSETT**

**EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE**

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**September–October 2007**

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# 1 Summary

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During September 2007, Humber Field Archaeology undertook archaeological trial excavations on a proposed wind turbine site at Lisset Airfield, East Yorkshire. Thirty-four trenches were excavated across the turbine and road locations within the proposal area; features of archaeological significance were located in two trenches (T13 and T18), both of which are reported below.

The programme of trial trenching was requested by Humber Sites & Monuments Record as the first stage of fieldwork in advance of the construction of the windfarm; the second stage would be monitored topsoil stripping in areas identified as having archaeological potential. Archaeological monitoring of 51 geotechnical trial pits had already been undertaken by HFA between 30/5/07–14/6/07.

The area as a whole contains a series of cropmarks of Iron Age/Romano-British date, including traces of settlements, field systems, and an Iron Age square barrow cemetery; prehistoric artefacts, including flint objects, represent earlier prehistoric activity. Later activity is represented by an Anglo-Scandinavian cemetery within the airfield at Sweet Hill. In the winter of 1940-41 a large number of human burials were discovered, with no accompanying grave goods. In addition, an elliptical mound was investigated which was associated with post-holes and pits. These were clearly not the first burials from this location, as the 1892 Ordnance Survey 25 inch to the mile map shows 'Burial Ground (site of)' marked in a 'Gravel Pit' at this location. The boundaries of the cemetery have not been established.

Lissett Airfield itself was constructed between 1941–2, and the remains of concrete runways, perimeter tracks and some buildings survive.

Most of the 34 trenches contained no archaeological features, but two (Trenches 13 and 18) provided evidence for Iron Age/Romano-British occupation. Trench 13 contained two substantial parallel ditches set close together, and recut several times before they were infilled in the 3rd or 4th century AD. Double ditches of this type often marked settlement boundaries of the period, although other functions are possible. Trench 18 contained two linear features on differing orientations, both containing Iron Age/Romano-British pottery, although one also contained a fragment of medieval or post-medieval brick, possibly intrusive.

A fine Neolithic flint axe was also recovered from the topsoil on the site. Traces of medieval or earlier post-medieval ridge-and-furrow were found in two trenches in the north of the area, representing parts of the former open fields of Lissett. A linear feature in Trench 5 was considered to be probably a natural gully.

This report concludes that the area contains evidence for late Iron Age/Romano-British rural activity, and the presence of pottery, building materials and substantial double ditches could indicate the proximity of a farmstead or small settlement.

A site mitigation strategy was approved by the LPA shortly after the site was completed, consisting of a watching brief targeting the area of Trenches 13 and 18, with further monitoring of the area of a new electricity sub-station. These were still underway at the time this report was being prepared, but have now been concluded: no further features of interest were encountered, although two unstratified sherds of Romano-British pottery and flint flakes were found in the vicinity of Trench 13.

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## 2 Introduction

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### 2.1 Site background

In September and October 2007, an archaeological evaluation, consisting of 34 trenches was carried out over a period of 3 weeks by Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) on land at the former Lissett Airfield, Lissett, East Riding of Yorkshire (Site Code LIS 2007; National Grid Reference TA 1299 5770: see Fig 1). The work was commissioned by the client, Novera Energy, in support of their proposals to construct a windfarm.

The proposed development site is currently occupied by agricultural land based around the surviving runways and perimeter tracks of the World War 2 airfield.

As the site lies in an area of known archaeological significance, including an Anglian cemetery, it was considered likely that below ground works would encounter archaeological remains, although nothing of significance had been found during the monitoring of geotechnical trial pits in May–June 2007 (Jobling 2007).

A programme of evaluation by trial trenching was proposed by Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office (HSMR), archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, in accordance with the recommendations of *Planning Policy Guidance note 16 on Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16), issued by the Department of the Environment in November 1990. Accordingly, HSMR issued a specification detailing a scheme of trial trenching (21/9/06). The evaluation was subsequently carried out by HFA in accordance with the specification, following the production of a Project Design (issued 1/8/07). The purpose of an archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence, condition, extent, date and quality of archaeological remains in advance of a proposed development, in order to provide sufficient information to allow the production of a mitigation strategy for dealing with any remains, and for their future management.

### 2.2 Archaeological and historical background

This short section is intended to summarise possible features of the site, and give a general context for the area.

#### **Natural topography and geology**

Some of the details below are taken from a recent desk-based survey of the parish (Brigham *et al* 2008, 45–60).

The underlying geology of the area is Upper Cretaceous Flamborough Chalk, overlain by boulder clay, covered by fine loamy soils of the Holderness soil association (711u). The May/June watching brief demonstrated that the depth of the clay below the



combined topsoil and occasional plough subsoil was generally 0.3–0.4m, occasionally 0.5m.

Until the later medieval/early post-medieval period, the Holderness region was covered by a series of post-glacial lakes or meres, but these at best survive only as shallow depressions, visible after heavy rain or floods. It was crossed by a number of natural streams, most of which were part of the Hull Valley drainage system, but have been canalised and mainly now flow east into the sea. The area is naturally gently undulating and generally around 10m OD, with some higher points above 20m OD.

### **Archaeological and historical background**

The presence of numerous meres, marshes and streams made the area attractive to early settlers engaged in hunting, fishing and food gathering; a Palaeolithic uniserially barbed harpoon point has recently been found in a kettlehole near Gransmoor, dated by C14 analysis to between 11500–11100 BP, and Upper Palaeolithic flints have reportedly been found near Hamilton Hill. Traces of Mesolithic activity have also been found in the region, chiefly in the form of flint and stone tools found during fieldwalking to the south and south-east. Evidence for Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, and Romano-British settlement has also been found, becoming more extensive in the later periods, when the area was covered by a pattern of small settlements, fields and trackways. Immediately north of the airfield in Burton Agnes parish was a cross-shaped embankment containing Iron Age beehive querns, an Iron Age ditch, and areas of cropmarks and enclosures.

To the west of these, just to the north of the northern boundary of the airfield there are the cropmarks of an extensive system of irregular rectilinear enclosures, square barrows and ditch systems; these appear to be heading southwards into the airfield. Two areas of closely grouped Iron Age square barrows are discernible – one of these forming a small cemetery of about 12 barrows. The enclosures probably represent the remains of small early field systems, and on the basis of their form these are likely to date from the Late Iron Age/Romano-British period. The cropmarks of other ditches are visible to the north-west. Extensive traces of medieval and later settlement are also present around the principal settlements in the area, most commonly in the form of ridge-and-furrow earthworks or cropmarks, but also including shrunken settlements at Foston and Burton Agnes.

The wetland nature of this landscape is illustrated by finds of former ‘lake dwellings’ in a number of locations nearby (*eg* just to the east in the neighbouring parishes of Ulrome and Barmston, and just to the north-west at Barf Hill on the Gransmoor Drain). Although these were investigated in the later 19th and early 20th centuries, and have been reinterpreted as probable trackways and settlements in marshy hollows, they demonstrate the nature of the colonisation of Holderness by early man, and the excellent quality of survival of timber structures which can be found in this type of landscape. Pottery and finds dating back to the Bronze and Iron Ages have been recovered from cliff exposures at both Barmston and Ulrome.

Later activity is represented by an alleged Anglo-Saxon cemetery within the airfield at Sweet Hill. In the winter of 1940–1 a large number of human burials were discovered during earth moving operations to level the area to create the airfield. No

accompanying grave goods were identified, but the scale and urgency of the construction programme would have reduced opportunities for detailed examination; it is possible, however, that the cemetery was not Anglo-Saxon, although an alternative date cannot be assigned with any confidence. In addition, an elliptical mound, possibly a Bronze Age barrow, was investigated and was possibly associated with a series of post-holes and pits. These were clearly not the first burials from this location, as the 1892 Ordnance Survey 25 inch to the mile map shows 'Burial Ground (site of)' marked in a 'Gravel Pit' at this location.

The remains of medieval settlement are widespread throughout the area, with, for example, the earthwork traces of former house platforms and crofts being visible in the pre-Conquest settlement of Lissett itself (*Lessete* in Domesday Book from Old English *laes* + *geset*, meadow fold). Lissett was originally a township in Beeford parish, straddling the main road between Bridlington and Beverley until a by-pass was created in the 1920s. The village's open fields lay to the west in the area of the airfield and south-west, comprising the North and South Fields; these were enclosed in 1772, following an Enclosure Act passed in 1771. Ridge-and-furrow was formerly widespread as is evident on air photographs of the general area, including Burton Agnes immediately to the north, although little remains today, having been ploughed out during and after World War 2 to extend the arable area. From 1772, the landscape achieved a layout which was largely retained until the construction of the airfield.

An 18th- or 19th-century enclosure-period farmstead, Tithe Farm, and Low Field Barn were demolished *c* 1941 to make way for RAF Lissett. This airfield was constructed between 1941–2 as part of a wartime expansion programme, comprising three intersecting concrete runways encircled by a perimeter track, two T2 hangars, and 36 aircraft dispersals. The technical site was located on the eastern side of the airfield, near the village. In this area were the control tower, now demolished, and close by were the night-flying equipment store, signals and intelligence, crew briefing room, floodlight trailer shed and a Nissen hut used as a rest room. One group of buildings was clustered behind a T2 hangar on the south eastern side of the base; another group behind the second hangar on the south side. Much of the site has been demolished, cleared, and returned to agriculture, but large parts of the technical and some communal sites remain, together with areas of perimeter track and part of a runway. The concrete bases of structures are likely to remain below ground.

In summary, the area as a whole has considerable archaeological potential, including possible prehistoric to medieval features. There may also be an opportunity to determine the extent of the Anglo-Scandinavian cemetery. It should be borne in mind, however, that the area would have been landscaped by RAF construction units, including the levelling of high and low points, particularly in the area of the runways, perimeter tracks and taxiways.

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## 3 The Excavation

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### 3.1 Methodology

Thirty-four trenches each approximately 26–30m long by 1.6m wide were machine excavated across the intended turbine foundation positions and their corresponding access routes (Fig 1). The trench locations were principally as specified in a Project Design produced by HFA (issued 1/8/07), with some minor alterations requested in the field by the client. All the trench outlines were scanned by an attending ordnance disposal specialist with negative results (Plate 1). The on-site excavation and recording methodology employed was in accordance with procedures set out in a site-specific Project Design for an Archaeological Evaluation (dated 1/8/07).

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. The trench positions were surveyed using electronic distance-measuring equipment (EDM) 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 natural geological deposits at the base of the trenches ranged between coarse sandy gravels to silty clays.

With the exception of Romano-British features in Trenches 13 and 18, no archaeological features were recorded within the trenches, although medieval/post-medieval ridge-and-furrow was noted in Trenches 30 and 31 in the north of the area. The site sequence has not, therefore been phased.

In addition to artefacts recovered from Trenches 13 and 18, a small assemblage of worked flints was recovered from topsoil across the site, including a fine Neolithic flint axe from the area of turbine 12.

#### Trench 1

Trench 1 was located on the proposed position of a test turbine on the western boundary of the southern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of *c* 13.4m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

It contained coarse gravel natural [1002], overlain by grey-brown sandy clay topsoil [1001]. No archaeological features were observed.

## **Trench 2**

Trench 2 was located along the intended access route for a test turbine in the south-western part of the site (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 32.4m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.2m deep.

It contained compacted dark brown silty clay natural subsoil [2002], overlain by grey-brown sandy clay topsoil [2001]. No archaeological features were observed.

## **Trench 3**

Trench 3 was located on the proposed location of turbine 1 in the southern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 19.5m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

It contained compacted light to dark brown silty clay natural [3003], cut by modern ceramic land drain [3002] aligned north–south and overlain by grey-brown sandy clay topsoil [3001]. No archaeological features were observed.

## **Trench 4**

Trench 4 was located along the intended access route for turbine 1 in the south-western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 28.6m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The natural deposits [4003] consisted of coarse gravelly sand in the south, changing to light brown silty clay in the north. This was cut by north–south ceramic land drain [4002] at the south end of the trench, overlain by grey-brown sandy clay topsoil [4001]. No archaeological features were observed.

## **Trench 5**

Trench 5 was located along the intended access route for turbine 1 in the south-western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 25.25m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The brown compacted silty clay subsoil [5003] was cut in the north by modern north-east to south-west aligned ceramic land drain [5002]. A little further south was a shallow east–west gully, possibly natural [5004], 0.4m wide, 0.2m deep, containing grey-brown silty clay fill [5005] (Plate 2). Both features were sealed by grey clay loam [5001].

## **Trench 6**

Trench 6 was located in the proposed location of turbine 3 in the south-western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 17.8 m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The natural mixed light and dark coarse grey sands [6002] were cut by two ceramic land drains, [6004] at the east end of the trench and [6003] towards the centre, both aligned north-north-east to south-south-west (Plate 3). Both were sealed by firm grey sandy loam topsoil [6001].

#### **Trench 7**

Trench 7 was located along the intended access route for the test turbine on the northern boundary hedge-line of the south-western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 29.3m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.25–0.3m deep.

The natural dark grey-brown silty clay subsoil [7002] was directly overlain by grey-brown clay loam topsoil [7001].

No archaeological features were present.

#### **Trench 8**

Trench 8 was located along the intended access route for turbines 1 and 3 on the northern boundary hedge-line of the south-western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 29.0m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.2–0.25m deep.

Overlying the natural brown sandy clay and coarse orange sandy gravels [8002] was grey-brown clay loam topsoil [8001].

No archaeological features were present.

#### **Trench 9**

Trench 9 was located along the intended access route for turbines 1 and 3 on the northern boundary hedge-line of the south-western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 32.5m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.2–0.25m deep.

The natural grey-brown sandy clay and gravel [9003] were cut near the western end of the trench by a pit for a modern animal burial [9002]. This was sealed by grey-brown clay loam topsoil [9001]. No other features were present.

#### **Trench 10**

Trench 10 was located along the intended access route for turbines 1 and 3 on the northern boundary hedge-line of the south-western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 24.5m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.25 deep.

The natural subsoil consisted of light brown sandy clay with bands of coarse brown gravel [10002]. This was sealed by loose grey-brown loamy clay topsoil [10001].

No archaeological features were present.

### **Trench 11**

Trench 11 was located on the proposed location for turbine 2 in the central part of the southern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 17.0m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The natural subsoil [11002] was sealed by soft grey-brown clay loam topsoil [11001]. No archaeological features were present.

### **Trench 12**

Trench 12 was located along the intended access route for turbine 2 in the southern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 27.9m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The natural subsoil [12001] was sealed by soft grey-brown silty loam topsoil [12001].

No archaeological features were present.

### **Trench 13**

Trench 13 was located along the intended access route for turbine 2 on the north-south boundary hedge-line along the eastern edge of the south-western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 26.5m in length by 1.6m wide by 1.33m deep.

At a depth of 0.45m below ground level the upper elements of a ditch were encountered, extending along the full length of the trench. Two east-west sondages were machine-cut across the trench at the southern and central locations to expose the full width and depth of the feature. The sondages revealed two parallel ditches, which were contemporary in use, each with several recuts (Fig 2, section 1; Fig 3, section 2; Plates 4-10).

In the southern sondage, the western ditch comprised initial cut [13018], which was 0.75m wide, 0.5m deep, filled with grey-brown and orange silty clay [13009]. It was recut by [13010] which was at least 2.2m wide, 0.55m deep, filled with firm grey clay [13008], followed by [13007]; the former contained pottery suggesting a later 4th-century date. An environmental sample taken from 13008 contained nothing of interest.

The eastern ditch was considerably deeper, consisting of primary cut [13017], 0.95m wide, 0.6m deep, containing orange-grey clay [13016]. This was cut by recut [13014], at least 1.3m wide, 0.7m deep filled by orange-grey clay [13015] and then sandy clay [13013], and [13012]. Fill 13013 contained several sherds from a possible late Iron Age/early Romano-British jar, a fragment of burnt daub and possible Romano-British brick, and together with 13015, burnt stone, possibly from a hearth as well as animal bone; the latter included horse remains, cattle and a single sheep/goat tooth. Environmental samples from 13015 and 13016 contained nothing of note; a seed of henbane from the latter was probably a modern intrusion.

There was a further recut, [13012], 0.75m wide, 0.5m deep, containing grey to grey-brown sandy clay [13011].

The western ditch was also recut again, by [13033], intruding into 13007 to the west and 13015 to the east. The dark grey silty clay fill [13006], which continued east over recut fill 13011, contained 4th-century pottery and animal bone, as well as a fragment of stone roof tile, a flake of Romano-British brick or tile, a piece of burnt daub, and burnt hearth stones, suggesting the proximity of a building. The animal bone included horse remains. 13006 was in turn cut by a vertical-sided flat-bottomed cut [13034] measuring 0.30m wide by 0.10m deep, possibly the remnants of a timber beam slot. It was filled by light grey-brown silty clay [13005], followed by darker [13004]. The sequence suggests that the double ditch was finally replaced by a single cut following the line of the eastern ditch.

The western ditch continued into the northern sondage as cut [13032], fill [13031]: 13031, which contained late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery, was cut by a north-west to south-east aligned slot [13026], 0.8m deep, 0.25m deep, and filled by mid grey clay [13025], which may have been a drainage feature running into an early version of the eastern ditch. The fill contained a single early Roman greyware sherd. There was a further recut of the western ditch, cut [13024], at least 1.05m wide, 0.4m deep, containing mid grey clay fills [13023] and [13022]. The eastern ditch also continued into this sondage as [13030], being at least 1.15m wide, 0.65m deep, containing mid grey clay [13029]. A shallow recut [13028], at least 1.9m wide, but only 0.3m deep, intruded into fill 13029 in the east and probably also cut the upper fills of the western ditch recut. It contained mid grey clay [13027]. This was finally recut by ditch [13021], 1.6m wide, 0.45m deep, containing mid grey fill [13019].

The area was sealed by 0.2m of very firm mid orange-brown sandy clay subsoil [13002], overlain by firm mid brown clay silt topsoil [13001].

As well as the pottery from several contexts, also recovered was a small assemblage of animal bone.

#### **Trench 14**

Trench 14 was located on the proposed location for turbine 4 on the north-west to south-east boundary hedge-line along the western edge of the northern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 26.5m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.25m deep.

The natural surface comprised orange-brown silt clay [14002], cut by a north-south ceramic field drain [14003]. This was sealed by mid brown clay silt [14001].

No further features were identified.

#### **Trench 15**

Trench 15 was located in the proposed location of turbine 6 near Sweet Hill in the northern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 15.0m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The compact light brown clay subsoil [15002] was overlain by soft grey-brown clay loam topsoil [15001]. There were no features within the trench.

### **Trench 16**

Trench 16 was located along the intended access route for turbine 6 in the northern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 29.2m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The natural subsoil consisted of compact orange-brown fine to coarse sands [16002], cut by east–west ceramic land drain [16003] and overlain by soft grey-brown silty loam topsoil [16001].

### **Trench 17**

Trench 17 was located in the proposed location of turbine 8 in the northern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 18.4m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.25–0.3m deep.

The compact light brown sandy clay subsoil [17002] was sealed by grey-brown silty loam topsoil [17001].

No features were encountered within the trench.

### **Trench 18**

Trench 1 was located on the access route to turbine 8 (Fig 1), and was approximately 26m long by 1.60m wide, excavated to a depth of between 0.28–0.38m below ground level.

The compact brown sandy clay [18007] was cut by two linear features, extending across the width of the trench (Fig 5, sections 3, 4; Plates 11–13).

At the south end of the trench was north–south ditch [18008], 0.35m wide, 0.1m deep, containing grey sandy silt fill [18002]. Further north, east–west ditch [18003], 0.65m wide, 0.35m deep, contained similar fill [18004]. Both fills produced small assemblages of pottery of possible late Iron Age to Romano-British date, although 18004 contained part of a late medieval or early post-medieval brick, suggesting that it may be more recent than the pottery suggests. An environmental sample from 18004 contained seeds of the orache/goosefoot family, although these were probably modern contaminants.

Also cutting the subsoil were two modern east–west land drains, [18005] and [18006].

The area was overlain by soft grey-brown clay loam topsoil [18001].

### **Trench 19**

Trench 19 was located along the intended access route for turbine 2 in the northern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 25.5m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.



The natural subsoil consisted of compact light to dark brown sandy clay [19002], overlain directly by soft grey-brown sandy loam topsoil [19001]. No features were present.

### **Trench 20**

Trench 20 was located along the intended access route for turbines 5 and 7 in the western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 22.7m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.2m deep.

The natural subsoil [20002] was overlain by soft dark grey clay loam topsoil [20001]. No features were present.

### **Trench 21**

Trench 21 was located in the proposed location for turbine 5 in the western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 18.6m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The light brown silty clay subsoil [21003] was cut by modern north-south land drain [21002] at the east end of the trench. The area was sealed by grey-brown clay loam topsoil [21001].

### **Trench 22**

Trench 22 was located along the intended access route for turbine 5 in the western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 24.8m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The natural subsoil consisted of compact light brown and grey silty clay [22003]. It was cut at the north end of the trench by modern land drain [22002], overlain by grey-brown clay loam topsoil [22001].

### **Trench 23**

Trench 23 was located in the proposed location for turbine 7 in the western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 26.9m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The natural subsoil consisted of compact orange-brown coarse sands and gravels, cut near the north end of the trench by a north-west to south-east land drain [23002]. The area was overlain by grey-brown clay loam topsoil [23001].

### **Trench 24**

Trench 24 was located along the intended access route for turbine 7 in the western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 19.5m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The fine clay silt subsoil [24002] was sealed by brown clay loam topsoil [24001]. No features were recorded.

### **Trench 25**

Trench 25 was located along the intended access route for turbine 5 in the western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 21.0m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The subsoil consisted of light brown to yellow silty clay with darker silt patches [25003]. This was cut by a north-west to south-east aligned land drain [25002]. The area was overlain by dark grey-brown clay loam topsoil [25001].

### **Trench 26**

Trench 26 was located in the proposed location of turbine 9 at the northern edge of the western field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 20.3m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The subsoil [26002] was sealed by grey-brown clay loam topsoil [26001]. No features were present.

### **Trench 27**

Trench 27 was located in the proposed location of turbine 10 in the northern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 18.4m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The natural consisted of light orange-brown silty clay [27002]. It was sealed by grey-brown silty loam topsoil [27001].

### **Trench 28**

Trench 28 was located along the intended access route for turbine 10 in the northern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 21.4m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

In this trench, the subsoil was light brown sandy/silty clay [28002], sealed by grey-brown clay loam [28001].

### **Trench 29**

Trench 29 was located in the proposed location of turbine 12 in the northern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 19.1m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The dark brown silty clay subsoil [29003] contained patches of lighter grey material. It was cut by an east-west land drain [29002] at the south end of the trench. The area was sealed by grey-brown silty clay loam [29001].

### **Trench 30**

Trench 30 was located along the intended access route for turbine 12 in the northern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 29.1m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The natural subsoil consisted of light to dark brown sandy clay [30004]. Traces of three east–west plough furrows were present, including [30003], 1.2m wide, 0.2m deep, [30006], 1.4m wide, *c* 0.2m deep, and [30008], 1.4m wide, *c* 0.2m deep, filled with light grey-brown sandy clays [30002], [30005] and [30007] respectively. These were similar to the overlying topsoil [30001], but separately distinguishable. A number of indeterminate dark grey-brown features in the trench [30009] are likely to be animal disturbance or shrub rootholes.

### **Trench 31**

Trench 31 was located along the intended access route for turbine 12 in the northern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 28.1m in length by 1.6m wide by *c* 0.3m deep.

The natural light to dark brown sandy subsoil [31002] was cut by two east–west plough furrows [31004] and [31006], up to 3.0m wide and filled by [31003] and [31005] respectively; their depth was not recorded. Both features were sealed by grey-brown clay loam topsoil [31001].

### **Trench 32**

Trench 32 was located in the proposed location for turbine 11 in the northern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 19.5m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3–0.35m deep.

The subsoil in this area consisted of orange-brown coarse sands and gravels [32005], overlain by up to 0.1m of grey silty clay [32003], resembling waterlain silts deposited over an area of at least 10m. It was cut by 0.25m wide north–south chalk land drains [32002] and [32004].

The area was sealed by grey-brown clay loam [32001].

### **Trench 33**

Trench 33 was located along the intended access route for turbine 11 in the northern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 24.8m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3m deep.

The natural subsoil [33004] was cut by an east–west ceramic land drain [33003] and a second pebble-filled drain aligned north-east to south-west [33002] (Plate 14). The area was sealed by topsoil [33001].

### **Trench 34**

Trench 34 was located along the intended access route for turbine 11 in the northern field (Fig 1). The trench covered an area of 19m in length by 1.6m wide by 0.3–0.4m deep.

The natural subsoil [34004] was sealed by 0.05m silt dark grey silt layer [34003], followed by 0.5m dark grey-brown clay ground-raising deposit [34002] and dark grey clay loam topsoil [34001].

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## 4 Specialist Reports

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### 4.1 The Pottery

Peter Didsbury

#### **Introduction and methodology**

A total of 56 sherds of pottery, weighing 836g and having an average sherd weight (ASW) of 14.9g, was submitted for examination. Also present was a single fragment (2g) of fired clay.

All material was quantified by the two measures of count and weight, according to fabric category, within archaeological context. Data was entered onto an Access database, which is submitted as an integral part of this report (Table 1) and which should be consulted on matters of detail where appropriate. Fabric codes employed in the database are listed below.

#### **Discussion: the assemblages**

The pottery was recovered from a number of ditches and their recuts in Trenches 13 and 18, as well as from the topsoil, as set out below.

##### ***Trench 13***

Material in this trench came from the fills of two parallel ditches, *viz* [13018] and [13017] and their recuts; and also from the fills of ditches [13026] and [13032].

The initial cut of the western ditch, [13018], contained no pottery. However, fills [13008] and [13006] of successive recuts [13010] and [13033] both produced reasonably large and diagnostic assemblages.

Fill [13008] of [13010] produced 9 sherds, weighing 155g (ASW 17.2g). The assemblage contained two chronologically discrete components. The first consists of sherds of hand-made pottery tempered with non-soluble rock fragments (fabric H2). A jar with square-ended everted rim finds very close parallels in Challis & Harding fig. 50, no. 3 (Levisham Moor Enclosure 'B'), and Evans with Creighton 1999, illus.7.16, G01–J02 (Hawling Road, Market Weighton). Both are from assemblages which may be dated to the 1st centuries BC and AD. Evans describes the Hawling Road vessel as essentially a Knapton type, a form current from the later 2nd century AD, but most of his cited parallels are quite dissimilar. In addition to these, there are rim sherds from two different Huntcliff jars with lid-seating groove, one in the classic calcareously tempered fabric, the other in a sandy greyware (fabrics HC and RG, respectively). Huntcliff jars are now held to have been in production from the mid 350s AD (Evans 1996, 73) and to have remained in use into the early 5th century. The calcareously tempered vessel has a cross-contextual join in fill [13006] of recut [13033], and the same fabric as that of the greyware version is also present in [13006].

Fill [13006] of recut [13033] produced 16 sherds, weighing 290g (ASW 18.0g). The same two components as in [13008] were again present, though the hand-made wares in the Iron Age tradition (H2) are now represented only by two low-weight fragments (4g). The remainder consists of Huntcliff Wares, greywares including Crambeck Ware, Nene Valley colour-coated ware and unattributed Roman whiteware. The database may be consulted for full details; all that it is necessary to mention here is that the Nene Valley colour-coated ware is represented by the base of a 4th-century pentice beaker, cf. Howe *et al* 1980, nos 54–7, and that Crambeck greyware was current from *c* AD 270–80 (Evans 1989, 79). Allusion has already been made to a cross-contextual join with [13008].

The eastern ditch was [13017], with recuts [13014], [13035] and [13012]. Only fill [13013] of recut [13035] produced any pottery. This comprised 21 sherds of H2, weighing 345g (ASW 16.4g). Most of the material appears to come from a single vessel, a jar with lug handle, apparently very slightly countersunk. The vessel has extensive external sooting, and some internal residues. A number of Late Iron Age and early Romano-British hand-made handled jars may be mentioned, either with tanged or luted handles: Challis & Harding fig. 49, no. 55 (from Levisham Moor Enclosure 'A'), and fig. 51, no. 4 (from Thornton Dale, with tanged handle); Rigby 1980, nos. 28 (early to mid 2nd century, with tanged handle), 37 (2nd century, with luted handle), 46 (possibly 2nd century, with slightly countersunk handle) and 128 (late 1st to early 2nd century, with luted handle).

Fill [13025] of ditch [13026] produced a single scrap fragment (2g) of Roman greyware, most likely of earlier Roman date.

Fill [13031] of ditch [13032] contained three sherds, of fabric H2, weighing 11g (ASW 3.7g). These are essentially of the same type as those elsewhere in Trench 13.

### ***Trench 18***

Fill [18004] of ditch [18003] produced three fragments of ceramic, weighing 11g (ASW 3.7g). One is a crumb of fired clay, and one a possible Roman greyware; the third, an oxidised fragment, may also be Roman but has catalogued as 'Unattributed'. The material is thus of little evidential value.

Fill [18002] of gully [18008] contained three sherds of pottery, weighing 21g (ASW 7.0g). These comprise a small (2g) fragment of oxidised ware from a hand-made vessel, presumably of Late Iron Age or early Romano-British date; and two joining sherds of freshly fractured Roman greyware. The latter are in a type of fabric also present in contexts [13006] and [13008], where some examples appear to be of late 4th-century date.

### ***Topsoil***

The topsoil, recorded as [1001], produced a single sherd of internally glazed earthenware of post-medieval date. The database may be consulted for details (Table 1).

## Conclusions and recommendations

The latest features seem to have been filled in the second half of the 4th century AD, or later. In addition to typical products of this period, there is also material in the regional Iron Age potting tradition, with a maximum possible date-range from the 1st century BC to the 1st or 2nd century AD.

No further work is deemed necessary. All material should be kept in an appropriate material archive, in the interests of future ceramic research in the region.

## Fabric database codes

Code	Fabric/remarks
FC	Fired clay
H	Handmade material in the Iron Age tradition
H2	Handmade material in the Iron Age tradition, with non-soluble stone tempering
HC	Huntcliff Ware
NVCC	Nene Valley colour-coated ware
PMED	Post-medieval
RG	Roman greyware
RGGRAM	Crambeck greyware
RW	Roman whiteware
UNAT	Unattributed

Table 1 Pottery database

Trench	Context	Fabric	No	Wt	Remarks
13	13008	H2	1	52	Everted rim jar, square-ended, cf Challis & Harding fig. 50, no. 3 (Levisham Moor Enclosure B), and Hawling Rd G01–J02, phased as IA. Both are very close. Evans describes the Hawling Rd vessel as essentially a Knapton type, but most of his cited parallels are quite dissimilar. Fabric is reduced with brownish exterior, moderately abundant small quartz plus sparser larger fragments of ?igneous rock, ?sandstones etc. All light-coloured.
		H2	5	35	Bodies and scrap, three vessels, one thin-walled. One externally sooted.
		HC	1	42	Jar rim, joins rim in [13006] (qv).
		RG	2	26	Joining rim sherds of Huntcliff jar form in black-faced redware, same fabric in 13006.
	13025	RG	1	2	Scrap, sandy reduced with lighter grey surface.
	13031	H2	3	11	Bodies, reduced (one with oxidized exterior). Fairly abundant angular quartz to c 3mm in two cases, and up to 4mm in the third (oxidised exterior, also has mica plates). See also [13006].
	13006	H2	2	4	Scrap. Reduced fragments tempered with moderate to abundant angular quartz (and occasional other) grits, many c 1mm. See also [13008].
		HC	1	53	Lid-seated rim of Huntcliff jar. Vesicular, but with very sparse soft white fragments extant which do not react with dilute hydrochloric acid. Cross-contextual join with sherd in [13008].
		NVCC	1	61	Base from a fourth-century pentice beaker, cf. Howe <i>et</i>

					<i>al</i> 1980, nos 54–7. Orange body, dark brown exterior coat, red interior coat.
		RG	4	73	Base and small bodies, probably all same vessel. Base probably from an open form, (straight-sided flanged bowl or other). Metallic burnished sandwich fabric, some characteristics of Crambeck but more likely Norton or Holme upon Spalding Moor.
		RG	2	23	Body and base, two vessels. Sandy black-faced wares, body with reddish margins and girth groove. Same class of fabric as the black-faced redwares.
		RG	3	11	Bodies/scrap. Sandy black-faced redware. The identical fabric is used for a Huntcliff jar form in [13008].
		RGCGRAM	2	63	Complete profile of Type 2a dish (Corder 1937). Body.
		RW	1	2	Flake from interior of open form. Possibly Crambeck mortarium or parchment ware.
	13013	H2	21	342	Large bodies, mainly one vessel, several joining to form lug-handled jar body (slightly countersunk), extensive external sooting., and some internal residues. Quartz gritted. Handle flattish with median groove. For LIA and ERB hand-made handled jars cf. CH 49/5 (Levisham Moor A), 51/4 (Thornton Dale, with tanged handle); Rudston 28 (E-M 2nd? tanged), 37 (2nd, luted), 46 (2nd? slightly countersunk), 128 (late 1st-early 2nd century, luted on).
18	18004	FC	1	2	Oxidised crumb.
		RG?	1	6	Sandy dark grey ware, externally sooted.
		UNAT	1	3	Oxidised, fairly soft, sandy. RB?
	18002	H	1	2	Reduced fragment with one oxidised surface, small rounded ferrous inclusions.
		RG	2	19	Joining body sherds, fresh fracture. Reduced with well smoothed exterior, brown margins. Same fabric as in [13006].
–	1001	PMED	1	6	Internally glazed body, olive green, light buff body. Possibly within Ryedale spectrum, or later? Burned post fracture.

## 4.2 The Other Finds

Sophie Tibbles

### The Bulk Finds (other than pottery, faunal remains and flint)

#### Aims and objectives

The following report will assess the potential of the bulk finds assemblage to answer questions posed within the original project design (Brigham, 2007). 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 and 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 from the LIS 2007 excavation were recorded using the Humber Field Archaeology *pro-forma* 'Bulk finds' sheets and 'Context finds' sheets. Objects were packaged appropriately for long-term storage, in accordance with conservation and museum guidelines.

The evaluation produced a small bulk finds assemblage that comprised three material categories. All material types were quantified by count and weight.

## **The Finds**

### ***Stone Roof Tile***

The fragment of stone roof tile was retrieved from ditch fill [13006]. Of micaceous sandstone, the tile bore no diagnostic features such as means of suspension i.e. a nail/peg hole. Heavy blackening was noted, a result of direct heat exposure. The tile had a thickness of 20mm and a weight of 150g.

### ***Daub/Fired Clay***

Two fragments of daub/fired clay were recovered from ditch fills [13006] and [13013]. The material probably derived from a small structure such as an oven, though use within a wattle and daub wall/partition is not discounted. The fragments had a combined weight of 33g and are catalogued below.

[13006] Possible corner fragment? Remnants of two 'flattish' surfaces at roughly 90°. The fragment is reduced near-throughout. No rod/sail impression noted.

[13013] One smooth 'flattish' surface. Possible remnants of a rod/sail impression – diameter 10mm – though heavily abraded.

### ***Burnt Stone***

Five glacial erratic fragments were recovered from ditch fills [13006], [13013] and [13015]. No evidence of tooling was noted but all displayed a pinkish hue, indicative of direct heat exposure. The stones may have been incorporated within a hearth. The assemblage had a combined weight of 625g.

## **Assessment of potential**

Although there is some diversity present within the bulk finds assemblage, overall it is of limited value. Dating is ambiguous, as all material types can pertain to the Romano-British through to the post-medieval period; however, based on the associated pottery, the assemblage is probably of Romano-British date.

Evidence for occupation on the site was sparse. Of the thirty-four trenches excavated, archaeological features were recorded within Trenches 13 and 18 only (see main report text). The bulk finds assemblage is likely to represent residual elements of scattered activity during the Romano-British period, including evidence that at least one building was present near Trench 13.

## Recommendations

No further work is considered to be necessary for the bulk finds assemblage. It should be deposited within the appropriate museum.

## Acknowledgements

The writer wishes to thank Richard Campbell who volunteered his valuable time to process the Lissett finds assemblage.

*Table 2 Archive quantification*

<b>LIS2007 Box Archive Table</b>			
<b>Material</b>	<b>Storage type</b>	<b>Size (mm)</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Brick, RB CBM, Burnt Stone, Bulk Flint, Flint RFs, Stone Roof Tile, Daub/Fired Clay, Pot, Animal Bone	Museum Box	380 x 300 x 150	1
Environmental Samples*	Sample Bucket	10 Litre Rectangular	4
<b>Total</b>			<b>5</b>

\*No further work will be undertaken on the environmental samples and they will be discarded accordingly

## 4.3 The Lithics

Ruth Head, RH Lithics

### Introduction

A total of 19 worked lithics were retrieved during evaluation by trial trenching at a proposed wind turbine site at Lissett Airfield. All pieces are of local flint that is readily found within the North Holderness area. Most of the material was found from unstratified contexts with only three pieces from contextual deposits. These were considered within their context but the assemblage was mostly considered as a whole to allow for interpretation of this small group.

Descriptions of the lithics are based on the typology by Head (1995; 1997). Information on this assemblage is limited by the small number of artefacts and the presence of only two formal tools.

### Discussion

The assemblage comprises a scraper, an axehead (Plate 15), a core, 13 flakes and three chunks. The assemblage is of a relatively good state of preservation, even though there are only four pieces that are complete. Equally, only nine have some post-depositional damage, which is good from an assemblage mostly collected from unstratified levels. All are of local flint with only one piece of the best quality till B flint, and the remaining 18 of the most common raw material type, till A flint. Most of the examples of this type of flint are of good quality for this raw material type. None

is burnt, but one has some frost fracturing. Only six are recorticated and one patinated flint is present, suggesting little weathering of the pieces and making it difficult to ascertain whether pieces have been broken in antiquity or from recent disturbance. Five pieces have been utilised and two of the flakes are retouched.

The lithics are mostly collected from unstratified levels with only three pieces from three different sealed contexts. In the case of these three pieces none diagnostic of a particular archaeological period and they represent little more than evidence of flint knapping within this area. All of these could be residual.

Within the assemblage as a whole, there were few proximal ends surviving to allow comparisons in the manufacture. However, all the remaining proximal ends, did show plain striking platforms, although a mix of hard and soft hammer technology was represented, suggesting that stones harder than the flint itself were used along with softer mediums such as flint, bone and antler. Blade technology of the late Mesolithic and Neolithic periods is represented along with Levallois technique of the Neolithic period and grinding and flaking of the axe, also of the Neolithic period. Also, invasive flaking was represented, again characteristic of the Neolithic period.

The scraper is likely to be of a Bronze Age date due to its nature and the abrupt retouch present. The majority of the debitage would not look out of place amongst an assemblage of any prehistoric period. There were a few hinge terminations suggesting some miss-hits and a lack of workmanship.

The axe is of interest, but axes are commonly found within this area. This example is of local flint and is likely to have been manufactured from a flint nodule for a specific purpose. It is of a small scale, which may reflect choice for a particular function. It is broken, but appears to have been reworked to allow for its reuse. The axe and the scraper are the only formal tools represented here.

This lithic assemblage represents a collection of local raw materials that have been knapped for the production of tools and is likely to be part of a larger domestic assemblage. Some of the pieces have been utilised. This group mainly dates from the Neolithic period and exhibits good examples of manufacturing techniques diagnostic of that time. Few other pieces suggest a date earlier in the chronology and one piece would suggest a later date. This is a good example of a small domestic assemblage of Neolithic date representing the collection and use of local raw materials for use within this area.

### **Recommendations**

No further research on this group is recommended.

An illustration of the axe is included (Plate 15); also, a photograph of the flint assemblage would make a useful addition to any further report that may be produced.

It is recommended that this lithic assemblage should be deposited with the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service together with the rest of the finds and paper archive.

## **Lithics by context**

### ***Unstratified***

A collection of 14 worked lithics were recorded from the unstratified levels. These comprise one scraper, one core, 10 flakes and two chunks. One piece is of the good quality till B flint and the remaining 13 are all of the more common till A flint. Both flint types are readily available within the soils of this area. Four have some recortication present, suggesting limited weathering of this assemblage. One piece has, however, suffered thermal damage. This group is in relatively good condition considering it is recovered from unstratified levels, but only four pieces are complete. Nine have some post-depositional damage. Four pieces are utilised, which is a good proportion of this small assemblage.

The scraper is an end type on a complete flake. It has a plain striking platform and a diffuse bulb of percussion. It has abrupt retouch at the distal end, which is worn. It retains about 40% cortex. This is likely to be of a Bronze Age date.

The core is a tortoise type with several flakes removed. A large cortex inclusion is present within the centre of one face, which may have led to the discard of this core. It still retains about 40% cortex. This dates from the Neolithic period.

Of the 10 flakes, two are blade-like. Only two have surviving proximal ends available for comparison, but both of these exhibit plain striking platforms. One has a pronounced bulb of percussion and one has a diffuse bulb. This lack of proximal ends makes comparisons of the manufacture methodology difficult. Two of the flakes are retouched. One has retouch along the right edge and one on the lower part of both edges. Both are worn and abraded. Eight of the flakes are secondary removals and two are tertiary flakes. One has a hinge termination and others show evidence of hinge terminations on the flake scars present on the dorsal face. The two blade-like flakes are of a type expected from a Neolithic assemblage.

This small collection represents flint manufacture of local raw materials and the types present suggest manufacture during the Neolithic period with one Bronze Age piece also present. Although there are few complete pieces, and few with surviving proximal ends, all of the present ones do exhibit plain striking platforms and suggest a mix of both hard and soft hammer technology. Some blade technology is also represented along with Levallois technique of the Neolithic period, seen in many examples in North Holderness especially within the Bridlington and Flamborough Head area.

### ***Context [1001]***

An incomplete tertiary flake of recorticated and patinated till B flint was located from the topsoil of trench 1. This has been deposited with an iron rich context, such as sands and gravels or waterlain deposits. It is likely to be of a late Mesolithic date.

### ***Context [3001]***

A small flint axehead that is incomplete and is manufactured from till A flint was found within the topsoil of trench 3. This small tool still retains its splayed cutting edge, which is formed from grinding and is worn and has some post-depositional damage. The axehead has invasive flaking on both faces and appears to have been

broken, losing the butt end and then reworked along its break. It retains two small patches of cortex. It has an oval profile. The flint type is of a variety expected from this area, and the small nature of this tool suggests that this has been worked from local flint, which is found within the soils as relatively small nodules. This would be placed in Manby's typology 1D/E (Manby 1979). This is of Neolithic date. Axes within this area are common and well-preserved examples of the Bridlington type still retain their splayed cutting edge (Manby 1979:68). Manby states that 95% of all flint axes found within Yorkshire are made from flint derived from the boulder clays of the Yorkshire coast (Manby 1979:71) and this example would be no exception. This axehead is however, small in size which is likely to be a reflection in the choice of tool for a specific purpose as well as a possible reflection in the type of raw materials available to this community.

***Context [13006]***

An incomplete secondary flake of recorticated till A flint was found from the backfill of a ditch. This could be of any prehistoric date and could be residual.

***Context [13031]***

An abraded chunk of till A flint was located. This could be of any date but represents flint manufacture. This could be residual.

***Context [18002]***

An incomplete secondary flake of till A flint was located from the fill of a linear feature. This could represent flint knapping of any prehistoric date and could be residual.

**Catalogue of worked flints**

***Unstratified***

***RF 2***

A chunk of till A flint which retains about 60% cortex. It is heavily abraded and utilised.

***RF 3***

An incomplete tertiary blade-like flake of till A flint which is large and broad with a plain striking platform and a pronounced bulb of percussion. It has a hinge termination. It has abrupt retouch along the right edge, which is worn. Both edges are utilised. This is of Neolithic date.

***RF 4***

A complete secondary blade-like flake of till B flint. It has a plain striking platform and a diffuse bulb of percussion. It has abrupt retouch on the lower part of both edges. The edges are utilised and this piece is generally quite abraded. It retains one small patch of cortex. Two large hinge terminations are present on the dorsal face. This is of Neolithic date.

58 x 28 x 8mm

***RF 5***

An end scraper of till A flint on a complete, chunky secondary flake. It has a plain striking platform and a diffuse bulb of percussion. There is some frost damage to the

bulbar face. It has abrupt retouch at the distal end, which is worn. It retains about 40% cortex. This is likely to be of a Bronze Age date.  
49 x 34 x 17mm

*RF 6*

A tortoise core of recorticated till A flint with several flakes removed (Levallois Core). A large cortex inclusion is present within the centre of one face; this may have led to the discard of this core. It still retains about 40% cortex. It is complete but has suffered some post-depositional damage and is heavily abraded. This dates from the Neolithic period.  
78 x 45 x 17 mm

***Context [3001]***

*RF 1*

A small flint axehead that is incomplete and is manufactured from till A flint. This still retains its splayed cutting edge, which is formed from grinding and is worn and has some post-depositional damage. The axehead has invasive flaking on both faces and appears to have been broken, losing the butt end and then reworked along its break. It retains two small patches of cortex. It has an oval profile. The flint type is of a variety expected from this area, and the small nature of this tool suggests that this has been worked from local flint, which is found within the soils as relatively small nodules. This would be placed in Manby's typology 1D/E (Manby 1979). This is of Neolithic date.  
54 x 44 x 13mm

## **4.4 The Building Materials**

Sophie Tibbles

### **Introduction and methodology**

The ceramic building material assemblage comprised 3 fragments, with a weight of 690g. Two fragments were Romano-British, the third was dated to the late medieval/early post-medieval period. Only one diagnostic brick fragment was recorded within the assemblage.

It should be noted that the diversity of size and colour of brick and tile caused during the manufacturing process must be taken into consideration when comparing examples within collected assemblages and local typologies. The varying sizes and colours can be attributed to the variation in the clays used, shrinkage during drying, firing within the kiln or clamp and the location of the brick/tile within the kiln.

The dating of ceramic building material can be highly contentious due to its re-usable nature, therefore the range given is that of the known dates where such bricks have been recorded or manufactured and does not necessarily reflect the deposition date.

### **Romano-British ceramic building material**

Romano-British ceramic building material was recovered from two contexts: [13006] (deliberate backfill fill of ditch [13033]), and [13013] (fill of ditch [13035]). The two fragments had a combined weight of 90g.

The fragment from [13013] was identified as a possible brick with a thickness of >29mm; however it could not be catalogued by type, for example *bessalis* or *pedalis*.

The 'flake' from [13006], was too small to ascertain form, though it was of Romano-British fabric.

### **Late medieval/early post-medieval ceramic building material**

The brick ascribed to this period was recovered from [18004] (fill of ditch [18003]). It had a weight of 600g and complete width and thickness dimensions of 115 x 55mm. Both bed surfaces were smooth in appearance which may indicate use within a floor or area of hard standing. The brick displayed typical evidence of hand-made manufacture: moulding sand and mould impressions.

### **Discussion and recommendations**

The potential of the assemblage is limited. The late medieval/early post-medieval brick is likely to be a result of casual deposition, considered intrusive within the ditch fill.

Although only a very small assemblage, the Romano-British material does infer activity during this period within the area. However, the paucity of archaeological features encountered during the excavation, including those of a structural nature, would suggest that this material originated elsewhere within the area.

No further work is required. It is recommended that following this analysis, the ceramic building material should be retained and deposited within the appropriate museum.

## **4.5 The Biological Remains**

Alexandra Schmidl, Deborah Jaques and Alex Beacock, Palaeoecology Research Services

### **Introduction**

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

## **Methods**

### ***Sediment samples***

The lithologies of the 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. During recording, consideration was given to the suitability of the remains for submission for radiocarbon dating by standard radiometric technique or accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS).

Nomenclature for plant taxa follows Stace (1997).

### ***Hand-collected vertebrate remains***

For the vertebrate remains, subjective records were made of the state of preservation, colour of the fragments, and the appearance of broken surfaces (‘angularity’). Other information, such as fragment size, dog gnawing, burning, butchery and fresh breaks, was noted, where applicable.

Fragments were identified to species or species group using the PRS modern comparative reference collection. The bones which 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), and totally unidentified.

## **Results**

### ***Sediment samples***

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 13***

*Context [13008]* [fill of ditch 13010; Romano-British]

Sample 1/T (3 kg/2.5 litres wet sieved to 300 microns with washover; approximately 3 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

Moist, mid grey to mid to dark grey (with some orange patches), soft to plastic (working crumbly), slightly stony (stones 6–20mm were present), slightly sandy silty clay.



The very small washover (7g, dried) consisted almost entirely of sand, with a little unidentified charcoal (to 3 mm) and a few charred fragments of rhizome/rootlet (to 10mm).

The very small residue (dry weight 0.09kg) was mostly stones (to 13mm), with some sand and undisaggregated lumps of sediment (to 7mm).

*Context [13015]* [fill of ditch 13035; Romano-British]

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

Just moist, light to mid brownish-grey to mid orangish-brown (with some patches of light grey), soft to plastic (working crumbly), very slightly sandy very slightly silty clay, with stones (2–6mm) present.

The very small washover (6g, dried) was mostly undisaggregated sediment lumps, with a little sand and unidentified charcoal (to 3 mm).

The very small residue (dry weight 0.04kg) consisted largely of sand, with some undisaggregated sediment lumps (to 26mm) and a few stones (to 10mm).

*Context [13016]* [fill of ditch 13017; Romano-British]

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

Just moist, mid brownish-grey to mid to dark orangish-brown (with patches of light grey), plastic to soft (working crumbly), slightly stony (stones 6–20mm were present), very slightly sandy very slightly silty clay.

The very small washover (6g, dried) was largely of undisaggregated sediment lumps, with a very little unidentified charcoal (to 3mm) and one waterlogged seed of henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger* L.) – the last probably a modern contaminant of this deposit.

The very small residue (dry weight 0.06kg) was mostly stones (to 18mm), with some sand and undisaggregated sediment (to 7mm).

### **Trench 18**

*Context [18004]* [fill of ditch 18003; ?Romano-British]

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

Just moist, mid brown to mid to dark orange-brown, unconsolidated to crumbly (working soft and crumbly), sandy silt, with stones (2–6mm) present.

The small washover (~50ml) was mostly modern rootlets, sand and undisaggregated sediment lumps, with a little coal and unidentified charcoal (both to 3mm). There were also two earthworm egg capsules and fifteen waterlogged seeds of orache/goosefoot (*Atriplex/Chenopodium*); perhaps most likely to be recent intrusions or contaminants.

The very small residue (dry weight 0.07kg) was of stones (to 24mm), with some sand and small lumps of undisaggregated sediment (to 6mm).

### ***Hand-collected vertebrate remains***

Three ditch fills encountered in Trench 13 produced a small assemblage of bone amounting to 18 fragments (Table 3), with the Romano-British pottery found within these deposits suggesting a 3rd- to 4th-century date.

Preservation of the bone was somewhat variable, with the condition of the material from [13006] being quite poor, whilst bones from the other two deposits ([13013] and [13015]) were slightly better preserved. However, some of the fragments from [13013] had split into layers and showed some surface erosion. Fresh breakage damage was extensive and noted throughout.

Horse remains were recovered from [13006] and [13015] and included two poorly preserved teeth (a maxillary tooth and an incisor), with damaged enamel. The third fragment from [13015] was a piece of an astragalus. Cattle teeth and mandible fragments were recovered, together with pieces of tibia, metatarsal and femur. The shaft of the femur appeared to have been worked and the end of the bone was rounded, worn and highly polished. Unfortunately, the bone had been damaged by fresh breakage. Caprovids were represented by a single maxillary molar which was extremely poorly preserved.

None of the teeth or mandible fragments were of use for providing age-at-death information and only one cattle tibia was measurable.

### **Discussion and statement of potential**

Ancient biological remains recovered from the sediment samples were restricted to small quantities of unidentifiable charcoal of no interpretative value. Two of the samples (from [13016] and [18004]) also yielded traces of uncharred plant material but this was most likely intrusive to the deposits (as were the earthworm egg capsules also noted in [18004]).

No remains suitable for submission for radiocarbon dating were identified.

The vertebrate assemblage from these excavations was too small and too poorly preserved to be of any interpretative value.

### **Recommendations**

No further study of the current material is warranted and, in view of the scarcity of the remains and their poor preservation, it is unlikely that interpretatively valuable assemblages would be recovered by any future interventions in this area.

### **Retention and disposal**

Unless required for purposes other than the study of biological remains, the remaining unprocessed sediment from these deposits may be discarded.

The small quantities of remains recovered from the evaluation subsamples and the hand-collected material should be retained for the present as part of the physical archive of the site.

### 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 John Tibbles, of Humber Field Archaeology, for providing the material and the archaeological information.

*Table 3 Hand-collected vertebrate remains*

Species		Context [13006]	Context [13013]	Context [13015]	Total
<i>Equus f. domestic</i>	horse	2	-	1	3
<i>Bos f. domestic</i>	cow	-	3	3	6
Caprovid	sheep/goat	-	1	-	1
Large mammal		-	2	3	5
Unidentified		3	-	-	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>

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## 5 Discussion and Recommendations

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### 5.1 Discussion

#### The site sequence

Although the majority of trenches contained no features, the site is large, and their presence elsewhere cannot be dismissed. The features recorded in Trench 13 are considered to represent Romano-British boundary ditches, which for much of their history were probably doubled, suggesting they surrounded an enclosure or marked a significant boundary. The deeper eastern ditch may have been established first, and the number of recuts and the presence of late Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery suggests that one or more of the ditches may have been established in the 1st or 2nd century, but the earliest ditches appear to have been infilled by the 3rd to late 4th century, since the first recut of the western ditch, [13010], contained later 4th-century pottery; in their final form, the double ditches seem to have been replaced by a single cut on the same alignment as the western ditch. A watching brief in the area of Trench 13 produced two unstratified Romano-British pottery sherds, together with further flint flakes (Jobling 2008b).

The presence of a reasonable pottery assemblage, animal bone and building materials, including fragments of stone roofing tile, burnt daub, ceramic brick/tile and scorched hearth stones, suggests that there was occupation close by.

The ditches in Trench 18 are less easy to interpret, but they may represent field or enclosure boundaries, perhaps also near a focus of occupation. They contain fragments of late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery, although these are not closely datable, and some may represent late Roman fabrics. A fragment of medieval or early post-medieval brick in one of the ditches is presumably intrusive, although it is possible that one or both features are related to the open field system.

On balance, the ditches probably represent Romano-British rural settlement, with perhaps a focus somewhere in the vicinity of Trench 13.

The only other features of note were a linear feature in Trench 5, considered to be of natural origin rather than a ditch, and traces of medieval or early post-medieval east-west ridge-and-furrow in Trenches 30 and 31 in the northern part of the site. These would have occupied part of Lissett's North Field. Elements of ridge-and-furrow have been identified from aerial photographic analysis immediately outside the north-east corner of the airfield perimeter track and to the north in Burton Agnes parish, but had probably been destroyed in the area of the airfield itself during levelling for its construction.

## **Impact assessment**

No features were found in any of the turbine locations where the deepest excavations will take place. The majority of the trenches on the access road alignments also contained no archaeological features.

The features in Trenches 13 and 18 were considered to be sufficiently deeply buried to avoid damage from track construction, which was to proceed to 0.3m below the existing ground level.

## **5.2 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 interim report recommended that the area of both Trenches 13 and 18 should be investigated by means of monitored topsoil stripping as part of the road construction process. The area for monitoring would comprise a 100m length of access either side of Trenches 13 and 18. In addition, it was recommended that the footprint of the proposed sub-station was monitored.

At the time this report was completed, all specified works in these areas had been completed, and produced no significant features. A report was accordingly produced and has been issued (Jobling 2008a, b).

It is recommended that a brief summary of the project is included in the annual round-up section of the next issue of *East Riding Archaeologist*. None of the artefacts and samples are considered worth further analysis, and the pottery, flints and building materials will be retained and arrangements made for archiving them with the site paper and photographic records at the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service, together with the records from the original trial pits and subsequent watching briefs.

## Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned and funded by Novera Energy.

The on-site work was carried out in accordance with a specification prepared by Mr D. Evans of the Humber Sites and Monuments Record. The site was excavated by a team of staff from Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) under the supervision of John Tibbles: Terry Beal, Pam Cartwright, Janet Phillips and Vaughan Wastling.

The figures reproduced in this report are the work of Doug Jobling and Mike Frankland. Spot dating and assessment of the pottery was undertaken by Peter Didsbury. Finds processing and assessment and the ceramic building material assessment were carried out by Sophie Tibbles. The lithic assemblage was assessed by Ruth Head, RH Lithics. Work on the biological remains carried out by Alexandra Schmidl, Deborah Jaques and Alex Beacock, Palaeoecology Research Services, Shildon, County Durham.

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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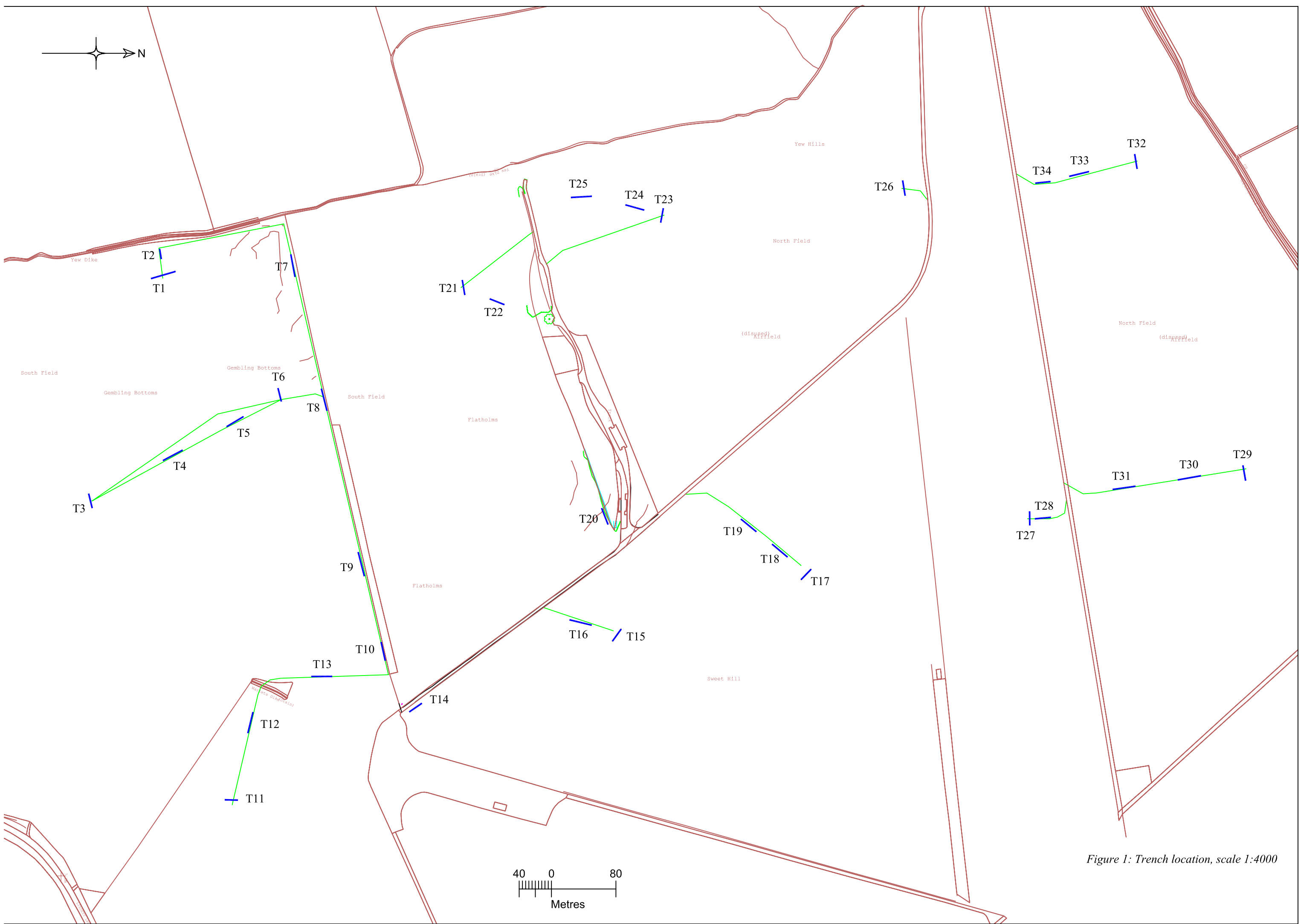


Figure 1: Trench location, scale 1:4000

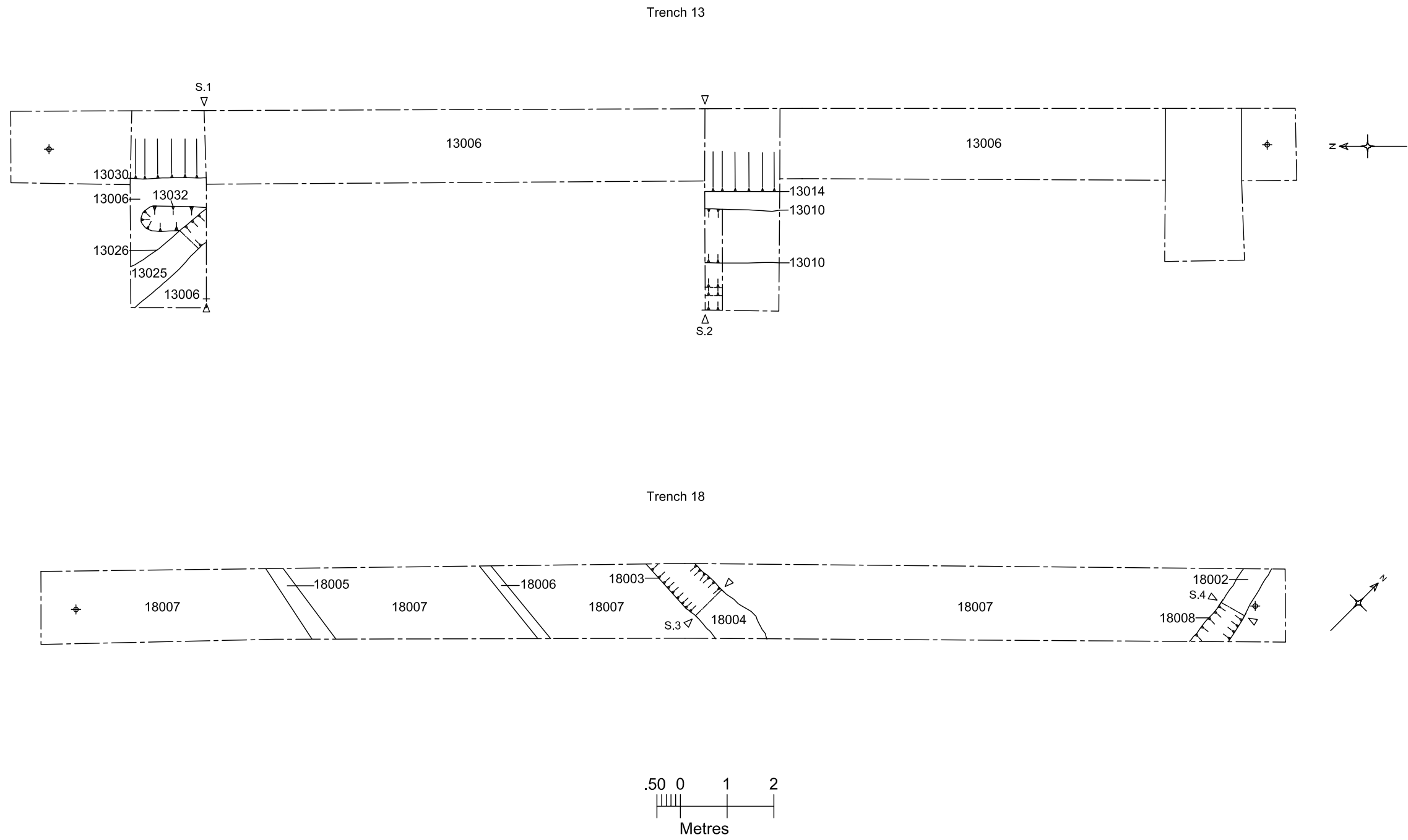


Figure 2: Detail of Trenches 13 and 18, showing the archaeological features exposed, scale 1:100.

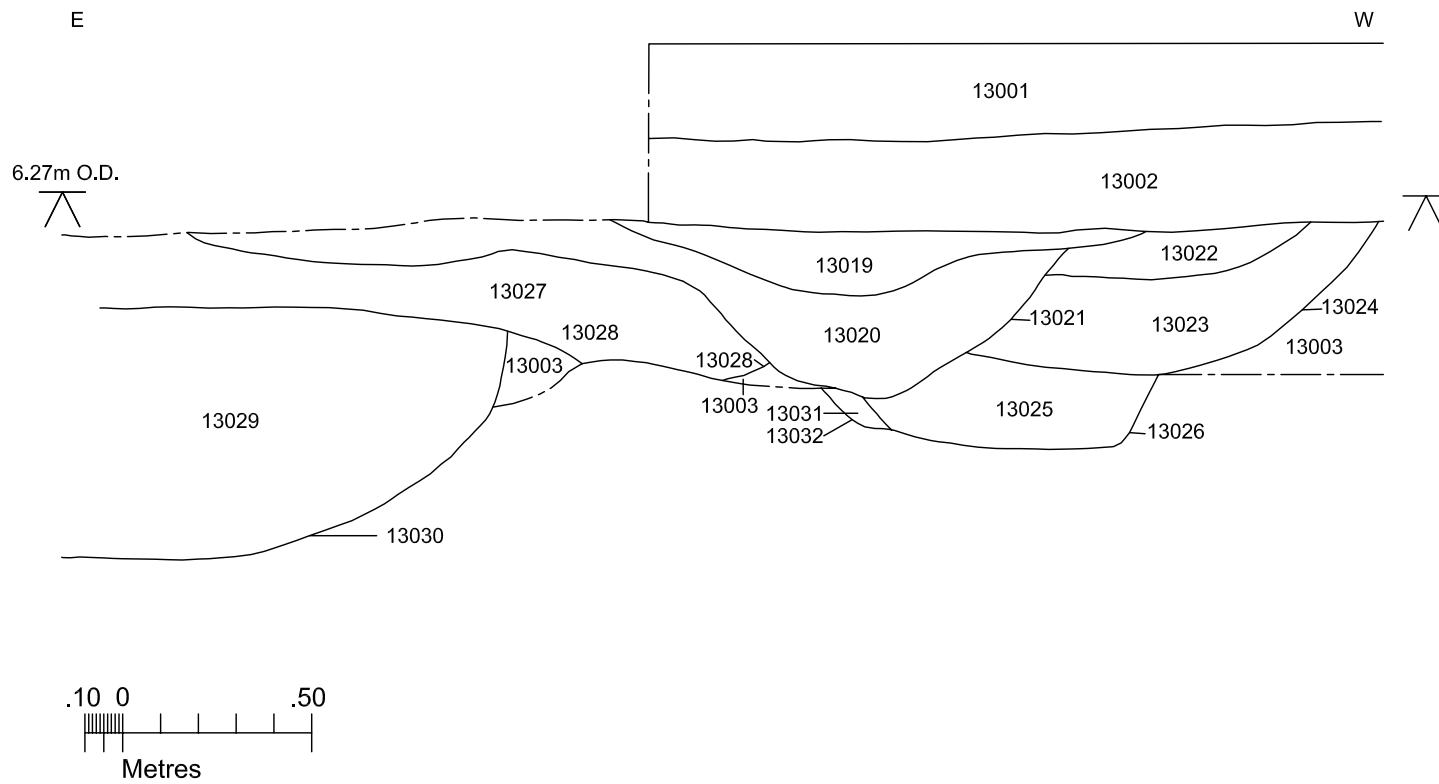


Figure 3: Section 1, scale 1:20.

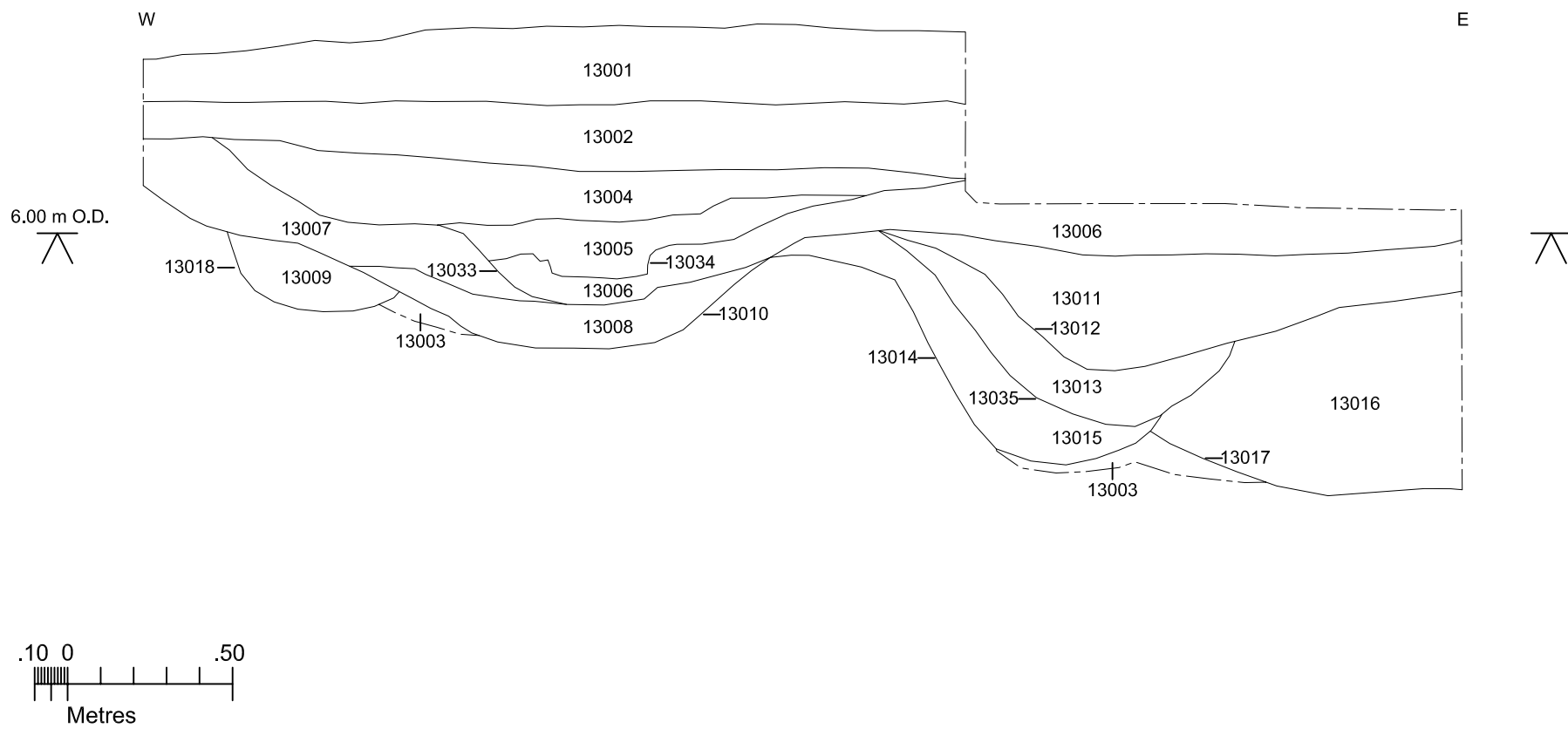


Figure 4: Section 2, scale 1:20.

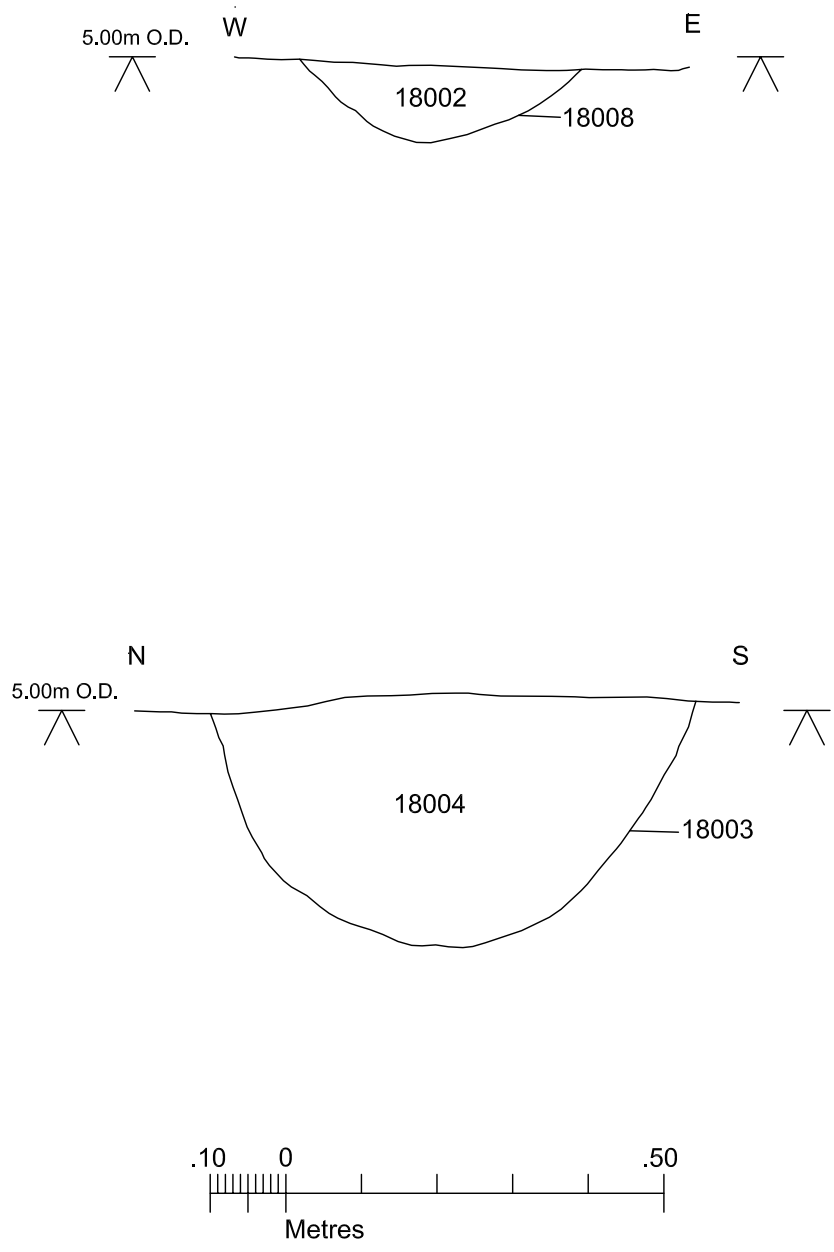


Figure 5: Sections 3 and 4, scale 1:10.



*Plate 1 Overall view of trench under excavation, being monitored for live World War 2 ordnance*



*Plate 2 Trench 5, looking south, with possible feature [5004] near 1m scale*



*Plate 3 Trench 6, looking west, showing ceramic land drain [6004] cutting the natural subsoil (1m scales)*



*Plate 4 Trench 13, south-facing section in southern sondage showing parallel Romano-British ditches (1m scales)*



*Plate 5 Trench 13, south-facing section in southern sondage showing parallel Romano-British ditches (1m scales)*



*Plate 6 Trench 13, south-facing section in southern sondage showing detail of western Romano-British ditch sequence (1m scale)*





*Plate 7 Trench 13, south-facing section in southern sondage showing detail of eastern Romano-British ditch sequence (1m scale)*



*Plate 8 Trench 13, north-facing section in northern sondage across Romano-British ditch sequence (1m scale)*



*Plate 9 Trench 13, north-facing section in northern sondage showing detail of western Romano-British ditch sequence (1m scale)*



*Plate 10 Trench 13, north-facing section in northern sondage showing detail of eastern Romano-British ditch sequence (1m scale)*



*Plate 11 Trench 18, overall view, looking south-west, with ditch [18008] in the foreground, and [18004] beyond 1m scale*



*Plate 12 Trench 18, shallow ditch [18004], looking north (0.5m scale)*



*Plate 13 Trench 18, section through ditch [18008] (0.5m scale)*



*Plate 14 Trench 33, looking south, with stone-lined field drain [33002] in the foreground (1m scale)*



*Plate 15 Neolithic flint axe recovered from topsoil between Trenches 30 and 31 (10mm scale)*

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Project Management • Desk-based Assessment • Field Survey • Excavation  
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