

ACTIVITY H41026

REF. No. 1

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CARBERRY HALL FARM, WILBERFOSS.

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REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF.  
OSA REPORT No: OSA02WB30.

JULY 2002.

**OSA**

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**ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY**

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**Report Summary.**

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**REPORT NO:** OSA02B30.

**SITE NAME:** Land at Carberry Hall Farm, Wilberfoss.

**COUNTY:** East Yorkshire.

**NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:** SE 7448 5199.

**PLANNING APPLICATION No:** DC/02/0246/PLF/GOOLEN.

**SMR CASEWORK No:** 2002/284.

**ON BEHALF OF:** Mr. Roy Gibson,  
46 Hill Rise,  
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**TEXT:** Duncan Stirk.

**GRAPHICS:** Marie-Claire Ferguson.

**FIELDWORK:** Duncan Stirk

**TIMING:** Fieldwork  
8<sup>th</sup> June 2002.

Post excavation & report preparation  
10<sup>th</sup> July 2002.

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## Table of Contents.

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1.0 Abstract.....	3
2.0 Archaeological Background.....	5
3.0 Site Location, Topography and Land Use.....	5
4.0 Methodology.....	6
5.0 Results.....	7
6.0 Discussion and Conclusions.....	10
7.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.....	11
8.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.....	12
8.1 Drawing Register.....	12
8.2 Photographic Register.....	12
9.0 Appendix 3 ~ The Plates.....	14

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## List of Figures & Plates.

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Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 7448 5199).....	4
Figure 2. Detailed site location plan. (Not to Scale).....	5
Figure 3. Sections of test pits, 3, 4, 8 & 14. (Scale 1:20).....	8
Figure 4. Trench plan showing location of test pits. (Scale 1:200).....	9
Plate 1. Test pit 11, showing ditch [1016]. (Scale of 1m & 0.5m).....	14

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## 1.0 Abstract.

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*An archaeological watching brief was carried out by On-Site Archaeology on land at Carberry Hall Farm, near Wilberfoss, East Yorkshire, on behalf of Mr Roy Gibson. This work was required in order to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to the planning permission (Planning Ref. No. DC/02/02046/PLF/GOOLEN) for groundworks associated with construction of a general purpose farm building. The archaeological watching brief consisted of 1 day on site, the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2002.*

*The watching brief comprised the observation of foundation trench excavation by mechanical excavator for construction of a farm building. A number of archaeologically significant features were revealed during the works. Ditches and deposits of probable Prehistoric and Romano-British date were recorded. Some of the features contained slag and other metal working evidence.*



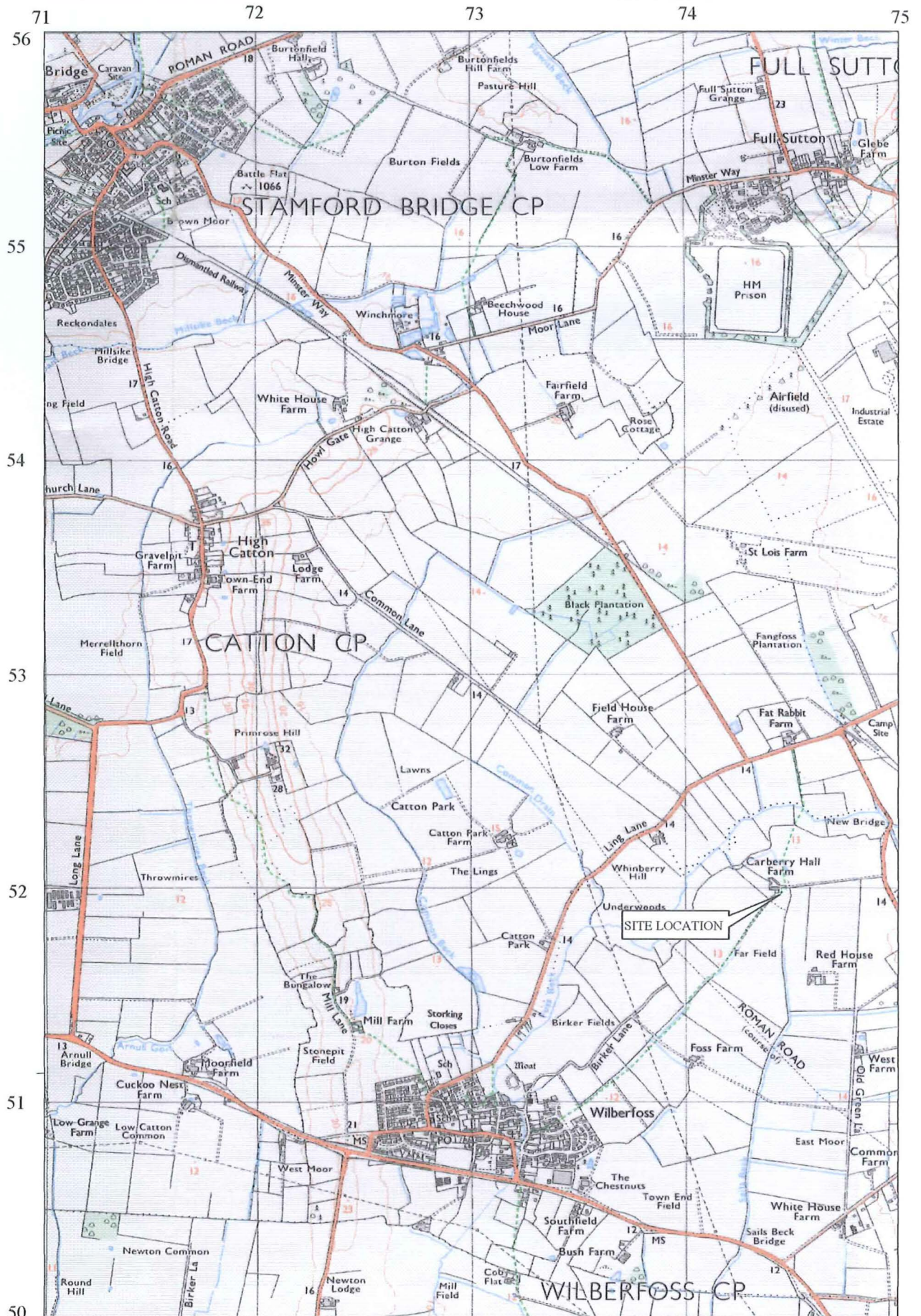


Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 7448 5199).

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## 2.0 Archaeological Background.

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The site of the development is within an area identified by aerial photography as a major archaeological landscape. Crop-marks, indicative of enclosures and trackways, lie to the south and east of the application site. Archaeological excavations at Carberry Hill Farm, to the east of the site during a pipeline project in 2000, revealed a large ditched enclosure containing two Iron-Age roundhouses. There was also evidence for an Iron Age field system and a later Romano-British enclosure. Metalworking was probably occurring in the vicinity, as many of the features contained iron slag.

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## 3.0 Site Location, Topography and Land Use.

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The site is located at NGR SE 7448 5199 at the northern end of Far Field, just to the southeast of the main farm buildings. It is bounded to the west by Carberry Hill Farm buildings and by agricultural land on all other sides.

The development area comprises one rectangular plot, measuring 32m by 19m, which had been prepared with a chalk rubble pad.

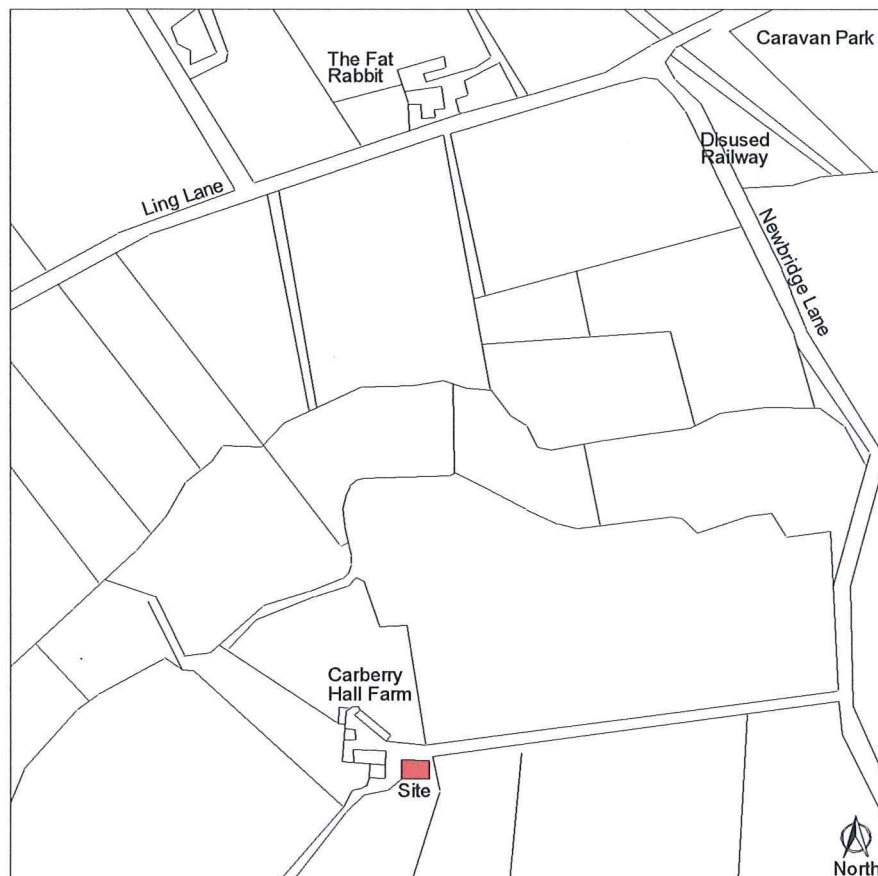


Figure 2. Detailed site location plan. (Not to Scale).

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## 4.0 Methodology.

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The foundations pits were excavated by a JCB excavator using a toothed bucket. Seventeen of these were excavated to depths varying between 600-1200mm, dependent on their position on the slight slope. Each foundation pit measured approximately 1.2m by 1.0m. The bases and sides of the foundation pits were then cleaned by hand in order to investigate any possible archaeological features revealed through textural or colour changes in the deposits.

Standard *On-Site Archaeology* techniques were followed throughout the watching brief. This involved the completion of written records for each deposit encountered, and photographic records for a selection of the archaeological features. All pre-modern finds that were observed were collected from the exposed archaeological features. Each feature and deposit revealed during the course of the watching brief was allocated a context number, (see Appendix 1).

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## 5.0 Results.

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A similar sequence of natural soil horizons was identified across the site. Natural sand, probably deposited during the last period of glaciation, was seen in all of the test pits. The deepest such deposit, a dark grey sand (1004) was visible in Foundation Pit 2. This was overlain by a light grey sand deposit (1003), varying between 0.08-0.25m in thickness, and deposit (1002), which comprised a mixed yellow and orangey-brown sand, varying in thickness between 0.29-0.55m. A final natural deposit (1011) was seen in Foundation Pits 4 and 5. It was an orangey-brown sandy clay, varying between 0.07-0.36m in thickness.

Archaeological cut features were seen in 10 of the 17 Foundation Pits. These consisted of three large linear features, probably enclosure/drainage ditches, and one small gully. The first of these features, a north-south aligned ditch [1008], was seen in Foundation Pit 3. It measured over 0.91m in width, 0.47m in depth, and contained fills (1007), a mixed light yellowish and orangey brown sand (1006), a dark grey clayey sandy silt, and (1005), a mid grey silty clay.

A second ditch feature was seen in Foundation Pits 8 through 12. This ditch [1016] measured over 1.09m in width, 0.65m in depth and over 25.4m in length. Four fills were recorded within this ditch. Primary fill (1017) was an organic dark brown peat-like deposit, containing frequent fragments of preserved wood and twigs, mixed with a mid grey alluvial silty clay which was likely water deposited. One lump of clinker/slag was recovered from this fill. This was overlain in turn, by a mottled light grey and brown sand fill (1020), a mottled light grey and orangey brown sand fill (1015), and a mottled light grey and orangey brown sand fill (1014). One lump of clinker/slag was recovered from this final fill.

Ditch [1016] was sealed by deposit (1013), a mid grey sandy silt, which was visible in Foundation Pits 6,7, and 8. This deposit varied in thickness from 0.01-0.18m, and probably represents a buried soil horizon. Over this in Foundation Pits 6-9 and 16-17, was a homogenous light grey sandy silt (1012), varying in thickness between 0.10-0.25m. This deposit was also a probable plough-soil horizon, from which were recovered two lumps of iron-working slag.

In Foundation Pit 11 the ditch was sealed by deposit (1019), a dark grey sand, varying in depth from 0.01-0.09m. Overlying this in Foundation Pits 10,11, and 12, was a mixed light grey and orangey brown sandy clay deposit (1018), varying in thickness from 0.03-0.28m. Deposits (1018) and (1019) are similar to the natural geological deposits and do not appear to be plough-soil horizons. Because they post date ditch [1016] it is likely that they were deposited as a result of human activity on the site. It is possible that these deposits are re-deposited natural sand and clay, up-cast from the digging of ditches.

A third probable ditch was identified in Foundation Pits 13-15. Ditch [1022] appears to be larger and wider than the other ditches on site, but its full extent could not be recorded due to the small size of the Foundation Pits. It measured over 0.98m in width, over 0.69m in depth and was seen over a distance of 13.2m aligned north-south. Interestingly, in Foundation Pit 13



east-west aligned ditch [1016] was not visible, even though it had been visible in all other foundations on that side. This suggests that ditch [1022] is later and truncated ditch [1016] at that point. Also, ditch [1022] was not visible in Foundation Pit 1, even though its alignment suggested that it should be. Ditch [1022] perhaps terminates or changes course between Foundation Pits 1 and 15. The ditch [1022] contained fills (1021), a mixed dark grey and mid brown sandy clay, (1024), a mid grey sand, and finally (1023), a mottled dark grey sand.

The final cut feature identified during the works was a small gully [1010] visible in Foundation Pit 4. Measuring 0.18m in width and 0.12m in depth, this feature was visible in both the east and west sections, making it over 1.0m long. This feature was not seen in plan so any curvature of the feature was missed. It was however consistent with the size and shape of prehistoric roundhouse foundation trenches. In particular, one side of the cut is slightly shallower than the other. This may represent the occupation area within the structure, where human activity has trampled and worn the underlying deposits. Features of this type were identified during the pipeline work to the east of the site. The gully was filled by (1009), a mid grey sandy silt, which overlapped the gully to the north by 0.30m. This portion may represent an occupation layer within the possible roundhouse, but no finds were recovered from it.

A subsoil deposit of mid grey sandy silt (1001) and a topsoil deposit of humic dark grey brown sandy silt (1000), complete the archaeological sequence.

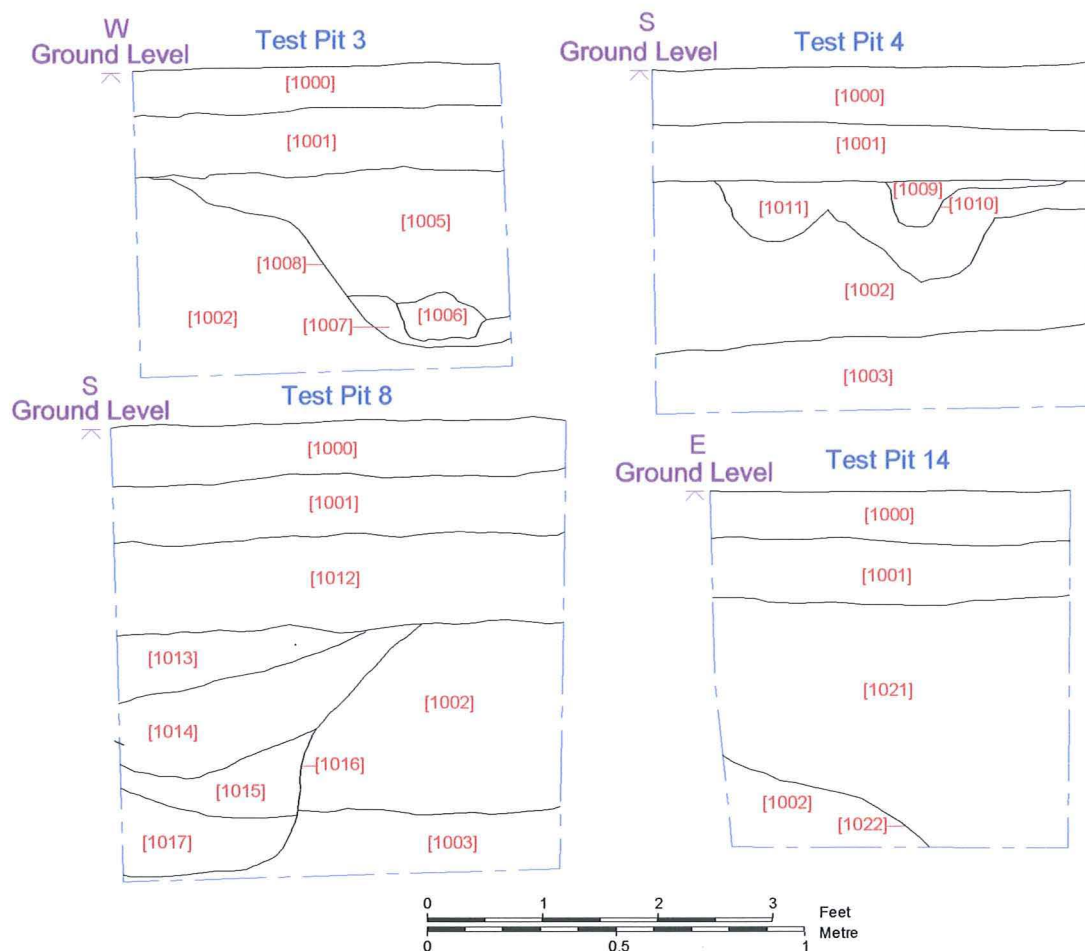


Figure 3. Sections of test pits 3, 4, 8 & 14. (Scale 1:20).

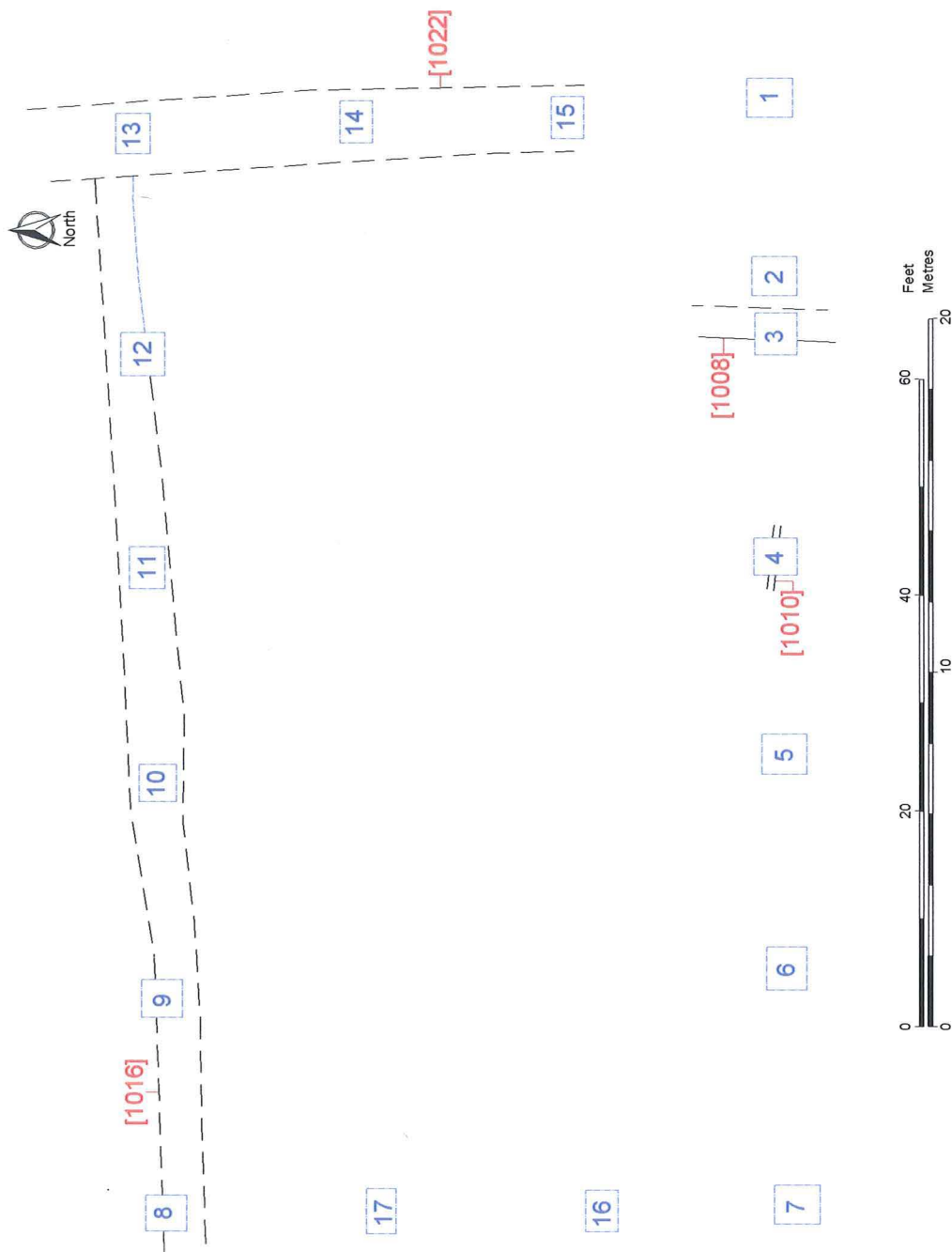


Figure 4. Trench plan showing location of test pits. (Scale 1:200).

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## 6.0 Discussion and Conclusions.

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The lack of any datable finds from archaeological features recorded during the watching brief makes it impossible to identify the period of activity on the site. This is not a problem when assessed in light of the archaeological findings from the pipeline project to the east of the site. It would appear that the Iron Age enclosure and field systems identified in that work are also present on this site. Iron-working debris and slag, which was attributed to the Late Iron-Age on the pipeline excavation, was also found during the watching brief.

The east-west aligned ditch [1016] and the north-south aligned ditch [1008] are likely to be contemporary and can probably be attributed to the Late Iron-Age. The gully feature [1010] as discussed in the results section, may well be a foundation trench for a roundhouse structure. This type of dwelling was also recorded on the pipeline project, and these structures were dated to the Iron Age. During the Iron Age therefore, the site may have been occupied by a farmstead with related enclosure ditches, which may be part of, or separate but adjacent to the farmstead recorded to the east during the pipeline work.

There is the suggestion that the substantial north-south aligned ditch is a later feature, which truncates the probable Iron Age ditch [1016]. It has a clay fill that is suggestive of deposition by water, and is quite different from the back fill of the other ditches. Although no dating evidence was recovered from this feature it is possible that this ditch is part of a Romano-British field system that was identified during the pipeline work. Some of the buried soil horizons and plough-soils may also be attributed to this later phase of occupation on the site, as can the possible up-cast deposits related to a later phase of ditch digging. No evidence of habitations or building material from this phase was seen, so it is likely that the site was occupied by fields. The Romano-British farmstead suggested by the ditch from the pipeline project must lie outside the developed area.



## 7.0 Appendix 1 ~ List of Contexts.

Context	Description	Extent	Depth
1000	Dark greyish brown sandy silt. (Topsoil)	Site	0.11-0.25m
1001	Mid grey sandy silt. (Subsoil)	Site	0.03-0.16m
1002	Mottled light yellow and orangey brown sand (glacially deposited natural)	Site	0.29-0.55m
1003	Light grey sand (glacially deposited natural)	Site	0.08->0.25m
1004	Dark grey sand with freq. mineralization & chalk (Glacially deposited natural)	TP 2	>0.04m
1005	Mixed light brown & mid grey silty clay, (Final fill of ditch 1009)	TP 3- >1.2mx>0.91m	0.39m max
1006	Dark grey clayey sandy silt	TP 3- 0.23mwide	0.12m
1007	Mottled light yellowish & orangish brown sand (Primary fill of ditch 1008, slumped natural)	TP 3- >1.2mx>0.44m	0.11m max
1008	N-S aligned U-shaped ditch (Field boundary/enclosure ditch)	TP 3- >1.2mx>0.91m	0.47m max
1009	Mid grey sandy silt (gully fill)	TP 4- >1.0mx0.48mwide	0.12m max
1010	U shaped gully (possible round-house trench)	TP 4- >1.0mx0.18mwide	0.12m max
1011	Light yellowish & orangey brown sandy clay (Possible natural deposit)	TP 4&5	0.07-0.36m
1012	Light grey sandy silt (Buried plough-soil)	TP 6-9,16&17	0.10-0.25m
1013	Mid grey sandy silt (buried plough-soil)	TP 6-8	0.0-0.18m
1014	Mottled light grey & orangey brown sand (Final fill of E-W ditch 1016)	TP 8-12	>0.31m
1015	Mottled light grey & orangey brown sand (Fill of E-W ditch 1016)	TP 8-12 >0.77m wide	0.18m
1016	E-W aligned U-shaped ditch (Field boundary/enclosure ditch)	TP 8-12 >25.4m long x >1.09m wide	0.65m max
1017	Mixed dark brownish grey & mid grey silty clay & peat (Primary fill of ditch 1016)	TP 8-12 >25.4m long x >0.95m wide	>0.23m
1018	Mixed light grey & orangey brown sandy clay (Possible up-cast natural)	TP 10-12 >1.23m long	0.03-0.28m
1019	Dark grey sand (Possible up-cast natural)	TP 11 0.78m	0.09m
1020	Mottled light brown & light grey sand (Fill of E-W ditch 1016)	TP 11 1.05m long	0.12m max
1021	Mottled dark brown and mid grey sandy clay (Possible alluvial fill of N-S ditch 1022)	TP 13-14 >13.1m long x >0.98m wide	>0.69m
1022	Large N-S aligned ditch	TP 13-15 >13.1m long x 0.98m wide	>0.69m
1023	Mottled dark grey sand (poss. fill of ditch 1022)	TP 15	0.22m max
1024	Mid grey sand (poss. fill of ditch 1022)	TP 15	0.14m max

## 8.0 Appendix 2 ~ Archive Index.

### 8.1 Drawing Register.

Dwg No	Description	Scale	Date	Initials
1	Trench plan	1:100	08.07.02	D.S.
2	East facing section: Test Pit 1	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
3	East facing section: Test Pit 2	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
4	South facing section: Test Pit 3	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
5	East facing section: Test Pit 4	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
6	East facing section: Test Pit 5	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
7	East facing section: Test Pit 6	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
8	East facing section: Test Pit 7	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
9	East facing section: Test Pit 8	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
10	East facing section: Test Pit 9	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
11	East facing section: Test Pit 10	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
12	East facing section: Test Pit 11	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
13	East facing section: Test Pit 12	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
14	East facing section: Test Pit 13	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
15	North facing section: Test Pit 14	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
16	South facing section: Test Pit 15	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
17	East facing section: Test Pit 16	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
18	East facing section: Test Pit 17	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.
19	East facing section: Test Pit 18	1:10	08.07.02	D.S.

### 8.2 Photographic Register.

Frame	Description	View	Scale	Date	Initials
<b>2/080702/9:00/B&amp;W</b>					
29	I.D. shot	N/A		08.07.02	D.S.
30	Ditch [1008]	N	0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
31	Ditch [1008]	N	0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
32	Gully [1010]	W	0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
33	Gully [1010]	W	0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
34	Ditch [1016] TP 8.	W	0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
35	Ditch [1016] TP 8.	W	0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
36	Ditch [1016] TP 9.	W	0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
<b>2/080702/9:00/Colour</b>					
27	I.D. shot			08.07.02	D.S.
28	Ditch [1008]			08.07.02	D.S.
29	Ditch [1008]			08.07.02	D.S.
30	Wasted shot			08.07.02	D.S.
31	Gully [1010]			08.07.02	D.S.
32	Gully [1010]			08.07.02	D.S.
33	Ditch [1016] TP 8.	W	1x1m, 1x0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
34	Ditch [1016] TP 8.	W	1x1m, 1x0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
35	Ditch [1016] TP 9.	W	1x1m, 1x0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
36	Ditch [1016] TP 9.	W	1x1m, 1x0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
<b>2/080702/15:40/B&amp;W</b>					
1	I.D. shot		1x1m, 1x0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
2	Ditch [1016], TP 11.	W	1x1m, 1x0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
3	Ditch [1016], TP 11.	W	1x1m, 1x0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.

**2/080702/15:40/Colour**

1	I.D. shot		1x1m, 1x0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
2	Ditch [1016], TP 11.	W	1x1m, 1x0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.
3	Ditch [1016], TP 11.	W	1x1m, 1x0.5m	08.07.02	D.S.



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9.0 Appendix 3 ~ The Plates.

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*Plate 1. Test pit 11, showing ditch [1016]. (Scale of 1m & 0.5m).*