# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL APRIL 2002

# EXCAVATION OF AN IRON AGE AND ROMAN LANDSCAPE AT RED HOUSE, ADWICK LE STREET, DONCASTER SOUTH YORKSHIRE

2000-2001

ASSESSMENT REPORT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

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#### EXCAVATION OF AN IRON AGE AND ROMAN LANDSCAPE AT

## RED HOUSE, ADWICK LE STREET, DONCASTER

#### **SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

#### 2000-2001

#### ASSESSMENT REPORT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

#### Abstract

Between May 2000 and November 2001 a series of open area excavations and a watching brief were carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology on a triangle of land which was to be developed to the west of Adwick Le Street, South Yorkshire. The work was conducted in four stages between May 2000 and November 2001. The first two comprised the excavation of an Iron Age farmstead and a Roman road. The third and fourth stages comprised further excavation and watching brief.

The elements of the landscape investigated include at least two Iron Age and Roman farmsteads (Areas 7 and 1), while three other enclosures had features such as pits, postholes and gullies that may be related to settlement (Areas 2, 12 and 15). Parts of a more extensive field system have also been recorded. Other works included two sections through a Roman road, which cut across the site north to south. Beneath the road were a series of earlier underlying plough marks.

The quantities of bone, botanical remains and small finds are small and may only be of limited use for reconstructing the subsistence economy and social organisation of the people who inhabited the area. However, there is a comparatively large pottery assemblage of both Iron Age and Roman date, which after further study will refine the chronology of settlement and land use and allow comparison with similar sites in the surrounding areas. The detailed study of the stratigraphic data sets combined with aerial photographs, SMR record and historic maps will allow the formulation of a detailed picture of past landscape use.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 BACKGROUND

Red House is situated 5 miles to the north-west of Doncaster, in a triangle of land bounded to the west by the A1M, to the south by Longlands Lane and to the east by Adwick le Street. The site is centred upon NGR SE 524 085 (Fig 1). Previous work on the area has demonstrated that the site was occupied by a series of enclosures set within the remains of a field system and its associated trackways. It is suggested that these enclosures date to the Iron Age and/or the Roman periods. A Roman Road (SAM SY1179) aligned north-south across the development area, was inserted into and over the late Iron Age landscape and perhaps led to the re-alignment of some of the ditches. The road also known as the Roman Ridge survives as a standing monument and forms the principal routeway linking Doncaster to York, via Castleford and Tadcaster.

The excavations were commissioned by Babtie Group on behalf of Teesland Management Services Ltd, who were granted planning consent for the construction of a retail park within the triangular area. The planning permission contained a condition for the archaeological evaluation and the monitoring of topsoil stripping associated with the development. Babtie Group, on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultancy (JSAC), agreed a scheme of works with South Yorkshire Archaeological Service (SYAS) in November 1998, revised June 2000. Within the scheme there was provision for evaluation by excavation in addition to the watching brief.

#### 1.2 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The site lies on a valley side that slopes from approximately 35m aOD in the north-east corner of the site to approximately 50m aOD in the south. The geology has been classified as Upper Magnesium Limestone, with areas of colluvial soils, red clay and Middle Permian Marl (British Geological Survey Sheet 87), the latter produced by Permian faulting forming scarps within the countryside (Chadwick 1999). The limestone was found to be variable across the site in both its thickness and consistency, ranging from solid horizontal strata to decayed, fragmented beds.

#### 1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The South Yorkshire County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) has recorded a number of archaeological sites, stray finds and general observations from the Redhouse, Adwick Le Street area. These are listed in Tables 1 and 2; the former refers to sites within 9sq km of the site (Fig 2), while the latter encompasses a wider area.

The wealth of cropmarks in the immediate vicinity of the site predominately represent a pattern of late Iron Age – Romano British farmsteads, enclosures and related field systems which appear to form a broad band aligned roughly east-west. The cropmarks appear to be located on the south side of the Old Ea Beck valley towards the village of Hooton Pagnell. The cropmarks include an enclosure SMR 517, which is situated within the northern part of the development area (Fig 4). Further to the north of Adwick Le Street, around the villages of Campsall and Burghwallis, a further extensive series of cropmarks of Iron Age and Roman date are known.

The present development site at Red House has its origin at this time, with dispersed late Iron Age and Roman occupation defined by elements of small farmsteads with associated field systems.

SMR No.	Km sq	NGR (SE)	DETAILS
41		515 086	Cropmark subrectangular enclosure with subdivisions in northwest corner
42		516 090	Rectilinear cropmark enclosure, probably of Iron Age/Romano British date
60		535 092	IA/RB or earlier cropmark – Large circular ditch (Barrow ?), probable trackway and field system
517		523 092	IA/RB cropmark – small rectilinear enclosure
652		5308	Bronze Age bronze "palstone" (Palstave ?)
655		523 099	Roman coin – silver denarius of Julius Ceasar
656		531 087	4 Romano-British graves, 1 possible cremation with two pots and possible occupation site (RB sherds in grave fill)
1036		511 076	Reference in YAJ 47 need more info
1040		5308	Roman coin
1221		5209	Antiquarian report of casque of a Roman helmet discovered at Redhouse
1256		535 083	Roman coin – Antonianus of Tetricus
1294		528 073	Bronze Age accessory vessel from colliery
1298		520 085	Topstone of beehive quern
2444		515 081	Stone axe found south-west of Windy Mount Farm, Frodingham
2509		515 097	IA/RB cropmark
2510		520 093	IA/RB cropmark
2691		536 090	IA/RB cropmark
4027		513 092	IA/RB cropmark – irregular rectilinear enclosure

T1 Archaeological sites within 9km square vicinity of Redhouse, Adwick Le Street (see Fig 2)

SMR No	Km sq	NGR (SE)	DETAILS
31		509 094	2 rectilinear cropmark enclosures (Iron Age/ ? Romano-British
40		510 075	Cropmarks of old field boundaries and a road recently in use
43		518 094	Rectilinear cropmark enclosure, probably of Iron Age/Romano British date
44		515 100	IA/RB cropmarks rectilinear field boundaries
61		541 063	IA/RB cropmarks – rectilinear enclosures, possible lane, with much frost cracking
62		542 065	IA/RB cropmarks – large enclosure with 3 straight and I curved sides and a probable annexe. Roman silver sestertius coin of Hadrian found
63		545 065	IA/RB cropmarks – 2 subrectangular enclosures and a possible track
389	54 07		Medieval cross
390	50 07		Brodsworth Medieval Hall
413	50 10		St. Mary's Hampole (Medieval)
554		529 106	Roman coin hoard
559		528 108	Roman coin (3 <sup>rd</sup> century)
654			Unspecified RB finds in "trenches" east of Hampole
1018	53 06		Roman road (SAM)
1039		506 077	Roman coin – Antonianus (late 3 <sup>rd</sup> century)
1202			Roman coin of Constantine 1, AD322
1255		52 07	Pygmy vessel- collared urn found "on the Roman road between Woodlands and Brodsworth"
1292		5007	Various flints found "in Brodsworth Wood", including axe and adze heads
1295		502 086	Neolithic/Bronze Age flints found south of Hampole Wood
1297		5007	RB pottery "from Brodsworth Wood"
1816		539 108	Roman coin (3 <sup>rd</sup> century)
2219	54 08		18 <sup>th</sup> century watermill
2440		5100 0745	Roman pottery – 1 greyware rim, 3 tile fragments
2441		5341 0695	Roman coin – Antoninus of Valerian 1 (AD253-260)
2877		542 060	Roman coin (AE sestertius of Hadrian)
2881			Shrunken medieval village
2905			Possible shrunken medieval village (Hampole)
3020		534 067	IA/RB enclosures, field boundaries and trackways at Pickburn Leys – excavation site
3039		523 095	Roman road (SAM 1179a) – archaeological excavation

SMR No	Km sq	NGR (SE)	DETAILS
3959			Recent House
4001		545 107	Cropmark, rectilinear field boundaries
4020		510 077	2 IA/RB cropmark enclosures and unidentified features- domestic site?
4051		510 086	Unidentified cropmarks
4052		502 071	Cropmark enclosure and RB pottery
4432	53 07		Colliery village
4501			Abbey House – no archaeology found in evaluation

## T2 Archaeological sites within an 18km square vicinity of Redhouse, Adwick Le Street

#### 1.4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

Several phases of evaluation have been undertaken on the site prior to development and the current programme of investigation. The first of these was by trial excavation carried out across the Roman road by West Yorkshire Archaeology Service in November 1995 (WYAS 1995). Further work includes geophysical survey undertaken by Badcock and Merrony for ARCUS during December 1995 over an area of 10.72ha (Fig 3) and trial excavation by Northern Archaeological Associates in September and October 1996 (NAA 1996). The latter comprised a series of trial trenches targeting areas observed as crop marks and geophysical anomalies within the wider landscape.

#### 1.5 CURRENT WORK

The work was conducted in four stages. The first and second stages, undertaken between May-September 2000, involved the excavation of an Iron Age farmstead (Area 7) in the north-east part of the development area and a section through the Roman road. The third and fourth stages were undertaken in response to a geophysical survey, carried out during September 2000 (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2001) (Fig 3), which, highlighted the principal areas for further archaeological investigation. The third stage, undertaken between November 2000 and February 2001 involved an intensive watching brief and the fourth stage, comprised a programme of Area excavation (Areas 2, 8, 12 and 17, Fig 4) in the summer of 2001.

#### 1.6 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The broadly stated objectives for the first and second stages of fieldwork, the Iron Age farmstead (Area 7) and the Roman Road were to,

- ❖ Determine whether the relevant linear features identified by geophysical survey do in fact form an enclosure.
- ❖ Investigate and record the enclosure features to confirm their character and date.
- Determine as far as possible the relationship of the farmstead to the surrounding landscape.
- ❖ Determine the presence or absence of internal features or other features not visible on the geophysical survey.
- **Stablish** the nature and date of activity within the enclosure.
- Create a detailed phasing for the site and establish if possible an absolute dating sequence.
- Seek evidence for the agricultural/economic/environmental background to the site.
- ❖ Interpret the results of the excavation in relationship to the wider archaeological evidence for the period.
- ❖ Examine the construction and usage of the Roman road
- ❖ Examine any pre-road levels in particular buried soils

The objective for the third stage of work, the watching brief, as outlined in the specification (JSAC 2001) was to:

Preserve by record the components of the archaeological landscape within the development area, by means of excavation and watching brief.

The objectives for the fourth and final stage of fieldwork, the intensive watching brief / area excavations (Areas 1, 2, 8, 12 and 17) were to:

- Identify and evaluate the potentially significant archaeological features and to preserve them by record.
- ❖ Identify the potential to provide evidence for later Iron Age settlement.

These objectives were to be achieved through watching brief and intensive watching brief and area excavation of the five designated areas, with selective sampling of all features encountered, as set out in the specification (JSAC 2001).

Throughout the watching brief the topsoil horizon was removed by either box scrapers or 360° excavator using a toothless bucket, all under archaeological supervision.

Any features, where present, were sampled in accordance with the specification, which specified the minimum sampling levels of 50% for each pit or post hole, and between 5 and

20% of each linear feature, dependent on whether it represented elements of an agricultural field system or a settlement enclosure ditch.

The same sampling strategy was used for the open area excavations (see Fig 2, Areas 1, 2, 8, 12 and 17). These areas were cleared exclusively with 360° excavators using toothless buckets under direct archaeological supervision. All of the areas were then fully excavated following the strategy set out in the specification, with the exception of Area 1 which, after consultation between the contractor and SYAS, was covered with geo-textile membrane and back filled with topsoil.

#### 2 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

## 2.1 STAGE 1 AREA 7, THE IRON AGE FARMSTEAD: (FIG 5)

This revealed elements of ditch identified from geophysical survey (Fig 4). Hand dug sections revealed deep ditches cut into the rock to form the north, south and west sides of an enclosure, whose eastern extent was not available for examination. The interior of the enclosure contained isolated postholes denoting probable structures and a series of ditched sub-divisions which may have been related to specific agricultural activities. At least one of the dividing ditches appeared to post-date one of the structures, but with the exception of a few instances, horizontal stratigraphy survived rarely owing to the shallow rendzina soil cover and later penetration by deep ploughing.

The enclosure clearly remained in use into the Roman period. A brooch dateable to the second half of the first century was well stratified within the ditch fills. However, the upper levels of the enclosure ditch appear to comprise deliberate infilling deposits which suggests that the farmstead was levelled. The overall impression of the enclosure was of zones of activity, which presumably reflects the agricultural regime, being practised. The excavation and the geophysical survey demonstrated that the farmstead sat within a broader agricultural landscape.

Evidence for quarrying was discovered within the interior of the enclosure. Dateable objects from the quarry pits ranged from residual flints to Roman material and stray medieval pottery sherds, but the majority were undated. It cannot be ascertained therefore if the quarry pits formed a single contemporary act, presumably of medieval or later date, or if they represent intermittent activity spread over many years.

## 2.2 STAGE 2 ROMAN ROAD, (FIG 4)

The Roman road was sectioned at two points by machine and the sections recorded. Initial machining was conducted to the upper surface of the buried soil, which was then hand

cleaned and removed. From the two sections it was evident that the road changed in subtle ways over the 30m length so a decision was made to expand both sections by 5m rather than concentrate on a single 10m section, which may or may not have been typical. No Roman surfacing survived, the upper part having been worn when the route was still open to vehicular traffic earlier this century. The recent re-surfacing of the road overlay the substantial bank of construction material comprising the raised ridge, or agger, of the Roman road. A buried soil horizon, which preserved traces of earlier plough scars and possible field ditches, in addition to evidence for ground preparation associated with the road's construction, was sealed by the Roman road.

#### 2.3 STAGE 3 WATCHING BRIEF (FIG 6)

Observation during removal of a section of the Roman road between the two excavated sections described above, noted further evidence for prehistoric ploughing, in addition to the continuation of a boundary ditch located beneath the Roman Road during the stage 2 investigation. Two further sections of this ditch were probably recorded to the east of the Roman road and within the Iron Age farmstead of Area 7.

Evidence for part of a Roman field system and possible trackway was recorded in three separate areas to the west of the Roman Road. Parallel double ditches, representing a probable trackway or droveway, formed part of the southern side of a cropmark complex (SMR 517). The principal focus of activity was located towards the western edge of the development area, approximately 40m to the east of the A1M. It would seem to have formed part of a Roman field system, possibly an enclosure with a small number of associated pits all containing ceramics dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Two of the pits are of particular interest, in that one contained an articulated dog burial and the other was clay and stone lined. The latter containing in its lining the broken top stone from a rotary quern. Immediately to the east of this focus of activity and west of the Roman Road, a pair of parallel ditches containing Roman pottery was recorded.

#### 2.4 STAGE 4 AREAS 1, 2, 8, 12 AND 17, (FIGURES 4, 7-11)

Initially five areas were to be cleared exclusively with 360° excavators using toothless buckets under direct archaeological supervision. The areas were then to be fully excavated following the strategy set out in the specification. However, due to a change in the development strategy and after consultation between the contractor and SYAS, Area 1, (Figure 7) was only planned and not excavated. The site was subsequently covered with a geo-textile membrane before being back filled with topsoil.

## 2.4.1 Area 1 (Fig 7)

This area was situated to the west of the Roman Road and to the south east of Area 2. It comprised a block of land measuring 120m east west by 80m north-south and contained a number of features including two parallel but sinuous ditches, forming part of an enclosure to the east. Other features included pits, post holes and a series of sub-rectangular features, which had the appearance of graves. Although the site was left unexcavated the morphology of the visible features suggests that they represent late Iron Age to early Roman settlement.

## 2.4.2 Area 2 (Fig 8)

This area was situated to the west of the Roman Road and to the south of Area 8 and encompassed a block of land measuring 120m east-west by 110m north-south. It contained a series of linear and curvilinear ditches with the principal feature being a small oval-shaped enclosure set within an associated field system. The enclosure measured c.24m east-west internally and 36m north-south and encompassed an area of approximately 0.06ha. Although there was no obvious indication of an entrance, the enclosure was effectively divided it into two similar sized parcels by an east-west ditch.

The northern half contained several shallow pits and gullies which probably relate to habitation. Occupation debris was confined to the northern arm of the enclosure ditch, while the southern ditch fills were sterile which suggests that this area was utilised for stock retention. A similar pattern has been identified elsewhere in the region (Chadwick 1999). One of the internal gullies links to an external crescent-shaped ditch which, may have been constructed to enhance the northern side of the enclosure. Pottery evidence suggests that the enclosure and field system were in use from the late Iron Age through to the 2<sup>nd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. A wall, or possibly the footprint of a drain, set into the upper fill of the western part of the enclosure ditch was clearly constructed after the enclosure had ceased to function as a landscape unit but remains undated.

## 2.4.3 Area 8 (Fig 9)

This area, situated to the west of the Roman Road and to the south of Area 12, comprised an irregular block of land measuring 55m east-west by 50m north-south. It contained two ditches, which appear to form a funnel-shaped entrance/exit to a larger D-shaped enclosure, identified by geophysical survey in Areas 8 and 10 (Fig3), suggesting that the enclosure was used for stock control. The ditches contained pottery dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period.

## 2.4.3 Area 12 (Fig 10)

This area was situated to the west of the Roman Road and to the south of the watching brief areas noted above. It comprised a block of land measuring 100m east-west by 70m north-south and contained a sinuous north-west to south-east aligned ditch and a contemporary sub-square enclosure, both dating to the late Iron Age / early Roman period. The enclosure measured internally c.35m square and enclosed an area of approximately 0.12ha. An entrance was recovered from the western side of the enclosure and three undated sub-rectangular pits were recovered from its northern side. However, apart from the pits there was no additional evidence to suggest a domestic use of the enclosure. An articulated sheep burial discovered within a shallow pit was probably post-medieval in date.

## 2.4.5 Area 17 (Fig 11)

Area 17 was situated to the east of the Roman Road, to the south of the Iron Age farmstead, and encompassed a block of land measuring 80m east-west by 60m north-south. Part of a sub-rectangular enclosure, with an entrance to the north-west, forming part of a larger field system was recorded. No function could be assigned to two small pits within the enclosure. This enclosure clearly formed part of the field system associated with the Iron Age farmstead (Area 7) to the north. No dating evidence was recovered from the primary fills of the ditch but pottery sherds from a single Black Burnished Ware vessel, recovered from the latest infilling of the ditches indicates that this enclosure did not go out of use until sometime between the 2<sup>nd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD.

# 3. QUANTIFICATION OF RECORDS

## 3.1 AREA 7 AND ROMAN ROAD

The excavation of the Iron Age farmstead Area 7 and the Roman road, produced the following records:

Record Type	Quantity
Contexts	567
Sections	138
Plans	34
Photographs	435 monochrome prints / 474 slides

# T3 Records from Area 7 and the Roman Road

The excavation of the Iron Age farmstead Area 7 and the Roman road produced the following finds and samples:

Material	Quantity
Flints	2 pieces
Pottery (Iron Age)	328 sherds (1323g)
Pottery (Iron Age/Roman)	57 sherds (200g)
Pottery (Roman)	44 sherds (221g)
Pottery (Post Roman)	17 sherds (242g)
Slag	267g
Bone	2 boxes, 5002g
Burnt bone	14g
Clay pipe	15g
Shell	198g
Coal	98g
Burnt clay	6g
Small finds	28 items
Samples	168

# T4 Finds and Samples from Area 7 and the Roman Road

## 3.2 WATCHING BRIEF AND AREAS 2, 8, 12 AND 17

The watching brief and the area excavations produced the following records:

Record Type	Quantity
Contexts	282
Sections	144
Plans	40
Photographs	10 monochrome films / 10 slide films

## T5 Records produced from the Watching brief and area excavations

The watching brief and the area excavations produced the following finds and samples:

Material	Quantity
Pottery	1 box, 920 sherds, 5.44kg
Small finds	28 items
Bone	2 boxes, 7.069 kg
Samples	27 (where possible 20 litre samples were taken)

## T6 Finds and Samples from the Watching Brief and area excavations

## 4. THE FINDS

## 4.1 POTTERY, AREA 7 AND ROAD

## 4.1.1 Introduction

The pottery assemblage consisted of 451 sherds of pottery weighing two kilograms and representing a maximum of 444 vessels. The material can be split into two groups; late Iron Age / Romano-British and medieval / post medieval. The details of the pottery and the quantification of the sherds are summarised in Appendix 1. The assistance of Paul Buckland, Ruth Leary and David Knight in the preparation of this report is gratefully acknowledged.

## 4.1.2 The late Iron Age and Roman pottery

The pottery assemblage from this area is of considerable importance in the context of the later prehistoric and Roman settlement of South Yorkshire. As has been extensively discussed (Chadwick 1997, 1999, Robbins 1999, Cumberpatch 1997, 1998a, 1998b, Cumberpatch and Robbins, unpublished, Bevan 2000), pottery is an extremely rare find on Iron Age sites within the county and beyond. Material recovered from excavation is normally limited to a few sherds of Romano-British types, typically found in the upper fills of ditches (Chadwick 1997, 1999). Only one other site, Pickburn Leys (SMR 3020) has

produced a comparable group of material (Sydes 1993), although small sherds of apparently locally made pottery were recovered from excavations at Church Field Rossington and Nutwell Lane Armthorpe (Cumberpatch unpublished 1 and 2, Cumberpatch 1998a, 1998b) and from Sutton Common (Cumberpatch 1997). In general however it seems that the later prehistoric period in South Yorkshire, the northern part of Nottinghamshire, parts of West Yorkshire and Derbyshire was largely aceramic, with significant pottery use beginning shortly after the Roman conquest of the are. The context and significance of this change in behaviour remains to be investigated and explained (Robbins 1997).

The dating of the Romano-British pottery is relatively well understood, although the longevity of production of a range of standardised forms at the various potteries around Doncaster means that the chronological resolution is extremely limited (Buckland pers. comm., Leary 1987: 45). The dating of the Iron Age pottery is less clear, but it seems that pottery manufacture in the Iron Age tradition continued into the Roman period and the presence of Scorched ware and other shell tempered wares cannot be taken as unequivocal evidence of an early (pre-Roman) date for the deposits. Indeed it is hazardous to argue from negative evidence, it might be suggested that the apparent strength of the accramic tradition in South Yorkshire suggests a later, post-Conquest date for the pots from Redhouse Farm, comparable with that established at Scrooby Top in north Nottinghamshire (Robbins 1997). On balance it would seem that the pottery indicates activity on the site from the later 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD onwards, although the probability of earlier accramic activity on the site cannot be ruled out as it appears to have been the norm throughout the area.

#### 4.1.3 Medieval and post-medieval pottery

Medieval and later pottery was recovered from a restricted range of contexts and included the normal range of material expected from a ploughsoil assemblage in this area. Only two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered (Contexts 335 and 348 see Appendix 1), one in a local Coal Measures type fabric, the other unidentified.

The bulk of the post-Roman material was of 17<sup>th</sup> century and later date and included both utilitarian and tablewares. This material presumably reached the site as a result of manuring or some other agricultural activity. Context 88 produced a fragment of ceramic tile of 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

#### 4.2 POTTERY, AREA 2, 7, 8, 12 AND 17

### 4.2.1 Introduction

The pottery assemblage from the watching brief and Area 2, 7, 8, 12 and 17 excavations

consisted of 920 sherds of pottery weighing 5444 grams and representing a maximum of 854 vessels. The basic details of the assemblage are summarised in Appendix 1. The date ranges suggested should be taken as indicative only, further work will doubtless refine these and provide a greater degree of precision than has been possible here.

## 4.2.2 The Iron Age pottery

In comparison with other sites in South Yorkshire, this represents one of the larger and more important Iron Age pottery assemblages from the county and its significance is enhanced by the recovery of the material from Area 7 (see above).

Iron Age type pottery was noted in three Areas 2, 8 and 12. The types present included Shell Tempered ware (probably originating in the East Midlands or Lincolnshire) and coarse, grit tempered wares which were probably also brought to the site from outside the region. Local Iron Age pottery has rarely been identified and appears to consist of a soft, muddy textured ware, similar to the sherds from a field ditch within Area 12. The evidence suggests a date range, which includes the early years of the Roman occupation of the area.

## 4.2.3 The Roman pottery

The assemblage as a whole was dominated by Roman pottery. It is suggested that the products of local potteries (Rossington Bridge, Cantley and perhaps Blaxton) are the commonest types (Local Greyware, Black Burnished ware), but that small numbers of sherds from other sources are also included. These latter include the sherds of Samian ware and perhaps the mortarium fragment, but it is possible that the Black Burnished ware and perhaps the Greyware categories also include non-local material.

The verification of the suggested identifications should be a priority in the further work on the assemblage. The maximum number of vessels figure (ENV) certainly overestimates the numbers of vessels represented and the full analysis should certainly include provision for refitting with a view to obtaining both a more accurate figure and for determining whether cross-context and intra-context joins are present.

#### 4.3 THE POTTERY AND THE SITE

Although the accurate identification and dating of the pottery is clearly of prime significance, it is also important to consider the issues surrounding the deposition of the pottery and the relationship between the pottery and the topography and use of the site. There were indications of some degree of distinction between the material recorded from the different areas of the site. The pottery from Area 12 (contexts 1129,1137,1157, ditch fills), for example, was exclusively of Iron Age type while that from Area 17 (context 1175, ditch fill) was entirely Black Burnished ware.

Questions surrounding the deposition of material culture on later prehistoric and early Roman sites in South Yorkshire and neighbouring areas have attracted considerable attention in recent years. However, a lack of well-excavated sites with substantial artefactual assemblages has precluded the resolution of these questions (Chadwick 1997, 1999; Chadwick and Cumberpatch 1995). Excavations at Scrooby Top suggested that pottery was deposited preferentially in the southern part of the site while the northern ditches were relatively empty (Chadwick 1999, 162). Excavations at Edenthorpe (Chadwick and Cumberpatch 1995) produced two discrete groups of Roman pottery. One of these was from the upper fills of a ditch, but the second came from the primary fill at a point where the ditch turned sharply. Such observations can scarcely be judged to be anything more that indicative at present, but the potential offered by sites such as Red House Farm is considerable.

The structured deposition of material has been demonstrated for Iron Age sites in southern England, and, while it may be unwise to transfer such models uncritically to South Yorkshire (Robbins 1999), all deposition is structured by attitudes to material culture. The reconstruction of such structured practices is an essential prerequisite before inferences as to the nature of past societies can be drawn from the archaeological data. In this regard the excavations at Redhouse Farm are of considerable significance. Further work on the possible associations between the deposition of pottery and other categories of material (animal bone, worked or burnt stone, metalwork industrial debris) might be informative. To this end, further work on the finds from the site should be pursued in an integrated manner.

#### 4.4 SMALL FINDS

### 4.4.1 Introduction

The excavation at Red House, Doncaster produced a small collection of Prehistoric, Late Iron Age/Roman and post-medieval finds. In total there are 56 finds, together with small quantities of fired clay/daub and slag, which have been recorded under the bulk finds system.

Of the small finds thirty-three derive from stratified deposits while the remaining twenty-three

are unstratified. Of the former, seven derive from the demonstrably modern re-metalling layers of the Roman road, while the remainder were recovered from late Iron Age/Roman contexts. Much of the assemblage comprises small unidentifiable fragments. In general the assemblage is represented by a small group of coins, items for personnel adornment, household use and tools.

The majority of the bulk finds were retrieved from post medieval deposits, however a small quantity of slag was retrieved from the enclosure ditch of the Iron Age farmstead within Area 7. All the common materials are represented and these may be quantified by material type as follows:

MATERIAL	AREA						
MATERIAL	1	2	7	12	14	17	W/B
Small Finds							
Copper alloy	3	3	9				
Iron	2	3	8	1		1	
Lead	1		2			1	
Shale		1					
Glass		1					
Stone		2	6	1	1		2
Worked bone			1				
Flint			2			1	4
Totals	6	10	28	2	1	3	6
Other finds							
Slag			267g				
Clay pipe			15g				
Burnt clay			6g				
Coal			98g				

#### T7 Small finds by Area

All finds were recorded on site manually following NA guidelines. The majority of finds were recovered by hand; with the remainder recovered during a detailed metal detector survey. The majority of the metal detector finds were, however recovered from the spoil heaps positioned adjacent to both the watching brief and open area excavations, they are therefore unstratifed. The position of the small finds, where relevant, is recorded on the site plans.

The copper alloy objects are in a stable condition and no further work is required. The ironwork is in a poor state of preservation, and some of the objects are difficult to identify. There is one worked bone object and no waterlogged organic material was found.

## 4.4.2 Summary of material recovered

#### 4.4.2.1 Prehistoric

A small quantity of stone artefacts are representative of activity during the prehistoric period. These include, part of an unstratified stone axe (Area 14) and a small collection of worked flints recovered from Areas 7, 17 and during the watching brief. (Appendix 2)

## 4.4.2.2 Iron Age/Roman

Objects dating to the Roman period are represented by coinage, fragmentary items of jewellery and domestic related artefacts, all indicative of domestic settlement.

There are three copper alloy coins, one from Area 1 (recovered during a metal detector survey) and two from Area 7. All display signs of corrosion and are therefore difficult to identify with any accuracy. However, the coin from Area 1 could date to the 2nd century AD. Area 7 produced one coin dating to the 1st-2nd century (Trajan/Hadrian, 98-138) and one unstratified 4th century coin (Constantine I, AD 307-337).

Items of jewellery are represented by a brooch and fragments from two bracelets. The copper alloy brooch found within the fill of a large enclosure ditch (Area 7) dates to AD 70 (pers.comm. D Mackreth), and provides a terminous post quem for the back filling of the ditch.

Two bracelets were retrieved from a small gulley within the northern half parcel of the Area 2 enclosure. One is manufactured from blue glass, the exterior surface is ornamented with an applied, twisted strip of blue and white glass. Bangles of this type are known in Yorkshire, and have been classified by J. Price (1988). According to her typology, this particular example equates to her Type 2, providing a later 1st century date. The other bracelet is manufactured from shale, a material particularly popular for jewellery in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. The fragment measures 30 x 12 x 8mm and would have had an internal diameter of 60mm.

Quern fragments represent items for domestic use. In total, nine querns are represented, six from the Iron Age farmstead of Area 7, one from Area 12 and two from the watching brief. An almost complete upper quern was retrieved from a stone-lined pit (1054) during the watching brief. Geological types include the ubiquitous gritstone and fine grained siliceous rock. In addition, there are two small stone discs, found within a pit in Area 2. The exterior edges have been pared down to form discs measuring 49mm in diameter possibly for use as pot lids.

#### 4.2.2.3 Post-medieval

Objects of post-medieval date were found during the metal detector survey or retrieved from topsoil deposits. Copper alloy objects include, a worn ?jetton, a button, fragments from a thimble and a buckle. Two lead weights/spindlewhorls, nine clay tobacco-pipe stems and a small amount of tile were also recovered.

#### 5 ANIMAL BONE

#### **5.1 METHOD**

4.977kg of animal bone was recovered from 36 contexts in Area 7, while 7.069kg was recovered from 41 contexts in Areas 2, 8, 12 and 17 primarily from the enclosure ditches of Area 2. The bone assemblage was scanned rapidly to determine the species present, the state of preservation and to assess any potential for further analysis.

#### 5.2 AREA 7

#### 5.2.1 Preservation and results

Fragmentation was heavy with only approximately one third of the material identifiable to species level. Weathering not only suggests the bones had lain on the surface for some time before burial but also rendered evidence for butchery virtually undetectable. Some canid gnawing, root etching and a small amount of burning were also observed.

Low	Moderate	High
Equus	Ovicaprid	Bos
Sus		Indeterminates
Canid		
Avis		
Cow/red deer		
Ovicaprid/Roe		

# T8 Frequency of species (Area 7)

Cow (Bos) (approx. 60-70% of identified elements) apparently dominated the assemblage with some sheep/goat (Ovicaprid) (approx. 30% of identified elements) and a small amount of pig (Sus) and horse (Equus). An almost complete dog skeleton was also noted. Some indeterminate bird bone was also present but no definite evidence for deer was detected.

The relatively large numbers of teeth and lower limbs for both cow and sheep/goat could suggest butchery waste although preservation biases need to be considered (i.e. teeth are particularly robust). The only evidence for butchery, knife marks on a distal pig humerus,

could be indicative of dismembering.

## 5.3 WATCHING BRIEF AND AREAS 2, 8, 12 AND 17

#### 5.3.1 Preservation and Results

Preservation was generally poor with heavy fragmentation and surface abrasion rendering approximately 50-60% of the assemblage unidentifiable. Although there was an apparent absence of evidence for butchery and canid gnawing, this could be due to heavy surface abrasion. No evidence of burning was noted.

Low	Moderate	High
L.ungulate	Bos	
?Cervid	Equus	
Canid	Ovicaprid	

## T9 Frequency of species watching brief

Low	Moderate	High	
L.ungulate	Ovicaprid	Bos	
	Equus		

## T10 Frequency of species present Areas 2, 8, 12 and 17

The largest concentration derived from the ditch fills in Area 2. However, no spatial patterning was noted in terms of preservation or any significant patterning in terms of species composition. The assemblage appeared to be dominated by cow with lower numbers of sheep/goat and horse. A partial dog skeleton was recovered during the watching brief (Fig 6) A complete sheep skeleton, probably of post-medieval date, was noted in Area 12. One possible neonatal element was noted (*Bos* tibia shaft). No clear statement can be made concerning body parts due to the poor preservation. The apparent dominance of mandible fragments and teeth could be the result of preservation biases.

#### 5.4 DISCUSSION

Domesticates typical for the period were observed but no clear evidence for wild species was noted. A cursory comparison of the data set from the different areas of excavation suggests that a similar range of species is present throughout the landscape. Heavy fragmentation and surface abrasion are evident for all areas. A similar range of domestic species was seen at Pickburn Leys located approximately 1.5 km to the south (Sydes 1993).

## 6 SOIL SAMPLES

## **6.1 METHOD**

In total 87 soil samples of between 5 and 20 litres were recovered by hand. From these, 37 1 litre sub-samples were processed using a *siraf tank* (500 micron mesh and flot sieve). The resulting flots were dried and examined under a microscope at 10x magnification. Four of these contained variable amounts of burnt bone. A series of phosphate samples were also taken from the Area 7 Iron Age farmstead and these will form part of further analytical work.

Sample	Context	Content		
1	9	Seeds-Chenopodium sp (Goosefoot family)		
		Snails-Fragments of possible Helix aspersa		
3	7	Snails-C.asicula,D,rotundatus, Cochicopa Lubrica/lubricella, indet discoids		
4	23+25	Seeds-Chenopodium sp		
		Snails-Ceciliodes asicula		
5	60+61	Seeds-Sambucus sp (elder)		
		Snails-C. asicula, indeterminate small discoidal species		
11	59	Snails indet. Discoids		
13	90+92	Seeds-Chenopodium sp		
		Snails-C. asicula, indeterminate discoids		
15	81/77	Snails C.asicula		
17	136/7	Seeds-Chenopodium sp		
		Snails-C. asicula		
21	156/7	Seeds-Chenopodium sp & a fragment of indeterminate cereal grain		
22	170	Snails C.asicula		
24	177	Snails C.asicula Discus rotundatus		
26	184/5	Snails C. asicula , discus rotundatus, indeterminate discoid		
37	236/235/	Seeds-Chenopodium sp, 1 abraded indeterminate (poss) cereal grain		
313		Snails-C. asicula		
38	183	Snails C.asicula Discus rotundatus, indet discoids		
39	134/5	Snails-C. asicula, indeterminate discoids		

## T11 Iron Age farmstead, Area 7 and Roman road

Sample No	Area	Context Type
4, 7, 13, 14	WB	Ditch
5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12	WB	Pit
16, 17,	12	Ditch
21, 22	12	Pit
18, 19, 24	2	Pit
25, 26, 27	2	Ditch
20,	8	Ditch
23	17	Pit

# T12 Watching brief and Area excavations

Areas 2 and 17 was fragmentary and abraded.

Samples 1, 2, 3 and 15, which contained burnt bone, were recovered from the watching brief.

Preservation on the whole was good, although the cereal grain in samples 18, 23 and 26 from

Ecofact	Low	Moderate	High
Snails (excluding C.asicula)	1,3,8,22,25	7,9,26	
Charcoal	20,21,22,25,27	5,8,9, 18,23,24,26	4,6,7,13,16,17,1
Charred cereal grain	18,23,26	8	7,19
Cereal chaff		8	4,7
Charred seeds	1,4,7,10,13,19,20 ,22,23,24	5,8	

Key to table: Low less than 5, Moderate: more than 5, High: 20+

## T13 Frequency of ecofacts for the watching brief and Areas 2, 8, 12 and 17

Samples 12 and 14 proved to be sterile.

The cereals present included hulled barley (Hordeum vulgare) and spelt (Triticum spelta) and Oat/rye (Avena/Secale). Grains categorised as indeterminate wheat (Triticum sp); wheat/barley (Triticum/Hordeum) and indeterminate cereal (Cereale) were also noted. The weeds noted included fat hen (Chenopodium album) cleavers (Galium aparine) members of the dock family (Rumex sp.) and buttercup family (Ranunculaceae sp.) Fat Hen was the most abundant being noted in 12 samples. A possible small pulse (Leguminosae) was also noted.

Five snail species were positively identified. These included *Discus rotundatus, Pupilla muscorum, Cochlicopa Lubrica/lubricella* and *Vertigo pygmaea*. The snail species *Ceciliodes asicula* appeared in 13 samples. However, as a root dwelling species it is considered to be intrusive. At least one small indeterminate Zonitid species was also noted.

#### 6.2 DISCUSSION

## 6.2.1 The Iron Age farmstead, Area 7

The 15 sub samples taken from the 61 soil samples hand collected produced only a few ecofacts. Although, some charcoal was present in all the flots this was generally too fragmentary (ie under 5mm in any dimension) to allow for fuller identification. Only two possible cereal grains were noted. The *chenopodium* seeds present are very lustrous in appearance which suggests they are fairly modern and probably intrusive, a result of modern crop contamination. The same could be said for the *Sambucus* sp. seeds seen in sample 5.

Only 3 species of snail were positively identified (*Helix aspersa*, *Discus rotundatus* and *Ceciliodes asicula*) *C asicula* is considered to be intrusive – a root dwelling species, *H aspersa* is the common garden snail. *D.rotundatus* is fairly catholic in its habitat tolerances and was observed in very small numbers. None of the species have much value for environmental reconstruction. Although a discoidal species was noted in samples 5, 13 and 39, identification to species level; would prove of limited value due to the small numbers present and the fact that a single species would not make a valid environmental reconstruction.

#### 6.2.2 Watching brief and Areas 2, 8, 12 and 17

Fat hen and cleavers are typical crop weeds, although *C.album* can be ground for flour in times of famine. Cereal rich samples were recovered from a pit (Sample 19) within Area 2 and two ditches (samples 4 and 7) from the watching brief area. The absence of chaff and lack of weeds suggests that sample 19 represents a storage crop, while samples 4 and 7, dominated by chaff (glume bases) would appear to be a by-product of crop processing. This may suggest that with further analysis it may be possible to identify zones of activity.

The snail species suggest largely open calcareous grassland, as *P.muscorum* and *V.pygmaea* both prefer dry exposed grassland habitats. Although *D.rotundatus* prefers moist sheltered habitats these can be provided by stones, damp herbage or ground litter. Again *C.lubricella* prefers moderately damp places but this can include limestone grassland. This type of landscape has been previously identified for the area at this time, Chadwick 1999, 5 and may with further study be indicative of a grazing economy. Comparisons with Area 7 suggest a broader range of cereal types, weed species and snail species are seen in the third and forth stages of the work, possibly due to better preservation, suggesting possibly that a mixed economy was being practised in the landscape.

#### 7 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL AND PROPOSALS FOR ANALYSIS

The areas identified as containing late Iron Age evidence, after further assessment have the potential to add to our knowledge of later Iron Age landscapes in South Yorkshire. In addition, the site in its entirety has the potential to add greatly to our knowledge of the early Roman landscape of South Yorkshire.

Later Iron Age and Roman sites in rural South Yorkshire excavated under modern conditions are rare and, as indicated above, there is rather unsophisticated understanding of many aspects of later prehistoric and early Roman activity in the county. As Chadwick (1997) states, in general it is only the ditches which survive within the archaeological record, so it these that need to be looked at for interpretations of how people in the late Iron Age and early Roman period looked at and used their landscapes. In the case of the Redhouse landscape, the bone, the environmental and the small finds assemblages are only of limited use. However, there is a comparatively large pottery assemblage, which requires further study and comparison with similar sites in the surrounding areas, such as the site of Pickburn Leys 1.5km to the south.

#### 7.1 ORIGINAL OBJECTIVES

The principal aims of the excavation were to:

Preserve by record the components of the archaeological landscape within the development area.

This was achieved through intensive watching brief and open area excavation and the subsequent planning and recording.

❖ Identify the potential to provide evidence for later Iron Age settlement.

A study of the landscape through a search of the cropmarks on the aerial photographs of the region, will be undertaken, which should help to determine the developmental history of the landscape from the Iron Age through to its 'Romanization'. Though with the former consideration of differential cropmark identification depending upon the underlying geology will have to be taken into account. It known that cropmark identification is more difficult upon the Magnesian limestone (Chadwick 1999). The site plan (Fig 3) showing the areas of excavation, geophysical survey and cropmarks (SMR 517) would suggest that there was a change in the alignment of the some of the features within the landscape after the Roman Road was cut across it. Though on the whole this seems to have been marginal, further integrated analysis of the stratigraphic and ecofactual evidence may clarify this issue.

The site as a whole has the potential to provide more evidence for this transitional period in the landscape's history, as the site is further developed and more areas can be investigated.

Pending comparison and integration with other sites in South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and north Nottinghamshire (particularly Scrooby Top), the site clearly has the potential to add to our understanding of this period in the area.

The ceramic collection from the whole of the development area forms one of the largest corpuses of material from the area and as such will provide not only a relative dating framework but also cultural evidence for socio-economic links. Here, further analysis of the distribution of pottery across the site with the other data sets, along with details of their deposition and spatial arrangement could allow for the subsistence economy and social organisation of the people who inhabited the area to be investigated. Indeed some of the stage 3 and 4 botanical samples can be seen to have been cereal rich, such as sample 19, Area 2 and samples 4 and 7 from the watching brief area. The absence of chaff and lack of weeds suggesting that sample 19 represented a storage crop, while samples 4 and 7, dominated by chaff (glume bases) probable by-products of crop processing.

A number of smaller features such as gullies, post holes and pits were recovered from the site, primarily from the two farmsteads of Areas 7 and 1 the enclosures of Areas 2, 12, 17, which may relate to domestic activity. On the whole, these were poorly preserved and those areas especially at the point where the soil cover was thinnest it could be suggested that many of the shallower features have been lost. The degree of truncation and loss through cultivation should not be over emphasised.

The way the enclosures and field systems evolved may be recoverable from the limited stratigraphic relationships but the evidence of maintenance and use are clear up to, and including, potential evidence for the end of the occupation. The silting processes of the principal ditches, many of which contained single identifiable fills, with rubble consisting of large limestone blocks is similar to that identified Pickburn Leys (Sydes 1993) and this will have to be further investigated.

The Roman road excavated during stages 2 and 3 offers an important opportunity to study pre Road levels. The occurrence of a buried soil under the road potentially containing evidence for the pre-road land use has been sampled and examination and detailed plotting of the cultivation scars across the area may provide interesting data about ploughing in this period. There is apparently no evidence for cross ploughing such as would be normally be preferred with an ard.

The roads complex construction has been recorded in detail allowing the elucidation of the process of construction of this short section of Roman road. The agger preserving multiple layers of interbedded make-up material some of which showed signs of directional dumping and cartwheels from construction traffic. Although unwise to generalise road construction it allows an examination of the materials and a consideration of sources since it was not

derived from flanking quarry ditches. The lack of stratified dating evidence unfortunately leaves the construction of the road floating chronologically. Although the northern advance of the Roman military is well documented archaeologically the position of the road construction programme in that advance is less clear.

#### 7.2 REVISED RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Look to establish the form of the farming landscape and to ascertain any changes in alignment after the construction of the Roman road.
- Attempt to reconstruct the economy of the site, which in broad terms would seem to be a mixed economy and identify zones of activity.

#### 8 PROPOSALS FOR ANALYSIS

#### 8.1 PAST HISTORIC LAND USE

A study of the past landscape use through a search of the cropmarks on the aerial photographs of the region, in combination the south Yorkshire SMR record and the historic maps of the area will be investigated further. The aim of this work will place the site into its local and wider landscape pattern and will clarify whether any of the ditches recovered through the various stages of intrusive and non-intrusive work define more recent landscape features.

#### 8.2 ANALYSIS OF THE STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE

The structural evidence from the site comprises several elements, spanning the Late Iron Age to Roman periods. The analysis of this evidence will comprise two major stages of work as listed below.

- 1. A full assessment of the stratigraphic sequence for the entire site, this will involve the definition of context, feature and structural groups. The intersection of the enclosures to the adjoining field systems in addition to ditch terminals will be looked at in detail to see if further refining of the phases can be achieved. Context matrices will be produced when and if deemed necessary, but a full site matrix will only be produced at feature or structural group level. A full context database will be produced, and will form the major reference for context grouping in relation to specialist reporting and the analysis of finds distribution. Plans will be digitised to create archive and will aid with the production of consistent phase plans and general plans.
- 2 Preparation of the site narrative Preparation of summary descriptive texts and

illustrations. A full introductory section, together with location and topographic information will be prepared. This will allow a description of features to be arranged by broad chronology.

The analysis of the stratigraphic record coupled with further study of the ceramic assemblage may help to clarify the chronological sequence of the enclosures, to see whether they were altered in any way after the imposition of the Roman Road on the site. Also integrated analysis of the stratigraphic and ecofactual evidence may clarify this issue. These works will form the basis of the phasing of the site and, together with the geophysical survey, spatial relationships and the other data sets may help to differentiate the various components recovered from the site.

The analysis above will lead to the preparation of a research archive, comprising a site narrative and an analysis of the finds and other materials recovered and a digest of the results of the analysis for publication.

#### 8.3 THE POTTERY

The pottery assemblage warrants further analysis as indicated below:

- Full analysis and recording of the Roman component of the assemblage by a specialist in the Roman pottery of northern England
- ❖ Detailed consideration of the stratigraphic and distributional characteristics of the pottery assemblage with close reference to the topography and history of the site and the date and type of the pottery
- ❖ Comparisons with other sites in South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and north Nottinghamshire (particularly Scrooby Top), in terms of the types of material present and the contexts of deposition
- ❖ All diagnostic sherds should be drawn and published

## 8.4 THE SMALL FINDS

- ❖ Prepare iron objects for X-ray. This will aid identification and highlight any features of interest. As there are so few iron artefacts all objects will be X-rayed to provide a permanent archival record. Buckinghamshire County Museum Conservation Service will X-ray the objects and undertake any necessary conservation.
- ❖ Complete object descriptions and bibliographic references where applicable
- ❖ Undertake further work on objects of interest eg. Copper alloy brooch (D, MacKreth)

glass bracelet and quern stones will be examined petrologically so that sources can be suggested (S. Critchley).

- Coins to be identified by Dr Mark Curteis, Chelmsford Record Office.
- Report preparation and illustrations. It is envisaged that no more 8 illustrations will be required.
- ❖ No further reporting is required for the stone axe, but it should be illustrated in the final report

#### 8.5 Animal bone and botanical evidence

The animal bone assemblage is comparatively small and is in a poor state of preservation, with 50-60% of the assemblage unidentifiable. This, in addition to the small size of the assemblage, would render any conclusions concerning herd structure and animal husbandry (e.g. Kill-off patterns) extremely tentative. Therefore no clear picture of the site's animal economy could be established or any comparisons with other sites and general trends made. Further work will be limited to a catalogue of the identifiable bone.

The results of the environmental sampling from stages 3 and 4 at least offer greater potential. The range of cereals recovered from the site is typical of the Iron Age and Roman periods. The material would appear to have been grown and processed around a site based in open grassland and taken with the data set of the animal bone the evidence would suggest a mixed economy geared towards fulfilling domestic needs.

Samples with a high or moderate frequency of cereal grain or chaff (5 samples) will be further processed and analysed. Quantification will be undertaken to establish crop processing stages and the dominant crop. Samples with a high frequency of charcoal (7 samples) could be further processed. Charcoal could be identified to species to give some idea of local woodland habitat and timber exploitation. C14 dating remains an option for the dating of the charred wood after consultation with the relevant specialists. Further work on molluscan evidence would be limited by the lack of a reliably dated sequence of contexts for a snail column and the limited number of species present. However the sub-samples taken from the samples from the Iron Age farmstead Area 7 and the Roman road, which were seen as the ones with the greatest potential within this area of the excavation. In fact showed little potential, as the evidence was sparse and often possibly intrusive. Therefore apart from the further analysis of the phosphate samples, which may identify areas utilised for animal husbandry or domestic activity, no further work is recommended.

#### 9 REPORTING AND ARCHIVE

Further development work over the next 3 or 4 years is proposed for the site, which will inevitably mean that an additional programme of watching brief will be undertaken and possible subsequent open area excavation. This will add substantially to the corpus of data already collected from the site and as such will be integrated into the present work, which includes the excavation of the Iron Age farmstead in Area 7, by Northamptonshire Archaeology in 2000. Therefore, further research will be undertaken on a comparative basis to identify similar sites within a local and regional context and to integrate the site with these.

The final form of the report and its structure has yet to be finalised, though it is envisaged that the two farmsteads of Areas 7 and 1 combined with the enclosures and other landscape features will be published as a single entity. Leaving the Roman road to be published as a separate report. Both reports will be prepared and probably submitted for publication in the Yorkshire Archaeology Journal, which is published by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society.

## 9.1 REPORT SYNOPSIS

## 1. Introduction

Background

Acknowledgements

Location and Topography

Methodology

## 2. Historic Background

The excavated evidence

Summary of chronology and phasing

Iron Age occupation
Roman occupation

Later activity

# 3. The finds

Their deposition in relation to Iron Age and Roman

features

Iron Age pottery Roman pottery Other finds

## 4. Environmental evidence

The animal bone

Charred plant remains

The phosphate samples

## 5. Discussion

The Iron Age and Roman landscape

## 6. Schedule of illustrations

General site plan

General phase plans

Iron Age features

Roman features

Detailed plans and sections

Iron Age pottery

Roman pottery

Other finds, including the stone axe and the quern

stone

## 9.2 THE SITE ARCHIVE

A microfilm copy of the site archive and the site narrative will be made to RCHME standards and submitted to the National Archaeological Record.

The site archive will comprise all written, drawn and photographic records and all material finds and processed residue recovered from the excavation. All records and finds generated by the excavation will be compiled in a structural archive in accordance with the guidelines of Appendix 3 in the English Heritage procedural document, *Management of Archaeological Projects* (1991). The archive will be fully catalogued and deposited in Doncaster Museum in a format agreed with that institution. The South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record will be notified of the arrangements. The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner.

## 10 RESOURCES

## 10.1 WORK COMPLETED

The site archive has been consolidated and all finds have been processed. The pottery, animal bone, environmental data and the small finds have been assessed.

## 10.2 PROPOSED WORK

## 10.2.1 Staffing

TASKS	PERSONNEL
Search of relevant aerial photographs, Historic maps etc	T Upson-Smith and A Maull
Stratigraphic analysis	I Meadows and T Upson-Smith
Finds analysis	
Iron Age and Roman pottery	Dr C Cumberpatch et al
Roman small finds and other material	I Meadows
Post Roman pottery	Dr C Cumberpatch et al
Animal bone	K Deighton
Chemical analysis	Karen Deigton
Charred plant remains	Heley Keeley et al
Period syntheses	Ian Meadows, T Upson Smith et al
Illustrations	NA illustrators
Overview and discussion	I Meadows, T Upson Smith et all
Integration of report	I Meadows, T Upson Smith et al
Final editing	I Meadows and T Upson Smith
Publication of report	I Meadows and T Upson Smith
Preparation of archive	T Hylton with NA assistants

## T14 Staffing and Tasks

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# RED HOUSE, DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

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Northam	ptonsnire	Archaeology	

a service of Northamptonshire County Council

17<sup>th</sup> April 2002

# A1 POTTERY FROM RED HOUSE FARM, DONCASTER: ASSESSMENT DATA (ALL STAGES).

Area	Context	Туре	Number	Weight	ENV	Vessel part	Vessel type	Date range
2	1015	Local Greyware	21	63	21	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1015	Local Greyware	1	3	1	Base	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1015	Rusticated ware	1	6	1	BS	U/ID	
2	1179	Late Iron Age ware	11	64	1	Rim/shoulder	Jar	LIA - Early Roman
2	1179	Quartz tempered ware	8	38	1	Base	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
2	1179	Shell Tempered ware	25	68	25	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
2	1179	Shell Tempered ware	23	49	23	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
2	1185	?Black Burnished ware	3	15	3	BS	U/ID	?C2nd - C4th
2	1185	Local Greyware	3	37	3	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1185	Local Greyware	2	13	1	Rim	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1185	Local Greyware	2	19	1	Base	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1185	Sandy Greyware	1	10	1	BS	U/ID	
2	1193	Local Greyware	1	9	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1194	Black Burnished ware	4	6	4	BS	U/ID	
2	1194	Local Greyware	9	32	9	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1194	Local Greyware	1	4	1	Rim	Jar	C2nd - C4th
2	1194	Local Greyware	1	4	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1196	U/ID Greyware	1	22	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1200	Greyware	1	25	1	BS	U/ID	
2	1200	Local Greyware	11	125	11	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1200	Local Greyware	1	12	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1200	Local Greyware	4	74	4	Base	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1200	Oxidised Sandy ware	1	16	1	BS	U/ID	
2	1200	Sandy Greyware	17	75	17	BS	U/ID	
2	1200	Sandy Greyware	1	11	1	BS	U/ID	
2	1200	Sandy Greyware	1	5	1	BS	U/ID	
2	1200	U/ID Greyware	1	9	1	BS	U/ID	
2	1200	U/ID Sandy ware	4	9	4	BS	U/ID	
2	1216	?Black Burnished ware	1	1	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th

Area	Context	Туре	Number	Weight	ENV	Vessel part	Vessel type	Date range
2	1216	Local Greyware	2	16	1	Rim	Jar	C2nd - C4th
2	1247	Local Greyware	30	127	30	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1247	Local Greyware	2	56	2	Base	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1202	Local Greyware	1	58	1	Rim	Jar	C2nd - C4th
2	1202	Samian ware	3	1	3	BS/Flakes	U/ID	C2nd - C3rd
2	1206	Local Greyware	27	326	27	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1206	Local Greyware	1	62	1	Base	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1206	Sandy greyware	3	24	1	BS	U/ID	
2	1214	?Black Burnished ware	1	2	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1214	?Local Greyware	1	49	1	Base	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1214	Black Burnished ware	1	1	1	Rim	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1214	Coarse Greyware	5	149	5	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1214	Greyware	1	1	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1214	Local Greyware	1	37	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1214	Local Greyware	1	73	1	Base	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1214	Local Greyware	1	25	1	Rim	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1214	Oxidised Greyware	1	51	1	Handle/BS	Jar	
2	1214	Sandy greyware	1	10	1	BS	U/ID	
2	1214	Sandy greyware	2	10	2	BS	U/ID	
2	1218	Black Burnished ware	1	3	1	Rim	Jar	C2nd - C4th
2	1218	Coarse Sandy ware	3	20	1	BS	U/ID	
2	1218	Greyware	1	3	1	BS	U/ID	
2	1218	Shell Tempered ware	1	4	1	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
2	1224	Iron Age type ware	6	25	6	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
2	1226	?Black Burnished ware	1	20	1	Rim	Jar	C2nd - C4th
2	1226	Greyware	3	12	3	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1226	Sandy Greyware	2	26	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1228	Local Greyware	1	51	1	Base	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1230	?Black Burnished ware	1	1	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1230	Local Greyware	30	214	30	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1234	Local Greyware	1	17	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1234	Soft Sandy ware	1	3	1	BS	U/ID	
2	1242	Greyware	5	95	4	Rim	Bowl	

Area	Context	Туре	Number	Weight	ENV	Vessel part	Vessel type	Date range
2	1242	Greyware	12	59	12	BS	U/ID	
2	1257	Black Burnished ware	31	87	31	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1257	Black Burnished ware	5	25	5	Rim	Jar	C2nd - C4th
2	1257	Local Greyware	2	15	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1257	Local Greyware	1	20	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1257	Sandy Greyware	10	67	10	BS	U/ID	
2	1257	Sandy Greyware	5	38	5	BS	U/ID	
2	1259	Black Burnished ware	4	14	4	BS	U/ID	
2	1261	CBM	6	70	6	Brick	Brick	Roman
2	1261	Local Greyware	1	9	1	Rim	Jar	C2nd - C4th
2	1261	Local Greyware	2	5	2	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1261	Samian ware	1	6	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C3rd
2	1261	Shell Tempered ware	13	33	13	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
2	1266	Shell Tempered ware	1	2	1	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
2	1267	?Black Burnished ware	1	10	1	Base	U/ID	?C2nd - C4th
2	1267	Greyware	2	32	1	Base	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1267	Local Greyware	5	177	3	Base	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1267	Local Greyware	2	48	2	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1267	Shell Tempered ware	1	6	1	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
2	1267	U/ID Roman	1	14	1	BS	U/ID	Roman
2	1268	Coarse Greyware	1	6	1	BS	U/ID	
2	1268	Local Greyware	1	6	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1268	Local Greyware	2	7	2	Rim	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	1268	Sandy greyware	1	4	1	BS	U/ID	
2	1272	Coarse Sandy ware	3	8	3	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
2	U/S	Black Burnished ware	4	7	4	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
2	U/S	Samian ware	3	2	3	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C3rd
2	U/S	Samian ware	3	7	3	BS	?Bowl	C2nd - C3rd
7	1	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	21	1	BS	U/ID	LC17th-C18th
7	1	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	6	1	BS	U/ID	LC17th-C18th

Area	Context	Туре	Number	Weight	ENV	Vessel part	Vessel type	Date range
7	1	Local Roman Greyware	2	13	2	BS	U/ID	C2nd-C4th
7	1	Porcelain	1	2	1	BS	U/ID	C19th-C20th
7	1	White Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	11	1	BS	U/ID	C18th-EC20th
7	1	Whiteware	1	2	1	Rim	Plate	LC18th-C19th
7	1	Whiteware	1	1	1	BS	U/ID	C19th-EC20th
7	2	Unidentified Roman	2	3	2	BS	U/ID	Roman
7	7	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	5	1	Rim	U/ID	C17th
7	7	Local Roman Greyware	1	28	1	Base/BS	Jar	C2nd-C4th
7	7	Stoneware	1	28	1	Rim	Open Bowl	LC18th-C19th
7	8	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	8	1	Rim	U/ID	C17th
7	8	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	2	1	BS	U/ID	C17th
7	8	Stoneware	1	7	1	BS	U/ID	C19th-EC20th
7	21	Black Burnished ware 1	4	5	4	BS	U/ID	C2nd-C4th
7	25	Scored ware type	27	213	27	BS	U/ID	LIA
7	25	Scored ware type	2	50	2	BS	U/ID	LIA
7	25	Scored ware type	2	85	1	Rim	Jar	LIA
7	25	Scored ware type	2	29	1	Rim	Jar	LIA
7	25	Scored ware type	1	13	1	Rim	Jar	LIA
7	25	Scored ware type	4	12	4	BS	U/ID	LIA
7	25	Scored ware type	49	150	49	BS	U/ID	LIA
7	25	Scored ware type	2	6	2	Rim	Jar	LIA
7	25	Scored ware type	142	152	142	BS	U/ID	LIA
7	34	Daub	1	2	1	Lump	N?A	Undated
7	40	Local Roman Greyware	1	44	1	Base	Jar	C2nd-C4th
7	42	Local Roman Greyware	3	11	2	Rim	Jar	C2nd-C4th
7	42	Local Roman Greyware	3	16	2	Body sherds	?Jar	C2nd-C4th
7	44	Local Roman Greyware	1	7	1	Rim	Jar	C2nd-C4th
7	44	Local Roman Greyware	1	6	1	Base/BS	Base	C2nd-C4th
7	68	Cantley greyware	1	20	1	Rim	Bowl	Mid C3rd- Mid C4th
7	68	Local Roman Greyware	2	2	2	Body sherds	U/ID	C2nd-C4th

Area	Context	Туре	Number	Weight	ENV	Vessel part	Vessel type	Date range
7	78	Local Roman Greyware	12	4	12	Body sherds	U/ID	C2nd-C4th
7	78	Shell Tempered ware	2	6	2	Body sherds	U/ID	LIA/Early Roman
7	78	Unidentified Oxidised Roman	1	2	1	Body sherds	U/ID	C2nd-C4th
7	79	Unidentified Oxidised Roman	4	25	4	Body sherds	U/ID	C2nd-C4th
7	80	Daub	1	4	1	Fragments	U/ID	Undated
7	80	Shell Tempered ware	1	31	1	Rim	Jar	LIA/Early Roman
7	80	Shell Tempered ware	20	42	20	Body sherds	U/ID	LIA/Early Roman
7	80	Unidentified Oxidised Roman	4	6	4	Body sherds	U/ID	C2nd-C4th
7	88	Tile	1	17	1	Edge	Tile	C20th
7	107	Scored ware	17	182	17	Body sherds	U/ID	LIA
7	107	Scored ware	6	117	6	Rim	U/ID	LIA
7	107	Scored ware	52	158	52	Body sherds	U/ID	LIA
7	107	Scored ware	3	15	1	Body sherds	U/ID	LIA
7	107	Scored ware	19	171	19	Body sherds	U/ID	LIA
7	145	Burnt clay/daub	1	1	1	Fragment	U/ID	Undated
7	183	Local late Iron Age Type	1	1	1	Body sherd	U/ID	LIA/Early Roman
7	188	Burnt clay/ daub	3	4	3	Fragments	U/ID	Undated
7	189	Daub	1	3	1	Lump	U/ID	Undated
7	189	Fine shell tempered ware	1	5	1	Body sherd	U/ID	LIA/Early Roman
7	189	LIA Lightly Tempered ware	6	12	6	Body sherds	U/ID	LIA/Early Roman
7	189	LIA Lightly Tempered ware	3	3	3	Body sherds	U/ID	LIA/Early Roman
7	189	LIA Lightly Tempered ware	14	85	13	Body sherds	U/ID	LIA/Early Roman
7	189	LIA Lightly Tempered ware	4	7	4	Body sherds	U/ID	LIA/Early Roman
7	224	Local Roman Greyware	1	23	1	Base	Bowl	C2nd-C4th
7	327	?Local Later Iron Age Type	2	3	2	Body sherds	U/ID	LIA/Early Roman
7	335	Coal Measures Type	1	6	1	BS	U/ID	C13th-C15th

Area	Context	Туре	Number	Weight	ENV	Vessel part	Vessel type	Date range
7	348	Sandy ware	1	40	1	Handle	Jug	C13th-C14th
7	539	Black Burnished ware	1	6	1	Rim	Dish	Mid C2nd
7	549	Shell tempered ware	1	5	1	Rim	U/ID	LIA/Early Roman
7	549	Stoneware	1	57	1	BS	U/ID	C18th-EC20th
7	549	Whiteware	1	18	1	Rim	Bowl	C19th-EC20th
7	549	Whiteware	1	11	1	Rim	Bowl	C19th-EC20th
8	1161	Iron Age type ware	5	8	5	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
8	1161	Local Greyware	1	11	1	Base	Beake r	C2nd - C4th
8	1276	Coarse Black Burnished ware	5	41	5	BS	U/ID	?C2nd - C4th
8	1276	Coarse Sandy ware	2	5	2	BS	U/ID	?LIA
12	1129	Shell Tempered ware	7	16	7	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
12	1137	Gritty ware	1	3	1	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
12	1137	Shell Tempered ware	1	3	1	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
12	1157	Iron Age type ware	2	5	2	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
17	1175	Black Burnished ware	29	160	29	Rim	Bowl	C2nd - C4th
17	1175	Black Burnished ware	224	337	224	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
17	1175	Black Burnished ware	74	182	74	Base	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
WB	1011	Reduced Sandy ware	11	73	11	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
WB	1020	Black Burnished ware	31	46	31	BS/Flakes	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
WB	1020	Black Burnished ware	5	32	5	Rim	Jar	C2nd - C4th
WB	1020	Local Greyware	2	23	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
WB	1020	Local Greyware	1	7	1	Base	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
WB	1021	Coarse Sandy ware	1	30	1	Rim	Jar	Roman
WB	1021	Coarse Sandy ware	1	40	1	BS	U/ID	Roman
WB	1021	Coarse Sandy ware	1	34	1	BS	U/ID	Roman
WB	1021	Coarse Sandy ware	4	49	1	Rim	Jar	C2nd - C4th
WB	1021	Coarse Sandy ware	1	6	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
WB	1021	Local Greyware	25	416	25	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th

# RED HOUSE, DONCASTER, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Area	Context	Турс	Number	Weight	ENV	Vessel part	Vessel type	Date range
		,,	•		,			
WB	1021	Local Greyware	1	64	1	Rim	Jar	C2nd - C4th
WB	1021	Local Greyware	4	26	3	Rim	Jar	C2nd - C4th
WB	1021	Local Greyware	2	83	2	Base	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
WB	1021	Shell Tempered ware	1	24	1	Rim	Jar	LIA - Early Roman
WB	1022	Black Burnished ware	31	233	1	BS/Rim/Base	Bowl	C2nd - C4th
WB	1040	Local Greyware	8	89	7	BS	U/ID	
WB	1040	Sandy greyware	1	8	1	BS	U/ID	
WB	1041	Coarse Sandy ware	1	18	1	Rim	Jar	LIA - Early Roman
WB	1041	Coarse Sandy ware	1	7	1	BS	U/ID	LIA - Early Roman
WB	1050	Coarse Greyware	1	5	1	Rim	U/ID	
WB	1054	Black Burnished ware	1	61	1	Rim	Jar	C2nd - C4th
WB	1054	Black Burnished ware	1	28	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
WB	1054	Local Greyware	1	9	1	BS	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
WB	1054	Mortarium	1	40	1	BS	Morta rium	
WB	1054	Rusticated ware	1	3	1	BS	U/ID	
WB	1101	?Black Burnished ware	1	18	1	BS	U/ID	?C2nd - C4th
WB	1116	Local Greyware	1	6	1	Rim	U/ID	C2nd - C4th
WB	1116	Sandy greyware	1	15	1	Neck/shoulder	Jar	
		Total	1371	7444	1298			

# T15 Results of initial pottery analysis

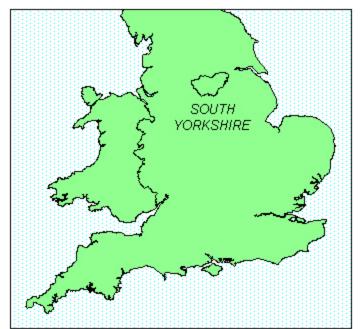
### A2 STONE FINDS

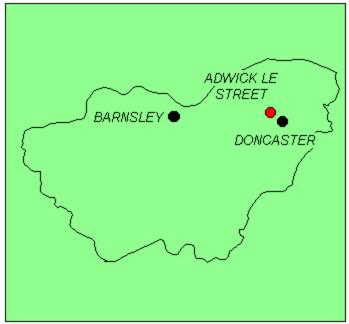
### A2.1 THE POLISHED STONE AXE

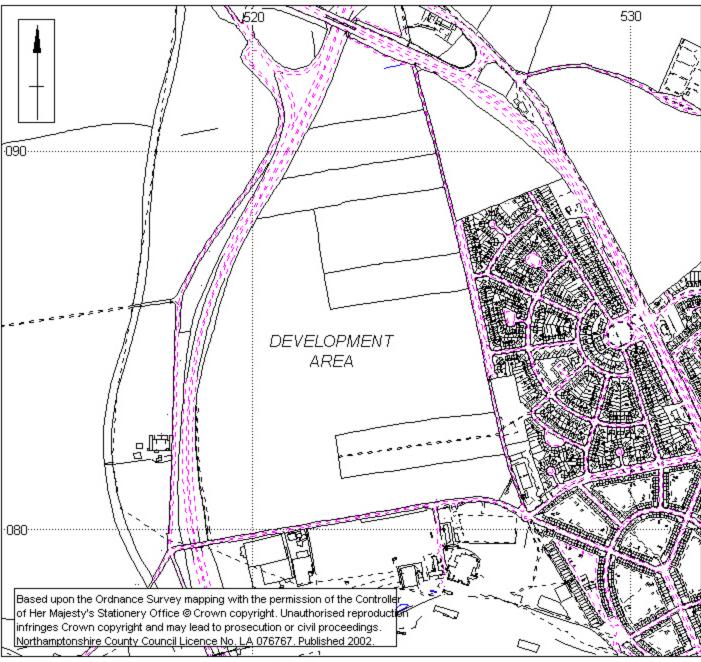
Part of a polished stone axe was recovered as an unstratified find from Area 14, located to the west of the Roman Road and east of the open area excavation Area 12. It is up to 47mm wide by 22mm thick, and has a surviving length of 82mm. The butt end has been totally removed, but the original length is likely to have been c.90-105mm. Visual examination indicates that it is a fine-grained green-grey stone, which appears to be an epidotised tuff (Group VI), which has its principal source in the central fells of the Lake District, Cumbria. Both surfaces are convex, with sharp, flattened edge facets, varying from 4-8mm wide, typical of many axes of this group. The cutting edge has a pronounced asymmetrical curve, and the ground faces are of differing lengths, running back for 27mm on one face and 32mm on the other. The more deeply ground face also exhibits a distinct change in angle, indicating that it has been reground. Flake scars are present on the distal end, indicating that the piece had been deliberately trimmed following the removal of the butt end, perhaps to aid re-hafting; the regrinding of one face may also have occurred at this time. The piece is in very fine condition. It appears to have been unused following its final regrinding, and has not been subject to any post-depositional damage.

#### A2.2 FLINTS

Seven pieces of flint were recovered, of that number six are unstratified. As flint does not occur naturally within the locality, its presence is of interest. The pieces are small, varying in length from 20-36mm. One piece is burnt, while the others have patinated surfaces, white to pale blue in colour. Pieces displaying evidence for utilisation include, 3 flakes and a small discoidal scraper. The scraper, which is mostly likely to be of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date, measures 21mm in diameter, with an abruptly retouched edge around c.40% of the circumference.

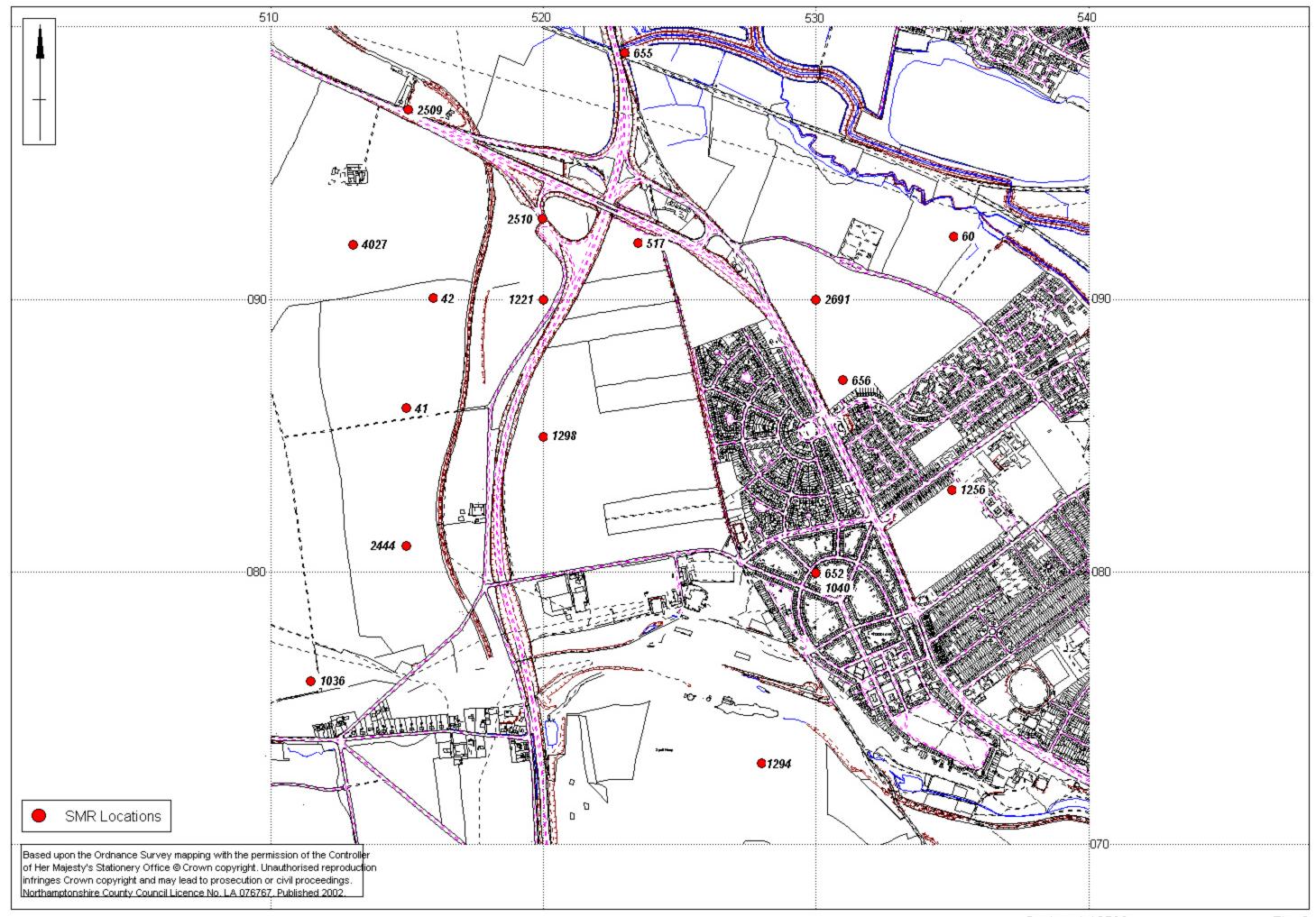


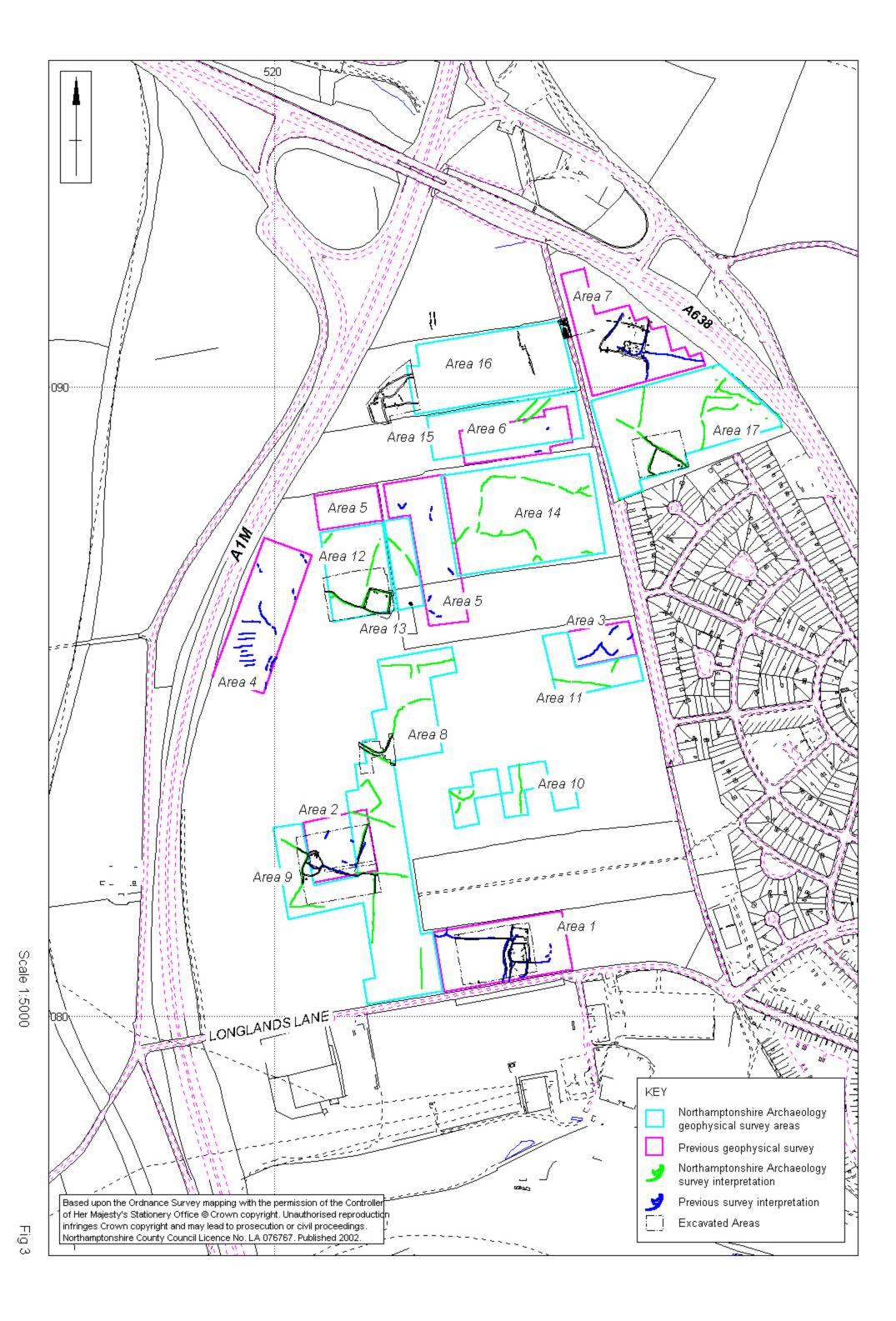




Scale = 1:1000

Fig. 1





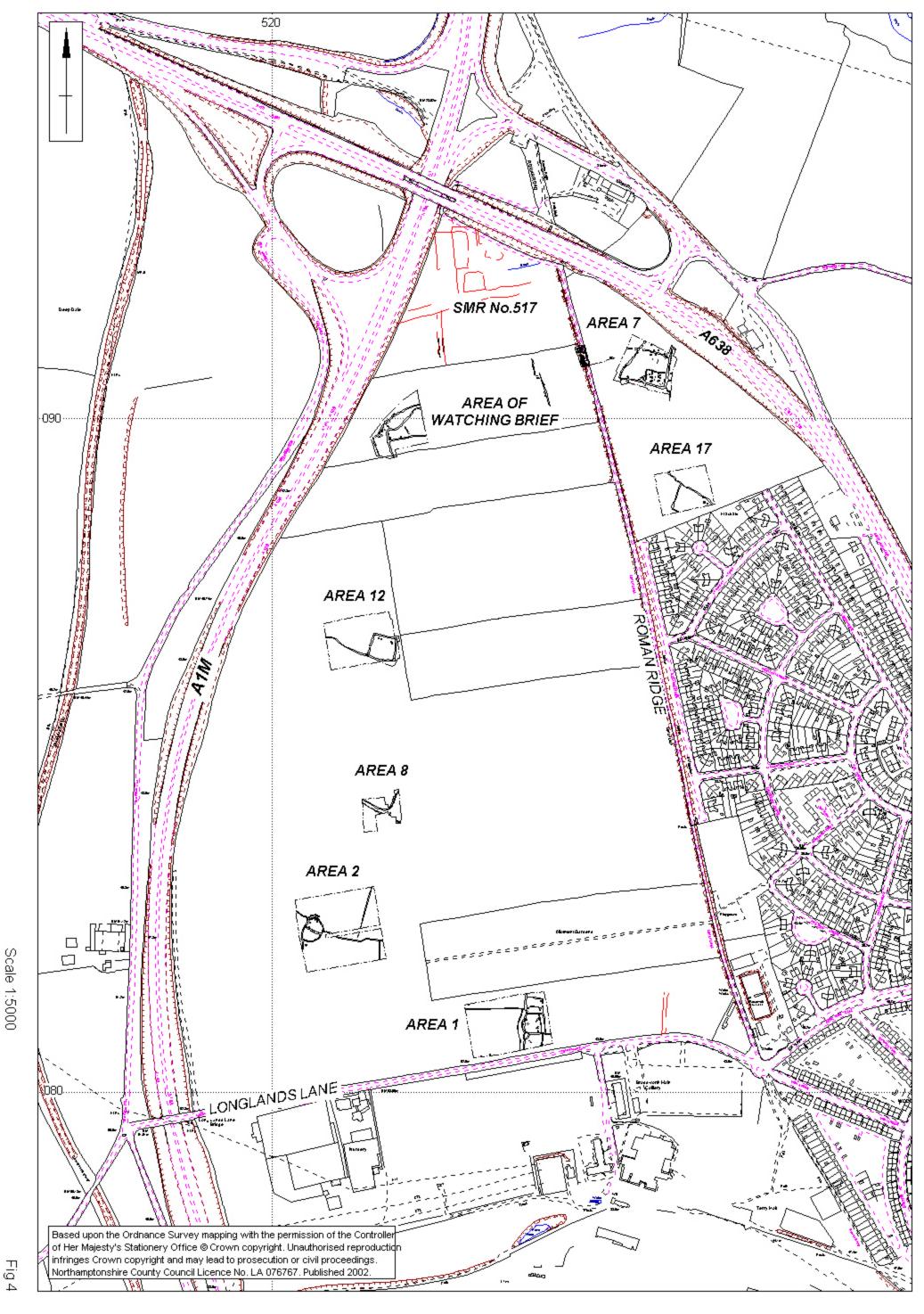
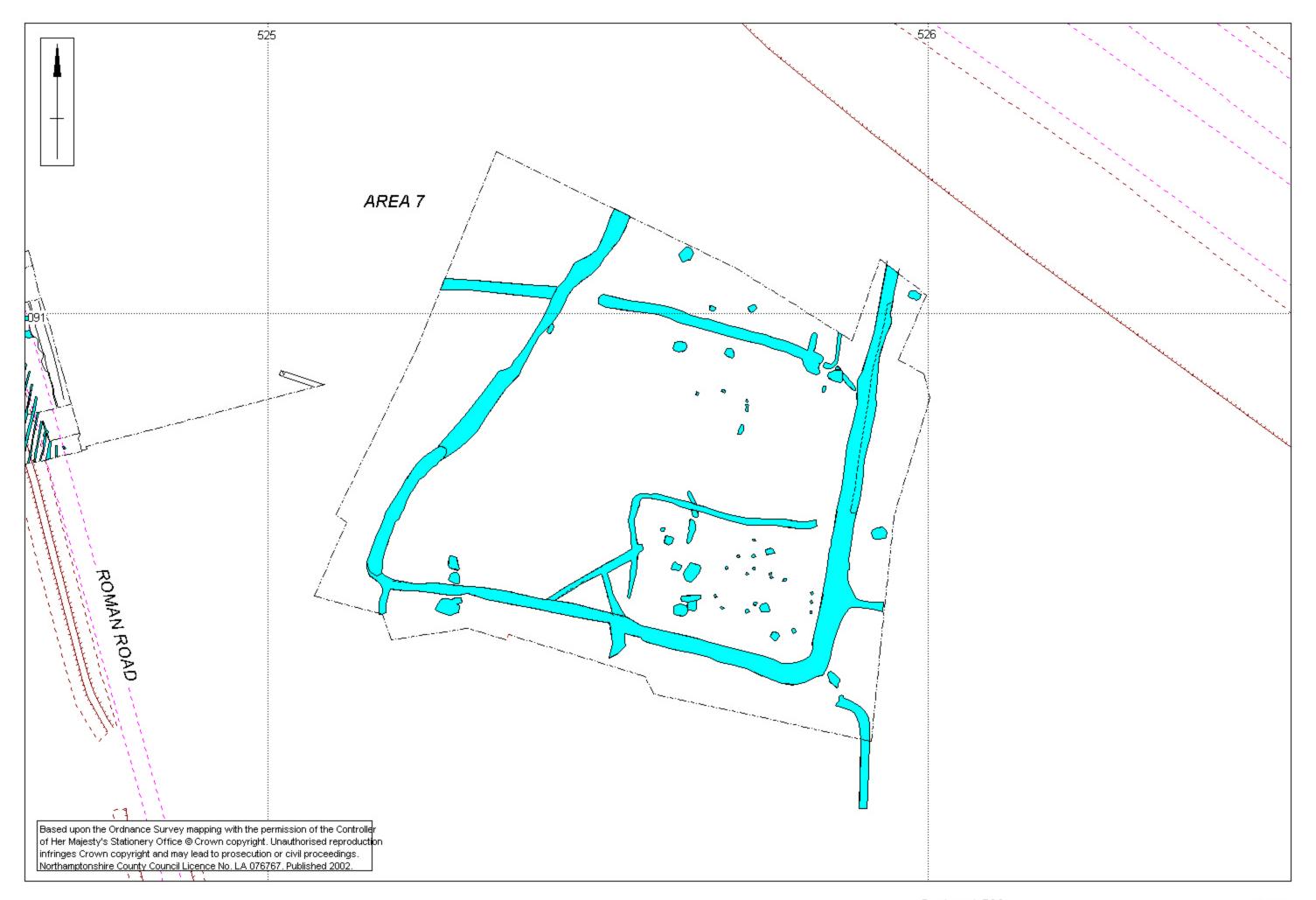
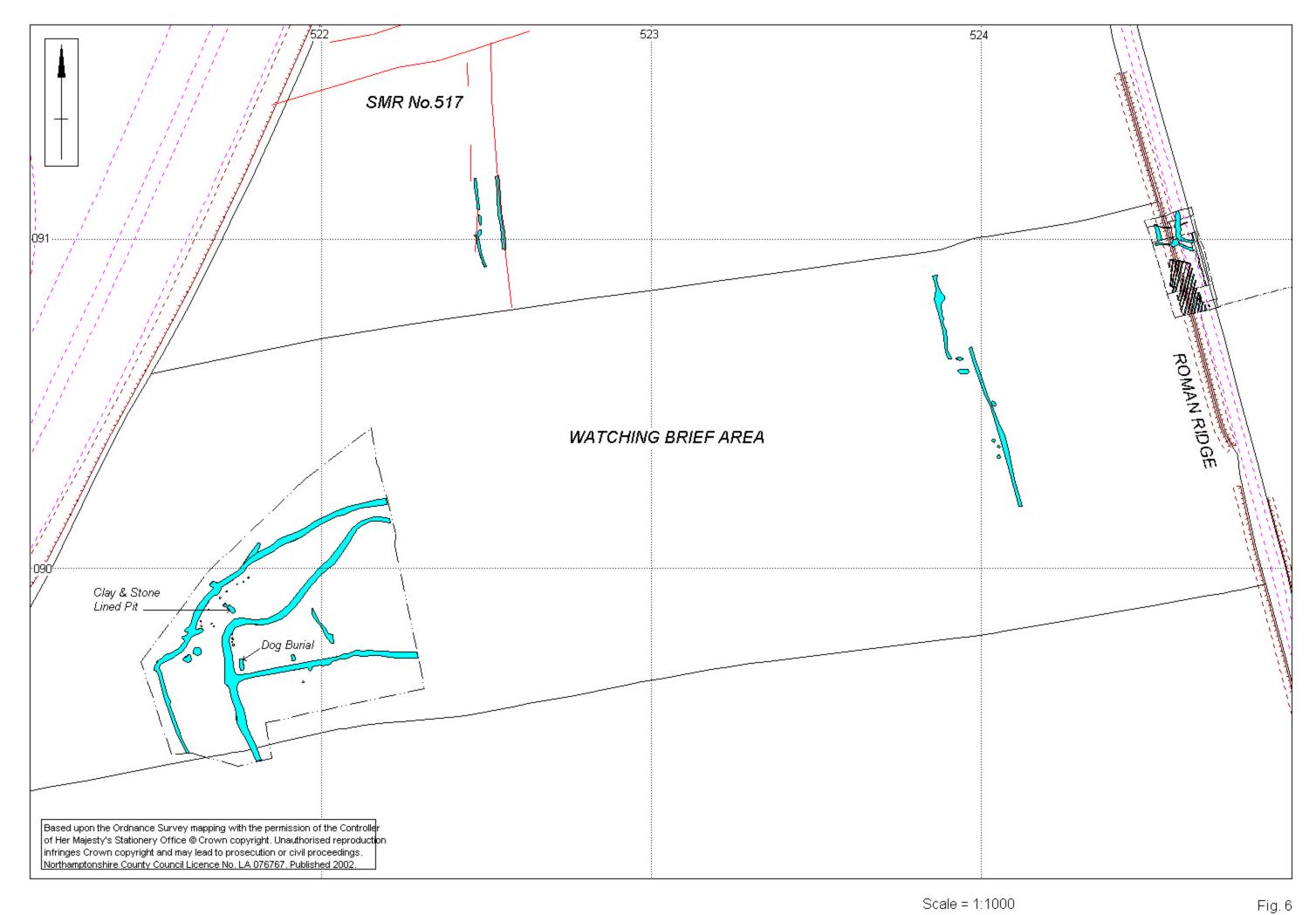


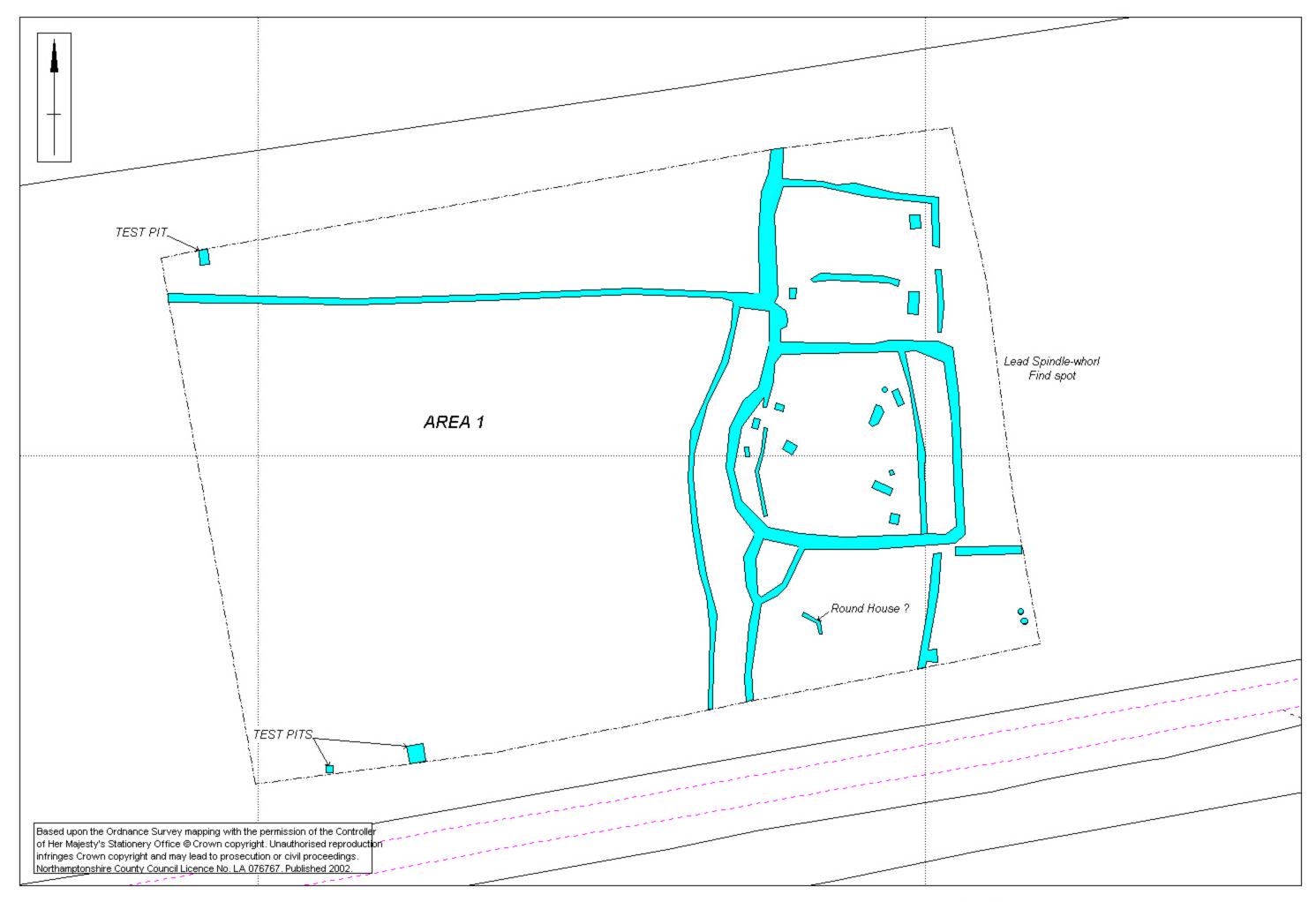
Fig 4



Scale = 1:500 Fig. 5



Scale = 1:1000



Scale = 1:500 Fig. 7

