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Landscape Research Centre Ltd.

Archaeological Report



Crambeck, North Yorkshire

31st May and 1st June, 1994

COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT	
- 300 1994	
DATE	TIME
10/6/94	10.00

~~10/6/94~~
~~VST~~

LOCATION : Crambeck, NorthYorkshire.

DEVELOPER : Harrisons, Rillington.

SUBJECT : A report on the archaeological work carried out on the 31st May and 1st June, 1994

INTRODUCTION

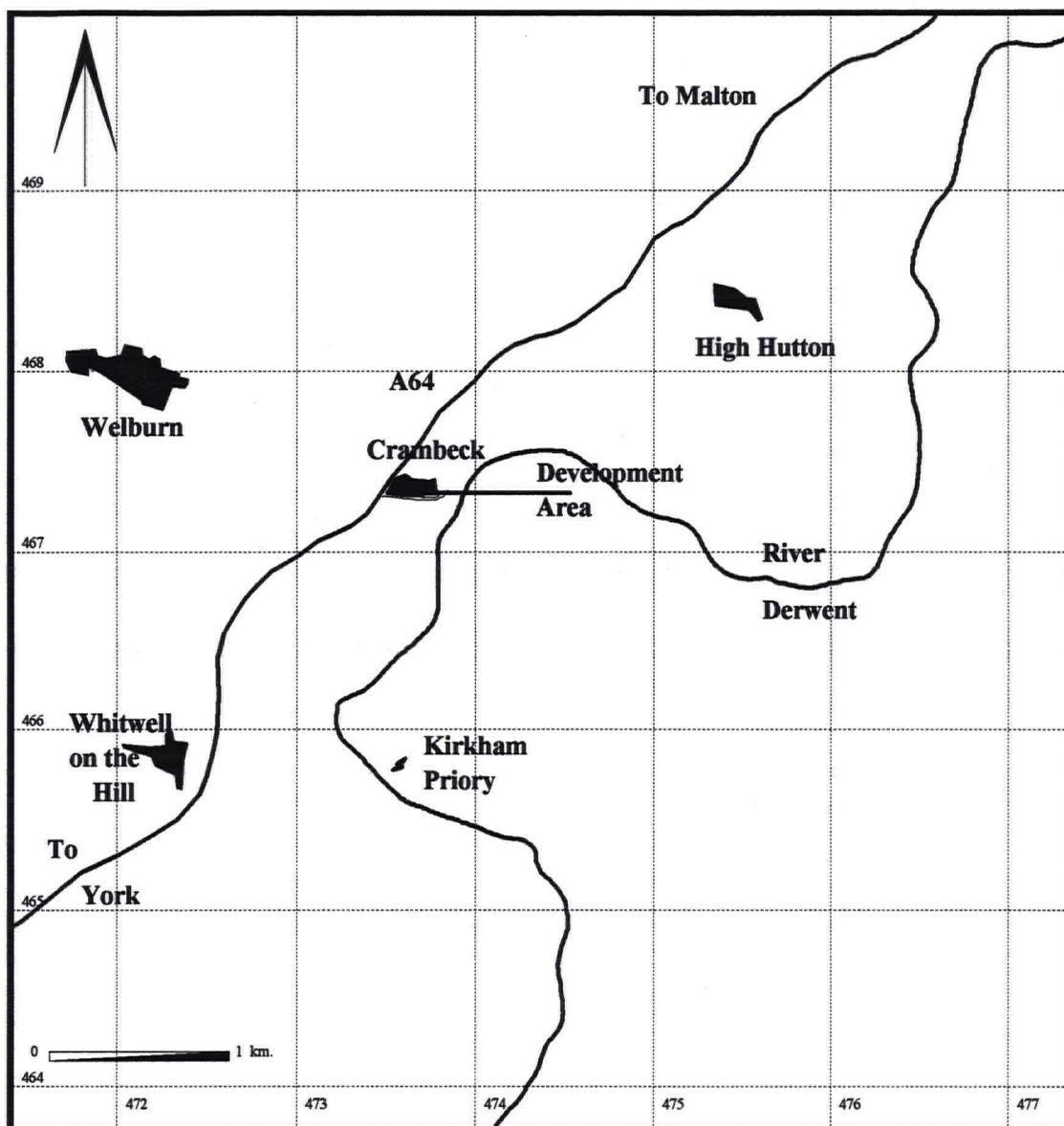
The following is a report resulting from an archaeological investigation associated with the excavation of a service trench at Crambeck, North Yorkshire. The position of the trench led south from an existing manhole situated just to the south of the old Castle Howard Reformatory (now being converted into cottages), across Crambeck Lane, before turning under the hedge to the south of the road and continuing for a further 70 metres to the SSE. Due to the importance of the late Roman pottery kiln sites known to exist in the fields to the south and south\west of this development, particular care was taken in order to ensure that all pottery finds were recovered. The photograph on the front cover is used to show the severe rooting disturbance which occurred along the length of the excavated trench.

SUMMARY

The work was carried out over two days. The first day (31/5/94) saw the construction of the trench across the tarmac road (Crambeck Lane), followed by the construction of a manhole on the south side of the road. No features of archaeological significance were observed. The second day (1/6/94) saw the continuation of the services trench from the newly constructed manhole in a south/south/east direction for a length of 70 metres. Again, no features of archaeological significance were observed, although a number of features of recent origin were uncovered. The geology was of sand throughout the construction area, with an underlying layer of sandstone at between 1.3 metres and 1.6 metres in depth.

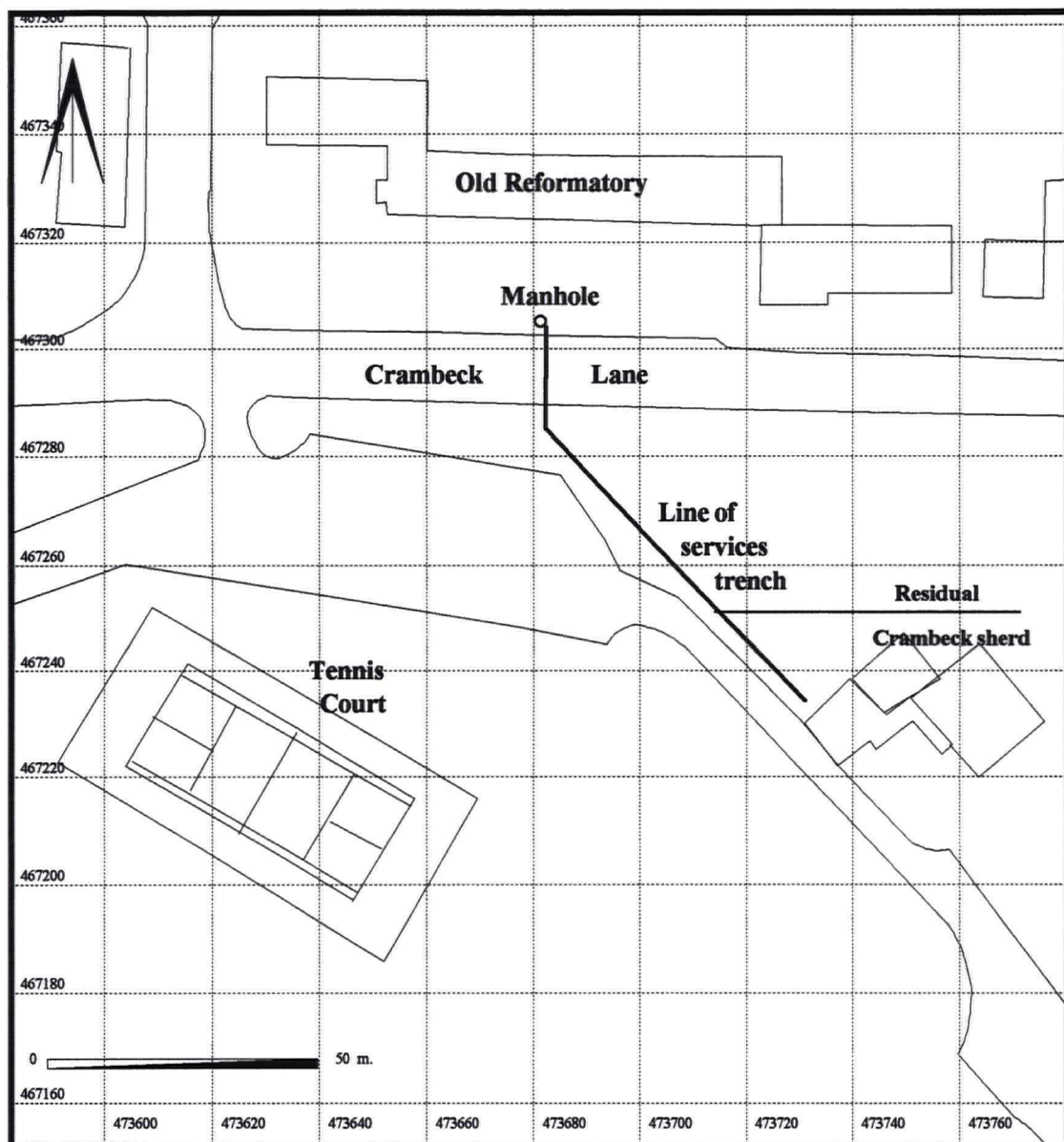
SERVICES TRENCH UNDER THE ROAD (31/5/94)

Crambeck Lane runs in an east\west direction from the A64 down to the Crambeck railway station. The construction trench was oriented north\south and ran from a previously constructed manhole at the side of the road outside the old Castle Howard Reformatory. The trench was excavated with a 60cm bucket, and was on average 1.6 metres deep. No features of archaeological significance were observed, with the natural sand geology occurring immediately below the road metalling. No finds were discovered during the construction of this trench, apart from an old steel water pipe which ran under the road. To the south of the road, the new (blue plastic) water pipe (one metre deep) and the telephone wires (between 4 and 12 cm deep) run in an east/west orientation along the south side of the road.



Plan One Scale 1: 40000 Grid interval at 1 kilometre

The plan gives the geographical location of the development at Crambeck.



Plan Two Scale 1: 1350 Grid interval at 20 metres

Plan showing the line of the services trench. The plan also marks the find spot of the sherd of Crambeck Ware, a residual find in the fill surrounding a brick-built manhole.

EXTENSION OF SERVICES TRENCH TO THE SOUTH (1/6/94)

The service trench was extended from the manhole excavated on the previous day, under the hedge to the south of the road and running in a south/south/east direction approximately 5 metres from the services road which is situated to the west. The trench skirted to the east of a spread of rubble and bricks which were the remnants of two recent buildings, now demolished. The underlying geology remained natural sand,

with all the finds coming from the topsoil, which was heavily rooted (see photograph on front cover). Again there were no features which could not be demonstrated to be of a recent date. These included two water pipes and a disused electricity cable, a tarmac footpath (which presumably once led to the two houses which had been demolished), a pile of rubble and plastic (associated with the demolished houses) and an old brick-built manhole. There were no finds of archaeological significance, apart from one piece of Crambeck Ware, a grey rim sherd with flange. Unfortunately, the sherd was found in the fill surrounding the old manhole, and was thus residual in this context. All other finds were of a recent date, for instance modern bottle glass and a teapot spout.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that no features of archaeological significance were observed during the construction of the services trench, and that all finds came from the topsoil, which was heavily rooted. The only find of archaeological significance was one rim sherd of Crambeck Ware, a residual find from the fill surrounding an old brick manhole.