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**Croft Road
Finningley
South Yorkshire
SK 6780 9875
Archaeological Watching Brief Report - F1**

99/45/3501

February 2000
MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd.
01-11-99

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South Yorkshire
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Contents	Page
Figure List	2
Plate List	2
1. Introduction	3
2. Geology	3
3. Archaeological and Historical Background	3
4. Methodology	4
5. Results	4
6. Discussion	5
7. Conclusion	6
8. Bibliography	7
Appendices	
1. Context Listing	13
2. Finds Catalogue	14
3. Archive Catalogue	15
4. Photographic Catalogue	16

Figure List	Page
1. Location of site. Scale 1:10000.	8
2. Pit 1003, showing plan, section and location.	9
3. Archaeological find-spots and crop-marks in the vicinity of Croft Road. Scale 1:25000.	10

Plate List

1. South-western corner of site after topsoil stripping. Facing South-west.	11
2. Western area of site during topsoil stripping. Facing North.	11
3. Pit 1003. Facing East.	12
4. Fill Deposit 1004, Showing pottery <i>In Situ</i> . Facing South.	12

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1. Introduction

An Archaeological Watching Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at Croft Road, Finningley, South Yorkshire, during February 2000. The site lies within the apex of land formed by the junction of the A614 road to the west and Croft Road to the east. Immediately to the south of the site lies the existing Lafarge Redland Aggregate works (Fig. 1).

The work was undertaken on behalf of Yorkshire Building Supplies Ltd and involved the monitoring of topsoil stripping operations prior to the laying of a hardcore raft as a foundation for temporary works buildings. No deep excavations were undertaken.

All work has been funded by Yorkshire Building Supplies Ltd.

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2. Geology

The site lies on Wick Association 1 soils at a mean height of 5-6m AOD. These are deep well-drained coarse loamy soils overlying localised deposits of gravel (Mackney 1983).

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

A desktop survey prepared prior to development (MAP 1999) highlighted the fact that numerous Romano-British findspots, settlement sites and crop-marks have been located within the Finningley region. Of particular significance to the present works are

Romano-British metalwork and pottery found during the construction of the A614 road during the early 1950s.

4. Methodology

The monitored works consisted of topsoil stripping over an area measuring 1.4ha. All work was undertaken in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998). All excavations were carried out using a back-acting mechanical digger with a toothless bucket, the work being undertaken with full archaeological supervision. All archaeological contexts were recorded on *pro forma* context sheets and any associated finds were catalogued. Where appropriate plans and sections were drawn to a relevant scale. A photographic record was maintained using 35mm colour print plates.

5. Results

Excavations revealed a humic mid-grey topsoil deposit (context 1001) overlying the entire area of the site to a depth of 0.30m-0.50m. Immediately below this was a subsoil layer of mixed natural sands and gravels containing occasional discontinuous deposits of natural clay (context 1002, Pls. 1, 2). Within the south-west corner of the site and along the western boundary with the A614 road, the subsoil was undisturbed except for a series of thin, evenly-spaced parallel gouge marks caused by modern deep ploughing. Towards the south-east of the site and along the boundary with Croft Road there was increasing evidence of modern disturbance to the subsoil deposits, with modern scrap iron, glazed earthenware, transfer-printed pottery, brick, tyres and clinker becoming visible at the surface of the subsoil. It became clear that substantial areas towards the southeast of the site had been quarried and reinstated with a mixture of subsoils, topsoil and modern debris.

Due to the mixed nature of the subsoil deposits, no obvious cut or edge to the backfilled quarry was seen, but a conservative estimate would place the limit of the quarried portion to an area east of a north-south line running from a point 100m east of the A614 boundary (Fig. 2).

Only one archaeological feature was discovered during the Watching Brief, located 48m east of the A614 site boundary and 5m north of the southern boundary. This was a steep-sided, concave-bottomed pit cut of sub-oval plan, 2.10m long x 1.25m wide x 0.30m deep (context 1003, Fig. 2, Pl. 3). Pit 1003 was cut into the natural sand and gravel subsoil (context 1002) and was filled with a sandy deposit containing occasional discontinuous silty lenses (context 1004). Fill 1004 was found to contain several hundred sherds of Romano-British pottery dating to the Second Century AD (Appendix 2, Pl. 4), many of which were noticeably abraded and worn. Both the quantity and condition of the pottery suggest that the pit and fill represent a refuse deposit associated with an as yet unlocated settlement site. However, the possibility of the pit being associated with ceramic production cannot be excluded. No bone fragments or evidence of cremated bone were recovered from Pit 1003. No other archaeological features were found in association with Pit 1003.

6. Discussion

The substantial quantity of pottery recovered from Pit 1003 must be taken as conclusive evidence of Romano-British occupation in the vicinity of Croft Road and the area to the north of Finningley has long been associated with the manufacture of Roman pottery. However, the exact location of the settlement or industrial site remains elusive. It is possible that Pit 1003 is the sole surviving archaeological feature associated with a settlement located within the Croft Road site itself, all other evidence of which has been removed by the modern quarrying of the site. If this was the case then one might expect to have seen evidence of disturbed archaeological deposits, in the form of pottery or building debris, occurring within the quarry backfill. However, no conclusive evidence of Romano-British occupation other than Pit 1003 was found either in the quarry backfill or in the undisturbed areas of the site. Several heavily-abraded Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from the surface of deposit 1002 at a point approximately 30m north-east of Pit 1003. This location respects the direction of modern ploughing as evidenced by the gouge-marks visible in the surface of the subsoil and the likelihood is that the sherds were dragged from the surface of Fill 1004 by the plough.

A second hypothesis would place the settlement location outside the boundaries of the Croft Road site. This is entirely feasible given that the present field boundaries are of Post-medieval date and therefore do not necessarily reflect patterns of Romano-British settlement and agriculture. The location of Pit 1003, close to the A614 road and near to the southern boundary of the site, might suggest a settlement location either within the field immediately to the south of the site, or at a location to the west of the site on the other side of the A614 road.

The field to the south of the Croft Road site is known to have been quarried prior to the erection of the existing Lafarge Redland works and the survival of archaeological features within this area is therefore considered to be unlikely.

A find of Romano-British pottery has been recorded west of the A614 Road at SK 697 987 (MAP 1999, 6). This is approximately 200m south-west of pit 1003. A further find-spot of a Roman bronze bracelet and Third Century pottery is known at SK 675 982 (MAP 1999, 5). This location lies to the east of the A614 road in the vicinity of Pickle Wood, 500m south of the Croft Road site. Taken together, the find-spots and the discovery of Pit 1003 strongly suggest the presence of a Romano-British settlement to the south-west of the Croft Road site (Fig. 3).

An undated rectilinear enclosure has been identified from crop-marks at SK 683 990 (MAP 1999, 4) 500m north-east of the Croft Road site. Romano-British pottery sherds have also been located at SK 6793 9902 and SK 679 990, approximately 300m north-east of the site. These finds indicate a possible second Romano-British occupation site to the north-east of Croft Road (Fig. 3).

7. Conclusion

Whilst the results of the current Watching Brief were disappointing in that the exact location of Romano-British settlement sites in the Finningley area remains elusive, the discovery of Pit 1003 and the associated pottery assemblage has highlighted the archaeologically sensitive nature of the region and has provided further information regarding the extent and dating of Romano-British activity in the area.

8. Bibliography

- Mackney, D. 1983 Soils and Their Use in Northern England. Harpenden.
MAP 1999 Croft Road, Finningley, South Yorkshire: Desktop Study.

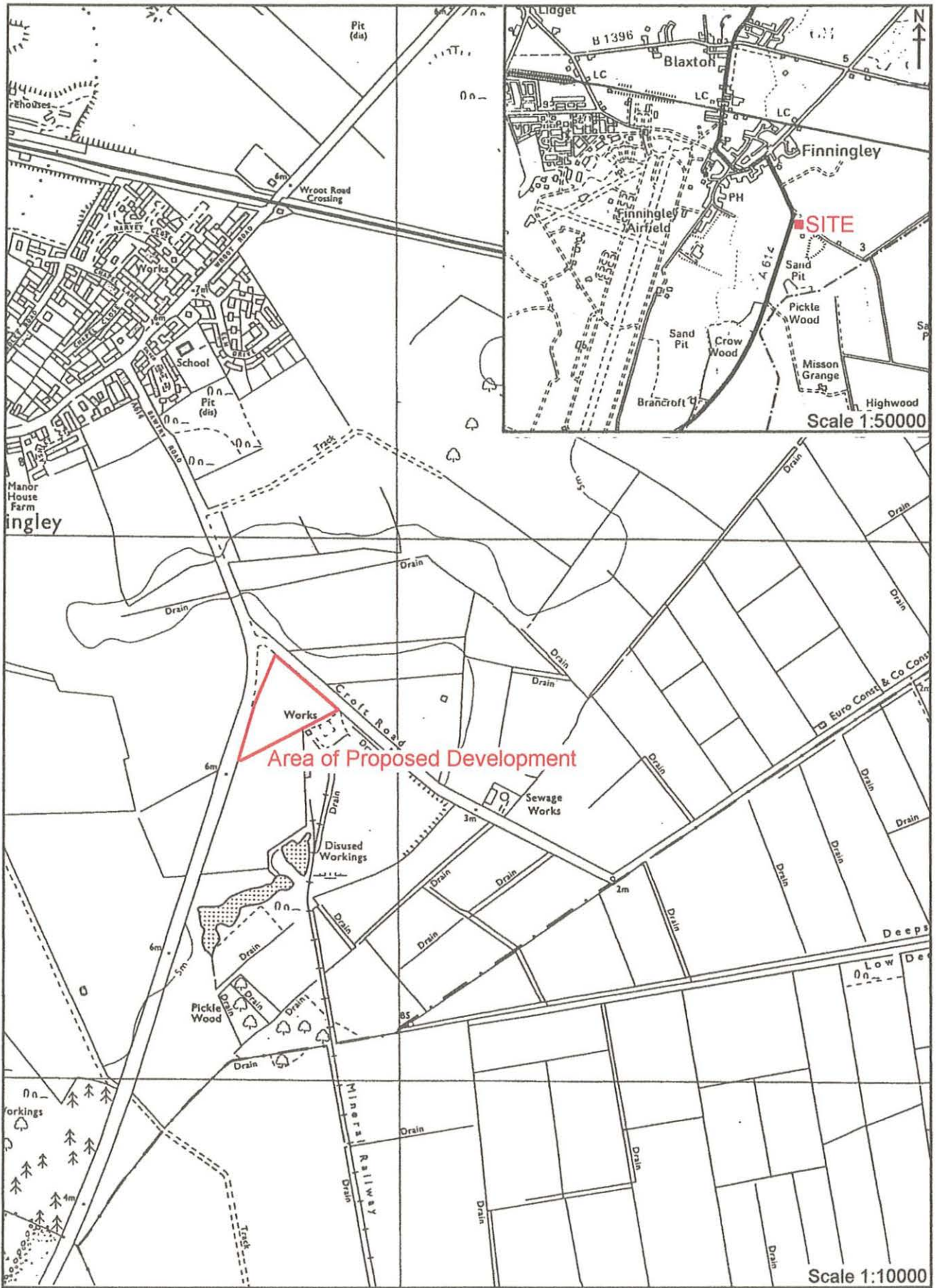


Figure 1. Site Location.

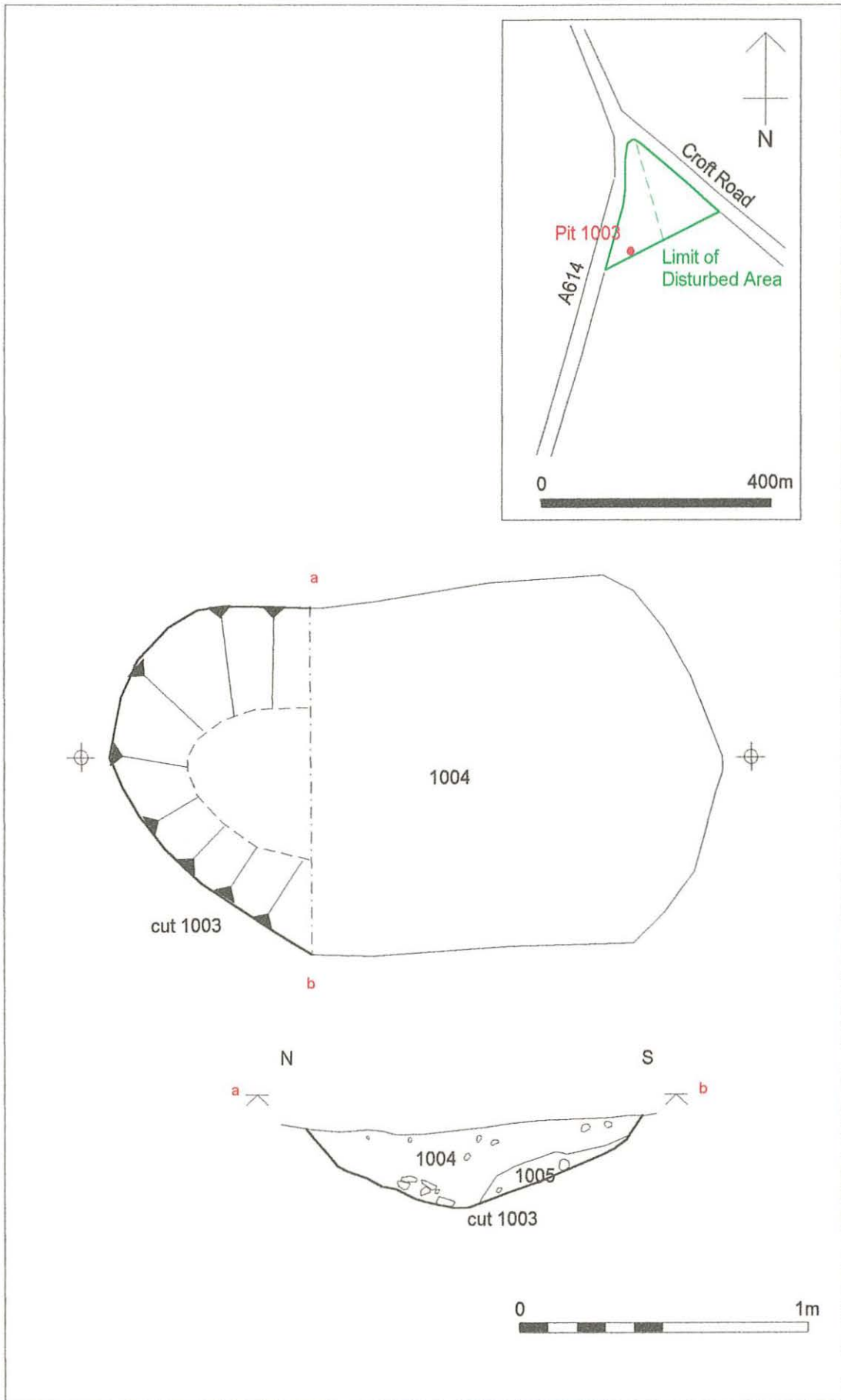


Figure 2. Pit 1003, showing plan, section and location.

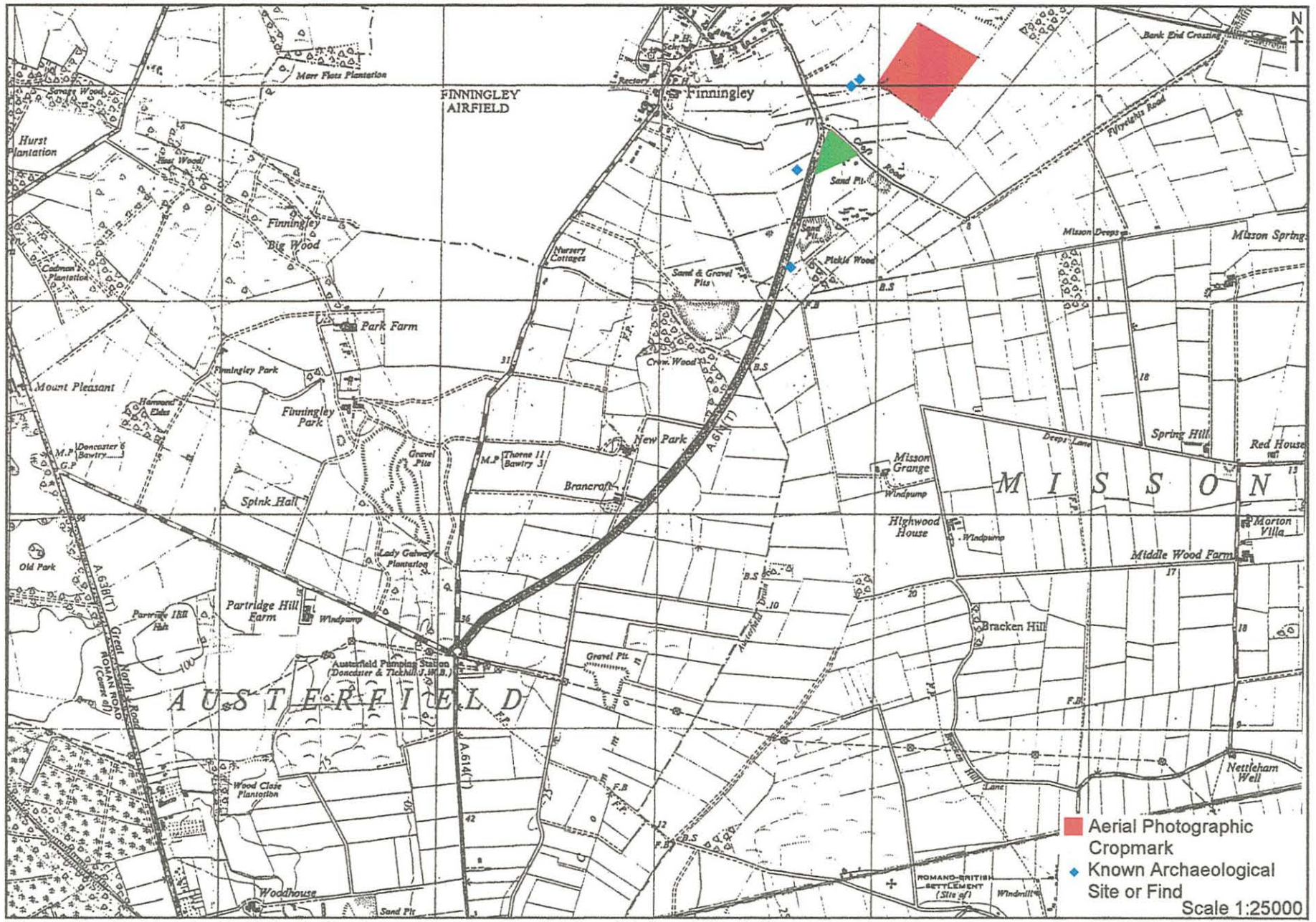


Figure 3. Archaeological Finds Spots and Cropmarks in the vicinity of Croft Road.



Plate 1. South-western corner of site after topsoil stripping. Facing South-west.



Plate 2. Western area of site during topsoil stripping. Facing North.

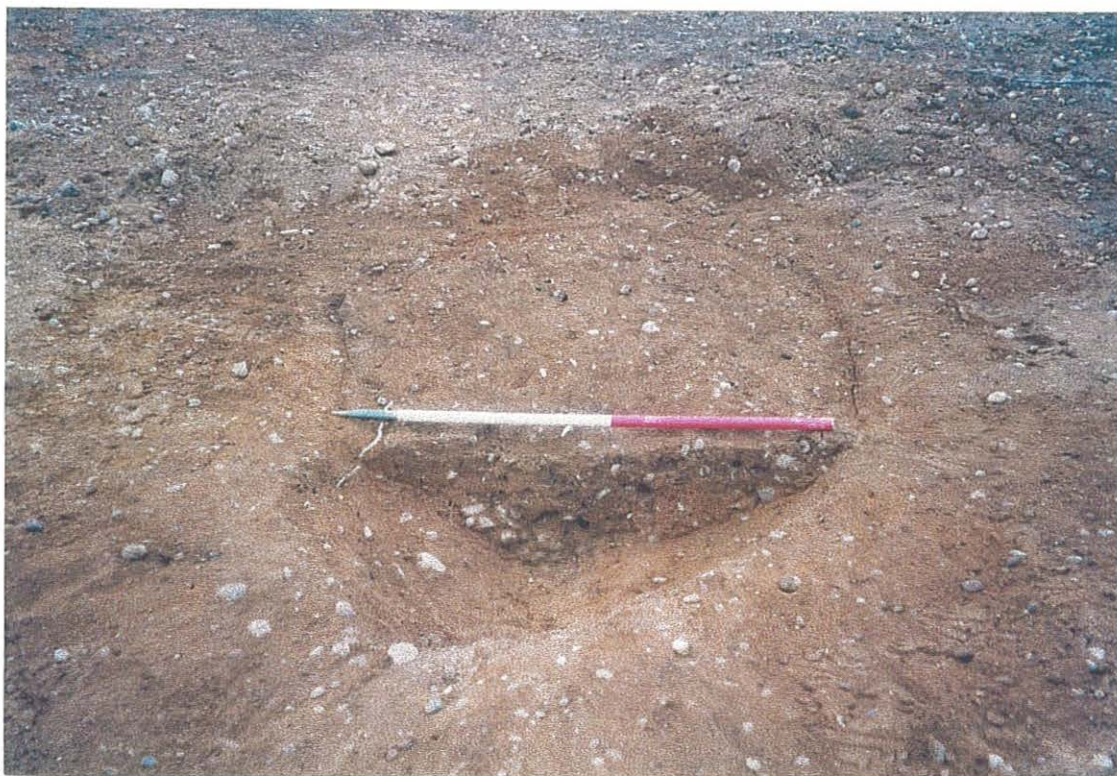


Plate 3. Pit 1003. Facing East



Plate 4. Fill Deposit 1004, Showing pottery *In Situ*. Facing South

Appendix 1

Context Listings

Context	Description
1001	Deposit; Loose sandy silt; Mid brown-grey; Topsoil/modern ploughsoil.
1002	Deposit; Loose silty sand, occ. deposits gravel, occ. deposits pebbles, occ. deposits natural clay; Mid yellow-orange; Natural subsoil.
1003	Cut; steep-sided convex-bottomed pit of sub-oval plan; 2.10m x 1.25m x 0.30m.
1004	Deposit; Loose sandy silt, sub-rounded pebbles <100mm @ 40%, occ. gravel, occ. lenses grey silt; Mid yellow-brown; Fill of cut 1003.
1005	Deposit; Loose silty sand, occ. deposits gravel; occ. deposits pebbles; Mid yellow-orange; slump deposit visible in section of cut 1003.

Appendix 2

Finds Catalogue

Context	Type	Description	Weight (Kg)	Spot Date
1002	Pottery	6 body sherds: Greyware	0.045	2nd-3rd Century
1002	Pottery	4 tile fragments	0.180	? Romano-British
1002	Pottery	3 body sherds: Earthenware	0.060	19th Century
1002	Pottery	1 body sherd: Whiteware	0.015	19th Century
1002	Pottery	? Ceramic electrical insulator	0.055	20th Century
1004	Pottery	1 handle sherd: Greyware	0.010	2nd Century
1004	Pottery	1 base sherd: Calcite Gritted	0.030	IA / Romano-British
1004	Pottery	6 base sherds: Greyware	0.505	2nd-3rd Century
1004	Pottery	4 rim sherds: Orangeware	0.028	Late 1st-2nd Century
1004	Pottery	36 rim sherds: Greyware	0.960	2nd Century
1004	Pottery	1 body sherd: Calcite Gritted	0.005	IA / Romano-British
1004	Pottery	43 body sherds: Greyware	0.665	2nd-3rd Century
1004	Pottery	12 body sherds: Orangeware	0.085	Late 1st-2nd Century
1004	Pottery	21 body sherds: Calcite Gritted	0.050	IA / Romano-British
1004	Pottery	182 body sherds: Greyware	0.820	2nd-3rd Century
1004	Pottery	1 rim sherd: Colour Coated	0.005	3rd Century
1004	Pottery	7 body sherds: Calcite Gritted	0.025	IA / Romano-British
1004	Pottery	1 base sherd : Greyware	0.010	2nd-3rd Century
1004	Pottery	4 rim sherds: Calcite Gritted	0.020	IA / Romano-British

N.B. Further detailed analysis of the pottery from context 1004 is currently in progress. The classification and dating of the assemblage may therefore be subject to future revision or amendment.

Appendix 3

Archive Catalogue

Context Record Type

- | | |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1001 | 1 x <i>Pro forma</i> record sheet. |
| 1002 | 1 x <i>Pro forma</i> record sheet. |
| 1003 | 1 x <i>Pro forma</i> record sheet. 1 plan @ 1:20 (drawing 1). 1 section @ 1:10 (drawing 2).
1 location plan @ 1:10000 (drawing 3). |
| 1004 | 1 x <i>Pro forma</i> record sheet. Deposit recorded in plan (drawing 1) and section (drawing 2). |
| 1005 | 1 x <i>Pro forma</i> record sheet. Deposit recorded in section (drawing 2). |

Appendix 4

Photographic Catalogue

Film No.	Frame No.	Context	Facing	Description
1	3	1002	E	Working shot- topsoil stripping
1	4	1002	E	Working shot- topsoil stripping
1	5	-	N	Modern borehole
1	6	1002	SE	Stripped area to S of site
1	7	1002	N	Topsoil stripping
1	8	-	-	Misfire
1	9	1002	N	Working shot- topsoil stripping
1	10	1002	E	Working shot- topsoil stripping
1	11	1004	E	1004 Showing pot visible at surface
1	12	1004	E	1004 Showing pot visible at surface
1	13	1004	S	1004 Showing pot visible at surface
1	14	1004	S	1004 Showing pot visible at surface
1	15	1004	N	1004 Showing pot visible at surface
1	16	1004	N	1004 showing pot visible at surface
1	17	1004	S	1004 showing pot visible at surface
1	18	1004	S	1004 showing pot visible at surface
1	19	1004	E	1004 showing pot visible at surface
1	20	1004	E	1004 showing pot visible at surface
1	21	1004	E	1004 showing pot visible at surface
1	22	1004	S	1004 showing pot visible at surface
1	23	1004	S	1004 showing pot visible at surface
1	24	1003, 1004	E	Pit 1003, Fill 1004 pre-ex.
1	25	1003, 1004	E	Pit 1003, Fill 1004 pre-ex.
1	26	1003, 1004	W	Pit 1003, Fill 1004 pre-ex.
1	27	1003, 1004	W	Pit 1003, Fill 1004 pre-ex.
1	28	1003, 1004	E	Pit 1003, Fill 1004 half-section.
1	29	1003, 1004	E	Pit 1003, Fill 1004 half-section.
1	30	-	E	View of field after completion of groundworks
1	31	-	N	View of field after completion of groundworks
1	32	-	S	View of field after completion of groundworks
1	33	-	NW	View of field after completion of groundworks
1	34	-	NW	View of field after completion of groundworks
1	35	-	W	View of field after completion of groundworks
1	36	-	S	SAGA quarry award plaque

**Croft Road
Finningley
South Yorkshire**
DRAFT
**Archaeological Watching Brief
Pottery Report**

**MAP 01-11-99
December 2000**

Watching Brief at Croft Road, Finningley, South Yorkshire

Pottery Report

A total of three hundred and thirty sherds of pottery were recovered during the Watching Brief at Croft Road, Finningley, South Yorkshire. A small number of sherds, ten including four modern pottery sherds, were recovered from the subsoil, Context 1002. Three hundred and twenty pottery sherds from Context 1004, the fill of small Pit 1003.

The pottery assemblage includes :-

7 base sherds:	1 Calcite Gritted ware, Iron Age/Romano-British 6 Greyware, 2nd -3rd century AD
38 rim sherds:	29 Greyware, various different forms, 2nd-3rd century AD (Fig. 2: a-c) 3 from the same vessel, Greyware, 2nd century AD (Fig. 2: d) 4 from the same vessel, Greyware, 2nd century AD (Fig. 2: e) 2 Orangeware, late 1st-2nd century AD (Fig. 2: f)
46 body sherds:	1 Calcite Gritted ware, Iron Age/Romano-British 43 Greyware, 2nd-3rd century AD 2 Orangeware, 2nd century AD
1 handle fragment:	Greyware dated to the 2nd century AD (Fig. 2: g)

The Pottery Industry in South Yorkshire was established from the Second to Fourth centuries AD. Most vessels are in a hard, moderate to dark grey fabric, tempered with varying amount of small quartz grits. The fabric cannot be attributed to any particular kiln. The Greyware assemblage is characterised by a variety of jars with outcurved rims. There is evidence of incised and scored decoration on some of the sherds. The vessels were wheel made or hand finished on a slow wheel or palette. Some of the sherds are possibly wasters and others were heavily abraded.

One vessel, a jar, was in a sandy orange-red oxidised fabric, Orangeware. This vessel was very abraded.

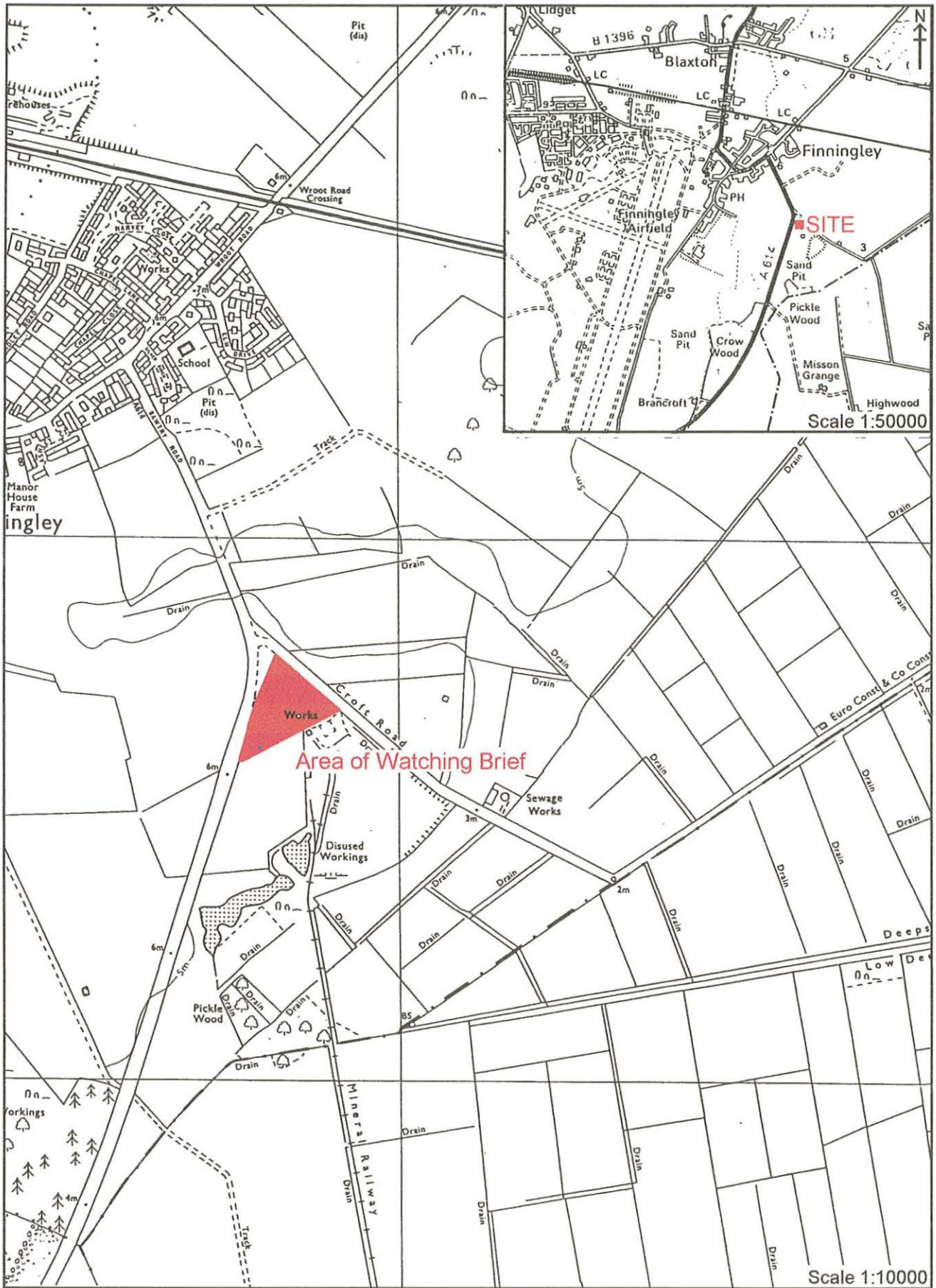


Figure 1. Site Location.

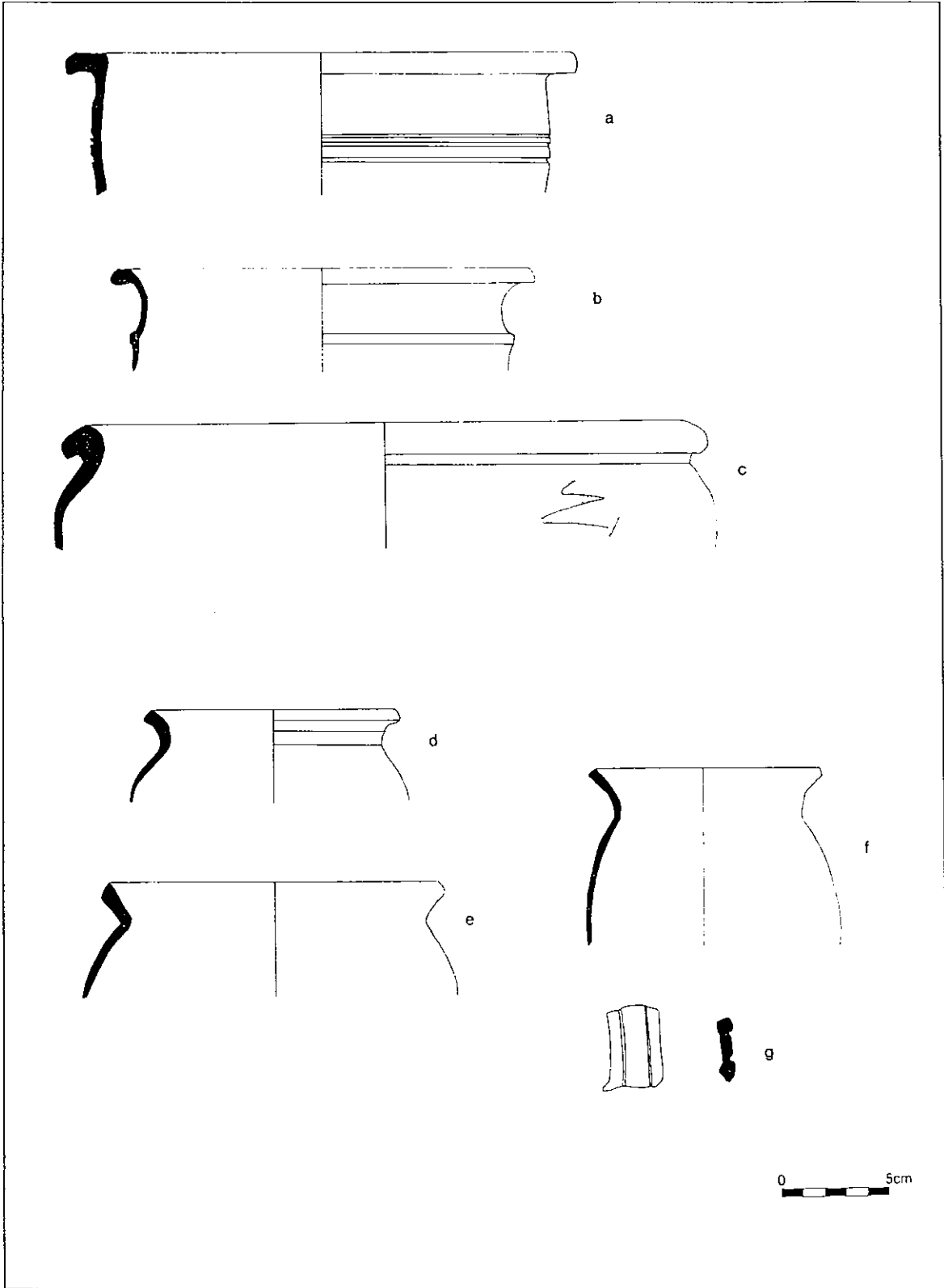
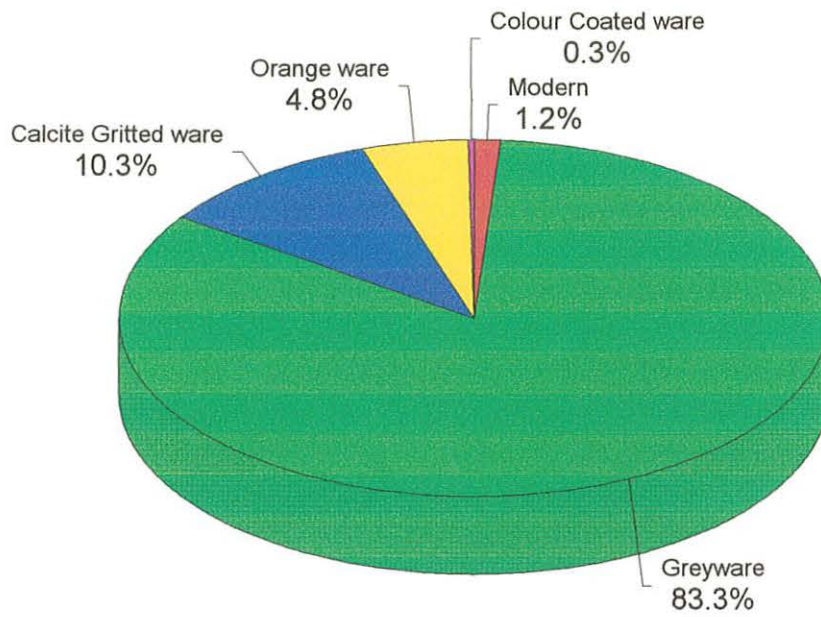


Figure 2. Greyware and Orangeware Pottery Vessels.

Croft Road, Finningley

Pottery Distribution by sherd number



Croft Road. Finningley

Pottery Distribution by Weight

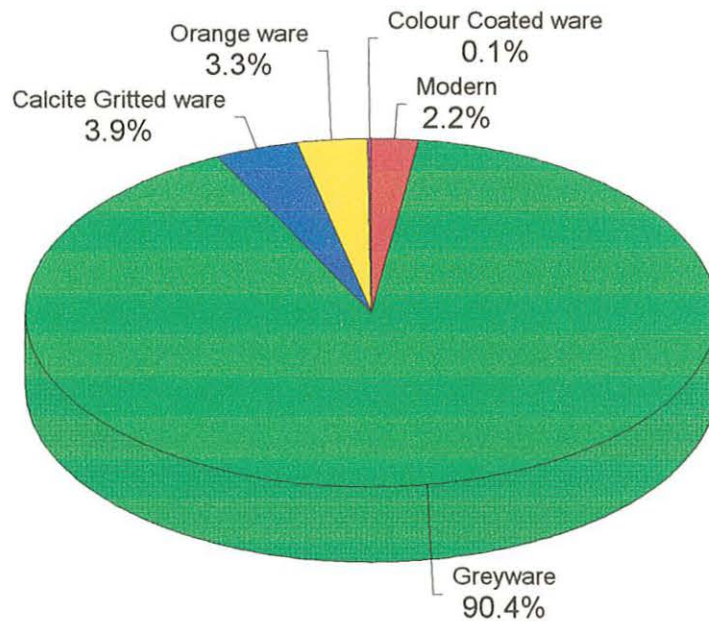


Figure 3. Pottery Distribution by Sherd Number and by Weight.

APPENDIX 1

Pottery Catalogue

Context	No of sherds	Description	Type	Weight (kg)	Spot Date
1002	3	Body sherds	Earthenware	0.06	19th century
1002	1	Body sherd	White Glazed ware	0.015	19th century
Total	4			0.075	

Context	No of sherds	Description	Type	Weight (kg)	Spot Date
1002	6	Body sherds	Greyware	0.045	2nd-3rd century
1004	1	Handle fragment	Greyware	0.01	2nd century
1004	7	Base sherds	Greyware	0.515	2nd-3rd century
1004	36	Rim sherds	Greyware	0.96	2nd century
1004	225	Body sherds	Greyware	1.485	2nd-3rd century
Total	275			3.015	

Context	No of sherds	Description	Type	Weight (kg)	Spot Date
1004	4	Rim sherds	Orangeware	0.025	Late 1st-2nd century
1004	12	Body sherds	Orangeware	0.085	Late 1st-2nd century
Total	16			0.11	

Context	No of sherds	Description	Type	Weight (kg)	Spot Date
1004	1	Rim Sherd	Colour Coated ware	0.005	3rd century
Total	1			0.005	

Context	No of sherds	Description	Type	Weight (kg)	Spot Date
1004	1	Base sherd	Calcite Gritted ware	0.03	Iron Age/Romano-British
1004	4	Rim sherds	Calcite Gritted ware	0.02	Iron Age/Romano-British
1004	29	Body sherd	Calcite Gritted ware	0.08	Iron Age/Romano-British
Total	34			0.13	