

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 an 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