



Wessex Archaeology

# Hollow Banks, Scorton, North Yorkshire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report 1 Field 2

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**HOLLOW BANKS, SCORTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**REPORT 1 FIELD 2**

**Reference 44338b**

**Prepared for**

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**on behalf of**

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**by**

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## SUMMARY

This report has been prepared by Wessex Archaeology for ENTEC UK Ltd on behalf of Tilcon (North) Ltd, who have been granted planning permission for an extension to Scorton Quarry, Scorton, North Yorkshire. This document presents an interim report summarising the results of an archaeological evaluation of only one of the four areas within the proposed development area (Field 2 from Fields 1-4). In Field 2, three evaluation areas totalling 725 m<sup>2</sup>, and three evaluation trenches totalling 100 m<sup>2</sup>, were investigated, representing a c. 2.5% sample (by area) of Field 2. A metal detector survey was also undertaken across Field 2. A geophysical survey and desk-based assessment of the proposed development area have previously been completed (GeoQuest 1997).

The proposed development area ('The Site', centred on NGR SE 229 998) is located between Brompton-on-Swale and Scorton in the district of Richmondshire, North Yorkshire and includes an area of the River Swale floodplain and the gravel terraces to the north of the river. The wider area is known to contain extensive prehistoric remains, including components of a ritual/funerary landscape dating to the later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, as well as Iron Age settlement evidence. The Roman town of *Cataractonium* to the south of The Site was an important military site and staging post on Dere Street, the road from York to the northern frontier.

The earliest feature encountered during the evaluation would appear to be a single pit (Area 2, 1511), from which a damaged flint blade of probable late Mesolithic or early Neolithic date was recovered, this might suggest prehistoric settlement activity nearby.

A series of ditches, presumed to have functioned as field boundaries, was encountered at varying depths during the evaluation in Field 2. The earliest, a ditch recorded below the colluvium in the mid-west of Field 2 (Area 2, 1520) would seem to be part of a large sub-rectangular enclosure identified in the geophysical survey (d3). A number of linear ditches sealed below the subsoil to the immediate east of this enclosure ditch (Area 2, 1527 and Area 3, 1711 and 1715) indicate a later phase of ditch excavation and may represent later agricultural activity, maintaining the same axis of land division from the earlier rectilinear enclosure. A tentative date of Iron Age - Romano-British (c. 700 BC - AD 410) might be suggested for the enclosure and the linear ditches, in comparison with a similar, but more coherent, agricultural landscape of this date recorded to the north of The Site in 1996-97. The ditches were identified by the geophysical survey (d5 and d6).

An undated single inhumation, orientated east-west with the head to the west, was recorded in the middle of Field 2, cutting an earlier possible field boundary ditch. The burial may be isolated, but is more probably part of at least a small group of inhumations in the immediate area.

A large, rectilinear enclosure displaying a 'playing card' shape in plan, recorded in the north of Field 2 (and extending into Field 3) and also identified in the geophysical survey (d1/d11), may be a Roman military enclosure (Area 1). The military origins

and continuing importance of *Cataractonium* to the south-west of The Site are well attested in the archaeological record. In addition to a Flavian and later Antonine forts in *Cataractonium* itself, a marching camp is known to be located to the south of The Site. A military base was also constructed to the north of the River Swale c. AD 130, possibly as a bridgehead defence constructed during a possible Brigantian rebellion.

Two post-medieval ditches (c. 19th-20th century), with an associated stone-lined well, retain the north-south field boundary line, visible on OS maps and identifiable in the geophysical survey, of the medieval 'open field' system which was in use when the ridge-and-furrow recorded in Field 2 was formed, probably pre-17th century.

The metal detector survey recovered ten objects from nine locations within the field. The assemblage comprised iron, copper alloy and lead objects of post-medieval/modern date, none of archaeological interest. No objects were recovered from archaeological features or from the spoil of the evaluation areas and trenches.

The evaluation has therefore confirmed the archaeological interpretation based on the results of the earlier geophysical survey. Archaeological features encountered were generally well preserved, and appear to range in date from earlier prehistoric (possibly Mesolithic) to post-medieval, although little artefactual material was recovered. Variations in the topography in Field 2 have resulted in the archaeological features being more deeply buried down the slope of the river terrace and in the north of the field, but less well protected on the cusp of the terrace itself. Only negative (i.e. cut) archaeological features were encountered during the evaluation in Field 2.

In addition to evidence of possible prehistoric settlement activity in part of Field 2, other occupation evidence including field boundaries, an inhumation and a possible military enclosure suggests extensive Romano-British activity, probably representing several phases, related to other known sites in the area.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Chris Moore It was supervised in the field by Chris Ellis (Project Officer) and Isca Howell (Project Supervisor) with the assistance of Tobin Rayner, Julie Draper and Jarne Wright

This report was compiled by Chris Ellis with contributions from Michael J Allen and Sarah F Wyles (palaeoenvironmental), Lorraine Mepham (finds) and Jacqueline McKinley (human remains) The illustrations were prepared by S E James

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# HOLLOW BANKS, SCORTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### REPORT 1 FIELD 2

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1 1 This report has been prepared by Wessex Archaeology for ENTEC UK Ltd on behalf of Tilcon (North) Ltd, who have been granted planning permission for an extension to Scorton Quarry, Scorton, North Yorkshire
- 1 2 The proposed development area (hereinafter called 'The Site') comprises four fields (centred on NGR SE 229 998) located between Brompton-on-Swale and Scorton in the district of Richmondshire, North Yorkshire (Figure 1) The Site extends over a total area of c 15.4 hectares, which includes an area of the River Swale floodplain and the gravel terraces to the north of the river The planning authority required an archaeological evaluation of the Site in order that an informed discussion regarding the scope of further investigations could be held, prior to the commencement of development
- 1 3 An archaeological evaluation consisting of the excavation of trial trenches and areas, together with a metal detector survey of part of The Site, was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design (Wessex Archaeology 1997) approved by the County Archaeological Officer for North Yorkshire Previous archaeological investigation on the site comprises a desk-based study and geophysical survey (GeoQuest Associates 1997)
- 1 4 This report summarises the results of the archaeological evaluation of only one of the four areas (Field 2 from Fields 1-4), a c 3.36 hectare area, comprising c 22% (by area) of the proposed development area

#### 2 THE SITE

##### 2 1 Location, geology, topography

- 2 1 1 The Site is located c 200m north of the River Swale (Figure 1), and comprises four areas (Fields 1-4) bounded by Scorton Road to the north, Gatherley Road to the west and Howe Hill Lane to the south with the property boundary of Hollow Banks farm delineating its eastern extent At the time of the fieldwork, Fields 2-4 were in agricultural use as rough pasture and Field 1 was arable
- 2 1 2 The Site includes areas of the river floodplain (Fields 1 and 4), and the gravel river terrace which forms a generally level plateau further to the north (Fields 2 and 3) In Field 2, there is a marked curvilinear river terrace, aligned north-west/south-east with the topography dropping from c 67.70m above ordnance datum (AOD) in the north-west, down to c 61.50m (AOD) in the south-east



The topography drops slightly from the crest of the terrace, down towards the north-east of Field 2, on the plateau. At the base of the terrace the topography rises again very slightly to the south-west, forming a slight hollow.

- 2.1.3 The Site is located at the boundary of two basal geologies, the Triassic deposits of Keuper Sandstone and Bunter Sandstone, Pebble Beds and basal breccias to the east, and Carboniferous Limestone Series to the west (BGS 1957). The drift geology is comprised of soils consistent with the Brickfield Series of slight to moderate stoney loams (argillic brown earths) c 0.30-0.35m deep, derived from glacial drift and boulder clay deposits (BGS 1965).

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A full summary of the archaeological information for The Site and its vicinity held by the North Yorkshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) is listed as a gazetteer in Appendix 1. The archaeological and historical background to the area is summarised below, further information is presented in an earlier desk-based study of The Site and its local area (GeoQuest 1997), and is not repeated here.

#### 3.2 Prehistoric (c 10,000 BC – AD43)

- 3.2.1 An earlier prehistoric ritual landscape is known to extend to the north-east of The Site. The earliest recorded archaeological remains in the area date to the Neolithic period (4000 – 2400 BC). A cursus monument (SMR 13547) is visible on aerial photographs, 1.3km to the north-east of The Site. The monument is c 2.5km long, aligned north-west/south-east and consists of two parallel ditches with c 0.32m of raised ground between them.
- 3.2.3 Recent excavations at Catterick Racecourse to the south of The Site recorded a large late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age stone cairn burial, with eight small stone-built burial cists in two groups (Moloney 1996, 130). A large number of Neolithic pits containing pottery, burnt flint and animal bone were recorded on the north-west edge of the cairn.
- 3.2.4 To the north of The Site (NGR 2331 0002), a ring-ditch feature excavated in 1977 by D Greenhalf revealed an Early Bronze Age (EBA) beaker burial, with a crushed beaker placed upon a wooden coffin. An extensive scatter of pits and postholes around the feature were described as an occupation site. Also associated with the burial was a possibly contemporary pit alignment.
- 3.2.5 The site of a possible Bronze Age round barrow is recorded c 320m to the east of The Site at Howe Hill (SMR 13508), and two Bronze Age rapiers are known to have been recovered from the River Swale (SMR 13511 00001 NAA 1993).

3 2 6 The later prehistoric archaeology of the area is characterised by enclosed settlements and associated field systems. To the north of Scorton Road a settlement has been recently excavated (FAS 1997) consisting of at least seven hut circles within an enclosure representing at least two distinct phases of settlement spanning the 6th-3rd century BC. An extensive rectilinear field system was associated with the settlement; the presence of Romano-British pottery in the ditches suggests that the field system may have continued to be used into the Roman period. Further Iron Age enclosures with hut circles have also been recorded between Catterick Racecourse and Catterick Village (SMR 13521, SMR 13522)

### 3 3 Romano-British (AD43 – 410)

3 3 1 During the Roman period, Catterick was an important military staging post on Dere Street, the road from York to the northern frontier. Roman remains have been recorded along Dere Street from at least Catterick Bridge in the north, to Bainsse Farm in the south, over 3km in overall extent. A Roman 'marching camp' (or possibly a work camp) has been recorded by geophysical survey c. 400m south of The Site (SMR 13512). The Site is located only 200m north-east of the known location of the northern suburbs of the Roman *vicus* of *Cataractonium*, which developed around an earlier Flavian Roman fort to the south and west, with later Antonine settlement to the north of the River Swale also in evidence.

3 3 2 The *vicus* dates initially from c. AD 160, after the abandonment of the settlement to the north of the river. Settlement evidence survives to both the south and the north of the river into the first part of the 5th century AD. Small cemeteries have been found to the north-east and south of the town. The recovery of fragments of altar indicates the existence of temples within both the northern and southern parts of the town. The site of the Roman town (SMR 13510, 13511) has been scheduled as a site of national importance (SAM NY169), the scheduled area extends to the south and north banks of the River Swale, and is bisected by Dere Street.

3 3 3 Recent excavations at Catterick Racecourse recorded the earthen bank of a possible Roman amphitheatre with a cobbled internal area (Moloney 1996), dating to the end of the 2nd century AD. The interpretation of the earthen bank feature as a Roman amphitheatre has, however, been recently questioned (Wilson 1997, 22).

3 3 4 Excavations to the north of Scorton Road have recorded an extensive Romano-British rectilinear field system with associated rectilinear house enclosures (FAS 1996, 1997), dating from the 2nd-4th century AD.

### 3 4 Post-Roman and Saxon (AD 410 – 1066)

3 4 1 Excavations at Catterick Racecourse have recorded an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery, with 44 inhumations placed outside the abandoned possible Roman amphitheatre (Moloney 1996, 130). The majority of the adult burials seem to have been females (based on grave goods), with a large number of high quality

grave goods included in the cemetery Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have also been recorded around Catterick Village and at Baines Farm to the south (Wilson 1984)

3 4 2 Two 4th-5th century AD sunken-featured buildings have been recorded (SMR 13511 1201, 13511 1202) within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of *Cataractonium* (North) (SMR 13511) These structures were located fronting onto the Roman Dere Street, near the site of an earlier Roman temple

3 4 3 A decorated Anglo-Saxon cross head and arm were discovered in Catterick (SMR 13506 03), suggesting a settlement with an important ecclesiastical presence The pieces have been removed to the Cambridge Museum

### 3 5 Medieval and post-Medieval (1066 – 1799)

3 5 1 The motte of a motte-and-bailey castle in Catterick survives Thought to date from the 11th century AD (SMR 13506 04), it was dismantled in AD 1154 and the site of the bailey was subsequently occupied by a churchyard

3 5 2 There are numerous fields containing ridge and furrow earthworks within c 3km of The Site, predominantly to the south-west and west The Site has some relatively poorly preserved ridge-and-furrow in Fields 2 and 3, well illustrated on the geophysical survey of these areas (GeoQuest 1997) The size and characteristic 'reversed-S' shape of the ridge-and-furrow would suggest a pre-17th century AD date

3 5 3 Cartographic evidence for The Site illustrates a field boundary layout in Field 2 (Ordnance Survey 1857) which preserves the north-south axis of long, narrow fields derived from the medieval 'open field system' (Rackham 1986), when the ridge-and-furrow would have been formed The westernmost of these north-south aligned post-medieval field boundaries corresponds with linear feature 'fb2' in the geophysical survey (GeoQuest 1997)

## 4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4 1 The aims of the evaluation were (as far as practicable and within the limits of the specified techniques and trench layout) to gather sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality, location and date of archaeological features within the proposed development area

4 2 The objectives of individual areas and trenches were

- To determine or confirm the general nature of the remains present
- To determine or confirm the nature of the geophysical anomalies where these were targeted
- To determine or confirm the apparent absence of archaeological features where areas or trenches were located within areas which appear 'blank' on the geophysical survey

- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence
- To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal or vertical stratigraphy present
- To determine the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present
- To establish if practicable the function of archaeological features, groups of features or areas through an appropriate sampling strategy agreed with the curator
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present

4.3 The objectives of the metal detector scanning were

- To recover metal objects from the topsoil and determine whether there was any spatial significance in the distribution of such artefacts
- To identify archaeological features which contain metal artefacts in order to assist selection of the sample for excavation

## 5 METHODOLOGY

### 5.1 Excavation

5.1.1 A total of three evaluation areas totalling 725 m<sup>2</sup> and three trenches totalling 100 m<sup>2</sup> were excavated as outlined in the Project Design (Wessex Archaeology 1997), representing a c. 2.5% sample (by area) of Field 2. The location of trenches and areas was specified in the Brief (Figures 1 and 2, Areas 1-3 and Trenches 1-3)

5.1.2 Topsoil and overburden were removed using a 360° excavator fitted with a 2m wide, toothless bucket, working under continuous direct archaeological supervision

5.1.3 Topsoil and modern overburden were removed in a series of level spits down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural soil horizon, whichever was sooner. Spoil was scanned for artefacts. In Areas 1 and 2, sondages were excavated by machine in order to identify anomalies recorded on the geophysical survey which were thought likely to have been masked by overburden or colluvial deposits. This strategy was carried out in agreement with the curator

5.1.4 All features of whatever origin requiring clarification were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan at an appropriate scale. Sufficient of the features located were investigated by hand in order to fulfil the aims of the project, complex stratigraphy and discrete features were fully excavated in accordance with a sampling strategy agreed with the curator. A Home Office licence permitting

the excavation and removal of human remains identified during the evaluation was obtained

5 1 5 At the Client's request, evaluation areas and trenches in Area 2 were not backfilled

## 5 2 Metal Detector Scanning

5 2 1 Field 2 was subject to metal detector scanning prior to the excavation of the evaluation areas and trenches. The field was systematically scanned by dividing it into 50m squares with 'mns' across the 50m squares carried out every 10m, thereby having 6 'mns' across each square. The scanning aimed to locate non-ferrous metal objects from the topsoil only. Locations of artefacts recovered were marked and recorded using a Total Station theodolite (see 5 3 3 below)

5 2 2 The spoil from the excavated areas and trenches was scanned and all features recorded were scanned with a metal detector prior to excavation in order to assist in selecting a sample of features for excavation

## 5 3 Recording

5 3 1 For ease of reference during the fieldwork, the sequence of area and trench numbers and letters ascribed in the Brief (ENTEC UK Ltd 1997) and the Project Design (Wessex Archaeology 1997) was amended as follows (Figures 1, 2)

<u>Specification</u>	<u>This report</u>
Areas 1-4	Fields 1-4
Evaluation areas 1-8	Same
Evaluation trenches A-K	Evaluation trenches 1-11

5 3 2 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded by Wessex Archaeology using *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A gazetteer in Appendix 2 provides a summary of all natural and archaeological deposits recorded during the evaluation

5 3 3 All surveying was undertaken using a Total Station theodolite with an in-built 'data-logger'. All evaluation areas and trenches were marked out by survey prior to machining. All archaeological features were located by survey prior to excavation. The survey was carried out using five-figure Ordnance Survey (OS) grid co-ordinates and heights derived from Ordnance Datum, to record exact locations and heights of all readings taken. A large series of contour survey points in the fields was also recorded to enable the location and stratigraphy of the evaluation areas and trenches to be related to the prevailing topography. All the digital information is tabulated and stored on a 3.5 inch floppy disc, as well as on a paper hard-copy, within the archive

5 3 4 Plans and sections were drawn as necessary at scales of 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate. Drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film and

heights (mAOD) shown on plans and sections as appropriate. Pre-excavation drawings of evaluation areas and trenches were also completed.

- 5 3 5 Photographs were taken as necessary to produce a comprehensive photographic record (consisting of monochrome prints and colour transparencies) of the project, including general working and location shots as well as records of individual archaeological features and deposits.
- 5 3 6 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macro-fossils, bone, and small artefacts were taken from appropriate contexts, for processing by flotation.
- 5 3 7 The artefacts, palaeoenvironmental materials and accompanying documentary records from the evaluation have been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, English Heritage 1991). The archives are currently stored at the offices of Wessex Archaeology, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire, under the project code W4338.

## 6 RESULTS

### 6 1 Introduction

6 1 1 The text below summarises the significant data from the evaluation areas and trenches, and the metal detector scanning survey carried out across Field 2. Reference is made to the geophysical survey (GeoQuest 1997) where necessary. The artefactual and ecofactual assemblages from the evaluation are discussed in The Finds section of the report (see 7 below). A full gazetteer of evaluation areas and trenches, containing OS grid references, levels (mAOD) and stratigraphic/geological descriptions of deposits and features is presented in Appendix 2.

### 6 2 Natural deposits and soil sequence

6 2 1 A dark greyish-brown sandy loam topsoil of generally uniform thickness (0.25-0.35m) and character was encountered across the whole of Field 2. Beneath this, a relatively homogenous deposit of mid- to dark yellowish-brown sandy silt subsoil, containing common small to large (<0.10m) sub-rounded and rounded gravel, was encountered.

6 2 2 Material very similar to this subsoil deposit was recorded in Area 3, filling natural hollows in the underlying natural gravel. This deposit ranged in thickness from 0.04m in Trench 1 to a maximum of 0.45-0.55m in Areas 2 and 3, and was generally restricted within 'relative' hollows within the palaeo-topography evident within Field 2. The increased thickness of the subsoil in Area 3 may be attributable to colluvial action.

6 2 3 A mid reddish-brown sandy silt colluvium was recorded in Area 2, representing a deposit of hillwash material eroded down the slope of the ancient river terrace, probably due to a combination of agricultural and natural

weathering processes. The deposit was encountered on the cusp of the terrace and increased to a maximum thickness of 0.25m in the south of Area 2.

6.2.4 Natural gravel was encountered at varying depths in all the evaluation areas and trenches in Field 2, dependent upon the palaeo-topography. It was encountered at 0.28m depth in Trench 1, 0.41m in Area 1, 0.51m in Area 3 and 1.25m in Area 2 (towards the base of the terrace slope).

### 6.3 Excavation

#### 6.3.1 Trench 1

This trench was 20m long, orientated roughly east-west, and targeted on geophysical anomaly 'd4'. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within the trench. No artefacts were recorded from the spoil.

#### 6.3.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 20m long and orientated north-south. In the mid-point of this trench a well-defined east-west aligned linear feature 204, corresponding to 'd8' in the geophysical survey, was excavated (Figure 3). The feature was 3.90m wide and 0.30m deep, and was sealed below the subsoil 201 and cut the natural gravel 202. No artefacts were recovered from the single fill 203, which was cut by a small posthole-like feature 206, from which no artefacts were recovered.

#### 6.3.3 Trench 3

This trench was 10m long, orientated north-south and located to investigate a 'blank' area in the geophysical survey. No archaeological features or deposits were found within this trench. No artefacts were recorded from the spoil.

#### 6.3.4 Area 1

This area measured 20m by 10m and was targeted on geophysical anomalies 'd1' and 'f1'. Archaeological features were recorded at two distinct physical levels in this area (Figure 4). At a depth of c. 0.41m, two c. 0.70m wide linear bands of silty loam (1303, 1305), aligned north-north-west/south-south-east and converging towards the north-west, were clearly discernible in plan following machining, below the topsoil 1300. The deposits proved to be superficial on excavation, and probably represent bands of siltier material filling hollows caused by medieval ridge-and-furrow ploughing, which is orientated in the same direction in this field. No artefacts were recovered from these features.

A sondage was excavated by machine to a deeper level at the eastern extent of the area. At this lower level, c. 0.50m depth, a west-north-west/east-north-east aligned linear feature 1307, corresponding to geophysical anomaly 'd1', cut the natural gravel 1302 and was sealed by the subsoil 1301. The ditch was 0.86m wide and 0.44m deep, with a rounded 'V-shaped' profile, and contained a single fill 1308 from which no artefacts were recovered.

A large spread of material **1309** was recorded at the south end of the area corresponding to an anomaly ascribed 'f1' in the geophysical survey was found to be a variation within the natural gravel

### 6 3 5 Area 2

This area measured 25m by 15m and was targetted on anomalies 'fb2', 'd3' and 'd5'. Again, archaeological features were recorded at two distinct physical levels in this area (Figure 5). At a depth of c 0.50m three features (**1505-1507**) were recorded, all post-medieval in date.

In the south of Area 2 a west-north-west/east-south-east aligned linear ditch **1505**, corresponding to a V-shaped anomaly 'fb2' in the geophysical survey, was excavated, cutting the subsoil **1501**. Post-medieval (19th-20th century) brick and stoneware ceramic fragments were recorded from the fill **1504**. A further section of anomaly 'fb2', a north-west/south-east aligned linear ditch **1507**, was excavated in the north-east of Area 2.

Lying c 2m to the north-east of ditch **1507** was a stone-lined post-medieval well **1506**, identifiable as an oval anomaly in the geophysical survey. The well was hand-excavated down to a depth of 1.0m. The uppermost fill **1512** was a mixed deposit containing common post-medieval and recent (20th century) material including numerous glass bottles and assorted metalwork, which had been dumped in the feature. Hand-augering to ascertain the depth of the feature and the nature of any earlier deposits revealed earlier fills (**1513-1516**) down to a maximum depth of 4.0m, at which depth the auger was obstructed. The earlier fills contained coal/ash-like material and post-medieval glass fragments and were all heavily 'voided', indicative of large inclusions (lining collapse or gravel boulders thrown into the feature).

In order to ascertain whether further archaeological features were present at a lower level, two sondages were machine excavated through the subsoil and colluvial deposits down to natural gravel (maximum depth 1.25m at the southern end of the area), at the eastern and western edges of Area 2.

In the south of the western sondage, a large north-west/south-east aligned linear ditch feature **1520**, 2.50m wide, and 1.10m deep, was recorded, cutting the natural gravel **1503** and sealed by the natural colluvium **1502** (at a depth of c 0.80m). A few animal bone fragments were recovered from the latest fill **1526**. This feature corresponds to anomaly 'd3', recorded in the geophysical survey as turning sharply up to the higher ground to the north-east.

About 7.50m to the south of **1520** was a circular pit **1511**, 1.20m diameter and 0.41m deep, the latest fill **1510** containing a damaged flint blade. The feature was not identified on the geophysical survey. Although the feature physically cut the natural gravel **1503**, the stratigraphic position from which the feature was cut was not discernible.

In the south of the eastern sondage, a north-west/south-east aligned linear ditch feature **1527** was recorded at a depth of 0.66m, cutting a colluvial deposit **1502**. This feature was at least 1.50m wide and 0.80m deep, sealed by



subsoil 1501 No artefacts were recovered This feature was recorded in the geophysical survey as 'd5' and continues into Area 3

#### 6 3 6 Area 3

This area measured 15m by 10m and was targetted on anomalies 'd5' and 'd6' A north-west/south-east aligned linear ditch feature 1711/1707 (Figure 6) probably represents a continuation of 1527 from Area 2 The feature became progressively more shallow and less well defined to the south of Area 3, where it cut a natural deposit 1708 Again, the feature contained a single fill 1710/1706, and was sealed below the subsoil 1701 No artefacts were recovered from the ditch fills in either section excavated

In the north of Area 3, a west-northwest/east-northeast aligned linear ditch feature 1715 cut natural gravel 1702 The ditch was 0 98m wide and 0 38m deep with a V-shaped profile The feature appears to correspond to the location of geophysical anomaly 'd6', although the excavations would suggest that the feature continues to the east The fill 1714 contained no artefacts, but was cut by grave cut 1719

The grave contained a single inhumation 1717, at a depth of 0 45m (i.e. only c 0 10m below the base of the present topsoil) The sub-rectangular grave cut, orientated north-west/south-east, was 1 70m(+) long, 0 55m(+) wide, and 0 20m deep The grave cut was poorly defined on its north-east and eastern sides where the grave fill 1718 was poorly differentiated from ditch fill 1714 The grave is visible in the geophysical survey as a small pit-like feature

The inhumation was in a supine position, partially flexed, with head to the west and hands placed in the pelvic region When first exposed the left pelvic area, ribs, and most vertebrae were missing and the left leg bones were slightly damaged No artefacts were recovered from the grave fill during hand excavation Samples were taken from the feet, hands, thoracic and pelvic regions of the inhumation, together with a 100% sample of the grave fill below the skeleton, for artefact and small bone retrieval The inhumation is discussed in further detail in the **FINDS** section below

In the west of Area 3, two sub-rectangular/oval features initially thought to represent further graves, were partially exposed (1713, 1716) Excavation of 1713 revealed a cut at least 1 50m long, 1 15m wide, and 0 20m deep, cutting natural deposit 1708 and sealed below the subsoil 1701 No artefacts were recovered from the fill 1712

Over the southern extent of Area 3 a series of deposits (1703, 1704, 1708) recorded in the geophysical survey proved to consist of extensive deposits of material very similar to the subsoil 1701, filling natural hollows in the underlying gravel 1702

#### 6 4 Metal Detector Scanning

6 4 1 The general scanning of Field 2 recovered a total of 10 objects from 9 locations All were of post-medieval/modern date, and are not of

archaeological importance The objects are discussed in more detail in the **FINDS** section below

6 4 2 No artefacts were recovered from the scanning of the evaluation areas and trenches, or the spoil derived from these excavations

## 7 THE FINDS

### 7 1 Introduction

7 1 1 A small quantity of finds was recovered from Field 2 These have been cleaned (with the exception of the metalwork) and quantified by material type withm each context, this information is summarised in Table 1 below Finds have subsequently been scanned m order to ascertain their nature, potential date and condition This information is summarised by material type below

**Table 1 Field 2 all finds by context**

NB Quantities are presented by number/weight in grammes except metalwork (numbers only)

CBM = ceramic building material Fe = iron Pb = lead Cu = copper

Additional pottery 3 Romano-British sherds (10g) from ditch 402 Field 3 (=1307 Field 2) are not included in this table

Context	Description	Animal Bone	Human Bone	CBM	Flint	R-B Pottery	P- med Pottery	Metal
Unstrat	MD survey Field 2							3 Fe 5 Cu 2 Pb
1504	ditch 1505			3/1174g			3/64g	
1508	ditch 1509			2/328g				
1510	pit 1511				1/14g			
1526	linear 1520	3/10g						
1706	ditch 1705/1707	233/110g						
1717	grave 1719		inhum					
	<b>TOTAL (Field 2)</b>	236/120g	1 mdiv	5/1502g	1/14g		3/64g	3 Fe, 5 Cu, 2 Pb

### 7 2 Ceramic Building Material

7 2 1 This category includes fragments of brick and roof tile None is particularly diagnostic, but all are likely to be of late medieval or post-medieval date One partial brick from **1504** (Area 2) is handmade and very irregular (width 115-125 mm, thickness 50-55 mm), with grass marks on the base

### 7 3 Flint

7 3 1 Worked flint comprised one broken blade from pit fill **1510** (Area 2) This piece has multiple hinge fractures on its dorsal surface and has been struck from a single platform core, it shows evidence of soft hammer percussion and platform abrasion, indicative of an early prehistoric (Mesolithic/Neolithic) date

#### 7 4 Pottery

7 4 1 The pottery recovered from Field 2 consists of three post-medieval sherds. In addition, three Romano-British sherds were recovered from ditch 402 in Field 3 (Trench 4), which is recorded as part of the same large rectilinear enclosure of which ditch 1307 (Area 1) in Field 2 is also a component. The Romano-British sherds are all from the same vessel, a 'London-type' ware hemispherical bowl with incised decoration (Marsh 1978, type 42, fig 6 18).

The three post-medieval sherds from ditch 1505 (Area 2) comprise stonewares and industrial whiteware, of 19th or 20th century date.

#### 7 5 Metalwork

7 5 1 The metalwork derives from the metal detector survey carried out across Field 2, which consists of 10 objects from 9 locations (Object Nos 3000-3002, 3050-3056). This collection comprises 3 iron, 5 copper alloy and 2 lead objects. These objects are all either undateable or of diagnostically post-medieval type. The finds from the metal detector survey are listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Objects from metal detector survey

Obj No	Material	Date	Description
3000	Iron	undated	?horseshoe nail
3001	cu alloy	post-med	halfpenny (Victoria)
3050	Iron	post-med	horseshoe frag
3051	cu alloy	post-med	Victoria halfpenny (1861)
3052	cu alloy	undated	flat frag with ?rivet hole
3053	Iron	post med	Buckle
3054	cu alloy	post med	Buckle
3055	cu alloy	post med	Victoria halfpenny
3056	Lead	undated	waste x 2

7 5 2 The iron objects consist of a nail, a buckle and a horseshoe fragment. Other objects are unidentifiable and include miscellaneous sheet and strip fragments.

7 5 3 The copper alloy includes three Victoria halfpennies. Other objects include a buckle and a flat fragment with a rivet hole.

7 5 4 The lead consists of two waste fragments.

#### 7 6 Human bone

7 6 1 A single inhumation burial 1717 was excavated in Area 3, which contained the remains of an adult male. The bone is in very poor condition and has survived only partially, vertebrae, ribs and extremities are almost entirely missing.

7 6 2 A series of seven samples of 0.75-13.5 litres were taken from around skeleton 1717 for artefact and small bone recovery. The samples were fractionated through sieves of mesh sizes 4 mm, 2mm and 1 mm and the fractions dried. The coarse fractions (>4mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded.

## 8 DISCUSSION

### 8 1 Introduction

8 1 1 The results of the evaluation have confirmed the archaeological interpretation based upon the results of the earlier geophysical survey. Archaeological features identified were generally well preserved, and were encountered at varying depths across Field 2, reflecting the date of the features, the nature of the underlying palaeo-topography, and the effects of agricultural practices and colluvial processes in creating soil movement and deposition. Only negative (i.e. cut) archaeological features were encountered during the evaluation in Field 2.

### 8 2 Natural deposits and soil sequence

8 2 1 The topsoil across Field 2 was generally 0.25-0.35m thick. The subsoil was generally 0.15-0.25m thick, although thicker deposits of subsoil were recorded towards the base of the gravel terrace in the south in Areas 2 and 3 (c. 0.55m thick). This deposit sealed archaeological features of medieval/post-medieval date in Areas 1 and 2.

8 2 2 In Area 2, a colluvial deposit was recorded increasing in thickness (to 0.22m) down the terrace slope, which sealed a ditch feature at 0.80m depth. On the cusp of the terrace however, (in the north of Areas 2 and 3) the subsoil had been truncated, and archaeological features were encountered at a depth of only c. 0.10m below the base of the topsoil (c. 0.45m depth). Archaeological features in this particular area of Field 2 may therefore be more vulnerable to damage during future topsoil stripping.

### 8 3 Metal Detector Survey

8 3 1 The metal detector survey recovered an assemblage of ten iron, copper alloy and lead objects of post-medieval/modern date, none of archaeological interest. No objects were recovered from archaeological features or from the spoil of the evaluation areas and trenches. The survey therefore suggests that the metal artefact content of the topsoil across Field 2 is low.

### 8 4 Archaeological Features

8 4 1 The earliest features identified were pit 1511 and ditch 1520 in Area 2. The pit contained worked flint, dated on technological grounds to the early prehistoric (Mesolithic/Neolithic) period, 8500 – 2400 BC. The ditch was sealed below colluvium and therefore must be presumed to be of some antiquity, although

no dating evidence was recovered. The ditch (noted in the geophysical survey - GeoQuest 1997) would seem to be part of a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure (d3) on approximately the same alignment as linear ditches to the immediate east, and the large rectilinear enclosure to the north. These features may indicate prehistoric settlement activity of indeterminate extent in the mid-west of Field 2 (but see 8.4.2 below).

- 8.4.2 In Areas 2 and 3, two linear features sealed below the subsoil were aligned north-west/south-east, across the slope of the gravel terrace (1527=1715, 1711) where there is a noticeable change in topography, and in geology. Although all undated, one of them (1527) cuts the colluvial deposit in Area 2, suggesting that it represents a later phase of ditch excavation from the enclosure to the west. These ditches may represent linear field boundaries, possibly associated with later agricultural activity, maintaining the axis of land utilisation from the earlier rectilinear enclosure ditch 1520 seen in Area 2. A tentative date of Iron Age-Romano-British (c. 700 BC – AD 410) might be suggested for both the enclosure ditch and linear ditches, in comparison with a similar, but more coherent, agricultural landscape of this date range, recorded to the north of The Site.
- 8.4.3 A single inhumation was recorded in the north-west of Area 3, and cut an earlier field boundary ditch 1715. The grave cut was orientated east-west and contained an adult inhumation, in a supine, slightly flexed position with the head to the west. No artefacts were recovered from the burial. The skeleton was located only c. 0.10m from the base of the topsoil. The burial may be isolated, but is more probably part of at least a small group of inhumations in the immediate area. A later Roman date might be suggested for the inhumation as it cuts a ditch of possible Iron Age/Romano-British date, boundary-edge burials or cemeteries of late Roman date are not uncommon.
- 8.4.4 The linear ditch feature 1307 (Area 1) in the north-east of Field 2 was undated. The ditch was recorded during the geophysical survey, as part of a large, sub-rectangular enclosure of which parts of the south and the east sides lie within The Site, with a rounded corner evident in the south-east (Field 3). The enclosure displays a marked 'playing card' shape in plan, typically associated with Roman military installations. A section across the enclosure ditch on its east side (Trench 4, Field 3) recovered Romano-British pottery ('London type' ware) of 2nd century AD date (results discussed in a later report).
- 8.4.5 The military origins and continuing importance of *Cataractonium* to the south-west of The Site are well attested in the archaeological record. A Flavian and later Antonine fort are known in the town, and a marching camp is known to be located to the south of The Site, to the east of Catterick Racecourse (SMR 13512). A military base was also constructed to the north of the River Swale c. AD 130, possibly as a bridgehead defence constructed during a possible Brigantian rebellion (Jarrett 1976). It is possible that the enclosure at the north of Field 2 may be a military enclosure, perhaps reflecting the greater need for defence during the expansion of the *vicus* during the 2nd century AD.

- 8 4 6 Post-medieval (18th – 20th century ) ditches (1505, 1507) and a stone-lined well (1506) were recorded in Area 2. The ditches were recorded on the OS 1857 map for the area. The post-medieval ditches retain the north-south field boundary line of the original 'open field' system which was in use when the ridge-and-furrow recorded in Field 2 was formed (probably pre-17th century – Rackham 1986).
- 8 4 7 The evaluation has therefore recovered evidence of possible prehistoric settlement activity in part of Field 2, together with occupation evidence including field boundaries, an inhumation and a possible military enclosure suggesting extensive Romano-British activity, probably representing several phases, related to other known sites in the area.

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APPENDIX 1 Summary of Archaeological Sites within the Local Area

SMR Ref No	Location	OS Grid Ref	Period	Category	Description
13503	Brough	SE 22690 98750	Unknown	Ditch	Possible part of field system or late Medieval feature Cropmark
13506	Catterick	SE 24000 98000	Medieval	Settlement	Catterick village mentioned in AD 1301 as having 13 taxable households Much Anglian material has been found nearby
13506 03	Catterick	SE 23000 97000	Anglo-Saxon	Find	A decorated cross head and arm, removed to Cambridge Museum Points to important ecclesiastical presence in the area at an early date
13506 04	Catterick	SE 23000 97000	Medieval	Site	Possible adulterine castle of motte-and-bailey type Possibly founded by Count Alan in 11 <sup>th</sup> century , dismantled in AD 1154 Site of bailey occupied by churchyard Motte still survives A 19 <sup>th</sup> century reference to ancient camp around the church, and motte as a keep with traces of outworks In the south of Catterick (outside 'local area' ) geophysical surveys and fieldwalking surveys by CAS have recorded evidence of kilns, pits and finds of Roman- post-medieval date

13507	Thrummy Hills, Catterick	SE 23000 98590	Roman?	Cemetery	A 19th century reference to the local people describing 'tumuli' in the area Lies close to the Roman road
13508	Howe Hill Brompton-on-Swale	SE 2342 9975	Bronze Age	Burial	Site of possible round barrow
13510	Catterick	SE 22500 99120	Roman	Settlement	Roman settlement of <i>Cataractonium</i> to the immediate south of the River Swale Flavian period fort surrounded by <i>vicus</i> around AD 160 Whole area enclosed within defensive wall in the late 3 <sup>rd</sup> century AD Town radically altered in the 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD, and flourished until the end of the 4 <sup>th</sup> century AD Numerous findspots and structures from this site, also later Anglo-Saxon settlement evidence Scheduled Ancient Monument <b>NY169</b>
13511	Catterick	SE 22450 99350	Roman	Settlement	<i>Cataractonium</i> northern settlement of Antonine date with defensive bank and ditch, north of the River Swale Expanded to north and east Known temple site in the area Contains numerous Romano-British findspots of 1st-4th centuries AD not noted here Within Scheduled Ancient Monument <b>NY169</b>
13511 00001	Catterick	SE 22575 99365	Bronze Age	Findspot	Bronze Age rapier (Group IV)(Burgess and Gerholf 1981) Possible votive offering

13511 13000	Catterick	SE 22470 99390	Anglo-Saxon	Structure	<i>Grubenhause</i> found just to the south of abandoned Roman temple site in <i>Cataractonium</i> north
13511 34000	Catterick Bridge	SE 22680 99420	Anglo-Saxon	Cemetery	Anglo-Saxon cemetery 3rd-4 <sup>th</sup> century AD Burials N-S and E-W orientated
13511 1201	Catterick	SE 2245 9942	Anglo-Saxon	Structure	<i>Grubenhause</i> (4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> century AD) found during excavations alongside Dere Street
13511 1202	Catterick	SE 2245 9940	Anglo-Saxon	Structure	<i>Grubenhause</i> (4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> century AD) found during excavations alongside Dere Street
13512	Leeming Lane	SE 23510 99100	Roman	Site	Roman marching camp found during geophysical survey, entrance had a <i>titulum</i> Possible camp for a small working unit (a work camp?)
13513	Catterick Bridge	SE 22720 99360	Medieval	Structure	Stone bridge across the River Swale built in AD 1422-25 Widened and partially rebuilt probably during reign of Elizabeth I Listed Building Grade II* Scheduled Ancient Monument NY50
13513 01	Catterick Bridge	SE 22750 99320	Medieval	Structure	Chapel of St Anne Possible remains of building in the form of coursed masonry incorporated in to the west gable end of Bridge House Hotel at cellar level Chapel served by monk from hospital of St Giles (VCH 1968)
13519	Palet Hill Quarry, Catterick	SE 23410 98020	Roman	Road	Section of Dere Street revealed at quarry edge Only the base of the <i>agger</i> survived

13521	Catterick	SE 23240 98440	Iron Age	Settlement	A palisaded enclosure with two entrances (NE and SW) with a large extended house structure near NE entrance Numerous structures within enclosures Overlaid by later enclosure with several internal structures (13521 20)
13522	Catterick	SE 23170 98560	Iron Age?	Settlement	Large enclosure with an internal hut circle, possible entrance in NE corner of enclosure Partly within SAM NY907 Further possible features visible on aerial photo's lying within and just outside enclosure
13522 01	Catterick	SE 23190 98590	Prehistoric	Settlement	Ring-ditch (gully) of hut circle with eight associated post-holes found during excavation of NE quadrant with an enclosure visible on aerial photo's
13523	Catterick	SE 23230 98510	Prehistoric	Settlement	Two rows of postholes 3metres apart, found during excavation Possibly a structure or fencelines Pit (13523 01) in association
13524	Catterick	SE 23140 98370	Roman	Road	Section of Dere Street, found to be constructed upon an old turf soil layer Two road sections (13524 01) ran to the east of Dere Street at a much lower level Simple cobbles straight onto natural Lower levels of soil overburden contained Roman pottery, upper level Medieval pottery

13525	Catterick	SE 23200 98160	Medieval	Well	Thought to be near excavated enclosure Exposed in quarry face in 1971, excavated to a depth of 7m Potsherds of 16th century date at 5.80m suggest medieval date
13526	Catterick Race Course	SE 22840 98860	Roman	Settlement	Possible eastern continuation of <i>vicus</i> continuing alongside Dere Street to the south Area of geophysical survey showed extensive area of ditches and other features with at least two phases of ditches Also included cobbled area (13526 13) in the west and some burials (possible cemetery)(13526 11)
13527	Catterick Race Course	SE 23050 98930	Unknown	Ditch	Found during excavation – undated
13528	-	SE 22330 99810	-	-	No archaeological evidence during Central Archaeological Service (CAS) excavations
13531	Brough and Catterick	SE 22600 98590	Unknown	Pits	Area of pit-like features, some in alignment, recorded during geophysical survey
13531 02	Brough and Catterick	SE 22730 98270	Unknown	Ditches	Two ditch-like anomalies recorded during CAS geophysical survey
13533	Brough	SE 22760 98560	Unknown	Settlement	Two enclosures (cropmarks) seen abutting each other in aerial photo's Geophysical survey did not reveal any archaeological features
13534	Near Dere Street, Brough	SE 22900 98540	Roman?	Landscape features	Several square enclosures seen as cropmarks in aerial photo's and in a geophysical survey

13535	Brough	SE 22740 98520	Unknown	Ditch	Possible feature seen in geophysical survey to the east of an enclosure
13541	Brough	SE 22600 98450	Roman – post-medieval	Site	Potsherds of Roman – post-medieval in date found during fieldwalking survey Mostly medieval or post-medieval in date
13541 01	Brough	SE 22450 98390	Prehistoric	Site	A concentration of worked flint found during a fieldwalking survey indicates prehistoric activity in the area
13542	Brough and Catterick	SE 22750 98250	Roman-post-medieval	Site	Potsherds of Roman to post-medieval in date collected during fieldwalking survey
13542 1	Brough and Catterick	SE 22770 98210	Medieval	Landscape feature	Ridge-and –furrow noticeable in geophysical survey
13547	Scorton	NZ 24050 00420 SE 24909 09955	Neolithic	Cursus	Mid-late 4 <sup>th</sup> Millennium BC monument Two parallel ditches NW-SE aligned, c 32-37m apart with 0.32m raised ground in between Recent excavations, Thubron 1975, 1976[not published], Topping et al 1982, Harding 1996, FAS 1997