

Northern Archaeological Associates

BALK FIELD, POCKLINGTON, EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

for
DAVID WILSON HOMES NORTHERN

NAA 01/21

July 2001

BALK FIELD, POCKLINGTON, EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Summary

This report presents the results of a watching brief undertaken on the site of a housing development in Balk Field, Pocklington, East Yorkshire. Geophysical survey had indicated a relatively low density of anomalies in the area of development but in view of the close proximity of a significant cropmark complex to the east of the site a watching brief of topsoil stripping was required as a condition on the planning consent. The watching brief identified four linear ditches of late Iron Age or early Romano-British date overlain by medieval ridge and furrow and modern ploughsoil. The ditches are likely to be a continuation of the cropmarks identified to the east of the excavated area. Finds recovered included a small assemblage of late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery, a fragment of Samian ware and a large piece of mid to late Iron Age smelting slag.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document presents the results of an archaeological watching brief of Phase IV of a residential housing development in Balk Field, on the southern outskirts of Pocklington, in the East Riding of Yorkshire (centred SE 8045 4820, Figure 1). The evaluation was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates on behalf of David Wilson Homes Northern. The site code was BFP00.
- 1.2 The site occupies an area of some 10 hectares within Balk Field and in view of the close proximity of significant archaeological deposits in the field to the east of the B1278 an archaeological condition was placed on a planning consent for residential development at the Balk (application reference: DC/00/01696/REM/GOOLEN, SMR case reference: JB/98/137).
- 1.3 A desktop based assessment and geophysical survey undertaken in advance of the development, identified areas of archaeological potential. A methods statement was produced for undertaking the archaeological watching brief based on recommendations outlined in the archaeological assessment (Appendix 1). Two adjacent areas in the southern end of the field were monitored during topsoil stripping and features identified were sample excavated. The total area of the watching brief was 12,500 square metres and the work was undertaken over a period of 12 days in October 2000.
- 1.4 Arrangements have been made for the deposition of the site archive with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council Museum Service at Sewerby Hall (ERYMS 2002/7).

2.0 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 2.1 The site is located on the southern outskirts of Pocklington at *c.*30m OD on coarse loamy gley brown calcareous earths, which are affected by high groundwater levels. The topsoil overlies chalky glaciofluvial and river terrace drift, characteristic of the Landbeach Association (Jarvis *et al* 1984).

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Previous archaeological work undertaken in advance of development Phases I - III included a geophysical survey and a watching brief in the fields to the north of the present development site (WYAS 1995a and 1995b). Despite numerous recorded metal detector finds from the area the only feature recorded as a result of these investigations was truncated ridge and furrow.
- 3.2 A desktop assessment (NAA 1997) was undertaken in advance of the Phase IV development to ascertain the archaeological potential of the site and to identify appropriate measures to mitigate the impact of the works on any archaeological features. The principal results of this report are summarised below.
- 3.3 A cropmark complex comprising rectilinear enclosures, a trackway, ring ditches and Iron Age square barrows is recorded to the east of Balk Field (SMR 1073, Figure 1). A linear ditch and a possible cluster of small enclosures are also recorded in the south-east corner of Balk Field and may be associated with this complex. The nature of the cropmarks is indicative of settlement and burial activity of the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods.
- 3.4 An assemblage of metal artefacts has been recovered by metal detectorists working in Balk Field over several years. Artefacts recovered from the northern end of the field include Roman and medieval coins, a trumpet brooch of the 1st/2nd century AD, Anglo-Saxon strap ends and post-medieval tokens and jetons. However, despite having been heavily searched over years by metal detectorists the southern area of the field has failed to produce any significant material.

Geophysical survey

- 3.5 A geophysical survey was commissioned by David Wilson Homes to identify whether features of archaeological significance were present within the field. A survey of a 3 hectare sample, representing approximately 30% of the total area of the proposed development, was undertaken by GSB Prospection (GSB 1997).
- 3.6 Several linear anomalies and diffuse pit-like anomalies of possible archaeological significance were recorded in sample areas B2 and C in the southern end of the site (Figure 1). However, the overall survey results indicated a relatively low density of anomalies of potential archaeological significance in the area of the development.

Watching brief

- 3.7 In view of the close proximity of a significant cropmark site adjacent to the area of development a watching brief of topsoil stripping in the southern end of the field was recommended in the desktop assessment. This was accepted by the Humber Archaeology Partnership (the archaeological advisors to the planning authority) and a methods statement was prepared for their approval (see Appendix I).

4.0 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

Area B2

- 4.1 Area B2 was located in the south-east corner of Balk Field and measured 67m by 120m (Figure 2). Ploughsoil and subsoil with a combined thickness of 0.7m were removed by machine exposing features cut into the natural deposits of glaciofluvial sands and gravels (115). Finds recovered from the subsoil included modern glass and iron together with pottery dating from the Roman period through to the modern period.
- 4.2 A V-shaped ditch (105) orientated north-east to south-west was recorded in the south-eastern corner of the area (Figure 3, section 8). The ditch measured 3m wide and 1.14m deep and was recorded for an overall length of 80m (Plate 1). The primary fill (111) consisted of sand and gravel sealed by a secondary fill (112/106) of dark grey silt (bulk sample 112AA). The tertiary fill (113/108) consisted of light grey sand and gravel with frequent small gravel inclusions (bulk sample 113AA), from which 10 sherds of late Iron Age or early Romano-British tempered wares were recovered. These constituted the only finds from this feature. The fourth fill (114/109) consisted of light brown silty sand very similar in colour and texture to the subsoil.
- 4.3 A distinctive slot at the base of the ditch suggested that either the ditch had been maintained and cleaned out or that it had held a palisade. On balance the former suggestion is preferred given the absence of postholes or post-pipes within the fill of the ditch.

Area C

- 4.4 Area C was located in the south-west corner of the Balk field and measured 56m by 80m. Ploughsoil and subsoil with a combined thickness of 0.5m were removed by machine, exposing features cut into the natural deposits of glaciofluvial sands and gravels (Figure 2 and Plate 2). Finds recovered from the ploughsoil included animal bone and iron together with pottery dated from the 12th or 13th century through to the 19th or 20th century.
- 4.5 A linear ditch running in a north-east to south-west direction across the area on excavation proved to comprise two intercutting ditches (16 and 18), with a total width of 3.9m (Figure 3, sections 9 and 10; Plate 3). Ditch 16 was the earlier of the two cuts and measured between 1.05m and 1.25m wide and 0.7m deep. The primary fill (24/28) consisted of a dark-grey silty sand (bulk sample 28AA), from which a single piece of slag was recovered. The secondary fill (19/27) consisted of a light-grey silty

sand deposit with moderate small gravel inclusions from which one fragment of unidentifiable animal bone was recovered. A tertiary deposit of light-brown silty sand (26) was also recorded in the ditch (section 10).

- 4.6 Ditch 18 cut ditch 16 and measured between 1.85m and 2m wide and up to 0.8m deep. It was filled with brown-grey silty sand (17/25) with frequent small gravel inclusions (bulk sample 17AA). Finds recovered from this deposit included an unidentifiable fragment of animal bone and a minute sherd of Samian ware. A secondary fill (29), consisting of light-brown silty sand, had been partially removed by a recut (22) located along the centre of the ditch. The re-cut measured 0.75m wide and 0.35m deep and was filled by a single deposit (23) consisting of a dark brown silty loam (bulk sample 23AA) from which two small pieces of vitrified hearth lining were recovered (Figure 3, section 9). The ditches were recorded on the same alignment in a sondage located 50m to the north-west of Area C. The sequence of cuts and fills observed in section 10 (Figure 3) was also recorded in the sondage.
- 4.7 A further ditch (20) extended in a north-west direction from ditch 18 and a section excavated at the intersection of the two ditches suggested that it had been cut by the excavation of ditch 18. (Figure 3, section 9; Plate 4). It was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep (section 6) and was exposed for an overall length of 43m. It was filled with light brown silty sand (21) with occasional small gravel inclusions (bulk sample 21AB). Finds recovered included fragments of iron nails, a small piece of lead and a thin sheet of folded copper alloy (SF 21AA).
- 4.8 An elongated pit (14) was located in the southern end of Area C, orientated north-west to south-east. It measured 6m long by 0.81m wide and 0.2m deep and was filled with a mid-brown silty sand deposit (15). No finds were recovered from this feature.

Ridge and furrow

- 4.9 Ridge and furrow orientated north-east to south-west was recorded in both of the areas. The furrows were filled with a light brown silty sand deposit and measured 3m wide and 0.2m deep and lay typically 6m apart. Finds recovered from their fills included sherds of late medieval or early post-medieval Humberware, iron nails, animal bone and a thin strip of copper alloy. The direction of the ridge and furrow corresponds with the alignment of the southern boundary of the Balk Field and the orientation of the ridge and furrow recorded in earlier archaeological monitoring undertaken to the north of Area B2 (WYAS 1995b).

Metal detecting survey

- 4.10 All stripped areas were scanned with a metal detector. The finds located consisted of post-medieval nails and modern metalwork related to farming practices (fencing wire, horseshoes and a shovel handle).

5.0 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The position and orientation of ditch 105 in the south-eastern end of Area B2 corresponds with a single linear cropmark which runs towards the cropmark complex

situated to the east of the B1278 (SMR 1073). The ten sherds of pottery from the ditch comprised both the largest and the earliest assemblage of pottery on the site, spanning the late Iron Age to Roman period. The ditch is unlikely to have been a field boundary or trackway ditch and in view of the cleaning out slot at the base it may have been a drain. A group of small enclosures at the south-western end of the linear cropmark was not recorded on the site and these are likely to be situated just beyond the southern edge of Area B2.

- 5.2 Ditches 16, 18 and 22 most likely represent field boundaries with several phases of re-cutting. Ditch cut 16 belongs to the earliest phase and the slag recovered from its fill is comparable to the slag blocks recovered from the lowland area around the River Foulness, dated to the mid to late Iron Age period of 520 to 200 cal. BC (see slag report Appendix IV). The presence of slag in the ditch probably represents iron production on the nearby site using a technological process that is unique to the region. A minute sherd of Samian ware weighing 1gm recovered from ditch cut 18 must be viewed with caution, but sherds of Crambeck ware in the subsoil/natural interface elsewhere on the site suggest activity on the site in the 3rd century AD. The specialist report on the metalwork recovered from ditch cut 20 is still awaited.
- 5.3 The remains of medieval ridge and furrow were recorded across the entire stripped area of Balk Field. This will have truncated or even totally removed earlier features on the site and would account for the survival of features which cut into the subsoil. It is unlikely however that ploughing can explain the sharp difference in the density of features between the fields to the east and west of the B1278 and it is suggested that the settlement and possible cemetery to the east of the road do not extend westwards. This being the case the ditches recorded in Balk Field probably represent part of a field system on the edge of the settlement rather than being enclosures within its core. From the limited evidence recovered from the watching brief it may be inferred that activity on the site continued from the Iron Age period through to the later Roman period.

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Illustrations: Jonnie Godfrey
Edited: Philip Abramson

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West Yorkshire Archaeology Service (1995a): *The Balk, Pocklington, North Humberside – Gradiometer Survey*

West Yorkshire Archaeology Service (1995b): *The Balk, Pocklington, North Humberside – Watching Brief*

APPENDIX I

THE BALK, POCKLINGTON: PHASE IV ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF METHOD STATEMENT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document presents a methods statement for undertaking an archaeological watching brief during groundworks within specified areas for the construction of a residential housing development near Pocklington, East Yorkshire. The document has been prepared by Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA) on behalf of David Wilson Homes Northern and sets out the written scheme of archaeological investigation for the development as required by Condition 5 for the development as approved by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 14 August 2000 (Application Ref. No: DC/00/01696/REM/GOOLEN). The document is being submitted to the planning authority and the Humber Archaeology Partnership (as archaeological advisors to the East Riding of Yorkshire Council for approval in accordance with the planning condition.
- 1.2 The purpose of the watching brief required by the planning condition is to ensure that a record, including drawn, written and photographic information as necessary, is made of any archaeological discoveries on the site.
- 1.3 The methods statement is based upon the results of an archaeological assessment undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA 1997). This document includes an appendix which outlined the methodology for a watching brief within specified areas of the proposed development, and it is upon these recommendations that this detailed methods statement is based.

Location

- 1.4 The area of development is within an area of land to the west of the Balk, to the south of Pocklington. The site occupies an area of approximately 10 hectares within Balk Field (SE 8045 4820). The soil conditions within Balk Field are characterised by a fine loamy soil over clay, susceptible to seasonal waterlogging.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A number of archaeological sites are recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development area were identified as a result of the assessment study (Table 1). These included metal detected finds from the Balk Field itself, together with cropmark evidence to the north and east. The results of a geophysical survey within areas of the proposed development are also summarised.

Table 1: Archaeological sites within assessment study area

<i>SMR No</i>	<i>Grid reference</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Grade</i>
18064	SE 8030 4830	Finds assemblage	Various	n/a
10817	SE 8015 4847	Cropmarks	Unknown	3
18371	SE 8030 4830	Ridge and furrow	Medieval	3
1073	SE 8080 4820	Cropmarks	Prehistoric	1/2

Site 18064

- 2.2 An assemblage of metal artefacts has been recovered by metal detectorists working in Balk Field over several years. Artefacts recovered from the northern end of the field include Roman and medieval coins, a trumpet brooch of the 1st/2nd century AD, Anglo-Saxon strap ends and post-medieval tokens and *jetons*. A distribution plot of the finds does not record any material having been recovered from the specific area of the proposed development area although documents in the SMR describe this area as having been 'heavily searched over years' by metal detectorists.

Site 10817

- 2.3 Cropmarks of a possible ditched trackway and a rectilinear enclosure are recorded to the north and north-west of Balk Field. The possible ditched trackway is recorded at the northern end of Balk Field in an area presently occupied by recently constructed residential properties. No evidence for either feature was located by geophysical survey of the previous development area undertaken by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service (WYAS 1995a) or recorded during the subsequent watching brief of the development (WYAS 1995b).

Site 18371

- 2.4 Evidence of relict ridge and furrow was recorded at the northern end of Balk Field by geophysical survey and observed during a watching brief of a previous development within the field (see above).

Site 1073

- 2.5 A cropmark complex comprising rectilinear enclosures, a trackway, ring ditches and Iron Age square barrows is recorded to the east of Balk Field within a 150m radius of the field edge. A linear ditch and a possible cluster of small enclosures is also recorded in the south-east corner of Balk Field and may be a part of the complex. The complex appears to be a part of a more extensive cropmark system which extends to the south and north of the site. The nature of the cropmarks is indicative of settlement and burial activity of the later prehistoric period.

Geophysical survey

- 2.6 A geophysical survey was commissioned by David Wilson Homes in order to determine more precisely whether features of archaeological significance associated with the cropmark sites and finds assemblage described above could be located within the field. A survey of a 3 hectare sample of the site was undertaken by GSB Prospection (GSB 1997). The sample area represented approximately 30% of the total area of the proposed development.
- 2.7 Area A was positioned to establish if the features associated with cropmarks identified at SMR site 10817 at the north-western end of the field continued into the proposed development area. No anomalies of obvious archaeological significance were detected in Area A.
- 2.8 Area B1 was positioned to establish whether features associated with cropmarks identified at SMR site 1073 to the east of Pocklington Balk continued into the proposed development area. The survey detected an increased level of noise due to modern disturbance along the edge of the field. The linear anomalies in the survey area are on the same alignment as the ridge and

furrow detected in an earlier geophysical survey at the northern end of the field and may therefore represent a continuation of this phase of ploughing activity.

- 2.9 Area B2 was positioned to locate a linear ditch and possible cluster of enclosures recorded as cropmarks in the south-east corner of the field. In Area B2 deep furrows and wheel ruts were present on the surface and may have served to obscure anomalies associated with archaeological features in the south-east corner of the field. Linear anomalies which run on a different alignment to modern surface disturbances have been tentatively interpreted as being of archaeological origin.
- 2.10 Area C was positioned to establish whether hitherto unrecorded features which may be associated with the metal detector finds were present in the field. Within Area C several diffuse sub-linear and pit-like anomalies were detected, although an archaeological interpretation remains tentative.

3.0 WATCHING BRIEF METHOD STATEMENT

- 3.1 On the basis of the desktop assessment and the results of the geophysical survey it is considered that a low density of archaeological features is likely to be present within the area of the proposed development. The features identified within the field by the geophysical survey appear to be consistent with ridge and furrow and possible pits and ditches. The possible enclosures recorded on an aerial photograph in the south-eastern corner of the field were not identified by the geophysical survey although an associated linear ditch running in a north to south direction may have been detected by the survey.
- 3.2 On the basis of the results of the assessment and survey it was recommended that a watching brief is undertaken during the period of topsoil stripping in survey areas B2 and C. The purpose of the watching brief is to establish the nature, extent, condition and date if possible of any features of potential archaeological significance in these areas.
- 3.3 The stripping of topsoil within the specified areas of the development (B2 and C) will be undertaken using a 360° tracked excavator with a toothless bucket, operating under archaeological supervision at all times.
- 3.4 The machine will remove topsoil and any other necessary deposits down to a depth at which significant archaeological deposits are first identified or natural subsoil is reached. Thereafter any other necessary archaeological work will be undertaken by hand unless either extensive or deep deposits require removal.
- 3.5 Once an area is stripped no further vehicular access or tracking over the stripped surfaces will be permitted without the consent of the supervising archaeologist. On the completion of any necessary investigation and recording within specific areas these will be released to the contractor.
- 3.6 All archaeological features will be cleaned, sample excavated, planned and recorded. Linear features shall be sampled to a minimum level of 10% of the feature, to be increased to 25% if the feature is part of a settlement enclosure. A minimum 50% sample of discrete structural features such as pits, post-holes or gullies would be excavated. Where significant archaeological deposits of a structural, domestic or ritual nature are identified then these will be examined in greater detail.
- 3.7 All archaeological features will be photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale. Sections will normally be drawn at a scale of 1:10. Archaeological plans will normally be drawn at a scale of 1:20. All levels will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.

- 3.8 A written description of features will be recorded using the NAA context recording system (a derivation of the MoLAS system).
- 3.9 A photographic record of the site will be taken using colour prints and slides and black and white prints at a minimum format of 35mm.
- 3.10 Finds of archaeological significance will be retained for specialist examination. Pottery, brick, tile and animal bone will be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts will be individually recorded in accordance with the NAA finds recording system. Representative samples of structural features of brick, stone and tile will be retained in accordance with specialist requirements.
- 3.11 Thirty-litre bulk soil samples will be taken from appropriate deposits (such as the primary fills of pits and ditches) and submitted for assessment to the project's environmental consultants. This assessment would determine their potential for detailed palaeoenvironmental and macrofossil analysis. Particular attention will be paid to the recovery of samples from any waterlogged deposits which may be present and column samples would be taken specifically for pollen analysis from appropriate deposits with specialist advice. Where significant archaeological deposits are identified then a revised sampling strategy will be formulated following a site visit from the environmental consultant.
- 3.12 Human remains, if encountered, will be recovered in accordance with the terms of the Home Office burial licence.

4.0 MONITORING

- 4.1 The local planning authority will be given 7 days notification in writing of the start of construction works. Access shall be provided at all reasonable times, subject to health and safety requirements, to the archaeological representative of the planning authority (Humber Archaeology Partnership) to monitor the progress and results of the archaeological watching brief, and would also be notified of any unexpected archaeological remains or variations to the proposed methodology.

5.0 POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

- 5.1 Subject to receipt of relevant specialist reports, a summary report will be prepared within six months of completion of the archaeological recording works.
- 5.2 The report shall contain:
- a summary of the project background
 - the site location
 - a methodology statement
 - a summary of the watching brief results
 - an interpretation of the results in appropriate context
 - a post-excavation analysis of the stratigraphic and other written, drawn or photographic records
 - a catalogue, analysis and report on artefacts, faunal remains and soil samples
 - catalogues and post-excavation assessments and/or summary reports of all scientific dating procedures or other analyses carried out
 - an appendix containing a list and summary description of all contexts recorded

- a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location.

5.3 Depending on the results of the monitoring, a copy of the report or a summary of the findings will be published in an appropriate regional or national journal.

5.4 A copy of the final report will be submitted to the Humber Sites and Monuments Record as a public document.

6.0 SITE ARCHIVE

6.1 The site archive shall contain all the data collected during the watching brief, including records, finds and environmental samples. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent.

6.2 Adequate resources shall be provided during fieldwork to ensure that records are checked and internally consistent.

6.3 Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork.

6.4 The archive will be assembled in accordance with the standards set out by English Heritage (1991).

6.5 The documentary records and artefactual material will be maintained as a single archive. Security copies in digital or fiche format will be maintained where appropriate.

6.6 Provision will be made for the deposition of archive and any artefacts with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Museum Service. The Museum shall be advised of the proposed investigation before the watching brief starts and the stated collecting policy would be adhered to. The archive should be prepared in accordance with the guidelines published by United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (1990) and the Museums and Galleries Commission (1994).

7.0 PERSONNEL

7.1 Project management will be undertaken by Philip Abramson, an associate of Northern Archaeological Associates who undertook the desk-based assessment study for the development. Jim Parry, one of the firm's Project Officers, would undertake the archaeological watching brief and subsequent report writing, and would be assisted by experienced site staff should any unanticipated discoveries be made during the watching brief.

7.2 **Philip Abramson** has been an Associate of NAA since 1994. He graduated with a B.Ed from Hull College of Higher Education prior to obtaining an MA in Archaeological Sciences from the University of Bradford. He has over 20 years field experience, including the management of numerous excavation and post-excavation projects.

7.3 **Jim Parry** graduated with a BA in Archaeology from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1996 and is a Project Officer with NAA. He has four years of archaeological experience and has supervised a number of trial trenching evaluations, excavations and watching briefs throughout Northern England for the firm, including the East Yorkshire area.

7.4 While the need for specialists cannot be accurately predicted at this stage, the most probable requirements are listed below together with the preferred specialist organisation or individual:

Category	Specialist
Worked flint	Peter Makey
Prehistoric pottery	T G Manby
Romano-British pottery	Peter Didsbury
Medieval pottery	Peter Didsbury
Post-medieval pottery	Peter Didsbury
Ceramic building materials	John Tibbles
Metalwork	Mike Bishop
Animal bone	ASUD
Palaeoenvironmental samples	ASUD

8.0 PROGRAMME

The provisional programme for undertaking the watching brief within the specified areas is set out below. The watching brief would be undertaken either as continuous monitoring or intermittently, dependent upon the contractor's programme.

2 October 2000	Commence monitoring of topsoil stripping
6 October 2000	Complete monitoring of topsoil stripping
20 October 2000	Complete on-site excavation and recording
26 January 2001	Completion of post-excavation report programme

9.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

9.1 The firm would expect to comply with the 1974 Health and Safety Act and its subsequent amendments in all its operations. In this respect the SCAUM manual on archaeological health and safety (1997) is followed for site works. As normal practice, First Aid boxes, an Accident Book and a telephone is provided for each project. Where required, safety helmets and reflective jackets are also provided. It is normal policy for a vehicle to be available on site for emergency purposes and site staff must be appropriately equipped in terms of bad weather gear. For each project a list of contact names and telephone numbers is provided for Accident and Emergency units, doctors, dentists, together with an appropriate site identification. The site director/supervisor is normally nominated as site safety officer and all supervisory staff have undertaken a first aid training course.

9.2 All site staff will have undergone a safety induction course for the main site contractor.

REFERENCES

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Northern Archaeological Associates
September 2000

APPENDIX II

CONTEXT AND FINDS SUMMARY TABLE – AREA B2

Context	Description	Animal bone	CBM	Cu alloy	Fe	Flint	Glass	Pb	Pottery	Sample	Slag
100	ploughsoil										
101	subsoil				12	1		2	3		
102	furrow (NE-SW)	2			4						
103	furrow (NE-SW)										
104	furrow (NE-SW)										
105	ditch cut (SW-NE)										
106	primary fill of ditch cut 105										
107	fill of furrow 103	3		1					5		
108	secondary fill of ditch cut 105										
109	tertiary fill of ditch cut 105										
110	natural gravels and sands										
111	primary fill of 105										
112	secondary fill of 105, same as 106									2	
113	tertiary fill of 105, same as 108								10	2	
114	fourth fill of 105, same as 109										
Total		5	0	1	16	1	0	2	18	4	0

APPENDIX II (continued)

CONTEXT AND FINDS SUMMARY TABLE – AREA C

Context	Description	Animal bone	CBM	Cu alloy	Fe	Flint	Glass	Pb	Pottery	Sample	Slag
01	ploughsoil	1	1		12	1			3		
02	subsoil										
03	cut of furrow (NE-SW)										
04	natural gravel and sand deposits										
05	fill of furrow 3										
06	cut of furrow (NE-SW)										
07	fill of furrow 6										
08	cut of furrow (NE-SW)										
09	fill of furrow 8										
10	cut of furrow (NE-SW)										
11	fill of furrow 10						1		2		
12	cut of furrow (NE-SW)										
13	fill of furrow 12										
14	linear ditch cut (E-W)										
15	fill of ditch cut 14										
16	linear ditch cut (NE-SW)										
17	primary fill of ditch cut 18	1				1			1	2	
18	linear ditch cut (NE-SW)										
19	secondary fill of ditch cut 16	1									
20	linear ditch cut (NW-SE)										
21	fill of ditch cut 20			1	2			1		2	
22	re-cut ditch cut (NE-SW)										
23	fill of dit cut 22									2	2
24	primary fill of ditch cut 16										
25	fill of ditch cut 18										
26	tertiary fill of ditch 16										
27	secondary fill of ditch cut 16										
28	primary fill of ditch cut 16									2	1
29	secondary fill of ditch cut 18										
Total		3	1	1	14	2	1	1	6	8	3

APPENDIX III

POTTERY

P Didsbury

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A small assemblage of 24 sherds, weighing 176grams, was recovered from the excavations. The material ranged from the Late Iron Age or early Roman period to the 19th or 20th century. The pottery was quantified by the two measures of number and weight of sherds, according to fabric, within archaeological context, and the data entered on an Access database supplied as part of this report. Fabric codes employed in the database are provided.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site comprised four ditches of Iron Age or Roman date located in two areas (Area C and Area B2). Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery sherds were recovered from ditches 18 and 105 as well as medieval and post-medieval pottery from the ploughsoil, subsoil and the fill of furrows.

3.0 DISCUSSION

- 3.1 Ploughsoil 01 contained a wide range of material consisting of a jug handle of 12th or 13th-century date, with splashed or painted glaze; a sherd of late medieval or post-medieval Humberware; and a fragment of 19th or 20th-century factory-produced whiteware.
- 3.2 Subsoil 101 also contained a range of Roman to early modern material. The former is represented by a fragment of probable Crambeck greyware, suggesting activity in the vicinity of the site after *c.* AD 280, while the latter consisted of a sherd of Late Blackware of late 18th to early 20th-century date. A basal angle in a hard, sandy orange fabric is either late medieval or post-medieval.
- 3.3 Ditch 105 contained the earliest material recovered from the site. The tertiary fill of ditch 113 comprised ten sherds of late Iron Age or early Romano-British calcareously tempered ware. These were all undecorated body sherds, and close dating is therefore impossible. They are, however, completely dissimilar to late Roman fabrics of this type (e.g. Huntcliff ware), and general considerations of fabric and potting might suggest a date between the 1st century BC and the 2nd century AD.
- 3.4 Fill 107 of furrow 103 contained three sherds of late medieval or post-medieval Humberware, a sherd of post-medieval Glazed Red Earthenware, and a fragment of 19th or 20th-century factory-produced whiteware.
- 3.5 Fill 11 of furrow 10 contained a large sherd from the base of a 16th-century Cistercian cup, and a body sherd of green-glazed whiteware in the 13th to 15th-century North Yorkshire Lightly Gritted Ware tradition.
- 3.6 Fill 17 of linear ditch 18 contained a small flake of samian ware, weighing 1 gram. This has only one surface extant and is undateable without specialist opinion. It does no more than

provide a *terminus post quem* within the Samian importation period (i.e. up to c.AD 250) for deposition within the ditch.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The small ceramic assemblage testifies to site activity from the late Iron Age or early Roman period to the 19th or 20th century. The presence of material of all periods in the subsoil, ploughsoil and furrow fills presumably indicates widespread agricultural disturbance of earlier features. Being a small assemblage, the material may be kept in the interests of future work on regional fabrics, but there is no need for further assessment or publication.

APPENDIX IV

SLAG

J Cowgill

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The site comprised four linear ditches of Iron Age or Roman date located in two areas (Area C and Area B2). The large piece of slag was from ditch 16 which was cut by ditch 18 that contained a small fragment of Samian ware pottery. These were the only finds in these ditches.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The slag and hearth lining was identified solely on morphological grounds by visual examination, sometimes with the aid of a x10 binocular microscope. They were recorded on *pro forma* recording sheets and a note of probable fuel type has been recorded when fragments or imprints were incorporated within the slag.

3.0 DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 A single piece of slag and a piece of vitrified hearth lining are the two finds discussed here.

Vitrified hearth lining

- 3.2 Two small pieces weighing 9g were recovered from Context 23. They are from the same 'object' and have a reduced fabric with an outer partially glazed surface. The back appears to be moulded or to have some type of form but the pieces are too small to reconstruct this.

Slag

- 3.3 A single abraded piece weighing 1073g was recovered from undated Ditch 16. The slag is directly comparable to the mid-late Iron Age iron smelting slags ('known as slag blocks') recovered from the lowland area around the River Foulness c.25 kilometres to the south (Clogg 1999). This example has frequent large charcoal inclusions in the internal matrix (but not on the surviving external faces), it is fairly dense but there are a number of voids of varying sizes. Near the top surface are some dark reddish patches and inclusions that could be oxidised pieces of roasted ore. There is slight evidence that it may consist of two pieces (two separate tap flows? two smelts?) that lie side by side at right angles to the top. The top is slightly hollowed and there is probably part of the rounded sides extant suggesting that it may be a small version of Clogg's plano-convex group 1 or possibly his group 3 (hemispherical slag). This example is much smaller than the Welham slags which have a mean weight of 12.7kg, with the lightest recorded piece being 8.75kg.

4.0 DISCUSSION

- 4.1 The identification of this slag as similar to the material from the area around the River Foulness is of considerable interest because that iron production technology is unique in this country. The one site that has been excavated and dated (Welham Bridge) has produced two

radiocarbon dates which when calibrated at 68% probability are 400 – 200 cal. BC and 520 – 390 cal. BC, indicating a mid-late Iron Age date for the industry. If the piece of slag from Balk Field is indeed the same technological tradition, which is very likely, then this is further evidence for this East Yorkshire industry. This and a number of other recently identified sites suggest that the industry spreads inland, away from the Humber Estuary and River Foulness. The Royal Commission for Historical Monuments has recently found a large slag heap at Allerthorpe, a few kilometres to the south of Pocklington (pers comm P Halkon) and there is another further to the west at Elvington (pers comm J G McDonnell). A third small assemblage has recently been recorded at a site c. 5 kilometres due west of Pocklington near the village of Bolton during a pipeline excavation (Cowgill 2000). This group, with the Balk Field piece, illustrates that the iron production industry also occurs in the Derwent valley floodplain and is found across an area considerably larger than has previously been envisaged (Halkon and Millett 1999). Halkon has already identified the industry as being on a massive scale for the period.

- 4.2 It has been suggested by Halkon (Halkon 1995) that the scale, intensity and extent of this iron production industry was the source of the wealth of the so-called Arras Culture, a culture for whom iron was of great importance. The Arras square barrow cemetery, in which were found iron swords, mail and harness fittings in chariot burials, is itself situated at the head of a prominent valley which was a natural route down into this area. It is quite possible that much of their wealth and prestige was based upon the control of this large-scale iron industry.

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APPENDIX V

PLANT MACROFOSSIL EVALUATION

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(Archaeological Services University of Durham)

Summary

Excavations undertaken at Balk Field, Pocklington have revealed the presence of Iron Age and Romano-British ditches. Samples extracted from six contexts at the site have been evaluated to ascertain the quality of plant macrofossil preservation, while identification of macrofossils will determine the potential data that each context can produce.

Each sample was floated and sieved with both residue and flot retained and described. The flots were scanned for waterlogged and charred botanical remains, which were identified via comparison with modern reference material. The abundance of waterlogged species and total counts of charred species were logged.

Most of the contexts contained molluscs and roots with occasional fragments of charcoal and cinder. Context 21 contained a single breadwheat grain which, in such low quantities, restricts interpretation. The single fibre fragment in context 112 also is too small to supply significant data. Due to the absence of, or low numbers of, charred and waterlogged plant macrofossils in all six contexts further evaluation and full analysis are not recommended.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Excavations undertaken at Balk Field, Pocklington have revealed the presence of Iron Age and Romano-British ditches. Samples have been extracted from six contexts at the site for environmental evaluation. Assessment of the samples has ascertained the extent to which charred and waterlogged plant macrofossils have been preserved and has determined the data that each context can produce regarding the former environmental conditions and agricultural practices at the site.

2.0 METHODS STATEMENT

- 2.1 Material extracted from ten contexts was manually floated and sieved through a 500 μ mesh. The residue was retained and the contents described. The flots were dried slowly, then scanned at x40 magnification for waterlogged and charred botanical remains. The remains were identified via comparison with modern reference material held by Archaeological Services, University of Durham. The abundance of each waterlogged species was noted and total counts of charred species were logged.

3.0 RESULTS

- 3.1 All six contexts produced relatively small volumes of flot, with many dominated by snail fragments and root material. Only two contexts contained charcoal and one contained plant macrofossils. The contents of both flot and residue are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Macrofossil data

Context	17 AA	21 AB	23 AA	28 AA	112 AA	113 AA
<i>Volume processed (ml)</i>	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,500	11,000	10,100
<i>Volume of flot (ml)</i>	5	35	25	10	10	30
<i>Volume of flot assessed</i>	5	35	25	10	10	30
<i>Residue contents</i>						
Chalk	✓		✓	✓		✓
Flint	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pot			✓			
<i>Flot matrix (relative abundance)</i>						
Charcoal				1	2	
Cinder	1	1	1	1		
Coarse sand		3	2	3	3	2
Fibre					1	
Mammal bone			1			
Modern roots		3	3	2	2	3
Molluscs	5	2	2		1	3
Silt	1			1	1	
<i>Charred Remains (total counts)</i>						
Breadwheat grain		1				
<i>Waterlogged remains (relative abundance)</i>						
(a) Orache		1				

[a-arable weed, g-grassland, t-shrubs/trees, x-wide niche]

Relative abundance is based on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

4.0 DISCUSSION

- 4.1 Most of the contexts contained molluscs, which may be a product of the calcareous character of the underlying substrate, as suggested by the chalk within the sample residues. The low quantities of charcoal and cinder in the flots indicates only a limited presence of anthropogenic waste, while the roots suggests some input of more recent material.
- 4.2 Only one of the six contexts contained charred plant macrofossils. Context 21 contained a single breadwheat grain. Breadwheat has been found in small quantities at Iron Age and Romano-British sites, and in increasing quantities in post-Roman settlements. The presence of only one grain restricts interpretation. The single fibre fragment in context 112 also is too small to supply significant data.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The samples contained little evidence for human activity or the dumping of waste material into or proximal to each context. Due to the absence of charred or waterlogged plant macrofossils in five of the contexts and the small number of remains in context 21, the site

has little potential to produce environmental or socio-economic data. Further evaluation and full analysis are not recommended for all six contexts.

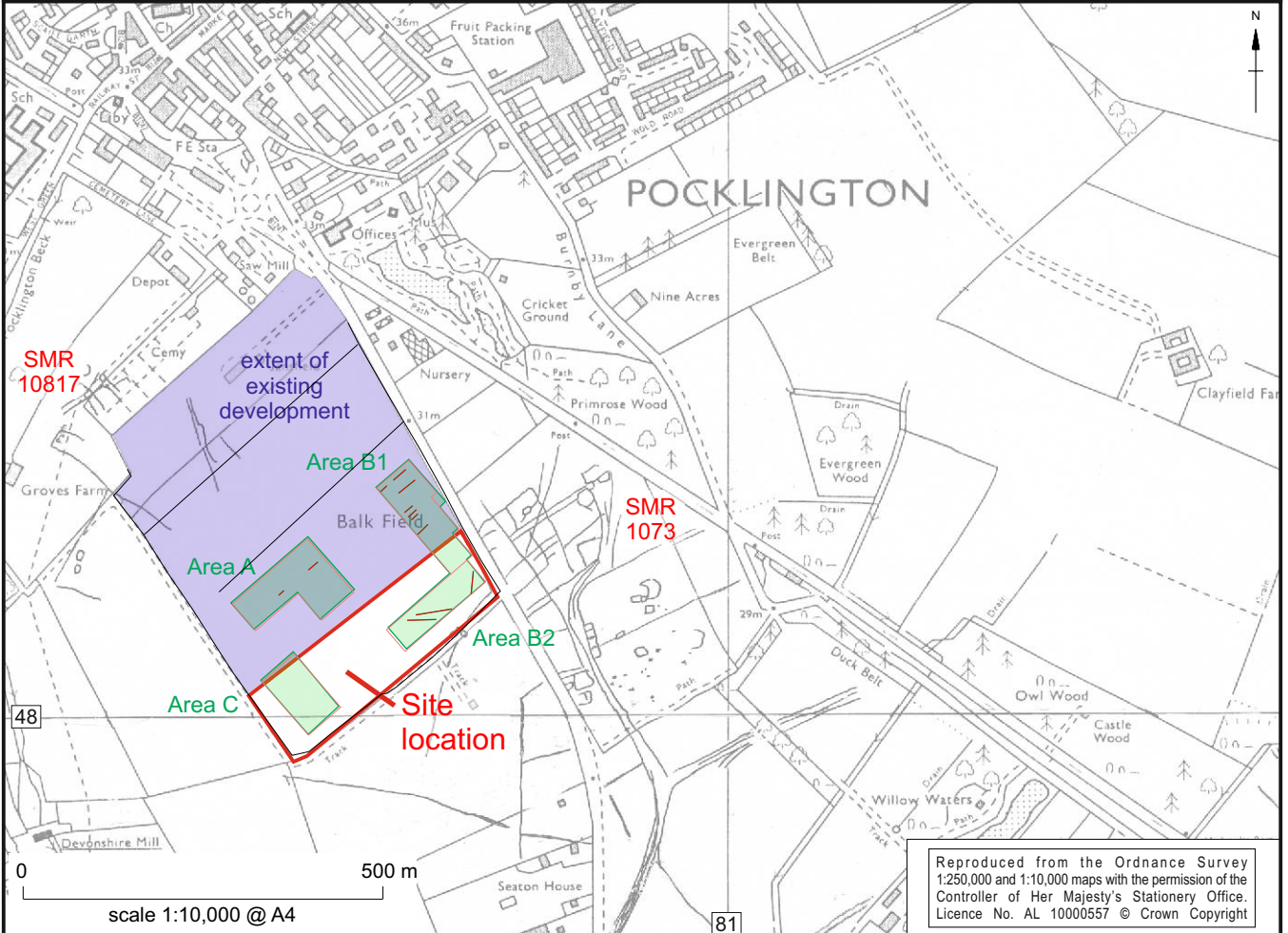
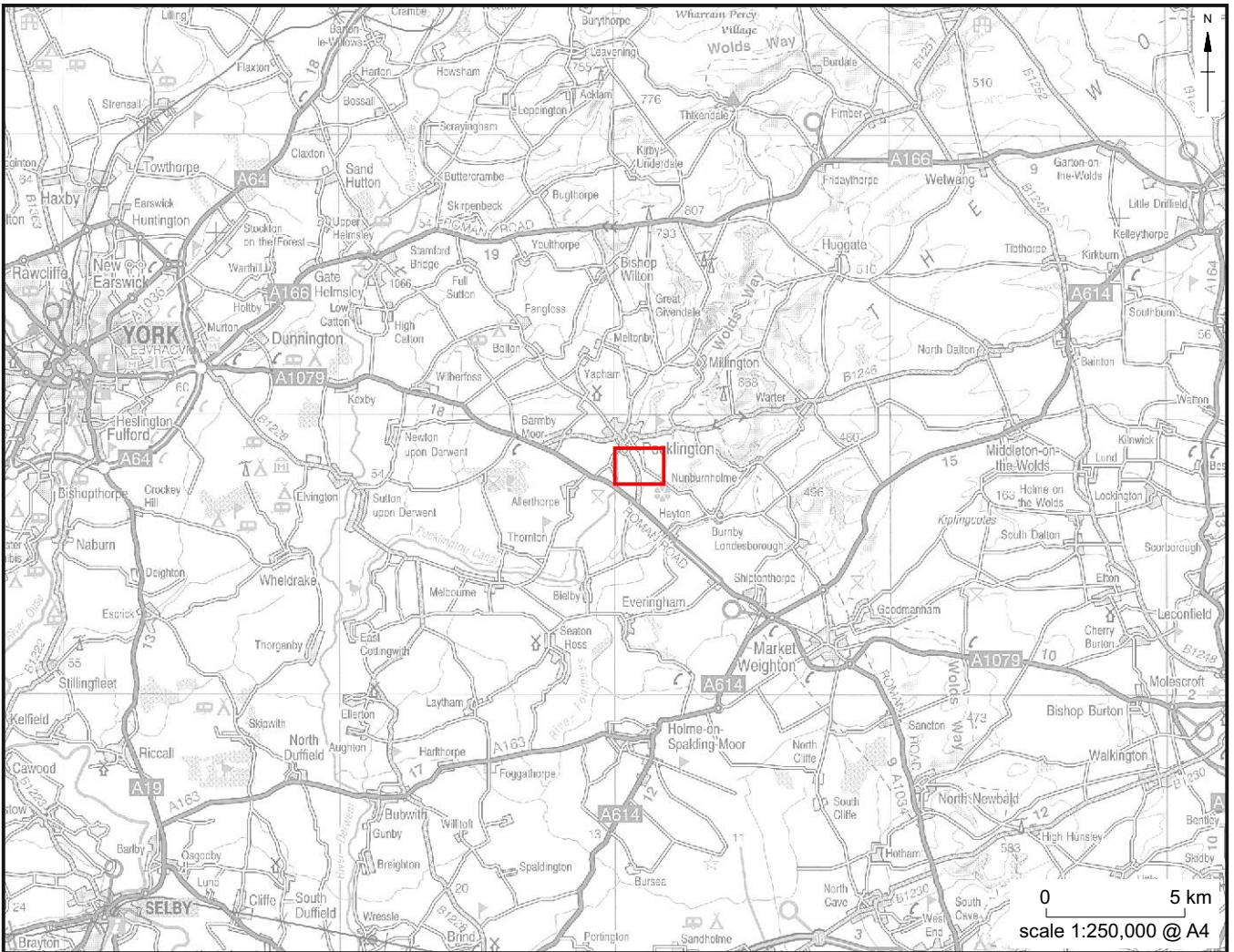
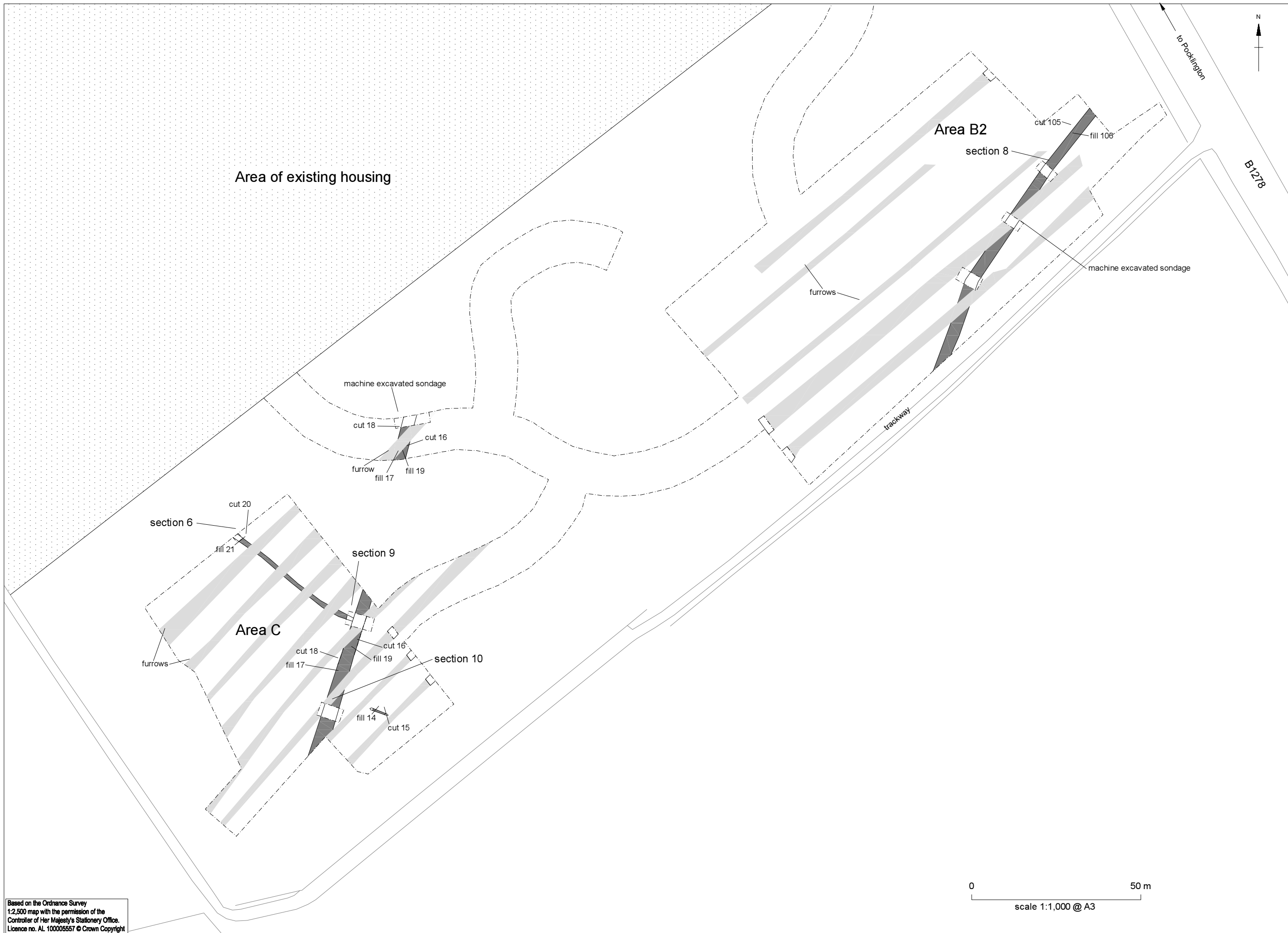


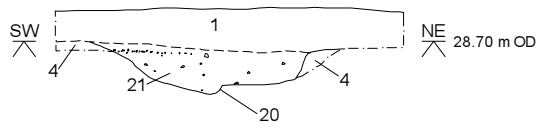
Figure 1: Pocklington Balk Field: location plan showing 1997 geophysical survey areas (shaded green) and cropmarks.



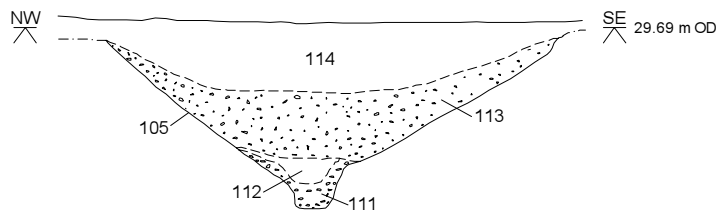
Based on the Ordnance Survey
 1:2,500 map with the permission of the
 Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office.
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Figure 2: Pocklington Balk Field: plan of stripped areas B2, C and access roads and archaeological features

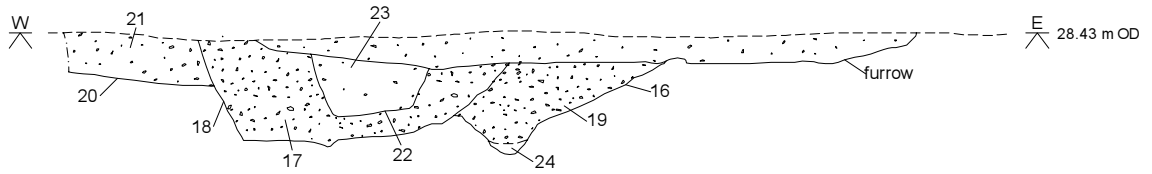
section 6 - south-east facing



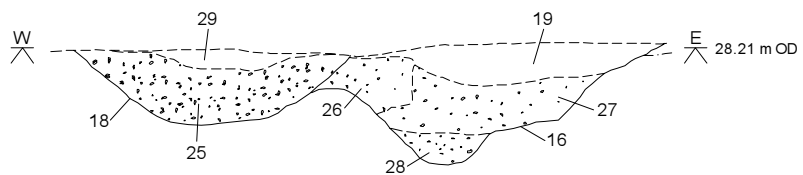
section 8 - south-west facing



section 9 - south facing



section 10 - south facing



0 3 m
scale 1:50 @ A4

Figure 3: Pocklington Balk Field: sections



Plate 1: Section across ditch 105



Plate 2: Topsoil stripping in Area C, looking north-east



Plate 3: Section across ditches 16 and 18



Plate 4: Section across ditch 20