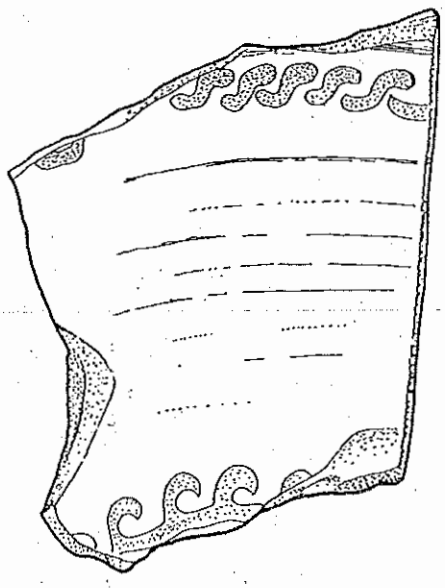
Humberside Archaeology

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Worlds End, Malmo Road, Hull September - October 1990



Archaeology Unit, Property Services Department, Humberside County Council

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT WORLDS END, MALMO ROAD, HULL

Humberside Archaeology Unit,
Property Services Department,
Humberside County Council,
County Hall,
Beverley,
North Humberside HU17 9BA

February 1991

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the Humberside Archaeology Unit in September and October 1990 during the construction of a factory unit on the Sutton Fields Industrial Estate. The work was carried out to determine the extent, depth and importance of any archaeological deposits in the area to be developed.

The work revealed a complex system of boundary and irrigation ditches which were cut by a series of pits and associated features. Artefacts recovered from these features indicated Romano-British occupation from the 2nd century AD to the 4th century AD and it is likely that the settlement was probably a small farm.

Further evidence was recovered for occupation during the 12th century AD and this continued until the early part of the 20th century when the site was used for pasture. In 1983 the site became part of the Sutton Fields Industrial Estate.

In view of the archaeological importance and potential of this area, it is recommended that geophysical survey and limited excavation be undertaken on those areas adjacent to both Malmo and Narvik Roads. This would determine the presence of any archaeological features below ground level as well as any concentrations therein and would allow the impact of any future development in these areas to be assessed.

INTRODUCTION

Members of the Humberside Archaeology Unit undertook a watching brief in advance and during the development of land to the west of Malmo Road on the Sutton Fields industrial estate. This work was carried out over an eight week period during September and October 1990 whilst the initial machine work and construction of a factory unit for Orvec International was in progress.

Observations and detailed note-taking were carried out during the weekday periods of attendance with more detailed examinations at weekends. The standard H.A.U. recording procedure was used throughout and each feature was given a context number for identification purposes. All measured depths relate to existing ground level and have not been adjusted to Ordnance Datum.

SITE HISTORY

The vast tract of land that stretches from the high lands of Sutton to the river Hull had, according to Blashill,

> "...between 1086 and 1150...been reclaimed by embankments which confined the Humber to something like its now existing limits, and by drains...." (Blashill, 1896, 12).

He continues by informing us that:

> "...the effect of the embankments and drains was to change the waste of muddy water...into meadows called ings and marshy pastures called carrs." (Blashill, 1896, 13).

To the west of Sutton these lands became known as the West Marsh or the West Carr and in c.1150 the monks of Meaux Abbey were given rights of pasture over these areas. In the ensuing years the monks had long and continuous disagreements with the Lords of Sutton who contested these rights.

In 1764, a year of great floods, the river Humber broke its banks causing both the North and the West Carrs to be flooded, isolating Sutton. In 1790 an attempt was made to prevent this by constructing the Sutton Drain. The success of this resulted in the rent of the surrounding land increasing from two shillings and sixpence to twenty-eight shillings and sixpence per acre.

In 1768 the enclosure of the West Carr took place and according to Blashill:

> "...six times as much land was enclosed [around Stoneferry] then around Sutton." (Blashill, 1896, 00).

As a result, the people who lost pasturage would have been in great demand for their labour by the new land owners; alternatively they would have succumbed to the high wages offered in nearby Hull.

On the east bank of the River Hull, approximately 0.5km north of

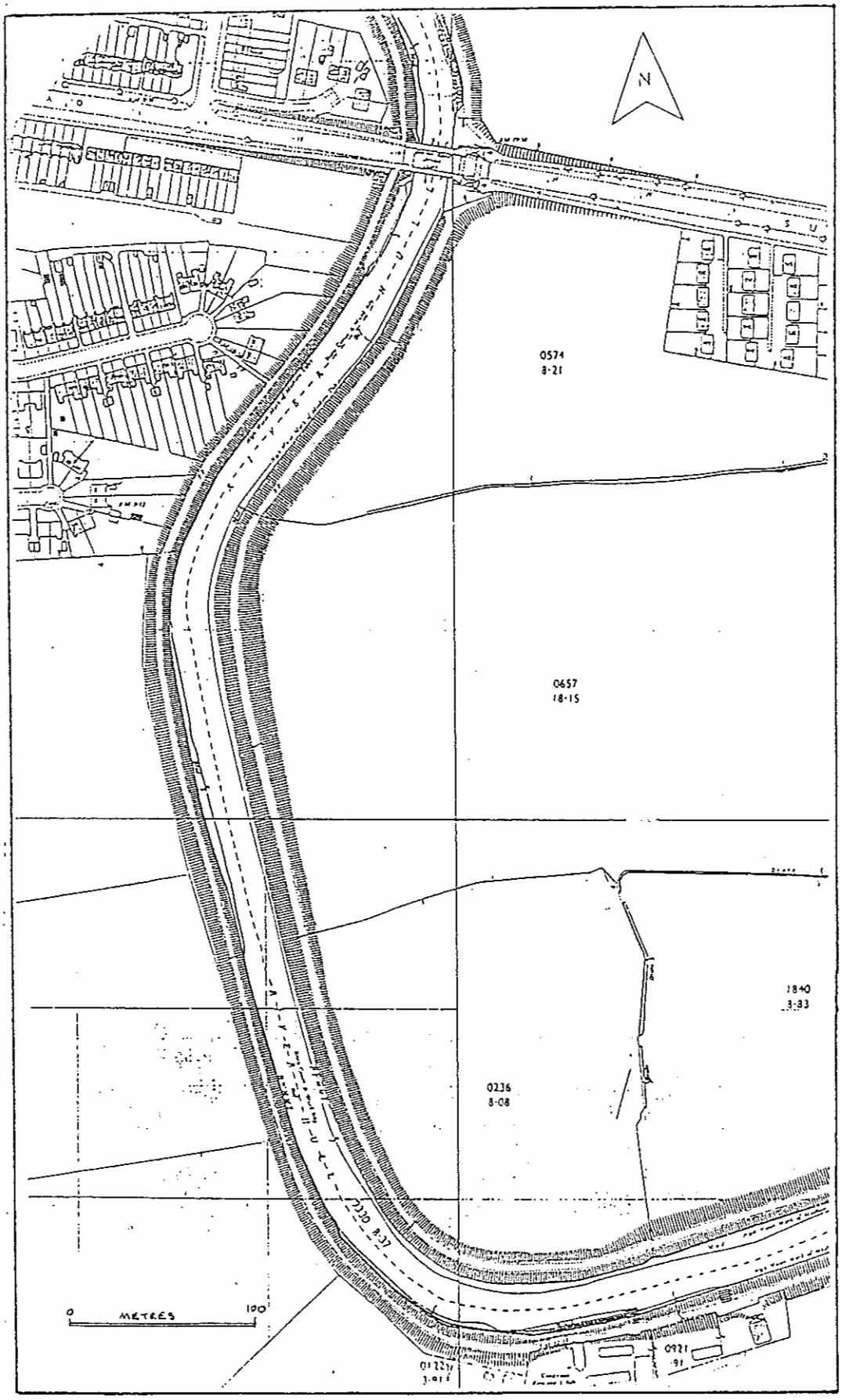


figure 8. Ordnance Survey 6" map 1919

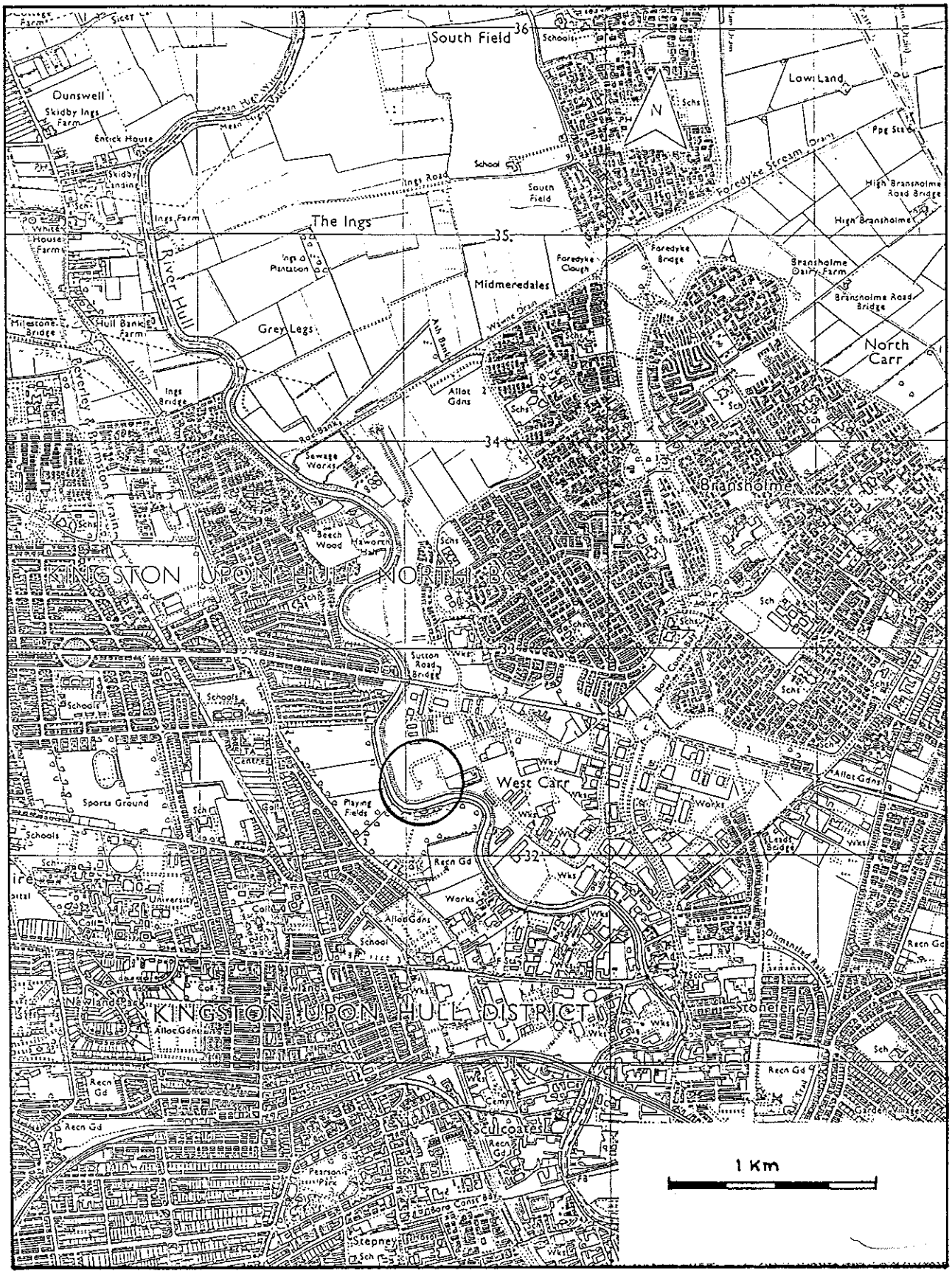


figure 1. Site location

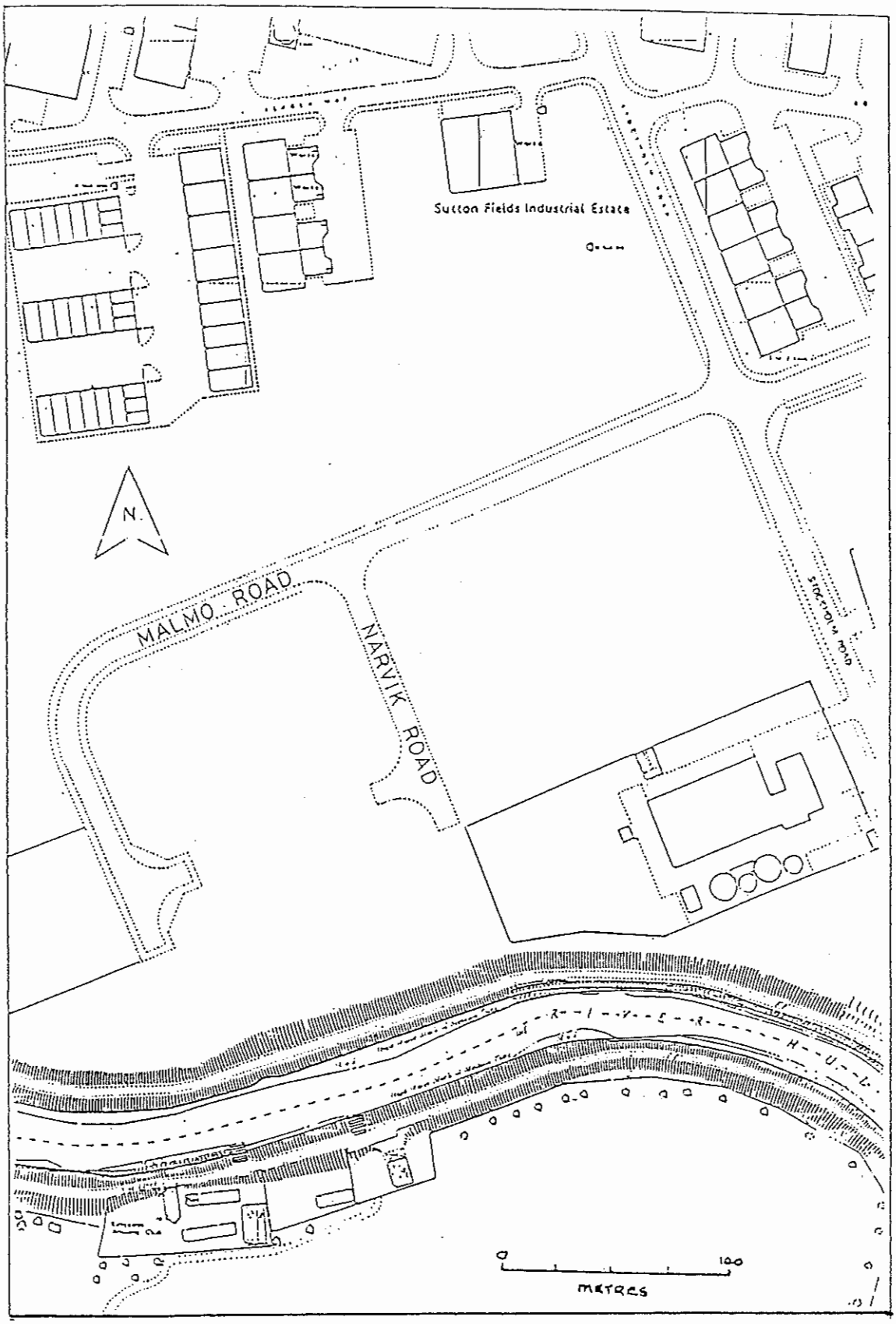


figure 2. Sutton Fields Industrial Estate

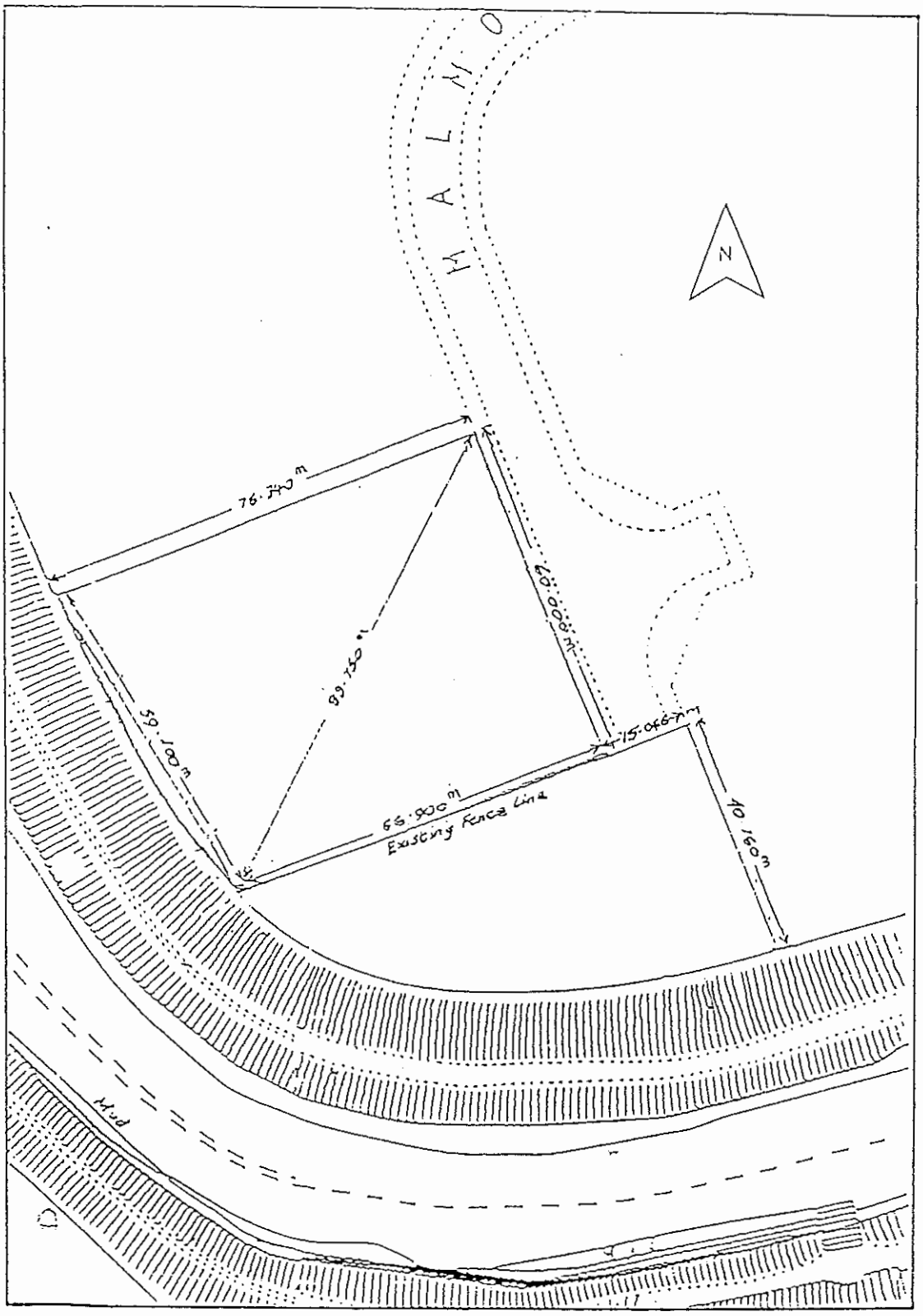


figure 3. Site plan

Kingston upon Hull and 3km southwest of Sutton, are three areas referred to by past historians as the 'Ancient Enclosures'. These tracts of land were already enclosed well before the 1768 enclosures of the West Carr and are inferred by Blashill to be 'early medieval'. The most northerly of the three areas is approximately 300m north of the Stoneferry hamlet and lies directly south of, and adjoining to the southern boundary of, the medieval lands known as Nuttles. Within this larger enclosure the settlement known as Worlds End is to be found bordering the northern bank of the river.

Blashills map of 1856 (fig 5) and the Ordnance Survey one inch composite map of 1850 (fig 6) show at least four buildings situated in a group at the southern end of a track or roadway.

By 1893 the Ordnance Survey 6 inch map (fig 7) shows several structures aligned north-south adjoining a single east-west building on its western side; the southernmost building lies approximately 10m north of the river at this point. 40m to the west of these structures a pond at least 20m wide is clearly marked. Fryer's six inch map of 1906 is slightly less detailed and uses a shaded area to represent Worlds End. Although the settlement is clearly visible, individual buildings are not. The Ordnance Survey six inch map of 1919 (fig 8) has no settlement or roads marked at Worlds End, only the eastern field boundary consisting of an open ditch which is clearly visible on the 1893 map. The pond to the west has also disappeared. It appears that the area lay more or less dormant as pasture until 1983 when it became part of the Sutton Fields industrial estate.

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

There are two important settlement sites associated with the River Hull from which parallels can be drawn with the evidence retrieved from Malmo Road. Both are situated on the west bank of the river within a relatively short distance of Malmo Road; Haworth Hall and Greylees Avenue (fig 9).

In 1964 large quantities of 2nd to 4th century Roman pottery were discovered by J. Bartlett of Hull Museums during the excavation of a sewage farm at Haworth Hall (TA 50088 43336), approximately 1km north of Malmo Road. No information was collected regarding any ditches or other features that the sewage trenches may have cut through.

At Greylees Avenue (TA 50081 43341), approximately 1.5km north of Malmo Road, two ditches were exposed during building work. One of these was excavated by P. Didsbury and D. Crowther in 1984. The Roman pottery that was recovered dated from the late 1st century to the 4th century AD. Other materials recovered were animal bones, building materials, a combed flue tile, a glass bangle and a silver spoon.

Within the immediate vicinity of Malmo Road considerable amounts of find spots have been exposed producing pottery, animal bones and other features of many periods (fig 10). In addition, a

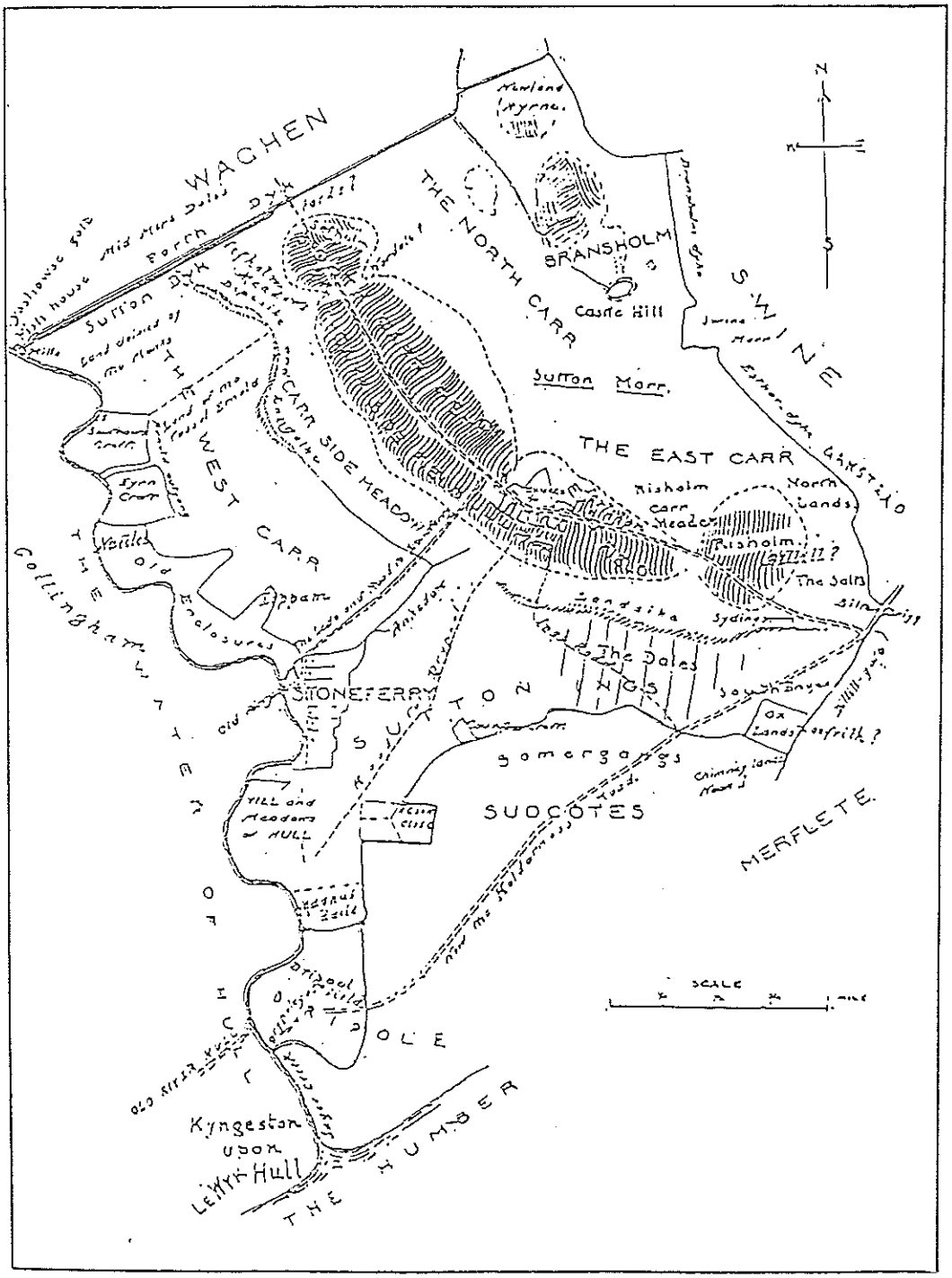


figure 4. Blashill's 'Medieval' Sutton

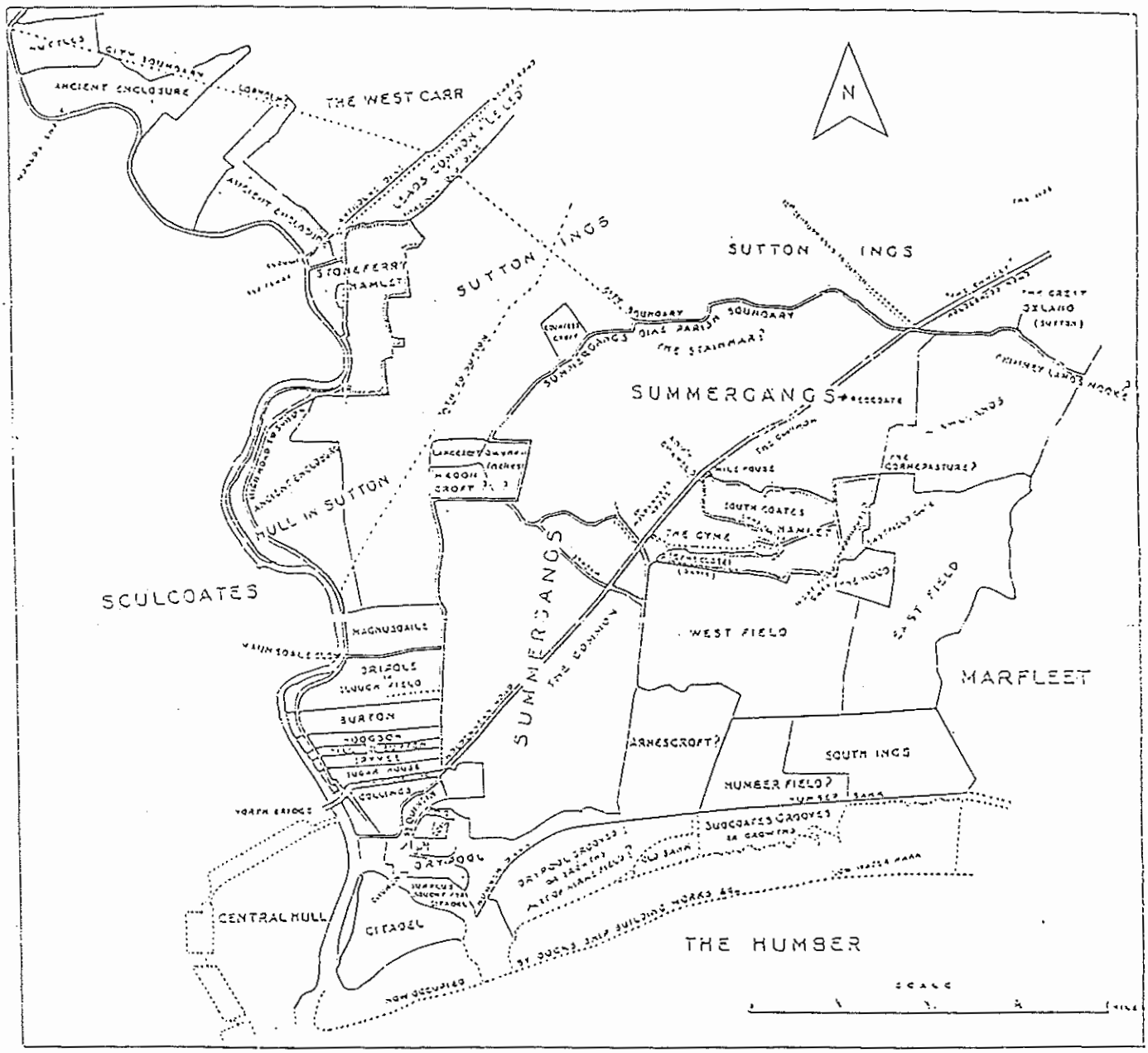


figure 5. Blashill's Map of Stoneferry and Drypool 1856

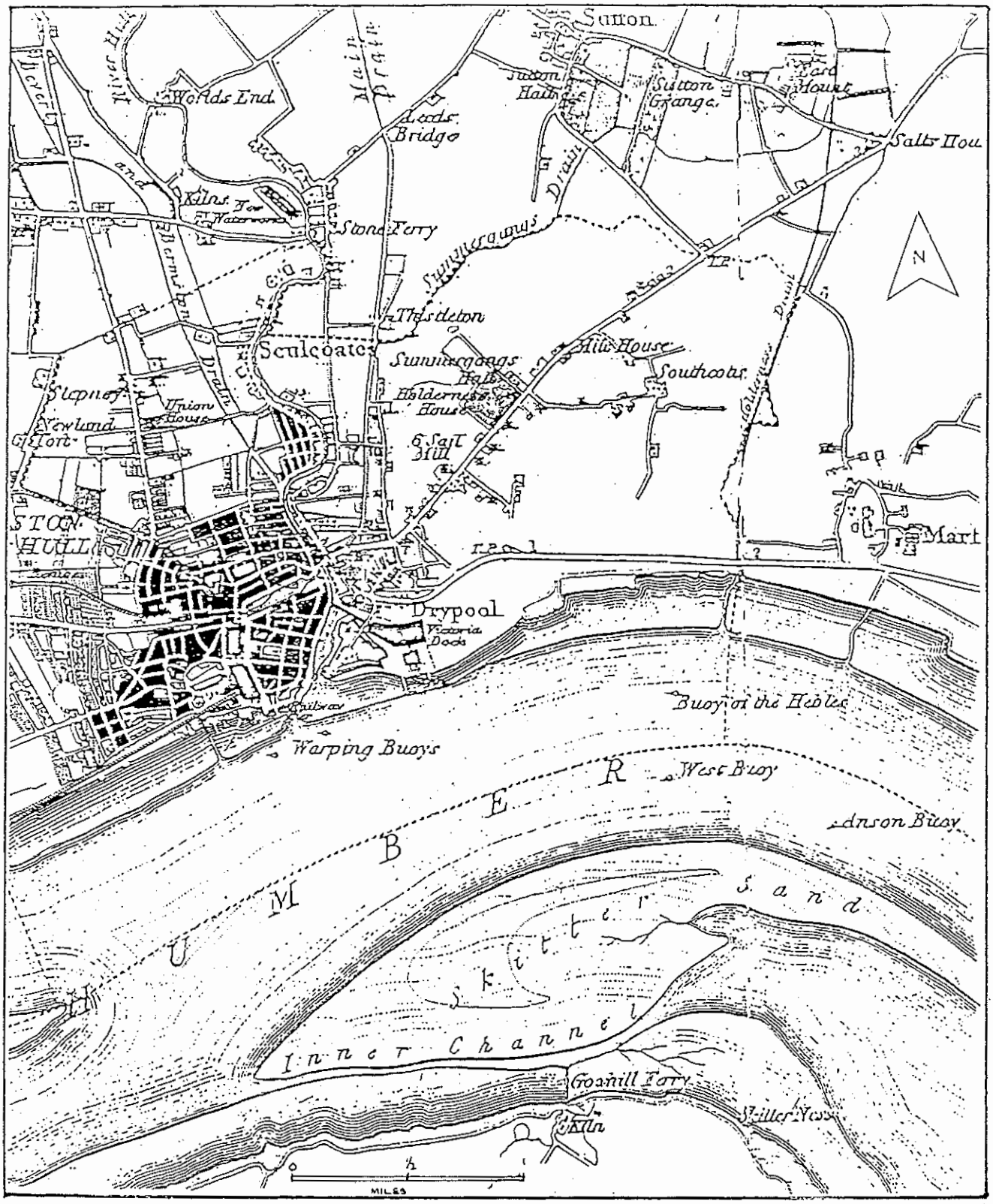


figure 6. OS 1" Composite map 1850

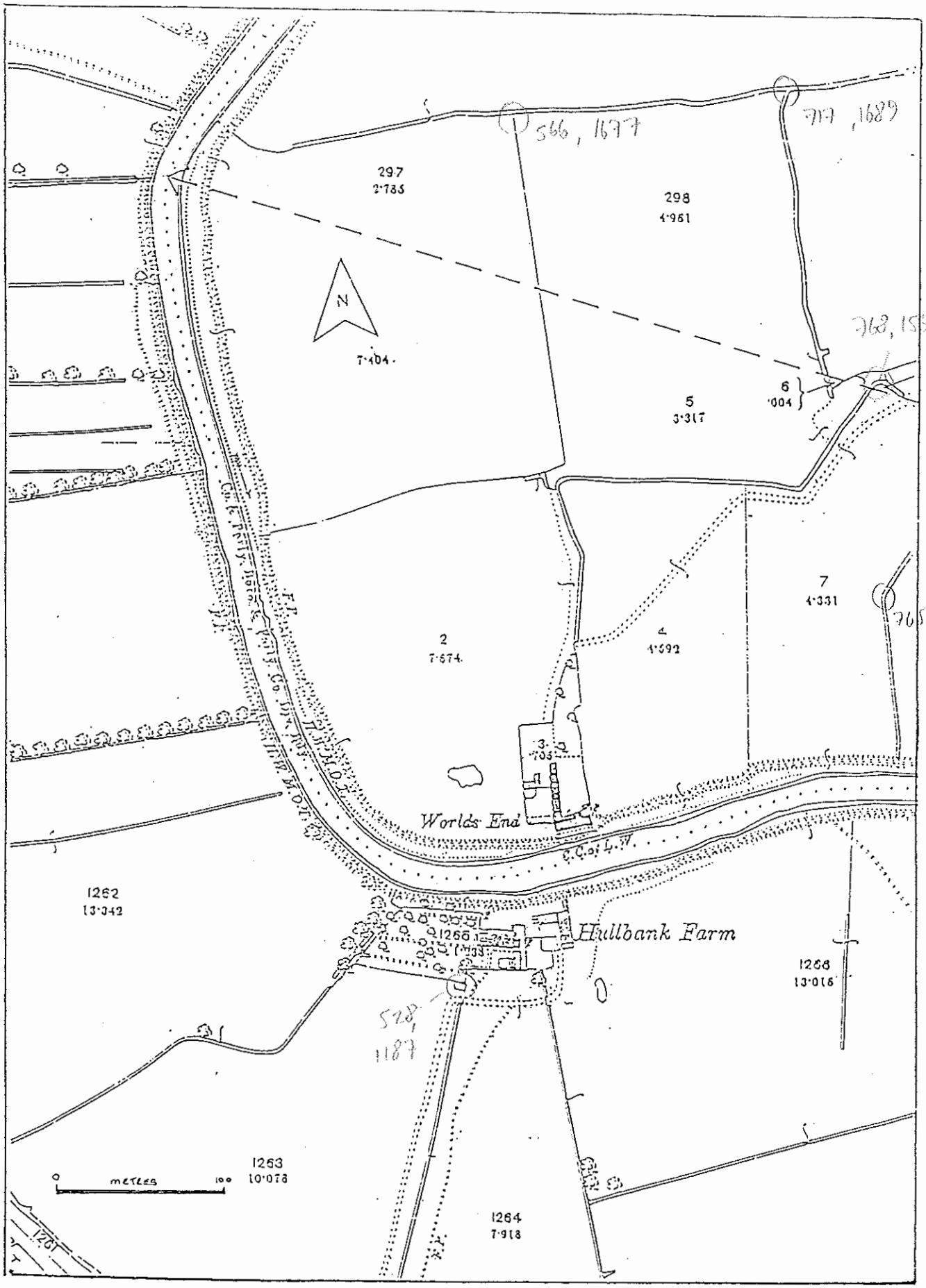


figure 7. Worlds End Farm 1893

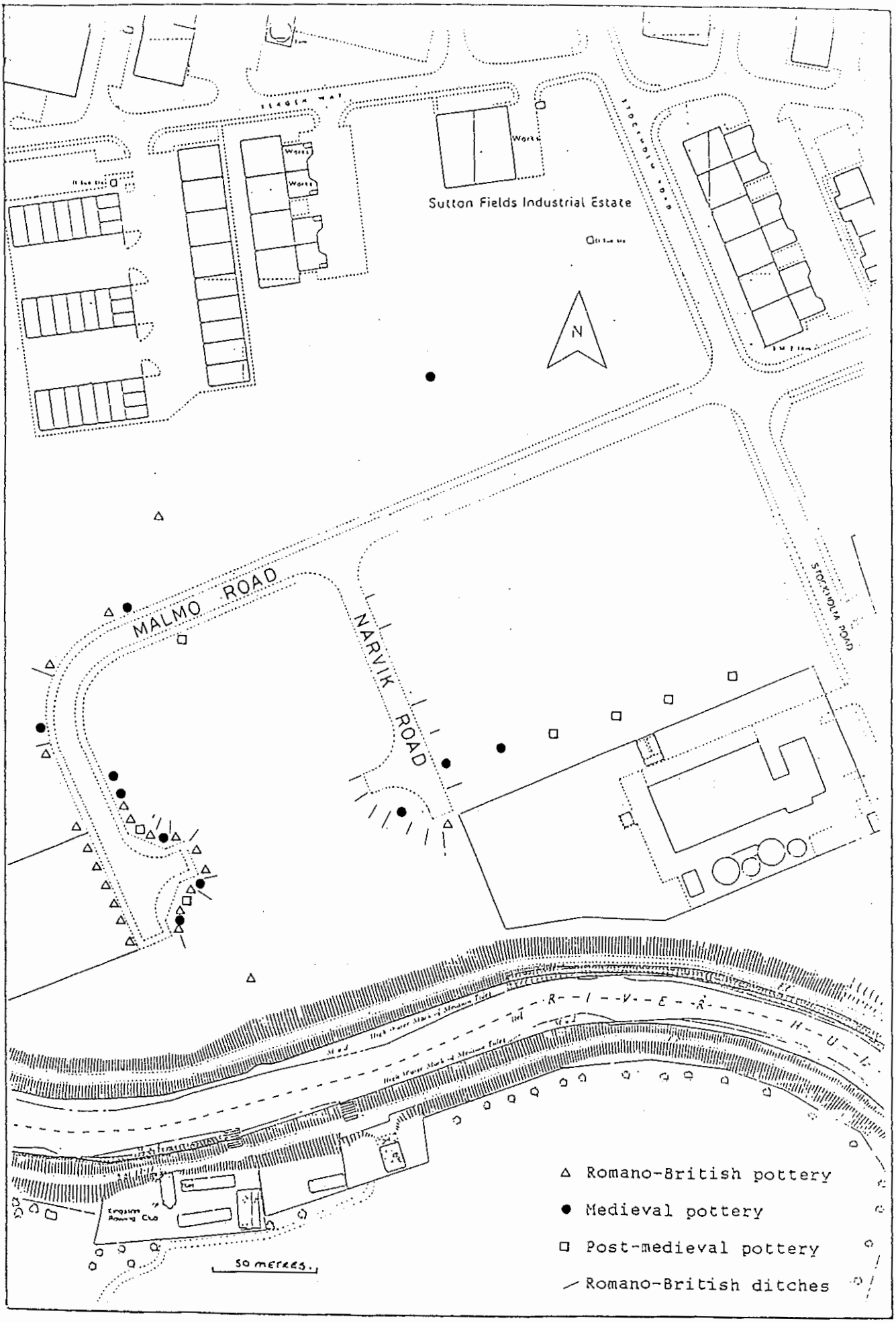


figure 10. Find spots Malmo Road/Narvik Road

number of 13th century pottery sherds were found within black organic matter immediately to the north of Malmo Road in 1977.

In July 1989 a machine excavated trench 400m long was cut to the south of the constructed industrial units and to the north of Malmo Road. Within its fill were exposed 28 sherds of 2nd century Roman pottery, daub and calcified bone. No features were visible in the trench sections but the pottery sherds were found within a blue-grey silty clay. At least three vessels are likely to be represented by seven rim sherds, one being hand made.

Trenches excavated by Hull City Council along either side of Malmo and Narvik Roads in 1989 (plate 1) produced not only a large assembly of Romano-British pottery but at least 26 separate ditches on various alignments (fig 11). The majority of the pottery recovered was Romano-British in date ranging from the 2nd to the 4th century AD, whilst the remaining pottery was either medieval, dating from the 13th to the 15th centuries, or post-medieval, 16th century and later.

The strip of land to the east of Narvik Road and adjacent to a standing factory was recently developed. When the site was cleared of topsoil the area was examined for archaeological features and pottery, at least three east-west aligned ditches were found continuing westwards under Narvik Road. The pottery recovered was mainly post-medieval with the occasional medieval sherd.

OBSERVATIONS

Initial development work on the site entailed the removal of approximately 0.30m of topsoil (10) using a JCB (plate 2). This spoil was then formed into large heaps along the western boundary of the site, the remainder being removed by wagon.

Below the topsoil a layer of orange-brown plastic clay (27) covered most of the site and it was into this that most of the archaeological features had been cut.

The most obvious features at this stage were a post-medieval land drain (2), a linear feature (4) parallel to the land drain, two circular features (6) & (8) and two dumps in the southwestern corner (3) & (11) (fig 12).

Both Roman Greyware and medieval pottery occurred in abundance across the site with the more dense scatter of Roman pottery lying in the south eastern quarter.

A 5.0m wide linear feature (1), initially observed in the council trench (26), was found to not only continue under Malmo Road but to extend west for 7.0m before becoming indistinguishable with the clay/topsoil mix. The fill (28) was a dark grey-brown silty-clay containing RB pottery, animal bone, chalk fragments and pieces of limestone.

Along the northern boundary a 0.30m wide meandering linear

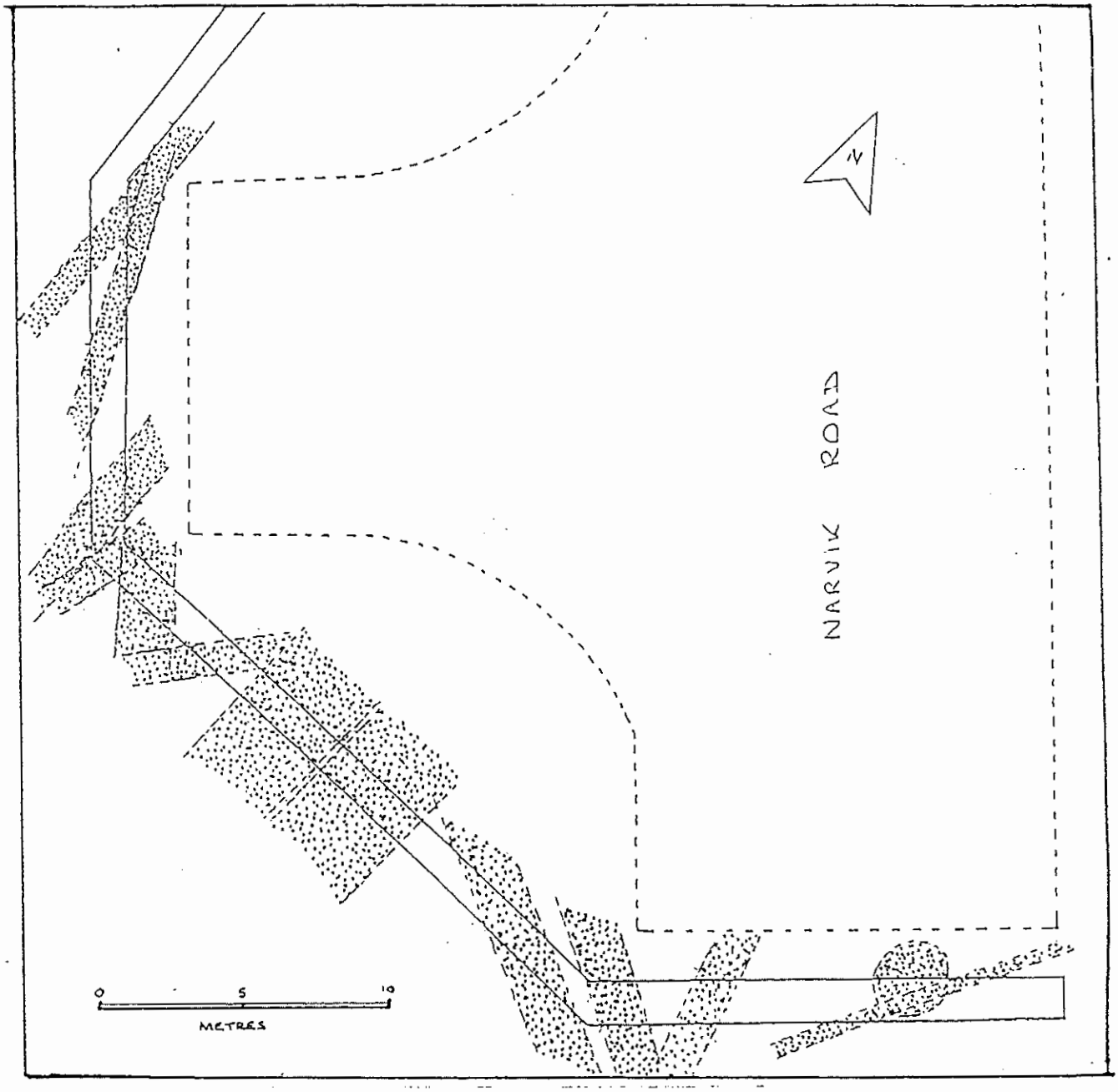


figure 11. Ditch alignments at Narvik Road

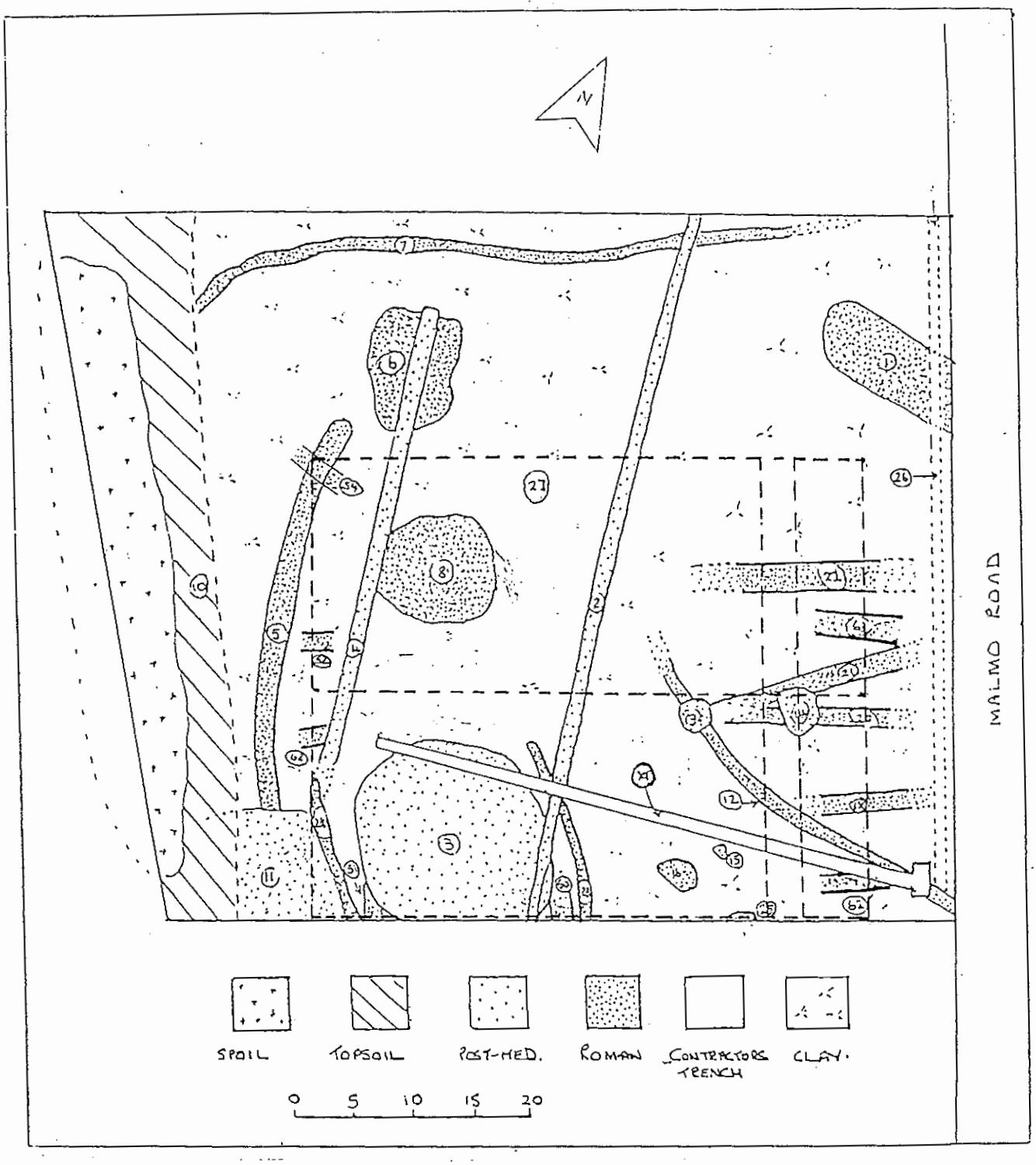


figure 12. Sketch plan of features with foundation trench outline

feature (7) was observed, its fill (68) being a rich peaty loam above a fine silty clay 0.15m deep. Initial interpretation of this feature has been given as a small 'natural' meandering stream with primary and secondary fills.

The southwest corner of the site showed a dump (11) approximately 8.0m wide comprised of a light grey ash containing brick slag, clinker and charcoal (36).

A curvilinear feature (5), truncated in the south by the ash dump (11), curved northwards and appeared to end approximately 18.0m south of the sites northern perimeter (plate 3). The fill (32), a grey brown friable silty clay, produced RB pottery and the occasional piece of slag.

Immediately east of feature (5) a shallow linear feature (4) (plate 3) ran diagonally across the site parallel to the land drain (2). A mean width of 0.30m and depth of 0.15m was recorded, supported by a sketch profile showing vertical sides and a flat base (fig 14). Initial observations assumed that the feature was a second land drain, similar to (2), but no evidence of such was forthcoming from the light brown peaty fill (31). The southern end was indiscernible and therefore its relationship to feature (24) could not be determined.

The northern end of feature (4) cut through an irregular shaped 9.0m wide feature (6), its grey-brown loamy/clay fill producing a substantial amount of slag. Also cut by feature (4) was a roughly circular 7.0m wide feature (8) which produced from its dark brown clay/loam fill (35) a substantial amount of small medieval and RB pottery fragments and what appeared to be a pebble spread, possibly a hard standing surface.

Three pits (15),(16) & (25) on the southern edge of the site ranged in diameter from 0.20m to 1.80m; all appeared to contain similar fill materials of dark brown clay with heavy chalk flecking.

A contractors trench (19) (plate 4), was machine cut over a period of two days for the insertion of 'services'. It was excavated on a roughly westerly alignment to a length of 50.0m from Malmo Road, a mean depth of approximately 1.50m and a width of 1.0m. Two later axis were cut southwest from this initial trench at 10.0m and 30.0m west from the road, neither cutting any visible features, ending at the site's southern boundary.

At the easternmost end of the trench a 2.0m square trench was cut to a depth of 1.80m for the insertion of a brick sewer chamber; this gave the first opportunity to observe the stratification below the present ground level.

Within the chamber cut, the northwestern section face showed a recut ditch (12) (fig 14, plate 5), 1.80m wide and 1.30m deep at it lowest point, containing a soft dark grey silty loam fill (37). The fill produced the first totally stratified material from the site and contained liberal quantities of shell, animal bone, charcoal, chalk fragments and most significantly pottery (including a large sherd of Cranbeck Parchmentware dated to the

late 4th century AD) (fig 15). Although the face of the eastern section had been partially destroyed by a concrete insertion it was still possible to follow the ditches continuation on a south eastern alignment in the remainder of the eastern section and the southern section face.

At the westernmost end of trench (19), at approximately 0.90m below ground level, a narrow lens of a dark organic material (17) 0.22m deep and approximately 1.35m wide was exposed in both section faces (the width of the feature in the northern section face appeared to be approximately 5.0m). A single sherd of pottery was recovered from the material and an environmental sample taken.

The land drain (2), although obviously cut by trench (19), was not visible in either section, possibly because of the clay smears from the JCB bucket across the section faces.

No further recording within the trench was possible due to the backfilling that immediately took place.

Whilst in the progress of backfilling trench (19), a further 0.15m-0.20m of material was taken off the eastern 20.0m of the site, revealing several features hither to unobserved and the continuation of feature (12) curving gently to the north. Of these features four were seen to be east-west linear ditches: (18); (20); (21) & (22) with the ditches (20) & (21) merging approximately 18.0m west of the road below an oval feature 4.0m by 2.0m (13). Also above ditches (20) & (21) a second circular feature (14) was uncovered at 11.0m west of the road. The continuation of these ditches beyond feature (13) was not determined.

A large circular feature (3), 16.0m in diameter, uncovered in the southwestern corner of the site continued under the southern section of the site. When cut by trench (19) the fill material (30) was seen to be at least 0.20m deep consisting of an orange brick and tile rubble much being vitrified in nature. Initial interpretations of this feature has been given as the infill of the pond shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of the area (fig 7).

Encircling feature (3) two curvilinear features (23) & (24) containing identical fills (47) & (48) of a dark brown peaty material were observed and appear to be the vegetation at the edges of the old pond.

Later development work consisted of concrete piling with heavy machinery and supporting vehicles which successfully churned the upper surfaces into a quagmire preventing any surface examination. The flakes of concrete from the piles created a further disruption to the watcher due to their uncanny resemblance to sherds of Roman greyware. False features were also formed by oil spillages from the piling machine.

Foundation trenches of varying depths (plate 6) were cut over several days of which were numbered: (55), (56), (58), (61), (65), (66) & (67). Evidence of fifteen cut features was evident in all of the major trenches varying in size between 3.0m and

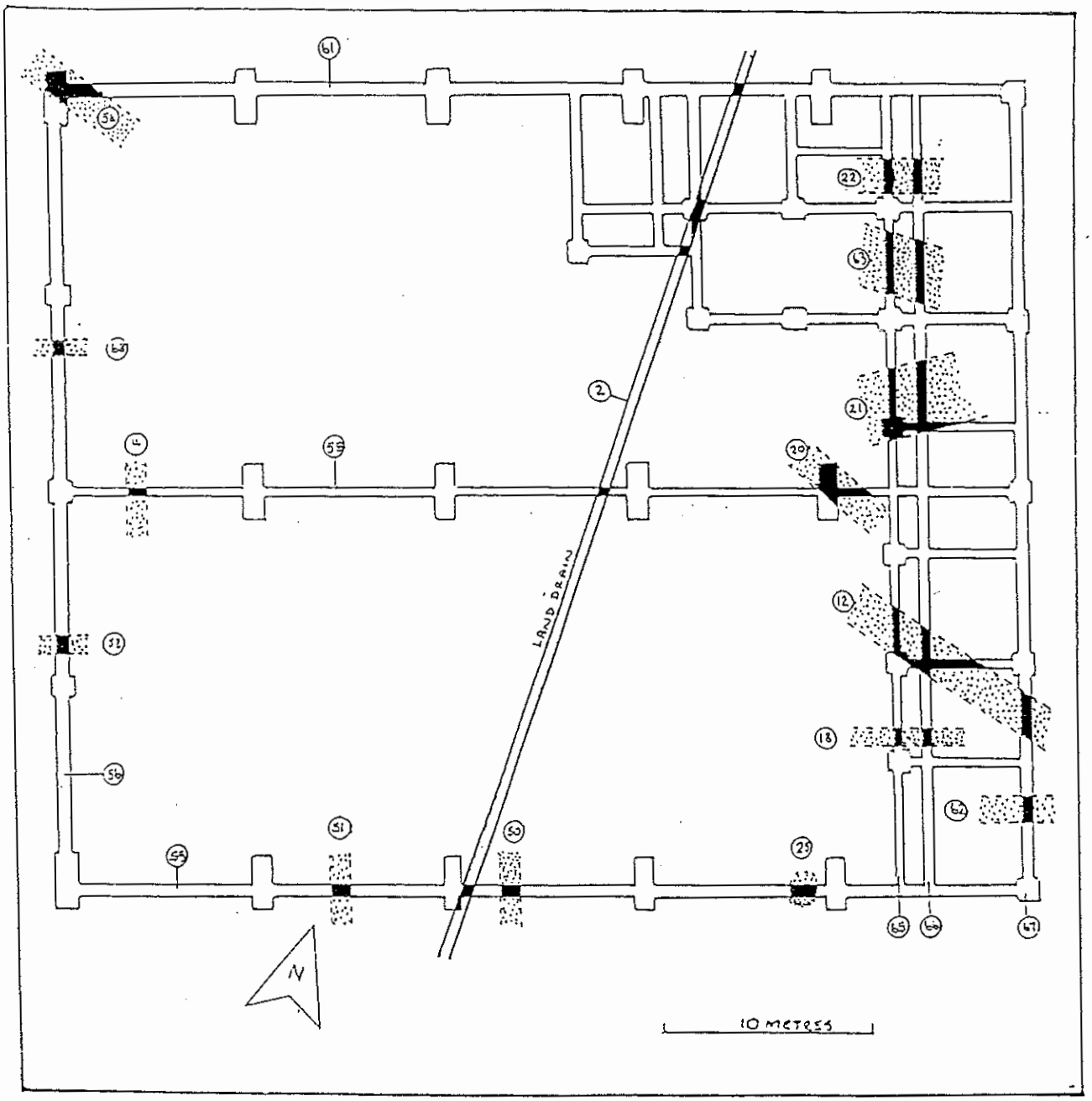


figure 13. Foundation trenches showing feature alignments

0.60m and of various depths.

It was possible to trace the alignments of six cut features, (18), (12), (20), (21), (63) & (22), for at least 2.0m by observing their continuations in the section faces of the parallel foundation trench (fig 13). Feature (12) was observed over 6.0m on a northwest-southeast alignment, its distinct fill (37) clearly visible in all six sections. Four of these features (12), (20), (63) and (22), were aligned northwest-southeast whilst the remainder, (18) & (21) were aligned east-west and southwest-northeast respectively. A further cut feature was exposed in the southeastern corner showing in trench (67) which appeared to be aligned east-west. Its position indicates that this may be the shallower ditch seen to cut feature (12) in the chamber trench and initially interpreted as being a recut (fig 14).

The southern foundation trench (55) exposed three cut features, (25), (50) & (51) which varied in widths from 0.60m to 1.0m and although all appeared to be aligned north-south their continuations were not found in trench (58). These features may therefore be considered to be pits and not ditches. A single feature was observed in trench (58) at approximately 3.0m south of trench (56), its width was 0.90m wide and 0.40m deep. No trace of its continuation was discovered in either trench (55) or trench (61).

The western foundation trench (56) showed two east-west aligned linear features (52) & (68) with a third at the junction of trench (61), the latter being southeast-northwest aligned.

The obvious post-medieval land drain (2) was easily observed in the sections of trenches (58) and (61) but not in trench (55).

Other features may have been inadvertently missed due to the speed that the concrete was laid within the foundations, many of the observations and measurements had to be performed through the steel framework inserted in most of the trenches prior to concreting (plate 7).

During the erection of the steel framework it became impossible to determine further features on the ground surface due to the churned condition of the site from the continuous movement of vehicles.

The final days of the watching brief were taken up with a detailed examination of the spoil heap and its contents, particularly the blue-grey ditch fills which were easily recognisable on the light brown clay. An assemblage of RB pottery, bone, shell, clay pipe stems, brick and tile, and a small find of a lead weight were found.

A detailed program of metal detecting was undertaken on the site which included the systematic sweeping of all the exposed areas (plate 8). The area around feature (1) on the northeastern edge of the site was found to be inundated with modern metal intrusions therefore effectively preventing the metal detecting of this area.

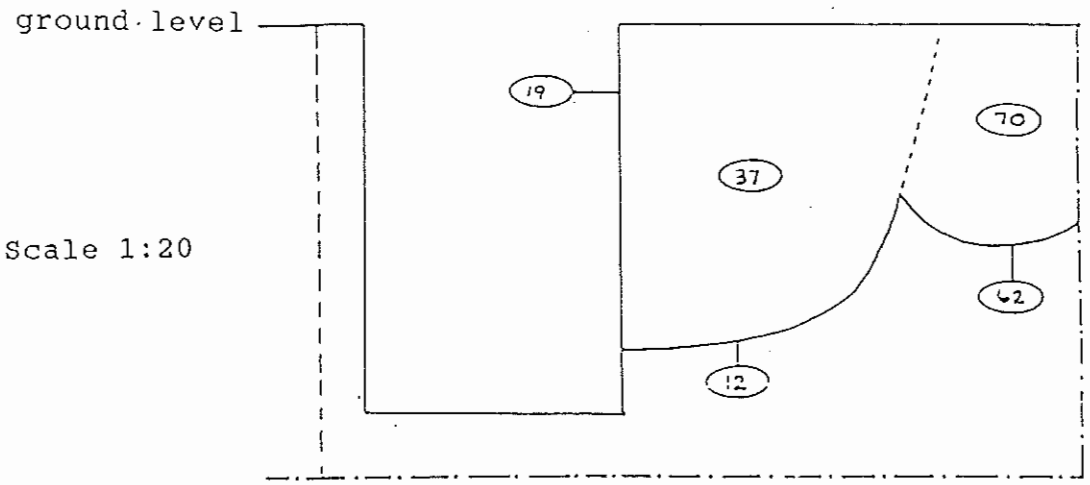


Fig. 14 a Section of features (19), (12) & (62)

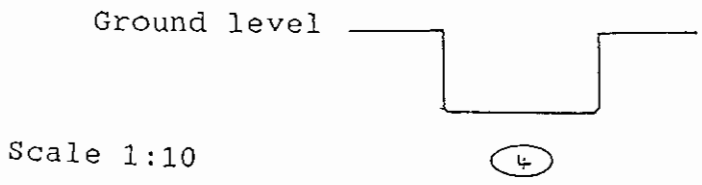


Fig. 14 b Profile of feature (4)

figure 14. Ditch Sections.

The remainder of the site produced no signals of significance, similarly the spoil heap too drew a blank response.

Context list

1	Ovalinear feature
2	Land drain
3	Pond
4	North-south linear feature
5	Crescent feature
6	Near circular feature
7	East-west meandering feature
8	Oval feature
9	Spoil heap
10	Topsoil
11	Ash dump
12	Curvilinear ditch
13	Pit
14	Pit
15	Posthole?
16	Pit
17	Organic layer (below 3)
18	East-west linear ditch
19	Contractors trench
20	East-west linear ditch
21	Northeast-southwest linear ditch
22	East-west linear ditch
23	Curvilinear peat feature
24	Curvilinear peat feature
25	Pit
26	Council trench
27	Layer
28	Fill of 1
29	Fill of 2
30	Fill of 3
31	Fill of 4
32	Fill of 5
33	Fill of 6
34	Fill of 7
35	Fill of 8
36	Fill of 11
37	Fill of 12
38	Fill of 13
39	Fill of 14
40	Fill of 15
41	Fill of 16
42	Layer
43	Fill of 20
44	Fill of 21
45	Fill of 18
46	Fill of 22
47	Fill of 23
48	Fill of 24
49	Fill of 25
50	Cut
51	Cut
52	Cut
53	Cut

54	Northwest-southeast ditch
55	Foundation trench. South
56	Foundation trench. West
57	Fill of 53
58	Foundation trench. North
59	Fill of 51
60	Fill of 50
61	Foundation trench Centre
62	East-west linear ditch
63	Northwest-southeast linear ditch
64	Fill of 63
65	Foundation trench
66	Foundation trench
67	Foundation trench. East
68	Cut
69	Fill of 68

Pottery

The Romano-British pottery recovered from Malmo Road is typical of assemblages from the East Riding of Yorkshire in the 3rd and 4th centuries AD. It is comprised entirely of utilitarian wares, though fine table wares also occur. Similar material was found in the later phases of Greylees Avenue.

The majority of the pottery sherds (85%) are Romano-British grey ware fabrics suggesting a 3rd to 4th century date, some probably derive from the Holme on Spalding Moor kilns, though many of the sherds were too small for positive identification.

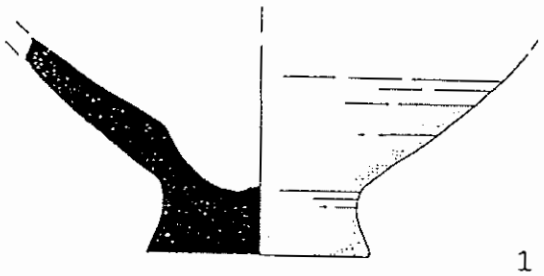
Diagnostic forms include at least three folded grey ware beakers, one bearing a rouletted band decoration and a straight sided flange bowl dating from the late 3rd to early 4th century. Two sherds from a carinated jar, generally a 2nd century form, were recovered in a worn and battered condition in comparison with the other sherds.

A single sherd of a white fabric, blackened surface bowl resembling Crambeck fabric 13 was also recovered.

From the assemblage a very low percentage (7%) of coarsely tempered (shell and calcite) ware was observed. These are not closely datable.

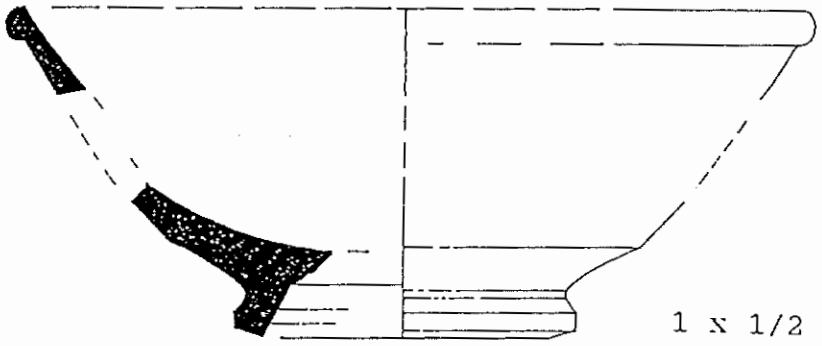
The samian ware represented 3% of the pot assemblage which included a footring of a 18/31 form dating from the first half of the 2nd century (if classed as a 31 form: second half of the 2nd century). Apart from the single beaded rim sherd, possible Drag 37, the remainder showed no diagnostic forms. All the sherds are 2nd century bowl forms and are of central Gaul fabric (Lezoux).

Colour coated ware sherds are all from beakers with the exception of a single bowl sherd. At least six vessels are represented of the 3rd to 4th century mainly in white fabric, possibly Nene Valley. The beaker fragments are from folded beakers with beaded



1 x 1/2

Grey ware 'Pill box' base



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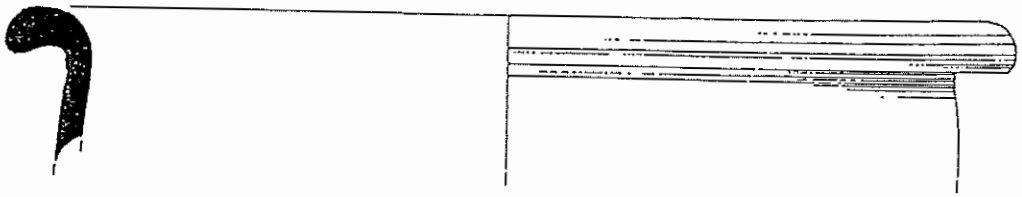
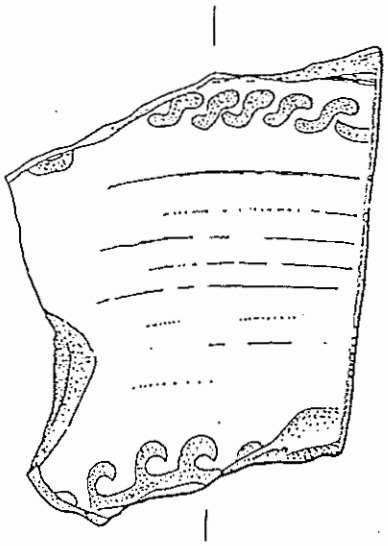
Samian bowl 18/31 form



1 x 1/4

Throlam wide mouth jar

Figure 15a Romano-British Pottery examples



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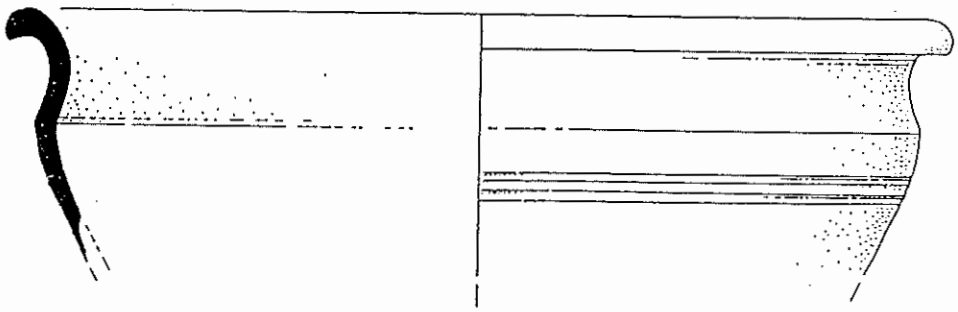
Crambeck parchment ware



1 x 1/2

Crambeck bowl

Figure 15b Romano-British Pottery examples.

rims and slip decoration, the large base fragment being identified as a pill box base.

It was possible to obtain Romano-British pottery from four stratified deposits, fill (37) from within feature (12) being the most informative.

The medieval and post-medieval pottery dates range from the 13th to the 20th century and are of general cooking and table wares. Beverley ware 1 and 2 are both represented in the assemblage with quantities of Humberware 4 and sandy wares. Later pottery was mostly brown coarse wares and transfer ware from the 18th century and later.

Stratified pottery

Context (28). Single rim sherd of unidentified grey ware.

Context (35). Several small fragments of unidentifiable RB and medieval pottery.

Context (60). Single rim sherd in grey ware of a wide mouth bowl.

Context (37). At least seven vessels in grey ware, three fragments in the same fabric type possible Holme on Spalding Moor: pedestal footed bowl Halkon BS type at Throlam - late 3rd to early 4th century.

Single sherd of a sandy buff coloured outward turned rim from a wide mouthed bowl possibly 3rd to 4th century.

Rim sherd from an unidentifiable dish or bowl, burnished bands inside, probably 3rd to 4th century.

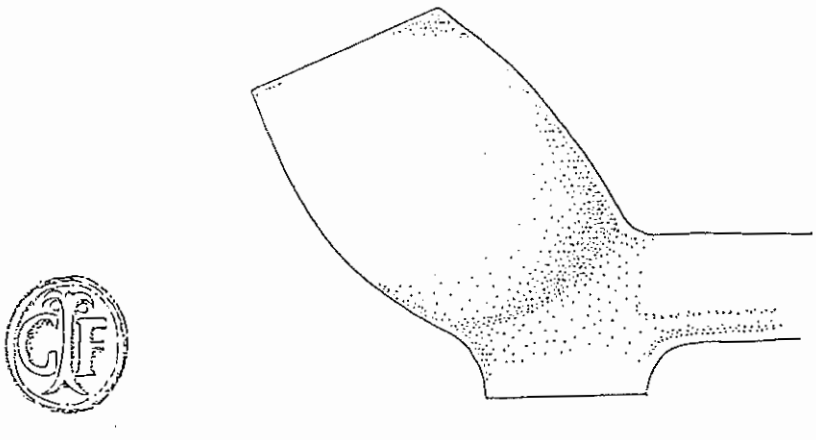
Large single sherd of Crambeck parchment ware from the mid to late 4th century. Bellform possibly type 10.

Shell gritted bae fragment possibly Dalesware from 3rd to 4th century.

Context (18). Single sherd of greyware with burnished line decoration.

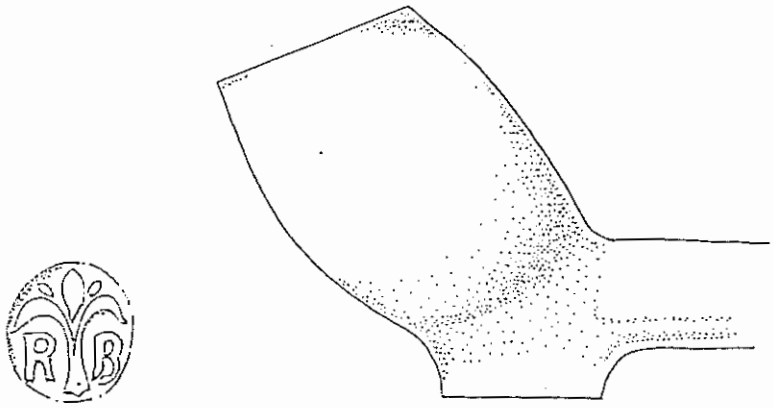
Clay objects

All the clay objects, bar one, were clay pipe fragments, the majority being large fragments freshly broken. The absence of multiple breakages may indicate little or no ploughing on the site and the objects probably deposited in situ rather than as night-soil.



1 x 1½

'Yorkshire Bulbous' type II. George Fowler (free 1670).



1 x 1½

'Yorkshire Bulbous' type IIb. Robert Burrill (free 1683).

figure 16. Clay pipe examples

Although the pipe dates range from 1663-1700, and in two cases the pipes were positively dated, all the finds were recovered from unstratified deposits.

Clay pipe catalogue

1. Part pipe bowl of 'Yorkshire Bulbous' type II. Stamp on the heel belongs to George Fowler (free 1670). Fig 16.

2 Complete pipe bowl of 'Yorkshire Bulbous'type IIb. Stamp on the heel belongs to Robert Burrill (free 1683). Fig 16. Heavy burning on the bowl exterior.

3 Near complete pipe bowl of 'Yorkshire Bulbous' type Ia. Unstamped flat heel with rough knife trimmed bowl (c.1663-70).

4 Fragment of pipe bowl 'Yorkshire Bulbous' type I/II.

5 Four joining fragments pipe bowl of 'Yorkshire Bulbous'type Ia. Evidence of knife trimming around bowl edges. c.1663-70).

6 Fragment of pipe stem, unmarked, 60mm long x 4mm stem bore dia.

7 Fragment of pipe stem, unmarked, 64mm long x 3mm stem bore dia.

8 Fragment of pipe stem, unmarked, 23mm long x 3mm stem bore dia.

9 Fragment of pipe stem, unmarked, 35mm lomg x 3mm stem bore dia.

10 Fragment of pipe stem, unmarked, 28mm long x 3mm stem bore dia.

11 Fragment of pipe stem, unmarked, 50mm long x 3mm stem bore dia.

12 Fragment of pipe stem, unmarked, 27mm long x 2mm stem bore dia.

13 Fragment of pipe stem, unmarked, heavily burnt, 15mm long x 6mm dia.

Miscellaneous

14 Complete clay marble 16mm dia. Possibly a bottle stopper c.1870.

Brick, tile and daub

From the twenty four fragments of brick and tile recovered from the site none could be fitted into the Hull/Beverley tile

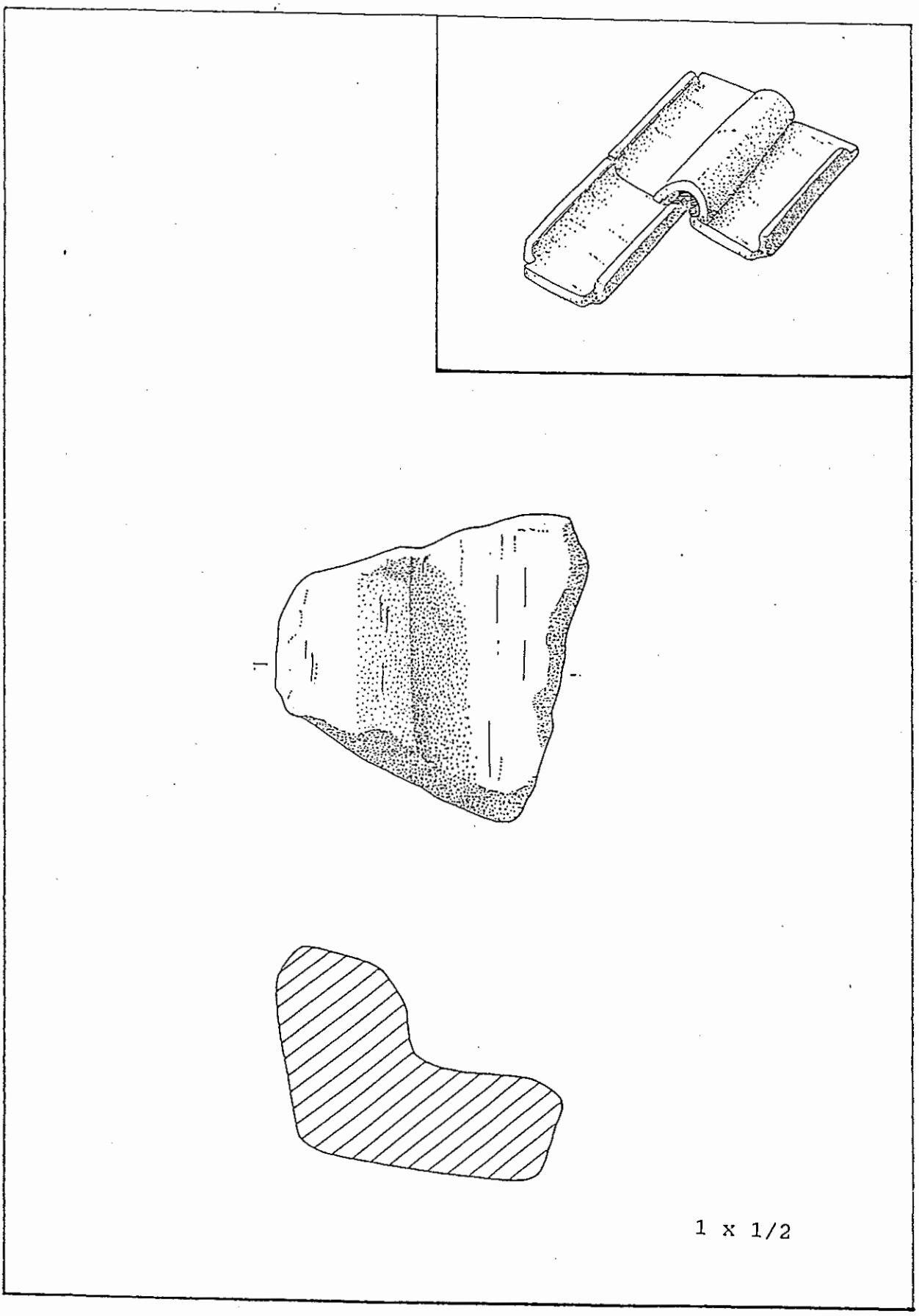


figure 17. Romano-British Tile

typology.

Apart from Hull and Beverley, other kilns were operating in the vicinity as most of the Hull valley contained suitable clay for the manufacture of brick and tile. Such kilns at Meaux and Stoneferry are well documented and it is possible that the material seen on the site may have derived from one or both kiln sites.

Blashill mentions that:

"...Henry Cock... a principle inhabitant of the parish... his kilns had probably furnished the bricks for the oldest houses now remaining [in Stoneferry] " (Blashill, 1894, xiii).

From Blashill we also learn that the kilns were working in 1768, but there is no mention of when they ceased to operate.

The fill (30) of the pond feature (3) was of a brick and tile nature and closer examination showed that it was more of a kiln waste than building demolition: large lumps of vitrified brick.

Although two fragments of roof tile (tegula) were recognised as Romano-british it is possible that the hand made bricks recovered may also be classed as Romano-British.

The single piece of daub found may also be regarded as evidence of timber buildings in the vicinity if it too was not brought to the site as hardcore.

Brick and tile catalogue

1 fragment of hand made brick. Dark fleshy pink with large black inclusions 7mm+. Pale slip coating. Heavily sanded base with straw/grass marks on upper surface.
Size: 130+mm x 105mm x 45mm.

1 fragment of hand made brick. Deep orange colour with occasional inclusions. Slightly sanded base with possible straw/grass marks. Upper surface very crudely made.
Size: 100+mm x ? x 36mm.

1 fragment of hand made brick. Orange-deep pink colour with occasional black inclusions. Very smooth edge.
Size: ? x ? x 30mm

1 fragment of Roman roof tile (Tegula). Dark fleshy pink colour with black inclusions. Slip coated with smooth faces.
Size: nib height 50mm x 35mm. Tile thickness 21mm.

1 fragment flat roof tile hand made. Dark pink with occasional black inclusions. Sandy texture on all sides and faces with slight raindrop indentations on upper face.
Size: 195+mm x 77+mm x 20mm.

1 fragment flat roof tile hand made. Dark pink with occasional black inclusions. Sandy texture on all sides and faces.
Size: 90+mm x 150+mm x 20mm.

1 fragment flat roof tile, hand made. Dark pink colour with occasional black inclusions. Sandy texture. Rain drop indentations on upper face.
Size: 180+mm x 85+mm x 20mm.

2 fragments flat roof tile (joining). Deep pink in colour large inclusions with a very powdery fabric.
Size: 155+mm x 115+mm x 20mm.

4 fragments of pantile. Deep orange colour with occasional black inclusions. Rough pitted underside smooth outer face.
Size: 18mm thick.

1 fragment of Roman roof tile (tegula). Fleshy pink colour with occasional inclusions. Reduced core. Finger striations on one surface with two finger prints. Single sandy edge.
Size: 110+mm x 85+mm x 36mm.

1 fragment of daub bearing finger impressions.

9 fragments of unclassified baked clay.

Slag

Several pieces of vitrified brick and brick slag were recovered from across the site with a concentration within feature (3).

Bone

The abundance of animal bone throughout the site indicated that the occupants showed great expertise in animal husbandry and that the settlement was mainly pastoral.

Of the bone recovered, the majority was in excellent condition, many bearing evidence of butchery marks and a small amount bearing gnawing marks of rodents.

Animal bone present was mainly cow, sheep, pig and possibly horse but no indication was found of bird, domestic or otherwise, or fish.

The location of the settlement alongside a river would give the occupants an abundant supply of fresh fish and water fowl, therefore the absence of both fish and bird bone is more likely to be through the method of collection by the writer rather than the total absence on the site.

No evidence of human bone was found although the possibility of

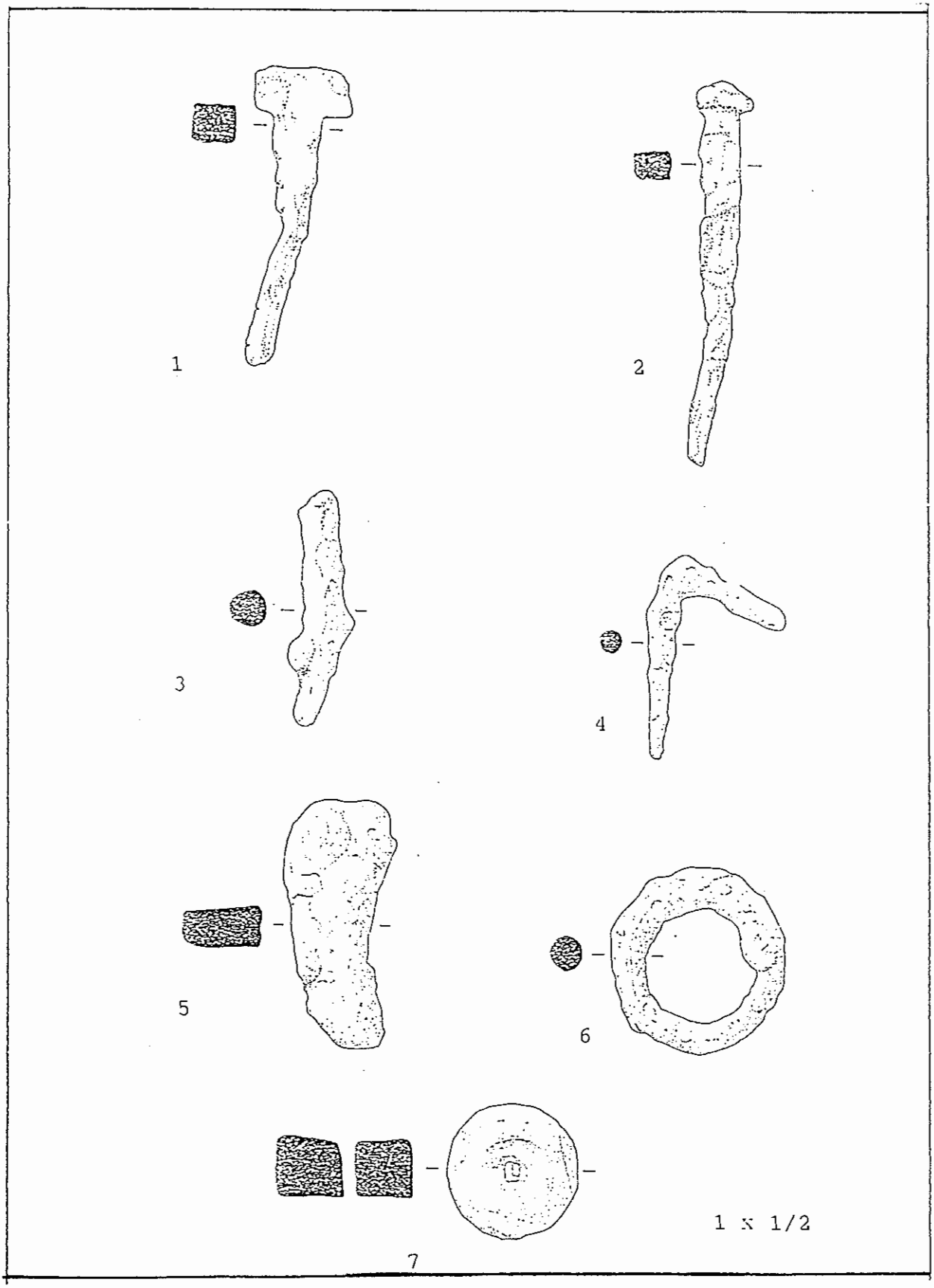


figure 18. Ironwork

burials from the settlement existing in the area are high.

Ironwork

Only six items of ironwork were retrieved from the site, none of which were recovered by metal detecting, all were unstratified. With the exception of the multi-purpose iron ring, all the material can be classed as constructional material.

Catalogue

1 Bolt; complete; rectangular head.
Length 104mm

2 Nail; complete; tapering rectangular shank; round raised head.
Length 132mm.

3 Nail; incomplete; rectangular in section.
Length 60mm.

4 Angle tie; complete; rectangular tapering shank; bevelled head.
Length 71mm.

5 Object; crescent shaped; heavily encrusted.
Length 87mm.

6 Ring; complete; heavily encrusted.
OD 65mm, thickness 10mm.

Lead

7 Lead weight; cylindrical; flat upper and lower surfaces with rectangular hole punched through from the top for support wire to scale arm.
Weight 328gms.

Shell

The initial absence of oyster shell from the site was soon resolved as they became prolific within the ditch fills exposed by the contractors trenches. A representative sample was collected from both features and spoil heaps for examination.

It was found that the shells varied in size between 50mm and 96mm in diameter with both upper and lower valves represented in equal proportions. The upper valves on several shells bore a small nick where a knife or other implement has been used to open the shell.

A small amount of freshwater mussels were retrieved from feature (7). These were too small to be eaten as food and therefore may have been deposited by local fauna.

CONCLUSION

The evidence from this watching brief has shown beyond any doubt that a substantial and important Romano-British settlement exists in the immediate area of Malmo Road and that the remains of such a settlement are in excellent condition.

Romano-British settlements are known to often be contained within a defensive ditch and bank. Although the ditch-like features exposed at Malmo Road do not appear substantial enough to be classed as defensive, they may be interpreted as other typical settlement features such as boundary ditches, enclosures, drainage ditches, beam slots and robber trenches.

The defensive works (i.e. ditch and bank) would probably be found to the immediate north and east of the present site, creating a strong defence in conjunction with the river Hull to the west and the south. Such defences would be primarily a deterrent for wild animals and small bands of marauders rather than large attacking forces.

Many of the ditches exposed are parallel with others, a normal practice for boundary ditches delimiting small properties. Associated with such boundary ditches would be at least one building situated at, or near to, the frontage onto the street or track.

The only reasonable section obtained through a ditch feature was from the contractors service trench. Although only open for a short period of time, it was possible to obtain information on its shape and fill which confirmed its Romano-British nature.

From within the enclosures, one would expect to find evidence of corn-driers and an abundance of iron tools, both characteristic of a Romano-British rural economy. No stone structures and very little ironwork was observed within the cleared material.

The evidence of Romano-British roof tile and brick on the site indicates that at least one substantial building must have existed nearby, the fragments recovered and observed on site representing the outer limits of the demolition spread.

If the medieval tile and brick appear to be the result of the demolition of Worlds End Farm c.1919, the 1893 Ordnance Survey map clearly shows several structures from which they could have derived. However, one would have expected much more debris from so many buildings.

Although no burials were encountered during the watching brief from within the settlement area the probability of human burial is fairly high. Roman law forbade the burying of the dead within the town limits and this may have also been applicable to smaller settlements. As these settlements expanded, old boundaries may have been extended to include earlier burials.

Despite the limitations of the recording, at least two hundred years of RB occupation followed by medieval and late twentieth century occupation has been recovered from the site and it has

been possible to demonstrate that the archaeological features extend to the north, south and east of the present area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Evidence from this watching brief has shown that the archaeological deposits lie beneath an exceptionally narrow band of topsoil and even the shallowest of foundation trenches would destroy important archaeological evidence.

In view of the archaeological importance and potential of this area, it is recommended that geophysical survey and limited excavation be undertaken on those areas adjacent to both Malmo and Narvik Roads. This would determine the presence of any archaeological features below ground level as well as any concentrations therein and would allow the impact of any future development in these areas to be assessed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I should like to thank Messrs Orvec International Limited for their permission to be on site to make observations, Phillip Hampel and John Farrimond for their assistance both on and off the site and Peter Didsbury for his comments on the pottery, Greylees Avenue and Haworth Hall sites.

The finds and pottery were drawn by Ian Beck, Mike Straker, Stuart Howling, Keith Burnham, Phil Marshall, Les Turner and Sarah Thompson.

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J. Tibbles,
Humberside Archaeology Unit,
February 1991

Plate 1. Council roadside trenches.

Plate 2. Malmo Road site.

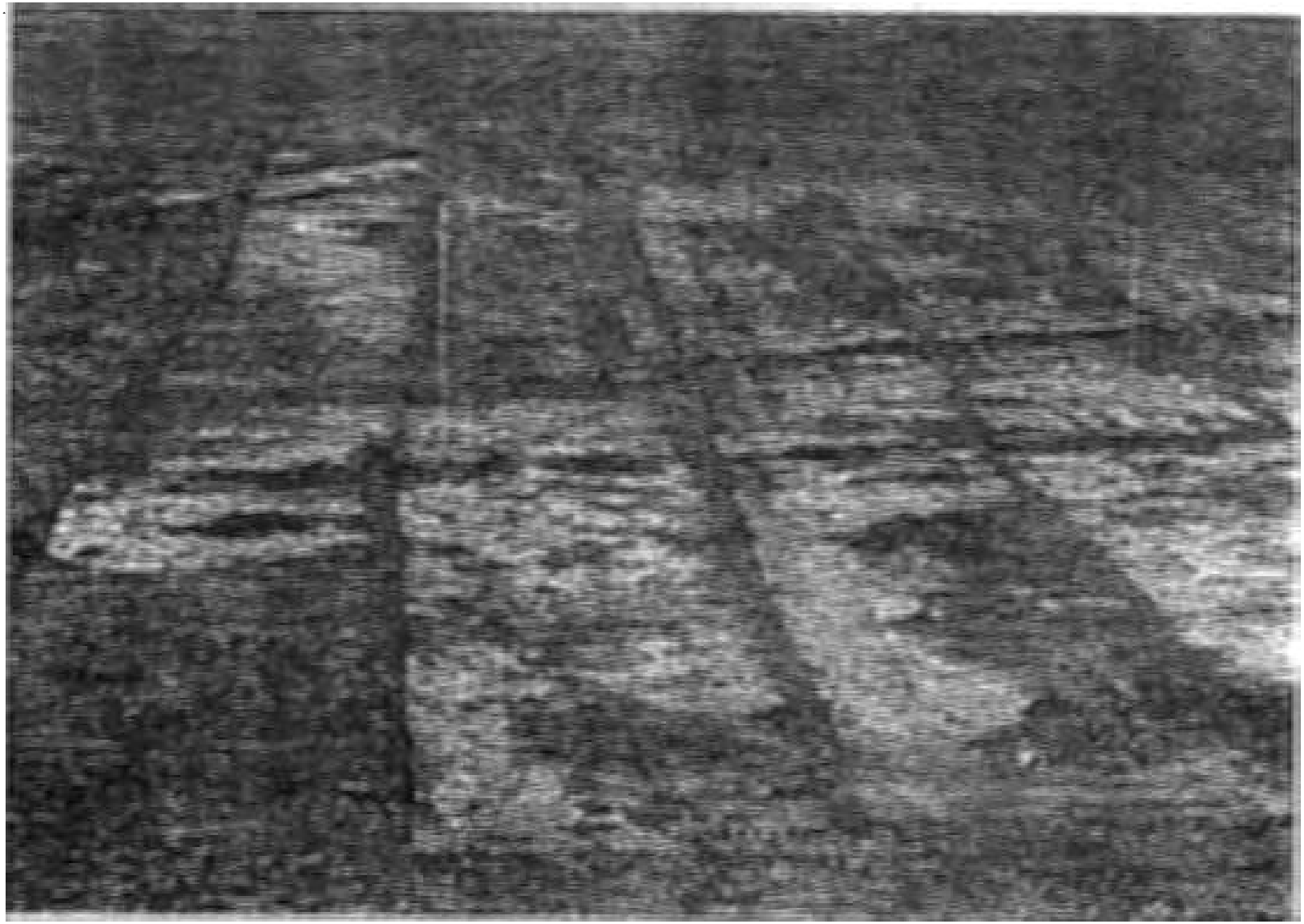

Plate 3 Linear features (4) & (5).

Plate 4. Contractors service trench.

Plate 5. Sections of feature (12) & (62).

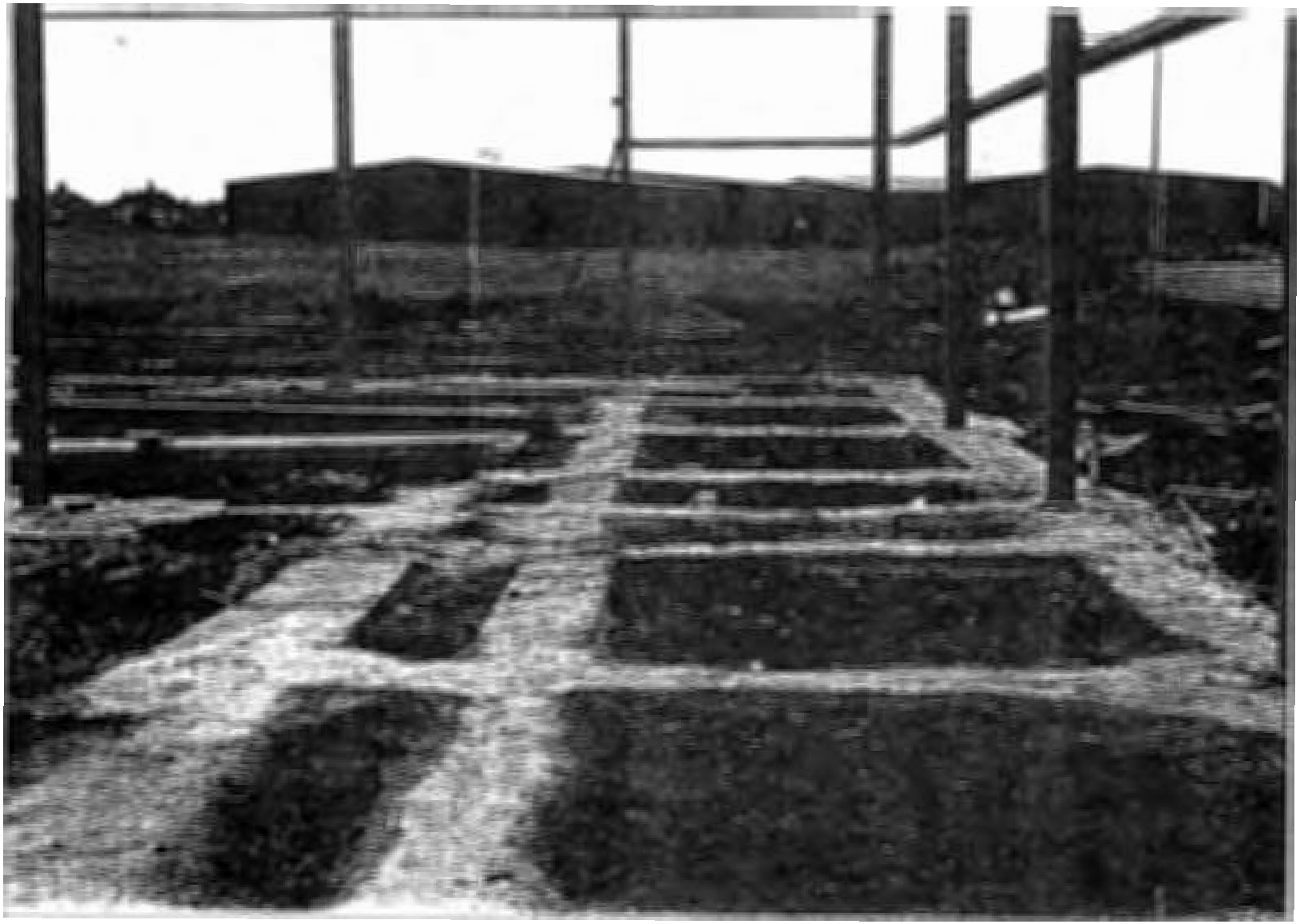

Plate 6. Building foundations.

Plate 7. Feature (51) with steel framework.

Plate 8. Metal detecting