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NAA

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

VOLUME I

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ALLERTON PARK QUARRY,
NORTH YORKSHIRE

on behalf of

Hanson Aggregates plc

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ALLERTON PARK QUARRY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

VOLUME I

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 Location, topography and geology	3
3.0 Archaeological background	4
4.0 Aims and objectives	7
5.0 Methodology	8
6.0 Excavation results	10
7.0 Specialist finds assessments	43
8.0 Assessment of the site archive	53
9.0 Conclusion and recommendations	57
References	60

ALLERTON PARK QUARRY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT REPORT

VOLUME I

Summary

This document presents the results of archaeological excavation carried out in advance of Phase N1 and N2 extension at Allerton Park Quarry, North Yorkshire. Investigations were undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd on behalf of Hanson Aggregates plc from August to December 2007.

Investigations identified archaeological features dated to the early Bronze Age, the late Roman period and the post-Roman period. Early Bronze Age activity (Phase I) was identified by the recovery of a Beaker vessel of a quality usually deposited with contemporary burials, although its current context was not consistent with such a role. The Beaker could be dated to c.2250-1950cal BC by decorative characteristics.

Activity within the late Romano-British period (Phase II) was centred on two rectangular enclosures set within a complex of features that included a metalled surface, flanking ditches, a trackway and a field system. The geophysical survey identified a continuation of this complex into the proposed Phase N3 and N4 quarry extension to the north, with further aspects, such as the trackway, recorded to the east and west. Internally the enclosures contained possible inhumation burials, timber structures, metalled surfaces, and numerous pits, post-holes and ditches. The western area of the site contained a palaeochannel that was overlain by a continuation of the enclosure and field system complex. Both the palaeochannel and the field system had then been overlain by a further metalled surface, which seemingly functioned as a crossing point to a seasonally waterlogged area.

The artefactual material includes a pottery assemblage dated predominately to the late 3rd to 4th centuries and in many cases this could be focused to the mid to late 4th century. Domestic occupation of the site was evinced by the recovery of a fine glass pin with twisted decoration and a segment of a jet/shale ring. Construction was noted by the remains of two possible timber structures and fragments of iron nails, a joiner dog and fragments of Roman brick and tile. Evidence for both crop processing and butchered animal bone suggests a mixed farming economy of arable production and animal husbandry. Industrial activity was evinced by quantities of hammerscale. Snail shell recovered from the north-western area of the northern enclosure indicated the contemporary habitat was composed of dry, open areas, probably of short-turfed calcareous grassland.

Activity within the post-Roman period (Phase III) included an extensive series of medieval plough furrows across the eastern area of the site that had truncated the late

Romano-British remains. Other features included a post-medieval or modern sheep burial and a trackway which continued in use as a public footpath into the modern period.

The discoveries made at Allerton Park form part of a widespread local sequence of enclosure and land division during the Roman period. This has been identified beyond the extent of the current development as cropmarks and from the results of previous archaeological excavation. Additional phases of quarry extension at Allerton Park will require archaeological investigation of extensive areas of land that have the potential to contain multi-period occupation, of which the current findings form only a part. This has been hinted at by the stratigraphically earlier undated features and the extent of the enclosed landscape revealed by the geophysical survey undertaken within the field to the north. Evidence of this nature could significantly increase our understanding of how rural landscape and society changed in the region, not only through the Roman period, but also during the transition from the Iron Age. The site also has the potential to approach questions with regard to the distribution and nature of Bronze Age land enclosure within the area. The recovery of early Bronze Age Beaker may be indicative of further remains of this date within the vicinity.

Specialist assessment of the artefactual and palaeoenvironmental remains have recommended further detailed analysis of aspects of the pottery, quernstone, worked stone, small finds and the biological remains, together with selective illustration of the pottery, quernstones, worked stone and small finds. Occupation of the site has been closely dated by the pottery assemblage therefore radiocarbon dating of features using carbonised grain is not considered necessary.

Further analysis of the archaeological record and synthesis of specialist information should be directed towards establishing a more comprehensive interpretation of the site record to be included within a report for publication. A definitive series of phase plans should also be drawn up to illustrate the main components of the archaeological remains and their stratigraphic relationships.

The results of the excavations undertaken to date are of sufficient local and regional importance to warrant publication. It is recommended that a final report incorporating the combined results of the post-excavation assessment and detailed analysis should be prepared for publication.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeological investigations were undertaken as part of a programme of monitoring and investigation during soil stripping in advance of gravel extraction within land at Allerton Park Quarry, North Yorkshire (Figs. 1 and 2; Phase N1 and N2 extension). During the course of monitoring, the remains of a Romano-British enclosure complex were identified, with the main phase of activity dating from the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD. Investigation of these remains was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd on behalf of Hanson Aggregates plc from August to December 2007.
- 1.2 This post-excavation assessment report has been prepared in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (1991). The report summarises the historical and archaeological background of the site, describes the excavation methodology and details the results of the excavation. The specialist assessments of the artefactual and environmental information recovered are summarised and the significance of the excavated evidence is assessed. It outlines the proposals for detailed analysis of selective aspects of the site archive and recommends that the results of both the assessment and detailed analysis should be incorporated into a report for publication in an appropriate local journal such as the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal (YAJ).

2.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Location, topography and land-use

- 2.1 The site lay on the western side of the A1, approximately 6km to the south of Boroughbridge (Fig. 1; SE 4050 6100). The development area consisted of undulating rough pasture land. The enclosure complex was situated upon a glacial ridge that had a general north to south orientation and reached a maximum height of some 66m AOD (Fig. 2). Within the bottom of the slight valleys either side of the ridge, the ground became more waterlogged. The western valley contained the remains of a palaeochannel with remnants of a possible metalled crossing point and elements of a Romano-British field system. The ground levels originally fell quite significantly to the south, towards the area of the current quarry workings.

Geology

- 2.2 The underlying geology of the site comprised Sherwood sandstone (formerly Bunter group) overlain by superficial deposits of glacial sands and gravels (IGS 1978; BGS 1977). The soils are classified in the Bishampton 1 association and are described as deep, fine, loams, with slowly permeable sub-soils that are prone to seasonal waterlogging (SSEW 1983).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Site context

- 3.1 The site lies within the extreme south-west corner of the historic township of Marton. The location of the site and its relationship to other archaeological sites within the immediate vicinity is shown on Figure 1.

Early prehistoric

- 3.2 The early prehistoric period is poorly represented in the archaeological record for the area between Boroughbridge and Walshford. A small amount of residual late Mesolithic and Neolithic flint material was recovered during the Phase N2 excavations (Site 1) and also during trial trench evaluation at Flaxby (Site 3b). A Neolithic stone axe and Bronze Age stone axe hammer are recorded from Marton-cum-Grafton but the exact site location is unknown (Radley 1974; NMR 55298).
- 3.3 There is slightly better evidence for occupation and activity during the Bronze Age and early Iron Age periods but still insufficient to draw any meaningful conclusions regarding site distribution or site types. The remains of a Bronze Age beaker were recovered during the Phase N2 excavations within the quarry. North-east of the quarry, a late Bronze Age/early Iron Age palisaded enclosure (now destroyed) was located upon a ridge at Grafton Hills within Marton village (Site 2).
- 3.4 To the south of the quarry, a late Bronze Age or Iron Age urn together with deer bones was found during gravel quarrying immediately to the north of Flaxby, and two Bronze Age barrows were recorded between Coney Thorpe and Flaxby in the 19th century. These remains were possibly located upon a ridge in Ten Low Field, near where a circular hut, cobbled depression and sherds of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age 'flat rimmed ware' vessel were found during the 1960s (Site 3a) (Addyman, Coles and Hartley 1964). No evidence was identified to confirm whether this structure formed part of a settlement or a burial site.

Later prehistoric and Roman

- 3.5 The enclosure complex at Allerton Park Quarry is one of a small number of recorded sites of known probable Iron Age and Romano-British date within the western part of the Vale of York between Walshford and Boroughbridge. Within the immediate vicinity of the site, aerial photographs show cropmark evidence for three possible enclosure complexes with associated field systems and trackways to the west of the A1 (M) corridor (Sites 4, 5, 6 and 7) and a further complex to the west and south of Marton village (Sites 9 and 15 respectively). The Historic Environment Record also records a further six cropmark

- enclosures to the east of the site (Sites 16 and 17) but these cannot be substantiated.
- 3.6 Approximately 3km to the south, evaluation to the east of Ten Low Field, Flaxby (Site 3b) revealed an extensive area of ditched Iron Age and Romano-British field system interspersed with discrete areas of early Iron Age and Romano-British activity (NAA 1994c). One area of undated inhumation burials was identified and the presence of human bone within a ditch fill some distance away suggested that other parts of the site might contain burials. The practice of burial within the agricultural landscape, either in or alongside enclosure ditches or field boundaries, seems to have been common in Yorkshire during the Roman to Anglian periods, as for example at Parlinton Hollins on the A1-M1 Link Road (Roberts *et al* 2001, 83-105); at Hollow Banks, Scorton (Speed forthcoming) and at Thurnscoe, South Yorkshire (Neal and Fraser 2004, 7-92).
- 3.7 Immediately south of Site 3, archaeological monitoring during topsoil stripping in advance of gravel extraction at Allerton Grange Farm (Site 10) revealed the truncated remnants of a field system and trackway, although no dateable artefacts were recovered (NAA 1994b). Evaluation and excavation at Bayram Hill (SE 408 565), approximately 5km to the south of the quarry, revealed a ditched enclosure and accompanying field system previously recorded from aerial photographs (NAA 1994a). Finds suggested that the enclosure had been occupied from the late Iron Age to the 4th century AD. Evidence gained during excavations at Dalton Parlours has also indicated a continuity of settlement from the Iron Age through to the Roman period, with a shift in the focus of the location of settlement through time (Wrathmell and Nicholson 1990, 279).
- 3.8 In the wider local and regional context, the Roman town *Isurium* (modern Aldbrough) and the 1st century Roman fort and civilian settlement at Roeccliffe lies about 5km to the north centred on the crossing of the River Ure. Evidence for Iron Age and early Romano-British 'rural' settlement has been identified across a wide area on both banks of the Ure at Boroughbridge, Roeccliffe and Langthorpe (centred SE 385 660; NAA 1998). The route of the modern A1 runs roughly parallel to, and some 3-4km to the west of the line of Dere Street Roman road (Site 11), the main road from York to the northern frontier (Margary 1973, 427-8).
- 3.9 To the south of the quarry, the only other excavated site in the corridor between Wetherby and Boroughbridge is the probable Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure complex at Walshford (SE 417 543) which was excavated as part of the Walshford to Dishforth A1 upgrade.
- 3.10 Roman finds from the area comprise a fragment of grey ware pottery (Site 12), recovered from the spoil heap of a gravel pit near Arkendale and a Roman lead coffin, recently discovered at Hundayfield Farm, to the west of Marton (Site 14). Overall, the density of recorded late Iron Age/Romano British sites within

the western Vale of York corridor, is extremely low when compared to that recorded on the Magnesian Limestone belt and Coal Measures to the south of Wetherby. The significant similarities in terms of form and date, between the few recorded sites between Walshford and Boroughbridge and the more extensive complexes to the south of Wetherby suggests that the limited number of recorded sites is a product of difficulty with site identification rather than a true representation of the density of settlement and agriculture during this period.

- 3.11 So little is known about the early prehistoric to late Roman/early medieval periods in this part of the western Vale of York, that sites extending over significant areas such as Allerton Park and Flaxby, with the potential for multi-period occupation, should be considered as being of regional importance.

Medieval

- 3.12 The sites lies within the extreme south-west corner of the historic township of Marton, close to the boundaries of Great Ouseburn, Allerton Mauleverer, Arkendale and Coneythorpe and Clareton. There is no recorded evidence for either Anglian or Scandinavian remains within the immediate area although historical sources and place name evidence suggest the settlement pattern within the area had its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period and was well established by the Domesday survey of 1086. The manor or *vill* of Marton was recorded in the Domesday Survey and formed part of the larger Manor of Aldborough. All surrounding townships and parishes are also recorded by the 11th century. The possibility that this area may have had some significant administrative and/or political importance is potentially implied from the documentary records to the site of a Moot (medieval meeting place) approximately 1km to the south of the quarry at Claro Field, in the north-east corner of Coneythorpe township, close to the township boundaries with Arkendale, Marton, Great Ouseburn and Allerton.
- 3.13 There is no evidence of medieval settlement within the vicinity of the quarry and the evidence suggests that the area was probably under arable cultivation or a mixed farming regime from the later medieval period, if not earlier. Traces of medieval broad ridge and furrow have been recorded in the area between Thornbar Farm and Rougham Farm from aerial photographs, geophysical survey and excavation.

Previous archaeological works

- 3.14 The location and extent of archaeological investigations within the existing permission boundary of the quarry between 1999 and 2007 are shown on Figure 3.
- 3.15 An archaeological impact assessment comprising desk based assessment, rapid fieldwalking and geophysical survey was undertaken in 1999 by NAA in

advance of Phases 1 to 6 of the existing quarry (NAA 1999; GSB 1999). The assessment considered that there was slight potential for archaeological remains relating to either the late prehistoric/Romano-British period or the medieval/post-medieval period to be present within the area near South Farm. In order to mitigate this impact, a metal detecting survey in advance of development and archaeological monitoring during topsoil and subsoil stripping was undertaken as part of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 operations. The survey and monitoring revealed no evidence of archaeological remains within either of the two phases. Following agreement with the County Archaeological Officer, no further monitoring on Phases 3 to 6 of the quarry extraction was undertaken.

- 3.16 In 2006, planning permission was granted for the Phase N1 and N2 northern extension to the quarry (Fig. 3; fields 4 and 5). Due to the scale of the extension, and the presence of later prehistoric and Romano-British settlement sites within the surrounding landscape, a condition requiring archaeological monitoring of initial soil stripping was imposed on this permission.
- 3.17 No archaeological features were encountered during the initial Phase N1 archaeological monitoring (July 2007). Monitoring during the Phase N2 stripping (August 2007) revealed the previously unidentified remains of a late Roman farmstead complex extending over an area of approximately 1.6ha. The site comprised two rectangular ditched enclosures containing a series of internal ditches, pits and post-holes with associated trackway and field system elements (Figs. 3 and 4). The exposed remains were subject to excavation and recording during September to December 2007. This report sets out the post-excavation assessment of the results of these investigations with recommendations for further detailed analysis and publication.
- 3.18 During the latter part of 2007, an application was made for a further extension (Phase N3 and N4) to the north of the Phase N2 area (Figs. 2 and 3). Geophysical survey of this extension area was undertaken as part of the environmental impact assessment and confirmed that the enclosures formed part of a more extensive complex which extended northwards as far as the Phase N4 area (NAA 2007; WYAS 2007). The full extent of this complex is not known, although no archaeological remains were identified during the assessment and geophysical survey at Rougham Farm, immediately to the north of Phase N4 (York Archaeological Trust 2001).

4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The aim of the project was to mitigate the loss of any surviving archaeological features within the area of the Phase N1 and N2 quarry extension through a programme of archaeological monitoring, investigation and recording during the initial soil stripping operations. The excavations were supervised by Stuart Ross. The Project Manager was Oliver Cooper.

- 4.2 The principle objectives of the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording were:
- To investigate and record a representative sample of any archaeological features identified during the course of topsoil stripping and to recover artefactual/palaeoenvironmental evidence;
 - To establish the extent, nature, date and significance of archaeological remains encountered;
 - To prepare an illustrated report on the results of the monitoring and investigations to be deposited with the North Yorkshire County Historic Environment Record and National Monuments Record (NMR);
 - To prepare a summary report of the results of the investigations for publication in a local journal; and
 - To prepare an ordered archive for final deposition and storage with Harrogate Museums and Arts Service.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

Site stripping and archaeological investigation

- 5.1 Topsoil and subsoil were removed by a 28 tonne back-acting tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket which operated under direct archaeological supervision at all times.
- 5.2 The machine removed topsoil and subsoil down to a level at which significant archaeological deposits were identified or down to natural subsoil, whichever was encountered first. All subsequent excavation was carried out by hand.
- 5.3 Stripped surfaces were cleaned sufficiently by hand to clearly expose all possible archaeological remains. All exposed features were then sample excavated by hand to evaluate the depth, dimension and preservation of the archaeology and to ensure the recovery of sufficient artefactual and environmental evidence to enable dating and an assessment of the archaeology to be achieved. All features were planned and photographed. All discrete features such as pits and post-holes were half sectioned in order to record their form and stratigraphy, and then in many cases the remaining fills were removed to aid recovery of artefacts and other dateable material. Linear features such as ditches and gullies were subjected to up to 10% sample excavation to ascertain their depth, character and nature and to retrieve dateable or palaeoenvironmental material. All stratigraphic interfaces were investigated to build a relative chronology for the archaeological features.

- 5.4 The stripped area and adjacent spoil heaps were scanned by a metal detector in order to recover metal artefacts.

Site recording

- 5.5 The location of the stripped area and archaeological features was surveyed using a Leica TC 500 total station linked to a Fujitsu Stylistic 1200 pen computer using PenMap software. Information was transferred to AutoCAD 2000iLT software and reproduced for incorporation within this report. The local site grid was located with reference to the Ordnance Survey grid.
- 5.6 All archaeological features were photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale. Sections were normally drawn at a scale of 1:10. Archaeological plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Levels were tied in to the Ordnance Survey Datum.
- 5.7 A written description of all archaeological features and deposits was made using NAA *pro forma* context recording system.
- 5.8 A photographic record of the site was taken using digital photography; monochrome prints and colour slide at a minimum format of 35mm.
- 5.9 The site code was ALP07.

Finds recording

- 5.10 Finds of flint, pottery and animal bone were collected as bulk samples. All other significant artefacts were three-dimensionally recorded. Finds have been recorded and processed using the NAA system and submitted for post-excavation assessment in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1991).
- 5.11 All finds recovered have been appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions. Finds recovery and storage strategies are in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995; Watkinson and Neal 1998) and the finds have been stabilised and packaged in accordance with the requirements of Harrogate Museums and Arts Service.

Environmental sampling

- 5.12 Palaeoenvironmental samples were taken from appropriate deposits, such as ditch, pit and palaeochannel fills (bulk or column samples as appropriate), and were submitted for assessment. Secure contexts were sampled for dating purposes as appropriate (whether on site or as sub-samples of processed bulk samples). Recovery and sampling of environmental remains was in accordance with guidelines prepared by English Heritage (2002). Most of the bulk samples were processed by Northern Archaeological Associates and the resulting

sediment sub-samples, unsorted washovers and organic remains were submitted to PRS (Palaeoecology Research Services) for assessment. The one bulk waterlogged sample and the two column samples were both processed and assessed by PRS.

Post-excavation assessment

5.13 The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1991) and aims to assess the archaeological potential of the stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental information collected during the excavation. This has included:

- collation of all site records
- compilation of an interim site narrative
- production of context, photographic, finds and illustration databases
- assessment of finds assemblages by relevant period specialists
- environmental assessment of selected bulk soil samples
- integration of site record with specialists' reports
- recommendations for detailed analysis and publication

5.14 The results of the post-excavation assessment will be reviewed in consultation with Hanson Aggregates and the North Yorkshire County Archaeological Officer to determine whether it would be appropriate to proceed to post-excavation analysis and publication.

5.15 Following the completion of the project, formal arrangements will be made with the Harrogate Museums and Arts Service for the long-term storage of the archive and the deposition of any finds (subject to the formal agreement of the landowner). Deposition will be in accordance with the museum's guidelines.

6.0 EXCAVATION RESULTS (FIGURE 4)

6.0.1 The archaeological remains can be grouped into three phases of activity. The early Bronze Age (Phase I) is represented by fragments of a single Beaker vessel recovered from the fills of a small pit. The late Roman period (Phase II) comprised two large rectangular enclosures containing pits, post-holes and gullies with an associated field system and trackway elements. The southern enclosure [13] contained the remains of a number of grave-like features, although no human remains were recovered. The remains of two phases of a simple timber structure imply occupation within the south-east corner of the

northern enclosure [25]. Further Phase II activity was identified within the western area of the site, although less certainty existed over the nature of these remains. Post-Roman (Phase III) activity comprised medieval plough furrows, which truncated many of the Phase II features, the remains of a post-medieval trackway and a post-medieval or modern sheep burial.

- 6.0.2 The phasing of the site has been undertaken, where possible, on the evidence of dateable material. However, due to the large quantities of undated and stratigraphically unrelated features, particularly within the internal areas of the two enclosures, association of features has been undertaken on the strength of feature alignment; the identification of particular finds types (particularly heated cobbles) and spatial proximity. With the possible exception of two pits associated with the Beaker vessel, almost all of the features identified within the internal areas of the enclosures are considered to be related to Phase II activity. This is supported by the near absence of discrete features external to, or overlying, the enclosure ditches.
- 6.0.3 The glacially derived deposits into which all archaeological features were cut varied greatly, they predominantly composed light-yellow sand [3], mid-brown red clay [4] and mid-grey clay and gravel [37] with some more discrete areas of mixed sand and gravel [514]. All features were sealed by up to 0.1m of mid-red brown sandy silt subsoil [2/701] which was overlain by between 0.25m and 0.3m of mid-brown sandy silt topsoil [1/700].

6.1 Phase I: early Bronze Age

- 6.1.1 The earliest dateable material recovered during investigations were the remains of an early Bronze Age Beaker. The fragments of this vessel were identified throughout the fills of a small pit [49] located within the south-west corner of the southern enclosure [13] (Fig. 5). The feature was 0.9m long, 0.75m wide and had a depth no greater than 0.18m. It contained two light, sandy fills which differed from those identified within the definite late-Roman features. The primary fill [50] contained 139 fragments of Beaker, which varied in size between crumbs and sherds. The secondary fill [51] contained 33 further Beaker sherds and an undiagnostic hard hammer-struck flint flake (Appendix B). Bulk samples were recovered from both fills. These produced small unidentifiable fragments of charcoal and some iron corrosion flakes from the primary fill [50], which suggested the deposit may once have contained an iron object. Only the charcoal from secondary fill [51] was suitable for AMS C14 dating. The secondary fill also contained a single piece of plate hammerscale (Appendix E) and charred plant remains identified as a single bulb of onion crouch (Appendix J). It is likely that this plant was derived from peat or cut turves which may have been used as fuel or roofing material. Onion couch can also be utilised as a foodstuff.
- 6.1.2 The recovered Beaker sherds comprised the neck and body of a single well-made and skilfully decorated vessel with an original girth diameter of c.19cm

(Fig. 6; Appendix C). The fabric had a hard compact brown buff exterior and a dull grey interior showing marks of horizontal tooling and finger pressed hollows inside the girth. There were traces of a very thin brownish residue over the interior surface of some pieces. No evidence of weather erosion was visible, although one sherd displayed some evidence of post-breakage contact with fire. No rim or base sherds survived, therefore a full profile of the beaker could not be constructed.

- 6.1.3 The vessel was decorated by an alternating arrangement of plain and impressed comb decorated zones. On the neck and upper body, multiple horizontal lines with a criss-cross fringe were employed as borders to a deep band of four rows of horizontal herringbone. On the upper part of the lower body, the next decorated zone is a band of four rows of horizontal herringbone bounded by horizontal lines at the top. The lower body down to the base angle appears undecorated. The decoration is characteristic of Clarke's Northern British Beaker series, however, without the rim, closer stylistic Group attribution is difficult (see Appendix C for detailed discussion of parallels). Comparison with recently dated, Beaker typo-chronological schemes suggests associations with other Beaker examples that have a c.2250-1950 cal BC radiocarbon range.
- 6.1.4 A further small pit [78] was located approximately 3m to the south-east of pit [49]. Although no finds or palaeoenvironmental material were recovered from this feature, the form, size and fills of the two pits were similar enough to tentatively infer association.

Phase I discussion

- 6.1.5 The Beaker was originally a large, well-made and skilfully decorated vessel of a quality usually deposited with contemporary individual Bronze Age burials. Whilst the partial remains within a small pit are not consistent with such a role, the larger fragments of a single vessel are also unlike the small size range of the pieces derived from vessels recovered within deposits of a domestic character. The context for these beaker fragments is therefore unclear and the date of the two pits is uncertain, although they did display a markedly different type of fill material to the surrounding Roman features. It is possible that the Beaker material could have been re-deposited following the excavation of an earlier grave or the levelling of a round barrow, conceivably within the later Roman period during episodes of pit and ditch digging. This is supported by the identification of iron corrosion flakes within the primary fill, and to a certain degree by the identification of plate hammerscale within the secondary fill, although the hammerscale could have moved down from the overlying deposit.
- 6.2 Phase II: late Roman (late 3rd and 4th centuries)**
- 6.2.1 The vast majority of the features relate to the late Romano-British occupation of the site. These remains have been sub-divided into three main areas centred on

the southern enclosure [13], the northern enclosure [25] and the western area (Fig. 4).

- 6.2.2 During the Phase N1 extraction and the preliminary stages of Phase N2, soil stripping to the south of the investigated remains was monitored, but with the exception of the southern continuation of the palaeochannel to the west of the ridge, no archaeological features were identified (Fig. 2). This strip was located upon a moderate south-facing slope, whose gradient climbed, then levelled out to form a slight plateau at the north. The focus of the Phase II activity was located upon this plateau and it is not clear whether the identified enclosures represented the leading edge of settlement or whether remains extending down-slope to the south, had been completely truncated by ploughing. There is certainly clear evidence to indicate that these enclosures formed part of a much larger complex extending to the east and west of this ridge.

Southern enclosure complex (Fig. 5)

Enclosure ditch [13]

- 6.2.3 The southern enclosure forms part of a group of three enclosures orientated north to south along the length of the glacial ridge. It had angular corners and measured approximately 42m by 45m. It enclosed an area of c.0.15ha and contained a series of discrete pit, post-hole and short gully type features. The enclosure also provided an alignment to which most of the internal and external gullies and ditches adhered to. Only three undated shallow linear features [124, 166 and 283] were identified as being truncated by, and therefore earlier than, the enclosure ditch. Two of the linear features [124 and 283] appeared to represent activity which immediately pre-dated the excavation of enclosure ditch. Gully [166], situated to the north, did not respect the inner and outer enclosure ditch arrangement and was truncated, for the most part, by securely dated late Roman features. It is possible that this gully relates to a phase of field system pre-dating the enclosure complex, unfortunately, no other evidence to substantiate this or to provide an indicative date for such a system was gained.
- 6.2.4 The southern enclosure ditch had a variable width of between 1m and 1.5m and displayed a wide 'U'-shaped profile which became more 'V'-shaped within the south-eastern area (segments 2, 3, 4). It survived to a maximum depth of 0.75m to the east where it was situated upon an east-facing slope. The western part of the ditch had an average depth of only 0.4m, seemingly because of the location upon the level, higher ground, where greater truncation by ploughing had occurred. No entrance break was identified within the circuit of the enclosure, although re-cutting of the feature on the eastern side (segment 5) may be related to the extension of the ditch across a once extant causeway, although no further evidence of this was identified.

- 6.2.5 Artefactual material recovered from the primary fill [162] included a small sandstone disc, identified as a Roman gaming counter (Appendix G); a fragment of beehive quern (Appendix F); moderate amounts of heat-affected cobbles and an assemblage of Romano-British pottery. The assemblage was consistent with manufacture and/or deposition in the later-3rd or 4th centuries and included sherds of Crambeck grey ware and Huntcliff ware. The identification of Huntcliff ware within this assemblage provides a *terminus post quem* for the primary silting of the southern enclosure ditch of the mid-4th century.
- 6.2.6 Finds from the main upper fill [96] of enclosure ditch [13] included a fragment of Roman roof tile (*imbrex*) (Appendix H); a fragment of iron nail (Appendix K), small pieces of unidentifiable bone, occasional heat-affected cobbles, and an assemblage of later-3rd and 4th century Romano-British pottery. The assemblage included sherds of Huntcliff ware; Roman grey ware; Roman White wares; possible proto-Huntcliff ware and Crambeck grey ware (Appendix D). The pottery and finds assemblage derived from the main upper fill of the southern enclosure ditch cannot be differentiated chronologically from the primary silting.

Southern enclosure internal area

- 6.2.7 The internal area of the enclosure was dominated by dispersed and discrete pit type features which contained few finds or palaeoenvironmental evidence. Shallow ditches and gullies representing the remains of partial internal subdivision suggested the enclosure may have been subdivided centrally by a north to south partition with further partitioning of the north-east quarter. Although some inter-cutting of features exists, overall, there was very little evidence for phasing within this enclosure.
- 6.2.8 Within the south-eastern corner of the southern enclosure were a dispersed group of small discrete pits [55, 102, 108, 113, 128, 152, 155, 173, 180 and 182]. Pits [128, 152, 155] were truncated by gully [138]. All pits were of a similar size, being 1m-1.5m in length; up to 1m wide and 0.3m or less in depth. With the exception of pit [173], no finds and little palaeoenvironmental evidence was recovered from the fills of these features. The primary fill [178] of pit [173] contained iron corrosion flakes and a small assemblage of charred cereal grain (~50 grains) including spelt wheat, barley and oat. It was sealed by a secondary fill [175] that contained a large quantity of heat-affected cobbles. Small quantities of heat-affected cobbles were identified within the fills of many of the features, with slightly larger amounts identified within pits [55 and 180].
- 6.2.9 Gully [138] was 13.2m long, 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep and was aligned north to south. It was located within the southern central area of the enclosure and together with ditches [268] and [247] to the north, may represent foundation trenches related to the internal partitioning of the enclosure possibly to enable

spatial separation of different functions. Running parallel, 3m to the east, was gully [142] which had been truncated by pit [148]. The shared alignment and proximity of the two gullies suggested they were contemporary but the function of [142] was not clear. Unidentifiable slag, charcoal, charred cereal grain and a bulb of onion couch were recovered from fill [154] of gully [138] and two sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery were recovered from gully [142]. A third gully [104] lay approximately 7m to the west. This feature was slightly curving in form and was approximately 6.8m long. The entire feature had been badly disturbed by burrowing animals whose activity had directly resulted in features [158 and 110]. Its function remained unclear, although it is possible that it was originally a post-trench similar to [299] to the north which might have provided support for a free-standing structure such as a shelter or wind-break, perhaps constructed of wattle and daub. A sherd of Black Burnished ware type pottery and small, degraded fragments of bone were recovered from the fill [105].

- 6.2.10 Pit [148] was 2.5m long, 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep and truncated gully [142] at its northern end. The primary pit fill [157] contained small undiagnostic slag fragments and the largest grain assemblage recovered on site (800-900 grains). This included spelt wheat, with some barley and oat, along with a small amount of charcoal derived from both ash and alder, birch or hazel plus some evidence of crop weeds (Appendix J). The secondary pit fill [149] contained two sherds of pottery from a proto-Huntcliff jar and a fully developed Huntcliff ware jar which indicated a *terminus post quem* for the filling of this feature of the mid-4th century.
- 6.2.11 Pits [100, 176 and 106] were located adjacent to the curving gully [104]. They were all similar in size, being between 2m-2.3m long x 1m-1.5m wide x c.0.3m deep. Pits [106 and 176] contained the two largest assemblages of hammerscale recovered during these investigations. These comprised plate hammerscale with a small quantity of the rarer spheroidal scale. It seems likely that a percentage of the hammerscale, and more particularly the larger pieces from pit [176] represented industrial activity during the late Roman occupation of the southern enclosure (Appendix E), although it is conceivable that much of this material had moved down through the sandy soils from horizons above and could therefore be later. The fill of pit [106] also contained five pieces of partially fired clay which may have originated from a bonfire or the site of a hearth (Appendix E). The fired clay was contained within a mixed backfill and was not an *in situ* deposit. It further suggests, however, that industrial activity was taking place in the near vicinity. The fills of pits [176 and 106] contained a small assemblage of charred cereal grain including barley and spelt wheat associated with oak derived charcoal. A sherd of undiagnostic Roman pottery and a bulb of onion couch were also recovered from pit [176].
- 6.2.12 Within the north-western quarter of the enclosure were fifteen discrete pits and a gully. Located centrally were pits [16, 82, 85, 91, 97, 120, 126, 134, 140, 145, 160 and 271] and a short stretch of structural gully [299]. The features

- were quite closely spaced and most of the pits displayed similar dimensions, ranging from 0.6m-1.6m long x 0.6m-1m wide x 0.16m-0.34m deep. Pits [85 and 140] were slightly larger being approximately 2.5m x 1.2m x 0.3m in size.
- 6.2.13 Finds recovered from the fills of these features included; a primary flake of flint within fill [161] of pit [160] (Appendix B), a small assemblage of unidentifiable Roman pottery from the secondary fill [18] of pit [16], pieces of fired clay with an organic temper from fill [141] of pit [140] (Appendix E) and an assemblage of charred cereal grains including barley from fill [83] of pit [82] and the fills [17 and 18] of pit [16] (Appendix J). Small fragments of unidentified burnt bone were also recovered from the secondary fill [18] of pit [16].
- 6.2.14 An almost universal aspect of the pit fills within this north-west area was the inclusion of heat-affected cobbles, discoloured and fractured from the effects of firing. These cobbles are likely to have been utilised for heating water associated with either cooking or industrial activities. Their presence within the fills of the features throughout the entire area of this enclosure, as well as within the fills of the main enclosure ditch, would suggest that they were widespread upon the ancient ground surface during pit digging/backfilling activities. Generally, the cobbles were identified in quantities of between one and three, although pits [145 and 271] contained larger quantities which may have represented post-packing. Pits [16, 97, and 160] were noteworthy as they contained significantly greater quantities including stones of a larger size that formed almost the entire fill of the features (Plate. 1).
- 6.2.15 Gully [299] was 4.2m long, 0.78m wide and 0.32m deep and contained terminal end post-pads implying a structural purpose. The southern terminal post-pad was formed by a single flat stone [301] and the northern one by three smaller flat stones [300]. No post-pipes were identified within the gully and no artefactual material was recovered, occasional heat-affected cobbles were identified throughout the fills. It appeared that this feature provided support for a freestanding two post structure with an unknown function.
- 6.2.16 Located within the north-western corner of the enclosure were three large pits [52, 87, 297]. The northern and southern pits [87 and 297] were broadly similar in size being 1.7m long, 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep. The central pit [52] was larger with an equivalent depth. The primary fill [53] of pit [52] contained iron corrosion flakes indicating the former presence of an iron artefact (Appendix E) and a moderate charred cereal grain assemblage (~150 grains) including barley, spelt wheat and rye with some evidence of crop weeds (Appendix J). The secondary fill [54] contained sherds of undiagnostic Roman pottery. Occasional heat-affected cobbles were identified within the fills of all three pits.
- 6.2.17 Located within the north-eastern corner of the enclosure were four lengths of inter-cutting linear features, the earliest of which was ditch [293]. This ditch was 5m long, 0.94m wide and 0.34m deep and was aligned at odds to the

majority of the other linear features within the enclosure. The feature was undated and may have represented an earlier phase of activity. It was truncated at its south-western end by ditch [268].

- 6.2.18 Ditch [268] was 9.2m long, 1.2m wide and 0.45m deep and was aligned to the enclosure. It was on a similar alignment to gully [138] to the south and may have formed part of a system of internal partitioning. A large assemblage of early to mid-4th century pottery was recovered from both the primary and secondary fills [270 and 269] (Appendix D). The feature also contained a fragment of disc quern from the primary fill [270] (Appendix F), a fragment of Roman tile (Appendix H) and the charred remains of rye and wheat from the secondary fill [269]. The ditch was intersected at its northern end by gully [255]. Unfortunately, no relationship between the two linear features could be established as they were located beneath the cut of a later plough furrow. It seemed likely that sherds of 12th century pottery identified within the secondary fill [269] of ditch [268] resulted from plough damage to the deposit.
- 6.2.19 Gullies [255 and 247] were aligned near parallel to the northern circuit of the enclosure ditch at a distance of c.9m. They appeared to represent further internal partitioning within the enclosure. Gully [255] was the earlier feature, being truncated at its eastern end by gully [247]. Both features had a combined length of 18.75m and were c.0.5m wide and c.0.3m deep. The primary fill [248] of gully [247] contained iron corrosion flakes (Appendix E) and charred grains of barley, oat, rye and wheat. Sub-rounded unfired cobbles were also identified throughout this deposit. The secondary fill [264] contained a single sherd of late Roman mortaria.

Grave shaped features - possible inhumation cemetery

- 6.2.20 A group of thirteen large sub-rectangular pits [114, 132, 136, 168, 243, 250, 260, 274, 277, 287, 291, 310 and 312] were clustered together within the north-eastern area of the enclosure. The form and size of these pits were reminiscent of grave cuts although none contained any trace of human bone either on excavation or in the soil samples which were recovered from their fills; this may be due to the acidic ground conditions. Many of the pits shared a common alignment, size and form. Eight were aligned east to west, two north to south and three north-east to south-west. Pit [136] contained a near complete Romano-British jar and pit [132] had a stone-lining.
- 6.2.21 Pit [136] lay to the west of the main cluster, it was aligned broadly east to west and was the largest of the possible grave cuts. The pit was sub-rectangular in plan with dimensions of 4.8m x 1.7m x 0.21m and had been badly truncated to the north and west by a plough furrow. A near complete Dales-type ware jar was located standing upright and leaning slightly against the north-eastern edge of the cut. The vessel was block lifted within its context and submitted for conservation. This revealed that it had received slight damage prior to deposition which had resulted in a missing fragment of the base and lower

body, some post-depositional damage was also noted around the rim (Plate 2; Appendix K). The material filling the jar was found to contain a small fragment of charcoal. The single fill of the pit [137] also contained a small assemblage of later-3rd to 4th century pottery, an assemblage of charred cereal grains including barley, spelt wheat, wheat and oat and a joiner's dog made of iron, which would have been used for joining two pieces of structural timber (Appendix I).

- 6.2.22 Pits [312 and 132] were aligned broadly north to south. Both pits were sub-rectangular and had a similar size of c.2.9m long and 1.2m wide with a substantial difference to their depths. The earlier pit [312] was the shallower at 0.24m and the single fill [205] contained small quantities of charred cereal grains including barley and spelt wheat associated with charcoal derived from alder, birch or hazel (Appendix J). The later feature [132] was sub-rectangular in plan with a flat-based 'U'-shaped profile to a depth of 0.6m and had been lined with sub-rounded fieldstones. The lining was present within the northern half of the pit and was crudely coursed with moderately sized cobbles [150] which filled the entire depth of the feature (Plate 3). A sherd of Roman grey ware was recovered from a deposit [290] sealed behind the stone lining. Three fills [151, 179 and 133] were identified within the main body of the feature. All deposits contained pottery sherds which indicated a date from the late-3rd to the mid-4th century onward (Appendix D). These were associated with a small assemblage of carbonised cereal grain including barley, oat and spelt wheat (Appendix J). The tertiary fill [133] also contained a segment from a fine jet/shale finger ring with a circular cross-section (Appendix I). Pit [132] also truncated a shallow undated pit to the north-east which may also have represented a grave cut. A further feature [145] was located to the east that appeared not to represent a grave cut. It contained no finds but was found to be filled by a large quantity of rounded heat-affected cobbles which may have been used as post-packing around the base of a timber support.
- 6.2.23 The majority of the remaining grave-like features [114, 168, 243, 250, 260, 274, 277, 287, 291 and 310] had dimensions that were broadly comparable, ranging from 1.3m-2m long, 0.7m-1.3m wide and 0.3m-0.5m deep. Generally, these features were oval to sub-rectangular in plan and had rounded to flat-based 'U'-shaped profiles. Feature [287] differed by being both smaller and shallower at 0.8m x 0.56m x 0.07m with a distinct 'teardrop shape'.
- 6.2.24 Artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material was recovered from the fills of four of these features. Diagnostic aspects of this assemblage included a fragment of probable Huntcliff ware pottery (mid-4th century onward) from the fills of pit [287] and fragments of iron nail from the fills of pits [260] and [243]. These nails could conceivably have originated from a coffin or as with the joiner's dog, may have been residual, representing Roman structural activity (Appendix I). A moderate assemblage of charred cereal grain was recovered from the fill of pit [114] which included around 100 grains and was composed mostly of spelt wheat (Appendix J). Further, smaller charred cereal assemblages

were also recovered from the fills of pits [243 and 260] which included spelt wheat and oat. The fills of nearly all the possible graves contained a small number of heat-affected cobbles.

Southern enclosure external area

- 6.2.25 The external ditch arrangement to the southern enclosure [13] consisted of outer parallel flanking ditches which fully surrounded the inner circuit. A similar arrangement of ditches also surrounded the south and east sides of the northern enclosure (Figs. 4, 5 and 8). These ditches linked into the remains of an extended system of enclosures, field boundaries and trackways, which appeared to have originally extended both east and west across the palaeochannel to join with enclosures recorded by geophysical survey on the adjacent glacial ridge (Fig. 2).
- 6.2.26 All the external ditches and gullies were aligned to the main enclosure ditch, with the exception of the field boundary ditch [211] in the south-east corner of the site and its re-cut [213]. The external linear features had approximate dimensions in the order of 0.8m-1.2m wide and 0.24m-0.3m deep with variable lengths. Few finds or palaeoenvironmental remains were identified within the fills of these features.
- 6.2.27 To the east of the south-eastern corner of the main enclosure ditch [13] were a series of inter-cutting linear features. Ditch [189], one of the earliest features was truncated by the flanking ditch [187], pit [191], and centrally by ditch [206]. Ditch [206] was aligned at a right angles and its southern terminal lay within the fill of ditch [189] suggesting that the ditch was visible, but partially silted, at the time the gully had been excavated. The gully continued to the north for a distance of 12.5m before an entrance break of some 5.8m. Beyond this gap, ditch [201] continued the alignment of this field or enclosure boundary alongside the northern enclosure [25] for a distance of 47m. Set within the entrance gap were two post-holes [203 and 199]. They were of similar proportions, with diameters of around 0.8m and maximum depths of 0.3m and may have formed a gate structure across the entrance. The phased nature of these features suggests a piecemeal approach to excavation of these enclosure/field boundary ditches, although seemingly within a quite brief time span, as the proximity and alignment imply association and some degree of contemporaneity. Pit [191] contained an assemblage of charred cereal grain including wheat, spelt wheat and oat. There were no finds or palaeoenvironmental material from the other features.
- 6.2.28 The earliest feature within the south-east corner, where the two flanking ditches [7 and 187] meet, was ditch [211] (Fig 7). It was aligned north-east to south-west and appeared to have originally continued down-slope to the south, although all evidence for this had been completely removed by later ploughing. A small assemblage of charred cereal grain was recovered from the primary fill [242] including barley, oat, spelt wheat and wheat and a small

fragment of unidentifiable burnt bone was recovered from the secondary fill [212]. The feature was truncated by the flanking ditch [187] and may have been re-cut by ditch [213].

- 6.2.29 The outer flanking ditches truncated ditches [189], [211] and [166]. They were slighter in both width and depth than the main enclosure ditch and were discontinuous at three of the corners. The west [19] and south [7] ditches were set at a distance of 5m from the main enclosure ditch and the east ditch [187] at a distance of c.2.5m. To the north, in the corridor between the two enclosures, there were three parallel east to west ditches and two pits [58 and 319]. There was no stratigraphic relationship between any of these features and although it seemed likely multiple phases of activity were represented it was difficult to determine the function and inter-relationship between these features. The ditches were all approximately 1m wide with depths of between 0.26m and 0.35m. The two pits [58 and 319] were both approximately 1.1m long x 0.8m wide x 0.3m deep. Neither contained any artefactual or palaeoenvironmental material although significant quantities of heat-affected cobbles were identified. The pits were comparable to features identified within the western inner enclosure area and it seemed likely that they resulted from the same phase of activity.
- 6.2.30 Ditch [316] could have formed an outer flanking ditch to both enclosures set at a distance of 5m. Ditch [93] may have formed a continuation of this central ditch to the west, with the staggered nature of the break between the two features possibly facilitating access between the enclosures. It is possible, that the ditches deliberately sub-divided the area into two separate 5m wide trackway or driveway corridors which controlled the movement of people or stock through the area of the enclosures.
- 6.2.31 Alternatively, ditch [35] could have formed a flanking ditch set at a distance of c.2.5m from the south enclosure with ditch [116] serving as a flanking ditch at a similar distance to the north enclosure. Such an arrangement could have either pre- or post-dated the excavation of ditch [316], and demarcated a single c.5m wide central thoroughfare.
- 6.2.32 Despite the uncertainty over the arrangement, the evidence suggests that the trackway or driveway continued both east and west beyond the extent of the stripped area. Extension of the alignment of these three ditches westward to the palaeochannel [775] coincides with the location of the possible entrance gap between ditches [782 and 719] and the area of metalling [764] thought to provide a crossing point over the palaeochannel. Its continuation beyond the palaeochannel may be evinced by ditch [716] and the single geophysical survey anomaly recorded within the adjacent field (Fig. 2).
- 6.2.33 Going east, the trackway may have continued around the outer circuit of the south-eastern corner of the northern enclosure, northward across an area of a metallised surface [375] then due east between ditches [201 and 654] down

towards the valley bottom. Continuation beyond the extent of the stripped area is suggested by two faint parallel linear anomalies, c.5m apart, identified by geophysical survey on the slope of the adjacent eastern glacial ridge (Fig. 2).

- 6.2.34 Pottery sherds recovered from the primary fill of the northern ditch [116] comprised numerous sherds from a single Huntcliff ware jar dated to the mid to late 4th century. An iron turf cutter was recovered from the shorter ditch [93] implying agricultural activity on site (Appendix I).
- 6.2.35 The eastern flanking ditch [187] truncated gully [189] and ditch [211] to the south, a small undated pit [237] centrally and gully [166] to the north. At its southern extent, it appeared to continue to the west as ditch [369] beyond truncation by the southern flanking ditch [7].
- 6.2.36 The southern ditch [7] continued westward beyond the immediate area of the main enclosure ditch [13] where it became imperceptible within the fills of the palaeochannel [775] (Fig. 4). It seemed possible that the southern flanking ditch [7] connected to the southern end of ditch [719 and/or 752] within the western area of the site and formed a wider boundary ditch enclosing land to the west. Contemporaneity of the outer flanking ditches to the enclosure ditch was evinced by the proximity, alignment and finds assemblage. The fills of the flanking ditches [7 and 19] both contained pottery sherds which indicated a *terminus post quem* of the mid-4th century, consistent with that of the in-filling of the main enclosure ditch [13]. A moderate assemblage of charred cereal grain (~170 grains) was recovered from the upper fill [370] of ditch [187] which comprised mostly spelt wheat that was associated with a large piece of charcoal originating from alder, birch or hazel (Appendix J). Heat-affected cobbles were identified throughout.
- 6.2.37 Within the south-east corner of the excavated area, gully [213] truncated ditch [187] and appeared to represent a re-cut of the possible field boundary ditch [211] (Fig. 7). The fills of this feature were badly disturbed by animal burrowing. A single sherd of Black Burnished type Roman pottery was recovered from the upper fill [198].

Northern enclosure complex (Fig. 8)

Enclosure ditch [25]

- 6.2.38 The northern enclosure was located at a distance of c.11m from the southern enclosure. Only part of the enclosure was excavated, its northern extent lay beyond the stripped area but can be identified within the geophysical survey data for the Phase N3 area. The geophysical survey indicates that there is a third enclosure, similar in size to the southern enclosure, adjoining the enclosure's northern ditch.

- 6.2.39 The excavated northern enclosure was rectangular in form, measuring some 69m by at least 50m, thus enclosing an area of c.0.35ha, a substantially larger area than the southern enclosure. It was flanked to the east by a single outer ditch and to the south by the remains of the probable trackway or driveway discussed previously. The circuit of the enclosure was formed by ditches [25 and 625]. A 4.6m wide entrance break was identified within the eastern side. Some re-cutting of the enclosure ditch was evident within the north-western and north-eastern areas. As with the southern enclosure, the ditch provided an alignment to which most of the internal and external features adhered to. Only two archaeological features, pit [71] and gully [45], were found to be stratigraphically earlier than the enclosure ditch. They were located to the west of the enclosure. The indistinct gully-type features to the east were considered to be natural.
- 6.2.40 Pit [71] appeared to be a substantial feature that had suffered severe disturbance and proved difficult to define. The fills of the feature [72 and 73] contained a single sherd of Roman grey ware pottery, iron corrosion flakes (Appendix E) and occasional heat-affected cobbles. These finds were associated with some charred grains of barley and charcoal derived from deciduous wood (Appendix J). The pit was truncated by a short stretch of shallow (0.16m deep) gully [45] which was in turn truncated by the enclosure ditch [25] to the east. The upper fill [47] of the gully (same as [27]) continued eastward and overlay the fills of the enclosure ditch [25] (within segments 4 and 5), suggesting both the gully and the enclosure ditch survived as an earthwork when this material was deposited. Finds recovered from this material [27] where it overlay the enclosure ditch indicated a *terminus post quem* of the mid-4th century for the deposition (discussed below).
- 6.2.41 The enclosure ditch [25] and the north-eastern continuation [625] had variable widths of between 1.2m and 2m and displayed a sharp 'V'-shaped profile to a maximum depth of 1.2m. As with the southern enclosure ditch, a greater depth was recorded within the eastern area. During investigation of the enclosure ditch [625] the slight remains of a possible earlier ditch [627] were identified within the vicinity of the entrance terminal.
- 6.2.42 The fills of the main enclosure ditch [25] contained a large assemblage of late Roman pottery (Appendix D). The most diagnostic components of the assemblage indicated a date of the first half of the 4th century for the primary fill [163] and a mid-4th century onward date for both the secondary [43] and tertiary fills [95]. The vast majority of the pottery was recovered from the south-eastern corner of the enclosure ditch and within the vicinity of two timber structures, indicating a possible area of occupation. The primary fill [163] also contained a poorly preserved animal tooth, evidence of heath grass and an assemblage of snail shell. The shell indicated a dry open environment, probably of short turfed calcareous grassland, with some damper more shaded environments, likely to be within the ditch itself (Appendix J). The tertiary fill [95] contained fragments of Roman tile (one of which was *tegulae*; Appendix

- H); an assemblage of stone artefacts including disc quern (Appendix F), a rubber stone for use with a saddle quern, a roughly finished sandstone disc (Appendix G); small fragments of burnt bone; and a small quantity of charred cereal grains including barely, spelt wheat and wheat.
- 6.2.43 Within segments 4 and 5, the upper fill [95] of the western enclosure ditch was overlain by deposit [27] (discussed above). This material contained small fragments of burnt bone, a piece of fired clay (which may represent the remains of an ovate object; Appendix E) and a small assemblage of charred cereal grain including barley, wheat and spelt wheat. A small assemblage of Roman pottery was also recovered which indicated a mid to late 4th century date, equivalent to that of the underlying upper ditch fill [95].
- 6.2.44 The north-eastern continuation of the enclosure ditch [625] was filled by a complex sequence of deposits identified within an excavated section at the northern trench edge and a single deposit at the southern terminal. At the trench edge the deposits comprised a primary fill [677] that was overlain by a sequence of interleaved fills which had been deposited during a single event [686]. This was overlain by a thin lens of material [685] which was sealed below a further, and more complex sequence of interleaved deposits [687]. The overlying upper fill [684] was truncated by the cut of a likely modern sheep burial [617]. The trend toward increasing complexity of the ditch fills within the northern area may be taken as evidence for increased activity, possibly occupational, to the north of the stripped area. The single fill [626] of the southern terminal seemed to be a continuation of the primary fill of the feature to the north.
- 6.2.45 The finds assemblage recovered from these deposits included a fragment of Roman brick (*bessalis*) from the upper fill [684] and three joining fragments of roof tile from the single fill of the terminal [626] (*tegulae*; Appendix H); rare fragments of burnt bone from fill [677]; small amounts of undiagnostic cereal grain from fill [686] and traces of an undiagnostic fuel ash slag from deposit [685]. This slag was similar to material recovered within the fill of a possible ditch terminal [622] located to the east and the fill of a pit [634] to the west. It seemed likely that it was the by-product of the same event (Appendix E). Sherds of pottery recovered from the primary fill [677], the central lens [685] and the upper fill [684] dated to the mid to late 4th century (Appendix D).
- 6.2.46 Within the base of the southern end of the ditch [625] there was slight evidence for an earlier ditch [627] suggesting that the enclosure ditch [625] was a re-cut. Little of this feature survived and therefore the exact nature is unknown, although it is possible that the later ditch [625] may prove to be equivalent to the enclosure ditch re-cut [59] located to the west. The earlier ditch [627] was identified at the base of the excavated section and was seen to attain an additional depth of 0.05m to the cut of the later ditch [625]. Its fill [628] contained no artefactual material.

- 6.2.47 The western enclosure ditch re-cut [59] truncated a large part of the main ditch [25]. The single fill [60] contained an assemblage of late-Roman pottery which included probable Huntcliff ware, suggesting a mid-4th century onward date. Further finds included a fragment from a massive stone object that has been identified as either a trough, mortar or coffin base (Appendix G), fragments of animal bone and an iron nail. The finds recovered here cannot be differentiated chronologically from the later fills of the underlying enclosure ditch [25].

Northern enclosure internal area

- 6.2.48 The internal area of the northern enclosure could be divided into three distinct parts; the eastern, central and western areas. The eastern area contained the best evidence for occupation on site, evinced by the remains of at least two phases of timber structure within the south-eastern corner. The badly damaged remains of a possible stone structure and numerous dispersed pits and gullies were also identified. The central part of the enclosure contained a complex sequence of inter-cutting linear and pit type features which had the overall effect of dividing the area in two. These features included a small inner enclosure, a possible post-trench and a discontinuous boundary feature. The western internal area was almost blank of remains other than a single burnt pit. It seems likely that this was due to a greater level of truncation to this area by modern ploughing, which may have removed any ephemeral Romano-British remains and a continuation of the medieval plough furrows from the east.
- 6.2.49 The timber structures within the south-eastern corner of the area have been interpreted as representing two phases of construction (structures 1 and 2). However, the dense concentration of post-holes has the potential to represent further phases of activity or a more complex structural arrangement. Those identified were aligned north-west to south-east and occupied the same land plot (Fig. 9). Unfortunately, no evidence was gained to suggest which phase of construction was the earlier. Gully [545] was the earliest feature as it pre-dated the south-eastern corner post [559] of structure 1 and may have represented a slight drainage channel. No finds were recovered from its fill.
- 6.2.50 Structure 1 was identified as a square, four-post building with sides 4m in length that was evinced by four corner posts [559, 595, 579 and 582]. The post-holes had diameters of approximately 0.6m and depths of 0.2m. Two of the post-holes [559 and 579] contained post-pads. Roman pottery recovered from two of the features, [582 and 579] included East Yorkshire type grey ware and Huntcliff ware suggesting a construction date of the mid-4th century. A very small assemblage of charred cereal grains was also recovered from these features, this included barley, oat and wheat from the fills of post-holes [582 and 559]. Three further post-holes [585, 597 and 518] were identified inset at a distance of 0.2m from the eastern and northern post-holes and may have been associated with this phase of structure. They were generally smaller in

- plan to the corner posts, but displayed a similar depth. The primary fill of post-hole [518] contained further sherds of Huntcliff ware.
- 6.2.51 Identified within the south-eastern corner of the internal area of structure 1 were the degraded remains of a metallated surface [594]. It covered an area of 2.1m x 1.56m and comprised sub-angular and sub-rounded stones up to 0.1m in size which had been compacted into the natural clay. Two sherds of probable Huntcliff ware pottery were incorporated into this deposit indicating a *terminus post quem* of the mid-4th century for its emplacement. The metallating had been truncated by a later plough furrow to the north, which had removed any continuation of the surface throughout the remainder of the internal area of this structure. No evidence of the surface was identified beyond truncation or into the internal area of structure 2.
- 6.2.52 Structure 2 appeared to represent a rectangular building constructed by at least six posts of which four survived [502, 592, 599 and 608]. The remains were identified slightly to the north of structure 1 and appeared to flank two sides of the previous building. It was 8m long and 5m wide. All the post-holes were of similar sizes, with a general diameter of 0.6m and depth of 0.1m. Post-hole [599] was deeper at 0.24m and contained a post-pad. Unfortunately, none of the features contained finds or palaeoenvironmental material.
- 6.2.53 Located immediately adjacent to structures 1 and 2 were a group of inter-cutting pits [573, 556 and 543]. All three features had diameters of 0.65m-0.8m and depths of 0.2m-0.3m. Pit [573] was the earlier of the group, being truncated to the west by pit [556]. No relationship was visible between pits [556 and 543] and it appeared from the nature of the deposits, and the finds identified within, that they had been filled as a single event. The earlier pit [573] contained no finds. The primary fills of both western pits [543 and 556] contained multiple fragments of iron nail, one of which had mineralised wood adhering to it (Appendix I) suggesting construction within the area, possibly associated with the two adjacent structures. A very small assemblage of charred cereal grain including wheat, barley and oat was also recovered from the primary fill [555]. The secondary fills [544 and 558] contained an assemblage of Roman pottery which included probable Huntcliff ware as the most diagnostic aspect. A small fragment of vessel glass and a fine glass pin with twisted decoration to the shaft were also recovered (Plate 4; Appendix I).
- 6.2.54 This area contained five further pits [481, 575, 590, 601, 603] that were in many cases located partially upon the projected wall line of structure 1, suggesting they may have represented a different phase of activity. All the pits had dimensions that ranged from 0.6m-1.2m long x 0.5m-0.9m wide x 0.05m-0.4m deep and only three contained artefactual material. Roman pottery was recovered from the fill of pit [575] that included grey ware and Dales ware dated to the later 3rd or 4th century. Charred cereal grain was recovered from the fills of pits [575 and 601] consisting of wheat, oat, naked wheat and barley and a bulb of onion couch. The secondary fill [576] of pit [575] was

noteworthy as it contained an assemblage consisting of 107 cereal grains (Appendix J). A fragment of undiagnostic tile was recovered from the fill of pit [601] (Appendix H).

- 6.2.55 Located within the north-eastern corner of the enclosure were the remains of a badly damaged stone structure [466] (Plate 5). The surviving masonry was situated within a slight depression of the natural clay [445] that measured 5.4m x 3.8m x 0.15m and was lined with small heat discoloured angular stones. The feature had then silted prior to the emplacement of the stone structure [466]. The masonry remains appeared to represent a key-hole shaped feature that was 2.8m long south-west to north-east with a maximum width of 1.6m across the western circular aspect and 0.8m across the thinner eastern part. It was constructed from sub-rounded fieldstones up to 0.3m in size which appeared discoloured and fractured from the effects of firing. Few of these stones appeared to be *in situ*. During investigation the remains were tentatively identified as possibly representing an oven or corn dryer, however, the feature was in such a poor condition that this interpretation should be treated with caution. Deposits filling the internal area of the masonry proved to contain only small amounts of unidentified charcoal. The entire feature was then sealed below a badly plough damaged layer of discoloured fieldstones which was in-turn sealed below a spread of cobbles forming part of the subsoil [2].
- 6.2.56 Many aspects of this feature were found to be associated with pottery sherds, from the earliest compacted pebble deposit [446] to the jumbled material [447] overlying the structural remains. All deposits were found to contain Huntcliff ware as part of the assemblage that indicated a *terminus post quem* for both the deposition of the primary deposit and the jumbled plough damaged aspect to the mid-4th century. This suggests that the feature was broadly contemporary with other remains within the enclosure and the enclosure ditch itself.
- 6.2.57 The remainder of the features dispersed across the eastern area can be grouped into three broad areas. The north-eastern corner contained three pits [632, 634 and 642] and a short length of linear feature [515]. Located centrally were eight pits [436, 495, 504, 506, 508, 560, 563 and 565], an irregular feature [569] and a linear feature [567]. The southern central area contained a concentration of a further eight pits [431, 433, 440, 442, 451, 453, 455 and 479] and a curving gully [467]. Few of these features contained artefactual or palaeoenvironmental material.
- 6.2.58 The pits had general dimensions of 0.5m-1.25m in length, 0.5m-0.7m in width and 0.05m-0.4m in depth. An average diameter of 0.6m was recorded for those features which appeared sub-circular in plan. The linear features varied in length but all were badly truncated with depths that ranged from 0.1m-0.26m.

- 6.2.59 Sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the fill of pits [455 and 436] which included sherds of grey ware and Huntcliff ware. A small assemblage of carbonised cereal grain was recovered from the fill of pits [451 and 634] which included barley, spelt wheat and oat. Undiagnostic fuel ash slag was recovered from the secondary fill [641] of pit [634] that appeared to be derived from the same process as slag recovered from one of the fills of the main enclosure ditch [625] and the outer enclosure feature [622] (Appendix E). Many of the features investigated here were also found to contain variable quantities of sub-rounded to rounded cobbles, some of which displayed evidence of being heated. Pit [634] was noteworthy in as far as the upper fill of the feature was formed almost entirely by tightly packed stones. The quantities of heated cobbles within this area were far fewer than those identified within the southern enclosure.
- 6.2.60 The central area of the northern enclosure was dominated by a complex sequence of linear features with a general north to south alignment. Within the southern area, the remains included a curving gully that formed a small 'U'-shaped inner enclosure associated with numerous inter-cutting ditches, gullies and pits. To the north was a sequence of inter-cutting linear features which culminated in a possible post-trench and a sequence of gullies that continued to the north as a discontinuous linear boundary.
- 6.2.61 The ditches and gullies within this central area had widths that ranged from 0.4m-1m and depths from 0.1m-0.45m. The fills of the features contained occasional finds, although little palaeoenvironmental material was recovered. Where pottery was recovered, a mid to late 4th century onward date was indicated, even in cases where features were stratigraphically distinct, suggesting ditch digging activities occurred during a brief time span.
- 6.2.62 The earlier features identified within the southern area were ditch [376], gully [525] and pit [478]. Ditch [376] was exposed for a distance of 7m and was aligned to the enclosure. It contained a small assemblage of pottery including Huntcliff ware within the secondary fill [532]. No finds or palaeoenvironmental material were recovered from either gully [525] or pit [478]. All three features were truncated by ditch [475].
- 6.2.63 Ditch [475] cut the southern extent of ditch [376] and then diverged north-east from the earlier ditch alignment. Unfortunately, no direct relationship to curving gully [328] was identified, although it was truncated by gully [476], (which in turn truncated the curving gully [328]) and pit [497]. The primary and secondary fills of the ditch were found to contain an assemblage of pottery which included Roman Crambeck ware and Huntcliff ware. Further finds recovered were a fragment of Roman roof tile (*tegulae*) from fill [490] (Appendix H) and a badly damaged base fragment of beehive quern from fill [520] (Appendix F). A small assemblage of charred cereal grain was also recovered that included spelt wheat and oat. A concentration of cobbles were

- identified partially filling the northern terminal of the feature, none appeared heat-affected.
- 6.2.64 Pit [497] had an irregular shape in plan and appeared to have been burnt. It contained no finds although charred cereal grains were identified throughout. A small amount of spelt wheat, barley, oat and rye were recovered from the primary fill [499], the secondary fill [498] contained a larger assemblage (~300 grains) including mostly spelt wheat (Appendix J).
- 6.2.65 Gully [328] formed an angular 'U'-shape in plan and appeared to represent a small internal enclosure which was open to the west. The feature was identified for a length of 30m and was situated immediately adjacent to, and upon the same alignment as the main enclosure ditch [25]. It displayed a rounded terminal to the south that appeared to represent the full extent of the feature, to the north the projected, opposing terminal lay within an area completely truncated by the cut of a later ditch [402]. The single fill [688] contained a roughly produced sandstone disc which may have represented a re-worked roof tile (from [329]; Appendix G) and a pottery assemblage that suggested a mid to late 4th century date (from [493]; Appendix D). The internal enclosure [328] was truncated by gully [476]. A further, unrelated length of gully [409] was identified on a similar alignment to the west.
- 6.2.66 Gully [402] contained a possible stone gaming counter (Appendix G) and a single sherd of Huntcliff ware pottery from within the secondary fill [405]. Gully [476] was aligned at odds to the other features within this area and may have represented a plough scar, it contained no artefactual material.
- 6.2.67 Contained within the internal enclosure formed by gully [328] were linear features [429 and 484]. The earlier was gully [429] which was truncated centrally and at a right angle by gully [484]. Both features were in the order of 10m in length, although gully [484] had been completely removed by later ploughing to the west. None of these features produced dateable material and only a small quantity of unidentified charcoal was recovered from the fill of gully [484].
- 6.2.68 A further group of inter-cutting features [473, 471, 462 and 421] were located to the north of the curving gully [328]. Gully [473] was the earliest feature. It was truncated to the south by gully [471], which was in turn cut by an irregular curving feature [462]. None of these linear features contained artefactual material and they may have represented an earlier undated phase of activity. Gully [462] was truncated centrally by post-trench [421].
- 6.2.69 The post-trench [421] was 'L'-shaped in plan. It measured 4.5m x 0.8m x 0.4m and projected 1.4m to the east as post-hole [423]. Investigations indicated that the trench had received a thin primary fill [469] prior to the excavation of three post-holes [427, 459 and 465] within the base of the feature. The post-holes had depths of between 0.28m-0.38m with diameters that varied between

0.48m-0.6m. Each post-hole was filled by single deposits which were sealed below the main trench fill [422] that also formed the fill of the eastern post-hole [423].

- 6.2.70 The primary fill [469] of the post-trench was found to contain a small assemblage of charred cereal grain including barley, spelt wheat and oat. The fills of the northern and southern post-holes [465 and 427] contained sherds of mid to late 4th century Huntcliff ware. The overlying main fill of the trench [422] contained a large assemblage of artefactual material which included fired clay (Appendix E), a fragment of Roman brick (*bessales*; Appendix H) and a few charred cereal grains including oat and spelt wheat. The fragments of fired clay may have been structural. They had a fabric similar to some Romano-British brick and tile and displayed a curved and flat surface suggesting that they may have formed part of a wattle built structure, although no daub has been recovered from the site. Alternatively, the degree of firing suggested that they could equally have once formed part of an oven or some other unidentified structure that was heated regularly. An assemblage of Roman pottery was also recovered from this deposit which included Huntcliff ware and Roman mortaria indicating a date equivalent to the underlying post-hole fills. The pottery assemblage also contained an abraded sherd of samian dating to the 2nd century (Appendix D) which was considered residual within this context. It appeared this feature provided support for a free-standing structure of unknown function, but perhaps built of wattle. It may have been similar to gully [299] identified within the southern enclosure (discussed above 6.2.15).
- 6.2.71 Three short stretches of gully [411, 397 and 389] lying to the north of the post-trench appeared to represent a discontinuous curving linear boundary. The gullies were up to 4.5m long and were between 0.84m-1.2m wide with depths of up to 0.35m. They appeared to become increasingly shallow to the north. Assemblages of Roman pottery were recovered from the fills of gully [411 and 389] and in both cases Huntcliff ware was included. The northern gully [389] also contained a small assemblage of palaeoenvironmental material which included charcoal derived from alder, birch or hazel (Appendix J). The central gully [397] and small pit [399] were both filled by the same material which contained no artefactual or palaeoenvironmental material.
- 6.2.72 Pit [413] was located adjacent to gully [411]. It was 1.84m long, 0.94m wide and 0.16m deep. The primary fill contained a moderate assemblage of charred cereal grain (~200 grains) composed of spelt wheat with some barley and oat (Appendix J) along with a few large pieces of undiagnostic magnetic material.
- 6.2.73 Located to the east of gully [389] were two further short stretches of gully [371 and 373]. They were located upon the same alignment as ditch [376] to the south and may have represented part of a further discontinuous boundary. Both features were 3m-3.5m x 0.98m x 0.12m and contained sherds of pottery. However, only those from fill [374] of the southern gully [373] were diagnostic

and indicated a general Roman period date. The northern gully also contained moderate quantities of sub-rounded cobbles.

- 6.2.74 Gully [438] was located to the east of gullies [371 and 373] at a distance of c.4m and adhered to their alignment. It was visible for a distance of 8m and continued beyond the extent of the stripped area to the north. A further assemblage of general Roman period pottery was recovered from the single fill [439].
- 6.2.75 The western internal area of enclosure [25] contained only a single pit [325] located centrally and at a distance from activities to the east. The pit was 2.34m long, 1m wide and 0.34m deep and was aligned east to west. The tertiary fill [327] appeared to have been burnt *in situ* and included a black ashy component which contained a minute fragment of iron wire (Appendix E) and the largest carbonised cereal grain assemblage within the northern enclosure. It consisted of approximately 500 grains including spelt wheat with some barley, oat and rye (Appendix J).

Northern enclosure external area

- 6.2.76 Flanking ditches were identified to the east and south of the northern enclosure. Although there was no evidence for an outer ditch to the west, given the level of truncation in this area, it is possible all trace of such a feature had been destroyed. The ditch system to the south has been discussed above. To the east, the outer ditch was located parallel and at a distance of c.2m and included an entrance break in line with that of the main enclosure ditch. Located to the south-east, and pre-dating the outer enclosure ditch [382], was a possible further enclosure or field boundary ditch [201] and the remains of a metallised surface [375].
- 6.2.77 All the external ditches and gullies had alignments consistent with the main enclosure ditch and dimensions that ranged between 0.8m-1.25m wide and 0.25m-0.5m deep. Dateable material recovered from many of the features in this area suggested *terminus post quem* of the mid-4th century for most of the activity. Few palaeoenvironmental remains were identified.
- 6.2.78 Ditch [201] ran parallel to the eastern ditches of both the northern and southern enclosures for a distance of 47m before turning eastwards and running beyond the area of excavation. Together with ditch [206] to the south, it formed part of either an enclosure or field boundary ditch whose circuit was broken by a western entrance opposite the southern enclosure [13]. The fills [309 and 360] of the ditch contained an assemblage of late-Roman pottery that suggested contemporaneity with the main enclosure ditches (Appendix D). Enclosed within the north-west angle was a short length of gully [357] whose fill contained a sherd of Roman calcite-gritted ware and a charred grain of barley [358].

- 6.2.79 The outer corner angle of ditch [201] appeared to be overlain by the degraded remains of a metallated surface [375], although significant truncation by a plough furrow meant that the stratigraphic relationship between the two features was slightly uncertain. This surface was situated between the earlier ditch [201] and the later outer ditch [382] and formed the lining of a hollow within the natural clay [4] (Plate 6). The surface covered an area of some 8m x 6.3m and consisted of pebbles and cobbles between 0.03m and 0.38m in size which had been compacted into the clay. A moderate assemblage of pottery was incorporated into the metallating including fragments from three different Huntcliff ware jars indicating a *terminus post quem* for the emplacement of the surface to the mid-4th century. The metallating was overlain by the remains of a linear spread of larger stones [378] which may have been the remains of a tumbled wall or banking material. This deposit covered an area of 3.6m by 1.7m and was aligned north to south. It consisted of large sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles and boulders between 0.4m and 0.65m in size that survived within the hollow only. An episode of silting [380] followed the deposition of this material which contained further pottery dating to the mid-4th century onward. The silting was then truncated by the outer enclosure ditch [382] along its western edge.
- 6.2.80 The outer ditches [382 and 605] flanked almost the entire eastern side of the main enclosure ditches [25 and 625]. The southern ditch [382] was 20.7m long with a rounded terminal to the south. A small elongated pit type feature [657] located to the north of the northern terminal appeared to represent a continuation and possible northern terminal of this ditch, after truncation by a later plough furrow. Following an entrance break of 6.8m, which coincided with the entrance break in the main enclosure circuit, this outer ditch continued for a further 19.5m as ditch [605] before disappearing north beyond the area of excavation. The fills of the southern outer ditch [382] contained sherds of Colour-coated ware and Roman mortaria whilst both features contained an assemblage of Huntcliff ware suggesting broad contemporaneity with the main enclosure ditch, the earlier metallated surface [375] and eastern ditch [201]. Fragments of Roman brick (*bessalis*) and roof tile (Appendix H) were also recovered from the ditches. The northern flanking ditch [605] contained a large concentration of cobbles within the primary silting which may have represented the remains of a further, although slighter tumbled wall or banking material. This material may be the equivalent of the wall/banking material [378] located on the outer side of the southern flanking ditch [382]. However, in this case the cobbles appeared to have entered the fill of ditch [605] from the inner side, suggesting any feature of this type had been located to the west and between the inner and outer ditches.
- 6.2.81 The southern outer ditch [382] was sealed by a colluvial deposit [381] which also covered the silting [380] of the tumbled wall/bank and the metallated surface [375]. Pottery recovered from this colluvial deposit again included mid-4th century Huntcliff ware.

- 6.2.82 Ditch [654] was located at a right angle to the northern end of the outer enclosure ditch [382] and at a distance of 0.2m. It ran parallel to ditch [201], located to the south, and continued beyond the extent of the stripped area. Although pottery was recovered from the feature, it proved to be undiagnostic. The ditch may have been delimiting the northern side of a 5m wide trackway corridor between enclosures similar to that recorded between the southern and northern enclosures. As discussed earlier, faint parallel linear geophysical anomalies recorded on the slopes of the glacial ridge to the east, suggests that this trackway continued eastward beyond the area of the enclosures.
- 6.2.83 Located to the east of the northern outer ditch [605] and at a distance of 2m were the remains of a possible ditch terminal [622]. This feature was exposed for a distance of only 1.5m at the northern trench edge but appeared to form the southern extent of a ditch running parallel to the outer enclosure ditch [605]. The fill [623] contained a large concentration of unheated sub-rounded cobbles, a fragment of disintegrated quern (Appendix E) and a small assemblage of charred grain including spelt wheat and oat along with charcoal derived from deciduous wood (Appendix J). It also contained undiagnostic fuel ash slag similar to that recovered from pit [634] and fill [685] of the main enclosure ditch [625] (Appendix E).
- 6.2.84 Two pits [665 and 675] were identified to the east of the outer enclosure ditch [605]. The eastern-most pit [665] was the larger and produced two sherds of locally produced Dales-type pottery (Appendix D). The western pit [675] contained no finds or palaeoenvironmental material.

Western Area (Fig. 10)

- 6.2.85 The western area of the site was dominated by the remains of a palaeochannel into which a series of possible field boundaries and drainage ditches were cut. It also contained a metallised surface and numerous pits, some of which appeared natural. The ditches represented multiple phases of activity, although limited artefactual material was recovered to date them. The finds that were recovered suggested a general Roman to late-Roman date. Few palaeoenvironmental remains were identified.
- 6.2.86 The palaeochannel [775] had a general alignment of north-north-west to south-south-east and ran centrally through the western area with a recorded length of over 100m, a maximum width of 20m and an average depth of 0.2m. It displayed a broad curve as it followed the topography of the land and skirted around the base of the eastern ridge containing the enclosures (Fig. 2). The channel continued down-slope to the south. It was filled by a varying sequence of deposits (group number [774]) which were extensively sampled but produced only fine unidentifiable charcoal. Within the southernmost area of the site, and adjacent to the existing quarry face, the palaeochannel contained an extremely well humified organic material [5] (Appendix J). Assessment of this material suggested it was largely formed from extremely degraded woody

- root/rootlet rather than peat. The presence of *cladoceran ehippia* implied standing freshwater at the time of the formation of this fill, although this could have been temporary, perhaps seasonal. The topography of the ground suggests that the palaeochannel is likely to continue northward into Phases N3 and N4 of the quarry extension (Fig. 2).
- 6.2.87 Located centrally within this area were the remains of five inter-cutting ditches; [721, 752, 703, 716 and 782], which all, other than ditch [721], truncated the fills of the palaeochannel [775]. The ditches had widths which ranged from 0.55m-2.4m and depths from 0.16m-0.85m. The earliest features were ditches [721 and 752].
- 6.2.88 Ditch [721] was aligned east to west and was almost completely removed by later features [703 and 716]. Ditch [752] was located to the east of ditch [721] and was aligned to the palaeochannel on its eastern side. It seemed likely that it represented an attempt at draining this area, and would certainly have collected water running off the adjacent land surfaces. The fills of the ditch contained two sherds of Roman grey ware pottery (Appendix D) along with evidence of barley, spelt wheat and small fragments of unidentifiable charcoal and bone. To the south the ditch became imperceptible within the general disturbance of the palaeochannel although it may have continued to the east as the southernmost enclosure flanking ditch [7]. The feature was truncated centrally and almost at a right angle by the later ditch [703].
- 6.2.89 Ditch [703] crossed the area with an east to west alignment and may have represented the continuation of one of the three ditches identified within the corridor between the two enclosures. It was truncated at its western end by ditch [716] which was located immediately to the north and had a similar alignment, suggesting it may have represented a re-cut of this feature. Ditch [716] differed from the earlier ditch by terminating centrally after turning slightly to the north. It was truncated at its eastern end by ditch [782]. No artefactual material was recovered from the fills of these features.
- 6.2.90 Ditch [782] was aligned to, and was cut completely within the fills of the palaeochannel. It was located to the west and broadly parallel to the earlier ditch [752] and may have served a similar function. It was visible for a distance of 12m with a rounded terminal to the south where it truncated ditch [716]. To the north it became imperceptible within the palaeochannel. The feature was stratigraphically the latest ditch, but unfortunately remained undated. It was overlain at its southern end by the remains of a metalled surface [764], although ditch [719] may have formed the southern continuation of this feature after a break of c.11m (Fig. 4). Ditch [719] was visible for a length of 18.8m with a rounded terminal to the north, it again became imperceptible within the palaeochannel to the south. Either this ditch or ditch [752] may have connected to the southern enclosure flanking ditch [7] and formed a larger enclosure. The fill [720] contained two fragments of unidentifiable ceramic building material of probable Roman date (Appendix H).

- 6.2.91 Located centrally within the palaeochannel was a metalled surface [764] (Plate 7). It lay within a slight hollow upon the surface of the channel fills and overlay the fills of ditch [782], the earlier ditches [752, 703 and 716] and the possible entrance break between [782] and [719]. The surface was irregular in plan and covered an area of approximately 12.6m x 8m. It was constructed from a single layer of well-sorted sub-rounded and rounded cobbles up to 0.1m x 0.1m x 0.1m in size that were compacted and had sunken slightly into the fills of the underlying features. A single sherd of late 4th-century Roman calcite-gritted ware was recovered from within the metalling that provided a *terminus post quem* for the installation of the surface.
- 6.2.92 Following the deposition of the metalling, and prior to any silting of the surface, a small cairn had been constructed. This feature was sub-circular in plan and covered an area of c.1m. It comprised an undisturbed base section [790] which was overlain by loose stones [738] that had been disturbed by ploughing. The entire feature achieved a height above the metalled surface of 0.32m and consisted of crudely stacked cobbles between 0.12m and 0.38m in size. It seemed likely that it served the function of a marker, possibly identifying the location of the metalled surface [764] at times of flood or following episodes of silting.
- 6.2.93 The area of the surface was then sealed by a phase of silting [798] which was then overlain by a thin layer of material [797] that appeared equivalent to the subsoil [701] although discoloured by water action within the palaeochannel.

Phase II Discussion

- 6.2.94 The principle features identified on site were the two large rectangular enclosures [13 and 25] and the associated outer ditches. Excavation combined with geophysical survey within the field to the north indicates that they are two of three enclosures located along the crest of a glacial ridge. The geophysical survey also indicates that this group forms part of a more extensive complex of enclosures, field systems and trackways extending west and north across the lower lying ground and onto the adjacent glacial ridge located between Holly Bank Farm and Rougham Farm (Fig. 2).
- 6.2.95 The complex appears to have been east-facing as all evidence for entrances was located within the eastern sides. It is possible that they were orientated toward Dere Street, which was located at a distance of approximately 2.5km to the east (Margary 1973, 427-8) (Fig. 1). The two enclosures were separated by a corridor containing the remains of a possible multi-phase ditched trackway or droveway.
- 6.2.96 This trackway appeared to extend beyond the area of the main enclosures, across the course of a palaeochannel and onto a further glacial ridge to the west. Its continuation eastward is uncertain, although excavation suggested that it may have extended down into the shallow valley to the east of the ridge.

Geophysical survey of the west-facing slope of the glacial ridge to the east of this valley identified two faint parallel linear anomalies with a similar alignment and spacing consistent with the phased aspects of the excavated trackway elements, suggesting it may have continued eastward into this area. The trackway appeared to represent two phases of activity although no evidence was gained to define the earlier. The ditches which formed each phase appeared to sub-divide the corridor between the enclosures into c.5m wide thoroughfares. One phase of the trackway, formed by the central dividing ditches [316 and 93] contained a staggered entrance break, possibly to facilitate access from the south-west into the northern area of this trackway.

- 6.2.97 Trackways and droveways are a common feature of sites dated to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods and are often seen to continue for some distance both connecting and sub-dividing enclosures and field systems (Roberts *et al* 2001, 31 fig. 13). A width of c.5m also appears to be common, as attested at Swillington Common (*loc.cit.*) and by a mid to late Roman track or droveway investigated as part of the A1 (M) Darrington to Dishforth DBFO road scheme (Brown *et al* 2007, 48-49). The latter was considered to represent a possible droveway designed to channel or restrict the movement of stock (*loc.cit.*). The excavated trackway(s) at Allerton Park appears to have functioned in a similar manner by controlling movement through the area of the enclosures.
- 6.2.98 Diagnostic aspects of the finds assemblage recovered from the enclosure complex placed activities within the late Roman period. Where stratigraphically related features were identified, the pottery recovered from the different phases was generally composed of equivalent types dating to the later 3rd and 4th centuries AD, suggesting occupation of the site probably occurred over a relatively brief time span. In many cases this was refined to the mid to late 4th century, as evinced by the ubiquitous presence of Huntcliff ware pottery on site. A small number of undated features which were aligned at odds to, or truncated by the main enclosure ditches were identified and whilst these have been tentatively identified as part of Phase II, these features could potentially represent an earlier phase of activity. There is, however, no evidence to suggest that widespread division of the land had been undertaken within this area prior to the late Roman period. The only material recovered which pre-dated the late Roman occupation, but post-dated the Phase I early Bronze Age, was a residual sherd of abraded 2nd century samian pottery.
- 6.2.99 The precise functions of the two enclosures was unclear, although the evidence for both crop processing and butchered animal bone suggests a mixed farming economy of arable production and animal husbandry. There is also tentative evidence for domestic occupation, burial and possibly metal working. A defining aspect of both enclosures was a general north to south sub-division of the internal areas, although some further east to west aligned division had been undertaken within the north-eastern area of the southern enclosure, perhaps associated with a possible inhumation cemetery. The northern enclosure contained a complex sequence of inter-cutting gullies, which as a whole gave

the impression of a central dividing line that defined an area of occupation to the east from an area largely apparently devoid of features to the west. However the lack of features in this area may be the result of a greater level of truncation by modern ploughing upon the crest of the ridge. The component parts of this sequence included a curving angular 'U'-shaped gully [328] which represented a small internal enclosure open to the west, and both continuous and discontinuous linear boundaries. The dateable features within this sequence could not be distinguished chronologically and all dated to the mid to late 4th century. It is conceivable that an earlier phase is represented within this area, as some of the undated features were stratigraphically the earliest. Parallels can be drawn between aspects of this sequence and a group of late-Roman gullies and irregular features identified internally within Enclosure E at Parlington Hollins (Roberts *et al* 2001, 99-101) and the apparent discontinuous boundary consisting of gullies [411, 397 and 389] may be compared to a segmented 2nd century boundary ditch identified at Roman Ridge during the same scheme (*op.cit.*, 111).

- 6.2.100 Heat-affected cobbles were identified widely across the site and formed part of the fills of many of the features, although to a lesser extent within the internal area of the northern enclosure. Not more than three cobbles were present in the fills of most features, although in a few cases, larger quantities were identified which formed almost the entire fills of the features. The ubiquitous nature of this artefact type suggests they were quite widespread across the ancient ground surface during the pit-digging/backfilling activities. Heated cobbles or pot boilers may have functioned as heating elements for the cooking of food; their ability to retain and transfer heat allowed them to be used for both the boiling of liquids and within ovens (Thoms 2009, 576). They may generally be taken as an indication of occupation. However, in this case the amounts and larger sizes of some of the pieces may suggest this was not the only function on site. It is possible that they were utilised in the heating of larger quantities of water within pits or that they formed part of a dismantled stone structure that had been fired, such as feature [466] located within the north-eastern area of the northern enclosure.
- 6.2.101 The strongest evidence for occupation was identified in and around two possible timber structures located within the south-eastern corner of the northern enclosure. This area contained a dense cluster of post-holes which has been interpreted as representing the remains of two simple structures. However, this area has the potential to represent further phases of activity or a more complex structural arrangement. The two suggested buildings were aligned at about forty-five degrees to the main enclosure ditch and represented differing phases of activity upon the same land plot, unfortunately, no evidence was gained to suggest which was the earlier. Structure 1 consisted of a four-post building associated with an internal metalled surface. Three additional post-settings were identified inset from the corner posts and may have provided further support or an entrance. Pottery sherds incorporated into the metalled surface and the fill of one of the corner post-holes suggested a date of the mid

to late 4th century, indicating the structure was contemporary with the enclosure. No evidence was gained to suggest the function of the building, although the four-post structure has traditionally been interpreted as a raised granary or store (Morris 1979, 31). The quantity of charred cereal grain recovered from the vicinity of the structure was, however, too small to draw any meaningful conclusions with respect to grain storage. Structure 2 appeared to have been constructed with at least a six-post arrangement, although only four of these survived representing two sides of the building which flanked the remains of structure 1 located to the south. Unfortunately, none of the post-holes could be dated. Quantities of nails recovered from this area support the suggestion that construction activities were taking place here.

- 6.2.102 Evidence for occupation of a domestic character is suggested by the quantities and types of finds made within the vicinity of the two structures. There was a significant increase in the quantity of discarded pottery recovered from the south-eastern corner of the enclosure ditch. Vessel glass and a fine glass pin were recovered from pits adjacent to the two structures. These later items should be considered as prestige pieces rather than utilitarian items.
- 6.2.103 Further evidence for timber based structural activity includes the short lengths of post-trench identified within both the southern and northern enclosures [299 and 421] and the recovery of a joiner's dog from pit [136]. The southern post-trench appeared to have provided the foundation for opposing terminal posts supported by stone pads. Immediately to the west of the trench, pit [97] contained a possible post-pad and packing stones and may therefore also have provided some form of structural timber support. The northern example incorporated post-holes arranged in an 'L'-shape. The features are thought to relate to free standing timber or wattle structures. Although their function is unknown, both could represent some form of shelter for industrial or crop processing activities. The in-filling of the northern example dated to the mid-4th century onward.
- 6.2.104 The presence of a small assemblage of Romano-British ceramic building material comprising roof tile (*tegulae* and *imbrex*); small bricks (*bessales*) and undiagnostic tile, amongst the finds assemblage could also reflect the presence of a building(s) within the vicinity. Although the assemblage is too small to draw any meaningful conclusions about their function. Romano-British ceramic building material was considered to be of high-status and a valued re-useable commodity, it could therefore represent numerous activities such as re-use within aspects of smaller 'free-standing structures', or structures such as the stone walls alongside the outer flanking ditches, the possible corn dryer/oven or hearth. It could also represent re-deposited material, used as post-packing and/or within the metalled surfaces.
- 6.2.105 Other possible structures included the badly damaged remains of the stone constructed feature [466] identified within the north-eastern quadrant of the northern enclosure. The remains were in a poor condition and little of the

original structure survived. It may have had a key-hole shape in plan and appeared to have been constructed from sub-rounded field stones that had been fired, possibly accounting for a percentage of the heat-affected cobbles identified within the area. All related contexts included pottery dated to the mid-4th century onward and a single sherd of possible Crambeck Parchment ware recovered from the primary deposit [662] may indicate a slightly later *terminus post quem* of c.AD360-70 for this feature. Although the function of the structure remained unknown there are similarities with a 4th century long hearth identified at Langton, North Yorkshire (Morris 1979, 87).

- 6.2.106 There is tentative evidence to suggest that the southern enclosure may have been used for both industrial and burial activities. These remains were located within spatially distinct areas and may represent contemporary activity.
- 6.2.107 The group of grave-like features were situated predominantly within the north-east quadrant. The lack of skeletal material could be the result of the dissolution of bone within the natural sand. This possibility is supported by the paucity of recovered animal bone from the site and the poor state of preservation of the small recovered assemblage. The animal bone specialist stated it was clear that ground conditions were not conducive to the survival of bone. The interpretation of the pits as possible graves is based upon other factors including form, dimensions, alignment, location and artefacts. The dimensions of the features, their discrete nature and both their proximity to, and alignment with the enclosure ditch is consistent with burials in Roman Yorkshire, as at Parlington Hollins (Roberts *et al* 2001, p83-105) investigated as part of the A1-M1 Link Road scheme and within a Romano-British enclosure at Thurnscoe, South Yorkshire (Neal and Fraser 2004, p29-31). The location of burials within the northern area of an enclosure also appears to be a common factor (Roberts *et al* 2001, p99, fig. 75; Neal and Fraser 2004, p33, fig. 20).
- 6.2.108 Of the twelve features highlighted as possible graves, two were particularly suggestive of this function [136 and 132]. Feature [136] contained an almost complete late-3rd to 4th century, Dales-type ware jar, standing upright and leaning against the north-eastern edge of the feature. The deposition of complete vessels represents a practice consistent with late Roman burial contexts as has been identified at Bridge Road, Brompton on Swale (NAA 2004, 16). Here inhumation burials were associated with complete grey ware drinking vessels dated to AD 360-70 onward.
- 6.2.109 The second pit [132] contained a well-constructed stone lining within the northern half of the feature, the emplacement of which could be ascribed a *terminus post quem* of the mid-4th century. The fill of the pit also contained a segment of a fine jet/shale ring. The addition of a stone lining, either partially or wholly around burials is also a notable aspect of late-Roman burial practices. Of those investigated at Hollow Banks Quarry, Scorton, North Yorkshire, Grave Fourteen, exhibited a poorly formed stone lining (Speed in

prep). It was suggested that this lining served as packing for a coffined burial, which were being widely used by the late-Roman period (O'Brien 1999, 13).

- 6.2.110 The remainder of the possible grave pits contained few finds and no further dateable material. Small quantities of iron nail were recovered from two of the features which may imply the use of a wooden coffin (*loc.cit.*). A possible fragment of stone coffin was also identified within the north-western area of the northern enclosure, and although at a distance, may be related to the burial activity within the southern enclosure (Appendix F; [69AA]).
- 6.2.111 The evidence for metal working activity on site was slight. It was composed primarily of both plate and spheroidal hammerscale recovered from the south-western area of the southern enclosure. Whilst it is conceivable that a percentage of this hammerscale was post-Roman and had moved down through the sandy soils from horizons above, it seems likely that some, in particular, the larger pieces from pit [176], represented industrial activity during the late-Roman occupation of the southern enclosure. Occasional pieces of fired clay were also identified within the vicinity of pit [176] which appeared to originate from the site of a bonfire or hearth and may further support evidence for industrial activity within this area. Metal production and processing activities could not be further supported. The small amount of slag recovered during investigations proved to be undiagnostic. However, it is possible for a skilled smith to forge iron and produce a very small amount of fragile cindery slag.
- 6.2.112 There was good evidence for crop processing activities within both enclosures. This comprised the charred remains of cereal grains and chaff, fragments of quern and two possible agricultural tools. The identifiable components of the cereal grain assemblage clearly showed the most abundant crops to be barley and spelt wheat, together with traces of oat and rye. Many of the samples gave sufficient suitable charred plant remains for AMS radiocarbon dating. No pattern to the distribution of the cereal remains could be identified and some larger concentrations were located within both enclosures. The most substantial assemblage was recovered from pit [148] within the eastern inner area of the southern enclosure and comprised 800-900 grains. The western area was found to contain far fewer palaeoenvironmental remains suggesting it was at a distance from any crop processing activities. Fragments of quern were identified within the vicinity of both enclosures and included saddle, beehive and disc quern fragments. Two further stone objects were recovered, one of which has been identified as massive stone trough/mortar base or coffin base and the other as a stone bowl or small mortar fragment. Both may have been associated with crop processing activities. The iron blade tip and turf-cutter could also be indicative of agricultural or industrial activities.
- 6.2.113 Animal bone indicative of animal husbandry was also present. It was only a small assemblage of material comprising 187 hand collected fragments from 21 deposits with a further small assemblage from 13 sediment samples (some

of which were from the same contexts as the hand-collected material). The material was mostly collected from the fills of the northern enclosure ditches, with smaller quantities from the southern enclosure and from pits and gullies within its inner area. Identified remains were few and were restricted to the main domestic mammals – cattle, horse, caprovid and pig. The remains appeared to be primary butchery waste (i.e. heads and terminal limb elements) but given the small size of the assemblage, the interpretative value of the remains is limited.

- 6.2.114 The finds assemblage has allowed an insight into Roman/native interaction, albeit on a limited scale. That the population of the area had access to, and were involved in, the Roman exchange system can be seen in the discovery of prestige items, such as the fragment of jet/shale ring, vessel glass and the glass pin. The types of pottery identified also imply regional trade, with wares attested from East and South Yorkshire.
- 6.2.115 That these enclosures formed part of a more widespread complex of land division is evinced by the excavated remains of further enclosures or field boundary ditches to the east [206, 201 and 654]; the complex of inter-cutting field system ditches to the west and the linear features identified by the geophysical survey of Phase N3 and N4 to the north. Although there was stratigraphic evidence to suggest that the eastern field boundary [201] may have been earlier than the eastern flanking ditch to the north enclosure, in general terms, the limited excavated material recovered from these field system elements suggested that they were broadly contemporary with the main enclosures.
- 6.2.116 The western area was found to contained a sequence of inter-cutting field boundary/drainage ditches, many of which overlay the upper levels of a palaeochannel [775]. These ditches were quite sinuous and the north to south aligned examples appeared to follow the course of the palaeochannel, suggesting they may have functioned in part as drains for this area. They could be ascribed with a general Romano-British *terminus post quem* from pottery recovered from the fill of one of the earlier ditches. The latest ditch [782] appeared to display an entrance break which aligned with the projected westward course of the trackway between the two enclosures, suggesting the thoroughfare may have continued through this area. The southern continuation of this feature [719] proceeded to the south where it became imperceptible within the fills of the palaeochannel. It is possible that this feature may have connected to the southern enclosure flanking ditch [7] forming a larger enclosed area. Following the silting of these ditches the area of the entrance break was overlain by a cobbled surface [764], the emplacement of which could be dated to the mid to late 4th century. This surface appeared to provided a firm crossing point to what would have been a seasonally waterlogged area and was associated with a small stone cairn that may have functioned as a marker during times of flood or following episodes of silting.

- 6.2.117 The enclosure complex with associated trackways and field boundaries fit within a wider landscape of land division visible from cropmarks immediately to the south-west and east of the site. These cropmarks have been provisionally dated on the basis of form to the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Other sites within this wider landscape have been identified during trial trenching near Allerton Grange Farm located approximately 3km to the south-east (Speed in prep). Excavations revealed the truncated remnants of a field system, trackway and some evidence of settlement, although no dateable artefacts were recovered. The settlement evidence comprised sub-rectangular timber structures associated with cobbled surfaces, pits and ditches and were comparable to findings made during the current scheme of investigations.
- 6.2.118 The evidence available from cropmarks and previous excavation provide local comparisons to the discoveries made at Allerton Park and place the site within a widespread local sequence of enclosure and land division during the Roman period. Additional phases of extraction at Allerton Park Quarry will require the investigation of extensive areas of land that has the potential to contain multi-period occupation. Excavations at sites such as Bayram Hill (NAA 1994a) and Dalton Parlours (Wrathmell and Nicholson 1990, 279) have identified a continuity of settlement from the Iron Age to the 4th century. In both cases, the evidence suggested piecemeal enclosure of an increasing area, with the focus of settlement shifting through time. The possibility that this may also be the case at Allerton Park, has been hinted at by the stratigraphically earlier undated features and the extent of the enclosed landscape revealed by the geophysical survey undertaken within the field to the north (Fig. 2). Evidence of this nature could significantly increase our understanding of how rural landscape and society changed in the region, not only through the Roman period, but also during the transition from the Iron Age. The site also has the potential to approach questions posed by the North Yorkshire Research Framework (Roskams and Whyman 2007) with regard to the distribution and nature of Bronze Age land enclosure within the area. Although it has been suggested that no large scale division of the land was undertaken prior to the late-Roman period, the recovery of fragments of early Bronze Age Beaker may be indicative of further remains of this date within the vicinity.

6.3 Phase III: post-Roman

- 6.3.1 Overlying many of the Phase II features were the remains of a series of discontinuous plough furrows. The furrows had approximate widths of between 1m and 3m and were spaced between 8m-10m apart. Their location and centre alignment is shown on Figure 4. These features survived mainly upon the sloped areas of the site, where a greater depth of topsoil had protected them from truncation by later, modern ploughing. Most of the furrows were identified within the main enclosure areas, however, it was possible that the linear feature [714] within the western area also represented such a feature (Fig. 10). During excavations quantities of residual Romano-British pottery and

medieval pottery were recovered from the fills of the furrows which indicated a focus of agricultural activity within the twelfth century (Appendix D).

- 6.3.2 Cut into the upper fill of the northern enclosure ditch [625] was a shallow pit [637] that contained the remains of a sheep (Fig. 8). The animal was articulated with only the skull missing, which appeared to have been removed by recent ploughing. It was not associated with dateable material and was considered to be modern.
- 6.3.3 The remains of a trackway were identified crossing the site on a south-west to north-east alignment (Fig. 4). It was approximately 3m wide and was constructed from mixed cobbles up to 0.2m in size which included large amounts of factory-produced brick and tile. The track adhered to the route of a public footpath identified upon the current 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map of the area (Fig. 1).

6.4 Unphased features

- 6.4.1 Due to the unenclosed nature of the western area of the site and the lack of dateable material, a large proportion of undated features were identified which could not be ascribed to a particular phase.
- 6.4.2 Located within the angle created by the Phase II ditches [716 and 782] was a large east to west aligned pit [753] (Fig. 10). It was 2.87m long, 1.6m wide and 0.39m deep and was filled by a complex sequence of six definite deposits. The feature appeared to have silted slightly prior to the tipping of material into it from the west. The second of these tipped deposits contained unidentifiable burnt material. Unfortunately, no artefactual material was recovered from the feature and therefore the function and date remain unknown.
- 6.4.3 A further large undated pit [732] and pit re-cut [747] were located within the southern part of the western area of the site. Pit [732] had diameter of 1.9m and a depth of 0.88m with a sharp 'V'-shaped profile. The feature received three archaeologically sterile fills prior to being re-cut centrally by pit [747]. The re-cut pit had a diameter of 0.98m and a depth of 0.59m with again a sharp 'V'-shaped profile. The re-cut was filled by two deposits which contained a small amount of unidentifiable charcoal only.
- 6.4.4 A number of other pits which were considered to have an archaeological origin were investigated within this area. These comprised pits [734, 736, 750, 708, and 772]. Of these pits [734, 736 and 750] were small, shallow, sub-circular features; pits [708 and 772] were larger. Only pits [772 and 750] yielded finds, these included small amounts of unidentified charcoal and a piece of undiagnostic slag. Pit [772] truncated a shallow undated stretch of gully [770] (likely to be a burrow).

- 6.4.5 Three further undated gullies [702, 706 and 730] were also identified within the western area. Two of these gullies [706 and 730] were identified in close proximity to each other within the south-western part of the site. They were both narrow and shallow when considered against those identified to the north. The third gully [702] was located immediately to the north of ditch [716]. None of the features were inter-cutting, nor did any produce artefactual material.

Natural features

- 6.4.6 A large number of definite natural features were identified during investigations and have been illustrated upon the site plans in a light-grey to aid identification. Within the main eastern area of the site, features [418, 614, 644 and 648] appeared to originate from root disturbance and features [547, 549, 553, 571, 612 and 630] were the product of burrowing animals. No artefactual material was recovered from any of these features and only feature [549] contained palaeoenvironmental remains which included charred grains of spelt wheat that were seemingly residual within this context. Further features classified as non-archaeological in origin were; [361, 392, 588, 610, 619, 621, 646, 650, 652, and 660]. These features appeared to be naturally occurring (glacially derived) anomalies or the product of water movement down slope.
- 6.4.7 The western area of the site contained a similar collection of features considered to have a natural origin. In this case they appeared to represent root activity and burrowing animals. Located within the south-western area of the site were five pits; [710, 728, 739, 741, 765, 776] and a short length of gully [770]. A further naturally occurring anomaly was feature [776], located to the south of ditch [703]. It contained a concentration of soft angular stones with a uniform dark-yellow colour which was set within natural undisturbed clay. It appeared to have a glacial origin.

7.0 SPECIALIST FINDS ASSESSMENTS

Flint (P. Rowe) – Appendix B

Archaeological Potential

- 7.1 A small assemblage of sixteen lithic items was collected during the 2007 excavations. Nine of these have been identified as naturally occurring fragments of flint or chert, the remaining fragments are the result of prehistoric napping. The knapped flints fall in to two groups, a blade based sample and a flake-based sample. The blades are all fairly broad and are consistent with an early prehistoric date of the Mesolithic or early Neolithic, however, all the recovered blades were from unstratified contexts. The flake based sample was, for the most part, recovered from stratified contexts, however, the small size of the flakes makes it difficult to comment on any likely chronological trends.

- 7.2 The lithic material has limited potential, being largely natural in composition. The small sample of worked material points to an earlier human presence in the area than is indicated by the excavated features alone. There is no evidence for the continued use of flint as a raw material in to the Iron Age at this particular site as has been demonstrated elsewhere.

Recommendations

- 7.3 No further analysis of the lithics is recommended. Consideration should be given to discarding the natural pieces from contexts [131, 205, 248, 249 and 522]. The knapped flints and remaining natural pieces should be retained within the site archive.

Prehistoric pottery (T. G. Manby) – Appendix C

Archaeological Potential

- 7.4 A total of 172 fragments of a single early Bronze Age Beaker were recovered from two fills of a small pit [49] during the 2007 excavations. The fragments represent sherds from the neck and body of a well-made and skilfully decorated vessel which was of a quality usually deposited within Bronze Age inhumation burials, although the current context was not consistent with such a role. The decoration is characteristic of Clarke's Northern British Beaker series, however, without the rim, closer stylistic Group attribution is difficult. Comparison with recently dated, Beaker typo-chronological schemes suggests associations with other Beaker examples that have a c.2250-1950 cal BC radiocarbon range. Relatively few examples have been recovered from sites within the Vale of York and therefore, although the potential for further analysis is limited, the Allerton Park Beaker is an important addition to a scatter of Beaker find spots within this area.

Recommendations

- 7.5 No further analysis of the prehistoric pottery fragments is recommended. The sherds should be adequately packed for mid to long term storage and be retained with the site archive.

Pottery (P. Didsbury) – Appendix D

Archaeological Potential

- 7.6 A total of 809 sherds, weighing 11647 grams and having an average sherd weight of 14.4 grams was recovered from the excavations. The vast majority of the pottery is consistent with manufacture and/or deposition in the later 3rd and 4th centuries with only occasional sherds, such as the worn piece of samian from context [422], hinting at the presence of earlier material. Activity belonging to the very late 3rd century or the first half of the 4th is signalled by

the presence of Dales-type (of which an almost complete example was recovered) and proto-Huntcliff jars, but any attempt to isolate specific features of this date is constrained by the difficulty of accurately dating non-diagnostic sherds of calcite-gritted ware, and the need to employ arguments based upon the apparent absence of later types. The range of material is fairly typical for late Roman assemblages in the region, dominated by a combination of East and possibly South Yorkshire grey wares, proto-Huntcliff and Huntcliff jars, and Crambeck products including mortaria. The assemblage contains little potential for further analysis, however, submission of the samian and the mortaria for specialist examination, as recommended, may narrow the dating of, and provide a provenance for, this material.

- 7.7 Material from the plough furrows seems to indicate medieval activity centred on the 12th century.

Recommendations

- 7.8 Full publication of the pottery is not recommended, though a discursive summary, supported by selective illustrations (including the largely complete Dales-type ware jar) should accompany any full publication of the site. The samian and the mortaria should be subject to specialist examination. All material should be retained with the site archive.

Fired clay and industrial waste (J. Cowgill) – Appendix E

Archaeological Potential

- 7.9 A total of 274g (47 pieces) of fired clay and 87 magnetic-matter samples were recovered during investigations and submitted for recording. The small assemblage of fired clay mainly consists of fragments of fired natural probably derived from bonfire sites or more permanent hearths, although none of these were identified. The only fragments that may have been structural were recovered from the fill [422] of a post-trench within the northern enclosure. These had a fabric similar to some Romano-British brick and tile and displayed a curved and flat surface suggesting that they may have formed part of a wattle built structure, although no daub was recovered from the site. The degree of firing suggested that perhaps they once formed part of an oven or some other unidentified structure that was heated regularly.
- 7.10 The majority of the magnetic matter recovered was iron rich sand that had become magnetic through heating, possibly during swaling (land clearance by burning). The overall quantities of plate and spheroidal hammerscale, a by-product of iron smithing, were low although those recovered were identified predominantly within the southern enclosure. The hammerscale could be associated with the Roman-British activity on site although it is considered that most, if not all may have moved down through the sandy soils from the overlying deposits. No iron-smithing slags were recovered although it is

possible for a skilled smith to forge iron and produce a very small amount of fragile cindery slag. The majority of the slag recovered was in both small amounts and undiagnostic in its nature. The assemblage has no potential for further analysis.

Recommendations

- 7.11 This assemblage requires no further work or any particular storage conditions and should be retained with the site archive.

Quernstones (J. Cruise; lithology by J. Gaunt) – Appendix F

Archaeological Potential

- 7.12 A total of 7 artefacts were recovered during excavations. These comprised one possible saddle quern rubber, two beehive quern fragments, two disc quern fragments and two fragmentary stone objects identified as a massive stone trough/mortar base or coffin fragment and a stone bowl or small mortar fragment.

Recommendations

- 7.13 The massive stone fragment and stone bowl are unusual objects and worthy of more detailed analysis as objects in their own right considered against their context and dating background.
- 7.14 Further analysis of the collection of quernstones against the results of the post-excavation assessment has considerable potential to contribute to our knowledge of:
- The chronology of massive saddle quern use, if the context containing [26AB] can be dated;
 - beehive quern fragmentation practices: detailed examination of context and dating may assist understanding of post-Roman Iron Age and Romano-British practices; and
 - the chronology and context (civil/military) of disc querns.
- 7.15 All objects other than the bowl/mortar from context [95] should be illustrated to enable the reconstructed options to be clearly understood. Illustration of the bowl/mortar would complete the picture, but it is less important. All material should be retained with the site archive.

Worked stone (M. Foreman) – Appendix G

Archaeological Potential

- 7.16 A total of 9 items were sent for assessment which comprised six stone discs, one large hone stone, a fragment of rotary quern and a rubber stone for use with a saddle quern.
- 7.17 Roughly worked stone discs can be a common find and are reported from contexts dated to between the Romano-British and late medieval periods. Those from Allerton Park would appear from associated material to fall within the earlier part of this date-range. The smaller of the discs have been classified here as gaming counters on the basis of their size and relatively careful finish, although identification of the larger and more roughly finished items remains problematic.
- 7.18 The hone stone is a fragment of local origin and represents an artefact class that was common in all communities, both within the Roman period and again from the Anglo-Scandinavian and medieval periods. Improvised hones could supplement selected sharpening stones, and although the identification of the artefact with Romano-British pottery might suggest a contemporary date, it could equally be associated with medieval agricultural use, for the sharpening of tools such as sythes. The recovery of the hone from within the fill of a plough furrow supports this possibility.

Recommendations

- 7.19 The lithology of the stone objects should be established by a competent geological specialist, and these identifications should be added to catalogue entries along with any germane comment.
- 7.20 The saddle quern rubber stone from context [69 AB] and the rotary quern fragment from context [662 AC] should be referred to a quern specialist for assessment in the light of provisional interpretation as part of the analysis stage. They should also be included in the topical report discussing the prehistoric material associated with crop processing.
- 7.21 All objects should be drawn, and, selective illustrations of typical examples (e.g. one from contexts [118 or 405] and one from contexts [338, 329, 662 or 280]) presented as part of the final report.
- 7.22 Further finds of stone discs made during any future investigations should be collected, reported, retained, and their measurements and characteristics merged with those identified during the current scheme. This may help clarify the date-range, and perhaps varied uses, of what is currently a common, long-lived, but poorly understood category of artefact.

- 7.23 All objects should be retained for deposition as part of the site archive.

Ceramic building material (J. Tibbles) – Appendix H

Archaeological Potential

- 7.24 An assemblage of 21 fragments was recovered from 16 contexts during investigations. Nineteen pieces of ceramic building material were identified of which two were post-Roman, the remainder were categorised as fired clay. The Roman aspect of the assemblage comprised seventeen fragments which included roof tile (*tegulae* and *imbrices*), brick (*bessalis*), undiagnostic tile and unidentifiable ceramic building material. Romano-British ceramic building material was considered to be of high-status and a valued re-useable commodity. Its presence among the finds assemblage could reflect a building/s within the vicinity, although there is little evidence to date for structures of a substantial size. There is also a noticeable paucity of the range of building materials required within the various aspects of construction.
- 7.25 The majority of the assemblage (71%) was identified within deposits associated with the northern enclosure. This supports the increase in occupational activities within this area. The material was recovered from Structure 1: pit/posthole [601]; 'free-standing' structure: post-trench [421] and ditch [475] and inner and outer ditches within the north-east part of the enclosure [25, 382, 605 and 625]. The small quantity together with the stratigraphic location of the five fragments from the around the entrance area infers re-deposited material probably used as post-packing and/or within the metallised surfaces. There is little evidence of bonding material, although the fragments may have been bonded with clay. The small assemblage recovered from within the southern enclosure may represent aspects of a kiln or oven, however, there was a noticeable paucity of heat discolouration. The random distribution of this material is more likely to represent casual deposition/dumping. The material recovered from the western area was not identifiable by form.
- 7.26 Despite the limited potential of the Romano-British assemblage, the information gleaned is significant as it enhances the evidence for structural activity within the enclosures. It also adds to the increasing corpus of information regarding the presence of small assemblages of ceramic building material, recovered from small-scale, rural, Romano-British settlements. It would seem that re-use was common place, utilised for small structures within a settlement complex.
- 7.27 The remainder of the assemblage dated from the post-medieval to early modern periods and comprised a fragment of pan-tile and land drain that was likely to be the result of casual deposition and agricultural activity.

Recommendations

- 7.28 Due to the small size of the Romano-British ceramic building material assemblage, no further work is recommended, although it is deserving of a short note within any published report.
- 7.29 It is recommended that the Romano-British ceramic building material be retained, although a selective discard policy may be implemented at the clients/museums discretion, pending the intrinsic value of their contexts. This should be undertaken in conjunction with the specialists' recommendations. The retained material should be deposited with the site archive.
- 7.30 The post-medieval ceramic building material is recommended for discard.
- 7.31 Should any further archaeological work be undertaken on or within the vicinity of the Allerton Park investigation, it is recommended that any ceramic building material encountered is retained and subject to analysis. Not only would any further material be advantageous for comparable analysis, but it may also further increase the archaeological potential of the assemblage discussed in this report.

Small finds assessment (M. Bishop) – Appendix I

Archaeological Potential

- 7.32 A total of 21 items were recovered and assessed which comprised nineteen ferrous items, one jet and one glass object. The ferrous objects comprised a fragment of a possible pitchfork; a turf-cutter; a joiner's dog; a staple; a possible blade tip and numerous nail fragments.
- 7.33 The artefacts provide an extremely limited perspective on the material culture of the areas examined. Most of the nails are probably indicative of Roman structural activity and construction in general, as is the joiner's dog whereas the possible turf-cutter and knife blade tip may suggest industrial or agricultural activities. The jet ring and glass pin are clear evidence of Roman domestic occupation and might be considered to be fairly high status objects. A small proportion of the assemblage thus has potential for further work. The pitchfork and staple are probably modern intrusions.

Recommendations

- 7.34 The majority of the finds (mainly the ferrous fragments) do not merit further study. The turf-cutter merits further research and cleaning and, along with the glass pin and jet ring, will require full publication in some form. Three items are recommended for illustration; the turf-cutter, the glass pin and the jet ring segment, and require inclusion within a consolidated finds catalogue with

more detailed citation of parallels than is appropriate in an assessment report. The artefactual material should be retained as part of the site archive.

Assessment of the biological remains (A. Schmidl, et al) – Appendix J

Archaeological Potential

- 7.35 Washovers and organic remains recovered from the residues of 97 sediment samples, together with a single unprocessed bulk sediment sample, two column samples, 'spot' finds of charcoal and small quantities of hand-collected shell and bone, were submitted to Palaeoecology Research Services Limited (PRS) for assessment of their bioarchaeological potential.
- 7.36 Biological remains recovered from all the sample types were, in general, rather few and of little interpretative value. The exceptions were a small number of deposits from the northern and southern enclosures which yielded larger assemblages of charred food plant remains, chiefly cereal crops, and associated arable weeds. Many of the cereal remains were too poorly preserved for close identification but, amongst the identifiable components of the assemblages, grains and chaff clearly showed the most abundant crops to be barley and spelt wheat, together with traces of oat and rye. There were also small numbers of charred remains of common weeds of arable fields which were probably harvested (by accident) together with the cereal crops.
- 7.37 Three deposits from the inner area of the southern enclosure, including pit [49] that contained the remains of a Bronze Age beaker, and one from the inner area of the northern enclosure yielded a small number of charred tubers of onion couch, and charred rhizomes of other herbaceous plants which probably derived from peat or turves. The upper and lower fills of the northern enclosure ditch within segment 10 in the south-east corner close to structures 1 and 2, also contained charred root and rhizome fragments of herbaceous plants, together with other remains, such as caryopses of heath-grass and sedge, which, again suggested an origin in turf. Cut peat and turves may be used as fuel, but can also be used as building materials, for example as roofing.
- 7.38 A small snail assemblage recovered from a primary fill of the northern enclosure (contexts [27 and 28]) indicated dry, open areas of short-turfed calcareous grassland within the wider site environs and a damp, shaded environment within the ditch itself. There were no aquatics to indicate permanent standing water within the ditch, although the presence of mud and perhaps, occasionally temporary, standing water, was indicated. Despite the processing of a large subsample, the identifiable component of the snail assemblage was too small to be of any more definitive interpretative value.
- 7.39 Some of the larger charcoal fragments from several deposits in the northern and southern enclosures could be identified; most were of alder/birch/hazel

- but there were also a few pieces of ash and oak. All of the charcoal presumably represents the remains of wood burnt as fuel.
- 7.40 Assessment of the waterlogged plant material recovered from the fill of the palaeochannel [775] showed that preservation of plant and insect remains was rather poor. It suggested, however, that this organic layer was not a peat but a well humified organic material of other origin such as extremely degraded woody root/rootlet. The identification of *cladoceran ehippia* implied standing freshwater at the time of formation though this could well have been present only on a temporary, perhaps seasonal, basis.
- 7.41 No useful remains were found by the investigation of the small sediment sub-samples extracted from the column sample sequences which had been recovered from the fills of the palaeochannel [775].
- 7.42 The hand-collected shell remains were too few to be of any interpretative value and some appeared to be of modern origin.
- 7.43 Only a very small assemblage of hand-collected vertebrate remains was recovered and most was collected from the fills of the northern enclosure ditches. In general, preservation was rather poor and many fragments were damaged by surface erosion and fresh breakage. Identified remains were few – only 19 from a total of 187 fragments. Remains of cattle, horse, sheep/goat and pig were present. The remains appeared to be primary butchery waste, but given the small size of the assemblage, the interpretative value of the remains was limited. It was clear that the ground conditions were not conducive to the survival of bone.
- 7.44 Many of the samples gave sufficient suitable charred plant remains for radiocarbon dating (at least via AMS). Waterlogged plant remains from the peat deposit [5] within the southernmost area of the site, and adjacent to the existing quarry face would also be suitable for this purpose although additional sediment would need to be processed.

Recommendations

- 7.45 Full analysis of the larger assemblages of charred cereal grains, with chaff and crop weeds, i.e. from three deposits in the inner area of the southern enclosure, contexts [53, ?115 and 157], two in the inner and outer ditch group of the southern enclosure, contexts [188 and 242], and from three deposits in the inner area of the northern enclosure, contexts [327, 415 and 499], could make a valuable contribution to the interpretation of Romano-British agricultural activity in the area. Given the poor preservation of many of the cereal remains, the processing of all of the remaining sediment from the deposits should be undertaken to 300 microns to ensure recovery of any diagnostic cereal chaff and smaller seeds/fruits which may be present.

- 7.46 No further study of other classes of organic remains is warranted.
- 7.47 The organic remains recovered from the processed sub-samples and by hand-collection during this assessment should be retained as part of the physical archive for the site.
- 7.48 The remaining sediment from the deposits for which further work is recommended above (samples from Contexts [53, 115, 157, 188, 242, 327, 415 and 499]) should be retained pending processing for the recovery of additional plant remains.
- 7.49 Unless required for purposes other than the study of biological remains, any remaining unprocessed sediment from the other deposits reported here may be discarded.

Conservation and X-radiography (J. Jones) – Appendix K

Archaeological Potential

- 7.50 Nineteen iron, one glass and one jet/shale object plus an almost complete ceramic vessel were received for conservation assessment and X-radiography. Most of the iron objects were found to be nails or parts of nails. [385 AA] is an iron staple. Two objects could not be identified [1 and 94AA]. Further investigative conservation could selectively remove the soil and corrosion products to reveal details of the form and surface and to try to determine the date.
- 7.51 Part of an iron object with an interesting shape was recovered from context 1. No details of the surface and no decoration were revealed by X-radiography. It could be modern. Investigative conservation could selectively remove surface corrosion products to try to determine its date.
- 7.52 Object [94 AA] represents an unidentified object with rectangular and other perforations shown on XR. Investigative conservation could selectively remove surface soil and corrosion products to reveal details of the form and surface.
- 7.53 Ring fragment [133 AB] is in need of consolidation to stabilise it and prevent disintegration. EDXRF analysis could determine whether the material is jet.
- 7.54 The ceramic vessel [137 AB] is currently stable but fragile following conservation.
- 7.55 The colour and stable condition of the glass pin/stopper [544 AA] suggest that it could be a Roman object. EDXRF analysis could confirm this and also determine the colourants used in the glass.

Recommendations

- 7.56 The metal objects are well packed for long-term storage. They should continue to be stored in an airtight container at a stable temperature and below 20% RH, to inhibit further corrosion. The RH should be controlled by active silica gel, which is regularly monitored and regenerated as necessary. The glass and jet objects should be stored separately from the metal in conditions of ambient temperature and relative humidity, avoiding extremes of both. The ceramic vessel cannot stand unsupported, and is stored in a supporting ring of polyethylene foam. It may be stored in conditions of ambient temperature and relative humidity, avoiding extremes of both.

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF THE SITE ARCHIVE

- 8.1 As part of the assessment of the site records the archive consolidation has been undertaken. Plans and sections have been catalogued and checked against context record sheets to ensure full cross-referencing. Catalogues of context and illustration records and digital, slide and print photographs have also been input into a computerised database.

Primary archive inventory

Context descriptions	807
Plans	80
Sections	349
Digital photographs (films)	10
Colour slides (films)	24
Black and white photographs and negatives (films)	24

- 8.2 The written, drawn and photographic records are currently held by NAA Ltd. The processed palaeoenvironmental material and remaining unprocessed material from the waterlogged sample and column samples are currently being stored by Palaeoecology Research Services. The remaining unprocessed material from the bulk samples are currently held by NAA Ltd. All artefacts have been returned by the specialists and are currently stored by NAA Ltd as part of the site archive. The fired clay and industrial waste are currently stored by Jane Cowgill.

Recommendations for further analysis and publication

- 8.3 Further selective detailed analysis of the palaeoenvironmental and artefactual material has been recommended by the specialist assessments, together with

selective illustration of the pottery, quernstones, worked stone artefacts and small finds. Occupation of the site has been closely dated to the late-3rd to 4th century AD from the pottery assemblage and radiocarbon dating of features using carbonised grain is not considered necessary.

- 8.4 Further analysis of the archaeological record and synthesis of specialist information should be directed towards establishing a more comprehensive interpretation of the site record to be included within a report for publication. A definitive series of phase plans should also be drawn up to illustrate the main components of the archaeological remains and their stratigraphic relationships.
- 8.5 The results of the excavations undertaken to date are of sufficient local and regional importance to warrant publication. It is recommended that a final report incorporating the combined results of the post-excavation assessment and detailed analysis together with selective illustrative drawings should be prepared for publication. The Yorkshire Archaeological Journal would be the most appropriate forum for publication and it is recommended that the editor for this journal should be approached in the first instance.
- 8.6 Detailed analysis of the artefactual record should include the following:

Pottery

- 8.7 The submission of the samian and mortaria sherds to Margaret Ward for specialist examination.
- 8.8 Illustration of Dales-type ware jar and illustration of a representative sample of other material selected in consultation with the pottery specialists.

Quernstones

- 8.9 Detailed analysis of the quernstones, the stone bowl and possible stone coffin base/trough fragment by John Gaunt in the light of the dating, context and palaeoenvironmental information derived from the post-excavation assessment phase. This should include analysis of the fragments of saddle quern rubber [context 69 AB] and rotary quern [context 662 AC] which were identified during the assessment of the worked stone. Analysis should look in particular at the:
- Chronology for saddle quern use in the light of the late-Roman context for both artefacts. This should consider the extent to which there are other sites in the region where saddle querns are recorded as having come from Roman contexts and whether such findings are purely residual material and are evidence for earlier occupation of the site or whether it could suggest that usage of saddle querns continues into and throughout the Roman period.

- Evidence for beehive quern fragmentation practices;
 - The date and context for the disc quern;
 - Local, regional and national parallels for the possible stone coffin base/trough and small stone bowl and discussion about their date and context, and
 - Interpretation of cereal processing activities and economy of the site.
- 8.10 Illustrations of the quernstone fragments, stone bowl and possible stone coffin base or trough should be prepared for publication.

Worked stone

- 8.11 Identification of the lithology of the stone objects by G. Gaunt and the addition of these identifications to the catalogue entries.
- 8.12 All objects should be drawn, and, selective illustrations of typical examples (e.g. one from contexts [118 or 405] and one from contexts [338, 329, 662 or 387]) should be included within the published report.

Small finds and conservation

- 8.13 The turf cutter [94 AA] should undergo investigative conservation to selectively remove surface soil and corrosion products to reveal details of the form and surface.
- 8.14 The ring fragment [133 AB] requires consolidation to stabilise it and prevent disintegration. EDXRF analysis should also be undertaken to determine whether the material is jet.
- 8.15 EDXRF analysis of the glass pin/stopper [544 AA] should be undertaken to confirm that this is a Roman object and to determine the colourants used in the glass.
- 8.16 Further research and full publication of the turn cutter, ring fragment and glass pin by M. Bishop. Illustrations of these finds should be prepared for publication.

Biological remains

- 8.17 Full analysis of the larger assemblages of charred cereal grains, with chaff and crop weeds could make a valuable contribution to the interpretation of Romano-British agricultural activity in the area and should be undertaken. The assemblages recommended for detailed analysis are:

- Three deposits in the inner area of the Southern enclosure - contexts [53, 115, and 157];
 - Two deposits in the inner and outer ditch group of the southern enclosure - contexts [188 and 242], and
 - Three deposits in the inner area of the Northern enclosure – contexts [327, 415 and 499].
- 8.18 Given the poor preservation of many of the cereal remains, the processing of all of the remaining sediment from the deposits should be undertaken to 300 microns to ensure recovery of any diagnostic chaff and smaller seeds/fruit which may be present. The processing of the samples should be undertaken by NAA Ltd and the resulting flots should be submitted to PRS for detailed analysis.

Publication Report

- 8.19 The publication report will incorporate the combined results of the post-excavation assessment and detailed analysis and will include,
- A comprehensive interpretation of the site records;
 - A definitive series of phase plans illustrating the main components of the archaeological remains and their stratigraphic relationships;
 - The results of the detailed analysis of the palaeoenvironmental and artefactual material; and
 - The illustration of selected components of the pottery, quernstone, worked stone and small finds.
- 8.20 The format of the publication report will be consistent with the requirements of the publishing journal.

Storage and curation

- 8.21 Subject to finalisation of discard policies after further analysis, it is recommended that prior to deposition with Harrogate Museums and Arts Service the following artefactual material should be discarded:
- Flint: the natural pieces recovered from contexts [131, 205, 248, 249 and 522]
 - All post-medieval ceramic building material

- Palaeoenvironmental material: any unprocessed sediment from deposits not recommended for detailed analysis
- 8.22 All other artefactual material should be retained as part of an ordered site archive. It is recommended that the site archive (paper records, artefactual and environmental material) should be deposited with the Harrogate Museums and Arts Service. All material has been appropriately packaged for long term storage in accordance with both national guidelines and the requirements of the museum.

9.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 The investigations at Allerton Park Quarry identified archaeological features which could be dated to the early Bronze Age, the late Romano-British period and the post-Roman period. Early Bronze Age activity (Phase I) was identified by the recovery of a Beaker vessel of a quality usually deposited with contemporary burials, however its current context, a small pit, was not consistent with such a role. The Beaker could be dated to c.2250-1950cal BC by decorative characteristics.
- 9.2 Activity within the late Romano-British period (Phase III) was centred on two large rectangular enclosures set within a complex of features that included a metallised surface, flanking ditches, a trackway and a field system. The geophysical survey indicated that the exposed enclosures represent two of three enclosures located along the crest of a glacial ridge, and that the overall complex is part a more extensive sequence of enclosures and field systems extending to the north across the lower lying ground and onto the adjacent glacial ridge. The remains of the trackway were predominantly identified between the two enclosures and may also be evinced within the western area of the site. This feature was identified continuing beyond the extent of the current quarry extension to both the east and west.
- 9.3 The exact function of the two enclosures was unclear, although the evidence for both crop processing and butchered animal bone suggests a mixed farming economy of arable production and animal husbandry. Metal working was evinced by small quantities of hammerscale. There is also tentative evidence for domestic occupation and burial. A defining aspect of both enclosures was a general north to south sub-division of the internal areas, although some further east to west aligned division had been undertaken within the north-eastern area of the southern enclosure, perhaps associated with a possible inhumation cemetery. Snail shell recovered from the north-western area of the northern enclosure indicated the contemporary habitat was composed of dry, open areas, probably of short-turfed calcareous grassland.
- 9.4 Evidence for construction includes the remains of timber structures within the south-eastern corner of the northern enclosure. This area is interpreted as

containing two phases of building associated with a possible internal metallised surface, and included both a four and six post structure that could not be differentiated chronologically. However, a dense cluster of post-holes were investigated in this area and it is possible that further phases of activity or a more complex structural arrangement was represented. Evidence for occupation of a domestic character was also recorded within the vicinity, particularly from an increase in the quantities of pottery discarded into the enclosure ditch within this area and from the recovery of prestige items including a fine glass pin and a fragment of vessel glass. Further evidence for general construction within the enclosures included fragments of iron nails, a joiner's dog, Roman brick and tile, and two short lengths of post-trench that appeared to relate to free-standing timber or wattle structures.

- 9.5 The possible inhumation cemetery has been tentatively identified from a group of grave-like features situated within the north-eastern quadrant of the southern enclosure. None of the features were found to contain skeletal material that appeared to have dissolved within the natural sand. Therefore the interpretation of the pits as possibly graves is based upon other factors; including form, dimensions, alignment, location and artefacts. Two of the features were particularly grave-like, one of which contained a near complete Dales-type ware jar, standing upright against one edge of the feature, and the second contained a substantial stone lining within its northern half.
- 9.6 A palaeochannel was identified within the western area of the site located within the low ground between two glacial ridges. It was overlain by a continuation of the investigated enclosure and field system complex from the ridge to the east. The enclosure complex appeared to continue beyond the channel to the northwest as indicated by the geophysical survey. Two of the ditches within this area contained a possible entrance break in their length that was consistently aligned to a trackway located to the east, suggesting a continuation of this feature through the area. Following silting of the features, the entrance break was overlain by a further metallised surface, perhaps to provide a crossing point to this seasonally waterlogged area.
- 9.7 Diagnostic aspects of the Romano-British finds assemblage dated to the late 3rd and 4th centuries suggesting occupation of the site occurred over a relatively brief timespan. In many cases this was refined to the mid to late 4th century due to the ubiquitous presence of Huntcliff ware pottery on site. It is possible that an undated phase of activity lay below the enclosure complex, which could potentially represent earlier activity dating to the Bronze Age, Iron Age or early Romano-British periods. However, it appeared that significant land division had not been undertaken within the current area prior to the late Roman period, although this may exist within the near vicinity.
- 9.8 Activity within the post-Roman period (Phase III) included an extensive series of medieval plough furrows across the eastern area of the site which had truncated the late Romano-British remains. Other features included a post-

medieval or modern sheep burial and a trackway which continued in use as a public footpath into the modern period.

- 9.9 The evidence available from both cropmarks and previous excavation provide local comparisons to the discoveries made at Allerton Park and place the site within a widespread local complex of enclosure and land division during the Romano-British period. Additional phases of extension at Allerton Park Quarry will require the investigation of extensive areas of land with the potential to contain multi-period occupation. This has been hinted at during the current scheme of investigation from the stratigraphically earlier undated features and the extent of the enclosed landscape revealed by the geophysical survey undertaken within the field to the north. Evidence of this nature could significantly increase our understanding of how rural landscape and society changed in the region, not only through the Roman period, but also during the transition from the Iron Age. The recovery of an early Bronze Age Beaker may be indicative of further remains of this date within the vicinity, therefore the site also has the potential to approach questions posed by the North Yorkshire Research Framework with regard to the distribution and nature of Bronze Age land enclosure within the area.
- 9.10 Further selective detailed analysis of the palaeoenvironmental and artefactual material has been recommended by the specialist assessments, together with selective illustration of the pottery, quernstones, worked stone artefacts and small finds. Occupation of the site has been closely dated from the pottery assemblage and radiocarbon dating of features using carbonised grain is not considered necessary.
- 9.11 Further analysis of the archaeological record and synthesis of specialist information should be directed towards establishing a more comprehensive interpretation of the site record to be included within a report for publication. A definitive series of phase plans should also be drawn up to illustrate the main components of the archaeological remains and their stratigraphic relationships.
- 9.12 The results of the excavations undertaken to date are of sufficient local and regional importance to warrant publication. It is recommended that a final report incorporating the combined results of the post-excavation assessment and detailed analysis together with selective illustrative drawings should be prepared for publication.

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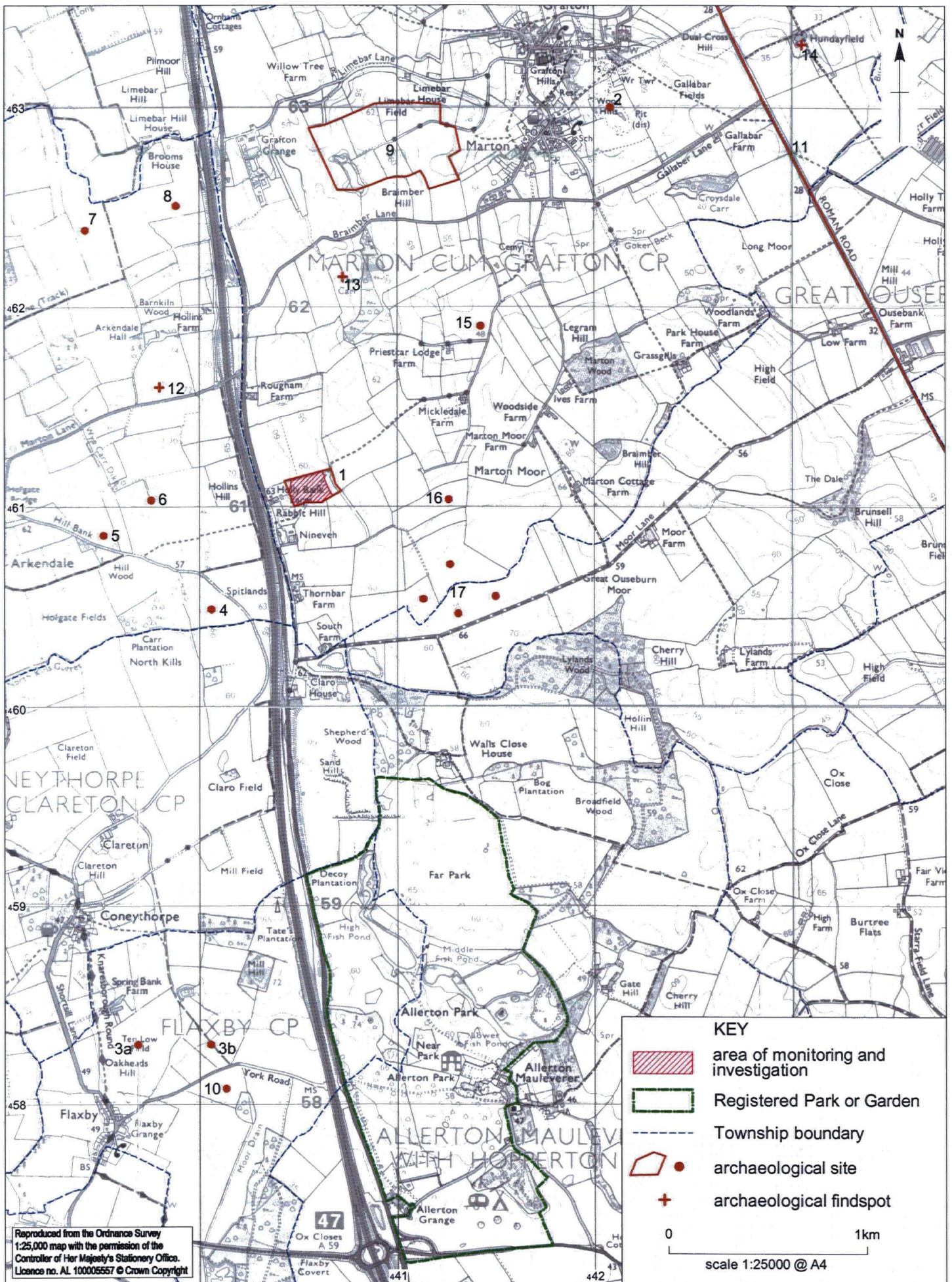


Figure 1 Allerton Park Quarry: location of investigated area and archaeological sites



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Archaeological Services WYAS
ref: Geophysical Survey Report 1737
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Figure 2 Allerton Park Quarry: greyscale magnetometer data and topographic detail

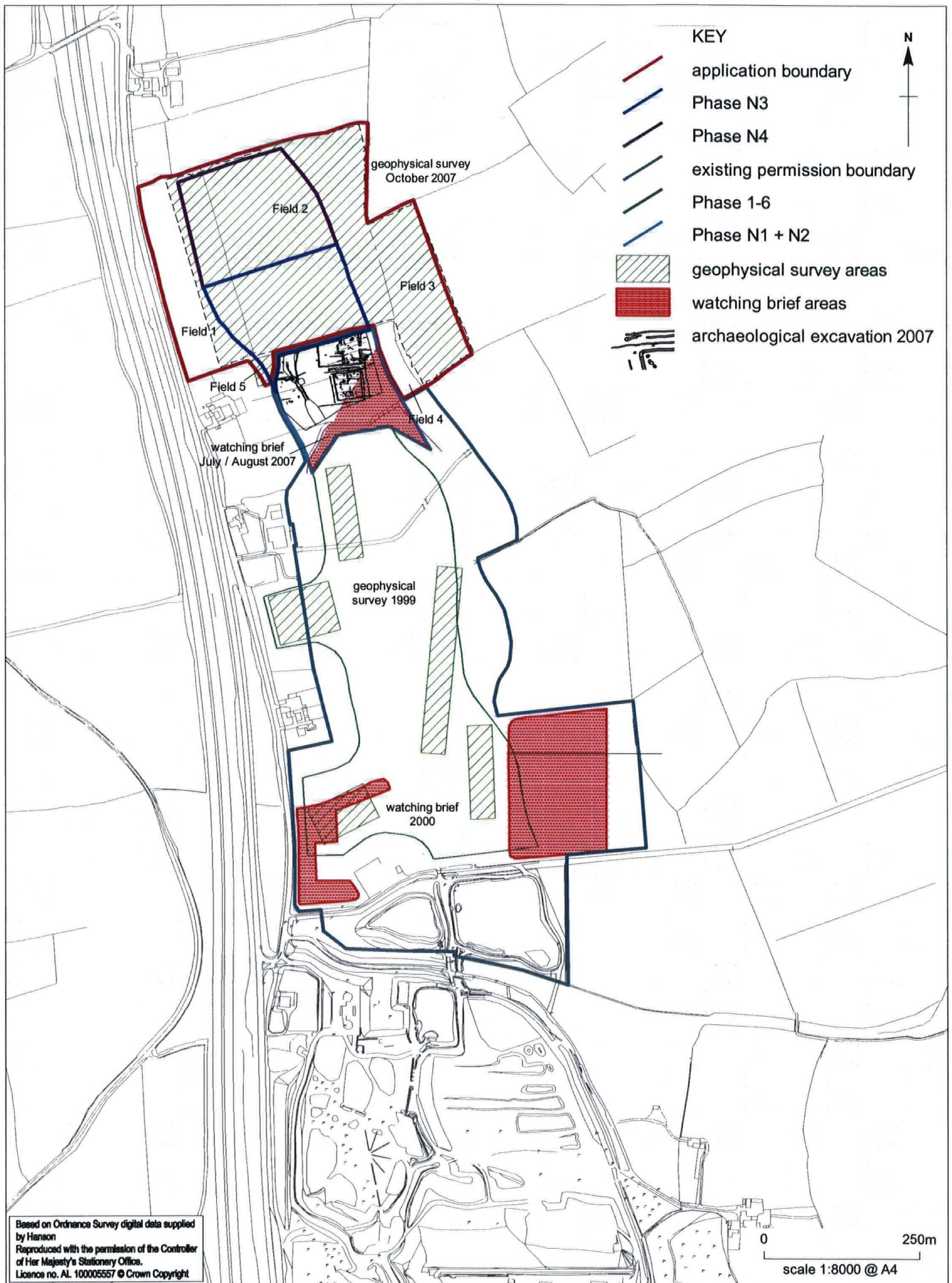


Figure 3 Allerton Park Quarry: extent of archaeological investigations 1999-2007



Figure 4 Allerton Park Quarry: excavated features

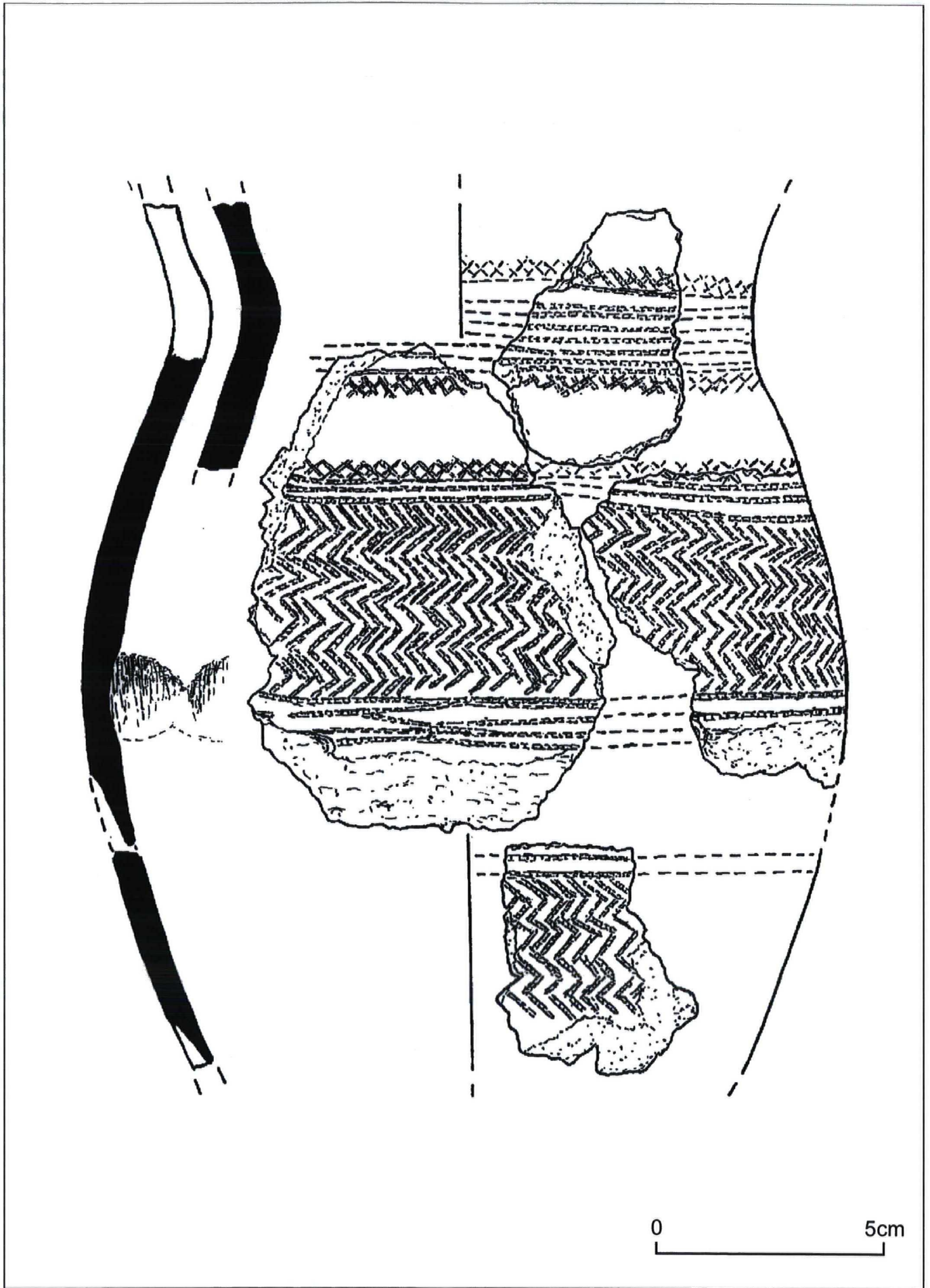


Figure 6 Allerton Park Quarry: beaker reconstruction

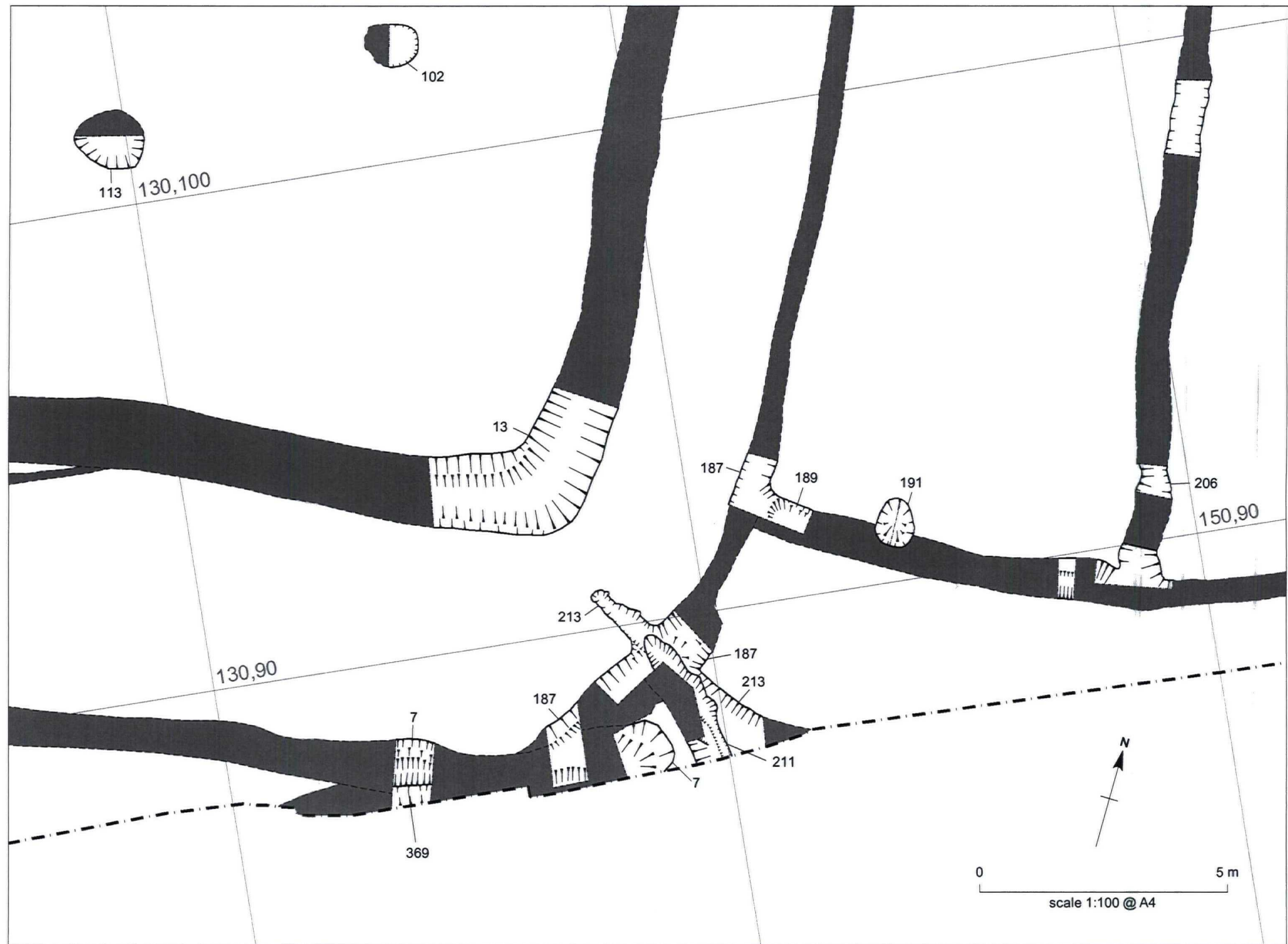
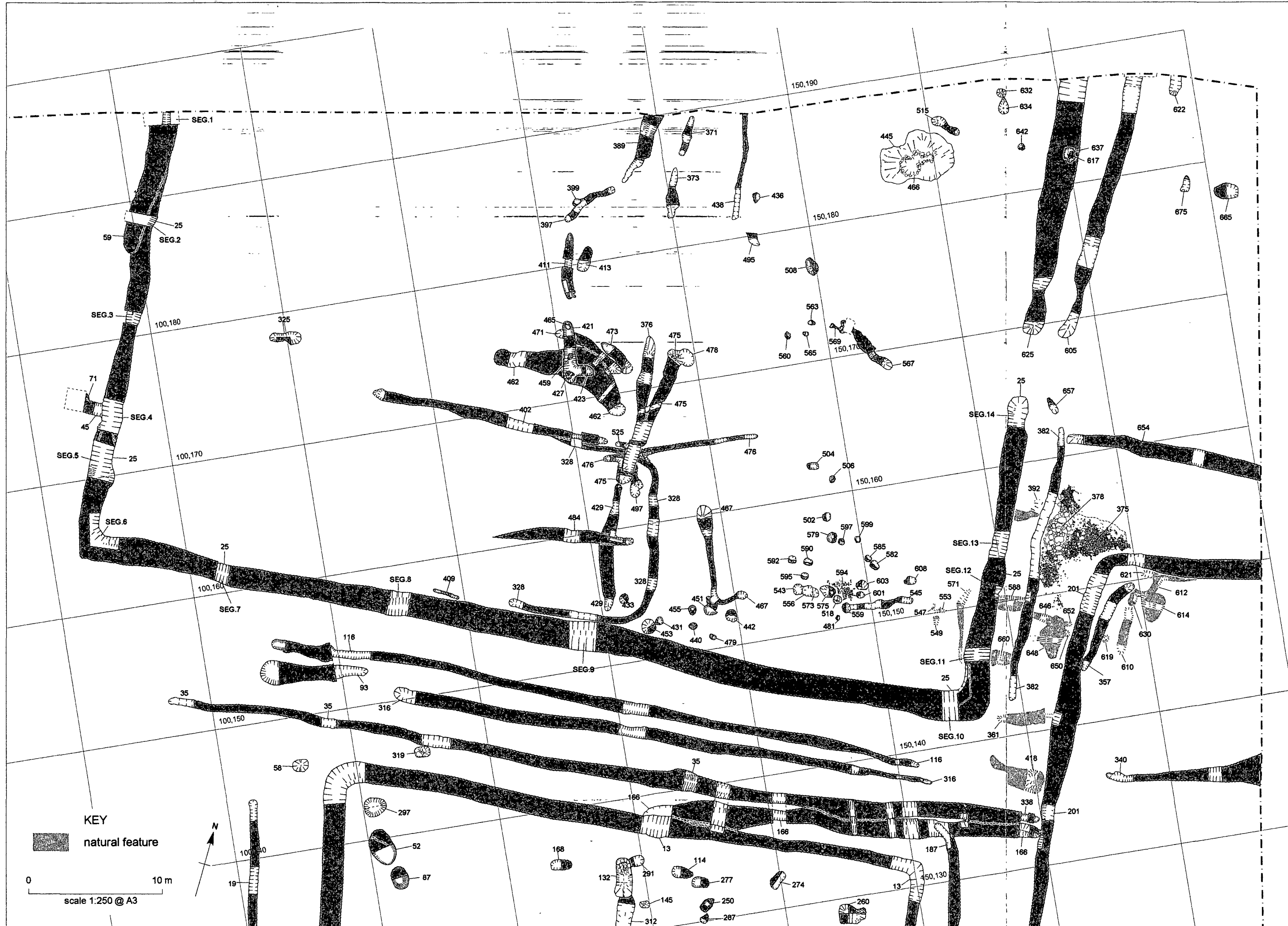


Figure 7 Allerton Park Quarry: ditches south-east of enclosure [13]



KEY
 natural feature

0 10 m
 scale 1:250 @ A3



Figure 8 Allerton Park Quarry: Northern Enclosure [25]

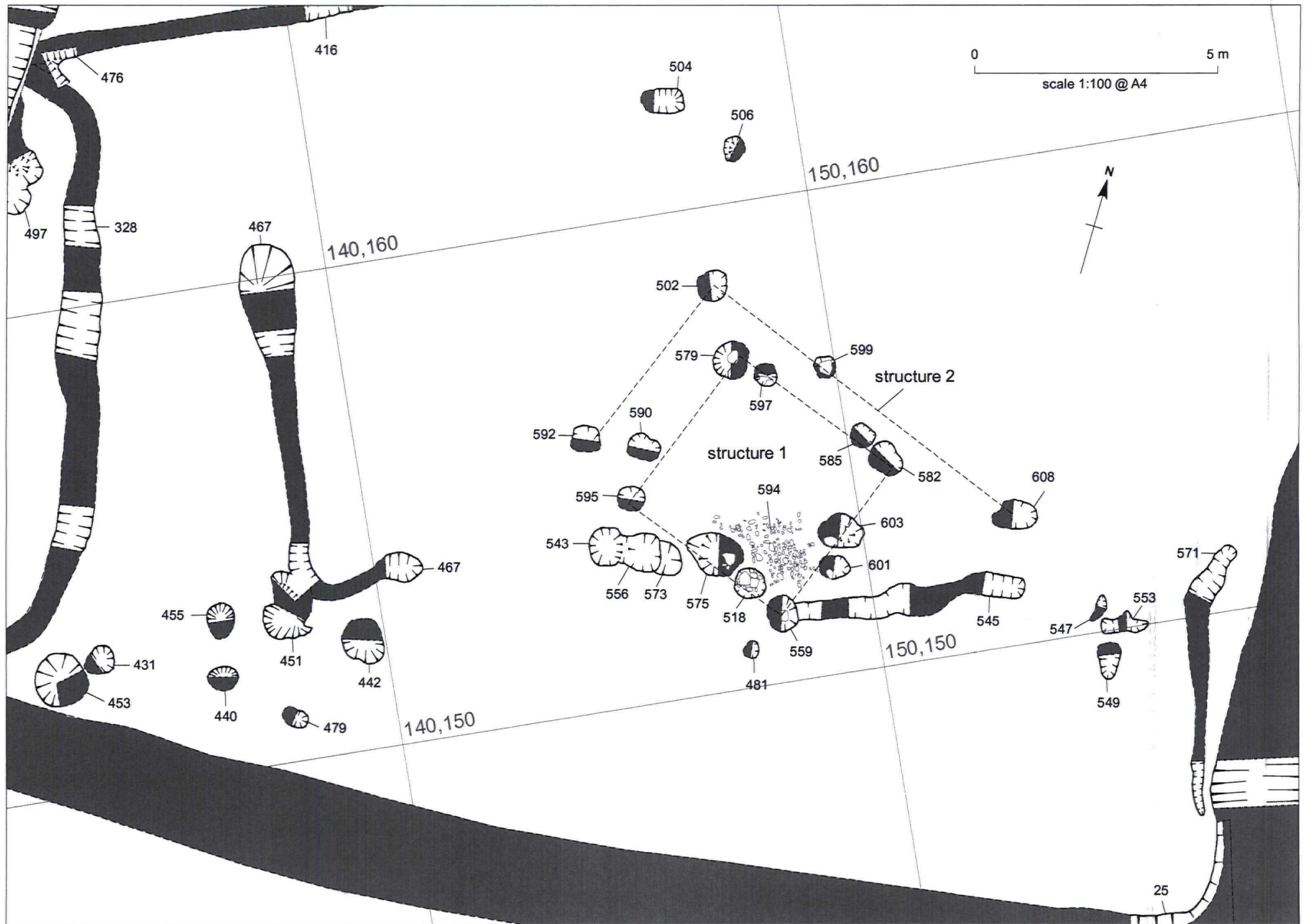


Figure 9 Allerton Park Quarry: structures 1 and 2, south-east corner enclosure [25]

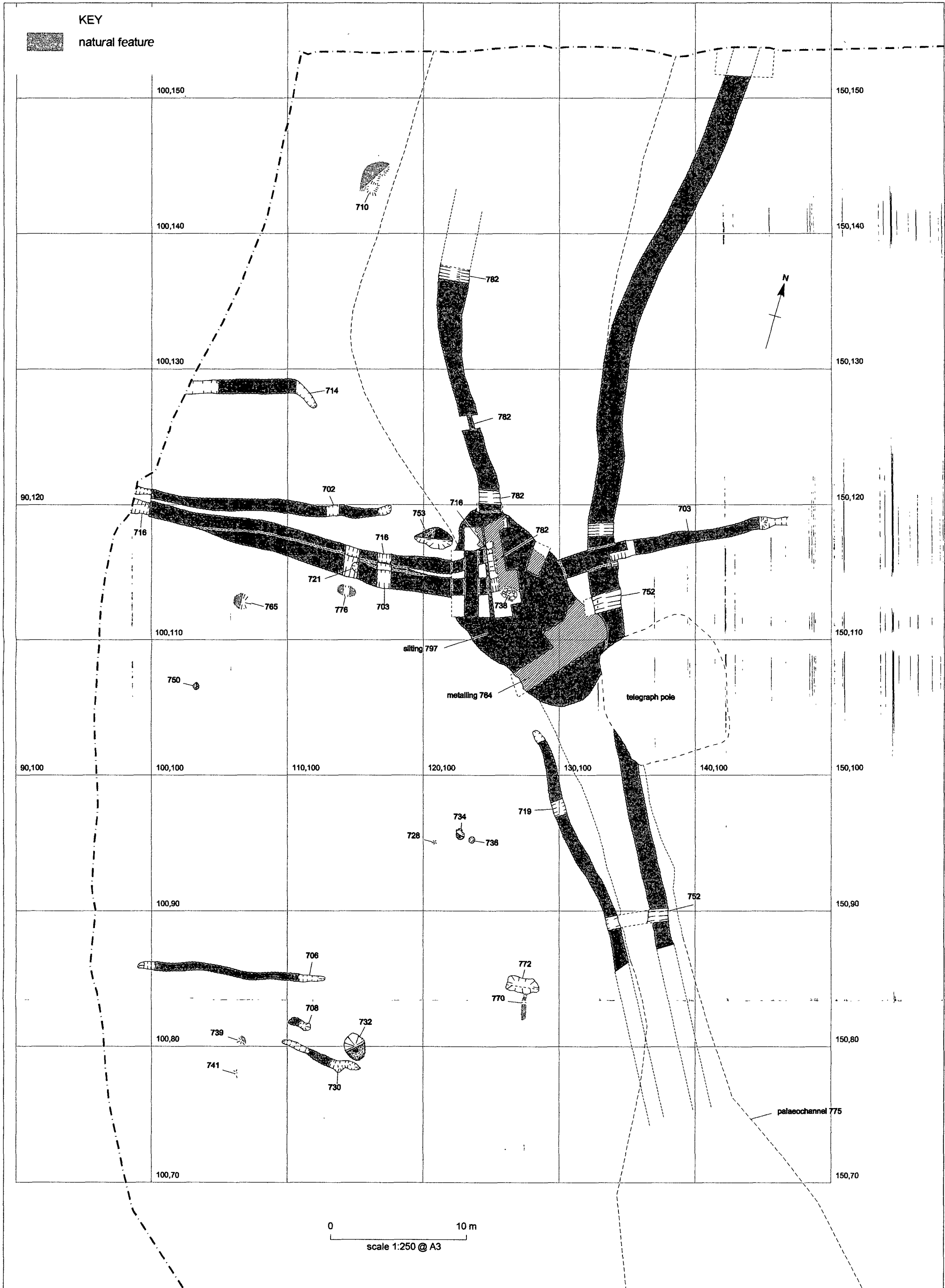


Figure 10 Allerton Park Quarry: Western Area



Plate 1 Allerton Park Quarry: cobbles filling pit [160]; scale 1m and 0.5m



Plate 2 Allerton Park Quarry: Dales type ware vessel recovered from pit [136]



Plate 3 Allerton Park Quarry: stone lining [150] within pit [132];
scale 2m, 1m and 0.5m



Plate 4 Allerton Park Quarry: glass pin with twisted decoration recovered from pit [543]



Plate 5 Allerton Park Quarry: remains of stone structure [466]; scale 2x2m



Plate 6 Allerton Park Quarry: remains of cobbled surface [375] and wall/bank remains [378]; scale 2x2m



Plate 7 Allerton Park Quarry: metalled surface [764] and ditches [703, 716 and 782]; scale 2m and 0.5m