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WYAS

Ripon Quarry
Proposed Northern and Southern Extension Areas
North Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

March 2010

Report No. 2051

C L I E N T

Hanson Aggregates

Rec'd 14/4/2010
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Ripon Quarry

Proposed Northern and Southern Extension Areas

North Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS at Ripon Quarry on behalf of Hanson UK to inform an Environmental Statement in advance of the submission of planning applications for extensions both north and south of the current quarry workings.

Trenching in the southern extension area revealed an alluvial based environment with the anomalies highlighted from an earlier geophysical survey corresponding to variations in the natural deposits. Deep alluvial subsoils, up to 1.2m deep in places, indicate that up until comparatively recently, when the land was drained, that the area was within the floodplain of the River Ure and, therefore, not suitable for human occupation. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in the southern extension area.

In sharp contrast the trenches in the northern extension area identified evidence of multi-period human activity dating from the Mesolithic, through the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Ages to the Romano-British period. Features identified include a pit alignment, enclosure and ditched boundary as well as pits, post holes and areas of burning. The widespread distribution of the features suggests that almost all of the terrace at one time or another has been utilised by human communities.

The results of the evaluation confirm the conclusions of both the scoping document and the geophysical surveys in that the southern extension area has little or no archaeological potential whilst on the river terrace on the higher ground in the northern extension area the potential is very high.



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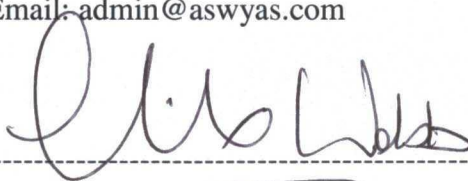
Report Information

Client: Hanson Aggregates
Report Type: Archaeological Evaluation
Location: Ripon
County: North Yorkshire
Grid Reference: SE 305 764 (southern extension). SE 294 778 (northern extension)

Period(s) of activity represented: Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British
Report Number: 2051
Project Number: 3471
Site Code: RIQ09
Planning Application No.: Pre-determination
Museum Accession No.:
Date of fieldwork: August – October 2009
Date of report: November 2009
Project Management: Alistair Webb BA, MifA
Fieldwork supervisor: Phil Weston BSc, MA, Andrew Walsh BSc AIfA
Report: Phil Weston
Illustrations: Phil Weston, Jon Prudhoe
Photography: Phil Weston, Andrew Walsh, Felicity Howell, Thomas Weavill
Specialists: Diane Alldritt (carbonised plant macrofossils and charcoal)
Ian Brooks (flint)
Gail Hama (iron work)
Ruth Leary (Romano-British pottery)
Terry Manby (prehistoric pottery)
Jane Richardson (animal bone)
John Tibbles (ceramic building material, fired clay and daub)

Produced by: Archaeological Services WYAS, PO Box 30,
Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 0UG
Telephone: 0113 383 7500
Email: admin@aswyas.com

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Acknowledgements

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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (hereafter ASWYAS) was commissioned by Hanson Aggregates Ltd via their consultant Andrew Josephs to carry out an archaeological evaluation via trial trenching at two locations, north and south of Ripon Quarry. The evaluation will inform an Environmental Impact Assessment, that will allow North Yorkshire County Council to make an informed decision on any planning application. The trial trenching follows on from non-intrusive geophysical (magnetometer) surveys undertaken at both sites.

Site location and topography (Figs 1, 2 and 3)

The southern extension area is located approximately 1km south-east of the current plant site and is centred at SE 305 764, 4km north of Ripon on the River Ure (see Figs 1 and 2). Topographically, the site gently rises from between 28m and 29m aOD adjacent to the river to 30m in the north-west of the proposed extension area.

The proposed northern extension area is located approximately 0.5km north of the current plant site and is centred at SE 294 778 (see Figs 1 and 3). The land is generally flat and low lying at between 34m and 38m aOD rising gently to the north. The northern extension is in two halves either side of a trackway leading down to Bellflask. Both extension areas are currently used in agricultural production.

Soils, geology and land-use

The solid geology comprises Middle Marl with evaporates of the Edlington Formation but with superficial (drift) deposits of undifferentiated river terrace deposits. The soils derived from the river terrace drift are classified in the Wick 1 association comprising deep, well drained coarse loams and sands over gravel in places. Nearer the river the soil is deep, stoneless alluvium classified in the Alun association.

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Southern Extension Area

A scoping report undertaken by Andrew Josephs Ltd. (Josephs 2009) concluded that although the southern quarry extension lies in the valley of the River Ure, a rich prehistoric landscape, the site itself had moderate to low archaeological potential due primarily to the fact that the land is low lying, adjacent to the river and therefore, likely to have been periodically flooded from the prehistoric period until post-medieval times when it was drained and brought into agricultural production.

A comprehensive geophysical evaluation undertaken by ASWYAS (Webb 2009) covering the proposed southern extension, comprising magnetic scanning followed by targeted detailed magnetometer survey, did not identify any anomalies of archaeological potential (although

anomalies due to ploughing, drainage features and palaeochannels were identified) thus corroborating the moderate to low potential of the site suggested by the scoping report.

Northern Extension Area

The scoping report for the northern quarry extension (Josephs 2009) highlighted the topographical modelling evidence, which suggested that land above 36m would have been a gravel terrace above the floodplain in the earlier prehistoric period. Analysis of cropmark data undertaken as part of the National Mapping Programme identified a possible pit alignment traversing the site as well as other linear cropmarks. It was, therefore, concluded that there was potential for archaeological survival from the prehistoric onwards.

A detailed magnetometer survey (Webb 2009) covering all of the available area subsequently confirmed this potential identifying the location of the possible pit alignment as well as a rectangular enclosure and field boundary of unknown date. Other discrete anomalies were also noted. Evidence of medieval and post-medieval ploughing was also revealed.

3 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the evaluation was to provide detailed information on the presence/absence, extent, character, date, depth of burial and degree of survival of any archaeological features or deposits which may be present in the two areas and thereby provide sufficient detail to allow the scope of any mitigation to be designed with confidence. - (secondary aim)

The objectives were to be achieved by the excavation of fifteen trenches in the southern extension area and 28 trenches in the northern extension area. The trenches were located to:-

- Investigate magnetic anomalies of probable/possible archaeological potential
- Investigate cropmarks
- Sample all parts of the extension areas

The trenching proposals were agreed following consultation with Lucie Hawkins at North Yorkshire County Council and were in line with proposals outlined in the Scoping Document for each area.

4 Methodology

The evaluation trenches were excavated by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 2.00m toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of a qualified archaeologist.

Overburden was removed in successive spits until the archaeological horizon or natural deposits were encountered. Thereafter, all investigations were undertaken by hand.

Artefactual evidence was collected whenever encountered and environmental samples were

taken from significant and primary archaeological deposits. All archaeological features and deposits were photographed and drawn to scale as appropriate and recorded using a standardised *pro-forma* system. Feature sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and trench plans and sections were drawn at 1:50. The open area excavation was planned at a scale of 1:25.

The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with recognised professional standards, specifically *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute for Archaeologists 2008), *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (Institute for Archaeologists 2008) and *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). ASWYAS's own methodologies (ASWYAS 2009) were also adhered to.

5 Results

Southern Extension Area (see Fig. 2)

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in order to investigate the highest part of site and to sample the most westerly extent.

Sample section: East end of trench south facing (0.00 = 29.64m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 100m
Context	Depth	Description
100	0.00 – 0.50m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
101	0.50 – 0.85m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
103	0.85m – 1.00m	Sand. Mid yellow-brown with occasional river cobbles
104	1.00m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: mid point of trench, south facing (0.00 = 29.62m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
100	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
101	0.35 – 0.55m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
104	0.55m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: West end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 29.61m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
100	0.00 – 0.32m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
101	0.32 – 0.62m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
102	0.62 – 1.10m	Alluvium. Mid yellowish grey sandy clay
104	1.10m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of Trench 1.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in order to investigate the highest part of site.

Sample section: South end of trench, east facing (0.00 = 29.49m AOD)		
Orientation: North/south		Dimensions: 2m by 100m
Context	Depth	Description
200	0.00 – 0.36m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
201	0.36 – 78m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
206	0.78m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: mid point of trench, east facing (0.00 = 29.69m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
200	0.00 – 0.31m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
201	0.31 – 0.85m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
206	0.85m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: North end of trench, east facing (0.00 = 29.90m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
200	0.00 – 0.25m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
201	0.25 – 0.73m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
205	0.73 – 1.40m+	Alluvium. Mid yellow-brown sand



Plate 1: Trench 2, with linear feature 203 in the foreground, view north

The excavation of Trench 2 revealed a possible ditch (203) at the southernmost end of the trench, at its highest point (see Plate 1 above). The 'ditch' was 0.81m in depth and 0.30m in depth and contained a single fill (202) of light yellowish brown silty sand with frequent pebbles and cobbles. No finds were present.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located in order to investigate a former field boundary, and sample an apparently 'blank' part of the site.

Sample section: West end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 29.74m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 100m
Context	Depth	Description
300	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
301	0.35 – 0.85m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
305	0.85m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: Mid point of trench, south facing (0.00 = 29.45m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
300	0.00 – 0.36m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
301	0.36 – 0.96m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
306	0.96m+	Natural. Sandy gravel with regular cobbles
Sample section: East end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 29.16m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
300	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
301	0.35 – 0.51m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
302	0.51 – 0.73m	Alluvium. Band of gravel
303	0.73 – 0.95m	Alluvium. Orange/yellow sand
305	0.95m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of Trench 3.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located in order to investigate two possible palaeo-channels and a linear anomaly.

Sample section: South end of trench, east facing (0.00 = 28.49m AOD)		
Orientation: North/south		Dimensions: 2m by 100m
Context	Depth	Description
400	0.00 – 0.31m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
401	0.31 – 0.61m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
404	0.61 – 86m	Alluvium. Light, greyish yellow sand
405	0.86 – 1.46m+	Natural. Mixed sand, clay and gravel
Sample section: Mid point of trench, east facing (0.00 = 29.30m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
400	0.00 – 0.45m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
403	0.45m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: North end of trench, east facing (0.00 = 29.20m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
400	0.00 – 0.33m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
402	0.33 – 0.72m+	Alluvium. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt

The band of sandy silt (402) was a natural deposit that probably caused the linear magnetic anomaly apparent in the geophysical data. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this trench.

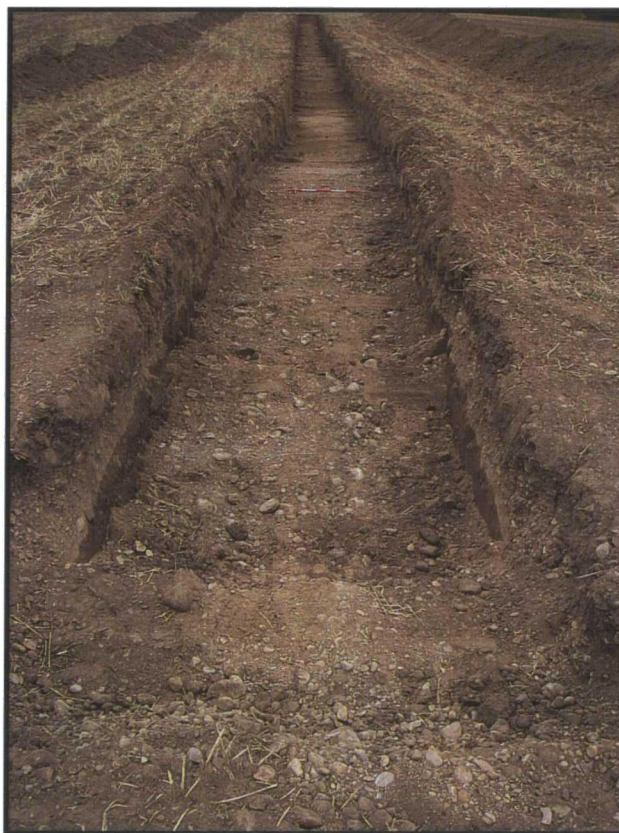


Plate 2: Trench 4, view north

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located in order to sample across a field boundary shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey mapping and evaluate a 'blank' part of the site.

Sample section: West end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 28.98m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 200m
Context	Depth	Description
500	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
505	0.40m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: Mid point of trench, south facing (0.00 = 29.13m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
500	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
501	0.30 – 0.55m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
505	0.55m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: East end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 28.74m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
500	0.00 – 0.25m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles

501	0.25 – 0.55m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
505	0.55m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of Trench 5. There was no evidence of the field boundary (see Plate 3 below).



Plate 3: Trench 5, view west

Trench 6

Trench 6 was located in order to evaluate a north/south aligned linear anomaly and a field boundary shown on first edition mapping.

Sample section: West end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 29.02m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 100m
Context	Depth	Description
600	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
603	0.35 – 0.65m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
604	0.65 – 0.95m	Subsoil. Mid to dark, brownish grey, silty sand
606	0.95m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: Mid point of trench, south facing (0.00 = 28.29m AOD)		

Context	Depth	Description
600	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
603	0.35 – 1.05m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
606	1.05m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: East end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 28.56m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
600	0.00 – 0.50m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
601	0.50 – 0.75m	Subsoil. Light grey-brown, sandy silt with frequent gravel
603	0.75 – 1.15m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
606	1.15m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel

The linear magnetic anomaly apparent correlated with a change in the depth and composition of the natural alluvial deposits.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was located in order to investigate a possible palaeochannel and to sample the north-eastern part of site.

Sample section: West end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 29.57m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 100m
Context	Depth	Description
700	0.00 – 0.25m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
701	0.25 – 0.55m	Subsoil. Mid to dark orange-brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
703	0.55m+	Natural. Mid to dark yellowish grey-brown, sandy gravel
Sample section: mid point of trench, south facing (0.00 = 29.80m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
700	0.00 – 0.45m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
701	0.45 – 0.90m	Subsoil. Mid to dark orange-brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
702	0.90 – 1.15m	Subsoil. Mixed interface between 701 and 703
703	1.15m+	Natural. Mid to dark yellowish grey-brown, sandy gravel
Sample section: East end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 28.78m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
700	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
701	0.30 – 1.15m	Subsoil. Mid to dark orange-brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
703	1.15m+	Natural. Mid to dark yellowish grey-brown, sandy gravel

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of Trench 7.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was located in order to investigate a possible palaeochannel and to sample the central part of the site.

Sample section: West end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 28.10m AOD)	
Orientation: East/west	Dimensions: 2m by 100m

Context	Depth	Description
800	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
801	0.30 – 0.45m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
803	0.45m+	Natural. Light yellow-brown sand
Sample section: Mid point of trench, south facing (0.00 = 27.60m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
800	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
801	0.35 – 0.85m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
802	0.85 – 1.10m+	Natural. Mid to light grey-blue-brown, silty sand with patches of clay
Sample section: East end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 27.72m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
800	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
801	0.35 – 1.10m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
802	1.10m+	Natural. Light yellow-brown sand

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of Trench 8. The band of clay-rich natural (802) corresponds with the geophysical anomaly initially interpreted as a palaeochannel.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was located in order to investigate a field boundary mapped on the first edition Ordnance Survey mapping and a possible palaeochannel/band of river gravels.

Sample section: West end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 27.96m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 100m
Context	Depth	Description
900	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
901	0.35 – 0.70m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
902	0.70 – 1.10m	Alluvium. Mid to light yellow-brown, silty sand
903	1.10m+	Natural. Light yellow-brown sand
Sample section: Mid point of trench, south facing (0.00 = 27.76m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
900	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
901	0.40 – 0.75m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
905	0.75m+	Natural. Mid to dark yellowish grey-brown, sandy gravel
Sample section: East end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 28.00m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
900	0.00 – 0.20m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
901	0.20 – 1.00m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
905	1.00m+	Natural. Mid to dark yellowish grey-brown, sandy gravel

Despite the mapping evidence, no archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of Trench 9. The geophysical anomaly initially interpreted as a possible palaeochannel was the result of variation in the natural alluvial deposits.

Trench 10

Trench 10 was located in order to investigate a 'blank' area of the site.

Sample section: South end of trench, east facing (0.00 = 28.54m AOD)		
Orientation: North/south		Dimensions: 2m by 100m
Context	Depth	Description
1000	0.00 – 0.33m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1002	0.33m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: Mid point of trench, east facing (0.00 = 28.51m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
1000	0.00 – 0.33m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1001	0.33 – 0.81m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
1002	0.81m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: North end of trench, east facing (0.00 = 28.50m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
1000	0.00 – 0.32m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1001	0.32 – 0.85m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
1002	0.85m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of Trench 10.

Trench 11

Trench 11 was located in order to investigate two possible palaeochannels and a field boundary mapped on the first edition mapping.

Sample section: East end of trench, north facing (0.00 = 27.95m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 100m
Context	Depth	Description
1100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1105	0.30m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: West of mid point of trench, north facing (0.00 = 27.83m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
1100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1101	0.30 – 0.50m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
1102	0.50 – 0.95m+	Natural. Light brown, silty sand
Sample section: West end of trench, north facing (0.00 = 27.75m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
1100	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1101	0.30 – 0.80m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles

1103	0.80m+	Natural. Light yellow-orange sand
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No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of Trench 11. The geophysical anomalies initially interpreted as a possible palaeochannels were the result of variation in the natural alluvial deposits.

Trench 12

Trench 12 was located in order to investigate a 'blank' area and sample the most easterly part of the site.

Sample section: South end of trench, east facing (0.00 = 27.57m AOD)		
Orientation: North/south		Dimensions: 2m by 100m
Context	Depth	Description
1200	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1202	0.30 – 0.67m	Alluvium. Mid grey, sandy gravel
1201	0.67 – 1.30m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
1203	1.30m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: Mid point of trench, east facing (0.00 = 27.90m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
1200	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1201	0.30 – 0.50m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
1203	0.50m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel
Sample section: North end of trench, east facing (0.00 = 28.22m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
1200	0.00 – 0.25m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1201	0.25 – 0.45m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
1203	0.45m+	Natural. Light yellowish grey-brown sandy gravel

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of Trench 12.

Trench 13

Trench 13 was located in order to evaluate cropmarks thought to be archaeological in origin.

Sample section: West end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 26.59m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 100m
Context	Depth	Description
1300	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1301	0.35 – 0.60m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
1303	0.60m+	Natural. Light yellow-brown sand
Sample section: Mid point of trench, south facing (0.00 = 27.08m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
1300	0.00 – 0.04m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles

1301	0.40 – 1.25m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
1303	1.25m+	Natural. Light yellow-brown sand
Sample section: East end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 27.61m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
1300	0.00 – 0.50m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1301	0.50 – 1.30m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
1303	1.30m+	Natural. Light yellow-brown sand

Despite the cropmark evidence no archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of Trench 13 (see Plate 4 below).



Plate 4: Trench 13, view east

Trench 14

Trench 14 was originally located within a highly overgrown area and so to avoid damaging several trees it was moved to the arable land to the east. The trench was also reduced in length by 50% with the remainder (Trench 15) being used to investigate a slight ridge close to the northern end of Trench 12.

Sample section: South end of trench, east facing (0.00 = 27.22m AOD)		
Orientation: North/south		Dimensions: 2m by 50m
Context	Depth	Description
1400	0.00 – 0.31m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles

1401	0.31 – 0.51m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
1402	0.51m+	Natural. Light yellow-brown sand
Sample section: Mid point of trench, east facing (0.00 = 27.28m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
1400	0.00 – 0.34m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1402	0.34m+	Natural. Light yellow-brown sand
Sample section: North end of trench, east facing (0.00 = 27.36m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
1400	0.00 – 0.28m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1402	0.28m+	Natural. Light yellow-brown sand

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of Trench 14.

Trench 15

Trench 15 (50% of the original Trench 14) was located in order to investigate a north/south aligned raised ridge of land and associated hollow.

Sample section: East end of trench, north facing (0.00 = 28.03m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 50m
Context	Depth	Description
1500	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1501	0.40 – 0.70m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
1502	0.70 – 1.05m	Alluvium. Light greyish brown sand
1503	1.05m+	Natural. Light yellow-brown sand
Sample section: Mid point of trench, north facing (0.00 = 27.27m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
1500	0.00 -	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1501		Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
1503		Natural. Light yellow-brown sand
Sample section: West end of trench, north facing (0.00 = 27.69m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
1500	0.00 – 0.25m	Topsoil. Mid grey-brown, sandy silt with occasional river pebbles
1501	0.25 – 0.70m	Subsoil. Light grey, yellowish brown, silty sand with occasional river cobbles
1502	0.70 – 0.85m	Alluvium. Light greyish brown sand
1503	0.85m+	Natural. Light yellow-brown sand

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of Trench 15.

Northern Extension Area (see Fig. 3)

This area was split into two parts with trenches 16 to 22 inclusive located to the west of the track leading to Bellflask and trenches 23 to 44 inclusive to the east of the track.

Trench 16

Trench 16 was located in order to investigate the apparently 'blank' north-western part of the site.

Sample section: Mid point of trench, south facing (0.00 = 37.53m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 20m
Context	Depth	Description
1600	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
1601	0.40 – 0.93m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
1602	0.93m+	Natural. Light grey-blue, sandy clay

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of Trench 16.

Trench 17

Trench 17 was L-shaped and was positioned in order to investigate an area of magnetic variation (southern limb) and a discrete magnetic anomaly (eastern limb).

Sample section: East end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 37.81m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 25m
Context	Depth	Description
1700	0.00 – 0.38	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
1701	0.38 – 0.82m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
1702	0.82m+	Natural. Cobbles and gravel in a light grey-brown sandy matrix
Sample section: Southern end of trench, East facing (0.00 = 38.00m AOD)		
Orientation: North/south		Dimensions: 2.00m by 25m
Context	Depth	Description
1700	0.00 – 0.37m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
1701	0.37 – 0.77m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
1704	0.77m+	Natural. Band of light grey-brown sand and gravel

Despite the geophysical responses, no archaeological features were identified during the excavation of Trench 17. A possible feature (1706) was investigated but it was found to be the result of rooting or perhaps burrowing and in any case did not correlate with the anomaly.

Trench 18

Trench 18 was located in order to investigate a discrete anomaly on the edge of the flood plain and to sample across the boundary between the floodplain and the first terrace.

Sample section: North end of trench, west facing (0.00 = 36.05m AOD)		
Orientation: North/south		Dimensions: 2m by 40m
Context	Depth	Description
1800	0.00 – 0.27m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
1801	0.27 – 0.57m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles

1802	0.57m+	Natural. Bright yellow-orange sand with cobbles and gravels
Sample section: South end of trench, west facing (0.00 = 34.95m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
1800	0.00 – 0.37m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
1801	0.37 – 0.78m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
1805	0.78m+	Natural. Mid bright yellow-orange sand

Despite the geophysical anomaly no archaeological features were identified in Trench 18.

Trench 19

Trench 19 was located in order to investigate possible agricultural anomalies.

Sample section: West end of trench, north facing (0.00 = 36.27m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 50m
Context	Depth	Description
1900	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
1901	0.40 – 0.86m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
1902	0.86m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand
Sample section: West end of trench, north facing (0.00 = 36.20m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
1900	0.00 – 0.32m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
1901	0.32 – 0.73m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
1902	0.73m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand

No archaeological features were identified in Trench 19.

Trench 20

Trench 20 was located in order to investigate a discrete anomaly at the probable edge of the flood plain.

Sample section: Mid point of trench, north facing (0.00 = 34.65m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 25m
Context	Depth	Description
2000	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2001	0.30 – 0.50m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2002	0.50 – 0.60m	Natural. Mid bright yellow-orange sand
2003	0.60 – 0.90m	Natural. Mid grey-blue clay
2004	0.90 – 1.08m	Partially decomposed peat layer. Dark grey-brown sandy peat
2005	1.08m+	Natural. Light grey sand

The excavation of Trench 20 revealed an organic rich deposit (2004) that correlated with the magnetic anomaly. A test slot was excavated through this deposit (2004), environmental

samples taken (see Fig. 4 and Plate 5) and finds comprising cattle bone and four pot sherds recovered. The sherds were from two Romano-British Huntcliff jars, made in East Yorkshire, of a form that gives a date of after 360/70 AD (Leary, this report). The environmental sample identified a deposit that whilst probably not a fully formed peat did exhibit elements consistent with a silty organic sediment formed by waterlogging (Alldritt, this report).

The identification of an area of marshland adjacent to the River Ure and with a Romano-British settlement to the north suggests a possible focus for the pit alignment identified by the geophysical survey and evaluated by Trench 27, Trench 32 and Trench 38.

Trench 21

Trench 21 was located in order to investigate a linear geophysical anomaly.

Sample section: Mid point of trench, south facing (0.00 = 35.86m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 4m by 10m
Context	Depth	Description
2100	0.00 – 0.20m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2101	0.20 – 0.40m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2102	0.40m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand and gravel

No archaeological features or deposits were identified in Trench 21. The linear geophysical anomaly correlated with a band of naturally deposited, light yellow-orange-brown, sand (2103).

Trench 22

Trench 22 was located in order to investigate a linear anomaly and a discrete anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

Sample section: South-west end of trench, south-east facing (0.00 = 36.70m AOD)		
Orientation: NE/SW		Dimensions: 4m by 10m
Context	Depth	Description
2200	0.00 – 0.33m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2201	0.33 – 0.73m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2204	0.73m+	Natural. Mid brown-grey, sandy silt
Sample section: North-east end of trench, south-east facing (0.00 = 37.10m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
2200	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2201	0.40 – 0.86m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2203	0.86m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified in Trench 22. The geophysical anomalies are thought to be caused by magnetic variation in the natural alluvial deposits.

Trench 23

Trench 23 was located in order to investigate the north-eastern part of the site to the west of the Bellflask trackway.

Sample section: West end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 36.17m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 50m
Context	Depth	Description
2300	0.00 – 0.35m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2301	0.35 – 0.95m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2302	0.95 – 1.13m	Natural. Bluish grey-brown clay
2303	1.13m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand
Sample section: East end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 37.22m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
2300	0.00 – 0.37m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2301	0.37 – 0.50m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2302	0.50m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified in Trench 23.

Trench 24

Trench 24 was located in order to investigate a large magnetic 'spike' anomaly and to sample the western part of the site to the east of the Bellflask trackway.

Sample section: East end of trench, north facing (0.00 = 35.88m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 50m
Context	Depth	Description
2400	0.00 – 0.34m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2401	0.34 – 0.55m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2403	0.55m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels
Sample section: West end of trench, north facing (0.00 = 36.48m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
2400	0.00 – 0.37m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2401	0.37 – 0.83m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2402	0.83m+	Natural. Mid to light grey-brown, clayey sand

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified in Trench 24. It is likely that the ferrous 'spike' was caused by a piece of ferrous debris in the topsoil, perhaps a tine from a harrow or a ploughshare.

Trench 25

Trench 25 was located in order to investigate whether the pit alignment continued beyond the limits indicated by the geophysical survey.

Sample section: Mid point of trench, north-east facing (0.00 = 35.19m AOD)		
Orientation: NW/SE		Dimensions: 4.00m by 10m
Context	Depth	Description
2500	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2501	0.30 – 0.80m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2502	0.80 – 1.00m	Natural. Mottled grey-blue clay
2503	1.00m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified in Trench 25 indicating that geophysical survey gave an accurate indication of the limit of the pit alignment.

Trench 26

Trench 26 was located in order to investigate an apparently blank area.

Sample section: East end of trench, north facing (0.00 = 36.33m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 40m
Context	Depth	Description
2600	0.00 – 0.33m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2601	0.33 – 0.50m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2602	0.50m+	Natural. Light grey-brown sands and gravels

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified in Trench 26.

Trench 27 (Fig. 5, Plate 6)

Trench 27 was located in order to investigate the possible pit alignment identified as cropmarks and magnetic anomalies.

Sample section: Mid point of trench, north-east facing (0.00 = 36.47m AOD)		
Orientation: NW/SE		Dimensions: 4m by 10m
Context	Depth	Description
2700	0.00 – 0.37m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2706	0.37m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand

The excavation of Trench 27 identified a large pit feature as anticipated by the geophysical survey. The pit (2705) was sub-oval in plan, measured 3.3m+ in length, 2.72m in width and 1.2m in depth and contained three fills. The basal fill (2704) comprised mid to dark reddish-brown silty sand with regular pebbles. The middle fill (2703) comprised mid grey-brown silty sand with frequent pebbles and cobbles whilst the upper fill (2702) consisted of a mid orange-brown sandy silt with occasional cobbles. None of the fills contained any artefacts.

Trench 28 (Fig. 6, Plate 7)

Trench 28 was located in order to further investigate the pit alignment and a possible boundary feature identified by the geophysical survey.

Sample section: South end of trench, north facing (0.00 = 36.34m AOD)		
Orientation: North/south		Dimensions: 2m by 50m
Context	Depth	Description
2800	0.00 – 0.64m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2809	0.64m+	Colluvium? Fill of possible linear 2808? Dark grey-brown, silty sand
Sample section: North end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 37.89m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
2800	0.00 – 0.46m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2803	0.46m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand

The excavation of Trench 28 revealed a second pit (2802) and a natural terrace in the gravels that was possibly augmented by a ditch (2808). The pit was sub-circular in plan and measured 2.35m in length, 1.80m in width and was 0.83m deep. It contained a single fill (2801) of mid yellow-brown clayey sand. No finds were recovered. ✍

A terrace in the gravels at the southern end of the trench correlates with a north-west/south-east aligned linear magnetic anomaly. The downslope side of the terrace was filled with a colluvial hillwash deposit (2812 = 2811) from which a flint flake was recovered. Subsoil 2812 was truncated by the undefined feature 2804 (see below).

Feature 2804 had a distinct edge to the north but was much more diffuse to the south and was backfilled with a mid orange-brown silty, clayey sand deposit (2805) that contained baked clay/daub, animal bone, burnt bone, occasional burnt cobbles and five sherds of possible pottery. The sherds were abraded and flat and are probably from the base of a jar although it is also possible that they could be from a flat surfaced, fired, clay object. If the sherds are from a pottery vessel, it is likely to be pre-Roman in date (Leary, this report). It was not clear whether feature 2804 was the result of *in situ* burning/industrial activity or due to waste material being tipped over the terrace edge. This feature was also sealed by hillwash deposit 2810.

Directly to the south-west of 2804 was a possible ditch feature (2808) that followed a north-west/south-east alignment similar to that of the natural terrace. It was cut into the colluvium (2812) but no relationship with 2804 could be established. The ditch was filled by a dark grey-brown silty sand deposit (2809) that contained no finds.

Trench 29

Trench 29 was located in order to investigate a linear magnetic anomaly.

Sample section: South end of trench, east facing (0.00 = 34.27m AOD)		
Orientation: North/south		Dimensions: 2m by 50m
Context	Depth	Description
2900	0.00 – 0.45m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2901	0.45 – 1.52m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2903	1.52m+	Natural. Mid brown-grey, sandy, clayey silt
Sample section: North end of trench, east facing (0.00 = 35.37m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
2900	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2901	0.30 – 0.42m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
2902	0.42m+	Natural. Light yellow-grey sand

No feature was identified to correspond with the north-west/south-east aligned linear anomaly apparent in the survey data. It did, however, identify a ditch feature (2905) that appeared to be the continuation of the east-south-east/west-north-west aligned anomaly directly to the north-east of the southern end of the trench. This ditch was 0.89m in width and 0.32m in depth and was filled by frequent burnt and fire-cracked cobbles in a dark grey-brown silty sand matrix (2904). A single broken flint flake was recovered from this deposit.

Trench 30 (Fig. 7, Plate 8)

Trench 30 was located in order to investigate two discrete geophysical anomalies.

Sample section: Mid point of trench, south facing (0.00 = 37.41m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 20m
Context	Depth	Description
3000	0.00 – 0.26m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3001	0.26 – 0.50m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3006	0.50m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand

The excavation of Trench 30 revealed what the excavator interpreted as a ditch (3005), though the geophysical anomaly rather suggests an elongated pit, into which a second pit (3003) had been cut.

Feature 3005 was at least 2m long, 1.35m wide and 0.63m deep and was filled by mid to light greenish grey-brown silty clay (3004) from which a single, broken flint flake was recovered.

The fill (3004) was cut by a second pit (3003), which measured 0.80m+ in length, 0.67m in width and 0.52m in depth. Its fill (3002) comprised bright orange-red baked clay.

Trench 31

Trench 31 was located in order to investigate a linear magnetic anomaly also investigated in Trench 28.

Sample section: East end of trench, north facing (0.00 = 36.95m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 50m
Context	Depth	Description
3100	0.00 – 0.44m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3103	0.44m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand
Sample section: West end of trench, north facing (0.00 = 35.95m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
3100	0.00 – 0.28m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3101	0.28 – 0.96m	Subsoil. Mid orange-yellow-brown clayey silt with occasional pebbles
3102	0.96 – 1.18m+	Natural. Mid orange-brown, silty sand

This trench also revealed the natural gravel terrace also previously investigated in Trench 28. The colluvial subsoil (3102) located on the downslope of the terrace contained regular fire-cracked potboilers and two rough chunks of flint, one of which has been abruptly retouched down one edge forming a side scraper.

Trench 32 (Fig. 8, Plan 9)

Trench 32 was located in order to further investigate the pit alignment identified by the geophysical survey.

Sample section: Mid point of trench, east facing (0.00 = 37.80m AOD)		
Orientation: North/south		Dimensions: 4m by 10m
Context	Depth	Description
3200	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3201	0.30 – 0.60m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3206	0.60m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand with frequent cobbles

As expected the excavation of Trench 32 revealed a large pit (3205), its recut (3203) and a pit/hearth (3208). The pit was sub-oval in plan and measured 3.35m+ in length, 2.75m in width and was 0.58m deep. Its fill (3204) consisted of approximately 40% gravel in a mid grey-brown silty sand matrix and a single flint flake was recovered.

The archaeological evidence suggests that pit 3205 was recut. This secondary pit (3203) was also sub-oval in plan and measured approximately 1.75m in length, 1.14m in width and was 0.98m deep. The fill (3202) consisted of approximately 80% cobbles in a dark, grey-brown silty sand matrix, from which some fragments of cow teeth were recovered.

The pit/hearth feature (3208) was sub-circular in plan measuring 1.10m by 1.00m by 0.39m deep. The feature contained two fills. The lower fill (3209) consisted of approximately 15% burnt stone in a dark brown-black silty sand matrix and the upper (3207), consisted of approximately 10% burnt stone in a dark grey-brown silty sand matrix. The finds assemblage consisted of one flint chip from the primary fill (3209) and eleven assorted pieces of flint from the secondary fill (3207) including one possible microlith fashioned from a very fine bladelet.

The environmental samples were dominated by alder charcoal indicating that fuel for the fire was gathered locally as the alder grows well in wet conditions, close to water courses.

Trench 33 (Fig. 9, Plate 10)

Trench 33 was located in order to investigate a discrete magnetic anomaly and a possible boundary feature identified by the geophysical survey.

Sample section: South end of trench, west facing (0.00 = 34.19m AOD)		
Orientation: North/south		Dimensions: 4m by 20m
Context	Depth	Description
3300	0.00 – 0.39m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3301	0.39 – 0.84m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3302	0.84 – 1.64m+	Natural, probable alluvial deposit. Mid brown-grey, sandy silt
Sample section: North end of trench, west facing (0.00 = 35.34m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
3300	0.00 – 0.40m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3304 = 3301	0.40 – 0.83	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3306	0.83m+	Burnt layer. Burnt stone in grey-black sandy silt

The linear magnetic response interpreted as a possible boundary feature proved to be a terrace in the natural gravels likely formed by the meanderings of the River Ure. A machine cut sondage through the silty deposits that had slowly formed against the southern, downside, edge of the terrace was excavated to a depth of 1.64m without encountering any natural gravels .

The geophysical anomaly to the north of the higher gravel ridge proved to be a large deposit of burnt stone in a charcoal rich matrix (Fig. 9, Plate 10). This deposit was only minimally investigated due to time constraints with only a plan drawn and a small excavation carried out to provide an environmental sample. The sample produced just a small amount of indeterminate charcoal indicating the stone was burnt elsewhere before transportation to the

deposit. This evidence suggests the possibility that 3306 represents the remains of a burnt mound. Such monuments consist of burnt, fire-crazed stones, with a little ash and charcoal. Around 100 burnt mounds have been excavated in England to date and when subjected to radiocarbon dating, generally date to the Bronze Age. Further excavation of 3306 is required to confirm/refute this interpretation with confirmation dependant on the identification of commonly associated features such as troughs for containing water and hearths for heating stone.

Trench 34

Trench 34 was located in order to establish whether the ditch identified in Trench 35 and Trench 36 (see Fig. 3) continues to the south-east.

Sample section: mid point of trench, north-north-west facing (0.00 = 35.90m AOD)		
Orientation: ENE/WSW		Dimensions: 2.00m by 20m
Context	Depth	Description
3400	0.00 – 0.38m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3401	0.38m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand with frequent cobbles

No archaeological features or artefacts were identified during the excavation of Trench 34 indicating that .

Trench 35 (Fig. 10)

Trench 35 was located in order to investigate a ditch identified by the geophysical survey.

Sample section: Mid point of trench, north-north-west facing (0.00 = 35.05m AOD)		
Orientation: ENE/WSW		Dimensions: 4m by 10m
Context	Depth	Description
3500	0.00 – 0.32m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3501	0.32 – 0.50m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3502	0.5m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand with gravel and cobbles

The excavation of Trench 35 revealed a ditch (3503), confirming the interpretation of the geophysical anomaly. Ditch 3303 measured 4.00m in length, 1.38m in width and was 0.28m deep. It was filled by the single deposit (3304) which comprised light brown silty sand with regular fire-cracked pebbles/cobbles. No finds were recovered. A geotechnical test pit (3505) partially truncated 3303 at the north-north-western edge of the trench.

Trench 36 (Fig. 11, Plates 11 – 16)

Trench 36 was located in order to investigate the area around the probable entranceway to an enclosure identified by the geophysical survey.

Sample section: West-south-west side of trench, east-north-east facing (0.00 = 36.98m AOD)		
Orientation: Square		Dimensions: 10m by 10m
Context	Depth	Description
3600	0.00 – 0.32m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3601	0.32 – 0.55m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3602	0.55 – 0.73m+	Subsoil. Mid yellow-brown, silty clay

Two ditches (3616 and 3609=3613), two postholes (3603 and 3605), a discrete pit (3706) and two intercutting pits (3611 and 3618) were identified in Trench 36. All the features were cut into a layer (3602), which comprised yellowish brown silty clay, interpreted as a second natural subsoil horizon.

Ditch 3616 is the continuation of the ditch (3503) sampled in Trench 35 here forming the western side of a rectangular enclosure. The ditch extended the length of the trench and was 1.94m in width and 0.67m deep. The single fill (3617) comprised reddish brown sandy silt with regular cobbles some of which were burnt. No artefacts were recovered.

Ditch 3609 was located perpendicular to ditch 3616, on an east-north-east alignment, forming the southern side of the enclosure. Two sections were excavated across the ditch revealing it to have a maximum width of 1.45m and a maximum depth of 0.39m. The terminal section (3609) was filled by a mid to dark, grey-brown clayey silt deposit (3610) that contained a flint flake. The fill (3614) of the second section (excavated against the trench edge - 3613) comprised mid, reddish grey-brown silty, sandy clay from which a flint flake and seven crumbs of prehistoric pottery were recovered.

Prior to the excavation of Trench 36, it was thought that the gap between the two ditches served as the entrance to the enclosure. However, the lack of corroborative evidence, such as a trample-worn holloway or perhaps gateway augmentations such as postholes, cast doubt on this theory. It is considered more likely that the gap between the ditches is the result of ditch 3616 having had an internal bank and that the entrance to the enclosure lies to the north, perhaps under the maize plantation.

Two postholes (3603 and 3605) and a pit (3706) were located in the south-eastern corner of the trench, external to the enclosure. Posthole 3603 was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.58m by 0.50m by 0.56m deep (see Fig. 11, Plate 12). It had steep, almost vertical, sides and was filled by a deposit (3604) that consisted of 50% burnt packing stone in a mixed grey/brown silty clay, charcoal rich, matrix.

Posthole 3605 was located against the eastern trench edge; an awkward location that led to it being slightly over-machined (see Fig. 11, Plate 13). It was (probably) sub-circular in plan and measured 0.35m by 0.25m+ by 0.37m deep. The single fill (3606) was identical to the fill of the other posthole.

Pit 3607 was larger and shallower than the postholes measuring 0.68m by 0.60m by 0.13m deep. Its single fill (3608) consisted of a mid grey-brown silty clay with occasional burnt stones. The underlying subsoil deposit (3602) showed no evidence of being scorched or burnt, indicating the stones had been heated elsewhere prior to deposition in the pit.

The intercutting pits (3611 and 3618) were located at the northern edge of the trench with just the southernmost (3611) initially identified. The feature was packed with stone, many of which were burnt, in a charcoal rich, dark grey-brown sandy silt matrix (3612) (see Plate 14). The fill suggested the feature might have had an industrial function, but there was also the possibility that the piled stone might constitute a cairn marking a significant burial of unknown type. Excavation of the feature, therefore, originally proceeded by the single context method until the second pit (3618) and its fill (3619) was identified. At this point, it was decided to excavate both pits along a single section to examine the relationship between the features (see Plate 15). Upon completion of the section, no relationship between the pits could be established, suggesting they were contemporaneous. The homogeneity of the fills supports this interpretation.

The northernmost pit (3618) was only partially exposed within the original trench so a 3.5m by 3m extension was machine excavated in order to fully evaluate the feature. Once fully exposed, the pits measured 1.30m by 1.05m by 0.25m (3611) and 1.5m by 1.7m by 0.53m deep (3618). The pits were 100% excavated and extensively sampled, which produced a finds assemblage consisting of three flints, five iron objects, baked clay and a sherd of early to mid 2nd century Romano-British mortaria all from context 3612, pit 3611 (see Plate 16).

Trench 37 (Fig. 12)

Trench 37 was located in order to investigate the interior of the enclosure.

Sample section: West end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 37.39m AOD)		
Orientation: East/west		Dimensions: 2m by 25m
Context	Depth	Description
3700	0.00 – 0.22m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3701	0.22 – 0.44m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3704	0.44m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand with cobbles
Sample section: East end of trench, south facing (0.00 = 37.02m AOD)		
Context	Depth	Description
3700	0.00 – 0.34m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3701	0.34 – 0.45m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3704	0.45m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand with cobbles

The excavation of Trench 37 revealed a pit/posthole (3703), a possible ditch (3707) and the edge of an unclassified feature (3709). The pit (3703) was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.65m by 0.55m by 0.07m deep. Its single fill (3702) comprised dark grey-brown sandy silt

with frequent flecks of charcoal, although the underlying natural deposit displayed no evidence of *in situ* burning.

The ditch (3707), when excavated, appeared less than convincing and was more likely a natural band of clay.

The unclassified feature (3709) remained unexcavated as, presumably, only a small proportion of it fell within the trench and, therefore, digging what was available was not likely to aid interpretation. However, four sherds of a small jar in a gritty fabric were recovered from the top of the feature. The vessel appeared handmade and is difficult to date but pottery of this type could date from the pre-Roman and Roman period. A local source within Yorkshire is considered likely (Leary, this report)

Trench 38 (Fig 12, Plate 17 and Plate 18)

Trench 38 was located in order to investigate the interior of the enclosure and several discrete magnetic anomalies.

Sample section: South-south-east corner of trench, east-north-east facing (0.00 = 36.98m AOD)		
Orientation: NNW/SSE		Dimensions: 10m by 13.7m
Context	Depth	Description
3800	0.00 – 0.30m	Topsoil. Dark reddish brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3801	0/30 – 0.60m	Subsoil. Mid orange-red-brown sandy silt with occasional pebbles
3809	0.60m+	Natural. Light grey-brown, slightly silty sand with cobbles

The excavation of Trench 38 revealed a posthole (3806) with two associated features (3804 and 3808), two ditches (3812 and 3820=3815) and two banks (3816 and 3818).

The posthole and associated features were cut into layer 3821, a yellowish brown silty clay, that was interpreted as a second natural subsoil horizon, likely equivalent to layer 3602 in Trench 36. Posthole 3806 was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.78m by 0.62m by 0.2m deep. The single fill (3805) consisted of 60% stones in a light brown silty sand matrix, and contained no finds.

Features 3804 and 3808 were both very shallow and ill-defined and they may represent areas of trample or perhaps puddling around the base of the post. Their respective fills, 3803 and 3807, were sterile.

The two ditches were each associated with a bank; ditch 3812 with bank 3816 and ditch 3820 with bank 3818. Earliest in the sequence was ditch 3820 and bank 3818. The initial machine excavation and hand cleaning of the trench revealed a raised ridge of gravel and cobbles (3818) along the northern edge. A hand excavated section through this deposit up against the western edge of the trench revealed that it was a bank of material. This section also revealed that material from the bank had slumped southwards obscuring the ditch (3820). Ditch 3820