

# Northern Archaeological Associates

**NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT  
38 LEEMING LANE, CATTERICK VILLAGE  
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

**prepared for  
MOYCO HOMES**

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# NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

38 LEEMING LANE, CATTERICK VILLAGE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

### *Summary*

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches in advance of construction of three new dwellings and the removal of topsoil for the construction of an access ramp at 38 Leeming Lane, Catterick Village, North Yorkshire. The monitoring work was required by Richmondshire District Council as a planning condition, based on the results of a previous evaluation of the site.*

*The sub-soils observed throughout the site consisted of mixed river-borne sands and gravels overlain by a thick layer of silty loam, interpreted as medieval to post-medieval ploughsoil. The overlying topsoil was a dark silty loam containing animal bones and modern refuse accumulated over many years use of the land as a smallholding.*

*A number of pits, postholes and ditches were observed within the foundation trenches. Some were apparently Romano-British while others were interpreted as being part of the Anglian settlement complex recorded in the adjacent Richardson's Coal Depot and identified during the evaluation.*

*Several sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the topsoil, subsoil and some of the features.*

### 1 0 INTRODUCTION

1 1 This document presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during the removal of soil for the construction of an access ramp and the excavation of foundation trenches in advance of construction of three new dwellings and associated garages at 38 Leeming Lane, Catterick Village, North Yorkshire (Figure 1). The work was undertaken in June 2004.

1 2 The document has been prepared by Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA) for Moyco Homes in order to discharge the relevant planning condition required by Richmondshire District Council (condition 11 of decision 1/15/346/full). The work was undertaken following an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching, which identified a number of ditch features (ASUD 2003).

1 3 The scope of the watching brief was based upon the results of the archaeological evaluation. It comprised monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches for three new dwellings and associated garages and the removal of topsoil for the construction of an access ramp. The majority of the topsoil had already been stripped from the development site prior to monitoring, so the area was machine-cleaned to allow an examination of the sub-soil. The work was undertaken in accordance with the relevant code of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2002) and a brief issued by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC 2004).

## 2 0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2 1 Catterick village is located immediately to the east of the A1 trunk road, some 16km to the south of Darlington and within the Richmondshire district of North Yorkshire (SE 241 976). The village lies on the western side of the River Swale at a height of 45-55m OD. The project area is situated off Leeming Lane, immediately west of the northern end of Marne Barracks (formerly RAF Catterick) within the civil parish of Catterick.

2 2 Catterick lies on the boundary of Permo-Triassic and Upper Carboniferous rocks, the eastern half of the village being on Namurian Gritstone (Carboniferous) and the western half on Magnesian Limestone (Permian). The solid geology is overlain by fine loamy soils of the East Keswick association, derived from river-borne sands and gravels (Jarvis *et al* 1984).

## 3 0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3 1 Over the last fifty years, much archaeological excavation work has been carried out in and around Catterick, both in advance of quarrying for numerous gravel pits on the terraces of the River Swale, and the development of Marne Barracks (formerly RAF Catterick) and the A1 trunk road.

### Prehistoric activity

3 2 No prehistoric sites are recorded within the immediate vicinity of the new development. The earliest evidence of activity within the vicinity of Catterick village dates to the Later Neolithic, when a large burial cairn was constructed on flat land overlooking the River Swale and a series of pits were cut alongside. These were discovered and excavated in 1995 within the southern end of the racecourse in advance of an extension to Pallet Hill Quarry (Moloney *et al* 2003, 4–10). The cairn displayed two phases of construction, the final structure having a kerb of large river cobbles. Within this cairn were nine cists in two clusters, but little evidence remained for the occupants. Later, during the late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age, the cairn was incorporated into a large oval cobble bank measuring 150m north to south. Aerial reconnaissance identified possible entrances into the ringwork to the north and south, leading to its interpretation as a henge monument.

- 3 3 The Catterick henge is part of a linear cluster of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments alongside the northern half of the route of the A1. Approximately 2km to the north was the Scorton cursus, a linear earthwork monument dating to the Neolithic period. During archaeological excavation in advance of an extension to Scorton Quarry at Hollow Banks, Catterick Bridge, 1km north of the village, an alignment of pits and a small 'hengiform' enclosure dating from the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age were identified (NAA 2002, 8–9). Approximately 17km further to the south, the line is continued at Thornborough where an alignment of three large henges overlay a cursus monument (centred on SE 285 790), also accompanied by round barrows and pit alignments.
- 3 4 Evidence for Iron Age occupation at Catterick was exposed during the soilstripping for two quarry sites. Extension to Pallet Hill Quarry, south of the racecourse, revealed the remains of at least eight roundhouses set within an enclosure ditch. The pottery and other finds recovered from the site suggested a domestic settlement (Moloney *et al* 2003, 13–20). At Hollow Banks there was evidence of Iron Age activity in the form of round houses and boundary ditches.

#### Roman period

- 3 5 There are many Roman remains in and around Catterick, including the Roman road of Dere Street, which passes 300m to the west of the development site, a multi-phase fort to the north-west of the village at Thornbrough farm, and the Roman town (*Cataractonium*) centred on the northern end of the modern racecourse. With the construction of the A1 Catterick bypass, a large area of the Roman town was excavated. The remains included walls of buildings surviving to a depth of up to 2m, some with cobbled or flagstone floors, others with tessellated pavements and decorative wall plaster (Wilson 2002). The excavations also yielded a substantial quantity of artefacts. The work showed that *Cataractonium* had been occupied throughout the Roman period, firstly as a military site protecting Dere Street at a bridging point, later as a thriving town, and finally as the location of a *mansio* (roadside inn).
- 3 6 Roman burials have been found at Catterick Bridge to the north of the development area and Baines Farm, 600m to the south-west. Many of the earlier graves contained grave-goods, including glass and ceramic vessels and personal jewellery.
- 3 7 Excavations were carried out in 1981–2 in advance of the construction of a flyover at Baines. Several Roman period buildings were revealed in addition to a pottery kiln and two roadways. The buildings dated from circa AD 80–400, including one substantial building with an apse at the east end (Wilson 2002, 139–185). There were numerous burials, some with personal jewellery, associated with these buildings.
- 3 8 Excavations in 1998 within the 'Catterick Triangle' area of Pallet Hill quarry, to the north of Manor House (500m to the west of the development site) exposed a section of Dere Street, including the *agger* and a cambered, cobble road surface accompanied by a ditch along either side (Cardwell and Wilson 2002, 217–20).

### Anglian Catterick

- 3 9 References in *Y Gododdin* to a battle at *Catraeth* have been associated with Catterick, partly because of the location and similarity of the name to the Roman *Cataractonium* and partly because of descriptions in Bede in AD666 of a royal vill at Catterick (Wilson *et al* 1996) During the excavation of several Roman sites physical evidence was revealed to support the historical record At sites at RAF Catterick, Catterick Bridge and Pallet Hill Quarry, the remains of sunken featured buildings (*grubenhauser*) dating to the Anglian period have been excavated Typically 4m by 3m in plan, and usually no more than 0.3m in depth, these structures are generally regarded as being the remains of houses or workshops, often with posts at either end to support a roof A sub-rectangular feature interpreted as a *grubenhause* was excavated only 15m to the west of the development site at Richardson's Coal Depot (NAA 1997) This structure was accompanied by several phases of gullies, pits and postholes and apparently superseded by a post-built structure on the same alignment but several times greater in extent (Figure 2)
- 3 10 Graves of Anglian date have been discovered at many of the sites of Roman period burials, distinguished primarily by the nature of the grave goods In some locations the two phases of burials were discrete from each other (such as at Hollow Banks, Scorton) while others indicated a continuity of use The range of grave goods included weapons, personal jewellery and accoutrements, pottery and glass vessels and animal bones, perhaps representing food deposited for the afterlife

### Medieval

- 3 11 The focus of the medieval village would appear to have been the village green (now High and Low Green), with the 14th-century or earlier St Anne's church at the eastern end and the manor house at the western There is evidence on several of the excavated sites, such as Bainesse, that during the medieval period the core of the village was surrounded by open fields of ridge-and-furrow cultivation, which overlay Anglian and Roman features

### Archaeological evaluation

- 3 12 In 2003 an archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeological Services, University of Durham (ASUD) within the proposed development site to assess the nature, extent and degree of survival of buried archaeological remains (ASUD, 2003) This exercise was requested by North Yorkshire County Council, archaeological advisors to Richmondshire District Council, in order to support the application for planning permission This was due to the quantity and significance of archaeological remains uncovered at Richardson's Coal Depot, only 5m to the west of the site Three trenches were excavated to approximately correspond with the proposed locations of dwellings (Figure 2) The easternmost trench did not reveal any features of archaeological interest, but the southern and western trenches both intersected linear ditches Whilst no direct dating evidence was recovered, one of the ditches was on a similar alignment to the *grubenhause* and post-built structure

recorded in Richardson's Coal Depot. One of the ditches within the southern trench contained a 2nd century Roman coin that had been pierced to make a pendant, a detail also recorded at some of the graves at Scorton (Speed, in preparation)

3 13 From environmental samples taken during the evaluation a range of animal bones and charred and waterlogged plant remains demonstrated that at the time of occupation the ditches were adjacent to domestic activity. Animal species identified were cattle and sheep (or goats), while the plant remains included cereal grains (bread-wheat) and Elder pollen

#### 4 0 **MONITORING METHODOLOGY**

4 1 Removal of topsoil and excavation of foundation trenches was undertaken under archaeological supervision by JCB excavator, using a toothless bucket wherever possible, in accordance with a brief issued by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC 2004)

4 2 For clarity, the foundation trenches for the three dwellings and two detached garages were numbered in order of excavation using Roman numerals I-V to differentiate them from ASUD's evaluation trenches as referred to in the text (Figure 2). Due to the complex form of the foundation trenches, individual elements of each trench were then given suffixes in the form of numbers or letters, such as wall trench II/3 or IV/NW. Context numbers for each trench started with 100 for Trench I, 200 for Trench II etc

4 3 Trench I was excavated in the north-east corner of the site and enclosed an area approximately 6m east to west by 6m north to south, with a 3m wide doorway on the south side. Trench II was located to the south-west of Trench I, enclosing a rectangle approximately 10m east to west by 8.5m north to south with five internal wall elements. Trench III was the same size and layout as Trench II, but was located in the north-west corner of the site with its main axis aligned north-east to south-west. Trench IV was the same size and alignment as Trench I but 10m to the west, and 1m to the north-east of Trench III. Trench V was located in the south-west corner of the site with main axis north to south and had the same dimensions and layout as Trench II with the exception of an extension 6m by 3.5m on the southern side. The trenches were 0.5m wide, and the target depth was 0.75m below the base of the topsoil

4 4 The area stripped of topsoil for the access ramp comprised a rectangle approximately 10m north to south by 5m, and sloped from west to east such that 1.2m of soil was removed from the eastern side and 0.3m from the western side

4 5 A sample of all archaeological features encountered was excavated. Samples of significant deposits were taken for environmental analysis and any artefacts were recovered for specialist examination

4 6 Sections were drawn for each archaeological feature. The location of all features within the building foundations were recorded on the site plan. A photographic record at a format of 35mm was made of the topsoil and subsoils exposed and all archaeological features.

## 5 0 MONITORING RESULTS

### *Soil sequence*

5 1 The natural soil horizon was homogenous throughout the site to a depth of at least 1m and consisted of an unsorted mixture of sand and gravels up to 100mm in size, presumably forming part of the same sands and gravels as exploited within the gravel pit at Pallet Hill, 1km to the north. The gravels were predominantly sandstone or chert derived from the Yoredale series of carboniferous rocks located to the west of the development area. Overlying the natural gravel was a subsoil of relict ploughsoil up to 0.45m thick consisting of a fine, silty loam, almost indistinguishable from the topsoil except for a lesser amount of humus and few roots.

5 2 The topsoil (01) had been stripped from most of the site before archaeological monitoring commenced (Plate 1). The soil had been retained on site for re-use, so an examination of the soil heaps was carried out with the aid of a metal detector. At the north-eastern and southern extremities of the site the topsoil survived along the site boundaries and was examined during the excavation of foundations. The topsoil varied in depth from 0.25m to 0.3m thick, being a dark brown silty loam containing animal bones, bottle glass, metal fragments and occasional sherds of pottery ranging in date from Roman to modern. Of note were a potsherd from a Nene Valley folded beaker of probable 3rd-century date and a fragment of fired clay, possibly part of a loom weight. Numerous fragments of modern building materials were also observed including window glass and wooden frames, brick, tile and mortar, and asbestos and corrugated iron roofing sheets.

### *Access ramp*

5 3 Topsoil (1000) here was approximately 0.2m deep, overlying a disturbed deposit of silty gravel incorporating modern brick and other debris. A single sherd from the handle of a colour-coated Nene Valley Ware flagon of probable 4th-century date was recovered from the topsoil.

### *Trench I*

5 4 The natural gravel (102) was encountered at a depth of 0.55m, and continued to at least 0.9m depth, the limit of excavation. No archaeological features were encountered within this layer. Cutting through the overlying subsoil (101) in the north-east corner (Figure 3) but overlain by the topsoil was a rubbish pit (103), straight sided and with a flat bottom. Within this pit was a mixture of relatively



modern refuse (104), predominantly ash and cinder but also including an internal screw bottle neck, modern porcelain, sawn animal bone and an iron can. The base of the pit had a layer of humus overlain by 5mm of sand. The topsoil (100) contained only modern debris.

- 5 5 At the southern end of the western wall trench, part of ASUD's evaluation Trench 3 was encountered in the form of a backfilled cut containing roots and turf overlying the natural gravel. The trench had been backfilled such that the natural gravel and upper soils had been replaced separately.

### ***Trench II***

- 5 6 All of the topsoil had been removed prior to monitoring. The natural gravel (202) continued to at least 0.75m. Cut through this layer at the southern end of the western wall trench II/W was a shallow, U-shaped ditch or gully (203) running approximately north-east to south-west (Figure 4, Section 1). This feature was not identified in the foundation trenches further to the north-east, possibly due to the nature of the natural gravels. The ditch was 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep, and was recorded for at least 2m (Plate 2). Filling the ditch was a single layer of sandy silt with 25% gravel. Also present were prominent lenses of yellow-orange silty clay following the profile of the ditch side (this feature aided the identification of the ditch). Overlying the natural gravel and ditch feature was 0.35m of subsoil (201).

### ***Trench III***

- 5 7 The natural gravel (302) was recorded to a depth of 0.9m beneath the modern ground level. Cut into the gravel were a number of features.
- 5 8 Within wall trench III/2 was a ditch, or possibly a pit (305), 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep and recorded for at least 1m. The ditch had a V-shaped profile and probably had a flat base, but due to disturbance caused by the excavator, this was not established. The ditch was not identified in adjacent trench sections. Filling ditch 305 was a single layer of reddish-brown sandy silt with 25-30% stones. A degraded rimsherd from a vessel in a vesicular fabric of possible early Romano-British date was recovered from this deposit.
- 5 9 Wall trench III/NW also revealed a V-shaped ditch (307), visible only in the south-east facing section (Figure 4, Section 2), which may have been another section of ditch 305. Approximately 0.5m wide by 0.6m deep, the fill (308) was again a single layer of reddish-brown sandy silt with frequent stones. No artefacts were recovered from this ditch, and there was no charcoal or animal bone. If the two features were parts of the same ditch, then the alignment would have been approximately north-westwards.
- 5 10 Feature 309 was an elongated pit recorded in wall trenches III/3 and III/NE, some 4m north-east to south-west by 1.4m north-west to south-east, and up to 0.3m deep. The pit was filled by a layer of dirty, yellow-brown sand (310), which contained no

charcoal, bone or artefacts. It was likely that this feature was natural, as a result of differential deposition within the sand and gravel deposits.

- 5 11 Subsoil 301 overlies the natural deposits and archaeological features to a depth of between 0.2m and 0.3m. At the western corner of Trench III was part of the backfilled Trench 1 of ASUD's 2003 evaluation, visible as a mass of turf and roots within a mixed soil as described in paragraph 5.5 above.

#### ***Trench IV***

- 5 12 In this trench the natural gravel (402) was encountered at a depth of 0.6m. Cut into the gravel within the northern wall trench IV/N were three features (Figure 4, Section 3).
- 5 13 The smallest of the features was a stakehole (403), approximately 0.2m deep and tapering from 0.2m wide at its highest point to 0.05m at the base, which was flat (Figure 4, Section 3). A single fill (406) was observed, consisting of firm silty loam with very occasional charcoal flecks but no artefacts.
- 5 14 Approximately 0.4m to the east of stakehole 403 was a larger posthole (404), 0.3m wide and at least 0.4m deep. The fill (405) was identical to that of stakehole 403, but contained a sherd of Samian pottery from a shallow vessel, possibly a platter and probably dating from the 2nd-century AD. This may have been residual, and washed in from the surface, but it might give a date for the use or removal of the two posts.
- 5 15 In the north-west corner of Trench IV was a pit (407) measuring at least 1m north to south by 0.4m east to west and cutting through the lower part of layer 401 and into the natural subsoil 402 (Plate 3). The pit was at least 0.75m deep, with a flat bottom and near-vertical sides. The primary fill of the pit (408) consisted of a large number of cobbles averaging 150mm x 100mm x 100mm in size and derived from river deposits. Many of the cobbles had been burnt and several were fire-reddened and cracked, apparently 'pot-boilers'. Surrounding the cobbles and filling the rest of the pit was a dark grey-brown sandy silt with patches of reddened sand, 5% charcoal flecks and bone fragments. There were 252 fragments of animal bone, of which 25% were neonatal pig remains, while cow, horse and goose were all represented. Some of the bone splinters indicated that the bone had been heavily butchered. Also within this deposit were a large piece of iron-smelting slag, part of a possible triangular clay loom weight and a rimsherd of pottery from a 2nd- or 4th-century hand-made vessel.
- 5 16 Palaeoenvironmental analysis of a sample of the matrix identified charred cereal grains including seven from hulled barley and one from naked barley, and three oats. Two seeds from the pea family were also recorded.
- 5 17 Overlying the natural gravel and smaller features was 0.35m of subsoil (401) and 0.25m of topsoil (400). Pit 407 had been cut through the lower part of layer 401 but appeared to be broadly contemporary with it. Layer 401 contained a juvenile cow humerus and pig and cow teeth, plus a sherd of 2nd- to 3rd-century greyware with a

burnished lattice finish Topsoil 400 contained six Romano-British potsherds, including one from a colour-coated 3rd- to 4th-century Nene Valley beaker and part of a 3rd-century flanged bowl

### *Trench V*

- 5 18 The natural gravel (502) was encountered at a depth of between 0.45 and 0.75m. Cut into the gravel were three features, two ditches and a pit
- 5 19 The most prominent feature was a linear ditch, recorded for a length of at least 8m running in a north-easterly direction (Plate 4). The ditch (503) had a shallow, U-shaped profile up to 1m wide and 0.3m deep (Figure 4, Section 4). The location and alignment of this feature suggested that it may have been part of the same ditch as feature 203 in Trench II. The northern part of the ditch was truncated by the backfilled trench of ASUD's evaluation Trench 2 so plausibly it would equate with feature F9 recorded during that phase of investigation. Ditch 503 had a single layer of silty loam (504), which contained a few large pieces of charcoal in addition to smaller flecks, small pieces of animal bone and one sheep tooth
- 5 20 Within wall trench V/S was a second ditch (505) some 3m to the west of ditch 503. This ditch was aligned north-north-eastwards, but was only visible within one wall trench (wall trench V/W, running north to south unmediately north of this section, was likely to have removed the remainder of this feature). Ditch 505 was U-shaped, 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep, and contained a single layer of silty loam fill (506) which had a few flecks of charcoal but no animal bone or artefacts. It was possible that ditch 505 was part of the feature recorded by ASUD as feature F5, a gully which meandered somewhat from a north-easterly to northerly direction within the northern 10m of evaluation Trench 2
- 5 21 The final feature recorded in Trench V was a shallow pit (507) visible only within the south facing side of wall trench V/S, mid-way between ditches 503 and 505. The pit was 0.75m wide, 0.18m deep and had a shallow U-shaped profile. A single layer of dirty, yellow-brown sand (508) was the only fill, although the very bottom of the fill contained flecks of coal up to 3mm in size, apparently having been deposited by water action. It therefore seems likely that this feature was a natural deposit
- 5 22 Overlying the natural gravel and cut features were 0.45m of subsoil (501) and, in the south-western corner, 0.3m of topsoil (500). A sherd of Samian pottery was recovered from the topsoil

## 6 0 DISCUSSION

- 6 1 The natural sub-soils observed throughout the site consisted of mixed gravel and sand, laid down on the floodplain of the River Swale. Cut into the gravel were a number of pits, ditches and postholes representing occupation of the land prior to a period of medieval or later ploughing

- 6 2 Several of the ditches coincided with features identified during the previous evaluation programme and it is likely that some represent continuations of the same features. A pair of small ditches identified within Trench V (503 and 505), and possibly ditch 203 in Trench II, are probably continuations of a pair of ditches identified within evaluation Trench 2 (Figure 2). These gullies may, in turn, be related to features identified within Richardson's Coal Depot. They probably represent the remains of a series of small fields or enclosures, possibly associated with the Anglian *grubenhaus* and post-built structure located immediately to the west.
- 6 3 Only three of the features contained dating evidence. Pit feature 407, located at the north end of the site, appeared to be a refuse pit, containing animal bone, potboilers, Romano-British pottery, part of a loom weight and a piece of Romano-British iron-smelting slag. The bone was from a range of domestic animals and there were also charred remains of a number of arable plants. Close to this pit was a posthole containing a sherd of Samian pottery, and a stake-hole. It is possible that these features represent the very edge of an area of settlement. Similar pits filled with Romano-British debris were recorded during evaluation of land to the south of Richardson's Coal Depot (YAT 1995). Ditch 305, also toward the north of the site, yielded rimsherds from a coarsely made vessel, potentially of Romano-British date. The ditch was aligned parallel to Dere Street, and may be part of a Romano-British enclosure. The pottery recovered from the topsoil comprised a number of diagnostic sherds of Romano-British date and a few medieval to post-medieval pieces. There was no Anglian element to the assemblage.
- 6 4 The ditches at 38 Leeming Lane and the features at the adjoining Richardson's Coal Depot should be considered to be parts of the same site. Unlike the previously recorded Anglian sites at Catterick, no Anglo-Saxon artefacts of any description have been identified. A well-worn, pierced Roman com and quantities of bread wheat, however, suggest a post-Roman date for the site. There is, furthermore, much evidence on other sites for the re-use during the Anglo-Saxon period of Roman material such as pottery and glass vessels and bone combs (e.g. Taylor-Wilson 1996, 26–8). It is therefore probable that this site represents the continuity of activity from the Romano-British period into the Anglian one.
- 6 5 The development of new housing at several sites along the southern half of Leeming Lane, Catterick has produced evidence of a historic landscape of Romano-British and Anglian date. The surviving archaeology comprises gullies and ditches, some apparently aligned on Dere Street Roman road, and possible settlement evidence. Each subsequent intervention provides a small quantity of data and it is clear that only a large-scale excavation will allow proper interpretation of the remains.

## 7 0 ASSESSMENT OF SITE ARCHIVE

### *Initial analysis*

- 7 1 As part of the assessment of the site records the following level of analysis has been undertaken
- 7 2 A matrix has been drawn up for the site showing the stratigraphic relationships between the individual contexts Initial dating from the recovered artefacts has been integrated into each matrix in order to allow the site to be divided into chronological periods
- 7 3 Plans and sections were checked against context record sheets to ensure full cross referencing Catalogues of context and illustration records have been input onto a computerised database
- 7 4 Catalogues of slide and print photographs have been input onto a computerised database The quantification of the site record is as follows

#### Table 1 Primary archive inventory

Context descriptions (Appendix A)	42
Plans	1
Sections	17
Colour slide films	3

#### Table 2 Summary of contexts

Cut features	11
Deposits	12
Soils and subsoils	19

### *Recommendations for further analysis*

- 7 5 The results of the assessment of the site archive have been integrated with specialist analysis of the environmental and artefactual material recovered
- 7 6 It is recommended that a specialist opinion be sought for the sherds of Samian pottery and that it is included in any publication of pottery from Catterick

### *Storage and curation*

- 7 7 The written, drawn and photographic records and the majority of the artefacts are currently held by Northern Archaeological Associates. The remaining artefacts are with the relevant specialists.
- 7 8 The retention and disposal policy for the assemblage from 38 Leeming Lane will involve keeping only the Romano-British pottery as the assemblage would add to the corpus of evidence for Roman occupation in the Catterick area. The archive will be deposited, with the owner's consent, with the Richmondshire Museum.

### *Specialists finds assessments*

Table 3 Finds assemblage

Artefact type	Quantity
Pottery sherds	28
Fired clay	2
Slag	1
Animal bone	47
Palaeoenvironmental Samples	2

### *Pottery (Appendix B)*

- 7 9 A total of 27 sherds, weighing 215g and having an average sherd weight of 8g was submitted for examination. This is a small Romano-British assemblage spanning the 2nd- to 4th-century, of little evidential value or intrinsic interest.

### *Fired clay and slag (Appendix C)*

- 7 10 A total of 542g (3 pieces) of fired clay and slag were submitted for recording. The two stratified objects found in feature 407 do not appear to be of Anglian date, but their identifications are tentative. The slag is extremely dense but as no true surfaces survive its identification is difficult. The density suggests a smelting slag, a by-product of iron production in some type of bloomery furnace.

### *Palaeoenvironmental remains (Appendix D)*

- 7 11 Biological remains recovered from two samples and a small quantity of hand-collected bone were submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential. Most of the bone fragments were recovered from the fill of a single pit, suggesting that conditions for bone survival were good in this area but that specific features used for the disposal of bone were not encountered during this intervention. Context 504 was very unproductive, whilst context 408 produced some charcoal and charred cereal grains that were likely to be of ancient origin.

7 12 The current assemblages of plant and vertebrate remains are small and too poorly dated to warrant further consideration

## **8 0 SIGNIFICANCE OF RESULTS**

8 1 The results of the archaeological investigations of the site at 38 Leeming Lane are of limited significance with respect to the features identified and artefactual assemblage recovered. However the remains represent a small fraction of a multiphase site, occupied over a substantial period of time, and the focus of this lay beyond the limits of the development

### **Stratigraphic analysis**

8 2 The limited amount of stratigraphy on site was such that it allowed no phasing of the contexts to be established. The features encountered were all relatively truncated by medieval and later activity, and identified only within the limits of individual building foundation trenches, resulting in a series of short individual stratigraphic sequences, all of which are fully understood. As a result further analysis of the site record is not considered to be warranted

### **Artefactual record**

8 3 The quality, quantity and range of artefacts recovered from the site at 38 Leeming Lane were very limited. The importance of the assemblage is low. While the pottery does not enhance the interpretation of the site, it has the potential to contribute towards the corpus of evidence for Romano-British settlement activity within the wider vicinity. No further work on the artefact assemblage is recommended although the pottery should be retained for future comparative purposes

### **Palaeoenvironmental record**

8 4 The small number of palaeoenvironmental samples yielded little information to further the understanding of the site. Similarly, the assemblage of animal bones recovered from the site was too small to be of interpretative value. Sufficient organic material was recovered to facilitate C14 dating of some features, but the lack of stratigraphy and the nature of the artefactual assemblage indicate that this would not add significantly to the site interpretation. No further work is recommended for the palaeoenvironmental remains, and further retention would be of little value

## **9 0 POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS**

9 1 The excavations at 38 Leeming Lane have resulted in the investigation of part of a previously recorded Romano-British site, with occupation potentially extending into the Anglo-Saxon period. The assessment of the results indicates that further work on either the archive or the artefactual assemblage would do little to enhance the record

## **10 0 CONCLUSIONS**

- 10 1 While the interpretation of the site is not certain, it is possible that the ditches formed part of an enclosure close to Dere Street. The pit and accompanying artefactual evidence suggests that the site was used to deposit debris from a nearby domestic structure during the 2nd- to 4th-centuries. The evidence from the evaluation and work on the adjoining land suggests that settlement continued on the site into the Anglo-Saxon period.

Northern Archaeological Associates

Report No NAA 06/109

Project No 631

Date July 2006

Text Oliver Cooper

Illustrations Damien Ronan and Dawn Knowles

Edited by Peter Cardwell



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Appendix A

CONTEXT AND FINDS CATALOGUE

Table A1 Context and finds catalogue

Ctxt	Description	Animal bone	Cu alloy	Fired clay	Glass	Industrial waste	Pb	Pottery
1	Topsoil-general		1	4	1		2	7
100	Topsoil							
101	Subsoil							
102	Natural							
103	Cut of pit							
104	Fill of pit 103							
200	Topsoil							
201	Subsoil							
202	Natural							
203	Cut of ditch							
204	Fill of ditch 203							
300	Topsoil							
301	Subsoil							
302	Natural							
303	Natural sand							
304	Trench backfill							
305	Cut of ditch							
306	Fill of ditch 305							6
307	Cut of ditch							
308	Fill of ditch 307							
309	Cut of gully							
310	Fill of gully 309							
400	Topsoil							7
401	Subsoil	3						1
402	Natural							
403	Cut of stakehole							
404	Cut of posthole							
405	Fill of posthole 404							2
406	Fill of stakehole 403							
407	Cut of pit							
408	Fill of pit 407	43		5		1		3
409	Cobbles, pit 407							
500	Topsoil							1
501	Subsoil							
502	Natural							
503	Cut of ditch							
504	Fill of ditch 503	1						
505	Cut of ditch							

<b>Ctxt</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Animal bone</b>	<b>Cu alloy</b>	<b>Fired clay</b>	<b>Glass</b>	<b>Industrial waste</b>	<b>Pb</b>	<b>Pottery</b>
506	Fill of ditch 505							
507	Cut of pit							
508	Fill of pit 507							
1000	Topsoil, access ramp							1
	<b>Total</b>	47	1	9	1	1	2	28

## **Appendix B**

### **POTTERY**

*Peter Didsbury*

#### **Introduction and methodology**

A total of 27 sherds, weighing 215g and having an average sherd weight of 8g was submitted for examination. All material was quantified by the two measures of count and weight, according to fabric within archaeological context. Data was entered onto an Access database, which is provided as an integral part of this report and which should be consulted where appropriate. Detailed description of material has largely been confined to the database. Fabric codes employed in the database are given in an appendix, below.

#### **Discussion the assemblages**

##### *Trench 3*

Fill 306 of ditch 305 contained five small joining rim fragments in grey hand-made vesicular ware, the original temper having leached out either during use or post-depositionally. The material is almost certainly Romano-British, possibly from the earlier part of the period, but is not closely datable. The database may be consulted for a full description.

##### *Trench 4*

Topsoil 400 contained a chronologically mixed assemblage of seven sherds. All except for a body sherd from a 19th-century brown stoneware colander was of Romano-British date. The only chronologically diagnostic material comprised a sherd of 3rd- or 4th-century Nene Valley colour-coated ware, and a greyware straight-sided flanged bowl. The formal characteristics of the latter perhaps suggest an earlier 3rd-century date as the most appropriate. The database may be consulted for details of the remaining material. Subsoil 401 yielded a single small fragment of burnished greyware, with lattice decoration. A 2nd- or earlier 3rd-century date would be appropriate.

Fill 405 of posthole 404 contained two joining sherds of freshly fractured Samian. The sherds cannot be attributed to form without specialist opinion. The fabric is likely to be Central Gaulish, and therefore essentially of 2nd-century date.

Fill 408 of pit 407 contained three sherds in Roman grit-tempered fabrics. These include a large sherd from the rim and upper body of a small jar with upright, slightly curved rim and rather vertical wall. The vessel is probably hand-made or wheel-finished, rather than fully wheel-thrown, and has a well-smoothed black exterior. The form can not be paralleled at all closely in the published Catterick form series (Wilson 2002). The vessel could either be an early Roman form (perhaps 2nd-century in date) or be a Late Roman hand-made form of the 4th-century. Further literature search might resolve this matter.

##### *Trench 5*

Topsoil 500 contained a single small flake of Samian ware, possibly central Gaulish.

*Topsoil (general)*

Topsoil 0001 yielded seven sherds. Up to five of these were Roman, the only diagnostic material being a possible sherd from a 3rd-century Nene Valley folded beaker. Post-Roman material comprised a sherd of late medieval Northern reduced Greenware and a handle fragment of later 18th- or 19th-century Blackware.

*Access ramp*

Topsoil 1000 contained a single sherd of Roman colour-coated ware, a handle fragment which is probably from a 4th-century Nene Valley flagon (cf. Howe, Perrin and Mackreth 1980, fig. 6).

**Conclusions and recommendations**

These are small Roman assemblages spanning the second to late fourth century, of little evidential value or intrinsic interest. No further work is considered necessary, though both the jar from 408 and the few fragments of Samian could profitably be included in any forthcoming publication of material from Bridge Road, Brompton on Swale (Didsbury 2003).

*Fabric codes employed in the database*

Fabric terminology is mainly generic. Other terms are in common regional or national use or are self-explanatory. The Roman nomenclature is the same as that used in Didsbury 2003.

<i>Code</i>	<i>Common name</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
H4	Hand-made vesicular wares	
LBLAK	Late Blackware	
MODSW	Modern stoneware	
NRG	Northern reduced Greenware	
RCC	Roman colour-coated wares	
RG	Roman greyware	
RGRIT	Roman grit-tempered wares	
RO	Roman oxidised wares	
RS	Roman Samian	
RWS	Roman white-slipped wares	Mainly on oxidised bodies
UNAT	Unattributed to type/period	

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Table B1 Pottery database

Id	Tr	Ctxt	Fabric	No	Wt	Remarks
1		0001	NRG	1	24	Body Late medieval (c 1350-1500) or conceivably post-medieval
2		0001	LBLAK?	1	3	Handle fragment, 18th- or 19th-century Less likely to be 17th-century Blackware, and certainly not Cistercian Ware
3		0001	RCC	2	4	Bodies, probably beaker, different vessels One probably from a Nene Valley 3rd-century folded beaker, fabric as sherds in 400 and 1000 Other is orange-buff with brown colour coat
4		0001	RO?	3	9	Fragments of two vessels, one in fairly fine orange to light red fabric with grey internal core margin, the other light red-brown and rather coarse Either or both might be medieval
5	4	0408	RGRIT	3	71	Thick-walled body sherd of very dark grey gritty ware with oxidised surface Also rim/upper body of a small jar and a fragment from the same vessel Probably hand-made or wheel-finished, rather than wheel-thrown <i>sensu stricto</i> Slightly curved upright rim and fairly vertical profile Fully reduced throughout, dense fabric with well smoothed to burnished black exterior Extensive sooting deposits externally Nothing similar in form series in Wilson 2002
6		1000	RCC	1	5	Handle fragment with central groove, incomplete cross-section Cream body with dark brown colour coat Probably Nene Valley and from a 4th-century flagon or jar, possibly second half of century Cf Howe <i>et al</i> 1980, fig 6
7	4	0405	RS	2	25	Joining freshly fractured base sherds of a platter (?) form Micaceous and possibly Central Gaulish Perhaps an unusual form variant <i>Needs specialist opinion</i>
8	3	0306	H4	5	11	Joining rim fragments in coarse, vesicular, possibly hand-made ware, greyish in colour Possibly from a jar with long upright to slightly everted rim, flat-topped Extremely difficult to date, but a Roman period jar in a 'native' fabric tradition is a possibility, perhaps not later than the 2nd-century AD
9	4	0401	RG	1	4	Body, light grey with burnished lattice, possibly of 2nd- or earlier 3rd-century date
10	5	0500	RS	1	6	Body, slip almost completely eroded Very micaceous, possibly Central Gaulish
11	4	0400	MODSW	1	22	Perforated body, colander, 19th-century
12	4	0400	RCC	1	1	Fragment, fabric as in 1000, Nene Valley?

<b>Id</b>	<b>Tr</b>	<b>Ctxt</b>	<b>Fabric</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Wt</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
13	4	0400	RS	1	1	Flake
14	4	0400	RG	1	26	Flanged bowl, dark grey with white core margins The flange, which is not extant, was high on the vessel, so possibly the first half of the third century would be an appropriate date, rather than later
15	4	0400	UNAT	2	1	Crumbs of 'black' slightly gritty ceramic Romano-British
16	4	0400	RWS	1	2	Rather gritty off-white fragment, with light red exterior covered by white slip Romano-British



## Appendix C

### FIRED CLAY AND SLAG

*Jane Cowgill*

#### Introduction

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in advance of the construction of three new dwellings. A number of pits, postholes and ditches were observed within the foundation trenches, some were modern in date but others were interpreted as being part of the Anglian settlement complex recorded nearby. The only piece of slag and one of the pieces of fired clay was recovered from the only pit in Trench IV, which also contained animal bone and pottery.

#### Recording methodology

A total of 542g (3 pieces) of fired clay and slag were submitted for recording. The finds were identified solely on morphological grounds by visual examination, sometimes with the aid of a x10 binocular microscope. It was recorded on a *pro forma* recording sheet and this information was entered directly into the catalogue below. The fired clay finds were reassembled using HMG adhesive.

#### Discussion

The two stratified objects found in feature 407 do not appear to be of Anglian date, but their identifications are tentative. The piece of oxidised and reduced fired clay has no obvious added temper and has a mainly flat face with part of a curved corner. This could possibly be a part of a triangular loom-weight and could therefore be of Late Iron Age or Romano-British date, however, very little of this object survives. The slag is extremely dense but as no true surfaces survive its identification is difficult. The density suggests a smelting slag, a by-product of iron production in some type of bloomery furnace. It appears to be in a fairly fresh condition but it is a bit strange in that all the faces are fractured, something that seldom happens to these very dense solid slags.

The fired clay from the topsoil may again be an object fragment, rather than plaster, daub or any other potential structural element. It again has a flattish face and the clay has no added inclusions.

Table C1 Catalogue of fired clay and slag

Context	Trench	Description	Type	No	Weight	Comments
01		Topsoil	Fired clay	1	17g	Object fragment?
408	IV	Fill of pit 407	Fired clay	1	55g	Object fragment?
408	IV	Fill of pit 407	Slag	1	470g	Block smelting slag?

## **Appendix D**

### **PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

*Orni Akeret, Juliet Mant and Deborah Jaques*

#### **Summary**

Biological remains recovered from two samples and a small quantity of hand-collected bone, recovered from deposits encountered during a watching brief at 38 Leeming Lane, Catterick Village, North Yorkshire, were submitted for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential. Features such as pits, postholes and ditches were revealed, some of which were of modern date, whilst others may have related to the Anglian settlement identified during previous excavations in the adjacent plot. Three sherds of pottery of 2nd- or 4th-century date were recovered from pit fill 408.

Ancient plant remains were mainly recovered from context 408 and were mostly charred cereal grains and charcoal. Uncharred plant remains from both of the sampled deposits were thought to be of modern origin.

The vertebrate assemblage was small and too poorly dated to be of much interpretive value. Most of it was recovered from context 408 and included a quantity of bones representing at least two neonatal (or possibly foetal) pigs. Evidence of butchery suggested that the cattle and large mammal bones had been heavily chopped.

The current assemblages of plant and vertebrate remains are poorly dated and insufficient to warrant further consideration.

#### **Introduction**

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Northern Archaeological Associates at 38 Leeming Lane, Catterick Village, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 241 976) during June 2004.

The watching brief was undertaken during topsoil stripping prior to the construction of an access road and during the excavation of foundation trenches for three new houses. Features such as pits, postholes and ditches were revealed, some of which were of modern date, whilst others may have related to the Anglian settlement identified during previous excavations in the adjacent plot. Three sherds of pottery of 2nd- or 4th-century date were recovered from pit fill 408.

Remains recovered from two sediment samples ('GBA'/'BS' *sensu* Dobney *et al* 1992) processed by NAA and a small quantity of hand-collected bone were submitted to Palaeoecology Research Services Limited (PRS), County Durham, for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

#### **Methods**

##### ***Sediment samples***

The sediment sub-samples were processed by NAA prior to delivery to PRS, and the unsorted 'flots' (hereafter termed washovers) and biological remains recovered from the residues submitted for evaluation. The weights and volumes of the sub-samples were recorded before being placed onto 500

micron nylon mesh in a sieving tank. The light organic fraction was washed over into a 500 micron sieve to collect the washovers. Both the washover and residue fractions of the processed sub-samples were dried.

Nomenclature for plant species follows Stace (1997)

#### *Hand-collected vertebrate remains*

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

Fragments were identified to species or species group using the PRS modern comparative reference collection. The bones that could not be identified to species were described as the 'unidentified' fraction. Within this fraction, fragments were grouped into three categories: large mammal (assumed to be cattle, horse or large cervid), medium-sized mammal (assumed to be caprovid, pig or small cervid) and completely unidentifiable. These are shown as 'unidentified' in Table D1.

## Results

### *Sediment samples*

The results are presented in context number order with archaeological information provided by the excavator presented in square brackets. A brief summary of the processing method and an estimate of the remaining volume of unprocessed sediment follows (in round brackets) after the sample numbers (this information was also provided by the excavator).

*Context 408 (fill of pit 407, 3 sherds of Roman pot either 2nd- or 4th- century)*

#### *Sample AA*

(6kg/5 litres sieved to 500 microns with washover, approximately 5 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

The washover mostly consisted of an appreciable quantity of charcoal fragments. The following charred remains were also identified: eight grains of barley (*Hordeum distichon* L / *H. vulgare* L), seven of the hulled and one of the naked variety, three grains of oat (*Avena*), ten cereal grains that could not be identified more precisely, two seeds of a representative of the pea family (Fabaceae) and one nutlet of bedstraw (*Galium*). Uncharred rootlets were present and the following other uncharred plant remains: two seeds of orache (*Atriplex*), five nutlets of dead-nettle (*Lamium*), one seed of long-headed/common poppy (*Papaver dubium* L / *P. rhoeas* L), one fruit stone of raspberry (*Rubus idaeus* L), 30 seeds of elder (*Sambucus nigra* L), and 48 achenes of common nettle (*Urtica dioica* L). There were also two earthworm egg capsules (probably modern) and two beetle fragments (also probably modern).

Vertebrate remains from this sample were quite numerous, amounting to 252 fragments. Of these more than half were less than 20mm in maximum dimension. Fragmentation resulted from fresh breakage but had also occurred in the past and was probably a consequence of the butchery techniques employed. Some of the fragments were slivers or chunks that were waste from chopping the carcasses. Fourteen of the fragments were burnt, and were blue or white in colour.

Sixty-three fragments were identified as neonatal (possibly even foetal) pig remains. At least two individuals were noted, with most fragments being from the head or fore limbs, although two pelves were also present. Other identified fragments included several horse teeth (possibly mandibular), all of which appeared to have been chopped, two cow teeth (dP4, M2 probably from the mandible recovered in the hand-collected assemblage), a few caprovid remains and a goose distal ulna.

*Context 504 (fill of ditch 503, no dating evidence)*

#### *Sample AB*

(7kg/3.5 litres sieved to 500 microns with washover, approximately 3.5 litres of unprocessed sediment remain)

The washover from the sub-sample consisted mainly of uncharred rootlets, with small charcoal fragments and pieces of coal and cinder. A few uncharred seeds and fruits were identified, including one nutlet of dead-nettle, one seed of elder and two achenes of common nettle. Also present was a single fragment of unidentified bone.

#### *Hand-collected vertebrate remains*

A small collection of 32 bones was recovered from three deposits (contexts 401, 408 and 504) investigated during the archaeological watching brief (Table D1). These remains were of reasonable preservation, although damage resulting from fresh breakage was extensive. A single mandible with teeth *in situ* could provide age-at-death information.

Most of the vertebrate remains (28 fragments) were recovered from a pit fill (context 408) dated to the Roman period, probably 2nd- or 4th-century. The bones were fairly well preserved, although several of them had been fragmented during excavation or post-excavation processes. A cattle metapodial from this deposit showed scorch marks on the distal condyle. Other identified remains included a fragmented cattle mandible from an adult animal, with a phalanx and two tarsal bones from immature individuals. A goose radius, consistent in size with that of a greylag goose, was also recovered from this deposit, together with a very young pig humerus which was obviously associated with the neonatal/foetal pig remains recovered from the sample (see above). Bones that could not be identified to species included a fragmented large mammal metacarpal and a butchered medium-sized mammal femur, together with fragments of rib from both large and medium-sized mammals.

Vertebrate remains were also recovered from two undated deposits. A ditch (context 504) produced a single sheep/goat tooth, whilst a juvenile cow humerus and both pig and cattle teeth were recovered from the subsoil (context 401).

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

Both sampled contexts contained uncharred plant and animal remains. With the exception of the bones, these were probably modern contaminants. Uncharred plant remains generally only survive in waterlogged contexts, but it seems unlikely that waterlogging occurred in the analysed sediments as the diversity of plant taxa was low and there was an absence of more delicate remains that usually survive in waterlogged conditions. Context 504 was very unproductive, whilst context 408 produced some charcoal and charred cereal grains that were likely to be of ancient origin.

If radiocarbon dating of the deposits is required, the barley grains from context 408 are suitable for submission (using AMS) No material of use for dating was found in context 504

The assemblage of vertebrate remains recovered from this site was of reasonable preservation but was too small and too poorly dated to be of much interpretative value Most of the fragments were recovered from the fill of a single pit, suggesting that conditions for bone survival were good in this area but that specific features used for the disposal of bone were not encountered during this intervention

Species identified included the three main domesticates (cattle, sheep/goat and pig) and goose The presence of remains of very young pigs suggested that these animals may have been bred at the site There was some evidence of butchery indicating that the remains had been quite heavily chopped and the extensive fragmentation recorded may be, at least in part, a result of these butchery techniques

Numerous interventions, including rescue excavations, have been undertaken in Catterick and although animal bone has not always been recovered from these, a synthetic study of the vertebrate remains from several sites in the area (of Roman date) has been published (Stallibrass 2002) Additional data is always useful but this assemblage is too small and too poorly dated to add anything of value However, it appears that bone generally survives well in this area, and in the event of further excavations in the vicinity this should be borne in mind

#### Recommendations

No further work on the current material is warranted

#### Retention and disposal

Unless required for dating, all of the recovered remains may be discarded

#### Archive

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

Table D1 Hand-collected vertebrate remains

Species		Roman (C2nd/4th)	Undated	Total
<i>Bos f domestic</i>	cattle	8	2	10
<i>Sus f domestic</i>	pig	1	1	2
<i>Caprovid</i>	sheep/goat	-	1	1
<i>Anser sp</i>	goose	1	-	1
unidentified		18	-	18
Total		28	4	32

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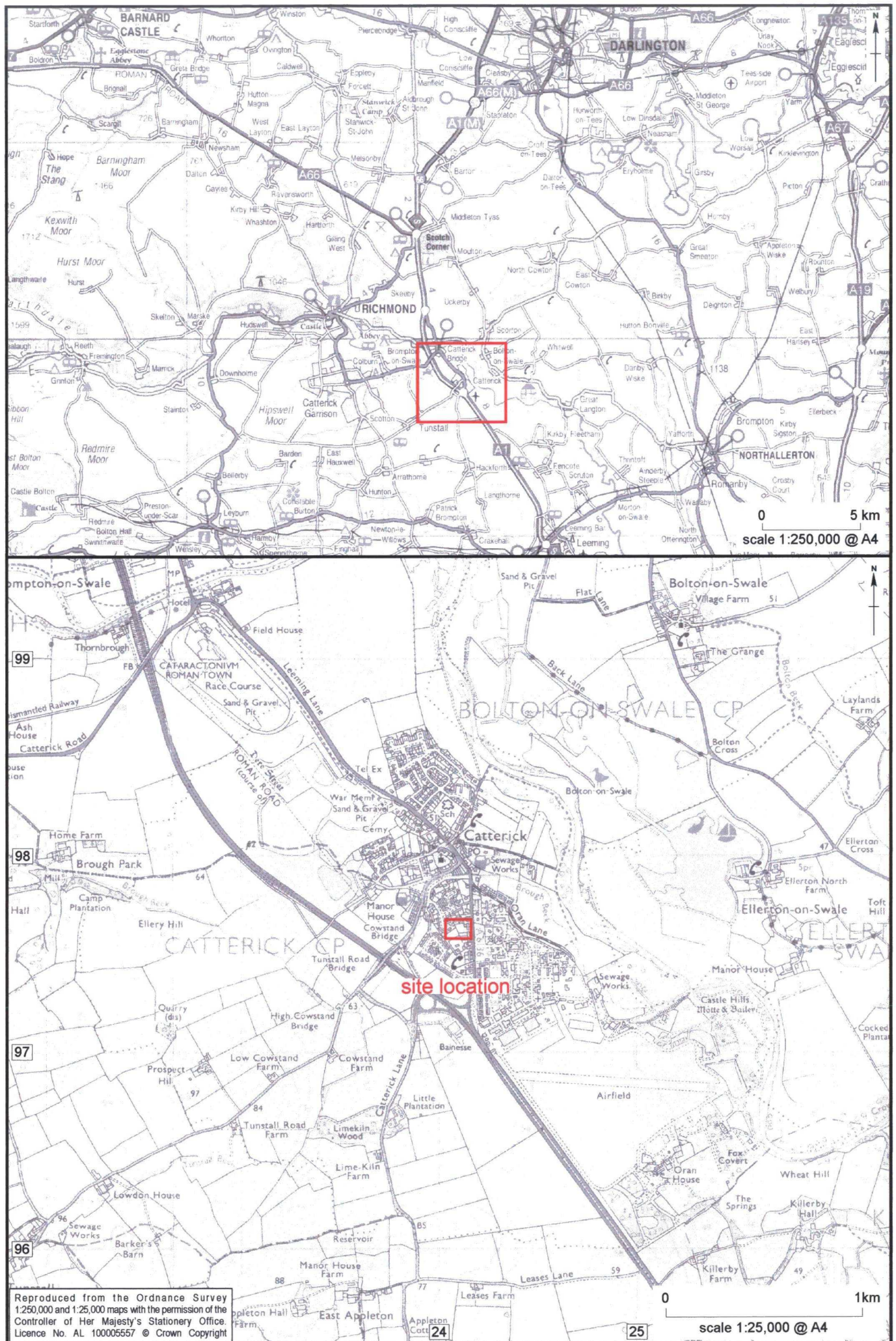


Figure 1 Leeming Lane, Catterick: site location



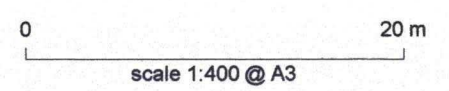
KEY

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- Archaeological Services, University of Durham trial trenching 2003
- Richardson's Coal Depot excavation 1996



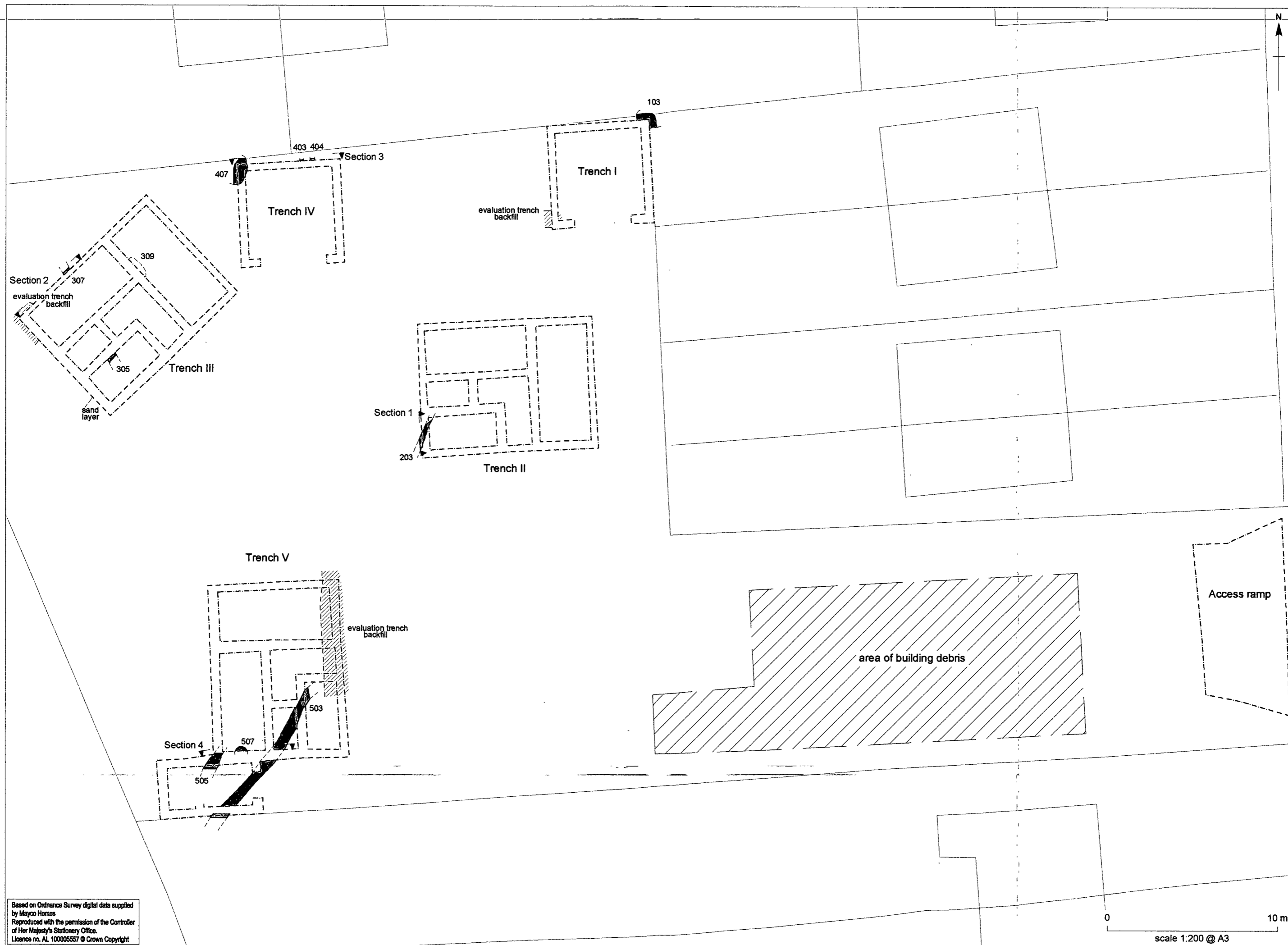
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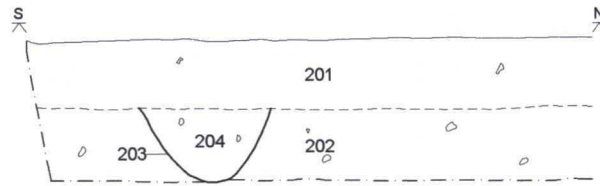




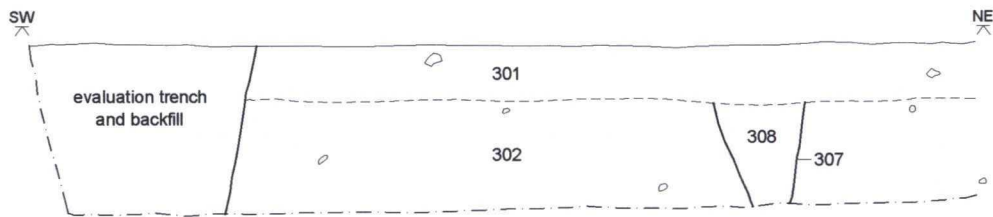
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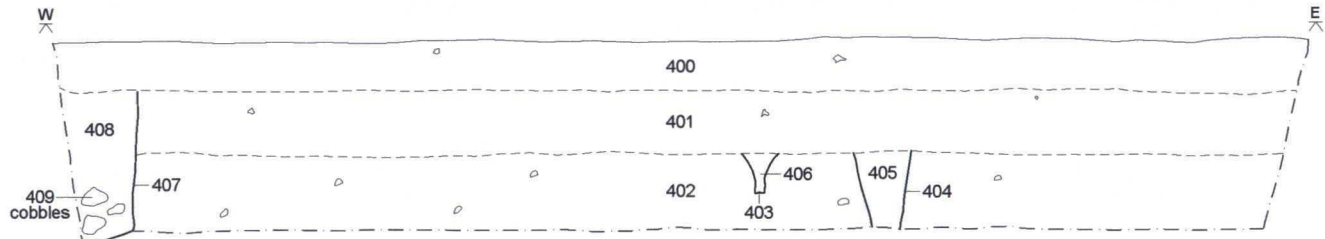
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Section 2: Trench III/NW



Section 3: Trench IV/N



Section 4: Trench V/S

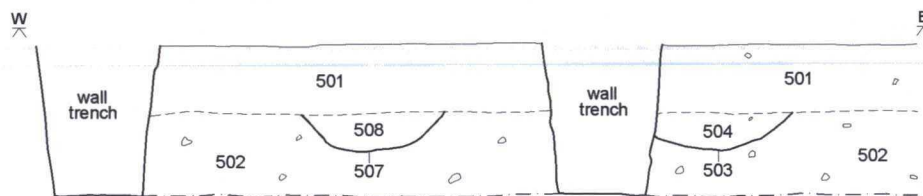


Figure 4 Leeming Lane, Catterick: sections 1-4



*Plate 1 Leeming Lane, Catterick: view of site after soil stripping*



*Plate 2 Leeming Lane, Catterick: ditch 203 in Trench 2*



*Plate 3 Leeming Lane, Catterick: pit 407 in Trench 4*



*Plate 4 Leeming Lane, Catterick: ditch 503 in Trench 5*