Northern Archaeological Associates

BRIDGE ROAD, BROMPTON ON SWALE
NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

VOLUME 1

for

THOMAS ARMSTRONG (CONSTRUCTION) LTD

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Marwood House, Harmire Enterprise Park, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham DL12 8BN

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BRIDGE ROAD, BROMPTON ON SWALE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

Summary

This report summarises the results of a limited programme of archaeological trial trenching and excavation undertaken during the spring of 2002 in advance of construction of a concrete block-making factory at Bridge Road, Brompton on Swale, North Yorkshire It presents proposals for a programme of post-excavation analysis required in order to produce an ordered research archive and final publication report The excavation and post-excavation work was carried out by Northern Archaeological Associates on behalf of Thomas Armstrong (Construction) Ltd

Excavation was restricted to a small area measuring up to 43m long by 19m wide at the south-western corner of the site which had escaped ground-reduction during construction of a preceding factory in the late 1960s This area was contiguous with the northern boundary of the Scheduled area of the Roman town of Cataractonium, and lay immediately outside the gateway associated with the 2nd century defences The line of the Dere Street Roman road crossed the western end of the area

Limited evidence for prehistoric activity was identified in the form of several pits, one containing a worked flint A buried soil sealed beneath the metalled surface of Dere Street produced a sherd of Iron Age pottery and a worked flint Further flints occurred residually within Roman deposits and part of a panel of rock art of Neolithic or early Bronze Age date had been re-used in a Roman structure

The Dere Street Roman road, established in the later 1st or early 2nd century, crossed the western end of the excavated area Sections were recorded across the full width of the later, narrower roadway (dating to the later 2nd or 3rd century) and across the eastern side of the earlier, wider roadway, confirming the sequence of development recorded previously further to the south

Initial roadside activity consisted of areas of burning on top of the buried soil Part of the metalled surface and flanking ditch of a side road probably dating to the 2nd century was recorded running eastwards from Dere Street A group of at least four structures, one delineated by a substantial boulder footing but the others only by slight cobble footings or rough pebbled floors, were constructed to the north of this side road These were probably built during the 3rd century, and were surrounded by rough cobbled surfaces The side road went out of use, its ditch was in-filled and the road surface was cut by a number of pits and postholes and a heavily burnt stone-lined feature interpreted as a corn drier

During the 4th century the site seems to have undergone a period of abandonment and soil dumping, raising the levels across much of the area In the late 4th century further structures and surfaces overlay these soils The eastern end of the site was utilised for a series of five later Roman or possibly early post-Roman inhumation burials One body had been decapitated

The final identified phase of structures were of earth-fast post-in-slot or post-in-pit construction No floor levels contemporary with these structures survived, and it was uncertain whether they represented late Roman or post-Roman activity

A large artefactual and faunal assemblage consisting of some nineteen thousand objects was recovered, predominantly pottery and animal bone but including significant numbers of coins and other metal objects, glass, stone, worked bone and building materials Due to the rapid and limited nature of the excavation, only a relatively small proportion of these assemblages were derived from secure, sealed contexts

The site formed part of the larger settlement of Cataractonium which is considered to be of national importance Its status has been enhanced by recent re-analysis and publication of previous excavations undertaken within the Roman town Despite the limitations of the stratigraphic archive, the Bridge Road site forms an important addition to this corpus and further analysis of the stratigraphic archive and finds assemblage, especially the pottery, will provide an opportunity to test and refine the published perception of the nature and development of the northern suburb of the town Given the importance of the site, further analysis of the site record and finds assemblage and preparation of a publication report should be undertaken

1 0 INTRODUCTION

1 1 This report presents the results of archaeological trial trenching and excavation undertaken in advance of construction of a new block-making factory on the site of the former Bradstone Plant to the south of Bridge Road, Brompton on Swale, North Yorkshire, centred at SE 2245 9943 (Figure 1) It includes initial assessments of the extensive stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental achives from the site and recommends a further programme of analysis m order to prepare a final, ordered research archive and full publication report Specialist finds assessment reports are to be found in a separate volume to accompany this report

1 2 The excavation and post-excavation assessment work was carried out by Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA) on behalf of Thomas Armstrong (Construction) Ltd The trial trench was excavated on 26th March 2002 and the subsequent excavation took place during Aprd and May 2002

2 0 BACKGROUND

2 1 The re-development area was located to the south of Bridge Road and immediately to the east of the A1 Catterick Westem Bypass To the south it was separated from the River Swale by a grass field forming part of the Cataractonium Roman Town Scheduled Ancient Monument To the east it was separated from the A6136 Gatherley Road (the former Great North Road) by another grass field, within which a soil bund has been constructed to screen the new factory from nearby houses

2 2 The site lay above the boundary between undifferentiated Carboniferous Millstone Grit to the north and east and the overlying Permian Lower Magnesian Limestone to the south-west (Institute of Geological Sciences 1970a) The modem course of the River Swale in the area of *Cataractonium* lies at the south-western edge of a broad area of River Terrace drift overlying the solid geology and extendmg to the east and south-east of the Roman town, on the north bank of the Swale extending eastwards from Brompton-on-Swale to Scorton (Institute of Geological Sciences 1970b) To the south-west and further to the north, away from the river deposits, the drift geology is predominantly Boulder Clay The soils over the River Terrace deposits are of the Wick 1 association (Soil Survey 1983), which are permeable, well drained and moderately well suited to both arable and pastoral use (Jarvis *et al* 1984)

2 3 During the original development of the site m the late 1960s, most of the site was levelled down and covered in an extensive concrete slab Small areas survived this reduction, notably a strip along the western edge of the site adjacent to the A1 (subsequently partially disturbed by a 'flume' trench), and other smaller areas near the north-westem comer of the site and at its south-western corner (Figure 2)

2 4 The area at the south-westem comer of the site was identified by the County Archaeologist for North Yorkshire as possibly containing archaeological remains In order to better understand the nature and degree of survival of those remains, the County Archaeologist requested that NAA excavate a machine trench across this area in his presence The trench crossed the entire width of the surviving ground surface, approximately 30m long, 2 5m wide and Im deep, running from east to west (Plate 1)

This trench revealed a section across Dere Street at the western end of the area Two possible wall footings were identified and a small quantity of pottery and animal bone recovered

2 5 On the basis of the limited archaeological evidence revealed by this trench, the County Archaeologist requested preparation of a Methods Statement for archaeologically controlled machine-excavation and limited recording of the deposits in the area, with provision made for formulation of a more explicit response should the archaeological features prove to be densely concentrated and/or extending over a considerable area (NAA 2002a)

2 6 Once excavation of a wider area commenced, it immediately became obvious that the results of trench had given a misleading indication of the complexity and extent of the archaeological deposits present, with stratified archaeological deposits including structures and surfaces immediately identifiable throughout the whole of the area available for excavation (Plate 2) As a result of the initial findings of the excavation phase, and subsequent to a site meeting between representatives of NAA, Thomas Armstrong (Constmction) Ltd and the North Yorkshire County Archaeologist, an agreed Additional Method Statement was prepared by NAA (NAA 2002b)

3 0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

3 1 The Mesolithic period is represented in the Catterick area by occasional finds of flint artefacts, often found residually withm later contexts Small assemblages have been recovered from St Giles by Brompton Bridge (SE 209 996) to the west of Brompton (Cardwell and Speed 1996, 29) and at Hollow Banks Farm (Speed and Powlesland, forthcoming) (Figure 1)

3 2 The Brompton site lies within an extensive Neolithic and early Bronze Age landscape extending westwards from the Scorton Cursus (e g Topping 1982) located c 2km to the north-east of the Brompton site and apparently centred on the River Swale (NAA 2003) The excavated and aerial photographic evidence withm this area includes a number of barrows (Greenhalf 1980, Wilson 2002i, 8-10, NAA 2002c, Speed and Powlesland, *ibid*), a mini-henge, pit alignments, one or more houses and pits at Hollow Banks Farm c 500m to the east of the site (Speed and Powlesland, *ibid*) and the presumed large henge and burial cairn at Catterick Racecourse c 1km to the south (Moloney *et al*, 2003) Evidence for probable riverside woodland clearance has been recorded at St Giles Farm c 1 5km to the west and provided a radiocarbon date (2σ) of 2880 – 1880 cal B C (GU-5236) (Cardwell & Speed *op cit*) Small numbers of worked flint tools have been found throughout the area

3 3 The later Bronze Age is represented by stray finds of metalwork including a bronze rapier recovered from the north bank of the Swale c 200m south-east of the site in 1992 (Burgess 1995) Extensive evidence of Iron Age mral settlement and field systems has been recorded to the north-east (FAS 1996, 1997, Speed and Powlesland, *ibid*), to the south of the racecourse (Moloney *et al*, *ibid*) and to the west (Cardwell and Speed, *ibid*)

Romano-British

3 4 Numerous archaeological excavations and recording of Roman remains have been carried out within and around the Roman fort and town of *Cataractomum*, and have recently been synthesised in a major monograph (Wilson 2002) The first fort at Catterick, to the south of the River Swale, was possibly established around the year 80 (Wilson 2002ii, 446-8) and military occupation continued until about 120 Civilian activity developed outside the fort The line of the Dere Street Roman road was laid out at this time, presumably with a bridge across the Swale, although no evidence for this structure has yet been identified Activity from this phase has been identified along Dere Street to the north of the river After 120, the civilian settlement continued, apparently dominated by military supply activity, although the fort was apparently abandoned Between about 160 and 200 the fort site was re-occupied by the army, and development of the civilian settlement continued During the middle part of the 2nd century a fortified enclosure was constructed around the northern bridgehead, perhaps representing a defended civilian *vicus*, but these defences had ceased to be maintained by the later 2nd century To the south of the river, the civilian settlement gained defences at an uncertain date Occupation within the town to the south of the river continued until sometime after 400, but Wilson states that occupation to the north had ended by the late 4th century

3 5 The Bridge Road, Brompton site lay within the northern suburb of the Roman town, immediately outside the 2nd century defences, and included part of the known line of Dere Street A number of previous excavations have been undertaken within the immediate vicinity of the site (Figure 2)

Catterick 1972, Site 434

3 6 Excavations were carried out by Professor Wacher in 1972 within what is now part of the scheduled area immediately to the south of the Bridge Road excavation area (Wilson *et al* 2002, 122-138) In most of the excavation areas, investigation was restricted to the latest phases of occupation, predominantly of 4th century date However, at the northern end of the excavations, adjacent to the Bridge Road site, a 4th century structure was removed and earlier deposits, including the eastern side of Dere Street, were investigated The earliest phase of activity (Wacher's Phase 1), dated from c A D 80 to Hadrianic/Antonine period, began with several possible beam slots, a possible building floor, areas of preserved ground surface and possibly a pit which produced a human skull The western side of this group of features was subsequently covered by the metalled surface of Dere Street and cut by its flanking ditch Dere Street was subsequently narrowed or re-aligned 2 5m to the west and a side road established running eastwards, possibly flanked on at least its northern side by a shallow ditch Wacher interpreted the pre-Dere Street activity as initial military occupation, probably of relatively short duration, with the subsequent construction of the side-road suggesting substantial civilian activity

3 7 Initial activity during Wacher's Phase 2, dated to the Hadriamc – mid-Antomne period, consisted of spreads of charcoal and burnt daub probably related to clearance of Phase 1 structures A major defensive ditch 6 Im wide was excavated running from east to west across the northern edge of the area (c 8-10m south of the Bridge Road excavation area) with a rampart to the south constructed of turf over a cobble footing and incorporating a timber gateway structure across Dere Street The rampart make-up included human skeletal material includmg the remains of an infant, and

suggesting early burial activity nearby The defences have been interpreted as forming the northern side of a fortified enclosure of unusual elongated form running along the northern river bank (Wilson *et al*, *ibid*, 130) Uncertain traces of possible structures were identified within the enclosure The nature of this enclosure and the character of activity within it are not clearly understood However, it has recently been suggested that until the mid-2nd century the river followed a different channel lying to the north of the Bridge Road site, in which case the fortification could represent the northern side of an ordinary fort originally lying to the south of the river and may represent a 'missing link' between the known Flavian and Antonine forts at Thomborough Farm to the south of the river, the later fort being forced back southwards onto the hill by the invasive re-alignment of the river (NAA 2002c)

3 8 Wacher's Phase 3 covered a long period from the Antonine period to the early 4th century Pottery recovered from the secondary fill of the defensive ditch suggested that it had ceased to be cleaned out and was beginning to fill up before c A D 160, although this material could have been residual However, this date agrees closely with the suggested movement of the river channel (see above) The remainder of Wacher's Phase 3 was mainly represented by successive fills of the ditch, including rampart material and layers of stone and charcoal suggesting more widespread destruction At some point, Dere Street was re-surfaced, sealing the post-holes of the demolished gateway The pottery record, notably the sequence of *mortaria*, suggested continuous settlement nearby throughout the period

3 9 Phase 4, corresponding to the first half of the 4th century, saw two phases of stone buildings constructed along the eastern side of Dere Street, running eastwards at right angles to the roadway and represented by cobble wall footings and areas of cobbled paving One of these structures was set back from the roadway and might have been a small temple Wacher's Phase 5, representing the period after c 350/355, produced little evidence for the end of Roman occupation The latest coins recovered were of Constantius II and copies of the *Fel Temp Reparatio* issues The pottery assemblage suggested that the area had ceased to be occupied by the 360s or 370s, with late Nene valley material representing the end of the sequence In the 6th century a *Grubenhaus* was constructed m the area (Wilson *et al* 1996, 16-22)

Cadbury-Schweppes 1968-70 and CAS site 511(1994)

3 10 Construction of the former Cadbury-Schweppes factory within the Bridge Road site in 1968 resulted in the unrecorded loss of a considerable length of Dere Street and the associated *vicus* on its eastern side in the area immediately to the north of the 2002 excavation area Subsequent excavation of a 'flume' trench along the western side of the area to the west of Dere Street permitted limited recording A well was identified at the north-western corner of the site, suggesting that Roman settlement had extended northwards at least as far as Bridge Road Three ditches were identified, each aligned from east to west These produced pottery of predominantly Flavianc/Trajanc date, although a worn coin of Antoninus Pius (138-61) was also recovered These ditches have been interpreted as defensive features in front of the defences identified in the 1972 Site 434 excavation An isolated lime pit was noted within the area reduced for the factory construction One edge of a substantial ditch probably 6m wide and 2m deep was noted 40m to the east of Dere Street but aligned from north-west to south-east However, in view of its size and contrasting alignment, and the increasing evidence for substantial prehistoric 'ritual' monuments in the area, it is possible (or

likely) that this feature was not of Roman date Flagged floors and stone gutters were noted within the 'flume' trench A small excavation was carried out in 1969 to examine the flagged floors to the west of Dere Street This produced evidence for a stmcture c 5m wide laid out at right angles to Dere Street and constmcted in or after the mid-2nd century Further investigation as part of trial trenching associated with a proposed up-grading of the A1 was undertaken by English Heritage in 1994 In the area of the Cadbury-Schweppes site (by then the Bradstone plant), this consisted of a series of trenches adjacent to eastem side of the A1 (Wilson 1994) Within the northern part of the area, there was some evidence of disturbance relating to earlier constmction works Further to the south, one of the trenches (Site 511, SSD 6) identified the stmcture investigated m 1969, showed it to overlie at least 0 5m of stratified archaeological deposits, and showed that other stmctures extended to the south, fronting onto the westem side of Dere Street

3 11 In 1970, four small trenches were excavated adjacent to the southem side of the fence at the southem side of the factory site, immediately to the north of the 1972 Site 434 and immediately to the south of the 2002 Bridge Road excavation area Three phases of a side road mnning eastwards from Dere Street were recorded, corresponding to a cropmark mnning some 130m eastwards This initially seemed to respect the defensive ditch immediately to the south, but a secondary phase of widening was built over it A late, narrower, version could be direcdy related to constmction in c AD 300 of a building recorded in the 1972 excavation, and remained in use into the later 4th century The earliest phase of surface overlay a series of clay deposits interpreted as an *agger*, the earliest of which was overlain by a bumt horizon incorporating a circular area of charcoal

Honey Pot Road (Site 251) 1978 and 1983

3 12 A watching brief undertaken m 1978 during cutting of a drainage pipe trench at the westem side of the A1 slightly to the north-west of the 2002 excavation identified several ditches, two probable inhumation burials and other un-stratified human skeletal material (O'Sullivan 1978) Excavation m advance of a housing development in the same area in 1983 recorded several phases of a north-to-south aligned boundary ditch and a double inhumation burial considered to be of later 3rd or 4th century date (Wilson 2002i, 205-8) This evidence suggests that there was dispersed burial activity during the later Roman period in the area behind the street-front development at the westem side of Dere Street to the north of the river

Catterick Bridge (Site 240) 1971-80 and 1983

3 13 Research excavations were undertaken between 1971 and 1980 by the Richmondshire Excavation Group within the field to the east of the Cadbury-Schweppes factory, bounded to the north by Bridge Road, to the east by the A6136 Gatherley Road (the former A1 Great North Road), to the south by the river and to the west by the disused railway line to Catterick Camp Additional trenching and a larger area excavation withm the southern part of the field was carried out by the Central Excavation Unit in 1983 in advance of proposed development (Wilson 2002i, 185-205) Little evidence for archaeological activity within the northem part of the field was identified (where the new screening bund was erected in 2002) To the south, on the lower gravel terrace, activity of uncertain nature was recorded from the later 2nd century onwards, consisting of linear gullies and ditches, scatters of stake-holes and riverside stone revetments The alignment of the revetments suggested that they were aligned to a

river channel running north-eastwards and probably connecting to one dated to the mid-2nd century identified at Hollow Banks Farm in 1998 (Speed and Powlesland, forthcoming) A roadway running from south-east to north-west was recorded over a short distance, although its function and association with other roadways to the north of the river was unclear

3 14 By the early 4th century scattered cremation and inhumation burials were taking place across the area By the 3rd quarter of the 4th century the north-western part of the area excavation had become covered by an extensive area of 'loam' sealing earlier features Larger numbers of inhumation burials occurred across the area, some with evidence for partial lining of the graves with sandstone slabs Several of the burials were accompanied by small grey-ware jars In the late 4th century extensive gravel surfaces were laid across the area, bounded by beam slots and cut by post-pipes and probably representing the floors of several buildings The riverside revetments continued to be renewed There was little evidence for activity after 400, although burial may have continued Some evidence for 6th century activity and burials was also identified

4 0 METHODOLOGY

4 1 The project design (NAA 2002a) proposed a programme of mitigation in order to

- provide a detailed record of any archaeological features identified prior to groundworks
- establish the location, form and date of any remains encountered
- recover any archaeological finds and appropriate samples from the features
- prepare a report on the results of the above work

4 2 The project design allowed for initial excavation to be carried out using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, monitored by an archaeologist at all times Mechanical excavation ceased where deposits or structures were encountered which are deemed to be significant by the monitoring archaeologist Thereafter any necessary archaeological work was undertaken by hand unless either extensive or deep deposits required removal

4 3 Where deposits or structures were encountered, the initial stage was to evaluate the importance of the features and determine the appropriate response Since the features appeared to be densely concentrated and extended over a considerable area, a more explicit response was formulated in consultation with the Thomas Armstrong (Construction) Ltd and the North Yorkshire County Archaeologist at a site meetmg held on 3 May 2002 This was presented as an Additional Method Statement (NAA 2002b) which was agreed to cover the specific features encountered during the excavation

4 4 The agreed extent of additional archaeological works was

Cobbled areas

- The extent of all cobbled areas would be determined and planned

- A sample area would be drawn and photographed
- Once recorded cobbling could be removed by machine excavation

Building debris

- Unstratified building debris could be removed by machine excavation

Foundations

- The extent of all foundations would be planned
- Construction cuts would be identified
- A sample of cobble foundations would be drawn
- All areas of stone block foundations would be drawn

Floors

- The extent of all floors would be recorded
- The number of floors would be determined

Burials

- All burials would be identified and excavated

Pits and postholes

- All pits and postholes would be half sectioned

Buried soils

- All buried soil horizons would be sectioned and sampled for environmental analysis

Road

- The road (Dere Street) would be sectioned and recorded

4 5 A sufficient sample of archaeological features and deposits revealed was excavated by hand in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to fulfil the aims of the investigation The complete excavation of features was not regarded as necessary m most instances, although a sufficient sample was excavated to understand the stratigraphic sequence

4 6 A full written record of features was made using the standard NAA recording system (a derivative of the MoLAS system) All archaeological features were photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale Sections were normally drawn at a scale of 1 10 Archaeological plans were normally drawn at a scale of 1 20 All levels were tied in to Ordnance Datum A photographic record of the site was made at a format of 35mm

4 7 Pottery and animal bone was collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts were three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing All finds recovered were appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions Finds recovery and storage strategies were in accordance with published guidelines (Watkinson and Neal 1998) Finds were recorded and processed using an approved system and submitted for post-excavation assessment in accordance with English Heritage guideline (1991)

4 8 Thirty-litre bulk palaeoenvironmental samples were taken from appropriate deposits and submitted for assessment Recovery and sampling of environmental remains was in accordance with guidelines prepared by the Association of Environmental Archaeology (1995)

4 9 Human remains encountered during the works were excavated, recorded and recovered along with any associated artefacts

5 0 EXCAVATION RESULTS

5 0 1 The results of the excavation were provisionally ascribed to a series of 12 phases (numbered from (1) to (xu)), running in chronological order from the earliest, natural, deposits to the latest, modern, deposits The attribution of some deposits and features to particular phases was uncertain due to the truncated nature of parts of the stratigraphic sequence and the limited nature of the excavation and recording undertaken Some contexts have subsequently been re-phased as a result of the specialist finds assessments, notably the pottery assessment, and further re-phasing of some contexts may result from the results of the proposed full analysis of these assemblages Some aspects of the phasing have been carried out by analogy to previously excavated deposits nearby where these can be equated to deposits encountered during the 2002 excavation Since the specialist finds assessments were carried out on the basis of the initial site phasing, where context phasing has been altered, this is noted withm some of the specialist reports (see appendices) with the new phasing noted in bold in square brackets, eg [9]

5 0 2 In the following description, numbers in square brackets represent context numbers used during the excavation For example, un-stratified finds were recovered as context [2]

5 0 3 The excavated area measured up to 43 2m from east to west and up to 19m from north to south A 3m margin was left un-excavated adjacent to the fence-line forming the southern edge of the site, and a block up to 7m wide at the western end of the area where deposits were likely to be avoided by the curve of the planned new perimeter roadway

5 0 4 The pre-excavation ground surface was typically at a level of c 64 5mOD adjacent to the southern site boundary, gradually sloping down towards the northern and eastern edges of the upstanding area typically at a level of *c* 63 6mOD The 1960s reduction had truncated archaeological and natural deposits at the north-western corner of the site down to a level of c 63 0mOD, with the upper level of the subsequent concrete slab at a height of c 63 4mOD

5 1 Pre-Roman deposits

Phase (i) Natural deposits

5 1 1 The subsoil throughout the area of excavation, and generally where seen across the whole of the development area, was alluvial gravels, which varied from loose small rounded gravels and sands to larger rounded cobbles in a mid-brown sandy clay matrix [23/73/188] Insufficient clean areas were observed to determine the pattern of palaeochannels crossing the site, and no dating evidence was observed within any of these deposits

Phase (ii) Prehistoric activity (Figure 3)

5 1 2 Towards the western end of the site, the buried soil horizon sealed beneath the metalling of Dere Street was stripped down to the top of the clean natural gravel [23] This revealed three features cutting into the gravel and sealed beneath the pre-roadway topsoil

5 1 3 The northern corner of a large cut feature [110] was observed, with north-western and north-eastern sides continuing southwards beyond the area of excavation It measured more than 6 7m from north to south by more than 6 8m from east to west, and where partially sectioned was up to 0 55m deep with gently sloping sides and a slighly uneven base It was filled with a brown sandy clay [22] No finds were recovered from this feature, although charcoal flecks within the fill, the rather straight sides and sharp northern corner, and the fact that the buried soil partially in-filled the top of the feature, all suggested that it was a man-made feature

5 1 4 Immediately to the east, the rounded northern end of another feature [92] was excavated To the south it inter-cut with feature [110], and since the top of both features were in-filled with the buried soil it could not be distinguished further in plan Feature [92] was filled with gravel [91] similar to the natural gravel into which it was cut, but the margins were indicated by a slight darker staining, possibly of organic origin A possibly struck flint was recovered from the fill The southern end of a further shallow pit-type feature [200] (fill [199]) was recorded in plan immediately to the north of feature [110] but was not excavated

5 1 5 In addition to cut features, prehistoric activity on the site was demonstrated by the presence of a number of struck stone tools occurring residually within Romano-British deposits One of the sandstone blocks utilised in the construction of a probable 'grain drier' of Romano-British date proved to be a cut-down section of a panel of prehistoric 'rock art', with pecked designs including a spiral, a cup-and-ring and part of a second cup-and-ring on one face and further cup-marks on the reverse (Plates 3 and 4) This suggests that there may once have been a later Neolithic or early Bronze Age barrow or other ritual monument in the immediate vicinity

Phase (iii) Buried pre-Roman soil (Figure 3)

5 1 6 The pre-Roman topsoil horizon [21/72] sealed below Dere Street contained no Roman artefacts Hand-excavation of part of this horizon produced a worked flint of middle to later Neolithic date, a sherd of Iron Age pottery and many more, small, un-recoverable fragments of similar pottery were noted

5 2 Initial Romano-British activity

Phase (iv) Establishment of Dere Street (later 1st – early 2nd century) (Figure 4)

5 2 1 The earliest identified Roman activity on the site was the construction of Dere Street, running northwards from the crossing of the Swale parallel to the modern A1 The road crossed the western end of the site and, as seen elsewhere, appeared to consist of two distinct phases, an earlier wider road and a later narrower road The western edge of the earlier roadway lay beyond the area of excavation Within the central part of the roadway the two phases could not be distinguished, the road consisting of a sequence of compacted and partially concreted gravel layers differentiated by bands of iron-panning which presumably represented distinct re-surfacings This sequence was up to 0 44m thick towards the centre of the roadway, with a distinct camber down towards the eastern edge The upper part of the sequence had been truncated across the western half of the roadway by a modern trackway

5 2 2 The earlier, wider, road surface was observed over a width of c 13m, continuing beyond the excavated area to the west The gravel surfacing material was laid directly over the pre-road topsoil [21/72] which was noticeably thicker below the centre of the roadway and thinner towards the edges, presumably as a result of a conscious attempt to produce a camber in the overlying surfaces The road metalling [198] thinned and tailed-off along its eastern edge, where it was overlain by the western edge of a bank [5] consisting of dumps of yellow-brown sand and rounded cobbles This was c 3 0m wide and typically survived up to 0 4m high Finds recovered cleaning over deposit [5] were recovered as context [25] The bank material was presumably derived from the initial cutting of a ditch [183] (primary fill [184]) lying immediately to its east To the west, the metalling [140] of the earlier road was observed to continue beyond the limit of excavation A small area of the sequence of gravel and iron-pan layers within the metalling was excavated as contexts [68-71]

Phase (v) Initial roadside activity (later 1st - early 2nd century) (Figure 4)

5 2 3 After the initial construction of the roadway, some sort of burning activity, probably as a result of land clearance but perhaps industrial or funerary in nature, produced a number of areas of burning [189] on top of the original soil horizon throughout the area to the east of the road These were observed in plan across much of the southern side of the site, as more discrete patches surviving within hollows towards the eastern end of the site ([177], [186] in hollow [178]) (Plate 5) and probably represented by lenses of burning visible in section along the northern margin of the area sealed below un-excavated deposits A deeper pit-type feature [195] was recorded during a watching brief conducted whilst the remaining deposits were being machined away after the excavation had ended No such evidence for burning was observed anywhere below the area of Dere Street or its flanking bank, being restricted to the area east of ditch [183] and hence presumably post-dating establishment of the road This burning could be equated with similar deposits observed in 1970 a few meters to the south (1970 layer 32 and charcoal patch 31), and probably also Wacher's phase 2 burning in the 1972 trenches (Wilson 2002i, 238 and 126)

5 2 4 It was noticeable that the buried soil [85/176/181/187] to the east of the roadside ditch [183] was very different to that sealed beneath Dere Street and contained quantities of anthropogenic material suggesting some form of utilisation of the area in the period after the construction of Dere Street but prior to construction of the side road (see

below) Finds recovered from the surface of layer [176] after machine-stripping were recorded as context [182] but may have been contaminated by material from later cut features

Phase (vi) Establishment of a possible side road (2nd century) (Figure 5)

5 2 5 Along the southern side of the excavated area the areas of burning were sealed by a thick layer of compacted yellowish brown gravel [84] which probably represented the northern edge of a side road running eastwards from Dere Street known from aerial photographs (e g Cambridge University Collection DQ-81 reproduced in Wilson 2002, 1, 30) The southern edge of this feature was recorded during the excavation in 1970 (Thubron's first phase of side-road surface) Towards the eastern end of the site this surface was seen to be flanked along its northern edge by a small ditch [168] (fill [167]) Part of ditch [183] must have been filled-in with a deposit of yellow sand [12] when the side road was constructed in order for it to intersect with Dere Street Several features recorded towards the eastern end of the site may have been contemporary with usage of this side-road, including a linear slot [197] (fill 196]) running parallel to, and north of, ditch [168] and an ash-filled slot [180] (fill [179]) running northwards Finds recovered from the surface of the buried soil towards the north-eastern corner of the site below the floors of later Building B (see below) were recorded as context [148] but were possibly contaminated by objects from unidentified later cut features

5 3 Primary structural phase

Phase (vii) Narrowing of Dere Street, development of structures (2nd – 3rd century) (Figure 6)

5 3 1 The side road seems to have become disused and the flanking ditch of Dere Street was presumably re-cut across it, apparently with a rather broader, shallower profile, and with the excavated material [12] (phase vi) sloping up against bank [5] (phase iv) The hollow above the ditch subsequently seems to have been in-filled and levelled-up again with deposit [12] Continuing subsidence of the ditch fills apparently produced a hollow [105] which contained an extensive lens of small coal fragments [11], including quantities of rubbish, notably horse bones and a silver wire finger ring A soil layer [29] accumulated overlying the earlier roadside ditch to butt-up to bank [5], and soils [36] and [193] accumulated towards the northern edge of the site

5 3 2 In previous excavations within the Scheduled area immediately to the south of the site, Dere Street has been seen to have had two distinct phases, the wider initial phase and a narrower later phase The later phase within the Bridge Road site was represented by the small side ditches of the later road The eastern ditch [18] (overall fill [19]) was observed across the full width of the site, although to the north it was extremely truncated and ill-defined A section [74] excavated across it at the southern side of the site showed it to have been cut entirely within the thickness of the pre-existing earlier road metalling (Plate 6) It was up to 1 6m wide and 0 5m deep with a shallow 'V'-shaped profile and a broad flat base The primary fill [76] consisted of sand and pebbles probably eroded from the adjacent road surface, overlain by a relatively stone-free dark brown soil [75] presumably representing a more gradual secondary silting after the ditch had ceased to be maintained The western ditch [115] (fill [114]) was of similar dimensions The width of the narrower roadway [20]

between the two ditches was c 8 5m Finds immediately overlying the latest surviving surface of Dere Street were recovered as context [6]

5 3 3 The date at which Dere Street was narrowed seems to have been during the 2nd century Wacher considered that this event (to the south of the defensive rampart) could be related to constmction of the defences, the relatively narrow gateway removing the point of a much wider roadway in this area Within the 2002 excavation the ditches associated with the narrower roadway were shown to have silted up during the later 2nd to early 3rd centuries, with no later pottery recovered from the ditch fills

5 3 4 A rectangular pit [102] (fills [101], [103]) of unknown function was cut through the side road surface A second rectangular pit [125] was cut into the northern edge of the side-road metalling in order to constmct a two-celled stmcture [126] lined with sandstone blocks, many roughly squared (Plate 7) The presence of carved cups, rings and spirals on one of these blocks suggest that they may have been plundered from a nearby prehistoric monument The pit was back-filled around this structure with deposit [127] The westem cell of the stmcture appeared to have been a hearth with a stoke-hole in the western end wall, heating the eastem cell through a narrower flue The eastem cell was filled with lumps of burnt clay [129] presumably representing the remains of a clay superstmcture, and the westem cell contained an ashy deposit [130] Stmcture [126] has been provisionally interpreted as a corn-drier After it had gone out of use it became m-filled with brown soil and mbble [128]

5 3 5 An extensive area of cobbled surfaces and floors (phases vii and viii) was observed to cover the whole of the eastern part of the site at a similar level and overlying the original buried soil Initial interpretation of the site record suggests the presence of four buildings withm the area Since the main evidence for several of these stmctures consisted of changes in the nature of the cobble surfacing, and since it was only possible within the constraints of excavation tune and resources to sample-clean cobbled surfaces, only partial recording of any of these stmctures was possible

5 3 6 At the northern edge of the site, Building A consisted of a substantial wall footing [65] which survived over a length of 6 8m, tmncated at each end in the 1960s (Plate 8) It ran from east to west parallel to the side road, and consisted of a single line of large boulders It was faced to the north, which was interpreted as the interior of the building, and was butted on that side by the tmncated remnants of a pebble surface [138] overlain by a layer of soil [139]

5 3 7 Building B lay parallel to, and c Im south of, Building A, and was delmeated by a rectangular area of pebble surface [51/100], observed over a distance of 10 8m from east to west, tmncated to the east, and 4 4m wide (Plate 8) Possible remnants of a cobble wall footing survived near the north-western corner Towards its north-western corner, the stmcture was divided from Stmcture A by an area of larger cobbling [143] To the east this had apparently been removed in antiquity, and removal of the soil in-filling the resulting hollow revealed that an earlier pebble surface [144] had originally extended northwards to butt to wall [65] of Budding A, suggesting that Building B post-dated the more substantial stmcture

5 3 8 To the south of Building B was another parallel stmcture, Building C, separated by a c Im un-paved gap Buildings B and C shared a common frontage to the west, but

Building C seems to have been only 7 4m long from east to west The outer face of its northern wall and north-eastern corner was delineated by a single line of larger cobbles [141], with remnants of cobble wall-core material behind (Plate 8) Part of the western end wall was marked by a linear band of cobbles 0 6-0 7m wide The structure was more than 5m wide but its full extent southwards was not determined

5 3 9 Structure D lay 1 2m west of Structure C, and was delineated by a heavily-robbed line of unshaped sandstone slabs running from north to south and turning west at the southern end The rest of the structure lay below un-excavated deposits It was noted that the south-eastern corner of this structure may have respected ditch [168] (phase vi) along the northern edge of the side road, and hence these buildings may have been erected whilst the side road was still in use

5 3 10 Building E was recorded towards the north-western corner of the site and consisted of a rough cobble footing [32] delineating the southern wall At its eastern end it was observed to return to the north, but was almost immediately obscured by the southern wall of the superseding structure Building F (Phase viii) and was not investigated further to the north At its western end footing [32] returned to the north as footing [31] which was partially truncated and spread and which was not clearly defined A door pivot stone incorporated into this structure was probably not in its original position Artefacts recovered whilst cleaning over walls [31] and [32] probably derived from overlying soil layers and were recorded as context [33] (phase ix) The length of Building E was 5 4m from east to west To the north this structure had been truncated during the 1960s site reduction, and in addition it was cut away to the north-east by later pit [96] (phase ix) Except where cut away by later features the interior of the structure had a pebbled floor [111/185] which was overlain by spreads of dark grey ash and fragments of burnt clay [192], suggesting either that the structure had an industrial function or that it had burnt down A thin layer of sand [191] was subsequently laid down within the western part of the structure, probably derived from the adjacent sand upper fill [12] (phase vi) of the earlier roadside ditch but possibly laid down as a bedding for the succeeding structure, Building F (phase viii)

5 3 11 The 1969 excavation showed that structures were being constructed at the western side of Dere Street facing the 2002 excavation area in or after the mid 2nd century, which corresponds with the dating of the phase vii structures, Buildings A-E, and suggests extensive development northwards along the line of Dere Street soon after the defences immediately to the south had ceased to be maintained

5 3 12 Towards the southern side of the site, a sample area consisting of a slight depression in the surface of side road [84] was cleaned and excavated in more detail, since the hollow seemed to contain spreads of burnt sod or clay [137] However, no source for this material was identified A number of pits were identified in this area cutting through the road metalling but sealed by the overlying sod layer [83] (Phase ix, see below) These included a pit [89] (fill [88]) of uncertain dimensions which had subsequently been truncated by a later pit [87] (fill [86]) which was up to 0 94m wide and 0 25m deep Immediately to the east was another oval pit [134] (fill [133]) up to 1 14m wide and 0 34m deep This was cut to the north by the south-western terminal of either an oval pit or a linear slot [132] (fill [131]) which was 0 50m wide and 0 28m deep Another oval pit [136] (fill [135]) was located immediately to the south of pit [87] and west of pit [134] It was 0 85m wide but only 0 17m deep Two further

similar pits [155] (fill [154]) and [157] (fill [156]) were located immediately to the south-west, and several further possible pits to the north-west were recorded in plan but not excavated

5 3 13 At the northern edge of the site, a small area of cobbled surface [194] was revealed immediately overlying the subsoil, and probably dated from this initial phase of structures and surfaces

5 4 Later Roman occupation

Phase (viii) (4th century) (Figure 7)

5 4 1 Immediately to the south-east of the possible corn-drier [126] (phase vii) was a rectangular pit [175] whose fill [174] incorporated lumps of burnt clay similar to, and possibly derived from, the demolished superstructure of structure [126]

5 4 2 Buildings A-D seem to have continued in use, with external cobbled surfaces laid around them Towards the southern side of the site a very rough cobbled surface [24/55/149] was laid butting-up to the remains of the northern side of structure [126] (phase vii) It sealed the earlier ditch [168] (phase vi) flanking the side-road and overlay the northern edge of the road surface, levelling-up the camber and partially sealing pit [102] (phase vii) Finds recovered during cleaning over surface [24] were recorded as context [26] Finds recovered during cleaning over surface [55] were recovered as contexts [54], [122] and [124], and over surface [149] as context [150] Several small postholes were recorded cutting surface [24/55] near the southern edge of the site to the south of Building C, and the level of the packing stones within them suggested that they had been cut from at or only slightly above this level, and hence probably related to this phase of activity Too little of the cobbled surface was cleaned in enough detail to determine whether these features formed part of wider structures, and no interpretation of their function was possible A sample of two of these postholes, [61] (fill [62]) and [63] (fill [64]) were half-sectioned

5 4 3 Cobbling [149], which sealed ditch [168] (phase vi), continued northwards between Buddings C and D (phase vu), and was continuous with surface [142] outside the western end of Building B (phase vii) Within Budding B, several subsidence hollows [53] in floor [51] were filled with sod [52], excavated separately since this was more likely to have accumulated during use of the surface as opposed to the more general soil layers [90/99] (see below, phase ix) covering the wider surfaces which probably accumulated after it had gone out of use

5 4 4 Building E was replaced by Building F This only survived as two discrete lengths of footing, consisting of unshaped red sandstone slabs Footing [190/201] formed part of a western wall, cut away to the north in the 1960s and apparently cut away towards its southern corner by the northern wall footing of later Building G (phase x) The slight footing, incorporating some vertical slabs, supported a single course of flat slabs A part of the southern wall [34] survived beyond the eastern end of Building G and consisted of a short line of red sandstone slabs laid flat and overlying the ash layer covering the floor of Building E It had either been robbed or truncated to the east although its line may have been continued towards the northern end of footing [39] by a rather uncertain line of stones [37] Finds recovered whilst cleaning over wall [34] were recorded as context [35], and over stones [37] as context [38] The overall

surviving dimensions of Budding F as defined by walls [34] and [190] were 5 4m from east to west by 3 2m from north to south No internal floor levels survived in association with this stmcture, although a small area of cobbling [207] survived butting to the external face of wall [190]

5 5 Secondary structural phase and burials

Phase (ix) Soil dumping and burials (later 4th century) (Figures 8 and 9)

5 5 1 The initial phase of stmctures seem to have gone out of use and extensive dark brown soil layers developed or were dumped across the whole area of the site to the east of the roadside bank [5] A similar and contemporary phenomenon was noted within part of the Catterick Bridge (Site 240) excavation area Within the area of possible stmcture B to the south a relatively stone-free layer [90/99] developed above surface [51/100] (phase vu) This area was further raised by an extensive dump [66] of soil and cobbles which thinned to the east, possibly as a result of later tmncation Finds recovered during cleaning over deposit [66] (recovered as both contexts [66] and [67]) included a relatively large assemblage of coins ranging m date from the later 3rd century to the 330s and 340s

5 5 2 The area between Buddings B and C and to the east of C became buried by a relatively stone-free sod deposit [47] To the south, the area of Building C was covered in another deposit of soil and cobbles [81], which merged with deposit [66] to the north Finds recovered during cleaning over deposit [81] were recorded as context [82] Deposit [81] seems to have been limited to the west by the western end of Building C, with a widespread deposit of relatively stone-free dark brown soil accumulating above the surfaces to the west, variously numbered [45] and [46/83] towards the centre of the site and [48] to the north Context [33], cleaning over the walls of stmcture E (phase vii), produced finds probably derived from these sod layers

5 5 3 The area of the earlier side-road was covered in a thin layer of soil [17] which was removed by machine together with an overlying cobbled surface [27] Finds recovered during hand-cleaning of the base of deposit [17] off the road surface were recovered as context [118], but were possibly contaminated by material from later cut features

5 5 4 Towards the centre of the site, a north-to-south aligned trench [123] was excavated into soil layer [45/46] in order to constmct a large cobble footing [39] This was 7 6m long, 1 4m wide and 0 4m thick, carefully and very solidly constmcted of two courses of large cobbles Both ends of this stmcture were rounded with no evidence for any return, and its function was unclear Finds recovered from cleaning over it were recovered as context [40]

5 5 5 Cobbled surfaces [43] and [41] were laid butting up respectively to the western and eastern sides of footing [39] which projected slighdy higher than them Finds recovered during cleaning of the sod layers immediately overlying these surfaces were recovered as contexts [44] and [42] respectively Surface [43] appeared to have been tmncated to the west but extended far enough to butt to the south-eastern corner of the footings of Buddmg E (Phase vu) Surface [41] only survived as a narrow band butting to the eastern face of footing [39] Both surfaces continued southwards around the southern end of footing [39] and were probably a continuation of, and

contemporary with, an extensive cobbled surface [16/27] recorded along the southern side of the site To the west it butted up to and incorporated the top of the cobble bank [5] (phase iv) from the earlier, wider version of Dere Street, showing that the earlier roadside ditch had gone out of use and become m-fdled by this phase Cobbled surface [16/27] probably corresponded to the 'third phase of side-road surface' identified by Thubron durmg the 1970 excavation immediately to the south and possibly relating to a later 4th century stmcture lying within the scheduled area beyond the southern perimeter of the Bridge Road site

5 5 6 No stmctural evidence survived to the east of footing [39], possibly as a result of tmncation or perhaps because the main focus of activity was concentrated during this phase towards the frontage onto Dere Street to the west This apparent period of disuse possibly corresponded with the use of the area for a series of human burials None were identified above the top of the skeletal remams, but the physical level of the burials suggested that they had been cut from a contemporary ground surface at or above the top of the surviving stratified deposits

5 5 7 Three graves were equally spaced in a line mnning from north to south roughly parallel to wall footing [39] All three burials were extended and supine, orientated from north to south (i e with the head to the north) The body [120] m the northern burial (grave [121]) had been beheaded with the head placed over the feet, it had subsequently rolled off and come to rest by the right knee, showing that the body must have been contained within a coffin for which no other evidence survived (Figure 9, Plate 9) Two coins recovered from the back-fill [119] of this burial may not have been grave goods, but could instead have been incorporated with the backfill material The central grave [147] had been lined m the base with sandstone slabs and probably around the sides with rounded cobbles (Figure 9, Plate 10) The body [146] had been extensively disturbed by burrowing animals and no grave goods were identifiable within the back-fill [145] The southern grave [171] had again been heavily disturbed leading to the loss of many of the smaller bones of the skeleton [170] but fragments forming most of a greyware drinking vessel probably dating to after c AD 360-370 were recovered from within the back-fill [169] (Figure 9) To the south of grave [171], adjacent to the southem edge of excavation, was a fourth grave [56], in line with the first three burials, but with the body [58] extending westwards at right angles to the main alignment (Figure 9) The head end of the burial and back-fill [57] had subsequently been cut away by a later feature [50] (phase x) and the skull had disappeared However, a complete greyware drinking vessel similar to that from grave [171] and also probably dating to after c AD 360-370 had been carefully incorporated mto the fill of feature [50], and it seemed likely that it had originally derived from grave [56] A fifth grave [153] (fill [151]) was identified to the west of the main line, with the body [152] again aligned from east to west (Figure 9)

5 5 8 Burial in areas behind road-frontage occupation as seen at Bridge Road, Brompton has also been suggested at Honey Pot Road and possibly at Catterick Racecourse (Site 273), while the scatters of burials excavated at Catterick Bridge (Site 240) and at Bainesse (Site 46) also seemed to relate to such a practice (Wilson 2002i, 183) The partially slab-lined Roman burials at Bridge Road were very similar to burials recorded at the eastem end of the Catterick Bridge (Site 240) excavation, immediately adjacent to the medieval bridge, two of which also contained single, small, greyware jars of late 3rd – 4th century date

5 5 9 A very large circular pit [96] was cut into the northern edge of the site, extending to the north into the area truncated in the 1960s (Plate 11) It lay within the area of Building F (phase viii) and cut away the north-eastern corner of Building E (phase vii), and presumably post-dated both It had a diameter of c 5m and was 1 75m deep It had a primary fill [104] of re-deposited natural gravel Above this was a layer of ash [95], sealed by a thick deposit of what may have been cess [94] Finds from fills [94] and [95] in the north-western quadrant were recovered together as context [97] The top of the pit was in-filled and overlain with a thick deposit of brown soil and cobbles [93] which incorporated large quantities of animal bone This deposit extended beyond the edges of the pit Its nature suggested deposition of rubble and refuse in successive attempts to level-up and consolidate a persistently boggy area over the in-filled pit It incorporated a linear arrangement of large stones including the end of a stone trough, perhaps laid in an attempt to create a solid pathway, although these had also subsided into the pit Finds recovered during cleaning over these deposits were recorded as context [98]

5 6 Final phase of structures

Phase (x) Timber-in-slot and postpit structures (4th century+) (Figure 10)

5 6 1 Structures allocated to this phase were distinguished by being of earth-fast timber construction, with the timbers either in slots, post-pits or a combination of the two In addition, all of these features were cut from a level at or above the top of the surviving Roman stratigraphy, and hence no contemporary floor levels were present

5 6 2 Towards the north-western corner of the site, the south-western corners of Buildings E (phase vii) and F (phase viii) were cut through by the footings of Building G Any floor levels across the whole area of this structure had been truncated due to later agricultural activity and also as a result of 1960s construction disturbance Surviving evidence for the building consisted of three parallel intermittent lines of vertical stones, [202], [203] and [205], running from north to south parallel to the line of Dere Street These were presumably packing stones within (unidentifiable) foundation trenches cut through sod layer [29] (phase vii) At its southern end the eastern wall [202] apparently terminated in a post-pit [77] (fill [78]) which would have formed the south-eastern corner of the structure Any evidence of a wall running westwards from this corner towards the central wall [203] was lost during machine-excavation of the trial trench Groups of stones at the southern ends of wall [203] and western wall [205] probably represented the positions of further post-pits, and were linked by a further wall slot [204] At its northern end wall [202] cut through the southern wall ([32]) of Building E and then probably returned immediately to the west, following (and destroying) the line of the southern wall [34] of Building F before cutting through the western wall [31] of Building E To the west of this the northern wall of Building G was probably represented by a short surviving line of stones [206] The outline of the north-western corner of the structure was probably represented by a spread of reddened burnt sod and fragments of burnt daub A line of burnt daub at the northern end of the western face of the partition wall [203] may have been '*in situ*' The overall dimensions of Building G were 7m from east to west by 6 4m from north to south Wall [203] divided the structure into two unequal halves, the western room 3m wide and the eastern room 4m wide An apparent gap in the centre of this footing suggested the position of an internal doorway, but external entrances were not

identified Finds recovered whilst cleaning across the area of this structure were recorded as context [166] but, as noted above, it was uncertain if any of them related to use of the stmcture

5 6 3 A further stmcture, Budding H, was delineated by a slot [113] (fill [112]) recorded cut into the top of the survivmg stratified Roman deposits at the southern edge of the site From the southem side of the excavated area, the slot ran northwards, tumed to the west and then again to the south, delineating a rectangular stmcture 5 4m wide and more than 4 4m long from north to south, continuing beyond the edge of excavation to the south

5 6 4 A number of post-pits connected by slots were recorded mnning from east to west, either cutting through surface [27] (phase ix) or only recognised at the level of surface [84] (phase vi) below but presumably cut from the higher level (Plate 12) One line consisted of six post-pits towards its eastem end, observed over a distance of 9m and typically spaced 1 7m apart, centre to centre Four of these features, [60] (fill [59]), [161] (fill [160]), [107] (fill [106]) and an unnumbered pit, were excavated and varied somewhat in depth, the deepest, post-pit [60], being 0 8m deep from the top of surface [27] although it may originally have been cut from a higher level A further unexcavated group of probable post-pits to the east continued the alignment of these features and had a similar spacing The overall length of the two lines of features was 26 4m, which in view of their relatively small individual size suggested that they represented at least two separate stmctures on a similar alignment rather than a single massive stmcture Neither line was observed to tum and it was uncertain whether the post-pits continued to east or west They did not continue westwards across the line of Dere Street, where they would have been instandy identifiable cutting the road metalling In view of their proximity to the southem edge of the excavated area, these lines of post-pits most probably represented the northem sides of stmctures extending to the south The western line of post-pits was linked by a shallow gully [109] (fill [108]) m places filled with cobbles presumably representing the packing stones of slighter wall timbers filling the gaps between the more massive stmctural posts

5 6 5 A second possible line of pits, presumably post-pits, linked by a gully, intersected at a slight angle with the western group described above One of the post-pits, [80] (fill [79]), was observed cutting through surface [27] but the other features in this group were only seen after the surface had been machmed-away, and the relationship between the two lines was not established A second pit [159] (fill [158]) was located 1 2m (centre to centre) west of pit [80] A third, smilarly-spaced pit to the east would have coincided with, and been obscured by, post-pit [107] in the other line The linking gully [117] (fill [116]) was observed over a length of 3 2m, passing into an un-investigated area to the west and converging with the line of gully [109] to the east

5 6 6 A cobble-filled feature [50] partially excavated adjacent to the southern baulk towards the eastern end of the site was initially interpreted as a substantial wall footing mnning from north to south However, subsequent machining resulting in slight cuttmg-back of the southern section left no visible trace of this feature, and the presumed northern continuation proved to be a grave ([171]), suggesting that feature [50] was in fact a stone-packed pit A complete grey-ware drinking vessel recovered from between the packing stones [49] may have derived from grave [56] (phase ix)

through which the feature cut (see above), and certainly no body was identified within cut [50], which is probably best interpreted as a large post-pit

5 7 **Post-Roman activity**

Phase (xi) (Figure 10)

5 7 1 The top of the redundant and levelled roadside cobble bank [5] (phase iv) to the north of the trial trench was cut by a slot or small ditch [173] (fill [172]) which ran at a slight angle to the later roadside ditch [18] (phase vii) and the structures to the east Due to truncation its stratigraphic relationship to ditch [18] was not established and it was not identified to the south of the trial trench The deviation in alignment from the adjacent Dere Street roadway suggested that it could have been a very late, possibly even post-Roman, re-cutting of the roadside ditch after the precise original alignment had become obscured

5 7 2 Deposits of relatively stone-free dark brown sod, [7], [9/14], [15] and [28], developed above the latest metalled surfaces along the southern side of the site These were sealed by a darker greyish-brown soil layer [13/30] which apparently represented the topsoil layer present immediately prior to the 1960s development of the site and which contained medieval and post-medieval pottery and other artefacts This contained rather more stones suggesting that it had been ploughed

5 7 3 A linear cobble footing [3] crossed the area of excavation from north to south It appeared to have been cut from a higher level than any of the nearby Romano-British deposits and was butted by 20th century gravel dumping, suggesting that it had projected above ground-level at the time of constmction of the former factory It was probably the footing for a field wall of medieval or post-medieval date, and approximately corresponded to a boundary recorded on the 1857 OS map Objects recovered during cleaning over this feature were recorded as context [4] A band of cobble mbble [8] immediately to the west of this footing probably represented either constmction or demolition mbble, but was clearly of some antiquity since it had become worm-sorted down towards the base of the stone-free brown soil layer [9] Until the site was developed there was probably a slight lynchet down immediately to the east of this wall line

5 8 **Modern deposits and disturbance**

Phase (xii)

5 8 1 The site had been tmncated towards its northem and eastem edges during the 1960s constmction works, and the remaining archaeological deposits had suffered further disturbance from rabbit burrowing However, towards the southern edge of the site the pre-constmction ground surface (context [30] - see above) was covered in dumps of imported gravel [10] and then landscaped with a new topsod horizon [1], leaving this part of the site slighdy higher than the Scheduled area on the other side of the fence immediately to the south

5 8 2 At the western side of the site, the surface of western half of Dere Street had been tmncated by a track mnnmg from the former Bradstone factory southwards towards the riverbank This tmncation had previously been noted further to the south in CAS Site 511 (Wdson, 1994)

5 9 Observations elsewhere within the development area

5 9 1 The County Archaeologist requested that a watching brief be carried out during topsoil stripping within part of the grass field at the eastern end of the site (CAS Site 240), adjacent to the A6136 Gatherley Road, in advance of constmction of a bund intended to screen the new factory from the houses opposite Informal monitoring was also undertaken during ground-works within several other parts of the development area which were carried out during the period of the main excavation

5 9 2 Within the grass field typically only c 0 2m of topsoil was removed, and as a result a detailed walk-over of the stripped area did not identify any archaeological features or Roman artefacts, those objects identified including a fragment of 17th century clay tobacco pipe, much 19th or 20th century pottery, with a number of live rounds of blank 303 rifle ammunition and a spread of coal debris reflecting the former presence of the military railway within this field The area was also scanned by metal-detectorists under the supervision of the County Archaeologist, resulting in the recovery of several coins (Neil Campling pers comm) It should be noted that much of the new soil bund was constmcted using spoil from the excavated area and likely to contain thousands of Romano-British artefacts, which now form a major archaeological contaminant in this area

5 9 3 Part of the northem edge of the site to the west of the main site entrance was excavated down to the level of the main site slab back to the northern site boundary (Figure 2, 2002 context [500]) Photographs taken by Shirley Thubron when the rest of the factory site was levelled in the 1960s show that this area was not disturbed at that time The new section at the northem site boundary created by the 2002 works confirmed the presence of an undisturbed stratified sequence of deposits in this area, although without cleaning the section it was not possible to determine whether archaeological features were present A small assemblage of Samian Ware pottery recovered from the machined surface m this area by one of the sub-contractors was subsequently handed to the archaeologists, and strongly suggests that archaeological features had indeed been present It is likely that further undisturbed archaeological deposits survive sealed below the wide landscaped bund lying between the northem site boundary and Bridge Road

5 9 4 A c 10m wide trench was excavated, and then reinstated, mnning from the westem perimeter roadway eastwards across the full width of the former factory site m order to remove the footings of the northern wall of the former factory building and any services, and to ensure the homogeneity of the underlying alluvial deposits (mainly gravels) Since this trench cut up to c 1 5m below the base of the former factory floor slab, it is likely to have effectively 'sterilised' the area from an archaeological viewpoint This activity is likely to have removed evidence within the western part of the area for the middle ditch of Prof Wacher's proposed bridgehead defences (see Figure 2, 1968 'flume trench')

5 9 5 After the excavation had ended, a substantial trench, presumably for drainage, was cut across the development area adjacent to the southem site boundary (Roger Simpson pers comm) Since the Roman side road recorded m the excavation is known from aerial photographs to have mn at least 130m eastwards from Dere Street, presumably

flanked by attendant development, it is likely that this trench has caused extensive damage to Roman archaeological deposits

5 9 6 Construction of the new factory building and subsequent erection of additional smaller buddings within the site was carried out without archaeological mitigation Since the recording by Shirley Thubron in 1968-9 and the 2002 excavation demonstrated the survival of archaeological features below slab level within at least the westem half of the development area (see Plate 11), it is likely that these developments have caused further unrecorded loss of archaeological deposits

6 0 ASSESSMENT OF SITE ARCHIVE

6 1 Initial analysis

As part of the assessment of the site records the following level of analysis has been undertaken

1 A context and finds database was compiled
2 Plans and sections were checked against context record sheets to ensure full cross referencing
3 An overall site plan was created, integrating the results of the plans produced during the assessment and excavation phases
4 Catalogues of slide and print photographs have been input onto a computerised database

The quantification of the site record is as follows

Table 1 Primary archive inventory

Context descriptions	208
Drawing sheets	35
Print photos (films)	9
Colour slides (films)	8

6 2 Recommendations for further analysis

6 2 1 Further work needs to be earned out on the dating of the artefactual record, notably the Romano-British pottery assemblage, in order to provide a more secure site chronology

6 2 2 Once re-analysis of the provisional site phasing is complete the context record should be listed and described phase by phase to produce a detaded site narrative report Detailed phase plans should also be drawn up to illustrate the mam features and stratigraphic relationships phase by phase

6 2 3 A full search of published and un-published sources should be undertaken, particularly with reference to other material from the Catterick area but also regionally and nationally, in order to relate the results of the excavation to the site's wider archaeological context

6 2 3 The results of the detailed analysis of the site archive should be integrated with specialist analysis of the finds recovered and synthesised into an illustrated report prepared for publication (see Section 9)

6 3 Storage and curation

6 3 1 The written, drawn and photographic records from both the assessment and excavation phases are currently held by NAA The artefacts and environmental samples are either held by NAA, stored under controlled conditions at the Conservation Laboratory in the Archaeology Department, University of Durham, or are with relevant specialists

6 3 2 The retention and disposal policy for the assemblage from Bridge Road, Brompton will be full retention of all stratified artefacts and faunal and plant remains except for post-Medieval material and non-diagnostic fragments of Roman brick and tile

6 3 3 The excavation was undertaken in advance of constmction works on behalf of Thomas Armstrong (Constmction) Ltd who are the legal owners of material recovered from the site The site and research archives are to be deposited in the Yorkshire Museum

7 0 SPECIALISTS FINDS ASSESSMENTS

7 1 Processing and quantification

Washing of the bulk finds was completed after fieldwork had ended All finds recovered have been recorded, marked where appropriate, packed m labelled bags or other packaging as appropriate and placed in labelled museum storage boxes Metal objects and other potentially unstable materials were packaged and transferred immediately to the Conservation Laboratory at the Archaeology Department, University of Durham A finds database was produced in order of context number This database tabulates the artefact type, quantity and a brief description The artefact assemblage from both the site assessment and excavation phases is summarised below

Table 2 Finds assemblage

Artefact type	*Quantity*
Flint and chert	15
Prehistoric pottery	1
Romano-British pottery	6632
Later pottery	48
Metalwork	786
Worked bone	9
Jet/shale	2
Coins	48

Glass objects	3
Glass – window/vessel	67
Brick and tile	811
Stone	2
Querns	3
Human skeletons	5
Animal Bone	9688
Shell	287
Environmental samples	14
Total	18421

7 2 Flint assessment (Appendix A)

Peter Makey

7 2 1 Summary

A total of 15 pieces were submitted for assessment, comprising 10 struck pieces of flint, two struck pieces of chert and three pieces of un-struck natural flint The struck flint assemblage included six flakes, two edge-utilised flakes, a core scraper and another scraper The chert assemblage consisted of two bladelets Overall, the assemblage was likely to be of Grooved Ware and Beaker associations, but with a possibility of a residual later Mesolithic component The high quality of the chert bladelets was of note, as was the similarity of the assemblage to material recovered from the nearby site of Hollow Banks, Scorton which produced ritual and funerary features of later Neolithic and early Bronze Age date (Speed and Powlesland, forthcoming)

7 2 2 Recommendations

A full descriptive catalogue of this assemblage has been prepared and no further analysis is required A total of 4 pieces are recommended for illustration

7 3 Rock art assessment (Appendix B)

Stan Beckensall and Aron Mazel

7 3 1 Summary

A single block of sandstone was presented for assessment, decorated on the two faces with prehistoric motifs and cut on two sides with a toothed chisel

One face has four simple cup marks The other face has a cup surrounded by three concentric grooves These are cut into by an angled groove with a cup at its centre Part of another cup and circular groove survives at one of the cut edges Parts of the design have been marked out but not finished

The 'rock art' is likely to date from the Neolithic or early Bronze Age period By analogy with an example from Fulforth Farm, Durham, the slab from which the block has been cut may have formed part of a burial cist, with the more complex face facing down into the burial and the simpler cup marks being added onto the upper face The block was subsequently cut down and re-used within a Roman stmcture

7 3 2 Recommendations

The decorated block does not require further analysis It does require illustration

7 4 **Prehistoric pottery assessment**

Blaise Vyner

7 4 1 Summary

A single, friable and disintegrating sherd of pottery recovered from the pre-Roman soil horizon sealed beneath Dere Street (context [21]) was submitted for assessment It came from the base of a large jar of Iron Age date The surfaces and fabric were dark grey to dark brown m colour The fabric was heavily tempered with many angular quartzitic grits and a few large ones, many small angular quartz grits, sparse small milky quartz fragments, and many small and a few medium igneous grits Typical thickness 17mm Probably because of a combination of heavy tempering and low firing temperature the fabric was soft and extremely friable

7 4 2 Recommendations

No further analysis of this single sherd is required It does not require illustration

7 5 **Romano-British pottery assessment (Appendix C)**

Peter Didsbury

7 5 1 Summary

A total of 6680 sherds, weighing 90 3 kg, were submitted for assessment Included in this total were fragments of ceramic artefacts including a Venus figurine, and of sherds refashioned into roundels ("gaming counters"), spindle whorls and small receptacles

All material was quantified by the two measures of number and weight of sherds, according to fabric category, withm archaeological context Data was entered onto an Access database, which is included within the site archive An assessment report was prepared (Appendix C) which addressed the types and quantities of material found, their distribution, and their potential for further study The principal aims of the assessment were to provide a primary computerised archive for this class of find, and to address the chronology of individual contexts and phases

Interpretation of this large site assemblage was constrained by both the nature and the quality of the individual context assemblages A large number of pot groups were

from "open" deposits, and only a very limited chronological sequence could be suggested However, the spot-dates produced for individual contexts, together with an initial re-examination of the site record, particularly the stratigraphic matrix, was sufficient to more closely phase much of the activity on the site, which will in turn permit a closer chronological sequence within the pottery assemblage to be established It was noted that the coin list ended appreciably earlier than the date of the latest pottery being used on the site, which certainly post-dated AD 360/370 and possibly considerably later

Four joining fragments were recovered of a white pipe clay Venus figurine The head and most of the front of the body are missing, as is the base The figurine is of better quality than many, with the moulded details of the drapery well defmed Figurines such as this were mass-produced in central Gaul and Cologne in the 1st and 2nd centuries and the majority found in Britain date to this period The distribution of pipeclay Venus figurines is concentrated in south east England but there are at least nineteen examples from the north The fragments of the Venus figurine have already been reported upon by Philippa Walton, whose report may be found at the end of Appendix C

7 5 2 Recommendations

The pottery assessment was undertaken using an initial phasing based purely upon the physical and stratigraphic relationships between features and deposits recorded during excavation Using the pottery assessment, it has subsequently proved possible to substantially re-phase the site, and hence many of the context phases used m the pottery assessment are now obsolete and this will need to be addressed before any further analysis is carried out

Given the limits of the assessment, it was not possible at this stage to assess the range of wares in use in terms of the fabric and form series already constmcted for other Catterick sites, although it was noted that a number of forms are present which do not appear to have been published in Wilson 2002 Publication potential of the material is lunited The demands of publication could probably be satisfied by a discursive treatment of the pottery assemblage supported by detailed analysis and illustration of some key groups, with attention also being paid to previously unrecorded forms and vessels of intrinsic interest Any further work towards publication could, furthermore, only be carried out *after* the specialist analyses recommended below

The samian and the mortaria both have the potential to refine the site dating, and both should be submitted to specialist analysis in the interests of augmenting the studies of these classes of material from Catterick sites which have already been published

Other examples of pipe-clay Venus figurines found in Northem England should be examined in order to determine whether the Brompton example is from the same workshop or mould as other examples, the scarcity of which suggests that they could all have arrived as part of one or very few shipments

Tony Wilmott has noted that spindle whorls and gaming counters made from reused Samian pottery fragments are a predominantly 4th century phenomenon in the northern military zone, forming part of a wider pattem of increased re-cycling during

the period (Wilmott 2002, 11) The contextual provenance of the Brompton examples should be examined in order to determine whether the assemblage supports or contrasts with this observation

A list of pottery requiring illustration can only be produced after the programme of analysis recommended above has been carried out The Venus figurine will require illustration

All of the material should be retained in the interests of future ceramic research in the region

7 6 Coin assessment (Appendix D)

Richard Brickstock

7 6 1 Summary

A total of 48 coins, all Roman, were recovered during the excavation They ranged in date from a com of Hadrian dated 134-8 through to probably the 340s, with a heavy bias towards the later 3rd and 4th centuries perhaps as a result of excavation concentrating on the later phases of the site The date distribution was similar to that from Site 434 immediately to the south which suffered the same bias However, the small number of early issues from the Bridge Road site exhibit considerable wear in contrast to those from Site 434 where a proportion showed relatively little wear suggesting that they were lost soon after their date of issue The probable end-date for the Bridge Road assemblage in the early 340s contrasts with most other areas of Catterick and its environs where com use continues down to the end of the 4th century and perhaps beyond

7 6 2 Recommendations

A full catalogue and discussion of the coin assemblage has been produced No further analysis is required None require illustration

7 7 Small Finds assessment (Appendix E)

Lindsay Adlason-Jones

7 7 1 A total of 800 objects were sent for assessment, including 574 nails and nail fragments, 212 other metal objects, three fragments of glass objects, one jet object, one shale object and nine worked bone objects

As a general assemblage this material could be compared with that from any small town or village in Roman Britain and, as such, is not an unexpected result of excavations in a suburb of *Cataractonium* The most curious feature is the number of styli which were found, as these artefacts are not particularly common on sites in Roman Britain, although a considerable number have been discovered in previous excavations in the Catterick area, indeed, Hilary Cool has remarked that they 'are ubiquitous' in *Cataractonium* and she concluded that 'literacy and/or numeracy was a

widespread skdl, opemng up the possibdity of the presence of clerks or secretaries' (Wilson 2002ii, 36)

There is very little jewellery with a lack of brooches being particularly conspicuous, but this probably indicates that the occupants had limited cash to spend on accessories rather than evidence for the lack of women on the site There is also limited evidence for army activity as the military material, other than one iron spearhead, mostly consists of fasteners and pendants with a bias towards harness fittings, which are easily lost as individual riders pass along a road

The most interesting group is the tools, particularly the flesh hook, shears and axehead, which may suggest an agricultural element to the site The rest of the ironwork consists mosdy of architectural elements There is some slag, which may indicate metalworking, but as the amount is lunited it is equally possible that the slag had been included in hardcore for road repairs

7 7 2 The assemblage does not require further analysis A catalogue has already been prepared which will require editing for publication A maximum of 20 objects require illustration The assemblage should be retained

7 8 Window and vessel glass assessment (Appendix F)

Hillary Cool

7 8 1 Summary

A total of 60 fragments of Romano-British glass were assessed, comprising 54 fragments of vessel glass, three fragments of personal omament and three fragments of window glass

The majority of the vessel glass could be attributed to the 2nd century (some could be 1st) with a litde from the earlier 3rd century but none from the later 3rd or 4th centuries The material comprised a range of forms mcluding jugs, beakers, cups, flasks and bottles in a variety of colours including a very unusual almost black fragment The majority of the material was comparable to the range of glassware recovered elsewhere in *Cataractonium*

The personal ornaments included two beads, one each of common melon and cylindrical types, and a fragment of a glass bangle of later 1st or 2nd century type paralleled elsewhere m Catterick

The fragments of window glass derived from two separate cast glass window panes These seem to have been in common usage within Cataractonium during the 1st to 3rd centuries

7 8 2 Recommendations

Reports and catalogues on the three groups of glass have already been prepared and no further analysis is required It is recommended that five of the fragments be dlustrated

7 9 Brick and Tile assessment (Appendix G)

J Tibbles and S E Tibbles

7 9 1 Summary

An assemblage consisting of 811 fragments of Romano-British ceramic building material from 40 contexts were assessed Three fragmented bricks accounted for 468 fragments and were assessed as three items, so that the assessment discussed 346 items

The fragments came from a range of Roman budding materials, including *tegulae* (82 fragments), *imbrices* (64 fragments), a possible ridge-tile fragment, *bessales* (16 fragments), *pedales* (474 fragments, 468 from three bricks), a possible pipe (*tubili lingulati*) fragment and box-flue (*tubuli*) tile (26 fragments) One hundred and forty-seven fragments were unidentifiable by form but m Roman fabrics

Although within close proximity to Cataractonium, a potential source of ceramic building material, the Brompton assemblage was noticeable small However, the assemblage represented a diverse range of brick and tile that would have been used in various aspects of Romano-British budding constmction and reflected the presence of an 'affluent/high status' budding or buddings withm the vicinity of the excavation The presence of bricks and flue-tdes associated with the constmction of hypocausts indicated that at least one nearby building contained under-floor heating Other possible indicators of affluence were evident in the form of decorative slips

Six fabric types and three sub-types were identified, and the variety of flange-types, dunensions and fabrics exhibited was indicative of material having originated in a number of stmctures, although there was no direct evidence to suggest that such stmctures lay within the area of excavation Despite a paucity of complete tiles and the abraded appearance of some of the material, there were sufficient joins within the assemblage to suggest that the majority of the material was complete or near-complete at the time of deposition Few fragments had mortar adhering

The potential of the assemblage is limited Although it can be suggested that the material may have been imported into the area, the source of manufacture cannot be ascertained Further analysis (see recommendations) would contribute significant data pertaining to this query It is hoped that future work will establish the sources of the various fabrics and forms

7 9 2 Recommendations

A report and descriptive catalogue of this material has already been prepared

A selective discard policy should be implemented prior to deposition within the appropriate museum

The report will require editing for publication A total of eight fragments of budding material are recommended for illustration

7 10 Stone finds assessment (Appendix H)

Elizabeth Wright

7 10 1 Summary

A total of five stone objects were sent for assessment These included three fragments of quern stones, part of a whetstone and a stone block with a bowl-shaped hollow of uncertain, possibly craft or industrial, function

7 10 2 Recommendations

A full description and discussion of the stone objects has been prepared as part of the assessment No further analysis of these objects is required

Up to four of the objects are recommended for illustration

7 11 Human bone assessment (Appendix I)

Joanna Higgms

7 11 1 Summary

The skeletal remains of five individuals were presented for assessment A detailed inventory of all skeletal elements present was made The skeletons were assessed for level of preservation, completeness, sex, age at death, stature, abnormalities, trauma and pathological changes The group consisted of one adult and 2 elderly females, one young adult male and one adolescent aged 14-16 years who had been decapitated prior to burial Pathological conditions included dental disease, joint disease, metabolic disturbance and healed trauma The ranges of age and sex suggested that the group derived from a normal cemetery Similarly, the range of pathological conditions observed is typical of a cemetery population of this type Decapitation is rare in northem England, being more commonly found in the south east, and un-reported in adolescents aged between 11 and 15 years

7 11 2 Recommendations

A bony nodule associated with one of the skeletons may represent evidence for parasitic or other infection and requires further investigation Otherwise, no further analysis is required on this group of skeletons Results of analysis of the bony nodule will require integration into the report which will require editing for publication The skeletal material should be retamed for future research purposes

7 12 Biological remains assessment (Appendix J)

Deborah Jaques, John Carrot, Allan Hall and Stephen Cousins
(Palaeoecology Research Services)

7 12 1 Summary

Fourteen sediment samples, together with a small quantity of hand-collected shell, and over 9,000 hand-collected bones, were submitted for analysis

Samples from seven Roman contexts were examined for their content of plant remains Charred plant material was present in all the samples, though the concentrations were very low The results are consistent with a pattern becoming apparent at sites of Roman and Romano-British date in the Vale of York generally, in which there is evidence for the use of heathland resources (and specifically for turves) often with a small component of charred cereal remains No ancient invertebrate remains were recovered from the samples Three sub-samples examined for microfossils were devoid of useful remams being composed almost entirely of inorganic grains Remaining un-sieved soil from these seven samples, together with the seven un-processed samples, are retained by NAA

The hand-collected shell was too little and far too poorly preserved to be of any interpretative value beyond indicating the importation of coastal food resources to the site

The animal economy throughout the represented periods was based almost wholly on the main domestic mammals Evidence for the utilisation of wild resources was scarce, with very few wild mammals and birds identified Some exploitation of river resources was hinted at by the presence of fish remains m two of the samples On the basis of fragment counts, the proportions of the major domesticates suggest that sheep/goats were the most numerous species present m the earliest period, with a change in the later periods to a predominance of cattle In general, the vertebrate assemblages from Brompton show similarities with material already recovered from other excavations in the vicinity, the earliest phase retaining the character of the pre-Roman dietary preferences, with the increase of cattle through time bemg a feature of the 'Romanisation' process

7 12 2 Recommendations

No further analysis of the seven sediment samples already examined is recommended, and the remaining un-sieved sod from these samples should be discarded Of the remaining seven samples, five are considered unlikely to contain material likely to add to the overall picture of activity relating either to their specific individual contexts or to the site as a whole during the Roman occupation It is recommended that these five samples be discarded Two complementary samples are considered worthy of analysis for both macro- and micro-fossds One sample was recovered from the buried sod (context [21]) sealed beneath the metalling of Dere Street and would reflect the pre-Roman environment of the area The second sample derives from the buried sod layer to the east of Dere Street (context [176]) where it was exposed to early Roman activity Comparison of the results of analysis of the two samples would provide information on the nature of local land-use m the immediately pre-Roman

period in contrast to the early Roman activity in the area which is not clearly understood It is therefore recommended that these two samples undergo analysis and the results of this analysis be integrated into the report for publication The results of analysis of all of the processed samples should be re-examined in the light of re-phasing of the site (which was carried out after the initial assessment of this material) and the report modified in order to present the results phase-by-phase m order to identify any changes through time of activity within the site as represented by this material

No further analysis of the shell assemblage is required

No further analysis of the animal bone assemblage is required However, the assessment report on this material was written before re-phasing of the site had been carried out As a result, parts of the statistical analysis of the data will be subject to changes and some of the conclusions may be subject to remterpretation Provision should be made within any future programme of work for re-writing of the report in order allow for these changes and any resulting reinterpretation of the results

7 13 Radiocarbon dating assessment

7 13 1 Summary

In view of the rich artefact assemblages and stratified nature of the deposits, no radiocarbon dates are required for most of the site However, dating of the five inhumations would determine whether they belong to the late Roman or early post-Roman period, for which there is little recorded evidence in the Catterick area

7 13 2 Recommendations

Stallibrass (2000, 75) has highlighted the paucity of recorded burials relating to the late Roman and early post-Roman period in northem England, and has noted that the few burials which have been identified generally occur in small groups rather than large cemeteries Since for this period it is unlikely that large cemeteries existed, small assemblages are of increased value, being all that is likely to be found, and have a group value when considered together (Stallibrass *ibid*, 76) O'Brien (1999, table 5) was unable to identify any published post-Roman 'British' burials m Northern England However, radiocarbon dating has recently begun to redress this unbalance A small group of extended inhumations similar to the Brompton burials was excavated at Parlington Hollins near East Garforth, West Yorkshire (SE 423 345) in 1996 and included single examples of decapitation, hobnailed boots and partial lining of the grave cut with stone slabs (Roberts *et al* 2001, 101-2) Radiocarbon dates obtained for these burials placed them as a group within the 5th to 6th centuries AD Without ' the radiocarbon dates, these graves would be unequivocally classed as later Roman' (Roberts *ibid*, 283)

Within the Catterick area (and more widely) there is a gap between the (apparently disproportionate) numbers of recorded Romano-British burials attributed, many on fairly flimsy evidence, to the later 4th century, and the larger numbers of Anglian burials dated from the later 5th century onwards This was particularly notable at Hollow Banks Farm, where a (closely dateable) small Romano-British cemetery of

the 3rd quarter of the 4th century lay unmediately adjacent to an Anglian cemetery of the later 5th to 6th century (Speed and Powlesland, forthcoming) There is hence a gap of up to a century m the local burial record It is likely that many of the 'late Roman' burials recorded in the area in fact date to the early to mid 5th century, but, due to the paucity of artefacts dateable to this period and the unaccompanied nature of most late Roman/early post-Roman burials, that these cannot be readdy distinguished The Bridge Road burials provide an opportunity to test the attribution of such 'late Roman' burials to the late 4th century Recent advances m high resolution radiocarbon dating offer the potential for very accurate dating in the early 5th century where the calibration curve is steep enough to allow it (Lucy and Reynolds 2002, 9)

It is recommended that samples of bone from each of the five human burials recovered at Bridge Road, Brompton be submitted for radiocarbon dating

8 0 SIGNIFICANCE OF RESULTS

8 1 The excavation at Bridge Road, Brompton represents one of the largest area excavations to have been undertaken within the northern 'suburb' of the Roman town of *Cataractonium* (Figure 2), or indeed within the town as a whole As such it is unfortunate that lack of foreknowledge of the presence of such a large volume of stratified archaeological deposits prevented either preservation of the site *in situ* or full stratigraphic hand-excavation of the area However, the results of the limited excavation programme that was undertaken before the area was levelled has added to our knowledge of the development of Dere Street and its attendant roadside development to the north of the Roman town, with tantalising hints of earlier, prehistoric activity within the area

8 2 The possible Mesolithic element amongst the flint assemblage adds to the local distribution of such finds, although its scattered and residual nature significantly reduces the value of the material in adding to our knowledge of the period, even locally The Neolithic or early Bronze Age features and artefacts add to the growing local distribution of such finds, which are increasingly being recognised as forming parts of an important 'ritual' and funerary landscape focussed on the River Swale at Catterick The fragment of prehistoric rock art was a particularly important discovery in this respect It has been suggested that it formed part of the cover for a cist burial

8 3 The recovery of a sherd of extremely friable Iron Age pottery from the buried soil beneath Dere Street, together with the identification of numerous other unrecoverable fragments, suggests that, although no contemporary features were identified, there was probably Iron Age occupation within the immediate vicinity

8 4 For the Roman period, the excavation has served to link together and allow limited re-interpretation of evidence from previous excavations both m the immediate vicinity and more widely within the 'northem suburb' of the Roman town In many respects the archaeological features and deposits recorded reflected aspects seen in earlier excavations, such as the diffuse traces of early activity, the 2nd century 'side road', the 2nd or 3rd century development of stone-founded stmctures near to the Dere Street frontage, the apparent hiatus of activity m the mid-4th century with attendant

accumulation of sod layers, and a late 4th century phase of timber structures and scattered burials

8 5 The large artefactual and ecofactual assemblages recovered, although of limited stratigraphic value due to the nature of their recovery, similarly can serve to augment the scattered and often limited assemblages recovered from previous excavations nearby For instance, Richard Brickstock has demonstrated that the limited coin assemblage, although providing little useful dating evidence within the 2002 excavation, can be aggregated with data from nearby excavations to provide a larger statistical sample for activity within the 'northern suburb' which can be compared with assemblages from other parts of *Cattaractonium* and its hinterland, and also with other sites further afield Similar potential may lie within the pottery assemblage

9 0 POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

9 1 Stratigraphic record

9 1 1 The results of the excavation at Bridge Road, Brompton have the potential to contribute to research in several areas identified withm English Heritage's draft research agenda (1997, 44-49) These include the transition from the Late Iron Age to Romano-British periods, the nature of the change in Romano-British society in the 3rd and 4rd centuries and the end of towns m Roman Britain The possibdity of the excavated burials perhaps dating to the early post-Roman period would provide information on the nature of the transition from the Romano-British to Anglian periods

9 1 2 Further analysis of the stratigraphic archive, combined with work on the datmg of the artefactual record, notably the Romano-British pottery assemblage but also other artefact classes including radiocarbon dating of the human burials, is required in order to provide a firmer site chronology The excavated evidence is of enhanced unportance as it forms a part of the wider area of Roman *Cataractonium* and its hinterland, considered to be of national and possibly intemational importance A more closely-dated site chronology will allow the various aspects of development within the area to be more accurately related to those recorded previously (and in the future) within the wider area of the 'northem suburb' of the Roman town

9 2 Artefactual record

9 2 1 Several classes of artefact and environmental evidence require further analysis, recording or report amendment These include

- the worked flint and chert (illustration only)
- the rock art (illustration only)
- the Romano-British pottery
- the metalwork and other small-finds (illustration only)
- the window and vessel glass (dlustration only)
- the quems and other stone objects (dlustration only)
- the brick and tile
- the human remains

- the biological remains

9 2 2 Classes of artefact which do not require further analysis are

- the coins
- the prehistoric pottery

10 0 PROPOSED POST-EXCAVATION PROGRAMME

The aim of the post-excavation programme will be to produce a well ordered, clearly indexed archive for deposition in a museum as discussed in section 6 3 3 above, and a final report for publication This would be submitted to a regional journal such as the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal

In accordance with English Heritage guidelines (1991, 21) this work will be approached in two stages

1 Compilation of a research archive, involving work on the stratigraphy, artefacts and environmental data and the production of catalogues, illustrative material and both narrative and artefact reports

2 Selection of data from the research archive to produce an integrated report text for publication

The overall sequence of the programme would be as follows

Stage 1 site narrative and archive illustrations

Stage 2 preparation of specialist reports

Stage 3 integration and synthesis of stratigraphic and artefactual records

Stage 4 preparation of publication report text and illustrations

Stage 5 archive deposition

10 1 Stratigraphic record

10 1 1 The need to finalise a secure dating framework for the sequence of activity on the site is of primary importance The preliminary phasing of the excavated evidence undertaken during the post-excavation assessment will be reviewed and amended in the light of additional information obtained This will involve obtaining radiocarbon dates for the excavated human remains as well as more refined dating for the Romano-British pottery assemblage

10 1 2 Once the detailed stratigraphic sequence has been established a detailed site narrative report, based upon each phase of the site development, will be prepared Archive illustration phase plans will also be drawn up

10 1 3 Further literary and finds research will be undertaken to assist with the interpretation of the excavated evidence, and in order to place the Bridge Road site within its local, regional and national contexts

10 1 4 The results of the detailed analysis of the site archive will be integrated with specialist analysis of the finds recovered and synthesised into an illustrated report suitable for publication in the Yorkshire Archaeological Journal or a similar publication

10 1 5 Upon completion of the publication report and associated specialist assessments the indexed site archive (paper and artefactual records) will be deposited in a suitable museum with the agreement of the landowner (see section 6 3 3 above) and to agreed guidelines

10 2 Artefactual record

The flint
A full descriptive catalogue and report has already been prepared Four pieces of flint and chert require illustration

The rock art
A full descriptive report on the decorated block has already been prepared It requires illustration

The Romano-British pottery
The initial assessment of the pottery should be revised in light of the revised site phasing The samian and the mortaria should be submitted to specialist analysis in the interests of augmenting the studies of these classes of material from Catterick sites which have already been published After this has been carried out, a discursive treatment of the pottery assemblage should be prepared, supported by detailed analysis and illustration of some key groups, with attention also being paid to previously unrecorded forms and vessels of intrinsic interest

A literary search should be carried out in relation to the phenomenon of pipe-clay figurines and re-used pottery spindle-whorls and gaming counters as described above (para 7 5 2)

A list of pottery requiring illustration can only be produced after the programme of analysis recommended above has been carried out The Venus figurine requires illustration

The metalwork and other small finds
A catalogue of the metalwork and small finds has already been prepared Up to 20 objects require illustration

The window and vessel glass
A full descriptive catalogue and report has been prepared A total of five fragments require illustration

The brick and tile
A report and descriptive catalogue for the brick and tile has already been prepared The report will require some editing for publication A total of 8 fragments of building material require illustration

The querns and other stone objects
A full descriptive report on the querns and other stone objects has already been prepared Up to four of these objects require illustration

The human bone
The report on this material is largely complete However, a single bone requires further investigation and the results integrated into the report

The biological remains
Two sod samples require processing and analysis, and the results of this work integrating into the report The report for both the soil samples and the animal bone requires some revision in order to accommodate changes to the site phasing

Radiocarbon Dating
A total of five samples, one from each of the human inhumations recovered, should be submitted for radiocarbon dating

11 0 CONCLUSION

11 1 The excavation at Bridge Road, Brompton On Swale has demonstrated that the complex stratified Romano-British deposits previously recorded to the south continued northwards along the line of Dere Street into the area of the former Bradstone factory A considerable area of deeply stratified archaeological deposits relating to the Romano-British *vicus* was lost without record during site reduction in the late 1960s However, the survival of the large pit [96] to a considerable depth beyond the northern edge of the main excavation area into the area reduced in the 1960s (Plate 11), and observation of other features in 1968, has demonstrated that important evidence for Romano-British and possibly earlier activity is likely to survive in a truncated condition below slab level across much of the factory site Discrete smaller areas of stratified deposits survive around the periphery of the site

11 2 The identification of Neolithic or early Bronze Age artefacts and possibly features during the excavation adds to the increasing number of sites of this period being identified within an area centred on the Swale at Catterick Bridge, the recovery of part of a panel of rock art continuing the recent trend for these sites to include a 'ritual' or funerary element

11 3 The presence of Iron Age pottery, sealed beneath the earliest phase of Dere Street and hence presumably of pre-Roman date, adds to the evidence for widespread Iron Age settlement within the Catterick area

11 4 The recent work represents one of the largest area excavations of coherent stratified deposits undertaken within the area of *Cataractonium* to the north of the Swale since construction of the A1 in the late 1950s, and as such complements the large number of

smaller excavations and watching briefs undertaken nearby since that time Full analysis of the large artefactual and biological assemblages will help to add to our understandmg of the chronology and varying economic history of this relatively poorly understood suburb of the Roman town Further analysis of the stratigraphic record, particularly in relation to previously recorded areas nearby, will add considerably to our knowledge of the development of the layout and usage of this area The identification of a number of metal items of possible mditary origin, notably two spearheads, has already raised the possibility of a previously un-identified use of the northern bank of the Swale by the Roman army

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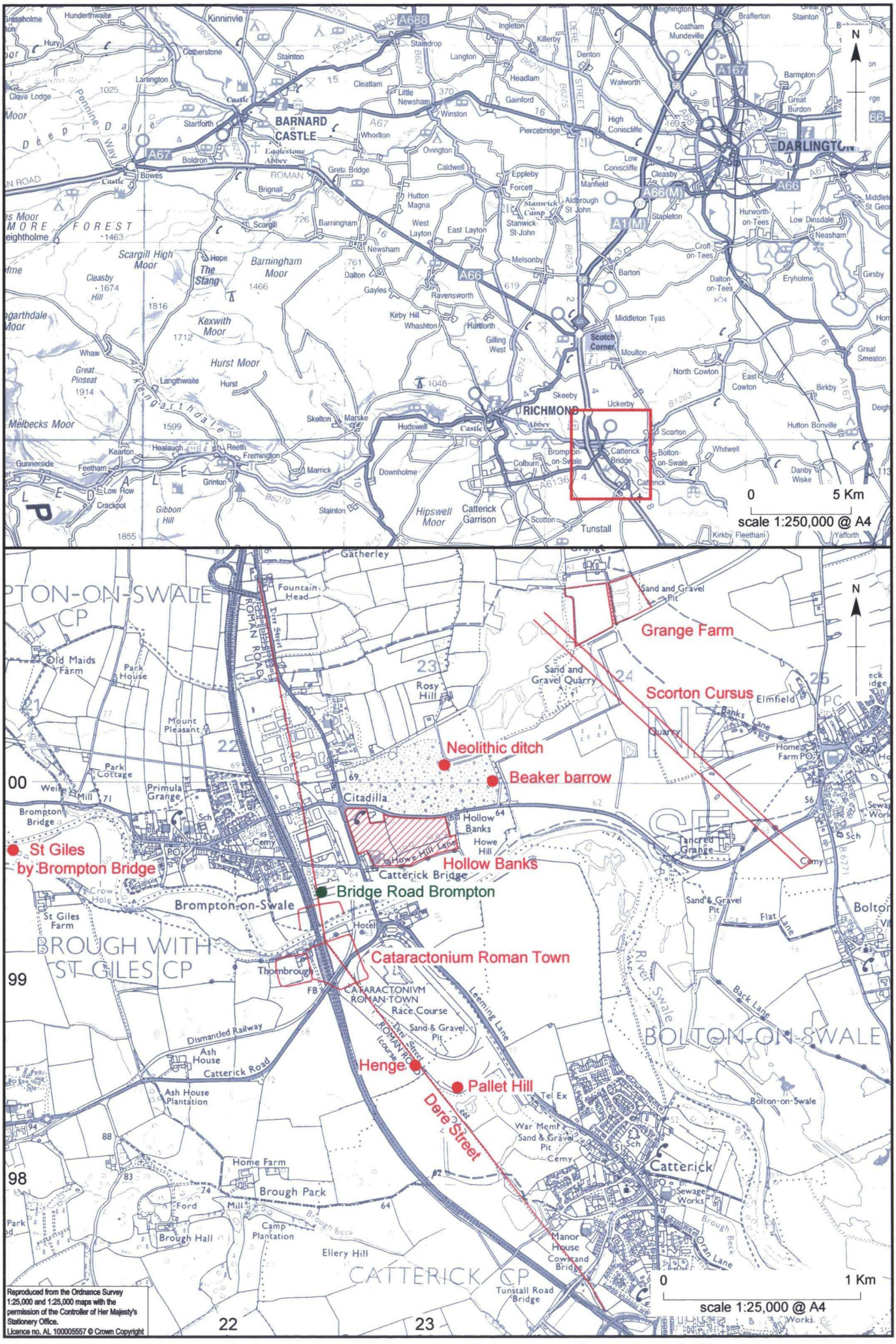

Figure 1 Bridge Road, Brompton on Swale: site location and archaeological sites in the vicinity

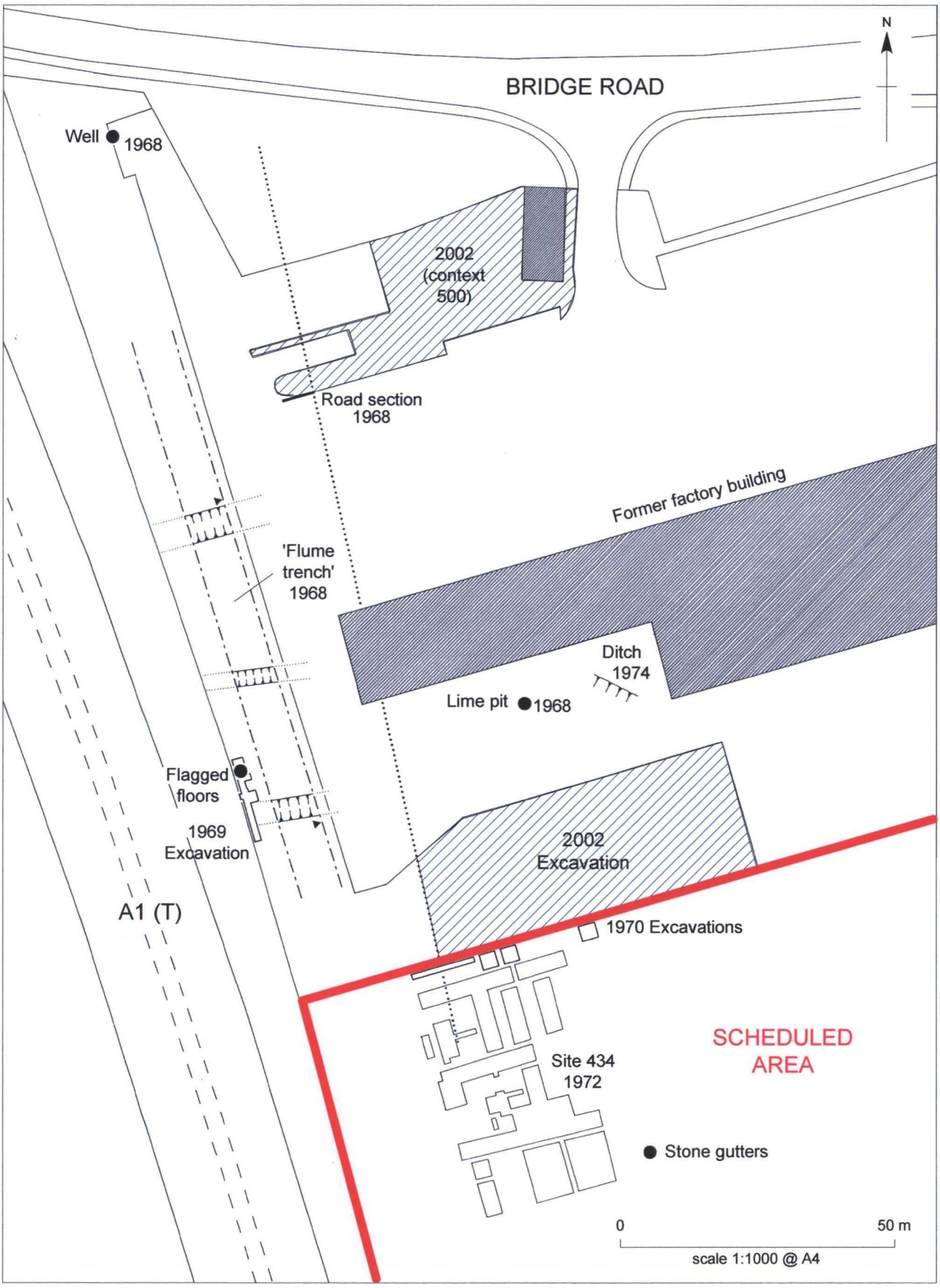

Figure 2: Former Cadbury-Schweppes Factory sites, location of excavations and discoveries. Based on Wilson 2002, figure 122. Reproduced with permission of Peter Wilson, English Heritage and the Council for British Archaeology

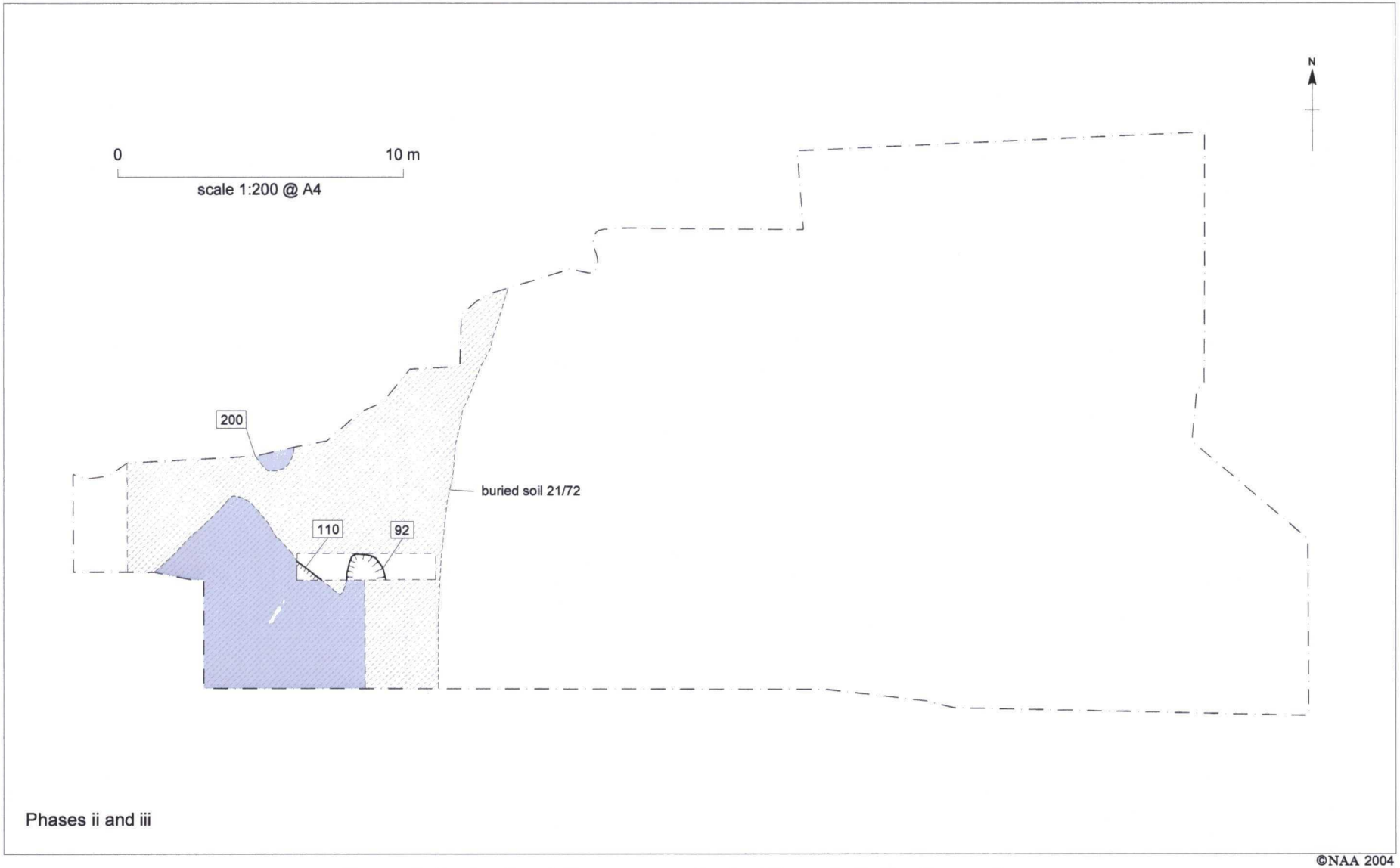

Figure 3 Bridge Road, Brompton on Swale: Phases ii-iii, Pre-Roman features

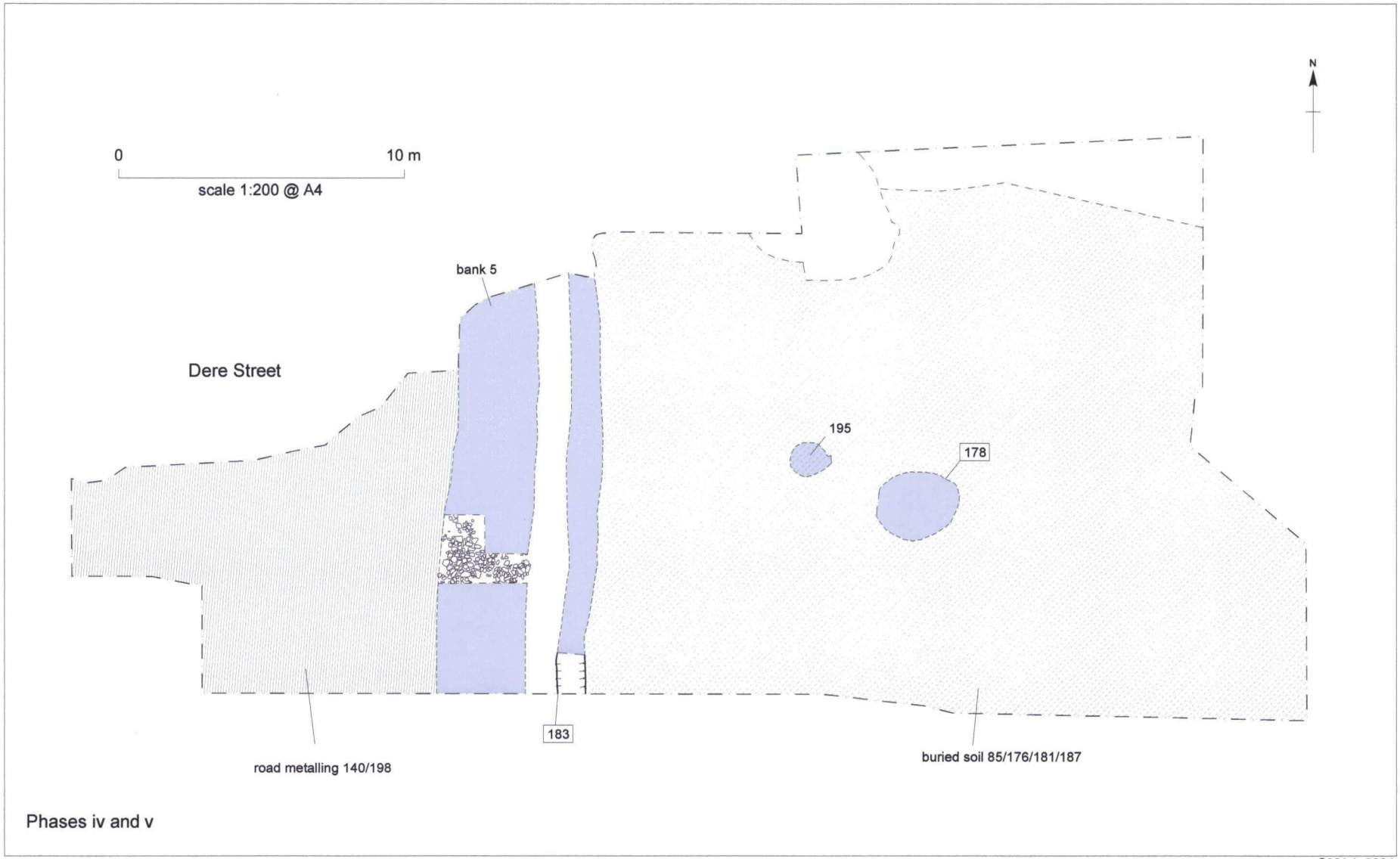

Figure 4 Bridge Road, Brompton on Swale: Phases iv-v, establishment of Dere Street and initial roadside activity (later 1st to 2nd century)

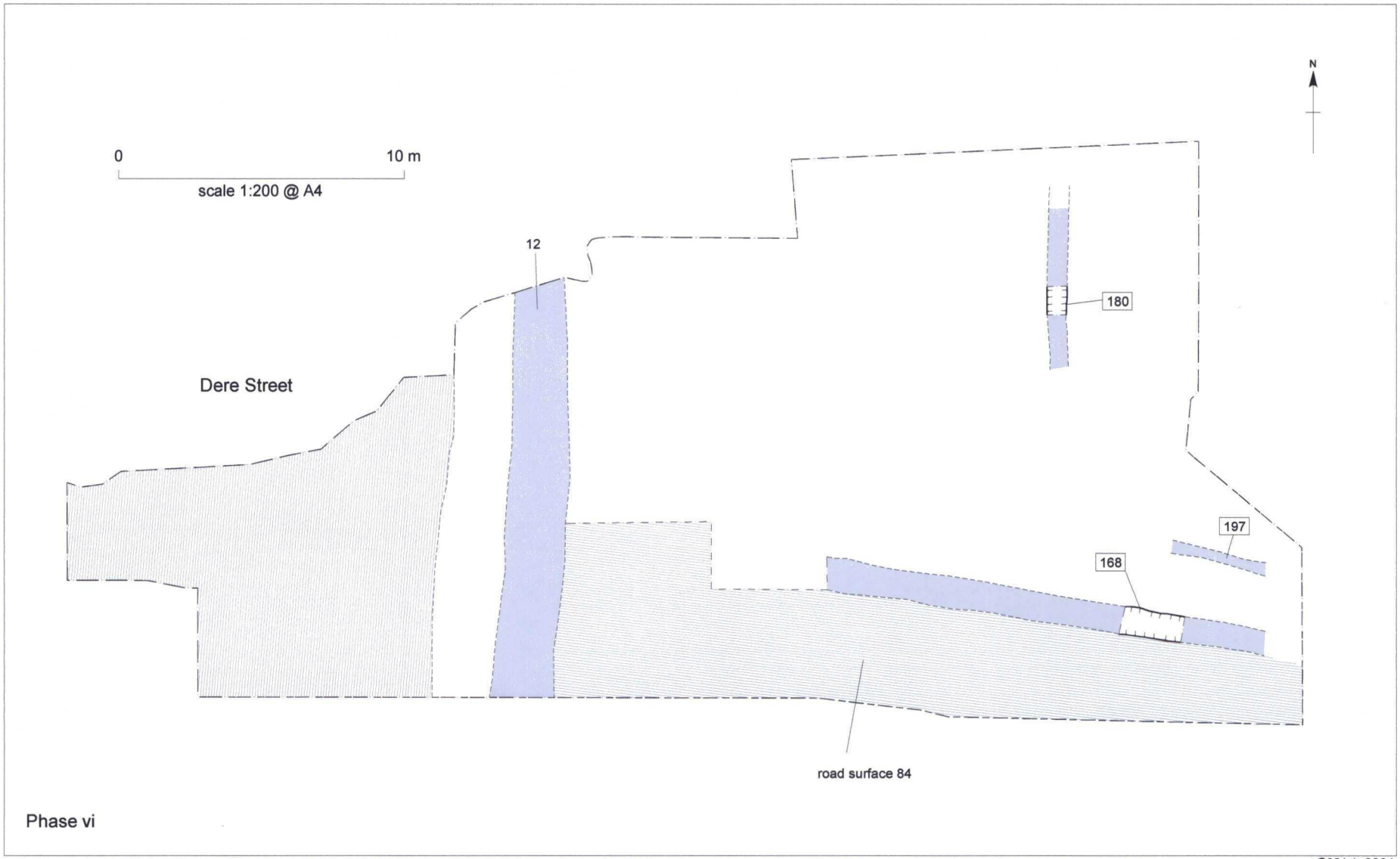

Figure 5 Bridge Road, Brompton on Swale: Phase vi, establishment of side road (2nd century)

Figure 6 Bridge Road, Brompton on Swale: Phase vii, narrowing of Dere Street, first phase of buildings (2nd to 3rd century)

Figure 7 Bridge Road, Brompton on Swale: Phase viii, early 4th century

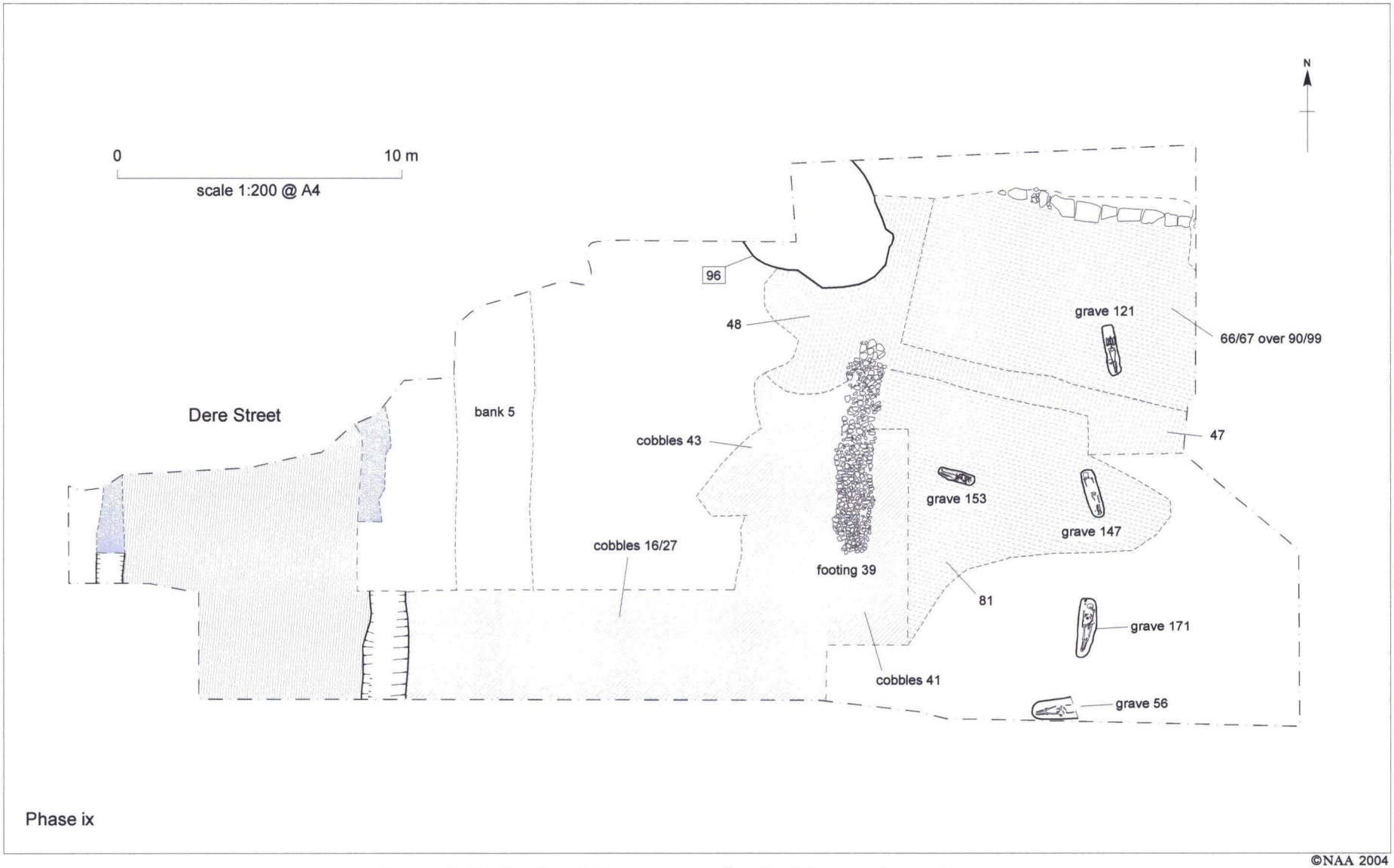

Figure 8 Bridge Road, Brompton on Swale: Phase ix, late 4th century

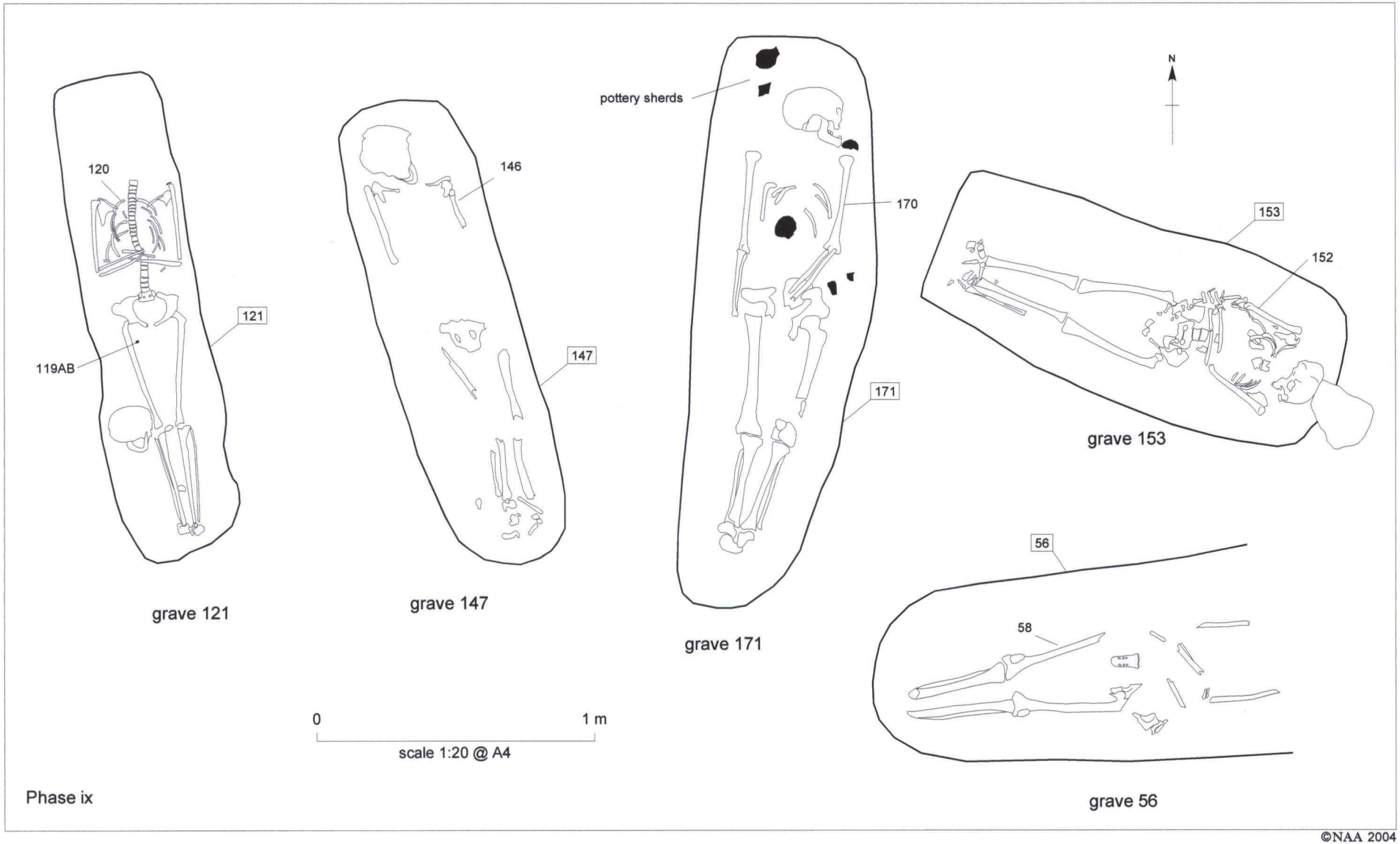

Figure 9 Bridge Road, Brompton on Swale: Phase ix burials

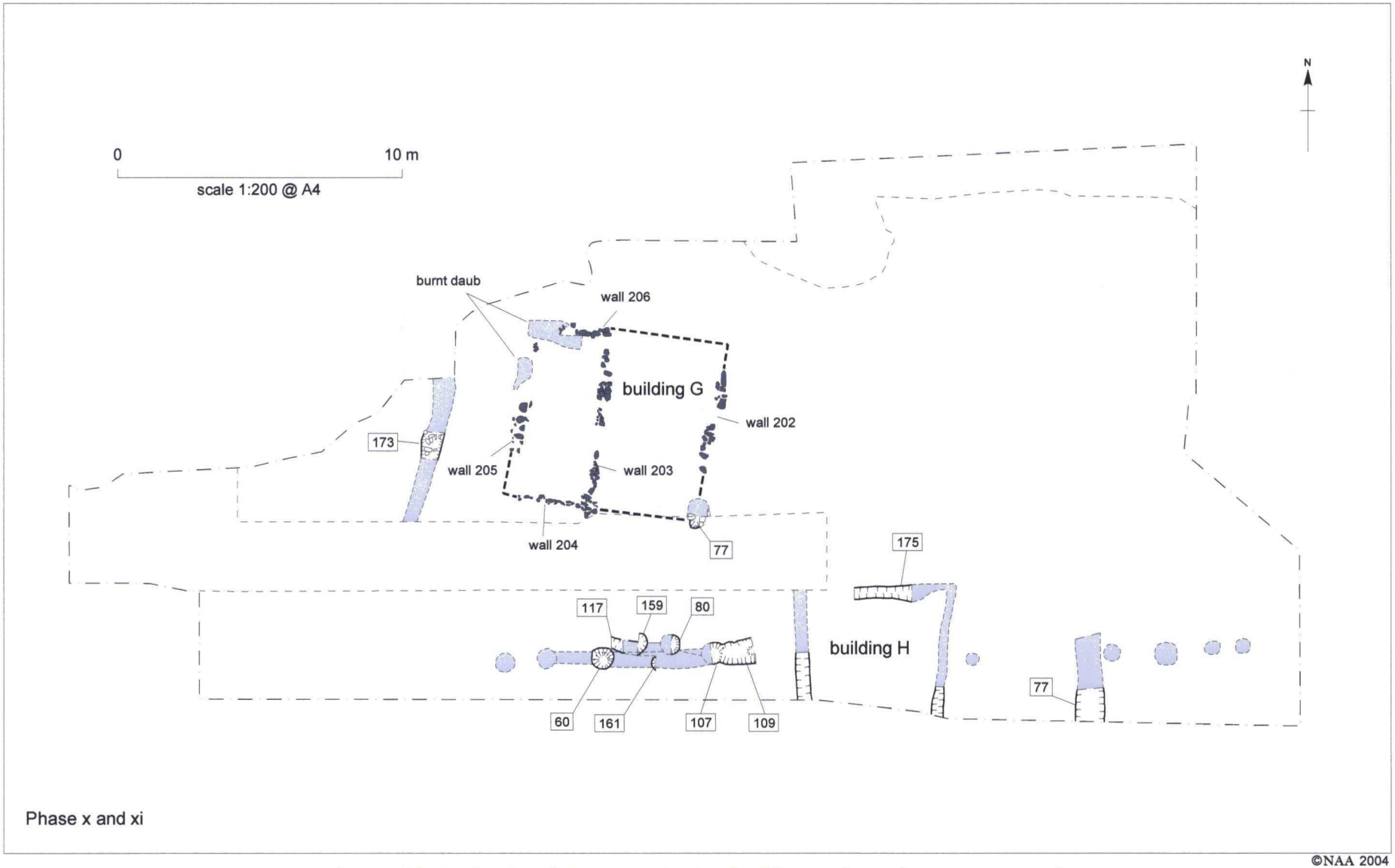

Figure 10 Bridge Road, Brompton on Swale: Phase x, late 4th century onwards

Plate 1: The trial trench, facing west

Plate 2: Wider excavation area during initial topsoil stripping, facing north-east

Plate 3: Stone block 126 AB engraved with 'rock art'

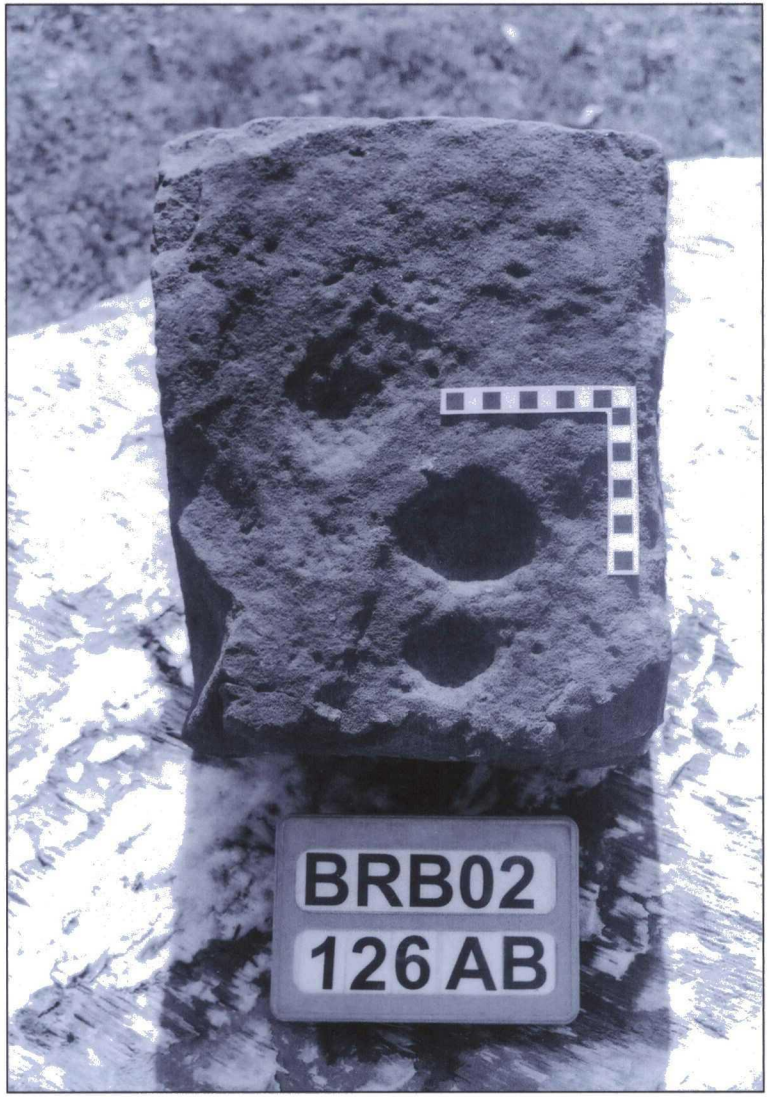

Plate 4: Opposite face of engraved stone block 126 AB

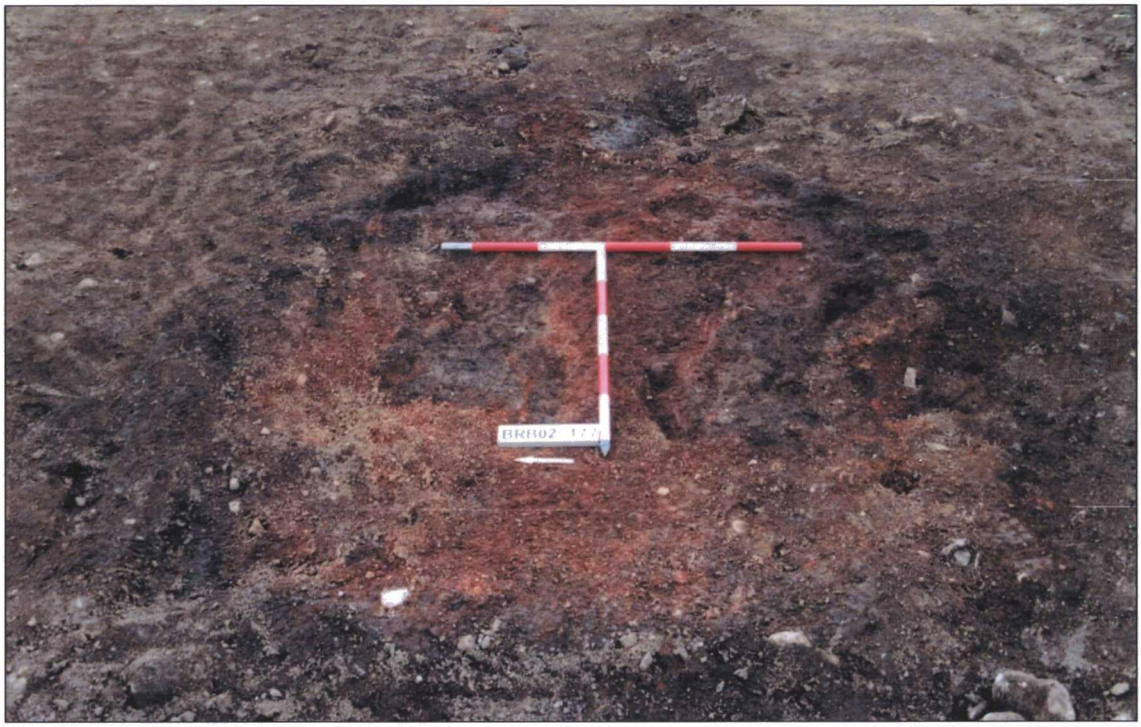

Plate 5: Discrete area of burning 177

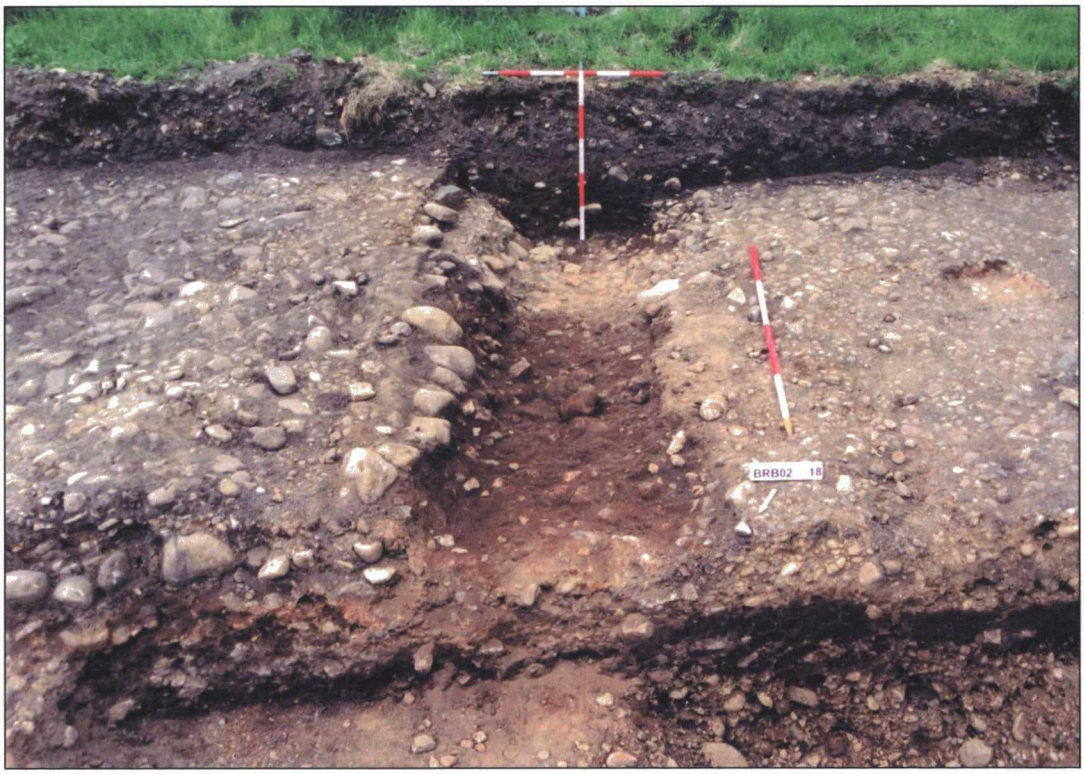

Plate 6: Ditch 18 at east side of later, narrower Dere St, facing south

Plate 7: Structure 126, facing east

Plate 8: Building B, facing west, with Building A (wall 65) to the right and Building C to the left

Plate 9: Decapitated skeleton 120 in grave 121

Plate 10: Skeleton 146 in grave 147, showing stone slab grave-lining

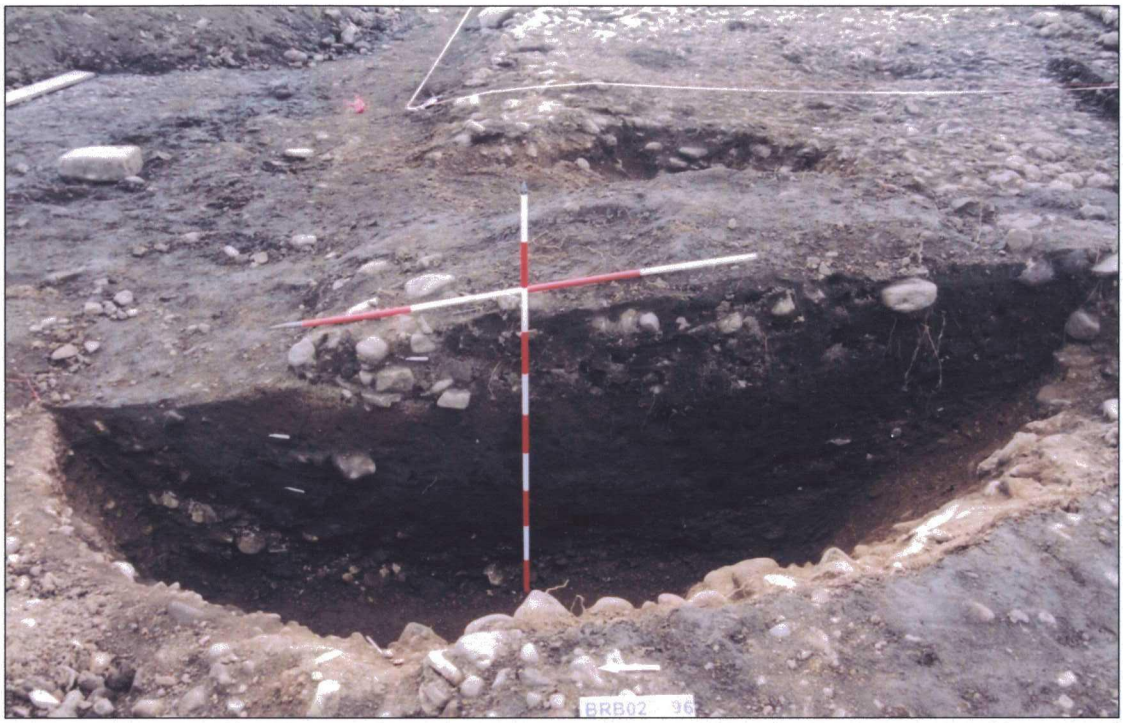

Plate 11: Pit 96, west facing section showing depth surviving below former factory slab (removed in area to left)

Plate 12: Phase 10 post-pits cutting surface 27, facing west