

Northern Archaeological Associates

**HOLLOW BANKS QUARRY
SCORTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT



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Cover illustration The western half of Area 3 after excavation
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HOLLOW BANKS QUARRY, SCORTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT

Summary

This report summarises the results of a limited programme of archaeological excavation undertaken in advance of gravel quarrying within fields at Hollow Banks Farm near Catterick Bridge and within the parish of Brompton-on-Swale, North Yorkshire. The work was carried out by Northern Archaeological Associates for ENTEC UK Ltd on behalf of Tarmac, and was undertaken in 3 phases between 1998-2000. It also integrates the results of a previous programme of trial trenching carried out by Wessex Archaeology in 1997.

As part of the first and second phases of the fieldwork, excavation was undertaken of two cemeteries of late Roman and Anglian date whose presence was only revealed once the fieldwork programme was already underway. Post-excavation analysis of these cemeteries is being undertaken separately, and they are not described in detail within this report.

The excavation area consisted of two fields located on the upper gravel terraces to the north of the River Swale, immediately to the north-east of Catterick Bridge and immediately to the west of Hollow Banks Farm. The topography of the site has primarily been created by a complex sequence of palaeochannels of the River Swale, up to eight of which were identified crossing the project area. The latest of these features, c 200m to the north of the modern channel, was dated to the Roman period from finds of later 1st and early 2nd century date recovered from within it.

The excavated area contained a variety of archaeological features and deposits reflecting past landscape use across the site dating from the Mesolithic up to the post-Medieval periods.

Evidence for Mesolithic activity was restricted to a small assemblage of worked flints, mainly residual within later contexts widely dispersed across the site. A possible tree-throw of this date was also recorded.

Features of later Neolithic or early Bronze Age date were recorded across the central and eastern parts of the site. The earliest of these was probably an alignment of conjoining pits crossing the site on an alignment parallel to the nearby Scorton Cursus. A small hengiform enclosure, measuring up to 16.0m in diameter, was delineated by two curving ditches but there was no surviving evidence for banks. It shared a common axis with an 'avenue' of pairs of large pits located to the north-west and to the south-east. No internal features had survived, although a pit immediately outside one entrance contained a human cremation within a Collared Urn of early Bronze Age date. One isolated pit near to the hengiform enclosure produced an assemblage of Grooved Ware pottery and worked flint and another pit produced a burnt but unused saddle quern. To the north-west, a double alignment of pits ran westwards from the projected henge-axis.

Evidence of Neolithic settlement activity within the site, perhaps pre-dating the 'ritual' activity, was indicated by gullies defining an oval structure accompanied by a group of small pits. Most of these features produced finds consisting of Peterborough Ware pottery, worked flints and a fragment of stone loom weight. Two small ring-gullies and isolated pits elsewhere across the site were also likely to be Neolithic in date.

Iron Age activity was recorded within three parts of site, each differing in character and suggesting successive phases of occupation. These included a small oval ditched enclosure probably containing a single structure represented by a small circular gully, a square enclosure delineated by two phases of palisade slot and associated with a four-post structure, and another area of possible un-enclosed settlement indicated by residual pottery recovered from later features and probably including post-built structures identified retrospectively in post-excavation aerial photographs. The site lay within a system of large rectangular fields delineated by ditches which probably originated in the Iron Age and continued into the Romano-British period.

From the later 1st century AD, the site formed part of the immediate hinterland of the Roman town of Cataractonium and lay close to Dere Street. Parts of the southern side and south-eastern corner of a probable Roman marching camp ditch lay within the site and produced early 2nd century pottery, perhaps suggesting a later 1st century date for the camp. The camp was aligned to the adjacent field system rather than to nearby Dere Street again suggesting an early date. The mid-2nd century palaeochannel of the River Swale had cut through part of the field system.

The main evidence for Romano-British activity consisted of a small rectangular enclosure or structure defined by a small ditch or slot. It was enclosed within a larger rectangular ditched enclosure which butted to one of the earlier field boundaries and had been redefined at least once. Both enclosure ditches produced Iron Age or 1st-2nd century Roman pottery but with occasional sherds of later material. A second phase of the enclosure was arranged on a different alignment. In the mid to late 4th century part of the site was used for a small cemetery.

Part of the earlier field layout was altered during the Roman period, the new arrangement apparently forming the basis of the medieval and modern field layout. One of the new ditches subsequently formed the focus for the 5th-6th century Anglian cemetery. No evidence for Anglian settlement was identified within the site.

In the Medieval and post-Medieval periods, the site has been agricultural land. Former ditched boundaries of strip fields in the western side of the site conformed to the field layout shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1857, and contained the truncated remains of ridge and furrow cultivation.

The excavation at the Hollow Banks site, in conjunction with the preceding geophysical survey and subsequent aerial photography, has recorded part of an important multi-period landscape containing archaeological features dating from the Neolithic period onwards. The Neolithic and early Bronze Age features add to the increasingly complex group of monuments which have been identified forming an extensive 'ritual' landscape centred on the River Swale. The Iron Age and Romano-British features have the potential to add to our knowledge of the local pre-Roman

landscape and the impact which the imposition of the Roman town of Cataractonum and associated military activity had upon it. The identification of an apparent re-arrangement of land-divisions in the immediate hinterland of the town during the Roman period, which then formed the basis of the Medieval and modern layout, is of considerable importance in contributing to our knowledge of the development of English land allotment. Our understanding of the development and usage of this landscape has additional importance in providing the context for the later Roman and Anglian cemeteries excavated on the site and reported elsewhere.

The archaeological evidence recorded within the Hollow Banks site has considerable potential for expanding our knowledge of past human activity and the landscape development. This applies both within the site and, in association to other nearby sites, at a local, regional and possibly national level and over an long period extending from the later Neolithic to the post-Roman. Given the significance of the results of the excavation, further analysis of the site record and artefactual assemblage and preparation of a publication report will be required. The results of such a post-excavation programme would be of particular importance to the understanding not only of the Hollow Banks site but also to the wider archaeological landscape adjacent to the River Swale including the Scorton Cursus and Cataractonum Roman town.

1 0 INTRODUCTION

1 1 A programme of archaeological excavation was undertaken in advance of gravel quarrying within two fields to the west of Hollow Banks Farm, located immediately to the north-east of Catterick Bridge within the parish of Brompton-on-Swale, North Yorkshire, centred at SE 228 998. Most of the quarry to the east of the site lies within the parish of Scorton.

1 2 The work was carried out by Northern Archaeological Associates (hereafter NAA) for ENTEC UK Ltd on behalf of Tarmac. The fieldwork was carried out in 3 main phases, in April-June and December 1998, February and August 1999 and June 2000.

1 3 As part of the first and second phases of the fieldwork, excavation was undertaken of two cemeteries of late Roman and Anglian date whose presence was only revealed once the fieldwork programme was already underway. Post-excavation analysis and publication of these cemeteries is being undertaken separately and they are not described in detail within this report.

2 0 BACKGROUND

2 1 The project area lay within an area between the villages of Catterick Bridge and Scorton which has undergone extensive gravel extraction (Figure 1). Planning permission for extraction within the project area was granted in 1948 and limited by legal agreement in 1990. A new application was resolved to be permitted in 1997, subject to a full PPG16 archaeological condition and a Section 106 agreement (Entec 1998).

2 2 The project area included four fields (Areas 1-4) lying to the west of Hollow Banks Farm, bounded to the north by Scorton Road, to the west by the A6136 Gatherley Road (the former Great North Road) and to the south by Howe Hill Lane, with Area 1 lying between Howe Hill Lane and the River Swale (Figure 2). The site had an overall area of c 15.4 ha, and included part of the floodplain of the River Swale to the south (Areas 1 and 4) and the fairly level raised gravel river terrace to the north (Areas 2 and 3). In Area 2 there was an escarpment curving from north-west to east and becoming more pronounced to the south-east. At the north-western corner of Area 2 the pre-excavation ground level was at c 67.60mOD, dropping to c 61.10mOD at the south-eastern corner. Area 3 was generally fairly level at 64.8-66.4mOD. Along the southern edge of Area 3 there was a steep escarpment down to Area 4, which formed a slight linear hollow (a former river channel) bounded by Howe Hill Lane with Area 1 to the south on the lower gravel terrace adjacent to the River Swale.

2 3 A magnetometer survey carried out in 1997 (Figure 2) revealed large numbers of anomalies representing archaeological features within Areas 2 and 3, including evidence for several phases of former field systems, enclosures, ring-ditches, a pit alignment and a possible Roman marching

camp, overlain by traces of medieval or early post-medieval ridge-and-furrow agriculture. By contrast, the magnetometer survey of the two fields below the escarpment failed to identify anomalies likely to represent archaeological features, other than a linear anomaly in Area 1 corresponding to a former field boundary known from aerial photographs and represented on the 1st Edition OS map.

- 2.4 Archaeological evaluation of the site was subsequently undertaken (Wessex Archaeology 1997). No trenches were located within Area 1. Two trial trenches located within Area 4 did not identify archaeological deposits. Three trial trenches and 3 areas excavated in Area 2 and 6 trial trenches and 5 areas excavated within Area 3 largely confirmed the presence of features recorded by the geophysical survey, with some additional smaller features being identified (Wessex Archaeology 1998a and b). In addition, a metal detector survey was undertaken in order to determine any significant spatial distribution of ancient metal artefacts across the site. The results of the evaluation by Wessex Archaeology have been incorporated below with the results of the subsequent area excavation in order to produce a coherent site narrative.
- 2.5 In response to the results of the assessments and following discussion with the North Yorkshire County Council County Archaeological Officer, an Archaeological Brief was prepared for archaeological monitoring and excavation within Areas 2 and 3 (Entec 1998). A Project Design for this work was prepared after discussion with the County Archaeological Officer and in accordance with the Archaeological Brief (NAA 1998).
- 2.6 The project area was located above the boundary of two underlying geologies, with Carboniferous Limestone to the west and deposits of Keuper and Bunter Sandstones, Pebble Beds and basal breccias of Triassic date to the east (BGS 1957). Drift geology was of soils of the Brickfield Series consisting of slight to moderately stony loams (argillic brown earths) derived from glacial drift and boulder clay deposits (BGS 1965). Aerial photographs show the project area to have been crossed by numerous palaeochannels of the River Swale.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The Mesolithic period

- 3.1.1 The Mesolithic period is represented in the Catterick area by occasional finds of flint artefacts, often found residually within later contexts. For example, at St Giles by Brompton Bridge (SE 209 996) a small residual assemblage of Mesolithic flint was recovered from excavation of contexts associated with a Medieval hospital site (Cardwell and Speed 1996).

- 3 2 The Neolithic and Bronze Age periods
- 3 2 1 The Neolithic period in the north-east of England is under-represented in the archaeological record. Few Neolithic sites are known within the Vale of Mowbray, and consisted mainly of large, up-standing features such as standing stones and henges, together with at least one cursus, postpit alignments and groups of small pits, concentrated in the area between Boroughbridge and Thomborough and forming a wide 'ritual' landscape apparently focussed on the River Ure.
- 3 2 2 Other features dating from the Neolithic and early Bronze Age periods have been identified within the Catterick area, and are beginning to suggest a widespread 'ritual' landscape centred on the River Swale. The Scorton Cursus, discovered from the air by Prof J K St Joseph in 1949, ran north-westwards from a square terminal at SE 2495 9955 for a distance of more than 2.1km, its north-western terminal not having been identified. It has subsequently been almost entirely destroyed by quarrying. Aerial photographs show that a number of round barrows clustered around the cursus. A Beaker period round barrow and a pit alignment and co-linear ditch, undated but cut by an Iron Age ditch, were excavated in 1977 just to the north-east of the Hollow Banks site at NZ 2331 0002 (Greenhalf, 1980). A further linear ditch presumed to be of later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date was recorded by Paul Chadwick in 1977 slightly to the north-west at NZ 231 001 (note in NYCC SMR). The name 'Howe Hill Lane' for the trackway running immediately to the south of the Hollow Banks site suggests the former presence of further barrows somewhere nearby. Recent excavation c 400m to the south-west of the Hollow Banks site at Bridge Road, Brompton identified one or more man-made pits, one containing a worked flint, sealed beneath the Dere Street Roman road, and flint tools residual within adjacent Roman deposits. Additionally, a sandstone block incorporated into a Roman corn-drier proved to have been cut down from a panel of rock art including spiral, cup and cup-and-ring motifs (Speed, forthcoming).
- 3 2 3 Excavation near the southern end of Catterick Racecourse in 1995 identified a substantial embanked enclosure which has been interpreted as a henge (Moloney *et al*, undated). This feature incorporated a circular cairn which had been constructed from stones carried from the river and which incorporated 9 cists. A group of 7 pits nearby and sealed by the henge bank produced an assemblage of Rudston style Peterborough Ware pottery.
- 3 2 4 On the south bank of the Swale to the west of Catterick Bridge at St Giles by Brompton Bridge (SE 209 996), evidence for late Neolithic or early Bronze Age clearance of a river terrace was recovered, together with a small residual flint assemblage (Cardwell and Speed 1996). Slightly further to the west, aerial photographs have revealed the presence of a substantial penannular ditched enclosure, probably with two opposed entrances, located at Colburn (SE 200 996) on a slight promontary on the south bank of the Swale (RCHME 1997 and Camb Univ AP collection ref BB/10,11). The

size and form of this feature suggest that it might represent another henge-type site

- 3 2 6 A Bronze Age sword was discovered near Brompton-on Swale in 1963, and a bronze rapier probably dating from the 10th century BC was recovered from a gravel terrace on the north bank of the River Swale in Catterick Bridge c 0.5km to the south-west of the Hollow Banks site in 1992 (Burgess 1995), suggesting the continuing 'ritual' significance of the area in the Bronze Age. A gold bracelet of probable Bronze Age date was found in Scorton Beck sometime before 1904 and now forms part of the Mayoress of Richmond's civic regalia (correspondence in NYCC SMR)

3 3 The Iron Age and Romano-British periods

- 3 3 1 Evidence of Iron Age occupation has been identified at several sites in the Catterick area. At Pallet Hill, between Catterick Bridge and Catterick, an oval enclosure with structures was probably succeeded by a square one dated to the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age (Brewster and Finney, forthcoming). A larger rectilinear enclosure and hut circles excavated nearby in 1995 respected the possible henge at the racecourse (Maloney *ibid*). Occupation features of middle Iron Age date were identified below the medieval hospital at St Giles by Brompton Bridge (SE 209 996) on the south bank of the River Swale c 2km west of Hollow Banks (Cardwell and Speed 1996). A late Iron Age enclosed settlement dated to the mid 1st century AD has been partially excavated at Scotch Corner (NZ 212 052) some 5.5km to the north of Hollow Banks (Abramson 1995). This has been shown by geophysical survey to be associated with an extensive field system (Casey *et al* 1995). During the later Iron Age the majority of the known enclosure sites in the area seem to have been clustered in the hinterland of the major centre at Stanwick 12km to the north of Hollow Banks.

- 3 3 2 At Grange Farm, c 1km to the north-east of Hollow Banks, excavations in 1996 and 1997 revealed extensive remains of an Iron Age field system and settlement site of 6th-3rd BC century date, the field system remaining in use with Romano-British activity dated to the 2nd-4th centuries (Copp and Roe 1996, 1997).

- 3 3 3 The Hollow Banks site lies c 400m to the north-east of the Roman town and fort of *Cataractonium*. Numerous excavations have been undertaken within the town and fort, and have examined linear development and cemeteries along the line of the Dere Street Roman road both to the north and south.

3 4 Anglian

- 3 4 1 Catterick was an important centre during the early Anglian period and as such was mentioned several times in early sources, although the nature and form of the settlement is unknown. The archaeological evidence for Anglian occupation in the Catterick area has been extensively discussed elsewhere.

(Wilson, Cardwell, Cramp *et al* 1996) In summary, the scattered evidence includes isolated *Grubenhauser* found in widely dispersed locations stretching from the north bank of the Swale southwards to Catterick Aerodrome, finds of brooches and numerous burials including several to the north of the river but predominantly concentrated towards the southern end of the area, including within Catterick Aerodrome and with larger cemeteries adjacent to Baines Farm and at Catterick Racecourse adjacent to the henge site

3 5 Medieval and post-medieval period

3 5 1 The area of Hollow banks seems to have been in agricultural usage throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. The 1st Edition Ordnance survey map of 1857 showed that the modern field pattern retains the outline of medieval strip fields, although in Area 2 the sub-divisions have been progressively removed during the 20th century to produce the large fields now present

4 0 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

4 1 The agreed project design described methodologies for archaeological recording within Areas 2 and 3. These differed, since as a result of the geophysical survey and evaluation a broad distinction could be made between the features in the two areas. In Area 2 there were linear and curvilinear ditches with little secure dating evidence. To the east, in Area 3, there was the presence of several ritual or funerary monuments, presumed to date from the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods

4 2 The agreed methodology for Area 2 was for a tripartite strategy comprising

- a watching brief undertaken during topsoil and colluvium stripping
- survey of identified archaeological features using an EDM
- sample excavation to be undertaken in tandem with the EDM survey, targeted on areas not previously recorded by the evaluation. These were to include feature intersections, burials and sampling of features not recorded by the geophysical survey

4 3 The agreed methodology for Area 3 was based on a strategy comprising

- a watching brief during topsoil stripping
- survey of identified archaeological features using an EDM
- detailed excavation of the ritual and possible funerary features identified by the evaluation
- sample excavation targeted on areas not previously recorded by the evaluation, including feature intersections, burials and features not recorded by the geophysical survey

4 4 The fieldwork was carried out in 3 phases between April 1998 and June 2000

- 4 5 Areas were stripped of topsoil using a 360° tracked excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, operating under archaeological supervision at all times. Thereafter any necessary archaeological work was undertaken by hand.
- 4 6 A metal detector survey was undertaken of selected areas by experienced club detectorists working at all times under archaeological supervision. Where metal objects were likely to be '*in situ*' within undisturbed subsoil they were accurately located by the archaeologists. Objects recovered from topsoil or re-spread material were only located by area. Areas where metal detecting was undertaken were -
- the stripped surface within the southern part of Area 2 around the Anglian cemetery
 - the northern end of Area 2 within the area of the probable Roman marching camp
 - the area towards the south-western corner of Area 3 within and around the Romano-British and Anglian cemeteries
 - the topsoil across the eastern half of Area 3 before stripping
 - topsoil re-spread across Area 2 after quarrying had taken place
- 4 7 All artefactual remains have been cleaned, identified, marked where appropriate and forwarded to the relevant specialists. The specialist assessments of the artefacts recovered and summaries of their potential for further study are included in this report.

5 0 EXCAVATION RESULTS

- 5 0 1 The results of the evaluation by Wessex Archaeology have been incorporated below with the results of the subsequent area excavation by NAA in order to produce a coherent site narrative. Features and artefacts excavated by Wessex Archaeology as part of the evaluation have been prefixed 'TWA' throughout in order to distinguish them from features and artefacts subsequently excavated by NAA, which are not prefixed.
- 5 0 2 The summary of the results of the archaeological excavation and recording are presented below in 9 sections based on the provisional dating of the features, derived either from the dateable artefacts found within them, their form or their association with other dateable features. In some cases this dating may be subject to revision following further analysis of the site archive and finds assemblage and a wider search of the literature for comparable sites.

5 0 3 In summary, the recorded features (see Figure 3) can be divided into

- Palaeochannels
- Mesolithic activity, including residual worked flints and a possible tree throw
- Neolithic and early Bronze Age features These included a pit alignment/ditch A, a small hengiform enclosure B, apparently associated with an 'avenue' of 6 large pits (group C) and a pit pair D, an adjacent early Bronze Age urned cremation burial, a double pit alignment E, pits and a possible house structure associated with an assemblage of Peterborough Ware pottery (group F), a number of other pits scattered across the northern side of the excavated area and, uncertainly, two other possible houses
- Iron Age features This section includes features producing only Iron Age finds, and included a small oval enclosure G with evidence for a possible central roundhouse, a square palisaded enclosure R and an associated 4-post structure, other possible roundhouses and an isolated pit
- Later Iron Age and Romano-British features Most of these features produced assemblages of pottery predominantly dating from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD but frequently included sherds of Iron Age character. These included an extensive system of large rectangular fields, part of the ditch of a Roman army marching camp (enclosure H), a rectangular ditched enclosure L containing a smaller rectangular enclosure M, and a probably superimposed enclosure N
- Possibly Anglian features, consisting of a pit alignment tentatively interpreted as a possible cemetery site, although no burials were recovered
- The medieval and post-medieval field system

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5 1 Palaeochannels

5 1 1 The topography of the Hollow Banks site, and indeed across a wider area along the northern side of the River Swale, has primarily been created by the river continually re-cutting its channel, leaving a complex sequence of in-filled ancient channels. A total of eight palaeochannels have been identified crossing the project area, recorded from aerial photographs, the geophysical survey and to a limited extent during the excavation. The presence of several of these features may have influenced past human activity on the site. Only the latest of these features can be reasonably closely dated to the Roman period from an assemblage of finds (context 280) of later 1st and early 2nd century date recovered from a gravel bed within it, and it is notable that the channel lies c 200m to the north of the modern channel.

5 2 The Mesolithic period

5 2 1 Mesolithic activity on the site was evidenced by the presence of a small component of that period within the site flint assemblage, mainly residual within later contexts widely dispersed across the Area 3 and possibly Area 2.

5 2 2 During the site assessment, a feature interpreted as a tree throw was excavated at the southern edge of Area 3 (within Iron Age enclosure G) Feature TWA2315 produced a Mesolithic microlithic flint in a very 'fresh' condition A small palaeo-environmental assemblage was recovered, but a radiocarbon date would be required to determine whether this feature was of Mesolithic date and to place the environmental assemblage within its correct chronological context

5 3 Neolithic and Early Bronze Age features

Pit alignment/ditch A

5 3 1 The geophysical survey showed a discontinuous series of anomalies, both pit-like features and irregular linear features, running in a line from the middle of the southern edge of Area 3 north-westwards towards its north-west corner, although to the north-west the recorded anomalies became very intermittent

5 3 2 The features forming the alignment were not easily identified or understood during the excavation phase, but in general there seems to have been a line of large, closely spaced, circular or oval pits measuring up to 3.5m in diameter and joined towards the top by a smaller linear ditch Within Romano-British enclosure M, which it crossed diagonally from north-west to south-east, the alignment was visible in plan as a broad, gravel-filled linear feature cutting through a more silty natural deposit A partial section revealed it to be c 3m wide and perhaps c 1m deep with a broad flat base No dating evidence was recovered from it, but it was cut by Iron Age enclosure G, and a large pit forming part of the alignment in this area produced sherds of an Iron Age pottery vessel from near the top of the fill In form, the alignment closely resembled numerous linear and enclosure sites of Neolithic date excavated elsewhere, where ditches have been dug as a line of pits only linked-through for part of their depth The broad, flat-based profile of the features excavated is also typical of Neolithic features, as for instance at Scorton Cursus where the ditches had a similar width and depth It is perhaps also of note that the orientation of feature group A appears to have been identical to that of the nearby Scorton Cursus

Mini-henge B

5 3 3 A small hengiform enclosure was located towards the eastern side of Area 3 It was circular in plan, with overall surviving dimensions of the ditches of 16.0m from north-west to south-east by 15.8m from north-east to south-west It was formed by two curving ditches with rounded terminals, separated by short gaps 1.8m wide at the south-eastern side and 1.7m wide at the north-western side Any accompanying banks no longer survived The ditches were up to 2.3m wide and survived to a depth of up to 0.65m The profile of the primary deposits within one of the ditches suggested slumping and erosion from an adjacent outer bank The clean and homogeneous nature of the majority of the upper part of the ditch fills suggested deliberate infilling, perhaps associated with levelling of an adjacent bank which would have supplied clean subsoil from its core The only artefact recovered from

either feature was a single worked flint from the final silting of the ditch. No certain ancient archaeological features were identified within the enclosure.

Pits and cremation associated with the mmm-henge

5 3 4 Two small pits, 1035 and 1052, were excavated outside the north-western entrance of the hengiform enclosure. Pit 1035 produced no finds. Pit 1052 was located 9m to the north-west of enclosure B and lay on a line between the north-western enclosure entrance and the central axis of the 'avenue' C. It produced three very small sherds of undateable prehistoric pottery.

5 3 5 Two small intercutting pits TWA2712 were also excavated just outside the south-eastern entrance of the hengiform enclosure. The earlier pit contained much charcoal and some burnt bone flecks, interpreted as a deposit of pyre material, which only partially filled the pit. This had been cut by a subcircular pit containing a Collared Urn of early Bronze Age date containing cremated human bone and charcoal and two accessory vessels. The pit itself also contained further charcoal and burnt bone deposits.

5 3 6 Pit 1044 was located 25m to the north-east of the hengiform enclosure. It produced an assemblage of Grooved Ware pottery from 3 or 4 vessels and an assemblage of Neolithic flint. Grooved Ware is commonly found in association with henge-type monuments.

'Avenue' C

5 3 7 A group of six large pits were located c 70m to the north-west of the small hengiform enclosure. They were arranged in two paired rows of three. The rows were orientated from north-west to south-east, diverging slightly to the north-west, and the central axis of the group continued the axis of the small hengiform enclosure. The two rows were c 7.5m apart and the individual pits in each row were similarly spaced at c 7.5m intervals. The pits were circular, 3.00-3.60m in diameter and survived to depths of 1.00-1.25m. All of the excavated pits showed a similar sequence of events, with gradual partial silting-up of the original pit, followed by a smaller central recut and then total infilling with cobbles. At Pallet Hill a similar-looking group of pits has been plotted from aerial photographs and interpreted as being of likely Neolithic or early Bronze Age date (RCHME 1997).

5 3 8 A smaller pit 1010 was excavated between the rows of this pit alignment. It inter-cut with the south-western side of 'Avenue' pit 1017 and a large quantity of small bone fragments, mostly burnt, were recovered from this feature.

Pit pair D

5 3 9 Another pair of pits similar in size to the six paired pits of 'avenue' C, were located c 40m to the south-east of the hengiform enclosure, arranged symmetrically either side of the axis running through the hengiform enclosure and 'avenue' C. They were 6.25m apart, centre to centre, similar to those in the north-western pit group, and they also both showed evidence of partial gradual infilling, a secondary recut and then rapid total infilling.

with larger stones. They were rather oval in plan, up to 3.4m wide and 0.62m deep. No dating evidence was recovered.

Pit alignment E

5 3 10 This pit alignment was located at the northern edge of Area 3, appearing on the geophysical survey as two parallel lines of circular features aligned roughly from east to west. The two lines converged slightly at their eastern end. Fourteen pits were clearly visible in each line over a length of c 55m, with a possible further pit at the eastern end of the southern line. The northern line passed beyond the area of the survey at its western end. The eastern end of the alignment terminated to the west of Avenue C on the axis of the hengiform enclosure. This relationship between a double pit alignment and the axis of a nearby henge has been noted at the Millfield North henge in Northumberland, at Thornborough in North Yorkshire and at other sites. To the west, the axis of the alignment (c 286° OS grid) crosses the broad, fairly level flood plain of the River Swale before passing close to the triangulation pillar at Beacon Plantation 9km away (at NZ 145 025), at an elevation of 319mOD and forming a prominent high point on the edge of the moors behind Richmond.

5 3 11 During the assessment and excavation phases a total of 13 pits were observed in plan and a total of 8 pits were sample excavated, one from the northern row and 7 in the southern row. The pits were circular or slightly oval in plan, 1.80-3.17m in diameter and survived to depths of 0.46-1.18m. It was noted that the pits decreased in diameter and depth towards the eastern end of the row. Each of the pits had a primary fill of silty clays and gravels with a concentration of larger cobbles towards the centre, sealed by an upper fill of mid brown silty sand and gravel, in most cases containing charcoal flecks. The concentration of larger cobbles towards the centre of each of these features suggested that they might have held posts or stones which were subsequently withdrawn, although the pits were unnecessarily wide relative to their depth for posts. Withdrawal of posts from a double pit alignment has been suggested at Millfield North (Harding 1981).

Peterborough Ware pit group and structure, Group F

5 3 12 A dispersed group of small pits, a tree bowl and gullies defining an oval structure were identified at the north-western corner of Area 3. The pit group consisted of 7 features, generally oval in plan and measuring between 0.70-1.55m wide and up to 0.46m deep. All but two of the pits contained Fengate style Peterborough Ware pottery, and several also contained worked flints and a stone loom weight.

5 3 13 A structure represented by an ovoid gully and of a typically Neolithic form (Darvill and Thomas 1996) was located immediately to the south of these pits. The western side was clearly defined, and traces of the southern end survived, but it had otherwise been heavily truncated. It had perhaps been c 8m long from north to south by c 5m wide. The fill of the gully produced a sherd of Peterborough Ware pottery. Two more small pits were located within the area enclosed by this feature had possibly originally been connected by a small slot. One pit produced a sherd of Peterborough Ware.

and the associated small slot two small sherds of probably Neolithic pottery. The Roman marching camp ditch H which cut through the structure produced a further sherd of Peterborough Ware from its primary fill. A nearby tree-throw, probably representing natural re-use of one of the pits of pit alignment A, produced sherds of Peterborough Ware.

- 5 3 14 The identification of a probable Neolithic house structure apparently associated with a contemporary pit group is of considerable significance. Pit groups containing Grimston, Peterborough and Grooved Ware pottery assemblages have been discovered on an increasing number of sites within the Vale of Mowbray, notably at Marton-le-Moor (Tavener 1996), Nosterfield (Manby 1999) and Catterick Racecourse (Moloney *et al* undated). Typically these features occur in isolation and have been seen as representing temporary, perhaps seasonal, activity. Neolithic houses recorded in England have typically been small, lightly built structures which have left few physical traces and have been particularly susceptible to truncation by later activity, and a high proportion of those recorded had been protected beneath later Neolithic and Bronze Age earthworks (Darvill and Thomas *ibid*). The apparent association of the Scorton structure with a contemporary pit group raises the possibility that this association was typical but that the slight traces of houses have usually survived less well than the more deeply-cut pits, and has implications for our understanding of the nature of Neolithic settlement in the area.

Pit groups

- 5 3 15 A number of pits, occurring singly or in groups and of certain or probable prehistoric date were recorded, mostly occurring in a band running across the northern side of both Field 2 and Field 3.
- 5 3 16 A group of five pits were located towards the north-western corner of Area 2. Three of these features, pits 96, 98 and 100, ran in a straight line and were evenly spaced 2.4m apart, centre to centre. Pits 102 and 94 were located nearby. Pit 94 produced two fragments of a flint blade of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. Another undated pit 84 was located to the north-west. A second group of 3 circular pits 126, 128 and 130 were located c 25m to the east of the previous group, with a fourth small pit 132 nearby to the south-east. None of these features produced finds. An isolated pit TWA1511, located some 80m to the south of the main concentration of pits in Area 2, produced a flint blade of Neolithic date.
- 5 3 17 Two pits, 1046 and 1015, were located towards the north-eastern corner of Area 3. Pit 1046 was filled with black ash and fragments of burnt stone. Pit 1015 produced fragments of burnt stone, charcoal, burnt bone and a complete, unused but burnt saddle quern. Three pits, 1070, 1075 and 1078, were excavated to the south of the henge C. Pit 1075 produced a worked flint and pit 1070 contained burnt stones and charcoal fragments.

Penannular gullies

- 5 3 18 The truncated remnant of part of a ring gully 743 were recorded towards the centre of Area 3, together with an apparently curvilinear gully 787. No finds

were recovered from either feature. Aerial photographs taken after the end of the excavation of this part of the site (see section 9.3 below) show that feature 743 and the western end of feature 787 had formed parts of apparently complete circles c 7m in diameter, revealed by greater weed growth probably resulting from enhanced nutrient levels in the underlying subsoil. The photos also suggested that these features had lain near to the centre of a substantial ring ditch not recognised during excavation, presumably a barrow of Bronze Age date, perhaps suggesting that features 743 and 787 represented late Neolithic structures, as noted above, a significant proportion of the known Neolithic 'houses' in Britain have been found sealed by later monuments, often Early Bronze Age round-barrows.

5.4 Iron Age features

Enclosure G

- 5.4.1 By analogy to the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age site excavated at Pallet Hill c 1.5km to the south (Brewster and Finney, forthcoming), where an earlier oval enclosure was replaced by a later rectilinear enclosure, the earliest Iron Age activity identified on the Hollow Banks site may have been Enclosure G. The geophysical survey showed an oval enclosure near the southern side of Area 3, partially obscured by later boundary features. It measured c 25m from east to west by c 15m from north to south. There was a possible narrow entrance at the western end extended by two broadly parallel ditches continuing to the west for c 20m, perhaps suggesting that this feature belonged to the class of sites known as 'banjo enclosures', however the two extending ditches could not be identified during excavation and were not visible on post-excavation aerial photographs. There appeared to be a small circular central anomaly within the enclosure forming a ring c 8m in diameter. Several other indistinct anomalies were also recorded.
- 5.4.2 Unfortunately, much of the area of these features was disturbed and truncated during site clearance and topsoil stripping, and there was some evidence that the southern side of the area had also suffered severe truncation as a result of it lying at the edge of the steep escarpment immediately to the south. The western half of the possible oval enclosure had been extensively disturbed, and no discrete archaeological features could be identified. Finds recovered from the disturbed subsoil in this area included 5 sherds of Iron Age pottery.
- 5.4.3 The subsequent area excavation recorded part of the 'enclosure' ditch, forming its north-eastern corner over a length of c 18m, and a sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the surface of the fill. A short length of a small ditch curving back to the south-west possibly represented a continuation of the 'enclosure' ditch and also produced a single sherd of Iron Age pottery. A small arc of the inner circle recorded by the geophysical survey was identified over a length of c 8m but produced no finds.
- 5.4.4 A feature thought to be a tree-bole during the assessment but subsequently re-interpreted as forming part of pit alignment A lay within the enclosure. Its

upper fill produced 37 sherds from a barrel-shaped Iron Age pottery vessel. Several small pits were excavated nearby but none produced finds.

Enclosure R

- 5 4 5 Within the northern end of Area 2 was a large square enclosure with overall dimensions of 54m from north-east to south-west by 52m from north-west to south-east. It was formed by two roughly parallel slots between 2m and 3m apart. The inner square was twisted very slightly clockwise relative to the outer square, suggesting that they represented two different phases. The enclosure was only recognised after removal of a layer of subsoil, and was lost towards its eastern corner and severely truncated elsewhere. The outer slot terminated near the centre of the south-eastern side, suggesting the position of an entrance. The slots each had very steep-sloping sides and a flat base, suggesting that they were palisade slots rather than ditches. No finds were recovered from these features.
- 5 4 6 A possible four-post structure was located external to the south-western side of the enclosure. Two postpits, 48 and 90, cut the outer slot, symmetrically placed around the centre-point of the side and directly over the slot, strongly suggesting that they were associated with the enclosure, but this could have been coincidental. A third postpit 17 was located to the south-west outside the enclosure. They formed three corners of a structure measuring 3.2m square, the fourth corner having been initially missed and then removed during subsoil stripping (which also totally removed postpit 17). The three excavated postpits were subsequently identified on the geophysical survey, and a fainter anomaly was located in the position of the proposed fourth feature. Two of the postpits produced sherds of Iron Age pottery.
- 5 4 7 Due to this enclosure lying above the dirty infill of a palaeochannel, which had additionally been severely disturbed by ridge and furrow cultivation and more modern ploughing, enclosure R was not identified until the area was stripped by machine down to the cleaner underlying gravel, probably removing all traces of any slighter internal features. Retrospective examination of the geophysical survey uncertainly suggested that there might have been a circular feature c 12m in diameter near the centre of the enclosure, perhaps the eaves-drip gully or wall-slot of a roundhouse.
- 5 4 8 At Rock Castle, Gilling West (NZ 186 067), 8km to the north-west of the Hollow Banks site, a rectilinear palisaded enclosure had been superseded by a rectilinear ditched enclosure with a central circular structure (Fitts *et al* 1994). The ditched enclosure was dated on the basis of pottery and radiocarbon dating to the mid to later Iron Age, suggesting that the palisaded enclosure dated from the early to mid Iron Age. A similar sequence of an early palisaded enclosure followed by a later ditched enclosure has been demonstrated elsewhere in the region at West Brandon (Jobey 1962) and Coxhoe (Haselgrove and Allon 1982), both in County Durham. This pattern of earlier palisaded enclosure replaced by later ditched enclosure suggests that Enclosure R at Hollow Banks is likely to date from the early to mid Iron Age rather than later.

- 5 4 9 An undated penannular gully 71 was located immediately to the south-west of, and external to, Enclosure R. It described three-quarters of a circle 16.5m in diameter. The north-western quadrant could not be identified, perhaps as a result of truncation. There were no breaks in the line of the feature elsewhere suggesting the location of an entrance. No finds were recovered from this feature. Typologically it is most likely to represent the eaves-drip gully from a large Bronze or Iron Age roundhouse.

Other Iron Age features

- 5 4 10 During the assessment phase, part of the eastern side of a small ring ditch TWA1903 was identified, located just outside the north-western corner of the subsequent stripped excavation area. It had an external diameter of c. 8m. A sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the upper fill. Too little of this feature was observed to determine whether it was likely to be domestic or funerary in origin.

- 5 4 11 A small oval pit TWA2117 was excavated between the rows of pit alignment E. It produced Iron Age pottery and an assemblage of worked flints.

5 5 Later Iron Age and Romano-British features

The earlier field system

- 5 5 1 The area of the excavation was crossed from north-east to south-west by three parallel ditched boundaries [39], [766] and [1000], dividing Areas 2 and 3 into three large fields, I, J and K, forming part of a rectilinear field system of Romano-British date but perhaps originating in the later Iron Age. Field K was subsequently sub-divided by an east to west aligned ditch 921 which pre-dated the formation of the 2nd century palaeochannel which cut across the south-eastern corner of the field system. The sub-division went out of use, perhaps as a result of the erosion caused by the palaeochannel, and was not reinstated when the western field boundary was replaced by a new ditch 710 running parallel to ditch 766 and c. 5m to the east of it. Two phases of ditch following the top of the new scarp of the palaeochannel were recorded at the south-eastern edge of Area 3, but their stratigraphic relationship to the other field boundaries was not established. The field ditches produced small quantities of animal bone fragments and a small assemblage of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery.

- 5 5 2 A large oval pit 956 cut the eastern edge of boundary 766. It contained a small assemblage of Roman pottery and animal bone and a large group of iron hobnails.

The Roman marching camp H

- 5 5 3 Parts of the southern side, the rounded south-eastern corner and part of the eastern side of a probable Roman marching camp ditch were identified during the geophysical survey and investigated during both the site assessment and excavation phases. No relationship between the ditch and the surrounding field system was established, although the marching camp appeared to be aligned to the field systems rather than to the nearby Dere.

Street Roman road, suggesting that it had been superimposed onto a pre-existing field pattern

- 5 5 4 The marching camp ditch crossed the northern end of Area 2 and the corner lay within the north-western corner of Area 3. It was observed over a length of 98m within Area 2 and over a total centreline length of c 45m in Area 3. It was typically 1.50m wide and 0.50m deep. Three sherds of early 2nd century Roman pottery were recovered from the upper fill.

The later Romano-British field system

- 5 5 5 Within Area 2, the earlier field layout was superseded by an east to west aligned ditch 61 which cut across the line of ditch 145 of the earlier system. The earlier field system in Area 2 seems to have gone out of use by this time, perhaps having been partially obliterated during the temporary presence of the marching camp, since ditch 39 dividing the western and central fields of the earlier field system was not extended southwards to the new ditch.

MN 25956

- 5 5 6 The alignment of ditch 61 may have been the pre-cursor to the later, medieval field layout which survived into the twentieth century and which was largely diagonal to the earlier field system. It is likely that the re-alignment of the field pattern occurred in the Roman period, since a short length of ditch, 216, was recorded running from north-west to south-east, parallel to the historical strip field layout but had gone out of use by the 5th-6th centuries, when it was cut by several of the graves within the Anglian cemetery. Ditch 61 was certainly still a visible landscape feature in the early Anglian period, with scattered cremation and inhumation burials within and to either side of the ditch and a more ordered cemetery to the north aligned parallel to the ditch.

Enclosure M

- 5 5 7 A small rectangular enclosure M, defined by a small gully, was located to the west of field boundary ditch 766 in Area 3. It measured 14m by 11m, with a break at the southern half of the eastern side. An assemblage of pottery was recovered from this feature, almost entirely Iron Age or 1st-2nd century Romano-British in date but including at least 1 sherd of later Roman material, possibly intrusive. Four small shallow pits lay within the enclosure, but they were un-dated and their distribution suggested that they were unconnected with the enclosure.

Enclosure L

- 5 5 8 Enclosure M was enclosed within a larger, probably rectangular enclosure L represented by a larger ditch, which butted to the western side of boundary 766. The northern, western and part of the southern sides of this enclosure were identified and it probably had a wide entrance in the centre of the southern side. To the east of this, no evidence for a southern side could be identified during excavation, but subsequent examination of post-excavation aerial photographs suggested that it probably continued eastwards to ditch 766. No evidence for an eastern ditch was identified, although this would have been obscured amongst the multiple re-cuts of ditch 766. The ditch had

been re-cut at least once. Small quantities of pottery, again predominantly Iron Age or 1st-2nd century Roman but with rare sherds of later, possibly intrusive, material, were found throughout the ditch, with a much greater range of other finds within the southern side near the probable entrance, including animal bone, lava quern fragments and small fragments of brick or tile.

5 5 9 Around the south-western corner and along the observed part of the southern side of the enclosure, a continuous line of large rounded stones were recorded standing on end against the inner side of the ditch. These were initially recorded as having been a revetment of the side of the ditch, but seem more likely to have been packing stones along one side of a palisade trench cutting the top of the ditch infill. It was not clear why the stones were restricted to the southern side of the enclosure, although it has been suggested that they represented a façade on the side from which the enclosure would have been approached. No evidence for a bank or palisade was identified elsewhere within the ditch, except at the north-eastern corner where a short length of a small slot survived, following the inner edge of the northern ditch but continuing eastwards past its terminal and then turning southwards, cut into the infill of one phase of boundary ditch 766.

5 5 10 No features survived within enclosure L to indicate its function, and its association to boundary 766 was not adequately established, it being possible that enclosure L post-dated most or all phases of the boundary.

Enclosure N

5 5 11 Enclosures L and M seem to have been replaced by a second phase of enclosure, N, arranged at an angle to the first. No direct relationship was established between the two phases, although the angled enclosure cut across the line of boundary 766 and could not have been contemporary with the subsequent boundary 710, suggesting that it post-dated that as well. The surviving elements of the angled enclosure N included a ditch 796 running south-eastwards from the observed eastern end of the southern side of enclosure L towards boundary 766. It was unclear whether it was contemporary with a phase of enclosure L. At its south-eastern end the ditch turned to the north-east for c 10m, cut through the in-fills of boundary 766, and then terminated. Where excavated this part of the feature had a very different character, suggestive of a palisade trench. A small assemblage of Romano-British pottery was recovered from this feature.

5 5 12 There was a 17m gap from the north-eastern terminal of ditch 796 to an opposed south-western terminal of another linear cut 768 which ran north-eastwards for c 11m before curving to the north-west and crossing the in-filled ditch cuts of boundary 766. It could not be identified continuing north-west beyond this. The ditch was similar to ditch 796. Two sherds of Romano-British pottery and an intrusive 18th-19th century sherd were recovered.

- 5 5 13 There was no evidence to suggest that either ditch had continued to form a western half to enclosure N, and it is possible that it was either unfinished or that it represented a re-definition of the south-eastern corner of enclosure L

Romano-British cemetery P Mv 35739

- 5 5 14 A group of 15 Roman inhumation burials provisionally dating from the 4th century were excavated at the south-western corner of Area 3 As noted above, the post-excavation analysis of this group is being treated as a separate project and hence they area not described in detail here

5 6 Anglian Features

Pit alignment 151

- 5 6 1 A line of oval or subrectangular pits cut the western corner of enclosure R, running from north to south with an observed length of 43m To the south the geophysical survey showed that the line continued to the edge of the field To the north-east the line appeared to terminate A total of 11 pits were observed in plan, consisting of 5 evenly spaced pits at each end of the line and a central gap punctuated by a single pit The features were only recognised after removal of a layer of subsoil, and had therefore been severely truncated They were typically 2.50m long and up to 1.00m wide A sample of two pits were half-sectioned No finds were recovered from either feature

- 5 6 2 It was observed that the pits forming alignment 151 were very grave-like in form, and individually lay within the size range of the graves excavated at the southern end of the field (feature group Q) However, at the time pit alignment 151 was sample excavated, the organisation of the Anglian graves within the cemetery to the south-east in strings had not been recognised, and since no evidence for burial was found within the 2 pits excavated, interpretation of group 151 as a possible cemetery was only made retrospectively

Anglian cemetery Q

- 5 6 3 A cemetery consisting of 102 inhumation and 3 cremation burials was excavated towards the southern end of Area 2 and extending into the western side of Area 3 As noted above, the post-excavation analysis of this group is being treated as a separate project and hence they area not described in detail here

5 7 The Medieval and post-Medieval Field system

- 5 7 1 The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1857 showed the boundaries of Area 3 to be the same as the modern boundaries, but subdivided by another north-to-south boundary towards the eastern end of the field Area 2 was shown sub-divided into two blocks each of 3 long thin strip fields running roughly from north to south parallel to the modern field boundaries The division between the two blocks followed a staggered line running from north-west to south-east roughly following the top of the escarpment down to the south bisecting the modern field

- 5 7 2 The additional boundary crossing Area 3 was identified as a very faint anomaly by the geophysical survey, but was not identified during the area excavation. Within Area 2 the features shown on the 1857 OS map were recorded in plan after topsoil stripping as linear features cutting the subsoil, but were not excavated. Each of the boundaries of the strip fields to the north of the escarpment had a lower fill of mid brown sandy silt below an upper central fill of a dark brown sandy silt containing sherds of 19th or 20th century pottery, brick and bone. The ditches running southwards delineating the strip fields below the escarpment only contained the lower fill, suggesting that they had gone out of use and become fully in-filled at an earlier date.
- 5 7 3 The subsoil throughout Area 2 was cut by the broad furrow bases of ridge and furrow agriculture of medieval or early post-medieval date, aligned from north to south parallel to the boundary ditches of the strip fields. The whole of Area 3 was crossed from east to west by similar furrow bases, running parallel to the escarpment at the southern side of the field and on a totally different alignment to any earlier recorded ditch. There was no evidence for any contemporary subdivision of this area.
- 5 8 Metal detector finds**
- 5 8 1 During the site assessment the topsoil across the whole site was scanned with a metal detector. Ten objects, all of post-medieval/modern date, were recovered within Area 2, and 53 finds were recovered from Area 3, mostly of post-medieval/modern date but including at least one Roman coin and several unidentified coins.
- 5 8 2 As described in the Methodology, subsoil within parts of Area 2 were scanned with a metal detector after topsoil stripping, the main result of which was the discovery of numerous graves within the Anglian cemetery. Metal finds other than those directly attributable to graves were two-dimensionally recorded and a total of 27 objects were retained, including 6 coins.
- 5 9 3 Topsoil stripped within the south-western corner of Area 3 above the Romano-British cemetery and the eastern end of the Anglian cemetery was scanned and a total of 11 objects, all iron, were recovered.
- 5 9 4 The eastern half of Area 3 was scanned with a metal detector before the topsoil was stripped, resulting in the recovery of a total of 17 objects including 4 coins.
- 5 9 5 After quarrying operations had been completed in Area 2, the stored topsoil was re-spread over the reinstated area. Once this process had been completed the area was again scanned with a metal detector, resulting in the recovery of a total of 75 objects including 7 coins.

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 electronic site survey and 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, including the excavation of the Romano-British and Anglian cemeteries, is as follows

Table 1 Primary archive inventory

Context descriptions	1044
Drawing sheets	191
Black and white prints (films)	17
Colour prints (films)	36
Colour slides (films)	50

6 2 Recommendations for further analysis

6 2 1 Further work needs to be carried out on the dating of the artefactual record, notably radiocarbon samples and the Romano-British pottery assemblage, in order to provide a firmer site chronology, particularly for prehistoric features and for the late Iron Age/Romano-British field system and enclosures in the central part of the site

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 detailed site narrative report. Detailed phase plans should also be drawn up to illustrate the main features and stratigraphic relationships phase by phase

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 Hollow Banks, Scorton will be to retain all Anglian or earlier artefacts and to discard Medieval and later material except where it has some intrinsic interest, including some of the metal detector finds

6 3 3 The excavation was undertaken in advance of quarrying by Tarmac Northern Ltd who are the legal owners of material recovered from the site Discussions will be held with Tarmac, NAA and an appropriate museum will be held with respect to the deposition of the site and research archives in a museum

7 0 SPECIALISTS FINDS ASSESSMENTS

7 1 Processing and quantification

Washing of the bulk finds was completed after each phase of the fieldwork had ended All finds recovered have been recorded, marked where appropriate, packed in 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

<i>Artefact type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Flint	61
Prehistoric pottery	284
Romano-British pottery	331
Later pottery	78
Excavated metalwork	65
Coins (metal detected)	22
Other metal detector finds	171
Animal bone	755+
Glass	4
Brick and tile	63
Stone	4
Quern	2
Cremation	1
Environmental samples	18

7 2 Flint assessment

Peter Makey

7 2 1 Summary

A total of 60 flints were submitted for assessment, comprising 56 struck pieces, 1 flake from a polished stone axe and 3 pieces of un-struck natural flint. The flint could perhaps be divided into 3 discrete phases, including a small Mesolithic component, material similar to that typically associated with Peterborough Ware and Durrington Walls style Grooved ware assemblages, and a group of material of later Neolithic or early Bronze Age style including material recovered from residual contexts within the Anglian cemetery. The presence of piercers and miscellaneous retouched pieces was consistent with a domestic assemblage. None of the pieces could be considered to be of a ritual nature.

7 2 2 Recommendations

A full descriptive catalogue of this assemblage should be prepared in order to complete a final publication report. A total of 8 pieces should be illustrated.

7 3 Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery assessment

Terry Manby

7 3 1 Summary

A total of 207 sherds of prehistoric pottery were submitted for assessment. Of these, 53 sherds represented the collared urns and accessory cup from the Bronze Age cremation burial. An assemblage of 124 sherds of Fengate style Peterborough Ware of later Neolithic date was recovered from 10 features forming a spatially discrete and probably contemporary group. A single isolated pit context produced an assemblage of 30 sherds of Durrington Walls style Grooved Ware of later Neolithic date.

7 3 2 Recommendations

Only a limited number of pottery assemblages of Neolithic date have been recovered within the Vale of Mowbray, and the Hollow Banks group represents a significant addition to the regional distribution of such material. The early Bronze Age group of vessels associated with the cremation form an important group in their own right.

A description, catalogue and discussion of this assemblage should be prepared in order to complete a final publication report. The Iron Age material assessed with the Romano-British assemblage should be combined with that assessed here.

A total of 10 pieces require illustration

7 4 Iron Age and Romano-British pottery assessment

Jerry Evans

7 4 1 Summary

A total of 483 sherds of pottery from 48 contexts were assessed, including 77 Iron Age sherds, 331 Romano-British sherds and 75 medieval or post-medieval sherds. The samian component of the Romano-British assemblage requires further study for dating, and hence all Romano-British pottery assemblage dates are provisional.

Two small, purely Iron Age assemblages derived from post-pits associated with square palisaded enclosure R, suggesting an Iron Age date. Sherds from another four contexts formed a spatially discrete group associated with enclosure G. Other Iron Age sherds occurred as a minor, perhaps residual, component amongst predominantly later 1st-2nd century Romano-British assemblages recovered from ditched field boundaries and associated enclosure contexts. Very little later Romano-British material was recovered, suggesting that settlement activity within the site probably ceased before the end of the 2nd century.

A large assemblage of Romano-British pottery (155 sherds) recovered from the palaeochannel forming the southern edge of Area 3 broadly dated from the first half of the 2nd century.

The majority of the medieval and post-medieval sherds were recovered from colluvial contexts, were intrusive in clearly earlier features, or were unstratified.

7 4 2 Recommendations

The samian component of the Romano-British assemblage requires analysis.

A full descriptive catalogue and discussion of the Iron Age and Romano-British assemblage should be prepared in order to produce a final publication report.

Approximately 4 sherds of Iron Age pottery and 13 sherds or joining groups of sherds of Romano-British have been identified which require illustration.

No further analysis of the medieval and post-medieval material is recommended.

7 5 **Metalwork assessment**

Jon Watt

7 5 1 **Summary**

The assemblage of excavated metalwork was assessed, including a group of Romano-British hobnails, a lead spindle whorl and two Romano-British copper alloy objects, one of which is probably a military decorative mount possibly of 1st century date. An additional 98 unstratified metal objects recovered by metal detector were sent for assessment, comprising 41 copper alloy, 1 silver, 1 zinc alloy, 1 aluminium, 29 lead, 2 lead alloy, 22 iron and 1 slag. A wide range of objects were represented, ranging in date from the Romano-British period to modern. A brief catalogue of all of this material has been produced (not included in this report).

7 5 2 **Recommendations**

A proportion of the metal-detected material appears to date from the Anglian period and includes a number of brooch and other jewellery fragments presumably derived from the Anglian cemetery. It is proposed that the whole of the metal-detected assemblage be checked by the period specialist dealing with the cemetery metalwork (Christine Haughton), and the Anglian objects removed and published separately with the cemetery material. 8 objects have already been identified as Anglian: 52AD, 52AH, 52CA, 52CB, 407AE, 407AG, 407AH, 407BD.

Nine of the remaining objects will require illustration:

52AS Cu alloy shoe buckle, 16th-17th century
280AB military apron mount, Roman, 1st century
407AR lead line sinker, medieval
407BA iron object, function unknown but paralleled from mid-1st century context at Hod Hill
407BM lead object, possible Roman fishing net weight
408AB lead line sinker, medieval
408AC lead line sinker, ?medieval
408AE lead net weight, Roman or medieval
852AA lead spindle whorl, medieval

Objects 280AB and 407BA will require cleaning by the conservator before they can be drawn.

7 6 Coin assessment

Richard Brickstock

7 6 1 Summary

A total of 15 coins recovered during metal-detector scanning of the site were assessed. Two coins were very well preserved but the majority were badly corroded and some only partially legible. None of the coins were Roman, spanning the late-1st to mid-4th centuries, one was an Edwardian silver penny and the other five were Scottish 17th century coppers.

7 6 2 Recommendations

A full catalogue of the coins should be produced. None require illustration.

7 7 Animal bone assessment

Mark Ward

7 7 1 Summary

A total of c 518 animal bone fragments from 20 contexts were assessed, plus a sample containing a very large number (>1000) of rodent bones recovered from one of the Anglian graves.

A large proportion of the bone (300 fragments) came from the fill 1011 of a small pit 1010 which was recorded (slightly uncertainly) as having been cut by one of the pits forming 'Avenue' C and therefore possibly of later Neolithic or early Bronze Age date. Much of the material from this context had been severely burnt resulting in fragmentation and distortion and compromising identification. The assemblage was predominantly sheep with at least 3 individuals present including a lamb mandible, although small numbers of cow and pig bones were present.

Other, mainly Romano-British, contexts only produced small quantities of bones, mostly in a poor state of preservation due to the relatively acidic soils. Elements identified to species included predominantly cow bones, with some un-specified horse, equid/cow and pig, with very little sheep/goat (contrasting with context 1011). All of the bones came from young adults or adults. Due to its small size and dispersed nature no over-all analysis of the assemblage was possible, but it was judged to represent general discard. Only two bones, both from Romano-British contexts, bore evidence for butchery.

7 7 2 Recommendations

"Within the north of England faunal remains from the earlier prehistoric periods area extremely scarce, and any new finds are likely to have some importance simply because of their rarity value" (Huntley and Stallibrass)

1995, 195) Virtually no later Neolithic or early Bronze Age animal bone assemblages have been recovered from the Vale of Mowbray, due to lack of excavation of sites and also due to typically hostile soil conditions. The extensive series of pit groups excavated at Marton-le-Moor in 1993 (NAA, in preparation), although rich in other evidence, produced no bone at all. The assemblage from pit fill 1011, if dateable to this period, would in its own right be an important group of material.

It is recommended that a radiocarbon date be acquired for the animal bone assemblage from context 1011, to confirm that it dates from the later Neolithic/early Bronze Age period, and that a full metrical analysis of the material be undertaken.

On the same basis, cremated animal bone recognised amongst the human bone within the Early Bronze Age Collared Urn should be recovered and analysed by an animal bone specialist, being a sealed and potentially well-dated assemblage.

No further analysis is recommended for the remainder of the assemblage.

7.8 Glass assessment

7.8.1 At the time of compilation of this report, no assessment report for this material had been received from the specialist. In view of the small (4 fragments) and scattered nature of the glass assemblage, it is not anticipated that there will be a requirement for significant, if any, further analysis. Not more than two of the fragments will require illustration.

7.9 Brick and tile assessment

J Tibbles and S E Tibbles

7.9.1 Summary

An assemblage consisting of 46 fragments of Romano-British ceramic building material from seven contexts and 5 post-Roman fragments from two contexts were assessed.

The majority of the Romano-British material came from palaeochannel context 280 and included three sizes of brick, box flue tiles and roofing tiles (*tegulae* but not *imbrices*) in five different fabric types. This material was likely to have derived from a high status building, probably having been washed downstream from the vicinity of nearby *Cataractomum*. Fragments from other contexts were non-diagnostic and occurred in a narrower range of fabrics.

The post-Roman material included fragments of a medieval brick, a post-medieval hand-made brick and a late 19th century roof tile.

7 9 2 Recommendations

The Romano-British material should be compared to the assemblages from the nearby Roman town, particularly in respect of the range of fabrics present. The presence of box flue tiles in no less than 5 different fabric types within context 280 suggests debris from more than one structure is involved, particularly in view of the early date of the extensive accompanying pottery assemblage (earlier 2nd century)

None of the material is recommended for illustration

7 10 Stone artefact assessment

Jon Watt

7 10 1 Summary

Four stone artefacts were assessed, comprising a fragment of a weight from a Neolithic pit, a possible hone recovered from a Romano-British boundary ditch fill, a second hone presumably derived from the Roman marching camp ditch (although attributed to an intercutting Neolithic pit), and a possible mbbing stone from a cleaning context. These objects have been catalogued.

7 10 2 The Neolithic weight should be illustrated. Otherwise, no further analysis of this assemblage is recommended.

7 11 Quern assessment

Dave Heslop

7 11 1 Summary

One complete, unused, saddle quern from an undated pit context and two fragments from a rotary quern from a Romano-British enclosure ditch context were assessed and a catalogue produced.

7 11 2 Recommendations

No further analysis of the rotary quern fragments is recommended. The saddle quern should be illustrated. A documentary search should be made for other examples of the phenomenon of burial of querns of this type under possible 'ritual' circumstances. At Barford, Warwickshire, 7 saddle querns had been deposited in a pit with a segmented ditch circle of later Neolithic date (Harding and Lee 1987, 277). The vast majority of querns recovered from archaeological sites are either unstratified or were 'old' when they arrived in their final context, often in a fragmentary state (as with the Scorton rotary quern) or re-used for another purpose. As a group, therefore, querns are a poorly dated group of artefacts. The fact that the saddle quern from Scorton, being unused, was presumably 'new' when buried, combined

with the circumstances of its burial, greatly enhance its archaeological importance. A radiocarbon date should be obtained for this quern in order both to date the object itself and to provide a context for its possibly 'ritual' deposition. The source of the stone used should also be identified, which could provide evidence of contemporary exchange networks.

7 12 Human cremation

7 12 1 Summary

The early Bronze Age cremation was assessed by Wessex Archaeology (1998b). The Collared Urn was excavated in a series of 13 20mm spits. The bone, although well cremated, was well preserved, a total weight of 2699g being recovered. The bone represented the remains of two adult individuals, one aged between 18 and 25 years and one of which was female. Fragments from a sheep-sized animal were also noted.

7 12 2 Recommendations

A full analysis of this material should be undertaken. Apart from a full analysis of the human remains, one aim would be to ascertain whether there was any pattern in the horizontal and/or vertical distribution of bone fragments from the two individuals (deposited together or separately), skeletal elements or animal and human remains.

Depending on its quantity, size and condition, the animal bone assemblage from the urn should be analysed by an animal bone specialist (see 7 7 2 above).

7 13 Environmental sample assessment

TWA and ASUD

7 13 1 Summary

Sixteen samples were submitted for assessment, 12 from prehistoric contexts and 4 from Roman contexts. Seven of the prehistoric samples produced significant results.

A sample from pit 1044 (containing a Grooved Ware pottery assemblage) produced fragments of hazelnut shell and sloes.

Two samples were from pit TWA2117 which lay between the rows of the double pit alignment and which produced sherds of Iron Age pottery. These samples produced a few charred grain fragments and low numbers of charred weed seeds and hazelnut fragments.

One sample came from a hollow TWA2315 interpreted as a tree bowl which produced a Mesolithic flint bladelet. It contained only a few charred weed seeds.

The other three samples came from the pit fills around and overlying the cremation and accessory vessels. They generally produced small quantities of charred grain fragments and high numbers of charred weed seeds.

Two additional flots were generated during processing of the contents of the cremation urn and the accessory vessel. That from the accessory vessel contained much root material and un-charred weed seeds. The flot from the cremation urn contained a few charred grain fragments and low numbers of charred weed seeds, and molluscs were also noted.

The other samples submitted for assessment produced no useful results although several contained small quantities of material suitable for radiocarbon dating.

Wood charcoal was present in moderate quantities within the two samples from pit TWA2117. The sample from hollow TWA2315, the three from around the cremation and both from within the pottery vessels associated with the cremation contained large amounts of charcoal fragments. The charcoal was mainly large wood fragments.

Four of the samples were also assessed for pollen analysis, but only produced very low pollen counts and were not suitable for full palynological analysis.

7.13.2 Recommendations

Huntley has highlighted the shortage of dated environmental assemblages regionally from the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age periods and that any data from these periods would enhance our knowledge and researchers should make the most of any opportunity to recover data (Huntley and Stalhbrass 1995).

Six of the 7 samples which produced carbonised remains, and the two flots from within the cremation vessels, should be fully analysed. The other sample (context 1045) does not warrant further analysis. Although the tree disturbance was only tentatively dated (the single flint could have been residual), the opportunity exists within this small series of samples to compare the pre-agricultural environment, early Bronze Age material accidentally incorporated with the cremation, and Iron Age material deliberately discarded into a pit and presumably representing agricultural and domestic activity.

In addition, most of this group of samples included quantities of wood charcoal, moderate amounts from the Iron Age pit and large amounts from the tree disturbance and cremation. This material should be analysed in order to provide information concerning the woodland resources exploited in the three periods, and for the cremation-related contexts may enable the determination of specific species-selection for pyres compared to more domestic contexts.

7 14 Radiocarbon dating sample assessment

7 14 1 Summary

Environmental samples from both the assessment and excavation phases produced carbonised material suitable for radiocarbon assay, including both wood charcoal and seeds from shorter-lived species. Additional charcoal samples were hand-retrieved during excavation. Other recovered materials possibly suitable for this type of analysis included animal bone and carbon encrustations on artefacts including pottery sherds and the saddle quern.

7 14 2 Recommendations

A number of the contexts from the excavation phase which produced material suitable for dating were of Romano-British date and can be more accurately dated from analysis of the artefactual assemblages present within them, no radiocarbon dating is recommended for this group of features.

For the prehistoric phases of activity on the site, a number of contexts produced only wood charcoal potentially from large timbers which could have been 'old' prior to burial and hence would provide less secure dates. However, several such contexts were of sufficient significance that such material would still warrant dating. Other contexts produced material deriving from short-lived plant species, mainly recovered from palaeoenvironmental samples. Several contexts which warrant dating only produced animal bone fragments. In view of the generally poor quality of bone survival on this site, these samples may not retain enough collagen in order to obtain a date. If this group of samples is put forward for dating, initially a single sample should be sent for assay and if this is unsuccessful further dating of this group should be abandoned. One context produced pottery sherds retaining internal carbonised deposits which are likely to be suitable for dating in preference to associated but possibly 'old' wood charcoal.

Eleven samples from potentially Mesolithic, Neolithic, Early Bronze Age and Iron Age contexts are considered to warrant radiocarbon dating.

- 49, carbonised deposit on the interior of pottery sherds from a post-pit, in order to provide a *terminus ante quem* for the Iron Age palisaded enclosure and in order to date the pottery. If this pottery residue proved unsuitable for dating, there is a fragment of charcoal from one of the palisade slots which could be substituted.
- 835, fragments of wood charcoal from a primary fill of one of the pits forming the double pit alignment.
- 839, fragment of wood from pit fill, in order to provide a broad date for Peterborough Ware assemblage and associated structure.
- 1011, charcoal or animal bone from pit fill, in order to provide a date for an animal bone assemblage of possible Neolithic or early Bronze Age date.

- 1014, small quantity of animal bone fragments from high up in the primary fill sequence in one of the pits of the 'avenue' associated with the mini-henge, to provide an approximate date for creation of the 'avenue'(see 1089 below)
- 1016, charcoal from small wood from pit fill, which would provide a date for the possibly 'ritual' burial of the unused saddle quem, as well as providing a date for an example of a type of artefact for which there is little precise dating and only a broad chronology In this case the 'freshness' and unused quality of the quem imply that it was 'new' when buried, meaning that any radiocarbon date would be close to the date of manufacture, avoiding the dangers of residuality related to the discarded worn or broken querns normally recovered from archaeological features
- 1045, hazlenut and sloe fragments from pit fill, to provide a date for the associated Grooved Ware assemblage
- 1089, animal bone from towards the base of the upper fill of one of the pits forming the 'avenue' associated with the mini-henge This would provide a terminus ante quem for dismantling/disuse of the avenue
- TWA2117, charred grain or hazlenut shell from pit fill, in order to provide a date for accompanying Iron Age pottery and environmental assemblage
- TWA2315, charred weed seeds or wood charcoal, in order date a provisionally Mesolithic environmental assemblage
- TWA2716, charred grain and weed seeds recovered from within the early Bronze Age collared urn This sample would provide a *terminus ante quem* for the mim-henge and date the cremation, the pottery vessels and the accompanying environmental remains

8 0 SIGNIFICANCE OF RESULTS

- 8 1 The geophysical survey, assessment and archaeological excavation at Hollow Banks, Scorton have produced results from several periods of both local and regional importance, with some aspects of the site being of possible national importance
- 8 2 The small Mesolithic element amongst the flint assemblage adds to the local distribution of such finds, but its scattered and residual nature significantly reduces the value of the material in adding to our knowledge of the period, even locally
- 8 3 The identification of the mim-henge and its associated 'avenue', pit alignments and cremation burial, together with a possible round barrow cemetery, adds to the growing evidence for an extensive Neolithic and early Bronze-Age ritual and funerary landscape to either side of the River Swale in the area around Catterick Bridge As such, these features are of at least regional importance The recovery of an assemblage of Grooved Ware pottery, typically associated with henge-type sites, adds to the regional distribution of such material

- 8 4 The identification of a Neolithic pit group extends the distribution of this type of feature both locally and regionally. In the Catterick area this is the second pit group found associated with Peterborough Ware, both groups having been found near a henge-type monument (the other being at Catterick racecourse and associated with Rudston style Peterborough Ware). However, excavation of a long transect of landscape during widening of the A1 between the Devil's Arrows 'ritual' landscape at Boroughbridge and the 'ritual' landscape around the henge sites to the north of Marton-le-Moor (Tavener 1996) suggested that pit group-type sites clustered away from the 'ritual' areas, a result apparently confirmed by fieldwalking surveys in the area (e.g. Speed 1993, Fraser *et al* 1994) and by an extensive fieldwalking programme around the Thornborough henge complex carried out by Jan Harding (published on the internet) and excavation by Mike Griffiths of pit groups to the north at Nosterfield (Manby 1999). Hence the apparent association with the henge sites of the Peterborough Ware pit groups is likely to be anomalous, and might point to the presence of more extensive but as yet unseen later Neolithic domestic activity within the Catterick area located away from the large 'ritual' monuments. The identification of a probably contemporary 'house' structure associated with the Scorton pit group is of considerable significance, suggesting by analogy that the similar pit groups excavated elsewhere within the Vale of Mowbray may also originally have been associated with structures, the slight traces of which have subsequently been lost or not recognised. This has considerable implications for our understanding of settlement pattern and landscape exploitation during the later Neolithic period, and is of at least regional and possibly national significance.
- 8 5 The identification of several phases of Iron Age occupation, probably continuing into the early Romano-British period, adds to the distribution of such sites both locally and regionally, although difficulty in identifying features and their severely truncated and disturbed condition meant that little useful information could be recovered. However, the evidence for the field system and occupation at Hollow Banks, together with previous extensive excavation evidence for late Iron Age and Romano-British field systems and settlement at Grange Farm c 1km to the north-east, adds to our picture of the later Iron Age settlement pattern and the effect of imposition of the Roman fort and town of *Cataractonium* within that pattern. As such, the Iron Age and early Romano-British component of the site should be regarded as being of at least regional importance. The additional imposition of the Roman marching camp within this pattern has implications for our understanding of the usage of this landscape, the relationship between the army and the local populace, and the military usage of *Cataractonium* and Dere Street.
- 8 6 The late Romano-British cemetery, although not forming part of this assessment, must be seen as an important part of the overall recorded contemporary landscape and also in association with the nearby town.
- 8 7 The development of the field system within Area 2 from the Iron Age/earlier Romano-British pattern to an apparent direct fore-runner of the medieval/post-medieval strip-field layout before the end of the Romano-

British period (or at least pre-dating the 6th-7th century Anglian cemetery) adds to the growing body of evidence suggesting that medieval field boundaries in many areas preserved elements of Romano-British land-division. As such, this evidence is of at least local and probably regional significance.

8 8 The Anglian cemetery within the site (not covered by this assessment) can be seen as being of national importance given its relationship to other local cemeteries and to the settlement at Catterick, and the relationship of this group of features to the immediate surrounding landscape cannot be ignored.

8 9 It is clear that the River Swale has had a complex history, with considerable movement of its channel, and hence it is wrong to attempt to relate past activity to its modern course, as has typically been done in the past. The identification of an apparently short-lived channel, cutting through the late Iron Age/early Romano-British field system but apparently only active up to sometime in the 2nd century AD, and located 200m to the north of the modern channel, suggests that there has been considerable mobility in the course of the river in the past. At the Hollow Banks site, it seems highly likely that the Iron Age and earlier Romano-British field system, the marching camp, and possibly the Neolithic features, were laid-out in relation to an earlier channel aligned from north-west to south-east. The identified early 2nd century Roman channel cut arbitrarily through the field system. This raises the possibility that the Roman town of *Cataractonium*, always in the past interpreted as having lain both to the north and south of the river throughout its history, may initially have been sited entirely to the south and was subsequently bisected as a result of the river altering its course during the 2nd century. Such a scenario would explain the varied range of ceramic building materials recovered from the palaeochannel. It could also explain why the 2nd century town defences lying to the north of the modern river course seem to have gone out of use and were subsequently overlain by later Roman buildings, whilst the reduced area to the south was enclosed by a stone wall by the beginning of the 4th century (Wilson 1999). This could only be resolved by future archaeological and palaeoenvironmental investigation and dating of the ancient channels in the area of Catterick, but has major significance for interpretation of the local archaeological landscape.

9 0 POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

9 0 1 "The gradual change from the monument-dominated landscape of the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age to the settlement-dominated landscape of later prehistory [is] still poorly understood" (English Heritage 1997, 44). The excavation at Hollow Banks, Scorton has produced evidence for possible later Neolithic occupation, a late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age 'ritual' complex and probable continuing Bronze Age burial activity. This landscape of large earthwork monuments had then been exploited, possibly in several phases, for Iron Age agriculture and settlement which continued into the early Romano-British period, before the site reverted to use as a

burial site during the late Roman and early Anglian periods. Amongst other research priorities identified by English Heritage are the nature of the transition of settlement, land use and social and economic organisation between the Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods, and also for changes in Romano-British society in the 3rd and 4th centuries and interaction between native inhabitants and immigrants during the following centuries. Evidence for each of these periods of transition was present at Hollow Banks. Further analysis of the site will provide a picture of changing landscape usage over a period of at least four millennia. The site is of added importance since it forms part of a wider landscape that has been the subject of much previous investigation, and serves to link the major prehistoric 'ritual' site of Scorton Cursus to the Roman fort and town of *Cataractonium* as parts of a continuously developing landscape focussed on the River Swale.

9 1 Stratigraphic record

9 1 1 Further analysis of the stratigraphic archive, combined with work on the dating of the artefactual record, notably radiocarbon samples and the Romano-British pottery assemblage, is required in order to provide a firmer site chronology, particularly for prehistoric features and for the late Iron Age/Romano-British field system and enclosures in the central part of the site. This will enable the potential of several aspects of research to be realised.

9 1 2 The Neolithic and Early Bronze Age features form an important addition to a limited distribution of such sites in the Vale of Mowbray, and locally within what has recently been recognised as an important 'ritual' landscape focussed on the River Swale at Catterick. The presence of apparent settlement activity of Neolithic date adds to a very limited dataset nationally. Further analysis of these parts of the site in relation to other sites locally, regionally and nationally will enhance our understanding of the local prehistoric landscape and give a context to Hollow Banks not only in relation to the other nearby 'ritual' sites of Scorton Cursus and the Catterick Racecourse henge but also to the wider Neolithic ritual and domestic landscapes extending southwards through the Vale of York.

9 1 3 The Iron Age activity on the site also makes an important addition to the limited evidence from the Catterick area, particularly since the majority of the settlement sites known locally are clustered in the hinterland of the major late Iron Age centre at Stanwick and indeed mainly lie to the north towards the River Tees with only a limited distribution southwards towards Catterick. Within the Hollow Banks site there appear to be three spatially distinct settlement areas, each of a different character, which are likely to be of different dates. Further analysis of the site archive combined with research into equivalent sites elsewhere should enable this settlement activity to be phased and its relationship to its surrounding landscape to be characterised. The relationship of the Iron Age activity to the earlier monuments on the site is also an area of potential study.

9 1 4 The transition from a settled Iron Age landscape to an apparently re-organised Romano-British landscape showing no evidence of occupation, with a possible interlude represented by the imposition of a marching camp, has considerable potential for further analysis, particularly in relation to the development of the nearby Roman town. A firmer site chronology, based both on the stratigraphic sequence and on closer dating provided by the artefactual assemblage, would aid in this analysis. The evolution of the later Romano-British field system into that in use during the medieval and post-medieval periods also merits further analysis.

9 2 Artefactual record

9 2 1 Several classes of artefact and environmental evidence require further analysis and recording. These include

- the flint assemblage (illustration only)
- the prehistoric pottery (illustration and completion of final report)
- the Romano-British and Anglian pottery
- the metalwork
- the brick and tile
- one of the stone artefacts (illustration only)
- one of querns
- the human cremation
- the environmental samples

The animal bone from the cremation will require further analysis as will that from another context should a radiocarbon date be obtained which places it within the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age period.

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

- the coins
- the glass (may require illustration)

9 3 Aerial photographic record

9 3 1 The limited sample excavation policy specified for most of Areas 2 and 3 did not allow for extensive hand-cleaning of large areas of the site. Due to the poor visual definition of most of the archaeological features, this necessarily meant that the limited resources of time and manpower available for cleaning and excavation were primarily targeted towards features already identified by the geophysical survey.

9 3 2 After the end of the 1999 excavation within the western half of Area 3, a series of aerial photographs were taken of the site by Anthony Crawshaw. These photographs reveal a number of probable archaeological features not identified on the ground but defined either clearly or tentatively by

differential weed growth, variation in subsoil type or in some cases apparently by variation in gravel size. These features possibly include large annular ditches, perhaps barrows, located towards the southern side of the area, and possible roundhouses defined by arcs and concentric rings of postholes located towards the northern side of the area. In addition, the photographs, as noted in the site description above, have aided in interpretation of features too truncated or indistinct to be understood from the geophysical or excavated evidence alone.

- 9 3 3 Larger prints of several of these photographs would permit rectified plotting of these features and identification of any additional features in order to obtain a more complete plan of the distribution of archaeological features within this area, providing a more detailed understanding of the development of this complex and important site.

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. Ideally this would be incorporated into the monograph proposed for publication of the Roman and Anglian cemeteries. Alternatively it would be submitted to a regional journal such as the *Durham Archaeological Journal* or 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 plotting of additional un-excavated features from aerial photographs
- Stage 2 site narrative and archive illustrations
- Stage 3 preparation of specialist reports
- Stage 4 integration and synthesis of stratigraphic, aerial photographic and artefactual records
- Stage 5 preparation of publication report text and illustrations
- Stage 6 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 up to 11 radiocarbon dates for prehistoric contexts 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 Scorton 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.
- 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 Aerial photographic record

- 10 1 Of the aerial photographs taken by Anthony Crawshaw in 1999, larger prints of selected photographs will be obtained and additional un-excavated archaeological features plotted using suitable computer software and added to the existing overall site survey.

10 3 Artefactual record

The flint

A full descriptive catalogue of this assemblage should be prepared in order to complete a final publication report. A total of 8 pieces should be illustrated.

The Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery

A description, catalogue and discussion of this important assemblage should be prepared in order to complete a final publication report. A total of 10 pieces require illustration.

The Iron Age and Romano-British pottery

A full descriptive catalogue and discussion of the Iron Age and Romano-British pottery assemblage should be prepared in order to produce a final publication report. For the Romano-British pottery this should include

reference to the extensive stratified assemblages from nearby *Cataractonium* which have recently been analysed in detail by English Heritage. Approximately 17 sherds or joining groups of sherds amongst these groups require illustration.

The metalwork

The metalwork recovered during the metal detector surveys included at least 8 pieces clearly relating to the Anglian cemetery. The whole of the metal-detected assemblage should be shown to the specialist dealing with the cemetery assemblage and any pieces likely to be of Anglian date removed and added to the cemetery assemblage, removing them from the remit of this assessment.

Of the remaining pieces and the excavated objects, two require cleaning and conservation. Nine pieces have been identified which require illustration.

The brick and tile

The Romano-British brick and tile should be compared to the nearby assemblage from *Cataractonium* (from whence most of it may derive), particularly in terms of the range of fabrics present, and the results integrated with the specialist assessment report in order to produce a final publication report.

The stone artefacts

Of the 4 stone artefacts, the Neolithic loom weight should be illustrated. Otherwise, no further analysis is recommended.

The querns

The geological source of the saddle quern should be identified. A radiocarbon date for this object would be desirable, and it should be illustrated. A library search should be undertaken to identify further examples of the phenomenon of possible 'ritual' disposal of such objects.

The cremation

The human and animal bone and carbonised wood and plant remains recovered from within and around the cremation urn require full analysis.

The animal bone

For most contexts the animal bone does not require further analysis.

The animal bone assemblage recovered from within the early Bronze Age cremation urn, although small, is an important assemblage in its own right, since very little animal bone has been recovered from contexts of this date within the Vale of Mowbray or indeed northern England as a whole. Radiocarbon dating of the cremation will enhance the value of this material even further. This assemblage requires full analysis.

The animal bone from a single pit context (1011) should undergo full analysis if a radiocarbon date is obtained which places it within any prehistoric period.

The environmental samples

Eight of the samples require full analysis in order both to provide information on resource exploitation and the local environment locally at several periods within the prehistoric era and also in order to expand the limited regional datasets for those periods. In addition, the wood charcoal from these samples requires analysis in order to provide information on the exploitation of woodland resources and, in the case of the samples from the cremation burial, to provide information on the selection of timber for pyre construction.

Radiocarbon dating

Eleven samples from potentially Mesolithic, Neolithic, Early Bronze Age and Iron Age contexts are considered to warrant radiocarbon dating.

- One sample in order to date a provisionally Mesolithic environmental assemblage
- One sample to provide a date for the activity associated with Peterborough Ware
- One sample to provide a date for the Grooved Ware assemblage
- One sample to provide a date for the double pit alignment
- Two samples in order to provide a date-range for the 'avenue' pits associated with the mini-henge
- One sample to provide a date for the early Bronze Age cremation
- One sample in order to provide a date for an animal bone assemblage of possible Neolithic or early Bronze Age date
- One sample in order to provide a date for the possible 'ritual' cremation burial
- One sample to provide a date for the 4-post structure associated with the square palisaded Iron Age enclosure
- One sample in order to provide a date for pottery and an environmental assemblage from an Iron Age pit

11 0 CONCLUSION

11 1 The excavations at Hollow Banks, Scorton have revealed the presence of a complex multi-period landscape to the north of the River Swale adjacent to Catterick Bridge

11 2 The identification of an extensive complex of 'ritual' and funerary monuments of later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age date within the site, together with rare evidence of Neolithic occupation, serves to provide a link between Scorton Cursus, located c 1.1 km to the north-east, and the henge site at Catterick Racecourse, located c 1.2 km to the south, suggesting that all of these monuments form part of a wider Neolithic 'ritual' landscape centred on the River Swale and paralleling those associated to the south around the River Ure, in the Midfield Basin in Northumberland and around Rudston on the Wolds. Full analysis of the results of excavation at Hollow Banks, in addition to adding detail to the sequence of activity within the site, would

have a wider value in helping to interpret this broader 'ritual' landscape. It could also be noted that 80% of the recognised henge sites in England to the north of the Humber all lie within 5km of a single line extending over a distance of some 220km northwards from Ferrybridge to Millfield North, this includes the Catterick and Hollow Banks sites (exceptions include the Mayburgh group of henges in Cumbria, and also Paddock Hill, Thwing and Maiden's Grave, Rudston forming a small group on the east Yorkshire Wolds), which could thus be seen as forming part of a much wider regional distribution.

- 11 3 The Iron Age features suggest settlement activity at Hollow Banks and adds to the local and regional distribution of such sites. It seems to have occurred in three spatially and morphologically discrete areas, suggesting several periods of activity. Further analysis of the site archive, combined with radiocarbon dates, a fuller analysis of the pottery and comparison with other sites, will allow this activity to be phased. This will provide evidence of the morphological development of settlement sites through the Iron Age. In addition, this phasing will be relevant to study of the poorly understood chronological development of the regional Iron Age pottery industries.
- 11 4 Recording of the later Iron Age and Romano-British features within this area within this area complements previous recording of the immediate hinterland of the Roman fort and town of *Cataractonium* both to the west of the site along the line of Dere Street and further to the north at Grange Farm, and augments the evidence for changing settlement and agricultural patterns attendant with imposition of the town into the late Iron Age landscape. The identification of a probably 2nd century palaeochannel of the River Swale 200m from the present channel and following a different alignment has considerable implications for our understanding of the layout and development of the Roman town which lay immediately upstream. Further analysis of the archive from the Romano-British features at Hollow Banks, notably the pottery assemblage, will thus be of value not just within the site but also towards interpretation of the wider area of *Cataractonium* and its hinterland.
- 11 5 The late Romano-British and early Anglian cemeteries excavated within the site are of particular importance, apparently demonstrating a continuation of use of the same place for burial with the Anglian burials apparently respecting the presence of the Roman group, and raising questions as to continuity of population during the Anglian influx and the ethnicity of the people interred in the Anglian cemetery. Although the cemeteries lie beyond the scope of this report, the record of the other, earlier, features within the site is of enhanced importance in that they provided the landscape context within which the 4th to 7th century cemeteries were located.
- 11 6 Recognition of evidence within the site of the change from the later Iron Age and early Romano-British field pattern to a later Romano-British pattern which apparently became the basis of the later Medieval system is of considerable interest, the continuation of elements of Romano-British

landscape layout into the medieval pattern has been recognised in a number of areas, but the mechanism is as yet poorly understood

- 11 7 The post-excavation assessment has established that the potential for further analysis of most parts of the stratigraphic archive and artefactual assemblage is considerable. Given the significance of the results of the excavation, further analysis of the site record and artefactual assemblage and preparation of a publication report will be required. The results of such a post-excavation programme would be of particular importance to the understanding not only of the Hollow Banks site but also to the wider archaeological landscape adjacent to the River Swale including the Scorton Cursus and *Cataractonium* Roman town

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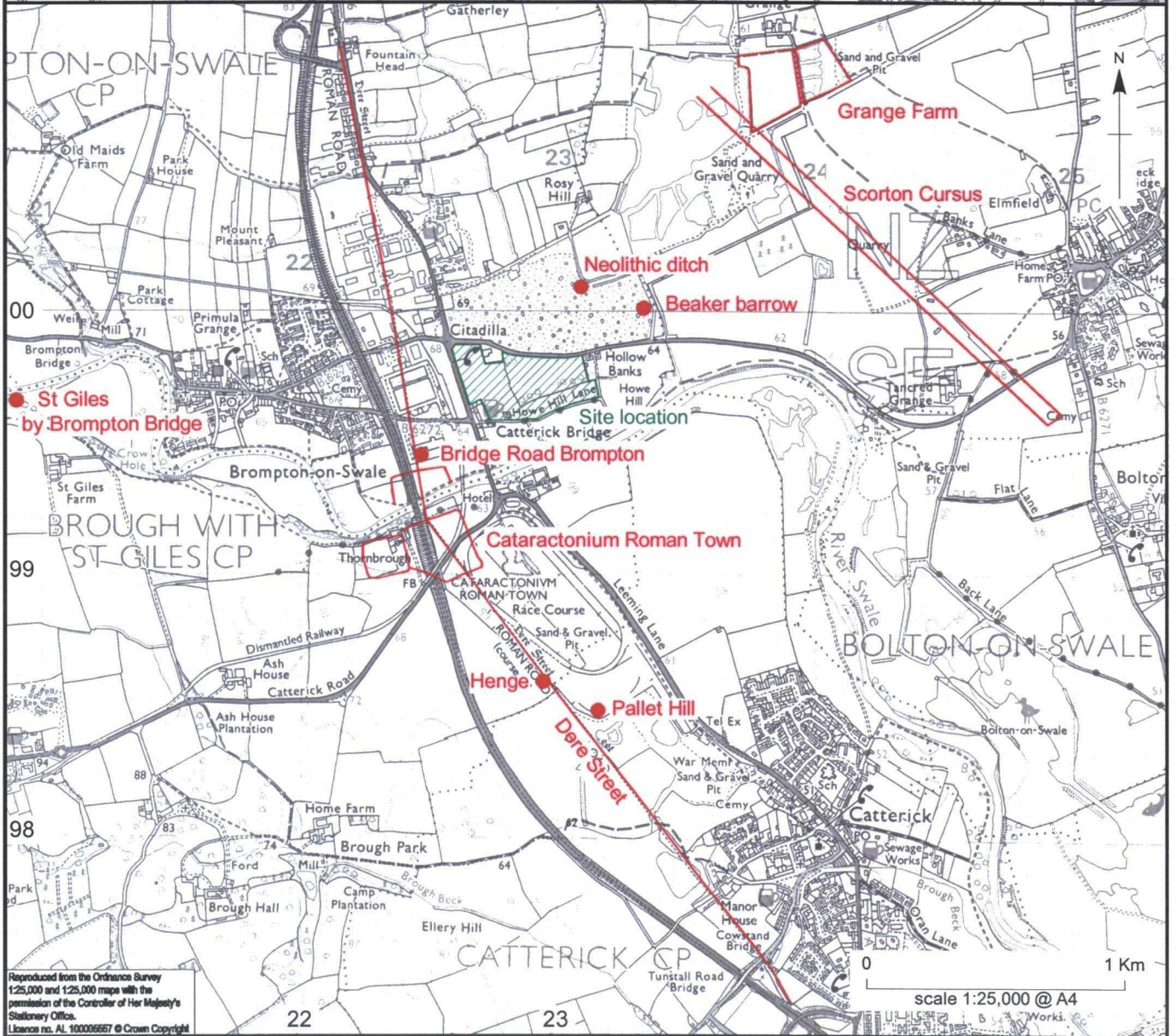
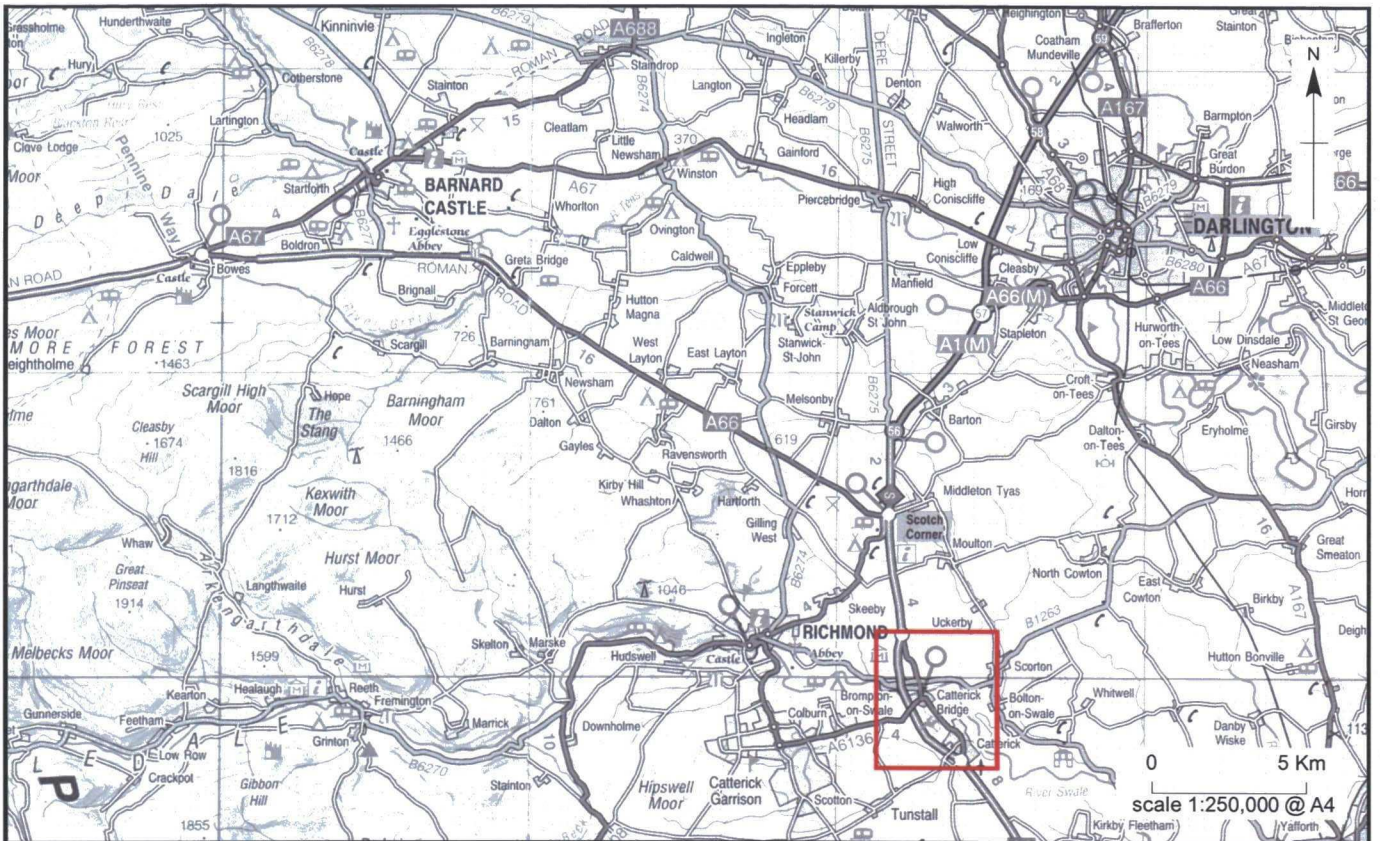


Figure 1 Hollow Banks, Scorton: site location and archaeological sites in the vicinity



Figure 2 Hollow Banks, Scorton: geophysical survey of Scorton quarry extension (after GeoQuest Associates)

Hollow Banks Scorton



Figure 3 Hollow Banks, Scorton: areas 2, 3 and 4 showing archaeological features