

**Humber Field Archaeology**  
*Archaeological Consultants and Contractors*



Archaeological Observation  
Investigation and Recording  
on  
land adjacent to  
1 Station Road  
Riccall

Planning Reference: 2007/0041/FUL  
National Grid Reference: SE 2084 7801  
Site Code: WB2007.053

for

Edenvale Homes Ltd.

Watching Brief Report Number: 1023  
May 2008

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D. Jobling (BA Hons), May 2008

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## Summary

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A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with the erection of 7 dwellings on land adjacent to 1 Station Road, Riccall.

Monitoring of the excavations at the site revealed a sequence of likely post-medieval deposits underlying later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century waste, occupation and demolition based material. A small assemblage of artefacts consisting of animal bone, ceramic building material and pottery dating to the post-medieval period were recovered.

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## 1. Introduction

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This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology, on behalf of Edenvale Homes Ltd., during groundwork associated with the erection of 7 dwellings on land adjacent to 1 Station Road, Riccall (*Figure 1, Plate 1*).

Site Code:	WB2007.053
National Grid Reference:	SE 2084 7801
Planning Reference:	2007/0041/FUL
Museum Reference:	pending from Yorkshire Museum

The development site is located to the east of the centre of the village of Riccall. The site is bounded to the south by Station Road, to the west by Main Street and to the north and east by residential properties.

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## 2. Archaeological Background

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The development lies in the historic core of the medieval village of Riccall. The village name suggests that it was originally an Anglian settlement, and it was on the River Ouse at Riccall that Earl Tostig and Harold Hardrada landed in AD 1066 before marching to battle at Fulford. Previous archaeological work in the village has revealed evidence for medieval and early post-medieval activity.

“The parish of Riccall lies about 8 miles south of York, on the east bank of the river Ouse. Its name suggests that the village was an Anglian settlement, established on a ridge near a nook of land around which the river flowed. The site of the village, more than 25 ft. above sea-level, is certainly surrounded on three sides by low-lying ground, and the Ouse at Riccall has one of the most prominent bends in its sinuous course. It was at Riccall that Earl Tostig and Harold Hardrada landed in 1066 before marching to battle at Fulford, and about 50 skeletons found near the river, close to Riccall landing, in 1956–7 may be connected with the events of that year. The parish, which is roughly triangular in shape, has an area of 2,667a.

The large village of Riccall lies around the junction of the main York-Selby road with the road to Kelfield. Stretches of those roads are closely built up, and other houses stand in offshoots from them, namely North Field and Chapel Lanes, Church Street, Station Road, and Coppergate. At the road junction in the village centre is a triangular area, now partly built upon, two sides of which are known as Silver Street. It is possible that this was formerly a green and market-place, though there is no subsequent reference to the Wednesday market and fair on 19–21 July at Riccall granted in 1350. Cross Hill House 'near the old cross', mentioned in 1732 and 1829, may have stood thereabouts.

Apart from the former Vicarage, which incorporates the remains of the medieval prebendal manor-house, the most noteworthy house in the village

is Bangram Hill Farm, on the York road. It is timber-framed and probably 17th century in date but was encased in brick in the 18th and early 19th centuries. A brick house in Church Street may have a similar origin. There are several other 18th century brown-brick houses in the streets around the church and two substantial early-19th-century villas in Main Street, besides many smaller 19th century houses. Part of the former pinfold stands on the York road, and there are several groups of farm buildings in the village, including a dovecot at Dam End Farm. Modern development, on all sides of the village, includes over 100 council houses and several estates of private houses.

There was a single licensed house in Riccall in the later 18th century, but by 1823 there were four, the Greyhound, the Drovers' Inn, the Hare and Hounds, and the Shoulder of Mutton. In 1842 there were five public houses and in 1851 four, the Gardeners' Arms replacing the Shoulder of Mutton among the names of 1823. Thereafter only the Greyhound, the Hare and Hounds, and the Drovers' Inn are recorded; the last-named apparently closed between 1913 and 1921, (but the others remained in 1972. Shops in the village include that of the Riccall Co-operative Society, founded in 1878 and occupying a prominent building of that time.” (Extract from Allison 1976).”

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### **3. Methodology**

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The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from Humber Field Archaeology (HFA), in accordance with the standard written scheme of investigation (WSI) for limited archaeological recording (“watching brief”) produced by North Yorkshire County Council in response to a condition placed upon the application.

The condition stated:

‘No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local Planning Authority.’

The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of the stripped area and the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new dwellings. A series of 4 visits were made to the site between 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007 and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

Any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits. The excavated dimensions of the foundation trenches were recorded, as were the depth sequences of any exposed stratigraphy. Where archaeological deposits/features were identified, context numbers were assigned and detailed descriptions were made, plans and sections were drawn and a photographic record was maintained.

Archaeological artefacts found during the fieldwork were bagged according to their context, and returned to HFA for further specialist analysis.

It is the intention of HFA to deposit the physical and paper archive with York Museum.

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## 4. Results

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The site encompasses a mostly rectangular surface area measuring up to 43m x 29m (1082.90m<sup>2</sup> over a 150.60m perimeter). The site previously held a now demolished warehouse and other ancillary structures. The site was also partially stripped by approximately 0.20m of the uppermost layer (101/201/301) prior to the onset of the foundation excavations. No archaeological material was noted in the initial strip (*Plate 1*).

### Plots 1-3

The 3 plots cover an area measuring 13m x 8m (104m<sup>2</sup>) (*Figure 2, Plate 2*). The trenches were 0.60m wide and 1m deep on average. The basal layer observed in this area was (302) natural yellow orange brown sands viewed up to 0.80m thick but continued both below and outside the area of excavation. In Plot 2 only, 0.40m thick subsoil (302) was noted underlying the topsoil (301) which formed the uppermost layer for these 3 house plots.

A linear boundary ditch [304] was recorded cutting north-south across Plot 1. The ditch continued outside the area of excavation and had measurable dimensions of greater than 2.40m wide, greater than 0.80m deep. Observed in profile, the ditch cut had generally straight sides at 45° angles. The fill (303) consisted of soft and loose mid grey brown sands with occasional chalk flecking present in the matrix (*Figures 2, 3-S.1, Plate 3*).

At the northern junction of Plots 2 and 3 a series of pits were recorded.

Large pit [309] appeared to be greater than 4m in diameter and greater than 0.80m deep, its boundaries continuing outside the area of excavation. The fill (308) was a homogenous mid to dark grey sand silt. [309] was truncated to the east by large pit [312] – a greater than 1.75m diameter and 1m deep generally concave cut which was filled by a basal layer of light ashes and cinders (311) viewed up to 0.05m thick followed by the main, secondary fill (310) a very dark grey silt and industrial waste based deposit. Last in the sequence was pit [307], a straight, near vertical sided 1.20m wide and 0.80m deep pit containing charcoal grey wet silts with modern industrial waste inclusions (308) (*Figures 2, 3-S.2, Plate 4*). There was a modern pit [314] in the central area of the trenches to the south of pit [312]. The 0.80m diameter pit was filled by 20<sup>th</sup> century waste (313) and construction/demolition material (*Figure 2*).

### Plots 4-5

In this area, the plots were reduced in ground level by approximately 0.30m to 0.40m below the stripped development surface removing the majority of the upper, modern surface deposit (201) across an area measuring 8.50m x 8m (68m<sup>2</sup>). Elements of the natural ground (202) were noted in places at this reduced level in addition to further archaeological deposits.

In the southwestern corner of Plot 4 there were the remains of a previous brick wall footing with a single, visible 90° corner (203). At the exposed surface level, only the mortar in between courses was uppermost. To the exterior and interior of (203) were the remains of brick floor surfaces (204) and (205) covering areas measuring 2.20m x 1.20m (2.64m<sup>2</sup>) and 2.40m x 0.50m (1.20m<sup>2</sup>) respectively. Both sets of flooring continued outside the areas of excavation and appeared contemporary with footing (203), which are of likely 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century date. Floor (205) was truncated to the east and north by northwest-southeast land drain (206) which extended over a visible length of 3.50m before continuing outside the area of excavation (*Figure 2, Plate 5*).

### **Plots 6-7**

The 2 plots cover an area measuring 8m x 7.50m (60m<sup>2</sup>). The trenches were 0.60m wide and between 0.60m and 3.50m deep (this was due to intrusions in the southern corner of the foundations). The basal layer observed in this area was (102) natural yellow orange brown sands viewed up to 0.80m thick but continued both below and outside the area of excavation (*Figure 2, Plate 6*).

Along the western foundation trench 2 archaeological features were recorded, a pit and a linear foundation. [104] was 0.95m wide with both straight and convex sides leading to a flat base and was filled by (103) very dark grey clay silt (*Figures 2, 4-S.3, Plate 7*). To the south of this was [106], a straight, likely former foundation cut viewed in plan at 0.70m long west-east but continued west outside the area of excavation. The width was no greater than 0.43m, but generally was 0.30m; the depth was greater than 0.30m also. The fill (105) was a mid to dark brown grey silt sands containing chalk and charcoal flecking and ceramic building material flecking (*Figures 2, 4-S.4, Plate 8*).

In the southern corner of the foundation trenches there was an *in-situ* corroded metal soak away (107) set within large cut [108]. The cut was approximately 2m in diameter and 2m deep, however, due to the nature of the ground which was prone to collapse in this area, a much larger excavation was undertaken in this area of the trenches (*Figure 2*).

Due to this additional excavation, a clearer view was observed of the nature of the deposits within the trench system within the eastern areas (*Plate 9*). Overlying (102) along the eastern trench edge was what appears to represent a buried land surface of likely medieval date (110). This surface was viewed between 0.15m and 0.25m thick and over a distance of 6.40m north-south with the deposit continuing outside the trenches to the east and south (*Figures 2, 4-S.5, Plates 9, 10*). Elements of (110) were also noted in the eastern baulks within the trench system also. Sealing (110) was (109) a substantial (greater than 0.30m thick) layer of mid to dark grey brown silt sand subsoil. This layer was present throughout the majority of the trenches apart from at the west where only topsoil layer (101) was present overlying the archaeological resource. (101) was viewed between 0.10m thick at the west and 0.45m thick at the east.

Following this series of excavations, archaeological monitoring at the site was concluded.

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## 5. The Finds

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A small assemblage of artefacts were recovered during the current programme of work and consisted of several material categories: pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone.

### **The Pottery**

P. Didsbury (*M. Phil*) pers. comm.

Context (110) buried land horizon

1 x sherd of post-medieval Humberware (HUM5), date 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **The Finds (Other Than Pottery)**

Sophie Tibbles

### **Introduction and Methodology**

The watching brief produced a small bulk finds assemblage that comprised two material categories, roof tile and animal bone. All material types were quantified (count and weight) and were packaged appropriately for long term storage, in accordance with conservation and museum guidelines.

### **The Assemblage**

#### *Roof Tile*

The roof tile had a weight of 162grams and was categorised as a flat tile. No diagnostic features, such as means of suspension were noted. Remnants of a pale yellow/cream slip were evident. The tile was hand-made, of a hard homogenous fabric with little or no inclusions and was 16mm thick. The dating of non-diagnostic flat tile within this region is elusive due to their re-useable nature. Therefore, these fragments can only be placed within a date range of the late 12<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

(105) Fill of linear ?foundation

2 fragments. Remnants of white slip.                      Weight: 75 grams

(110) Buried ?surface

1 fragment. White mortar from original use. Weight: 87 grams.

#### *Animal Bone*

One fragment of animal bone – weight 47 grams– was retrieved from buried ?surface (110). Identified as a fragment of pelvis from a cow (*Bos*), the bone was in good condition though recent damage was noted.

### **Assessment of Potential**

Due to its small size the assemblage is of limited potential. The ceramic building material contributes little in terms of information regarding the local and/or regional



construction methods. The animal bone is likely to represent residual elements of domestic rubbish. This may also be of relatively recent date.

### **Recommendations**

No further work is deemed necessary for the bulk finds assemblage. None of the material is deemed worthy of retention.

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## **6. Discussion**

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The following is solely the opinion of Humber Field Archaeology, and may not reflect that of North Yorkshire County Council.

The excavations at the development site have demonstrated the presence of archaeological deposits dating to the post-medieval and later periods. The post-medieval archaeology was characterised by a buried landscape surface, pits and probable robbed out foundation trenches in plots 6-7. There was also an undated north-south boundary ditch in Plot 1.

Later, likely 19<sup>th</sup> century occupation evidence was present in the form of a series of inter-cutting waste pits in the Plot 3, together with 19<sup>th</sup> century and later occupation in Plot 4 with the areas of brick flooring and later service installations.

It is likely that the archaeological deposits/structures identified during this programme of work extend outside the current area and into adjacent ones. It is therefore our recommendation that should any further development take place in these areas then a suitable scheme of archaeological work should be implemented.

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## **7. Acknowledgements**

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Thanks are accorded to Sean Duggan and Edenvale Homes Ltd. for help and co-operation during the course of this project.

The work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation produced by North Yorkshire County Council. The on-site work was undertaken by the author.

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## 8. References

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Allison, K., 1976, The Victoria History Of The Counties Of England. A History of the County of York East Riding: Volume III, K.J. London: University of London Institute of Historical Research

Guidelines for Finds Work The Institute of Field Archaeologists Finds Group First Draft, 1991.

Jobling, D., 2004, Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording at Church Street, Riccall.

Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2), English Heritage, 1991.

Standard Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Limited Archaeological Recording (“Watching Brief”). North Yorkshire County Council.

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## 9. Appendices

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### Appendix 1

#### Context list

(100)-Unstratified  
(101)-Topsoil  
(102)-Natural sands  
(103)-Pit fill  
[104]-Pit cut  
(105)-Pit fill  
[106]-Pit cut  
(107)-Soak away fill  
[108]-Soak away cut  
(109)-Subsoil  
(110)-Buried post-medieval land surface

(200)-Unstratified  
(201)-Modern surface deposit  
(202)-Natural sands  
(203)-Brick wall foundation  
(204)-Brick floor  
(205)-Brick floor  
(206)-Land drain/service

(300)-Unstratified  
(301)-Topsoil  
(302)-Natural sands  
(303)-Ditch fill  
[304]-Ditch cut  
(305)-Subsoil  
(306)-Pit fill  
[307]-Pit cut  
(308)-Pit fill  
[309]-Pit cut  
(310)-Pit fill  
(311)-Pit fill  
[312]-Pit fill  
(313)-Pit fill  
[314]-Pit cut

## **Appendix 2**

### **Archive**

#### **Project Details:**

Archaeological observation, investigation and recording on land adjacent to 1 Station Road, Riccall.

**Site Code:** WB2007.053

**National Grid Reference:** SE 2084 7801

**Planning Reference Number:** 2007/0041/FUL

**Museum Reference or Accession Number:** pending from Yorkshire Museum

**Author** D. Jobling **Date of fieldwork** 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007 and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2008

**Report Number.** Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 1023 May 2008

#### **Quantity**

1 x half-standard size museum box contains the artefact archive.

4 x A4 plastic wallets contain the paper archive.

#### **Summary of work**

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with the erection of 7 dwellings on land adjacent to 1 Station Road, Riccall.

Monitoring of the excavations at the site revealed a sequence of likely post-medieval deposits underlying later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century waste, occupation and demolition based material. A small assemblage of artefacts consisting of animal bone, ceramic building material and pottery dating to the post-medieval period were recovered.

**Site Code:** WB2007.053

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## **Index to Archive**

### **1 Background:**

1.1 Specification/WSI

1.2 Correspondence

### **2 Site Data:**

2.1 Staff site visit log

2.2 Site plans

### **3 The Photographic Record:**

3.1 Photographic Catalogue

3.2 Contact Sheets

3.3 Reference Prints

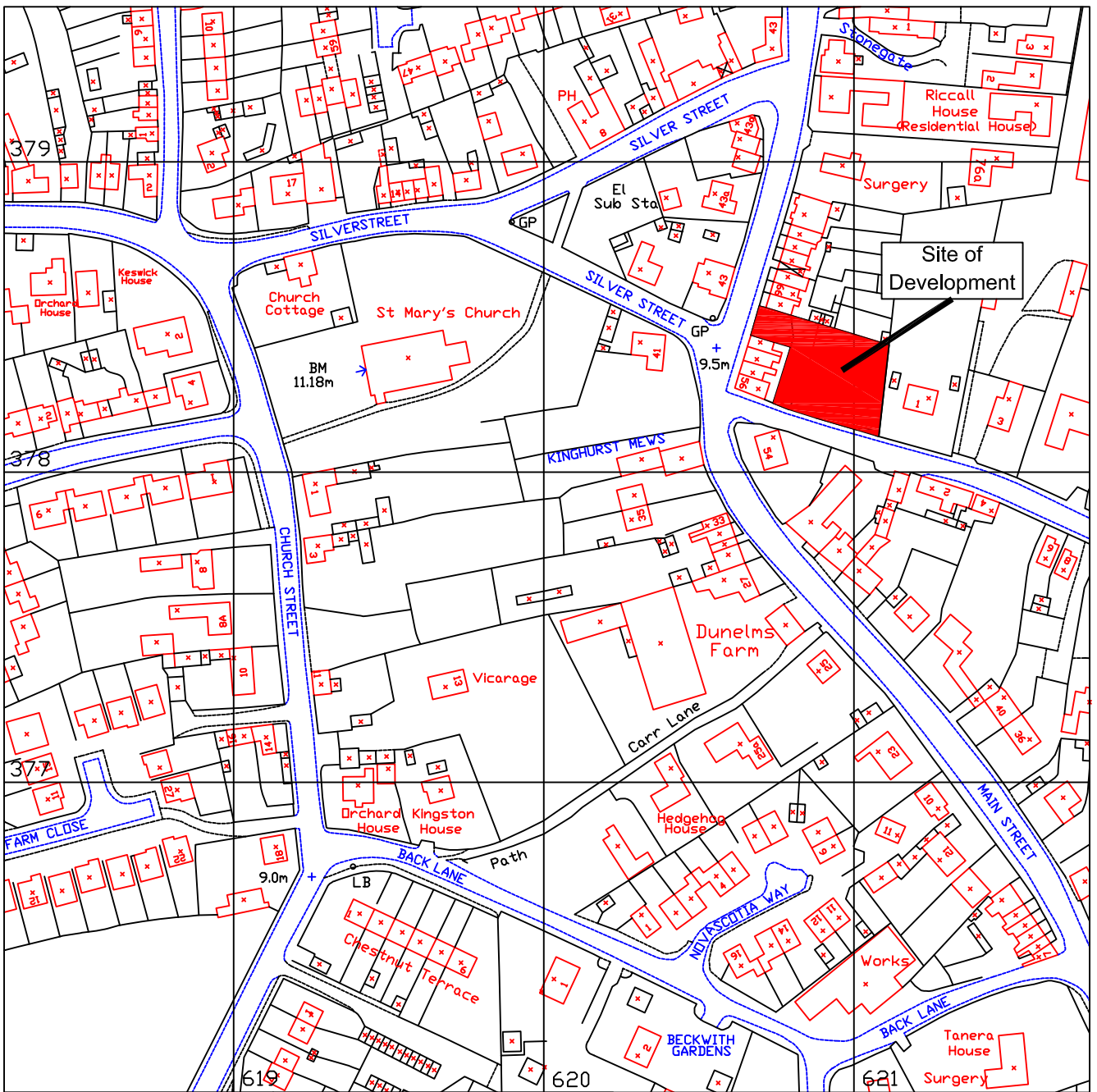
### **4 The Finds**

4.1 The Finds (Other than pottery)

4.2 Pottery notes (pers. comm.)

### **4. Final Report:**

Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording on land adjacent to 1 Station Road, Riccall. Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 1023, May 2008.



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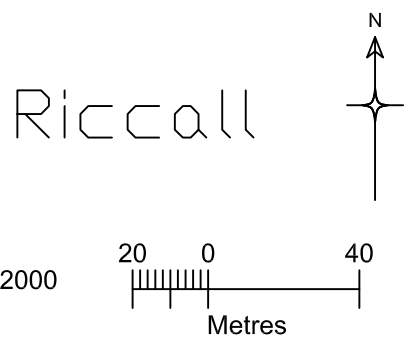


Figure 1 Site location plan.

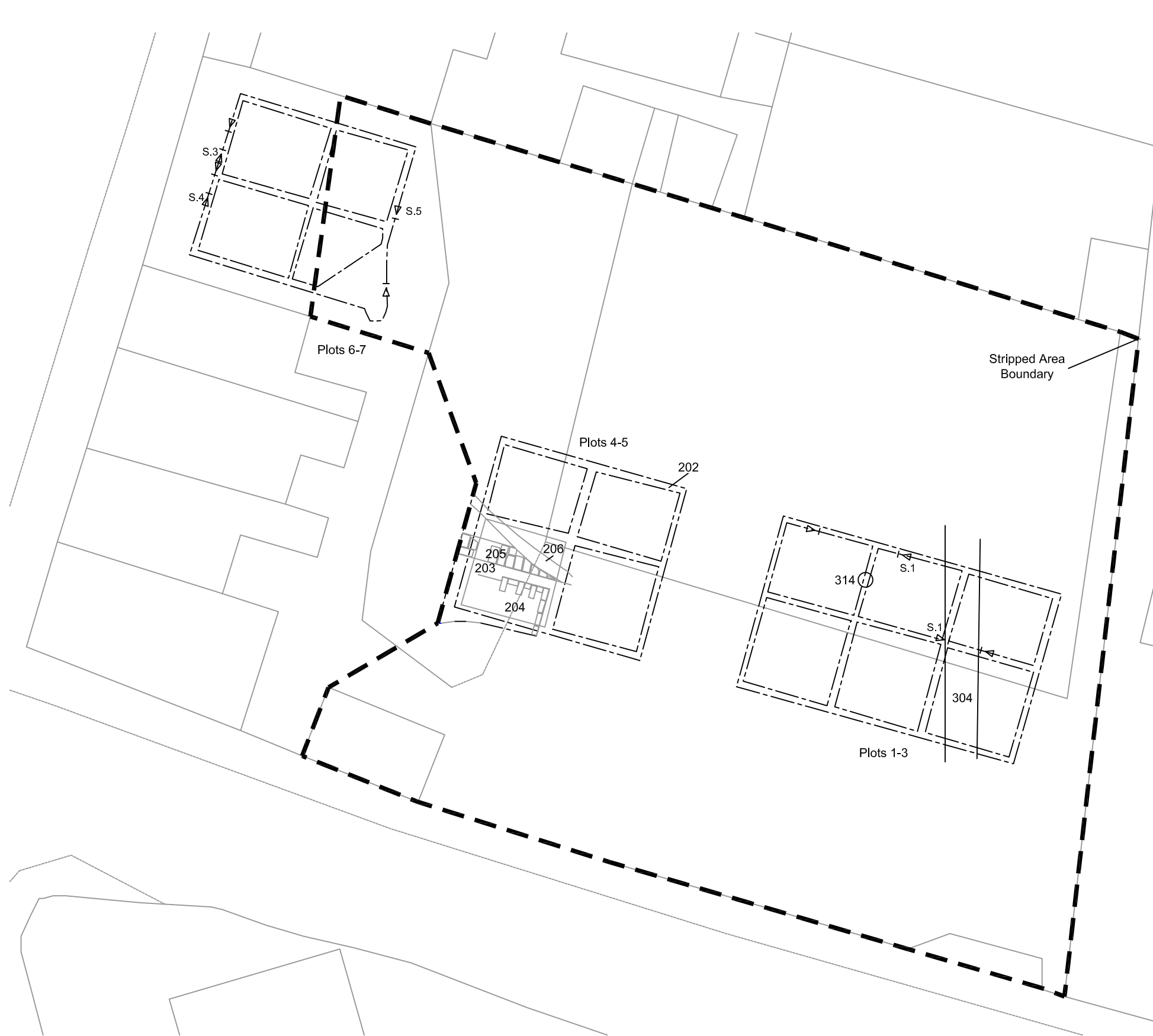


Figure 2 Plan showing the main excavations and deposits at the development site.

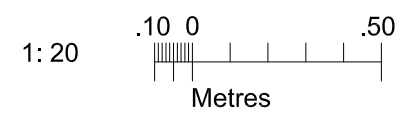
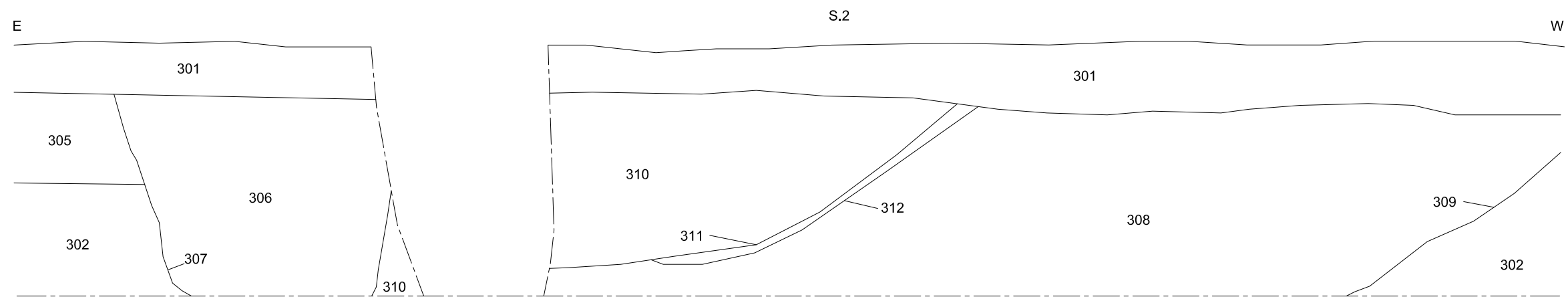
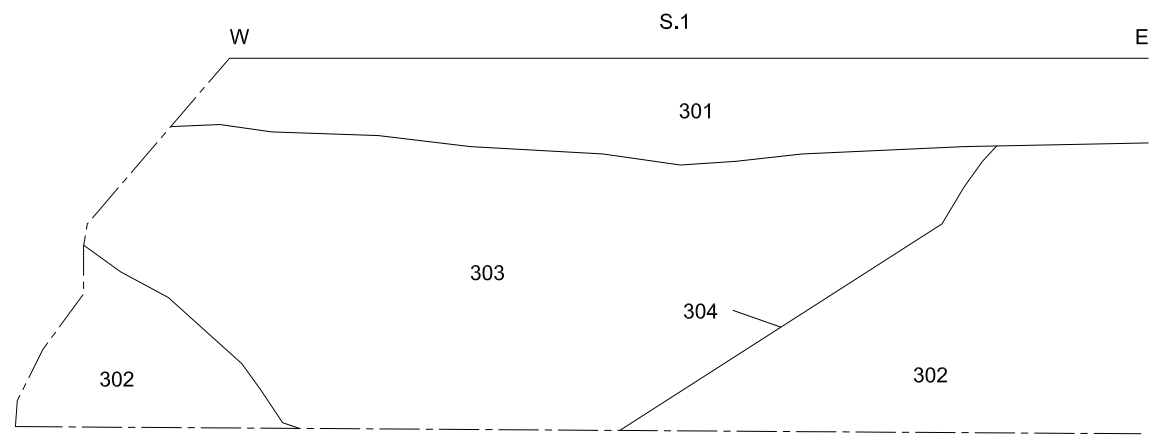


Figure 3 Recorded features in section.



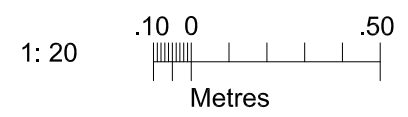
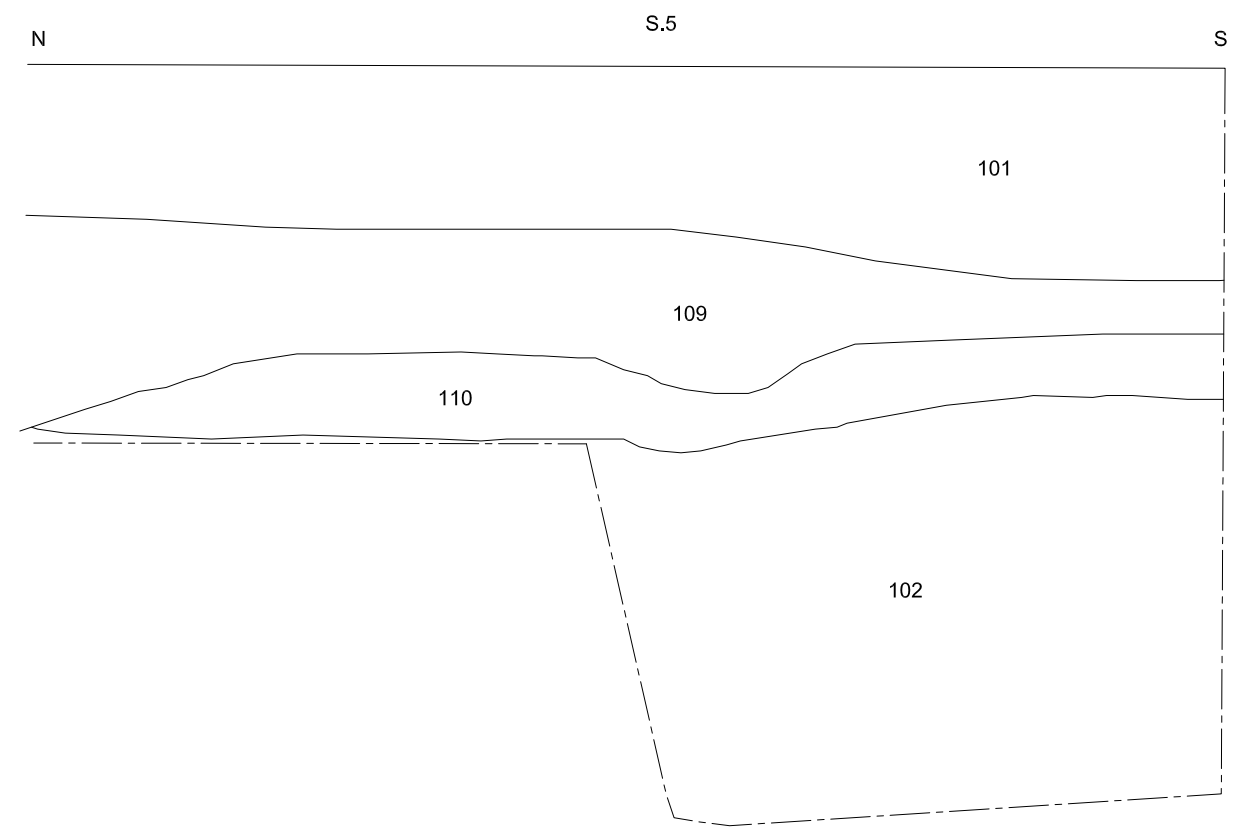
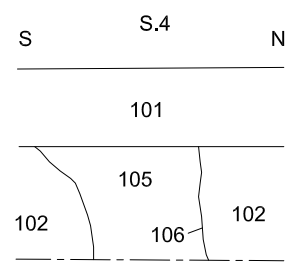
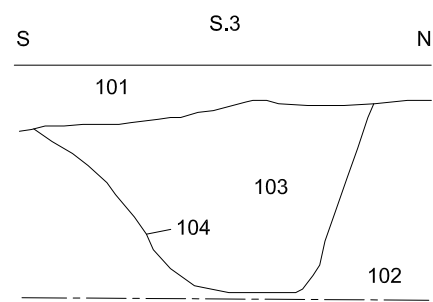


Figure 4 Recorded features in section.



*Plate 1 The site of the development, looking north.*



*Plate 2 Plots 1-3, viewed from the west.*





*Plate 3 Boundary ditch [304], viewed from the southwest. 1m scale.*



*Plate 4 Inter-cutting pits [307], [309] and [312], looking west. 1m scale.*





*Plate 5 Showing brick floor surfaces (204) and (205) together with dividing footing (203) and later drainage (206). Looking northwest, 1m scale.*



*Plate 6 Plots 6-7 in the western area of the site, looking southwest.*





*Plate 7 Pit [104], viewed from the southeast. 1m scale.*



*Plate 8 Former foundation cut [106], looking northwest. 1m scale.*





*Plate 9 Showing the area of former soak away (107) and associated extensive excavation. Viewed from the northwest.*



*Plate 10 Showing buried medieval land surface (110) overlying sands (102) and sealed by thick subsoil (109). Viewed from the northwest, 1m scale.*

# Humber Field Archaeology

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Project Management • Desk-based Assessment • Field Survey • Excavation Watching Briefs  
• Finds Research • Post-excavation Analysis • Inter-tidal Work

Humber Field Archaeology is an independently-funded part of the Humber Archaeology Partnership, a partnership serving The East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council