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**Areas B and D (Ha2)
High Eastfield and Middle Deepdale
Scarborough
North Yorkshire
TA 049 847 (centre)**

Archaeological Evaluation By Trial Trenching

Authorised by

Date:.....

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**Areas B and D (Ha2)
High Eastfield and Middle Deepdale
Scarborough
North Yorkshire
TA 049 847 (centre)**

Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching

Non Technical Summary

Archaeological Trial Trenching was carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd on a block of land that is subject to a proposed outline planning application for residential development and infrastructure at High Eastfield and Middle Deepdale, Scarborough, North Yorkshire during December 2009 and January and February 2010. The trial trenching followed on from a comprehensive geophysical survey that was carried out by ASWYAS in 2009.

A total of 49 trial trenches were excavated (c. 4260m²), including extensions to original trenches and 5 additional trenches. Features recorded related to the Late Iron Age/Romano-British 'Washing Line' settlement identified by the geophysical survey and the remains of later ridge and furrow.

A significant assemblage of pottery was recovered, along with flint flakes and implements, a medieval silver coin, an iron object, slag fragments, and a small animal bone assemblage.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of a programme of archaeological trial trenching carried out by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. on Areas B and D (Ha2) at Middle Deepdale, Scarborough, North Yorkshire (Figs. 1 - 3: TA 049 847 centre). Previous evaluation in the field took the form of a geophysical survey carried out by ASWYAS in 2009, the results of which formed the basis for the location of the trial trenches. Another block of land (Areas A and C), situated immediately to the west, will be subject to a separate

campaign of trial trenching and reporting. The trial trenching took place during December 2009 and January and the first week of February 2010.

- 1.2 The trial trenching was carried out as a response to the proposed outline planning application for residential development and infrastructure at the site. The work was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation that was prepared by Peter Cardwell (Archaeological and Heritage Consultant) at the request of P + HS Architects on behalf of Scarborough Borough Council and Kebbell Development Ltd.
- 1.3 The results of the trial trenching are intended to assist in identifying options for minimising or avoiding damage to, or recording, any archaeological remains to be affected by the proposed development, in accordance with the guidance of PPG 16 on *Archaeology and Planning* (1990).
- 1.4 The MAP site code for the project was 02-11-09.
- 1.5 All work was funded by Kebbell Development Ltd.
- 1.6 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, licence No. AL 50453A.

2. Site Description (centred at TA 049 847)

- 2.1 The proposed development area lies in Scarborough civil parish, within the Scarborough Borough of North Yorkshire; Area B and D are approximately 33.4 ha. in size (Figs. 1, 2 and 3).
- 2.2 The proposed development area lies immediately north of the Eastfield residential estate and c. 500m west of the village of Osgodby, being separated from it by the new Eastway Link Road. The site consisted of five separate fields and was bisected by an east-west aligned track, which was bounded on

the northern side by a plantation (Fig. 3). At the time of the trial trenching, the land was sown to winter cereals.

- 2.3 The site has an elevation of c. 75m AOD to the north, sloping to around 55m AOD to the south. Within the overall slope there are undulations, where deposits of colluvium have accumulated.

3. Geology and Soils

- 3.1 The soils at the site are recorded as being of the Burlingham 2 Association, described as deep fine loamy soils overlying glacial till (Mackney *et al*). The solid geology consists of calcareous grit to the north with Oolitic limestone and sandstone to the south.

4. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 4.1 Much of the information in this section was supplied by Peter Cardwell as part of the background information on the site.
- 4.2 The earliest recorded archaeological features within the vicinity of the site consist of Bronze Age round barrows that are located on the higher ground to the north of the application boundary. Flint flakes and implements recovered during the site walkover and to the area to the east, near Manor Farm, Osgodby, point to some form of Bronze Age activity in both the immediate environs of the site, and the application area itself.
- 4.3 There is evidence of extensive settlement of Late Iron Age / Romano-British date within the locality of the site. A Late Iron Age / Romano-British settlement consisting of pits, ditches and the ring gullies of houses was excavated in advance of the construction of the Eastway link road, which forms the site's eastern boundary (NAA 2007a). The ditched enclosure of a Romano-British farmstead, containing a roundhouse with internal pits and postholes was identified at Cow Leys Farm, Osgodby, 1.2km southeast of the site (NAA 2007b).

- 4.4 Aerial photographs of the proposed development area (Areas A and C) west of Deep Dale show a number of trackways and enclosures covering an area of c. 20 ha. The general form of these features suggests a Late Iron Age / Romano-British date.
- 4.5 At the time of the 1086 Domesday Survey, the king held land in Deepdale and Osgodby under the jurisdiction of the royal manor of Falsgrave. The presence of a settlement at Deepdale in 1086 is not certain; indeed it is likely that Deepdale and the many other land units linked to Falsgrave manor were pasture or woodland grazing rather than actual settlements (Pearson 2001, 80). The manor of Deepdale was held by Durand de Cliff and William de Cayton in the 12th century, and was granted to Byland Abbey. An agreement between Byland Abbey and Rievaulx Abbey, of c. 1154, allowed the former to peaceably retain the house they had built at Deepdale (Smith, P 1937). Byland Abbey continued to hold Deepdale manor or grange until the dissolution in 1539.
- 4.6 Osgodby village, to the east of the site, flourished between the 12th and 14th centuries, but had apparently shrunk to a few farms plus the manorial complex by the 16th century. The remains of six medieval buildings, constructed in stone, were recorded during the construction of the Eastway Link Road (NAA 2007a). The 'old road' between Osgodby and Scarborough survives as a bridle-way and farmtrack leading north-westwards through the site.
- 4.7 The map prepared for the 1848 tithe awards for Cayton and Osgodby represents the earliest detailed cartographic evidence for the site, confirming the existence of Middle Deepdale Farm by this date. However, the arrangement of field boundaries depicted on the 1856 Ordnance Survey First Edition map shows considerable changes to that shown on the 1848 tithe award, implying significant landscape changes. Two buildings are shown within the site on the 1856 map, as are three ponds.

- 4.8 A number of field boundaries have been removed since the 1856 map, but the main changes within the site environs have been the development of the Eastfield housing estate in the 1950s and the recent construction of the Eastway link road.
- 4.9 The Geophysical Survey of these areas was undertaken in September and October 2009. The alignment of the probable archaeological features recorded within this area to the east of Deep Dale differs from those to the west, with the general trend being along a north-west to south-east alignment cutting across a number of geological anomalies mostly aligned north-east to south-west. The archaeological features are mostly located within the south-western part of the area and primarily consist of a number of enclosures (E15-E20) located to the south of a linear boundary ditch (D4) or trackway, with further but less coherent enclosures (E21-E23) located to the south. Two possible round barrows (RB?3 and RB?4) are also located towards the south-western part of the Survey area.
- 4.10 Relatively few archaeological anomalies were recorded within the eastern and northern parts of the survey area with the exception of the south-eastern corner where a further probable enclosure and a number of possible archaeological features were identified. These may relate to the late Iron Age or Romano-British settlement site (Site 11) excavated in advance of the construction of the Eastway Link Road from the A165 diversion (NAA 2007b) although the anomalies are neither clear nor extensive. Other linear anomalies to the west may relate to former field boundaries

5. Objectives

- 5.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation work within the proposed development area were to establish by means of trial trenching, the nature, extent, degree of preservation and significance of archaeological features and deposits recorded within the proposed development area and evaluate further the potential for previously unrecorded remains. Specific objectives were to:

1. clarify the results of the geophysical survey
2. indicate the potential for further archaeological features that might be located within the development area
3. to establish the presence, nature and sequence of any areas of occupation and, where present to investigate such areas to determine their form, and record any evidence for domestic, agricultural or industrial structures and any associated activities
4. to establish where possible absolute and relative chronologies for the various activities and features recorded
5. to investigate the nature and pattern of the land-use and environment within the wider landscape through an appropriate sampling strategy
6. to establish the nature and extent of any other archaeological remains identified, including funerary remains, and carry out appropriate investigation and recording
7. to produce a report on the results of the work for deposition within both the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record
8. to undertake a scheme of works that meets with the professional standards for archaeological work both nationally and within the area of the North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record.

6. Methodology

6.1 Evaluation

- 6.1.1 Forty-nine trenches were excavated, at agreed locations (Fig. 3) and in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 10) prepared by Peter Cardwell, (Archaeological and Heritage Consultant). The sizes were as follows: Trench 46 = 150m²; Trenches 37, 40, 53, 54 and 55 = 120m²; Trench 43 = 100m²; Trench 44 = 90m²; Trenches 38, 41-2, 47-9, 51-2 and 57-80 = 80m²; Trenches 39, 45, 50 and 105-9 = 60m²; and Trench 56 = 40m². In addition there were extensions to Trenches 53 and 54 measuring 10m² and

40m² respectively. The total area evaluated was approximately 4260m² and trenches were opened in groups of between twelve to fifteen at a time.

6.1.2 The work was undertaken in the winter months and the weather was severe with conditions varying from heavy rain, snow, frost and the majority of days with heavy cloud cover.

6.1.3 The evaluation trenches were stripped of topsoil by an 18 tonne 360° tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless blade, operating under close archaeological supervision. Machining ceased at the top of archaeological or naturally-formed deposits, depending upon which was located soonest. The exposed surfaces were cleaned by shovel, hoe or trowel as appropriate, and all subsequent excavation carried out by hand.

6.1.4 Postholes and pits were sectioned and segments were excavated across linear features in order to determine their function, form and relationships.

6.1.5 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).

6.1.6 All artefacts were retained for specialist analysis.

6.1.7 Thirty-six soil samples were taken from excavated features for general biological analysis (Appendix 5).

6.2 On-site Recording

6.2.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system. A total of 243 separate contexts were recorded.

6.3 Plans and Sections

6.3.1 The full extent of archaeological deposits were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 on drawing film. Sections of features and individual layers were drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate, also on drawing film, and included an OD height. There were 35 plan and 69 section drawings.

6.4 Photographic Record

6.4.1 The photographic record comprised monochrome prints, and colour transparencies, in 35mm format, and a series of high-resolution digital images, recording all archaeological features encountered. There were 119 exposures in monochrome print and 127 in colour transparency, and 218 digital images.

6.5 Finds

6.5.1 Finds were processed in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (EH 1995). All finds were cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (where possible), marked (where appropriate), and properly packed and stored according to national guidelines.

6.5.2 The finds assemblage consisted of 118 pottery sherds, 49 fragments of animal bone, 4 flint artefacts, 2 glass fragments, 5 CBM / fired clay fragments, a medieval silver coin, 11 fragments of fired clay, 3 pieces of slag, 1 stone object (rotary quern base fragment) and a clay tobacco pipe stem fragment.

7. Results

7.1 Area B

7.1.1 Three trenches were excavated in this area (Trenches 75, 76 and 77), which was situated at the eastern extremity of the site, alongside the new link road.

7.1.2 Trench 75 (Fig. 3)

Trench 75 was 40m x 2m in size and excavated in an area that was devoid of archaeological features on the geophysical survey, other than possible ridge and furrow. Excavation confirmed no features or finds being present. The trench was covered by a 0.28m deep layer of modern ploughsoil (57001).

7.1.2 Trench 76 (Fig. 4)

Trench 76, 40m x 2m in size, was another trench excavated to confirm the apparent absence of archaeological features on the geophysical survey. Five parallel furrows were identified, the excavated example (cut 76004, fill 76003) being around 2.50m wide, but only 0.09m deep. The furrows were filled with greyish brown sandy silty clays (76002, 76003, 76005, 76006 and 76007), and covered by a 0.30m thick layer of modern ploughsoil (76001). There were no finds.

7.1.3 Trench 77 (Fig. 5)

Trench 77 was 40m x 2m in size and excavated to examine a number of discrete features, including a linear, identified by the geophysical survey. A sequence of three inter-cutting linear features was recorded in the northern part of the trench (from earliest to latest: Ditch 77006, Furrow 77010 and Ditch 77008). Ditch 77006 was c. 1.20m wide and 0.28m deep, with a broad rounded-U shaped profile; the fill (77005) consisted of greyish brown silty clay. Furrow 77010 was a broad, shallow feature filled with brownish silty clay (77009). Ditch 77008 was narrower, deeper and more steeply sided than the other two features, and was also filled with silty clay (77007). The alignment and course of Ditch 77008 coincided with a field drain (cut 77004, fill 77003), confirming a relatively recent date for the former. Further to the south, another broad furrow with a dished profile was recorded (cut 77012, fill 77011). The features were overlain by deposits of subsoil and recent ploughsoil (77002 and 77001 respectively), with a combined depth of c. 0.60m. There were no finds.

7.2 Area D1

7.2.1 Trench 37 (Figs. 6 and 7)

Trench 37, 40m x 3m in size, was positioned to examine the southern boundary of a possible enclosure (E15) and an area of the enclosure's interior. The enclosure boundary was represented by a relatively broad, shallow ditch (37004) that was 2m wide and 0.26m deep. The fill (37003) consisted of brown sandy silt. North of Ditch 37004, seven features were recorded within the putative enclosure. Pit 37006 (Pl. 3) was a sub-circular feature, 0.65m in diameter and 0.28m in depth. The fill (37005) consisted of greyish brown sandy silt with stone inclusions. A rectangular pit (37011 – Pl. 4) was situated c. 5m to the north, being at least 2.80m long and 1.30m wide and 0.36m deep. The edges of the pit were scorched and its base was covered by ashy charcoal rich silt (37008) that contained hammer-scale (Appendix 5). A group of three vertical slabs (37010) may have been part of a lining to the pit, but their central position within it suggests that they were not *in situ* but rather had slumped into the pit. Two subsequent fills (37008 and 37007) were apparently deliberate backfill into the feature. Further to the north, lay a line of three sub-circular pits (37014, 37017 and 37022 – the latter unexcavated – Pl. 5), each lined with grey plastic clay (37013, 37016 and 37022 respectively). The clay-lined pits were around 0.80m in diameter and 0.25m deep; the fill of Pit 37017 (37015) contained fired clay fragments. Another sub-circular pit (cut 37019, fill 37018) and an elongated pit (cut 37021, fill 37020) ran parallel to the row of clay-lined pits. Fill 37020 was notable for containing quantities of fired clay fragments, but showed no signs of *in situ* burning.

The features were covered by a 0.20m deep layer of subsoil (37002), which was in turn overlain by a 0.35 depth of modern ploughsoil (37001).

7.2.2 Trench 38 (Fig. 3)

This trench, 40m x 2m in size, was designed to examine an apparent natural anomaly along with possible archaeological anomalies shown by the

geophysical survey. No archaeological features or finds were present, the trench merely being covered by a 0.20m deep layer of modern topsoil (38001).

7.2.3 Trench 39 (Fig. 8)

Trench 39 was 30m x 2m in size, and positioned to intersect a linear geophysical anomaly (D4) that formed part of a major north-west to south-east boundary. The boundary was excavated as Ditch 39004, which had a broad, stepped profile, 1.90m wide and 0.62m deep. The fill (39003) consisted of brownish clay silt with frequent sandstone fragments that contained a calcite-gritted sherd and fired clay fragments; the environmental sample was barren (Appendix 5). The ditch was masked by a subsoil layer (39002) that was around 0.30m deep; the covering ploughsoil (39001) was of similar depth.

7.2.4 Trench 40 (Figs. 9 and 10)

Trench 40 was 40m x 3m in size, and examined the eastern boundary of an enclosure (E16), plus an expanse of the enclosure's interior. The enclosure boundary was excavated as Ditch 40009, a substantial feature with a V-shaped profile, c. 3.70m wide and 1.26m deep (Pl.7). The ditch had an apparent re-cut (40007), distinguished from the original dark brown silt fill (40008) by a paler, more stony deposit (40006); both fills contained calcite-gritted sherds, with 40008 also containing animal bone fragments. Further to the west, in the enclosure's interior, two linear features (40003 and 40005) were recorded, both around 2m wide and 0.30m deep. The fills (40002 and 40004 respectively) were brown silts, both containing calcite-gritted sherds, plus animal bone fragments in 40004. The environmental samples from 40002 and 40004 contained waste material from possible agricultural processing or domestic cooking. The features were covered by a 0.33m deep layer of subsoil (40010) plus an overlying 0.30m deep deposit of modern ploughsoil (40001), which contained calcite-gritted sherds, plus a post-medieval sherd.

7.2.5 Trench 41 (Fig. 3)

This trench was 40m x 2m in size, and examined the location of features that were of probable natural and possible archaeological origin. Excavation showed the anomalies to be due to natural variations, with a covering layer, 0.30m deep, of modern topsoil (41001). There were no finds.

7.2.6 Trench 42 (Fig. 3)

The purpose of this trench, whose dimensions were 40m x 2m, was to examine an area that was blank on the geophysical survey, possibly due to an assumed natural anomaly. No archaeological features or finds were revealed at this location, the trench being covered by a 0.30m deep layer of modern ploughsoil (42001).

7.2.7 Trench 43 (Figs. 11, 12 and 35)

Trench 43 was 50m x 2m in size, and excavated in a more eastern location than originally intended and examined two probable boundaries of Enclosure E22. The northern boundary of the enclosure was represented by Ditch 43003 (Pl. 10), which had a broad stepped profile, 1.70m wide and 0.50m deep. The majority of the fill consisted of dark silty sand (43002), with a cobble-rich (43013) deposit towards the northern side; the former contained calcite-gritted sherds and a sherd of Romano-British greyware, plus animal bone fragments. Ditch 43009 (fill 43008 - Pl. 8) was identified to the south of Ditch 43003, having apparently not shown as a geophysical anomaly. Ditch 43009 was a 0.55m deep feature of rounded-V profile, which was re-cut on its northern side as Ditch 43007 (fill 43006). Neither of the dark silty clay fills contained any finds. The eastern boundary of the enclosure was excavated as Ditch 43015 (Pl. 9), which had a V-shaped profile, 1.30m wide and 0.50m deep. The dark silty sand fill (43012) contained a calcite-gritted sherd, along with suggested residue from peat-fueled hearth places (Appendix 5). At the southern end of the trench two shallow gullies (cut 43017/fill 43016 and cut 43019/fill 43018) were recorded, masked by a 0.50m deep deposit of subsoil (43020).

The latest features consisted of three parallel furrows (43004/5, 43010/11 and 43014) situated in the northern part of the trench. Fill 43010 contained post-medieval pottery, a clay pipe stem and animal bone fragments. These features were covered by a 0.30m thick layer of modern ploughsoil (43001)

7.2.8 Trench 44 (Figs. 12 and 34)

Trench 44 was 30m x 3m in size, and placed over a north-east to south-west enclosure boundary and a possible enclosure (E23). The only feature identified was Ditch 44004 (Pl. 11), presumably the enclosure boundary as, at 1.60m wide and 0.60m deep and U-shaped would be too large for the ditch of a square barrow. Context 44003, the fill of the ditch, consisted of dark silty clay from which calcite-gritted sherds and fragments of animal bone were recovered. The environmental sample from 44003 contained fuel residues from both peatland and woodland environments and charred grain and agricultural weeds (Appendix 5). The ditch was masked by a 0.60m deep colluvial deposit (44002), and modern ploughsoil (44001) to a depth of 0.30m.

7.2.9 Trench 45 (Fig. 3)

Trench 45 was 30m x 2m in size, and was located to examine two prominent anomalies of possible natural origin, excavation confirmed that the anomalies were natural. No archaeological features or finds were present, the trench being covered by a 0.30m deep layer of modern ploughsoil (45001).

7.2.10 Trench 46 (Fig. 13)

Trench 46 was 50m x 3m in size, and examined the area of two possible archaeological anomalies, a linear feature at the western end of the trench, and an apparent circular feature towards the centre. The complex geology in the trench, consisting of bands of bedrock interspersed with solution channels and pipes, accounted for both the linear anomaly and the putative circular feature. However, the eastern circuit of the circular feature did coincide with a north-west to south-east aligned linear ditch (46003 – Pl. 12). Ditch 46003 was 0.85m wide and 0.22m deep, with a steep-sided profile; the yellowish brown silty clay fill (46002) contained no finds. A very shallow curving gully (cut

46004, fill 46003) was recorded at the eastern end of the trench. The trench was covered by a 0.30m thick layer of modern ploughsoil (46001).

7.2.11 Trench 47 (Fig. 3)

Situated at the south-western extreme of the site, Trench 47 was 40m x 2m in size and intended to examine a linear geophysical anomaly. No archaeological features or finds were present, but the course of the anomaly coincided with a marked tram-line in the crop. The trench was covered with modern ploughsoil (47001) to a depth of 0.30m.

7.2.12 Trench 106 (Figs. 14 and 34)

Trench 106 was 30m x 2m in size and was positioned to examine a linear anomaly and several discrete anomalies in the eastern part of Area D1. The linear anomaly was represented by Ditch 106009, a broad feature with a stepped profile that was c.2m wide and 0.50m deep. The brown silty clay fill (106008) contained several sherds and animal bone fragments; the environmental sample contained no carbonised material (Appendix 5). A furrow (cut 106007, fill 106006) ran on a similar north-west to south-east alignment to Ditch 106009. There were also two narrow and shallow gullies (cut 106003, fill 106002; cut 106005, fill 106004) that may have had an agricultural origin. The trench was covered by a 0.30m deep layer of modern ploughsoil (106001)

7.2.13 Trench 107 (Fig. 3)

The dimensions of Trench 107 were 30m x 2m, and it was positioned in a geophysically blank area in order to test for the presence of features that may not have been detected by the survey. No archaeological features or finds were present, the trench merely being covered with recent ploughsoil (107001) to a depth of 0.30m.

7.2.14 Trench 108 (Figs. 15 and 35)

The purpose of Trench 108 was to examine the southern boundary of Enclosure E22 and part of its interior, the trench's dimensions being 30m x

2m. Ditch 10833 apparently represented the enclosure boundary, existing as a v-profiled feature 1.20m wide and 0.25m deep. The dark silty sand fill (108002) yielded no finds, and only probable residual carbonised material (Appendix 5). No archaeological finds or other features were present in the trench, which was covered with a 0.30m deep layer of modern ploughsoil (108001).

7.2.15 Trench 109 (Fig.16)

Trench 109 was 30m x 2m in size, and positioned to assess potential archaeological activity in an area away from the enclosures identified by the geophysical survey. The only feature present was a furrow (cut 109003, fill 109002) on an east to west alignment. The trench was covered with modern ploughsoil (109001) to a depth of 0.30m. There were no finds.

7.3 Area D2

7.3.1 Trench 48 (Fig. 17)

Trench 48 was 40m x 2m in size and was located across linear anomalies both of apparent archaeological and natural origin. At the western end of the trench two inter-cutting pits or gully terminals (48004 and 48006) were recorded. The brownish loamy clay fills (48003 and 48005) contained no finds. A shallow north to south-aligned gully (cut 48008, fill 48007) that was c. 0.80m wide and 0.15m deep crossed the centre of the trench. There were no finds or other archaeological features, although a palaeochannel coincided with the assumed natural anomaly. A 0.30m deep layer of modern ploughsoil (48001) covered the trench.

7.3.2 Trench 49 (Fig. 18)

Trench 49 was 40m x 2m in size and was intended to show whether the negative results of the geophysical survey were due to the masking effects of ridge and furrow. Two gullies (49004 and 49006) were excavated. Towards the northern end of the trench, Gully 49004 had a north-west to south-east alignment and was 0.75m wide and c. 0.25m deep. Gully 49006 had a more east-west alignment, and was c. 1m wide and 0.30m deep. Both gullies were

filled with reddish brown clay loams (49003 and 49005 respectively) and contained no finds. The gullies were sealed by a 0.15m deep subsoil deposit (49002) and 0.30m of modern agricultural soil (49001).

7.3.3 Trench 50 (Figs. 19 and 34)

Trench 50 was 30m x 2m in size, and located in an area where the geophysical survey had shown several discrete anomalies of uncertain origin. Excavation merely showed the presence of three west to east-aligned furrows (50004, 50006 and 50008), which were between 1.65 and 3.15m wide and 0.03m and 0.06m deep. The fills (50003, 50005 and 50007 respectively) were dark brown clay loams, none of which contained any finds. The furrows were covered by a deposit of subsoil (50002), with a succeeding layer of modern ploughsoil (50001), 0.30m in depth.

7.3.4 Trench 51 (Figs. 20 and 34)

Trench 51 40m x 2m in size, and was positioned to intercept possible archaeological features shown on the geophysical survey. Ditch 51004 was the only archaeological feature to be identified, running on a north-east to south-west alignment (i.e. on a reverse alignment to the geophysical anomaly). Ditch 51004 was 1m wide and 0.50m deep, with a rounded-v profile. The dark reddish brown loamy fill (51003) contained no finds. The ditch was covered by a 0.37m deep layer of subsoil (51002) with a 0.38m deep capping of modern ploughsoil (51001).

7.3.5 Trench 52 (Figs. 21 and 34)

Trench 52 was 40m x 2m in size, and located in an area that was blank of any geophysical anomalies and tested whether or not archaeological features existed at this location. A single feature was present, Ditch 52004 that crossed the central part of the trench on a west-east alignment. Ditch 52004 was 0.85m wide and 0.27m deep, with a broad, rounded-v profile. The fill (52003) consisted of yellowish brown silty clay; there were no finds. The ditch was sealed by a 0.25m deep layer of subsoil (52002), which was overlain by 0.30m of modern ploughsoil (52001).

7.4 Area D3

7.4.1 Trenches 66-69 (Fig. 3)

These trenches were 40m x 2m in size and located to assess either geophysically blank areas, ridge and furrow or in the case of Trench 69, to determine the nature of anomalies of possible archaeological origin. The only archaeological feature to be identified was a furrow in Trench 68 (cut 68003, fill 68002). The trenches were covered by 0.30m thick deposits of recent ploughsoil (66001, 67001, 68001 and 69001 respectively). There were no finds.

7.5 Area D4

7.5.1 Trench 53 (Figs. 22, 23 and 35)

Trench 53 was an L-shaped area designed to examine the western and northern boundaries of Enclosure E17, along with an area of the enclosure's interior. The longest arm of the trench was 40m x 3m in size, the return being 20m x 3m. There was no indication of the enclosure's western boundary, but the northern boundary was identified as Ditch 53009, a substantial feature that was 3.20m wide and 0.70m deep (Pl. 14). The dark loamy clay fill (53008) contained 2nd/3rd century sherds, and possible cereal processing waste (Appendix 5). Two features were identified south of Ditch 53009, 'Oven' 53018 and 'Hearth' 53013. 'Oven' 53018 (Pls. 15 and 16) consisted of a shallow oval cut (53022) within which was laid a surface of substantial rounded slabs (53019) bonded with yellow clay (53020). The slabs were covered with another deposit of clay (53011), with an overlying layer of clay, cobbles and burnt clay debris (53010) that contained 3rd/4th century sherds. The samples from 53010 and 53011 contained no carbonised remains. A cobble filled feature (cut 53021, fill 53017) may have been the setting for a post on the 'oven's' eastern side; it contained an undiagnostic greyware sherd. The sample from 53017 contained indeterminate cereal grains (Appendix 5). 'Hearth' 53013 (Pl. 17) was represented by a group of small scorched stones (53015) and accompanying scorched red clay forming a discrete rectangular feature. A large flat slab (53014) and a group of cobbles (53016) may have been associated with the 'hearth'.

Two linear features (cut 53004, fill 53003 and cut 53007, fills 53005 and 53006) ran on parallel west-east alignments and, although relatively substantial, may have been furrows. Fills 53003 and 53005 contained 3rd/4th century sherds.

The trench was covered with a 0.15m deep layer of subsoil (53002), in which was found a silver penny of Edward III and post-medieval sherds, with a 0.30m depth of modern ploughsoil (53001) completing the sequence.

7.5.2 Trench 54 (Figs. 24, 25 and 26)

Trench 54 was located across the southern and northern boundaries of enclosure E19, and a possible trackway (TR3) to the north. The trench was initially excavated to a nominal size of 60m x 2m, and was later extended by 20m at the southern end, plus a 20m long return to the south-east. There was no real indication of the enclosure's northern boundary, but the southern boundary was represented by Ditch 54020 (Pl. 18). The ditch was 1m wide and 0.30m deep, and filled with greyish brown silty clay (54019) that contained 1st/3rd century sherds. Pit 54022 cut into the northern (inside) edge of the ditch, and existed as a 1.30m long and 0.32m deep oval feature; the yellowish brown clay silt fill (54021) contained no finds. Other features in the interior of the enclosure were a curvilinear gully (54005/9), and an east-west gully (54011), with a post-setting (54024) close to its northern side. Gully 54005/9 (Pl. 19) was traced for a distance of c. 11m before exiting the trench at its northern end; its southern end was obscured by a later furrow (54003). The gully was around 0.30m wide and 0.15m deep, and filled with dark silty clay (54004/54008). Gully 54011 (Pl. 20) was 0.80m wide and 0.32m deep, with a fill of sterile yellowish brown clay (54010). Post-setting 54024 was a sub-circular feature, 0.70m in diameter, and filled with small cobbles (54023). A rough surface composed of rounded slabs (54016 – Pl. 21) c.2.50m wide and 4m in length lay outside the putative northern boundary of the enclosure; an associated deposit of brown clay silt (54030) contained a number of 3rd/4th century sherds. The slabs overlay a small gully (54032) that was 0.30m wide and 0.18m deep and filled with dark clay silt (54031), which contained

undiagnostic calcite-gritted sherds. The environmental samples were sterile (Appendix 5).

A series of east to west-aligned furrows (54003, 54013, 54015, 54018, 54027, 54028 and 54029) were recorded; these were between 1.20m and 3.90m wide and 0.14m and 0.23m deep. The fill of Furrow 54003 (54002) contained 3rd/4th century sherds. A 0.30m deep deposit of modern ploughsoil (54001) covered the trench.

7.5.3 Trench 55 (Fig. 27)

Trench 55 was 30m x 2m in size and located over the southern boundary of enclosure E20, and geophysical anomalies within the enclosure. The enclosure boundary was identified as Ditch 55005, a 1.28m wide, 0.32m deep ditch with a flat-based v profile. The fill consisted of brownish silty clay (55004) from which no finds were recovered, although the sample contained a single example of six row hulled barley (Appendix 5). Pit 55003 was identified immediately north of the ditch (i.e. inside the enclosure), and measured 1.80m in length, 0.90m in width and 0.22m in depth; the brown sandy silt fill (55002) contained no finds. The only other feature present was a modern field drain (cut 55007, fill 55006) that had been dug through Ditch 55005. There was no subsoil deposit in this trench, which was covered with a 0.30m deep layer of modern ploughsoil (55001).

7.5.4 Trench 56 (Fig.28)

Trench 56 was 30m x 2m in size and located over a geophysical anomaly that represented the northern boundary of the possible trackway (TR3). The boundary was present in the trench, being excavated as Ditch 56007 (Pl. 22). The ditch was 1.65m wide and 0.67m deep, with a rounded-v profile that was stepped on the northern side. Of the three brownish clay silt fills (56004, 56005 and 56006) 56005 was notable as containing frequent cobbles; there were no finds, and the environmental sample was sterile (Appendix 5). Ditch 56007 was cut through by a ceramic field-drain (cut 56003, fill 56002). A 0.28m deep layer of modern ploughsoil (56001) completed the sequence.

7.5.5 Trenches 57 and 58 (Fig. 3)

Both of these trenches were excavated in areas that were geophysically blank and were intended to verify the geophysical results. Both trenches were 40m x 2m in size. There were no archaeological features or finds in either trench, 0.30m thick deposits of modern ploughsoil (57001 and 58001) being recorded.

7.5.6 Trench 59 (Fig. 29)

Trench 59 was 40m x 2m in size and positioned across a north-west to south-east geophysical anomaly (D4) that represented the south-eastwards continuation of trackway TR3. The only archaeological features identified were three furrows (59003, 59005 and 59007), which were around 2m and 0.30m deep. The fills (59002, 59004 and 59006 respectively) were brown sandy silts. Modern ploughsoil (59001) covered the trench to a depth of 0.37m. There were no finds.

7.5.7 Trench 60 (Fig. 30)

Like Trench 59, this trench was located across linear anomaly D4 and was 40m x 2m in size. The anomaly was identified as Ditch 60003 (Pl. 23), which was 2.60m wide and 0.60m deep, with a rounded-v profile that was stepped on the north-east side. The single fill (60002) consisted of brown silty clay that contained a fragment of burnt bone. A 0.28m deep layer of modern topsoil (60001) covered the trench.

7.5.8 Trench 61 (Fig. 31)

Trench 61 was also intended to intercept the line of linear anomaly D4 and was 40m x 2m in size. The only archaeological feature present was a very shallow (0.02m deep) furrow (cut 61003, fill 61002), which was filled with dark grey silt. Modern topsoil (61001) covered the trench to a depth of 0.30m. There were no finds.

7.5.9 Trenches 62-65 and 105 (Fig. 3)

These trenches were located in areas that were devoid of geophysical anomalies, other than assumed natural examples, and were intended to verify the absence of archaeological features, thereby establishing the limits of archaeological activity associated with enclosures E17-20. Trenches 62-65 were 40m x 2m in size, and Trench 105 was 30m x 2m. None of the trenches showed archaeological activity or yielded any finds, being merely covered by 0.30m depths of modern ploughsoil (62001, 63001, 64001, 65001 and 105001 respectively). In addition, a 0.15m deep subsoil deposit (65002) was recorded in Trench 65.

7.6 Area D5

7.6.1 Trench 70 (Fig. 3)

Trench 70 was 40m x 2m in size and excavated in order to verify the nature of possible archaeological anomalies from the geophysical survey. There were five east to west-aligned furrows, regularly spaced with 4m intervals between them. Trench 70 was covered by a 0.20m deep layer of subsoil (70002) plus 0.30m of modern ploughsoil (70001). There were no finds.

7.6.2 Trench 71 (Fig. 33)

Like Trench 70, Trench 71 was excavated to assess possible archaeological anomalies and was 40m x 2m in size. A single feature was present, cut 71003 (Pl. 24), measuring 0.38m wide and 0.15m deep, and extending southwards out of the excavated area. The fill (71002) contained quantities of charcoal, probably representing a discrete dump of fuel waste from nearby activity (Appendix 5). The rectangular form of 71003 suggested that it could have been the terminal of a gully rather than a pit. The trench was covered by a 0.30m deep layer of modern ploughsoil (71001). There were no finds.

7.6.3 Trenches 72 and 73 (Fig. 3)

Trench 72 and Trench 73 were placed over a possible relict field boundary showing as an interrupted linear geophysical anomaly; both trenches were 40m x 2m in size. The feature existed as a band of cobbles (72003 and 73002

– Pls. 25 and 26), of possible natural origin or clearance stones deposited along the hedgeline, running on a north to south alignment across both trenches. A 0.15m thick layer of subsoil (72002) was present in Trench 72, and both trenches were covered with modern ploughsoil (72001 and 73001) to a depth of 0.30m. There were no finds.

7.6.4 Trench 74 (Fig. 3)

This was a speculative trench in a geophysically blank area; no archaeological features or finds were present. The trench was 40m x 2m in size. The only deposit recorded was the 0.30m deep layer of modern ploughsoil (74001).

7.6.5 Trench 78 (Fig. 3)

Trench 78 was a 40m x 2m area that examined some possible archaeological anomalies; no archaeological features or finds were present, the trench being covered with modern ploughsoil (78001) to a depth of 0.30m.

7.6.6 Trenches 79 and 80 (Fig. 3)

These trenches were placed in locations that showed possible archaeological anomalies, which had the likelihood of relating to features excavated by NAA within the corridor of the link-road immediately to the east. Both trenches were 40m x 2m in size. Trench 80 located a feature identified by geophysical survey at the southern end of the trench but was not excavated as a result of flooding. The trenches were covered by 0.30m depths of modern ploughsoil (79001 and 80001 respectively).

8. Discussion

8.1 The Trial Trenching clarified the pattern of anomalies shown by the geophysical survey. It also established the potential for further archaeological deposits in those areas apparently devoid of archaeological responses from the geophysical survey.

8.2 Essentially, the pattern of activity at the site took the form of a north-west to south-east-aligned, double-ditched trackway or boundary (TR3 and D4) on the

south side of which lay a series of ditched enclosures (E15, E16, E17, E18, E19 and E20). The trackway ditch survived intermittently across the site, being absent from Trenches 54 and 59 (where the geophysical indications of it were weak). Where present, the southern boundary of the trackway ranged from 3.20m in width and 0.70m in depth (Trench 53) to 2m wide and 0.62m deep (Trench 39). The northern ditch of the trackway survived in Trench 56, where it was 1.65m wide and 0.67m deep. The cross-sections over the trackway in Trenches 53 and 54 did not reveal any track surfacing. The slabs in Trench 54, although roughly coinciding with the assumed course of the trackway, were seen as a working surface, and this implies that the settlement activity illustrated by the slabs (and the underlying gully) overlapped the trackway in the 3rd - 4th century, judging by the associated pottery.

Trackway

Enclosure

8.3 The southern boundary of Enclosure E15 consisted of a broad, relatively shallow ditch (37004). The group of significant features identified within the enclosure comprised an elongated pit (37011), two clay-lined pits (37014 and 37017), along with other pits (37006, 37019 and 37021). Pit 37011 was a vertically-edged 'trough' whose sides were a dull red colour in places, having obviously been scorched. Slabs (37010 – not *in situ*) found within it suggested that the feature could have been stone-lined. The two clay-lined pits were found to the north, along with the other features. The significant amounts of hammer-scale recovered from 37011 strongly suggest that it was related to iron-working. The associated pits contained fuel residues that came from peat or heath environments.

- Iron working

8.4 The boundary of Enclosure E16 showed a more complex history in that its eastern boundary (40007 and 40009) showed signs of re-cutting. Interior features (4003 and 4005) were recognised; these were either linear gullies or elongated pits

8.5 Significant features were identified within the interior of Enclosure E17, represented by 'hearths'. The first of these (53018) was a relatively sophisticated structure consisting of a slab surface set in a deposit of stiff clay.

A late 3rd century sherd was associated with the feature. The environmental evidence suggests possible agricultural processing in this area, perhaps the latter stages of cereal drying. The second 'hearth' (53013) was of simpler construction, being little more than a rectangular patch of scorched clay and stone. Unlike the features in Trench 37, no slag or hammer-scale indicative of metal-working was present, making it likely that these 'hearths' were also involved in processing organic material, although only tiny amounts of carbonised grain were found in association.

*Cereal
processing*

- 8.6 Although the northern boundary of Enclosure E19 could not be traced in the excavated area, the southern boundary was dug as Ditch 54020. This was an insubstantial feature, 1m wide and 0.28m deep that contained 1st-3rd century pottery. A pit (54022) cut into the enclosure boundary, indicating a phase of activity that occurred after the boundary had become silted up. Other features recognised within the enclosure consisted of a curvilinear gully (54005/9), a cobble-filled post-setting (54024) and a linear gully (54011). The curvilinear gully was fairly shallow (c. 0.15m) and because it extended outside the excavated area it is unclear whether it formed a complete circle; if so it would have a diameter of around 25m, making it rather large for a ring-gully related to a round house. Considered together, the features within Enclosure E19 were of domestic type.
- 8.7 The southern boundary of Enclosure E20 was represented by Ditch 55005, which, at 1.20m wide and 0.32m deep, was a relatively insubstantial feature. The only interior feature present in the excavated area was a pit (55003).
- 8.8 At the eastern extremity of the site, linear features excavated in Trench 77 were of probable medieval date, contemporary with furrows that were recorded in many of the trenches across the site.
- 8.9 One of the objectives of the trial trenching was to assess the reliability of the geophysical survey as a means of accurately predicting archaeological deposits across the site. Interpretation of the geophysics produced some discrete

anomalies that excavation showed to be false, as the following examples show. The suggested enclosure (E23) in Trench 44 was represented in the ground by a deep ditch on the south side and a gully (or gullies) on the north side, the deep covering of colluvium perhaps conflating separate features into a 'ghost' feature. The 'ring ditch' (RB3?) in Trench 46 proved to be a linear ditch coupled with geological variations, which were particularly complex at the margins between limestone bedrock and later drift deposits. Natural variations in Trench 80, also accounted for the anomalies there. As an added complication, the clear linear geophysical anomaly at the location of Trench 47 coincided with a recent agricultural tram-line. In Trench 43, Ditch 43009 was apparently not recognised by the geophysical survey, possibly due to the masking effect of the furrows that ran parallel to it.

- 8.10 With the exceptions above, generally the geophysical results were reflected by the features excavated in the ground. The intermittent nature of some of the geophysical anomalies was supported by the excavation results, e.g. the absence of the trackway boundaries in Trench 54. It is likely that in this instance later cultivation directly cut into and removed relatively shallow features. Conversely, arable cultivation encouraged the formation of colluvium, especially in low-lying areas such as Trench 53, which protected the underlying archaeological deposits. The presence of isolated features is often difficult to accurately predict from geophysical survey, but in this case the rash of isolated anomalies shown in the interiors of Enclosures E15, E16, E17 and E19 was represented in the ground by a range of pits, gullies and hearths.
- 8.11 In conclusion, the trial trenching at Middle Deepdale illustrated the survival of a Late Iron Age / Romano-British settlement that takes its place in an emerging pattern of sites of similar date and type on the northern edge of the Vale of Pickering.

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