



Figure 4.
 Sections and Plans of Ditch 4 Segments (cuts 28 and 35).

Discussion and Conclusions

The ditches excavated at Whitewall Quarry clearly form two different groups, the first of which is represented by Ditches 1, 2 and 3, and the other by Ditch 4.

Ditch 4 can be seen as the earliest feature at the site. Roman sherds were found in the uppermost fill of Ditch 4, and can only have got there after a long sequence of infilling. It is therefore reasonable to suggest a prehistoric origin for this ditch. As suggested above, the rubbly nature of some of Ditch 4's fills points to there having been a bank on the ditch's eastern side. Ditch 4 is much more substantial than would be expected for a field ditch, such as those excavated at Kirk Smeaton Quarry, which were in the order of 1m wide, with a similar depth (Simpson 1990). Clearly then, Ditch 4 formed a major boundary and should be considered as part of the system of "dykes" which indicate the evolution of a largely enclosed landscape by the late Iron Age in Eastern Yorkshire, with different areas allotted for settlement, burial, arable, pasture and communications (Ramm 1978).

Previous excavations have concentrated on multiple dykes, e.g. at Fimber (Mortimer, 1905; Ehrenburg and Caple 1983 and 1985), Low Caythorpe (Cardwell and Fraser 1992), Ripplingham (Wacher 1965), Birdsall Dale (Fenton-Thomas 1992) and Norton (Stephens 1993). Single dykes have been excavated at Vessey Pasture, Thixendale (Fenton-Thomas 1992) and Walkington Wold (Bartlett and Mackey 1973). Bronze Age or Iron Age dates seem secure for these sites due to associated finds. Another major linear feature excavated at Cottam was apparently of Anglian date (Haldenby 1990 and Richards 1993).

Ditch 4 at Whitewall can surely be compared with the substantial dykes listed above. It was 3.5m wide, and over 1.1m deep. With the bank evidenced by its stony fills, it represented a feature which took a considerable amount of effort and time to construct, and it therefore must have been an important element in the local landscape. The ditch seems to have become infilled and basically redundant some time in the Roman period.

In date and form, the complex made up by Ditches 1, 2 and 3 can be compared to another local double-ditched feature or 'trackway' (which had hints of a longer history) excavated at West Lodge, Malton (Stephens 1992). The Whitewall Quarry and West Lodge ditches were all reasonably dated to the Roman period by associated finds. However, the ditches at West Lodge were more substantial (with a depth of c.1m) and yet had a narrower interval between them than Ditch 1 and 2, and Ditch 3 at Whitewall (3.5m - 6m compared to c.14m). The greater width between the flanking ditches at Whitewall could be because it represents the major Roman road between York and Malton, whereas the West Lodge road was seen as a relatively minor route between Malton and the Hovingham area. The relatively scant remains at Whitewall could be due to truncation by the plough, which to judge by the presence of medieval sherds at the site has been a long-standing process.

The excavations at Whitewall Quarry have shown the extent to which contrasting linear features on

the Wolds can be in terms of their form, date and function. Indeed, linear features in Eastern Yorkshire have been variously described as an "extensive labyrinth" (Mortimer 1905, 365) and a "vast complex web" (Manby 1980, 327). Given the complicated landscape involved, it follows that such sites should be examined whenever the opportunity arises. The Whitewall Quarry excavations have been useful in confirming assumptions about the trackway feature and providing new information about the dyke, which has been hitherto undated.

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Appendix I

Context List

Context No.	Description
1	7.5 YR 4/6 strong brown slightly clayey silt; deposit.
2	7.5 YR 4/6 strong brown slightly clayey silt; fill of 6.
3	7.5 YR 4/6 strong brown slightly clayey silt; fill of 5.
4	10 YR 8/3 very pale brown decayed limestone; fill of 5.
5	Linear cut.
6	Linear cut.
7	7.5 YR 4/6 strong brown slightly clayey silt; fill of 5.
8	10 YR 4/2 clay silt; fill of 10.
9	7.5 YR clay silt slight, sand content; fill of 10.
10	Linear cut.
11	10 YR 4.2 dark greyish brown clay silt; deposit.
12	7.5 YR 4/6 strong brown clay silt; fill of 13.
13	Linear cut.
14	10 YR 4/6 silty clay; deposit.
15	10 YR 4/4 silty clay; fill of 35.
16	10 YR 5/6 slightly sandy silt; fill of 35.
17	7.5 YR 4/6 strong brown slightly clayey silt; fill of 20 and 21.
18	2.5 Y 8/4 pale yellow decayed limestone and sand; fill of 21.
19	7.5 YR 5/6 - 7.5 YR 4/6 strong brown slightly clayey silt; fill of 21.
20	Linear cut.
21	Linear cut.
22	Linear cut.
23	7.5 YR 5/6 strong brown slightly clayey silt; fill of 28.
24	7.5 YR 4/6 strong brown silt; fill of 28.
25	7.5 YR 4/6 strong brown silt; fill of 28.
26	10 YR 5/4 yellowish brown (silt), stone 70% silt 30%; fill of 28.
27	10 YR 6/4 light yellowish brown stone (some decayed); fill of 28.
28	Linear cut.
29	10 YR 5/6 slightly sandy silt; fill of 35.
30	10 YR 4/6 fine sandy silt; fill of 35.
31	10 YR 4/6 fine sandy silt; fill of 35.
32	10 YR 5/4 clay silt; fill of 35.
33	10 YR 5/4 clay silt; fill of 35.
34	10 YR 6/4 sandy silt; fill of 35.
35	Linear cut.

Appendix II

Finds Catalogue

Surface Finds

Worked Flint

Find No.	Description
1	Scraper, cortex remnant, blue grey mottled patina.
2	Waste flake, blue grey mottled patina.
4	Core, cortex remnant, blue grey mottled patina.
7	Waste flake, cortex remnant, milky white patina.
8	Waste flake, cortex remnant, greyish mottled patina.
9	Utilised flake, blue grey mottled patina.
10	Scraper, cortex remnant, blue grey mottled patina.
11	Waste flake, blue grey mottled patina.
12	Waste flake, blue grey mottled patina.
13	Waste flake, cortex remnant, blue grey mottled patina.
14	Scraper, blue grey mottled patina.
17	Waste flake, cortex remnant, milky white patina.
18	Waste flake, cortex remnant, yellow grey patina.
20	Waste flake, cortex remnant, blue grey mottled patina.
23	Waste flake, blue grey mottled patina.
25	Waste flake, blue grey mottled patina.
26	Waste flake, cortex remnant, blue grey mottled patina.
27	Waste flake, cortex remnant, blue grey mottled patina.
28	Scraper, blue grey mottled patina.
29	Blade, blue grey mottled patina.
30	Waste flake, cortex remnant, blue grey mottled patina.
31	Waste flake, blue grey mottled patina.
33	Waste flake, milky white patina.
34	Core, cortex remnant, grey mottled patina.
36	Waste flake, milky white patina.
37	Waste flake, milky white patina.
39	Waste flake, milky white patina.
40	Waste flake, grey white patina.
41	End scraper, cortex remnant milky white patina.
42	Waste flake, blue grey milky patina.
43	Waste flake, blue grey milky white patina.
44	Waste flake, blue grey milky white patina.

Pottery

Find No.	Description
3	Siegburg Stoneware, 1 body sherd.
5	Post-medieval red-bodied coarseware, 1 body sherd.
6	Greyware, 1 base sherd (Roman).
15	Post-medieval Staffordshire-type Slipware, 1 body sherd.
16	Humber Ware, 1 body sherd.
19	Humber Ware, 1 base sherd.
21	Humber Ware, 1 body sherd.
22	Staxton Ware, 1 body sherd.
24	Brandsby-type Ware, 1 body sherd.

- 32 Greyware, 1 rim sherd (Roman).
 35 Early medieval, 1 body sherd (unknown source)
 38 Greyware, 1 body sherd (Roman).

Excavated Finds

Flint

Context No	Quantity	Description
12	2	Waste flakes, grey-blue mottled patina.
16	1	End scraper, grey mottled patina.
26	1	Primary waste flake, cortex remnant, milky white patina.

Pottery

Context No	Description
11	1 rim sherd calcite-gritted ware (1-3rd century) 1 body sherd Greyware (1-3rd century)
12	1 body sherd Crambeck Greyware (3-4th century) 1 body sherd calcite-gritted ware (1-3rd century)
15	1 footring sherd Central Gaulish Samian (2nd century) 1 body sherd Orangeware (1-2nd century) 1 rim sherd calcite-gritted ware (Iron Age type)
18	1 body sherd Greyware (1-3rd century)

Oyster Shell

Context No	Quantity
11	1

Coal

Context No	No pieces
12	1

Appendix III

Archive Summary

35 completed context record forms, cross-referenced and checked for consistency.

4 A3 and 5 A4 size permatrace sheets of plans and sections at various scales.

30 colour and 24 monochrome exposures.

1 small box of washed, sorted and marked finds.

Appendix IV

List of Photographs

Monochrome

- 1-2: N. seg. of Ditch 3 (context 10) facing north.
- 3-4: N. seg. of Ditch 1 and Ditch 2 (contexts 5 and 6) facing north.
- 5-6: S. seg. of Ditch 3 (context 13) facing south.
- 7-8: S. seg. of Ditch 3 (context 13) facing north.
- 9-10: S. seg. of Ditch 1 and Ditch 2 (contexts 20 and 21) facing south-west.
- 11-12: S. seg. of Ditch 1 (context 21) facing south.
- 13-14: S. seg. of Ditch 2 (context 20) facing south.
- 15-16: S. seg. of Ditch 1 (context 21) facing north.
- 17-18: S. seg. of Ditch 2 (context 20) facing north.
- 19-20: N. seg. of Ditch 4 (context 28) facing north.
- 21-22: N. seg. of Ditch 4 (context 28) facing north-east.
- 23-24: S. seg. of Ditch 4 (context 35) facing south.

Colour

- 25-26: Initial Watching Brief facing north-east.
- 27-28: Initial Watching Brief facing south-east.
- 29-30: Initial Watching Brief facing north-west.
- 31-32: N. seg. of Ditch 3 (context 10) facing north.
- 33-34: N. seg. of Ditch 1 and Ditch 2 (contexts 5 and 6) facing north.
- 35-36: S. seg. of Ditch 3 (context 13) facing south.
- 37-38: S. seg. of Ditch 3 (context 13) facing north.
- 39-40: S. seg. of Ditch 1 and Ditch 2 (contexts 20 and 21) facing south-west.
- 41-42: S. seg. of Ditch 1 (context 21) facing south.
- 43-44: S. seg. of Ditch 2 (context 20) facing south.
- 45-46: S. seg. of Ditch 1 (context 21) facing north.
- 47-48: S. seg. of Ditch 2 (context 20) facing north.
- 49-50: N. seg. of Ditch 4 (context 28) facing north.
- 51-52: S. seg. of Ditch 4 (context 28) facing south.
- 53-54: S. seg. of Ditch 4 (context 35) facing south.