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**Newbridge Quarry Extension
Pickering
North Yorkshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation
Interim Report
Volume 1: Trial Trenching*

December 2008

Report No. 1901

CLIENT

CEMEX UK Operations Ltd.

**Newbridge Quarry Extension,
Pickering,
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trail trenching was carried out on the site of the proposed northern extension of Newbridge Quarry, near Pickering. The work followed extensive geophysical survey which revealed a continuation of an Iron-Age and Romano British landscape previously investigated in advance earlier phases of quarrying the south between 1999-2006. The archaeology revealed comprised a trackway and appended enclosures and field system. A total of 33 trenches were targeted upon geophysical anomalies and apparently blank areas. The site would appear to have developed in the later iron Age and early Roman period, with a definite focus of activity in the 2nd century. Also taken into consideration have been some of the finds assemblages from the previous investigations to the south, which indicate a broad landscape contemporaneity with the archaeology of the 2008 evaluation site.



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Report Information

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Project Management: Ian Roberts BSc FSA MifA
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*Signif potential to address research qns
his profess opinion*

*in light of above, see Section 9
- justification
of approx level of work*

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*+ explain what he means by SM + R.
+ how*

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*does it work re 18r stages
phase by phase.
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does it change in diff areas.*

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*Need WST + maps + refer condtn to it
each phase sep'ly condtns.*

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The post-excavation finds and environmental processing was supervised by Alison Morgan who coordinated the post-excavation specialists. The report was prepared by David Williams and Ian Roberts.

1 Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Cemex UK to carry out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in the area of the proposed northern extension to Newbridge Quarry at Pickering. The archaeological work is required to establish the archaeological potential and significance of the site and to inform the formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy for dealing with the archaeology in advance of the extraction process. A total of 33 trial trenches were targeted upon potential archaeological features and potentially blank areas, selected largely on the basis of the results of an earlier geophysical survey.

Site location and topography

Newbridge Quarry lies about 2km to the north of Pickering (Fig. 1). The proposed northern extension covers an area of about 20 hectares immediately to the north-west of New Hambleton Farm (central NGR SE 799 876); an area bounded by Swainsea Lane to the west, Haugh Wood to the east, and the existing quarry to the south. The land gently slopes up towards the north and lies at between 90-105m OD.

The proposed area of new mineral extraction covers an area of 17 hectares, to be carried out in five phases. The remaining area comprises is split into two roughly equal stand-off areas to the north of New Hambleton Farm, in the south-east corner of the site, and in the north-west corner of the site, which will be used for the stockpiling of soil.

Soils, geology and land-use

The solid geology is Upper Calcareous Grit (Upper Oxfordian Stage) and the soils are shallow well-drained calcareous fine loams of the Elmton 2 Association. The area is presently occupied by three fields, the north and west fields being under an arable regime, whilst that to the south-east is under pasture.

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Between 1999 and 2006 limestone extraction at Newbridge Quarry was preceded by a series of extensive open-area archaeological excavations, initially by the MAP Consultancy and from 2003 by Archaeological Services WYAS. The work identified some evidence for early prehistoric activity in the form of residual finds, but most of the evidence is for Iron Age and Romano-British occupation, with some small potential for post-Roman activity. With the exception of three potential square barrows and an area of Iron Age open settlement, the settlement evidence principally took the form of a series of rectilinear enclosures that were appended to, or were focussed upon, a double ditched trackway (or droveway) that ran north-south through the entire phased extraction area. The enclosures, which were mainly on the eastern side of the trackway, were in some cases superimposed, with most containing roundhouses. Associated features have provided evidence of a generally mixed economy with

arable cultivation represented by crop driers and querns, and animal husbandry reflected in the animal bones recovered (Signorelli and Roberts 2006).

Three extended inhumations were recovered from the settlement areas, although these need not necessarily be contemporary. The commonest form of burial was cremation, with some thirty un-urned examples being recovered, often from the upper fills of the trackway ditches. Their stratigraphic position in the ditch fills suggests that they are probably of Late Roman date. A possible post-Roman phase to the site has been proposed, but the evidence for this is insubstantial (see Appendix 5 for a review of the phasing from work carried out between 2003-2006).

A full desk-based assessment was originally carried out for the New Hambleton Farm extension in 2005 (Dodds 2005) and has since been revised and updated in the light of the excavations in 2005 and 2006 (Pollington 2008). Although this study drew upon cropmarks from air photographs to establish the existence of archaeological enclosures in parts of the site, it is the enhancement by a 100% geophysical (magnetometer) survey that has produced the clearest picture of the archaeological potential of the site (Webb 2008). The geophysical survey results (Fig. 2 and 3) reveal that the western half of the site is occupied by what is almost certainly a continuation of the north-south double ditched trackway found to the south. As before, it seems to have formed a coaxial focus for other field boundaries and has several ditched rectilinear enclosures associated with it, especially on its eastern side. One very well defined square enclosure contains a rectangular geophysical anomaly that could be a building, whilst other unusual anomalies include a circular feature, which might be a prehistoric barrow, and an area of magnetic enhancement within the trackway in this area. The origin of the latter could be due to burning, which given the association of the trackway with cremation burials to the south, offers intriguing possibilities. The geophysical results reveal a complex dog-leg in the trackway, in an area that is obviously the result of several intersecting boundaries created at different times in the past and thus a key area to understanding the phasing of the landscape as a whole.

Apart from the continuation of two E-W linear ditches, and a diagonal NW-SE anomaly that may be geological, the geophysical survey has revealed few anomalies of obvious potential archaeological interest in the eastern half of the site.

Regional Background

The significance of the Newbridge site needs to be considered against the presently perceived understanding of the development and exploitation of the landscape from the earlier Iron Age to the early post-roman period.

Earlier Iron Age

Research into the Iron Age has been focussed largely upon the Wolds rather than the North York Moors. In particular it has concentrated on the distinctive square barrows of the Arras culture, a phenomenon unique to Eastern Yorkshire in Britain. These barrows, which date

mainly to between the 5th and 1st centuries BC, are confined largely to the high Wolds, but examples do occur on the Moors (Dent 1999, 5; Cunliffe 2005, 214). Their predominant upland location accords with notions of a society dedicated largely to grazing, a land-use that some have seen to be further implied by the extensive dyke systems of that period. The contemporary settlements, however, remain obscure (Mackey 2003, 117). The failure to detect these settlements has generally been explained by the supposition that they were unenclosed and so difficult to detect as cropmarks. One of the best known open settlements is at Garton Slack and Wetwang Slack where, importantly, the chronological and stratigraphical succession from a square barrow cemetery to open settlement and subsequent enclosure in the later Iron Age and Roman period is well demonstrated (Mackey 2003, 119; Stoertz 1997, 46-7; Bradley 2007, 263-67).

Later Iron Age and Roman Period

From the later Iron Age single enclosures containing one or more roundhouses, nucleated groups or rectilinear sequences of linking enclosures ('ladder' or 'droveway' settlements), all become prevalent features in the Romano-British rural landscape of the region. These complexes were often associated with a wider field system as the landscape became increasingly more enclosed and spatially organised (Bevan 1999, 129; Dent 1999, 6; Fenton-Thomas 2003, 65; Mackey 2003, 119-20; Stoertz 1997; Giles 2007, 236). The trend towards enclosure was once equated with a perceived intensification of agriculture as a response to the Roman conquest (Ramm 1978, 10, 77), but as the process seems to have started in the late pre-Roman Iron Age it has since been viewed as a product of population increase (Branigan 1984, 27, 30; Dent 1983, 37-40; Hingley 1989). Archaeologically it has proved very difficult to detect any marked change in the nature of native rural settlement between the later Iron Age and the first two centuries of Roman occupation. There was apparently little Romanisation of the vast majority of the native population and the rural landscape generally seems to have been little changed as a result of Roman rule, the tangible impacts upon it being very localised, invariably in the immediate vicinity of forts, *vici* and Roman roads (Hingley 1989, 145; Taylor 2001, 53).

If a predominantly pastoral exploitation of the landscape seems likely for the earlier Iron Age, then the querns, crop drier and granaries found in considerable numbers on later Iron Age and Romano-British rural sites suggest a more agrarian economy (Dent 1983, 42). Nevertheless, agriculture remained largely on a domestic scale, even if the economic onus shifted (Powlesland 2003, 288). Arable farming seems to have been just one element of a broader mixed economy, where animal husbandry was still important. The faunal assemblages of the pre-Roman Iron Age are generally found to be dominated by sheep/goats (Haselgrove 1984, 14). However, Branigan (1984, 30) posed the possibility that certain native farmers may have switched from a mixed subsistence economy to a pastoral one to meet the demands of the Roman army, although Ramm (1978, 107) envisaged a large military demand for wheat. In fact it is likely that most early Romano-British farms operated

on a mixed economy basis. It would seem likely that apparent differences or changes to the economies of native sites, whether represented in the adoption of material culture, or the proportions of crops grown and animals consumed, will have had much to do with their proximity to major Roman urban centres and communication routes.

In the context of the Roman landscape the Newbridge site lies just 3 km to the south-east of the Roman marching camps at Cawthorn and even closer to Blandsby Park, immediately to the east, where recent work has investigated a Roman villa site.

Early Post-Roman Period

The Romano-British to Anglo-Saxon transition in the 5th and 6th centuries is little understood as most of the evidence for Anglo-Saxon invasion/migration is based largely upon distinctive cemetery sites, rather than settlement evidence. Thus the degree to which the transition was a result of cultural displacement or integration, and the rate of this change, is unclear (Loveluck 2003, 152). Few early Saxon sites are known from the North York Moors, the majority being from the Wolds or the Vale of Pickering. One of the closest and most important sites is at West Heslerton where ritual landscapes of the Early Bronze Age (round barrows) and the Early Iron Age (square barrows) were succeeded by linear ‘ladder’ settlements focused upon droveways from c. 500 BC to AD 500. The Saxon period at West Heslerton saw an abandonment of the ‘ladder’ settlements and the evolution of dispersed open settlement of timber halls and *grubenhauser* associated with an extensive inhumation cemetery (Powlesland 2003, 287-290).

Significance of the Newbridge Quarry Site

The significance of the previous archaeological findings at Newbridge Quarry up to 2006 is considered in Appendix 5 in the light of recent spot dating and assessments of key finds assemblages.

3 Aims and Objectives

The archaeology of the proposed quarry extension site could not be fully realised solely by the mapping of cropmarks and geophysical anomalies alone (Fig. 2 and 3), as the manifestation of these phenomena are dependent upon factors that include lighting, ground conditions and crop regime at the time aerial photographs were taken, and the magnetic susceptibility of the soil filling the archaeological features. Moreover, whilst cropmarks and geophysical survey are good at revealing large former linear features, they do not tend to reflect the positions of smaller features, such as pits and post-holes, or indeed some ditches that have been heavily degraded by modern ploughing.

The purpose of the trial trenches reported here is to investigate the targeted ‘visible’ archaeological features and enclosures, as revealed by the remote sensing methods, as well as the apparently blank areas, in order to better characterise the archaeology of the site, with the

ultimate aim of establishing whether or not there are archaeological areas, features or deposits that would warrant preservation *in situ*.

Consequently, the objectives of the work were to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (insofar as circumstances permitted) of archaeological features and deposits within selected trenches, as agreed with North Yorkshire Heritage Environment Section (NYHES). In addition to this there were the general objectives to confirm the date, character and degree of preservation of the principal phases of activity on the site and to assess their physical survival and the palaeoenvironmental potential of their fill on different underlying geologies.

The purpose of the information gained during this evaluation is to provide the Planning Authority with sufficient data in order that they may make a reasoned and informed decision about the proposed development with regard to whether archaeological deposits should be preserved *in situ*, or may more appropriately be preserved by record following an appropriate agreed archaeological mitigation strategy.

4 Methodology

In agreement with NYHES a total of 33 trial trenches were opened up targeted upon anomalies revealed in the geophysical survey data, as well as apparently blank areas (Fig. 2 and 3).

All work was carried out in accordance with accepted professional standards and guidelines (English Heritage 2006, Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001) and in accordance with the ASWYAS site recording manual (ASWYAS 2007).

The 33 evaluation trenches varied in length and width, and were a combination of trial trenches and small open areas. Most of the trial trenches were 50m by 2m. Trenches targeted on possible enclosures were normally 4m or wider, so that any internal features or structures were more easily identifiable. Other trenches were 20m by 20m squares, which targeted selected features or perceived areas of possible unenclosed settlement. Full details of trench sizes and the rationale behind the location of the 33 evaluation trenches is shown in Table 1.

The trenches were laid out using a Trimble Geo-explorer GPS system. The trench limits and exposed archaeological features were subsequently surveyed using a 5500 Geodimeter total station and fixed in relation to nearby permanent structures and to the Ordnance Survey national grid.

All topsoil and subsoil deposit were removed in level spits (not more than 0.2m) using a 360° excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. All machining was stopped at the first identifiable archaeological horizon or natural deposits. The stripped surface was cleaned by hand and inspected for any archaeological remains. All linear features were subject to a manual sampling regime of 10% of their total length within the trial trench, each section excavated was no less than 1m in

length. Sections were, where possible, located adjacent to the trench edge to provide the full stratigraphic sequence. All terminal-ends, corners and intersections were fully investigated. All discrete features revealed such as pits and post-holes were at a minimum 50% excavated (by area).

All archaeological features were accurately recorded in plan at a scale of 1:50 and all excavated features were recorded in sections at scales of either 1:10 or 1:20. All plans and sections include spot heights related to the Ordnance Datum (OD) in metres. A full written and photographic record was made of all archaeological features. A soil-sampling programme was undertaken for the identification and recovery of carbonised remains, vertebrate remains, molluscs and small artefactual material. Soil samples of up to 40 litres were taken from the fills of excavated features where appropriate.

The evaluation took place in two phases between the 4th September -17th October 2008. The work was monitored throughout by NYHES. An inventory of the primary archive is presented in Appendix 1, and a concordance of contexts, finds and environmental samples is presented in Appendix 2. As required by NYHES, a copy of the Written Scheme of Investigation is presented in Appendix 3. ASWYAS currently hold the site archive in a stable and secure location.

For ease of reference the four main enclosure areas of the site have been ascribed the identifiers of Enclosures W, X, Y and Z.

Table 1. Trial trench details and rationale

No.	Orientation	Dimensions	Purpose
1	E-W	50m x 2m	To investigate linear geophysical anomaly and an apparently blank area
2	E-W	50m x 2m	To investigate an apparently blank area.
3	N-S	50m x 2m	To investigate an apparently blank area
4	E-W	50m x 2m	To investigate date and function of sub-rectangular Enclosure W and likely geological feature running NW-SE through the site
5	E-W	50m x 2m	To investigate date and function of rectangular Enclosure X and other possible field boundaries of different phases
6	N-S	50m x 2m	To investigate likely geological feature running NW-SE through the site and an apparently blank area
7	E-W	50m x 2m	To investigate an apparently blank area
8	E-W	50m x 2m	To investigate linear geophysical anomaly and apparently blank area
9	Square	20m x 20m	Open area stripping of an apparently blank area for evidence of unenclosed settlement adjacent to trackway and enclosed areas
10	N-S	20m x 10m	To investigate relationships of field boundaries to inform landscape phasing
11	Square	10m x 10m	To investigate a geophysical anomaly in an apparently blank area of the landscape (possible kiln or area of burning)
12	N-S	50m x 2m	To investigate eastern extension of E-W field boundary and likely geological feature running NW-SE through the site in otherwise

			apparently blank area
13	N-S	50m x 2m	To investigate possible eastern extension of E-W field boundary in otherwise apparently blank area
14	N-S	50m x 2m	To investigate date and function of sub-rectangular Enclosure Y
15	E-W	50m x 2m	To investigate date and function of sub-rectangular Enclosure Y
16	Square	20m x 20m	Open area stripping of an apparently blank area for evidence of unenclosed settlement adjacent to trackway and enclosed areas
17	N-S	50m x 2m	To investigate an apparently blank area
18	N-S	30m x 4m	To investigate date and function of sub-rectangular Enclosure Z and the nature of the possible structure within
19	Square	20m x 20m	Open area stripping to investigate a circular feature and an apparently blank area for evidence of ritual activity and/or unenclosed settlement adjacent to trackway and enclosed areas
20	E-W	30m x 4m	To investigate the trackway ditch at a point where a high magnetic response suggests possible ferrous or burnt material in the ditch fills and the western side of Enclosure Z
21	N-S	40m x 10m	Open area stripping to investigate southern extension to Enclosure Z or an apparently blank area for evidence of unenclosed settlement adjacent to trackway and enclosed areas
22	E-W	50m x 2m	To investigate two possible phases of enclosure and an apparently blank area
23	N-S	50m x 2m	To investigate an apparently blank area
24	E-W	50m x 2m	To investigate an apparently blank area
25	N-S	50m x 2m	To investigate E-W field ditch and an apparently blank area of the landscape
26	Square	20m x 20m	Open area stripping of an apparently blank area for evidence of unenclosed settlement adjacent to trackway and enclosed areas
27	E-W	100m x 2m	To investigate trackway ditches, potential natural feature and an apparently blank area of the landscape
28	Square	20m x 20m	Open area stripping of an apparently blank area for evidence of unenclosed settlement adjacent to trackway and enclosed areas
29	N-S	50m x 2m	To investigate extension of E-W field boundary in otherwise blank area
30	E-W	50m x 2m	To investigate an apparently blank area
31	E-W	50m x 2m	To investigate an apparently blank area
32	N-S	50m x 2m	To investigate an apparently blank area
33	Square	20m x 20m	To investigate strong anomaly within ?geological feature running NW-SE through the site

5 Results

Introduction

The fills of the majority of features across the site were a yellow brown colour, made up of silty clays. The colour and texture of fills in individual features are only discussed if they varied from this norm. A summary of the results from each trench, including trench dimensions, the archaeological features and finds identified, and a brief interpretation, is presented in Table 4. Plans of the key trenches are presented together with relevant sections in Figures 4-20

Trial Trenching

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 1)

Trench 1 measured 50m by 2m wide, and was orientated east to west. The trench was targeted upon a linear geophysical anomaly and an apparently blank area. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.25m below ground level, at which point the natural limestone bedrock and a thin weathered interface layer was exposed at a minimum level of 106.72m OD. A band of yellow orange clay was observed to cross the trench and during investigation it was reveal to be a natural deposit. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 2)

Trench 2 measured 50m by 2m, and was orientated east to west. The trench was targeted upon an apparently blank area. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.23m below ground level, at which point the natural limestone bedrock and a thin weathered interface layer was exposed at a minimum height of 103.17m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 3)

Trench 3 measured 50m by 2m and was orientated north to south. The trench was targeted upon an apparently blank area. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.23m below ground level, at which point the natural limestone bedrock and a thin weathered interface layer was exposed at a minimum height of 105.40m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

Trench 4 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Plate 4)

Trench 4 measured 50m by 2m and was orientated east to west. The trench was targeted upon a sub-rectangular enclosure and a possible geological feature running diagonally NW-SE across the site. The topsoil deposits were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.30m below ground level, at which point the natural limestone bedrock and a thin weathered interface layer was exposed at a minimum height of 101.73m OD. The western end of the trench was located on ground which fell away steeply to the west. Two ditches and two pits, corresponding with the results of the geophysical survey, were identified within the trench.

Ditch 136 (Fig. 4. S. 22)

Ditch 136 was located at the eastern end of the trench and formed the eastern side of Enclosure W, visible on the geophysical data. A 1m section was excavated and a full profile obtained. The cut was 0.62m wide and 0.41m deep and possessed a U-shaped profile with a flat base. It contained two fills, the upper fill (134) contained an abundance of angular limestone inclusions. The nature of the deposit suggest possible deliberate backfill of material perhaps given the size of the feature, to make secure a palisade wall. A large amount of Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery (98 fragments) was recovered, along with animal bone, from this deposit. The primary fill of the ditch (135) by contrast contained no visible

inclusions and indicates primary silting while the ditch has been left open. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Gully 137 (Fig. 4, S. 28; Plate 4)

Gully 137 was located at the western end of the trench just before the ground fell away down towards the Swainsea Lane. It forms the western side of Enclosure W as revealed in the geophysical data. A 1m wide slot was excavated through it to reveal a cut which was roughly U-shaped with a flat base, 0.65m wide and 0.22m deep. In comparison to ditch 136 the gully showed sign of heavy erosion and plough damage. The gully contained a single fill (138), from which no finds were recovered.

Pits 139 and 141 (Fig. 4, S. 29; Plate 4)

Located against the western edge of the trench were two intercutting pits 139 and 141, which correspond with an area of magnetic disturbance in the geophysical data. Neither pit was fully visible in plan as they were obscured by the western edge of the trench. The earlier pit 139 was 1.3m wide and 0.44m deep, and in plan the pit looked rectangular. It was not possible to gain a full profile as the western end was cut away by pit 141. The single fill (140) contained an abundance of angular limestone inclusions with a concentration towards the base of the pit. No finds were recovered from this deposit. The later pit (141) was again not fully visible in section, however the pit had a gradual slope with a slight step. The pit contained two fills 142 and 151. The primary fill (142) was composed of mainly angular limestone fragments. No finds were recovered from this fill. The upper fill (151) was distinct from 142 due to its relative lack of inclusions. The fill did contain coal fragments and degraded limestone, but no finds were recovered.

Trench 5 (Figs 2, 3 and 5; Plate 5)

Trench 5 measured 50m by 2m, and was orientated east to west. The trench was targeted upon a rectangular enclosure (Enclosure X) and a possible trackway ditch to the west of it. The topsoil deposits were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.29m below ground level, at which point the natural limestone bedrock with pockets of reddish orange clay was exposed at a minimum height of 101.12m OD. Three ditches, corresponding with the results of the geophysical survey, and two post-holes were identified within the trench.

Ditch 169 (Fig. 5, S. 41)

Ditch 169 was located on the eastern side of the trench and represents the eastern side of Enclosure X visible on the geophysical survey. Upon excavation it was found to be 1.05m wide and 0.47m deep, with a flat base and fairly step sides and contained a sequence of three fills. The primary fill (168) consisted of a very dark brown black silty clay, 0.45 deep. This deposit contained an abundance of charcoal and animal bone as well as three fragments of Iron Age pottery. The dark colour of this deposit seems to have caused by its charcoal content. A secondary a very stony fill (167) produced no finds. The stony content may be a consequence of a stone packed palisade trench.

Ditch 176 (Fig. 5, S. 43; Plate 5)

Ditch 176 was located towards the western end of the trench and represents the western side of Enclosure X. The cut for the ditch here was 1.15m wide and 0.56m deep, and was U-shaped in profile, with a flat base. A four fills were recorded within this cut, the primary deposit being 175, a yellow-orange clay similar to natural clay layers found with the bands of the limestone bedrock. The latter produced no finds, but the fill above, 174, produced both animal bone and Iron Age/Romano-British pottery. This was overlain in turn by fill 173, which consisted of a largely stony deposit of angular limestone, 0.42m deep, which produced no finds. As on the eastern side, this high stone content may reflect the packing of a possible palisade trench. The final fill in the sequence (172) was made up of a silty deposit with very few inclusions, perhaps indicating that it had silted up slowly once the enclosure has gone out of use.

Ditch 190 (Fig. 5, S. 48; Plate 5)

Ditch 190 was located towards the western side of the trench and appears to have formed a boundary ditch running parallel to the western side of enclosure ditch (176), perhaps forming a trackway. The cut itself was U-shaped with a flat base; a slightly steeper eastern side perhaps being due to a change in the geology (limestone rather than clay, as on the western side of the cut). The ditch contained a total of three fills. The primary deposit (189) was only 0.08m deep and probably reflects primary erosion of the ditch sides, hence the absence of finds. This deposit was overlain by fill 188 which contained a significant amount of limestone and animal bone. The form of the deposit might suggest that the bulk of the material was derived from the eastern side. The upper fill (187) was made up of a silty deposit with occasional rounded, small limestone inclusions. This upper fill produced a single fragment of Crambeck greyware pottery with a date range of late 3rd to early 5th century.

Post-holes (Fig. 5 S. 42 and 47)

Two post-holes (171 and 180) were excavated, with 171 being the better preserved with a depth of 0.32m, post-hole 186 being only 0.15m deep. Each contained a single fill (170 and 185 respectively) which did not contain any packing stones or finds.

Trench 6 (Figs 2 and 3)

Trench 6 measured 50m by 2m, and was orientated north to south. The trench was targeted upon a weak response on the geophysical survey data and the surrounding blank areas. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.33m below ground level, at which point the natural limestone bedrock with patches of orange-yellow clay was exposed at a minimum height of 101.76m OD. The clay patches were investigated and were found to be between 0.05–0.08m deep, and were irregular in shape and size. These geological features are identified as solution holes within the natural limestone. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

Trench 7 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 6)

Trench 7 measured 50m by 2m, and was orientated east to west. The trench was targeted upon an blank area. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.30m below ground level, at which point the heavily eroded and fragmented natural limestone bedrock with areas of solid geology was exposed at a minimum level of 103.25m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

Trench 8 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 7)

Trench 8 measured 50m by 2m, and was orientated east to west. The trench was targeted upon an weak linear response on the geophysical survey data and the surrounding apparently blank areas. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.32m below ground level, at which point the solid natural limestone bedrock was exposed at a minimum height of 92.72m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

Trench 9 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 8)

Trench 9 measured 20m by 20m and was a small square open area. The trench was targeted upon an weak geophysical responses in an apparently blank area to prospect for evidence of unenclosed settlement activity adjacent to the trackway. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.30m below ground level, at which point the weathered and fractured natural limestone bedrock with patches of orange-yellow clay was exposed at a minimum height of 100.82m OD. The clay patches were investigated and found to be irregular in shape and size. These geological features are identified as solution holes within the natural limestone. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

Trench 10 (Figs 2, 3 and 6; Plates 9 and 10)

Trench 10 measured 20m by 10m, and was orientated north to south. The trench was targeted upon a intersection of ditches visible in the geophysical survey data. The topsoil deposits were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.15m below ground level, at which point the heavily eroded and weathered natural limestone bedrock was exposed at a minimum height of 99.94m OD. The remains of five ditches were found, which corresponded with the results of the geophysical survey. A full stratigraphic sequence for four of the ditches (193, 196, 177 and 182) was established.

Ditch 193 (Fig. 6, S. 52; Plate 10)

The earliest ditch was 193 which seems to have had vertical sides and a flat base. Its full width is unknown as much of it appears to have been cut away by later ditches, but its depth is recorded as 0.66m. It contained two fills, the primary fill (194) containing occasional small sub angular limestone inclusions, being the result of natural weathering of the open ditch. The secondary fill (195) was a light grey brown clayey silt with frequent sub-angular limestone inclusions. No finds were recovered from either of these fills. The presence of cut 193 is only inferred in plan through the alignment of one cut edge, which does not match the orientations of either of the later ditches.

Ditch 196/226 (Fig. 6, S. 59)

Ditch 196/226 was a substantial ditch orientated east to west. Two slots were excavated through it to provide a full profile. At its widest extent the cut was 2.5m wide and 0.80m deep and possessed a broad U-shaped profile with steep sides. Although subsequently cut by ditch 177 the fills in either side of the ditch correspond well. The primary fill (197) contained small amounts of small sub angular limestone inclusions, but no finds. The secondary fill, 198 (the equivalent of 199, 200 and 227) makes up the bulk of the ditch fill and contained large amounts of sub-angular limestone rocks up to 0.35m in size. Animal bone was also recovered from this deposit. A full profile was obtained through this ditch at the western side of Trench 10 (Fig. 6, S.59) which more clearly demonstrates the possibility of a re-cut into the primary fill (here 313), and probably reflects what is represented in Section 52 by the remnant of fill 197. The re-cut ditch, with a similar broad, flat-bottomed profile, has three distinct fills at this location. The primary fill (227) contains a large amount of limestone rubble, whilst the secondary fill (314) is largely devoid of stone. A tertiary fill (316), not represented in Section 52, again had a significant stone content.

Ditch 177 (Fig. 6, S. 44; Plate 9)

Ditch 177 cuts ditch 196/226. It was orientated north-west to south-east and possessed a very contrasting V-shape profile, being 1.6m wide and 0.90m deep. It was investigated at two locations; at the intersection with Ditch 196/226 and at the western baulk to the south-east. At the western baulk section a total of four fills were recorded (Fig. 6, S.44). The thin primary fill (178) consisted of a very orange silty clay, similar to the natural clay deposits found on the site. Overlying this deposit was fill 179, composed of an abundance of angular limestone rocks. Animal bone and two Iron Age or Romano-British pottery fragments were recovered from a corresponding deposit (202) at the intersection with Ditch 196/226 (Fig. 6, S. 52). The tertiary fill in the sequence (180) was a much more silty deposit and relatively stone-free. The formation of this deposit probably occurred once the ditch had gone out of use. Some 312 pottery sherds from several large gritted ware vessels were recovered from this fill, along with several animal bone fragments. The final upper fill (181) was distinctive from other fills on site as its colour was more orange and contained no visible inclusions. It looked like a natural deposit but the texture was markedly different from the natural clay deposits. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

Ditch 182/228 (Fig. 6, S. 44; Plate 9)

Ditch 182/228 cuts the fills of both ditches 177 and 196/226 and is therefore the latest stratigraphic feature in this sequence of ditches, chronologically coming after Ditch 177. The ditch was 0.85m wide and 0.36m deep and had a rounded U-shape profile with a slight step to each side. The main fill of the ditch (183/229) contained abundant sub-angular limestone blocks, and produced a number of pottery fragments. At the western baulk an additional deposit (184) was recorded overlying deposit 183. This further deposit 184 was very similar to 181 found sealing the tertiary fill of Ditch 177.

Ditch 220 (Fig. 6, S. 56)

Ditch 220 was located at the south-eastern end of the trench and was orientated north-east to south-west, terminating about 1.5m from Ditch 182, with which it formed a right angle. The ditch cut was 0.88m wide and 0.44m deep and had a symmetrical U-shaped profile (Fig. 6, S.56). It contained a single fill (221) which contained an abundance of sub-angular limestone blocks. Two Iron Age bodysherds of Gritty ware vessel were recovered from this fill. This ditch was not represented in the geophysical data and may represent the western side of Enclosure Y (see below).

Trench 11 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 11)

Trench 11 measured 10m by 10m and was targeted upon a discrete geophysical anomaly in an otherwise blank area of the site. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.35m below ground level, at which point the heavily eroded and fragmented natural limestone bedrock with large areas of yellow orange clay were exposed at a minimum height of 101.03m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were exposed and the geophysical response was probably a consequence of something within the ploughsoil.

Trench 12 (Figs 2, 3 and 7; Plate 12)

Trench 12 measured 50m by 2m and was orientated north to south. The trench was targeted on an intermittent east-west field boundary and a possible NW-SE geological feature that ran right across site. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.30m below ground level, at which point the heavily eroded and fragmented natural limestone bedrock with bands of reddish orange clay was exposed at a minimum height of 100.30m OD. The east-west gully (192) was 1.06m wide and only 0.22m deep (Fig. 7, S. 50). It had a broad U-shaped profile and had a dark brown deposit with no visible inclusions. No finds were recovered from this deposit. The NW-SE anomaly was briefly investigated and confirmed as a natural phenomenon.

Trench 13 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 13)

Trench 13 measured 50m by 2m and was orientated north to south. The trench was targeted upon a possible extension of the east-west linear feature identified in Trench 12. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.38m below ground level, at which point the heavily eroded and fragmented natural limestone bedrock with bands of yellow orange clay were exposed at a minimum height of 98.08m OD. In this instance no archaeological features or deposits were revealed and the ditch had either terminated at some point to the west or had been ploughed out at this location.

Trenches 14 and 15 (Figs 2, 3, 8 and 9; Plates 14 and 15)

Trenches 14 and 15 formed a T-shaped arrangement, each trench having measured 50m by 2m. Trench 14 was orientated approximately north to south and Trench 15 was positioned at right angles across its southern end. Both trenches were positioned to investigate Enclosure Y. The topsoil and subsoil were removed from each trench by machine to an average depth of

0.29m below ground level, at which point the heavily eroded and fragmented natural limestone bedrock with occasional patches of yellow orange clay were exposed at a minimum height of 98.49m OD. Several archaeological features corresponding with the geophysical survey data were observed.

Ditch 120 (Fig. 8, S. 13; Plate 14)

Trench 14 contained one archaeological feature, Ditch 120, the continuation of Ditch 182/228 in Trench 10. Here it was 1.35m wide and 0.62m deep and had a V-shaped profile with a 0.27m wide flat base and was well defined in plan. Its fill (119), a slightly greyish brown clay silt with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded limestone fragments, some of which had been heated, produced 35 sherds of Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery as well as animal bone. Overlaying this deposit was 118, a very clean orangey layer, similar to 181 and 184 in Trench 10, which yielded some gritted ware pottery and animal bone.

Ditch 121 (Fig. 9, S.14)

Trench 15 contained a single ditch (121) and four gullies. Ditch 121 corresponds to a strong linear magnetic enhancement in this area which forms the west side of Enclosure Y. It was located approximately 10m from the western end of the trench, and was orientated north-south. It was a 2.28m wide, 0.70m deep and had broad bowl-shaped cut. The primary fill (311) was made up of a silty deposit with occasional large angular limestone blocks, whilst the secondary fill (122) contained frequent amounts of smaller limestone fragments. The upper fill 312 was a silty deposit with occasional large angular limestone blocks. Animal bone fragments were recovered from the fill 122.

Gullies 124, 127, 130 and 132 (Fig. 9, S. 16 and 21; Plate 15)

The gullies were located at eastern end of Trench 15. Two parallel north-south gullies (130 and 132) were 9.5m from the eastern end of the trench. Gully 130 had a gentle sided U-shaped profile and contained a single fill (131) which produced both pottery and animal bone. Gully 132 had a bowl-shaped profile with a step to the eastern side. It too contained a single fill (133). Immediately to the east were two further shallow intercutting gullies (127 and 124). The earliest gully (127) ran east-west and was at least 0.80m wide and 0.16m deep, the cut being very irregular. The fill 125 was made up of a orange grey brown clayey silt with occasional limestone fragments. Although very shallow and irregular the fill of Gully 127 was very distinct and clearly defined in plan. This was cut at right angles by Gully 124 which ran north-south and measured 0.75m wide and 0.27m deep and had a flat based U-shaped profile. Its fill (123) was similar to 125 except it contained frequent sub-angular limestone fragments. It also produced one scrap of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery. It is difficult to contextualise these gullies with respect to the Enclosure Y as they appear to be too insubstantial to have formed the eastern ditch. In the absence of any other features, however, it seems likely that Gullies 130/132 must represent the division between the enclosure and the trackway.

Trench 16 (Figs 2, 3 and 10; Plates 16 and 17)

Trench 16 measured approximately 20m by 20m and formed a small excavation area targeted upon an apparently blank area, to prospect for evidence of unenclosed settlement adjacent to the eastern side of the trackway. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.37m below ground level, at which point the weathered and fractured natural limestone bedrock with patches of orange-yellow clay was exposed at a minimum height of 99.29m OD. A total of 13 discrete features were recorded, all but two of which were small pits or post-holes. With the exception of four features (252, 256, 258 and 278) which are sufficiently different from the other post-holes to warrant more detailed description, all other features are recorded in summary in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Results table for discrete features in Trench 16

Context Number		Colour	Diameter (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Additional features
Cut	Fill					
237	238	Dark grey-brown	0.68	0.27	9 sherds of early Romano-British pottery	-
248	249	Dark blue-grey brown	0.50	0.37	2 sherds of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery	Possible pad stone (Fig. 10, S. 86)
250	251	Dark yellow-brown	0.55	0.25	2 sherds of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery	-
252	253	Mid grey-brown	1.60 x 0.70	0.30	2 sherds of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery.	See below
254	255	Dark brown/black	0.38	0.25	2 sherds of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery, including rim sherds	See below
256	257	Dark brown/black	0.40 x 0.30	0.15	Animal bone	See below
258	259	Mid yellow-brown	0.90	0.30	4 sherds of Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery.	See below
278	279	Mid brown	0.70 x 0.40	0.30	5 sherds of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery	See below
280	281	Mid brown	0.25	0.22	-	Packing stones
282	283	Mid brown	0.45	0.15	-	-
284	285	Mid brown	0.35	0.17	2 fragments of early Romano-British pottery	-
295	294	Mid grey-brown	0.87 x 0.45	0.15	-	Ash and charcoal
297	296	Mid grey-brown	0.85 x 0.55	0.25	-	Ash and charcoal
299	298	Mid grey-brown	0.35	0.07	-	Charcoal within fill

Pit 258 and Post-hole 278 (Fig. 10, S.91)

Pit 258 and post-hole 278 formed two separate features with no discernable relationship, but their juxtaposition might infer a relationship. The larger pit (258) had vertical sides with a flat base and was 0.90m in diameter and 0.5m deep. A single fill (259) contained pottery fragments and animal bones. Post-hole 278 lay immediately to the north-east of 258 and was

roughly circular in shape with a diameter of 0.7m and a depth of 0.4m. Possible packing stones were noted within the fill, and five sherds of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery were recovered from this it.

Pit 252 (Fig. 10, S.89; Plate 16 and 17)

The cut of pit 252 was 1.6m in length 0.7m in width and 0.3m deep. It formed a elongated U-shape with near vertical sides, the cut was very regular and well formed against the limestone natural. The single fill 253 contained an abundant amount of sub-angular limestone fragments and produced animal bones from the central part of the pit.

Pit 256

The cut of this pit was sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 0.4m by 0.30m. It was 0.15m deep and possessed a broad U-shaped profile with a flat base. The single fill (257) was unusual in that approximately 50% of was constituted by burnt animal bones. The soil matrix of the fill was a very dark, almost black, colour as a result of the charcoal and ashy inclusions. The nature of the deposit would suggest deliberate disposal of burnt animal remains, possibly ritualistic.

All of these pits and post-holes were located at the northern end of Trench 16, an area which proved to have a high density of discreet features. Although no clear structure or form to these features can be discerned, the pits may well have been storage pits and the post-holes may represent activities and/or structures associated with an unenclosed settlement element.

Trench 17 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 18)

Trench 17 measured 50m by 2m, and was orientated north to south. The trench was targeted upon an apparently blank area. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.24m below ground level, at which point the broken and eroded natural limestone bedrock was exposed at a minimum height of 98.63m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Trench 18 (Figs 2, 3 and 11; Plates 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23)

Trench 18 measured 30m by 4m, and was orientated north to south. The trench was targeted upon the rectangular Enclosure X and specifically upon the a intense sub-rectangular magnetic response recorded in the geophysical survey data. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.30m below ground level, at which point the broken and eroded natural limestone bedrock was exposed at a minimum height of 97.46m OD. A total of three archaeological feature were uncovered, these consisted of one gully, the principal one being a large cut (2160 that corresponded with the magnetic response. In addition there were two east-west ditches/gullies, in the north of the trench(115 and 117), the former being the ditch defining the northern side of Enclosure X. A quernstone recovered from the south of the trench during the stripping process could not be equated with any of these features.

Ditch 115 (Fig. 11, S. 9)

Ditch 115 was located 7m from the northern end of the trench and represents the northern side of Enclosure X, also investigated in Trenches 20 and 21. The ditch at this location was 0.71m wide and 0.48m deep. The cut was fairly well defined, but lost some definition to the south side where it was cut through natural clays rather than solid limestone. The profile of the ditch was a flat based U-shape, which contained a single fill (114) This contained frequent limestone inclusions and, although identified through out the fill, the larger inclusions were concentrated towards the top of the fill. Eleven fragments of Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery as well as animal bone were recovered from fill.

Ditch/Gully 117 (Fig. 11, S. 10; Plate 19)

Ditch/Gully 117 was 0.52m wide and 0.11m deep, orientated east to west and had an irregular and uneven U-shaped profile. The single fill (116) contained occasional limestone fragments, but no finds were recovered from this context.

Feature 216 (Fig. 11, S. 53; Plate 20, 21, 22 and 23)

In total 50% of the exposed plan of this feature exposed was manually excavated and found to be 7.6m wide and up to 1.08m deep. The sides of the cut were near vertical and contained slight steps where the limestone had been quarried from its natural bedding. The base of the cut although, generally flat contained similar steps and angular undulations where the natural limestone bedding had been exploited. Within the central area a single more discrete hollow (316) may represent a post-hole. However, given that this was in-filled with the same general fill of feature (215) its credibility as a post-hole is questionable. The feature generally seems to have been subject to three distinct infilling events or phases.

The first phase is represented by deposits 213-215. Each of these deposits appear to be composed largely of redeposited limestone. The primary deposit (215) was confined to the southern half of the cut and was up to 0.50m deep and formed a slight ridge of very compacted material with little soil matrix. Slag and animal bone were both recovered from this context. Sealing this context was layer 214, which was made up of a light grey-brown sandy silt about 0.14m thick. It contained frequent sub-angular limestone fragments and occasional burnt stones. Five pottery sherds were recovered from layer 214, as well as slag, animal bone and a flint fragments. The final episode of this first phase of in-filling saw the deposition of a stony upper fill (213) over 214. This deposit was composed of redeposited natural limestone mixed with a greater quantity of soil than was seen in 215. A substantial amount of slag material was recovered from deposit 213 along with animal bone, pottery and flint fragments. The pottery ranged in date from the late Iron Age to the Romano-British period. All three deposits appear to have been built up at the centre of the feature and subsequently slumped to the sides, although this impression may be flawed and due to possible subsequent modifications prior to the second phase of infilling.

The second phase of infilling is visible on both the northern and southern side of the feature. In section both events appear to take the form of in-filled ditches or linear features of some

description that ran parallel to the edges of the cut of Feature 216, although this interpretation remains rather unsatisfactory in the context of the feature overall. The southern 'ditch' (208) was much shallower than its northern counterpart and was 2.1m wide and 0.8m deep with a U-shaped profile and a very steep southern side formed by the original cut of 216. This 'ditch' contained two fills, both composing of grey brown gritty, sandy silts (206 and 207). The lower fill (207) contained an abundance of limestone inclusions which possibly originated from the large central deposit of redeposited limestone (213) and produced 18 fragments of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery, slag and animal bone fragments. The upper fill (206) also contained possible Iron Age to early Romano-British pottery, along with two fragments of 2nd century grey ware.

The 'ditch' cut to the north (212) was much larger and better defined and its fills represents the third phase of infilling, although this could have taken place at the same time as the infilling of 208. It was 2.8m wide and 1.02m deep. The cut again had a very steep profile to the north where it was cut against the natural limestone bedrock, conversely the southern side was more gentle and cut into the large central deposit. The ditch contains two main fills (211 and 209) separated by a thick charcoal lens (210). All three deposits were dark grey-brown and contained limestone inclusion, the upper fill containing substantially larger limestone blocks. The primary deposit (211) yielded three pottery sherds one of which Romano-British grey ware. Pottery, slag, animal bone and flint fragments were all recovered from the charcoal layer (210). The upper fill (209) produced a large amount of pottery (230 sherds in total) mainly calcareous Gritted ware with a date range from the mid Iron Age to the Romano-British period, however, a small group of grey ware (25 sherds) dated to the Romano-British period was also recovered. Animal bone, flint and a small copper alloy sheet fragment (SF2) were also found.

Into the top of fill 201 was cut Pit 205. The pit, in section, was 1.4m wide and 0.54m deep, and contained a single fill (204), which was mainly composed of small limestone fragments mixed with charcoal and burnt material. Only burnt bone fragments were recovered from this deposit.

The form and function of Feature 216 is difficult to determine from the available data. Its sunken form is not indicative of any particular activity and there were no diagnostic deposits or residues on the base of the feature. The sequence of infilling is most curious and difficult to understand without investigating more of the feature. The pottery would suggest that, this enigmatic feature was being in-filled in the 2nd -3rd century.

Trench 19 (Figs 2, 3 and 12; Plates 24)

Trench 19 measured 20m by 20m and was used principally to investigate a circular feature visible on the geophysical survey data, but also to prospect for evidence of unenclosed settlement adjacent to the west side of the trackway. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.30m below ground level, at which point the weathered and fractured natural limestone bedrock with small patches of orange-yellow clay was exposed at

a minimum height of 96.93m OD. The only archaeological feature found was the ring gully, the exposed area of which was subject to a 50% manual excavation. The general size of the ditch is for consistent with a ring barrow than a roundhouse, it being rather too large for the latter.

A total of four sections were excavated and recorded, each section being approximately 2m in length, the fourth section excavated through a narrow area of the cut being 3.3m long. The longer section (247) confirmed that there was no break in the ring gully. Each section excavated revealed a similar profile and infill sequence (Fig. 12, S. 57 and 84).

The cut (225, 245, 247 and 293) generally took the form of an irregular U-shaped profile with stepped outer edge and a flat base. At its widest point the ditch was 1.57m wide but was less than 0.80m wide at its narrowest point. Its maximum depth was 0.65m. The northern portion of the ring gully contained two fills. The primary fill (224, 244, 246 = 291) contained an abundance of limestone blocks 0.01m to 0.20m in size. The distribution and form of the deposit suggest it is material that has come from the interior of the ring gully rather than the outside. Generally, the upper fill (223, 243 and 290) was a very distinctive dark brown silty deposit with rare limestone fragments, suggesting that after the collapse of either an internal bank or mound, an erosion of soil into the ditch occurred. Some pottery and flint fragments were recovered from this upper fill. This upper deposit was not visible in the third and longest section the cut was, however, much shallower only 0.31m deep. This south-eastern portion of the ring gully showed signs of having been truncated, perhaps by ploughing.

The only variance from this general sequence was in cut 293 (Fig. 12, S.84). Here an additional fill was noted at the base (292), clearly distinct from the upper fills it would seem to represent an initial phase of silting. The upper fills then correspond with the other sections excavated through this gully, with a large stony deposit (291) and an overlying upper silty deposit (290).

Trench 20 (Figs 2, 3 and 13; Plate 25)

Trench 20 measured 30m by 4m, and was orientated east to west. The trench was targeted upon an area of high magnetic enhancement associated with the trackway visible on the geophysical survey data. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.50m below ground level, at which point the broken and eroded natural limestone bedrock was exposed at a minimum height of 97.46m OD. Upon excavation a total of two ditches one gully and one pit were visible.

Ditch 105 (Fig. 13, S. 3)

Ditch 105 consisted of a broad gradual sloping, bowl shaped cut 3.8m wide and 0.27m deep. The ditch delineated the west side of a trackway which runs north-south through site. The single fill (104) contained frequent sub-angular limestone and produced four pottery fragments of the Romano-British pottery. Although targeted upon a very strong magnetic response no evidence of what could cause it was encountered. There was no evidence of

either ferrous or burnt material in the ditch fills that might cause such a strong geophysical response.

Gully 103

Gully 103 was a very shallow feature, 0.06m deep and 0.55m wide. Although very shallow the feature and fill were very well defined in plan and produced animal bone fragments. This good definition suggest it is an archaeological feature and perhaps the result of rutting down the centre of the trackway. A possible area of paving was revealed to be a raised part of the solid geology, which formed a kind of lamination of the limestone, which would nevertheless have provided a solid surface for the trackway.

Ditch 106 (Fig. 13, S. 2)

Ditch 106 formed the western side of Enclosure Z and effectively the eastern side of the trackway. It consisted of a U-shaped cut with a flat base, being 1.65m wide and 0.87m deep. Three fills were recorded. A primary fill (309) was a thin silt deposit indicative of initial erosion into the ditch which produced no finds. The main fill (107) was made up of a grey-brown clayey silt with an abundance of limestone fragments. This deposit was very loosely compacted due to the high frequency of inclusions and produced only scraps of pottery and animal bone remains. The pitch of the fill would suggest that there had been an internal bank on the eastern side of the ditch. The final fill (308) was notable for its lack of inclusions and no finds were recovered from this deposit.

Pit 232 (Fig. 13, S. 60)

Pit 232 was internal to Enclosure Z and was roughly rectangular in plan (2.1m by 0.8m) with a U-shaped profile and a broad flat base. The primary fill 231 contained abundant limestone inclusions. No finds were recovered from this primary fill. The upper fill 230 contained localised inclusions in the eastern part of the pit. Two pottery fragments dating to the Iron Age or the early Romano-British period were recovered from the fill.

Trench 21 (Figs 2, 3 and 14; Plate 26)

Trench 21 measured 40m by 10m and was orientated north to south. The trench formed a small open area which aimed to investigate the south side of Enclosure Z and its annexe. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.35m below ground level, at which point the broken and eroded natural limestone bedrock was exposed at a minimum height of 96.48m OD. Upon excavation a total of one ditch, two gullies, three pits and two post-holes were recorded. All but Pit 235 lay to the north of Ditch 112.

Ditch 112 (Fig. 14, S. 8; Plate 26)

Ditch 112 ran east-west across the northern part of the trench. A 2m slot was excavated against the western baulk and a full profile was obtained. The cut was 1.7m wide and 0.88m deep and possessed a V-shaped profile with a broad flat base, similar to the form recorded in Trench 20. The ditch contained two fills, the upper fill (113) contained frequent limestone inclusions, the nature is suggestive of there having been a bank on the northern side of the

ditch (i.e. internal to the enclosure). Romano-British pottery ranging from a single fragment of Dressel 20 olive oil amphora and other grey ware suggest a date from the early 1st to 2nd centuries. Animal bone fragments were also recovered from this deposit. The primary fill of the ditch (310) was very similar to the upper fill, the only difference was the visible lack of inclusions. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Gully 262 (Fig. 14, S. 75)

Gully 262 and Pit 260 were two intercutting features located towards the north-eastern corner of Trench 21. Gully 262 was U-shaped in profile with steep sides 0.48m deep and 0.78m wide with a rounded base. The south end of the gully terminated with the trench and contained a single fill (261) of grey brown clay silt with frequent limestone fragments. No finds were recovered from this fill. The gully cut across the top of Pit 260, which was 0.35m deep and 0.48m wide and also contained a single fill (261). The position of the pit within the confines of the gully might suggest that the two features were contemporary, perhaps forming one side of a roundhouse gully terminus (the other perhaps being represented by 264, below).

Gully 264

Gully 264 was located at the northern edge of Trench 21, its southern end terminating just within the area of excavation. The cut was 0.69m wide and 0.34m wide, it contained a single fill (265) from which six fragments of a late Iron Age or early Romano-British jar were recovered.

Pit 288 (Fig. 14, S. 83)

Pit 288 was located on the western side of the trench and just to the north of Ditch 112. It was 0.47m deep and 0.60m wide. The pit was steep sided and had a tapering base. The single fill (289) contained frequent limestone fragments and one fragments of late Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery.

Pit 306 (Fig. 14, S. 83)

Pit 306 was also located very close to Pit 288, and possessed a U-shape profile with a steep south-eastern side and a slightly stepped northern-western side. It was 0.55m deep and 1m wide. The single fill (307) contained frequent limestone inclusions, but no finds.

Post-holes 266 and 286

Two similarly sized post-holes of (266 and 286), about 0.5m in diameter and 0.16m and 0.13m deep respectively, produced not finds from the single fills (267 and 287).

Pit 235 (Fig. 14, S. 67)

Pit 235 was rectangular in plan (2.4m by 0.92m) and 0.27m deep. Animal bone and eleven Iron Age or Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from the single fill (236).

Supposing an internal bank, to the north of Ditch 112, the close proximity of the various discrete features and gullies would demand that they be considered part of a different, probably earlier Iron Age, phase.

Trench 22 (Figs 2, 3 and 15; Plate 27)

Trench 22 measured 50m by 2m and was orientated east to west. The trench was targeted upon a possible western annexe area to Enclosure Z and the apparent blank area to the east. The topsoil deposits were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.52m below ground level, at which point the natural limestone bedrock with pockets reddish orange clay was exposed at a minimum height of 97.18m OD. Two ditches/gullies were recorded, corresponding with the results of the geophysical survey.

Ditch 109 (Fig. 15, S. 5)

Ditch 109 was located at the western end of Trench 22 and took the form of a symmetrical U-shaped cut with steep sides and a bowl-shaped base. It appears to have formed the western side to the west annexe of Enclosure Z (also recorded in Trenches 18, 20 and 21) and was 0.41m deep and 0.70m wide. The single fill (108) contained an abundance of angular limestone inclusions. Two sherds of Iron Age or early Romano-British gritted ware were recovered, along with animal bone and flint fragments..

Gully 111 (Fig. 15, S. 6)

Gully 111 was located 4.35m to the east of Ditch 109. The cut was 0.63m wide and 0.29m deep with a rounded U-shaped cut. The single fill (110) produced Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery, slag and flint. The form and shape of this gully suggests that it may have been a second outer ditch circuit encompassing the whole Enclosure Z complex ,that was also recorded in Trenches 15 and 18.

Trench 23 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 28)

Trench 23 measured 50m by 2m and was orientated north to south. The trench was targeted upon an apparently blank area. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.35m below ground level, at which point the broken and eroded natural limestone bedrock, with patches of orange clay natural, was exposed at a minimum height of 95.58m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

Trench 24 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 29)

Trench 24 measured 50m by 2m and was orientated east to west. The trench was targeted upon an apparently blank area. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.43m below ground level. The solid natural limestone bedrock was exposed towards the eastern end of the trench with yellow brown clay at the western end at a minimum height of 96.50m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were found.

Trench 25 (Figs 2, 3 and 16 ; Plate 30)

Trench 25 measured 50m by 2m and was orientated north to south. The trench was targeted upon an east to west field boundary, revealed as a linear geophysical anomaly articulating with the trackway. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.29m below ground level, at which point the broken and eroded natural limestone bedrock, with patches of orange clay natural were exposed at a minimum height of 94.37m OD. A

single shallow gully (233) was very poorly defined in plan and the cut was slightly irregular in profile (Fig. 16, S. 65), the single fill did not produce any finds.

Trench 26 (Figs 2, 3 and 17; Plate 31)

Trench 26 measured 20m by 20m and formed a small square open area excavation targeting an apparently blank area to prospect for evidence of unenclosed settlement adjacent to the eastern side of the trackway. The topsoil was removed by machine to an average depth of 0.31m below ground level, at which point the weathered and fractured natural limestone bedrock with infrequent patches of orange-yellow clay was exposed at a minimum height of 95.48m OD. A total of six discreet features were recorded, all but one of which might be regarded as post-holes. With the exception of one larger feature (272), which is distinct from the post-holes, all features are recorded in summary in Table 3 below.

Pit 272 (Fig. 17, S. 79)

Pit 272 was roughly elliptical in plan, measuring 1.2m by 0.96m. The profile of the pit was unusual, it having had stepped sides and a central box-like extension to the cut to greater depth in the base. The basal fill within this recess (271) contained abundant angular limestone blocks. The results of *in situ* burning were seen in the reddening of the sides of the pit (269 and 270). The fill of the pit proper (268) was a dark brown silty deposit containing abundant charcoal and ash. No finds were recovered from any of these deposits.

Table 3. Summary details of the discrete features in Trench 26

Context Number		Colour	Diameter (m)	Depth (m)	Finds	Additional features
Cut	Fill					
274	273	Yellow-brown	0.40	0.23	-	-
277	275 and 276	Dark yellow-brown and mid yellow brown	0.55	0.24	-	275= possible post-pipe
301	300	Dark brown	0.60	0.11	6 fragments of Iron Age or Romano-British pottery	Charcoal rich fill and some burnt clay
303	302	Yellow-brown	0.55	0.25	-	-
305	304	Yellow-brown	0.45	0.28	-	-

Trench 27 (Figs 2, 3 and 18; Plate 32)

Trench 24 measured 100m by 2m and was orientated east to west. The trench was targeted upon the trackway ditches, a possible natural features and an apparently blank area of the landscape. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.40m

below ground level. The weathered natural limestone bedrock with yellow brown clay was exposed at a minimum height of 97.40m OD. One ditches and four gullies were recorded..

Ditch 144 (Fig. 18, S. 24)

Ditch 144 formed the western side of the trackway and was 1.75m wide and 0.40m deep with a irregular profile. The base of the cut is off centre and located to the west. The ditch contained a single fill (143) which contained occasional limestone fragments and some burnt rocks. The formation of the fill suggests it has accumulated over a long period of time and gradually silted up. No finds were recovered from this deposit.

Gully 129 (Fig. 18, S. 15)

Gully 129 formed the eastern side of the trackway and was 0.47m wide and 0.38m deep with a rounded base. The feature was cut into natural clays and was very ephemeral. The single fill (128) contained no visible inclusions and produced no finds. The nature of this feature is more in keeping with a plough furrow but it corresponds with the geophysical anomaly that formed the western side of the trackway.

Gullies 146, 148 and 150 (Fig. 18, S. 26; Plate 32)

Gullies 146 and 148 ran parallel to each other, but at a slightly different angle to that of Ditch 144. Gully 146 was an bowl shaped cut 0.87m wide and 0.35m deep, with a narrow flat base. It contained a single fill (145) with rare amounts of limestone inclusions which had form through natural accumulation of material. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Gully 148 was a steep sided flat based U-shape cut 0.76m wide and 0.32m deep. The base was notably flat, with a slight undulation to the eastern side. It contained a single fill (147) with rare amounts of limestone inclusions which had form through natural accumulation of material. No finds were recovered from this fill.

Gully 150 was located between ditch 144 and gully 148. It formed a very shallow gully 0.14m deep and 0.62m wide, which terminated halfway across the trench. This feature maybe a natural depression or some form of rutting in the centre of the trackway liners (144 and 148).

Trench 28 (Figs 2, 3 and 19; Plate 33)

Trench 28 measured 20m by 20m and formed a small square open area. The trench was targeted upon a linear magnetic anomaly and an apparently blank area, to prospect for evidence of unenclosed settlement adjacent to the trackway. The topsoil was removed by machine to an average depth of 0.43m below ground level, at which point the weathered and fractured natural limestone bedrock with infrequent patches of orange-yellow clay was exposed at a minimum height of 93.01m OD. One linear feature (240) was recorded running east to west across the central area, corresponding with the recorded geophysical anomaly. Two 1m slots were excavated through this gully one at the western end (240) and the second at the eastern end (242) (Fig. 19, S. 70). Each slot contained a single fill (239) and (241)

respectively. The gully was very shallow between 0.10–0.12m deep and in places the base of the cut was very irregular and narrow and devoid of finds.

Trench 29 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 34)

Trench 29 measured 50m by 2m and was orientated north to south. The trench was targeted upon possible extension of the field boundary uncovered in Trench 28. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.30m below ground level, at which point the natural solid limestone bedrock, were exposed at a minimum height of 92.60m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed. There was no sign of the linear boundary which had either terminated to the west of the trench or had been ploughed out at this location.

Trench 30 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 35)

Trench 30 measured 50m by 2m and was orientated east to west. The trench was targeted upon an apparently blank area. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.33m below ground level, at which point the heavily eroded and fragmented natural limestone bedrock with patches of reddish brown clay were exposed at a minimum height of 92.06m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

Trench 31 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 36)

Trench 30 measured 50m by 2m and was orientated east to west. The trench was targeted upon an apparently blank area. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.40m below ground level, at which point the mix of solid and fragmented natural limestone bedrock with patches of yellow brown clay were exposed at a minimum height of 95.25m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

Trench 32 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 37)

Trench 32 measured 50m by 2m and was orientated north to south. The trench was targeted upon an apparently blank area. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine to an average depth of 0.30m below ground level, at which point the natural solid limestone bedrock, were exposed at a minimum height of 94.84m OD. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

Trench 33 (Figs 2, 3 and 20; Plate 38)

Trench 33 measured 20m by 20m forming a small square open area excavation targeted upon a discrete geophysical anomaly on the course of a natural NW-SE linear trend. The topsoil was removed by machine to an average depth of 0.45m below ground level, at which point the weathered and fractured natural limestone bedrock with large patches of orange-yellow clay were exposed at a minimum height of 100.55m OD. A total of three pits and one large irregular shaped feature corresponding to the geophysical anomaly were recorded.

Feature 152/155 (Fig. 20, S. 30 and 33; Plate 38)

Feature 152/155 was located centrally within Trench 33 and consisted of two cojoined sub-rectangular features. A total of three slots were excavated into these features; one each

through the east and west ends and a third through the central linking area. The west end was made up of a 4.1m wide and 0.20m deep cut (152), which formed a shallow flat-based bowl shape (Fig. 20, S. 33). The single fill (153) was a mid brown clayey silt, with a clear lens of charcoal staining, but no evidence of *in situ* burning. The east (Feature 155) was fairly irregular in shape with gradually sloping sides and an uneven base (Fig. 20, S. 30). It was 3.25m wide and 0.21m deep and contained two fills. The lower fill (156) was an orange-brown clay with no visible inclusions from which some flint was recovered. The upper fill (154) contained occasional limestone and heat affected sandstone fragments. Three Iron Age or early Romano-British pottery fragment and flint fragments were recovered from this fill. The slot excavated at the point where the two features joined could not demonstrate any stratigraphic relationship and it is possible that the two coexisted. This area possessed a similar profile to the west slot, with a single fill (165) which produced no finds. The nature of this feature suggest it maybe some kind of activity area, perhaps in a natural hollow on the line of an old palaeochannel (are possible explanation for the NW-SE linear geophysical anomaly).

Pit 157

Pit 157 lay 2m to the south of Feature 152/155 and was a flattened based bowl shaped cut 0.70m wide and 0.12m deep, it contained a single fill (158) which did not contain any visible inclusions or finds.

Pit 159 (Fig. 20, S. 35)

Pit 159 was located 3m to the north of feature 152/155. It consisted of a 0.78m wide and 0.28m deep cut which possessed a sub U-shaped profile. The pit contained two distinctive fills. The lower fill (160) was a mid brown silty clay deposit with no visible inclusions, which gave it clear definition against the upper layer (161). The upper layer contained an abundance of heat cracked stones within a silty clay soil matrix. No finds were recovered from either of the two deposits within 159. The feature appears to have been some form of oven pit.

Pit 162 (Fig. 20, S. 36)

Pit 162 was located at the northern edge of the Trench 33. it consisted of a circular U-shaped cut 0.24m in diameter and 0.16m deep. The single fill (163) comprised a charcoal rich deposit with an abundance of burnt bone contained. The bone has been identified as a human cremation, the skeletal elements were identifiable as skull fragments form a juvenile. The bone had been well burnt and produced a white colour. There was little surface erosion and moderate fragmentation (see Environmental section below).