



Plate 1. Ditch [1003] west facing section. Scale of 2.00m

5.3 Ditch 1002. See Figures 3 and 5, Plate 2.

Context	Description	Interpretation
1002	Cut: Convex-sided, 'V'-shaped cut	Ditch cut
1025	Fill: Loose mid brown silty sand containing evenly distributed occasional chalk gravel	Fill of cut 1002
1026	Fill: Loose mid yellowish brown sand and gravel	Redeposited natural material, fill of cut 1002
1027	Fill: Compact dark brown silty sand containing evenly distributed occasional hard chalk pebbles	Fill of cut 1002

Ditch [1002] was aligned east-west and cut into the natural [1018]. It had a 'V' shaped profile with irregular, straight sides and measured *c.* 17.00m long, 2.20m wide and 0.70m deep. The basal fill [1026] consisted of redeposited natural material probably from the ditch sides. This was overlain by a dark brown layer possibly containing an organic fraction [1027] confined to the centre of the ditch possibly representing an accumulation of organic material following the disuse/abandonment of the ditch. This layer was sealed by fill [1025] which may be an intentional backfill. This feature was excavated in its entirety.



Plate 2 Ditch [1002] East facing section. Scale of 1.00m.

5.4 Ditch 1017. See Figures 3 and 6, Plate 3.

Context	Description	Interpretation
1017	Cut: Convex-sided, 'V'-shaped cut	Ditch cut
1022	Fill: Loose mid brown silty sand containing evenly distributed occasional hard chalk pebbles	Fill of cut 1017
1023	Fill: Compact dark brown silty sand containing evenly distributed occasional hard chalk pebbles. Cut by grave 1030	Fill of cut 1017
1024	Fill: Fine-coarse sand containing frequent shallow concave lenses of fine gravel/ coarse sand up to 2mm thick	Fill of cut 1017

Ditch [1017] was aligned east-west and cut into the natural [1018]. It measured 5.86m long, 4.50m wide and 1.45m deep. The basal deposit [1024] comprised natural material redeposited through natural processes. This was overlain by a dark brown layer possibly containing an organic fraction [1023] and thought to represent an accumulation of organic material following the disuse/abandonment of the ditch. This layer was sealed by fill [1022], considered to be intentional backfill.



Plate 3 Ditch [1017] west facing section. Scale of 2.00m.

5.5 *Grave 1030. See Figure 3, Plate 4.*

Context	Description	Interpretation
1028	Skeleton	Skeleton
1029	Fill: Compact dark brown silty sand containing evenly distributed occasional chalk gravel and fragments of human and animal bone	Fill of cut 1030
1030	Cut: Steep-sided, flat-based cut.	Grave cut

An east-west aligned grave cut [1030], truncated to the west by a modern land drain [1021], was located within ditch cut [1017]. Grave [1030] may have been cut from the top of fill [1022], although the cut was impossible to define above the interface between fills [1024] and [1022] due to the similarity between grave fill [1029] and the surrounding material. The grave contained the flexed inhumation of an adult male [1028] (see Appendix 5) and was backfilled with fill [1029], which contained fragments of redeposited human and animal bone



Plate 4 Inhumation [1028]. Scale of 1.00m.

5.0 Discussion

The three east-west aligned ditches [1003], [1002] and [1017] identified during the excavation would appear to be continuations of those found on Stead's excavation during the 1950s. A watching brief carried out in 1993 prior to the renovation of the petrol station immediately to the east of the site identified two ditches on the same alignment as ditches [1002] and [1017] (MAP, 1994). An eastward continuation of ditch [1003] was not identified, which suggests that there may have been a break or entranceway in the ditch at this point.

The dating of linear earthworks in Northeast Yorkshire is tentative and within very wide time-spans, though their construction is believed to have started in the Late Bronze Age and continued into the Iron Age (Spratt 1993). Manby (1980) gives a similar date range for the linear earthworks on the Yorkshire Wolds. Very little dating evidence relating to the linear earthworks has been recovered from the excavations at Spital Corner. Fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from layers overlying the ditches on Stead's excavation suggesting a pre-medieval date. During the current excavation, one sherd of 2nd century AD Roman pottery was recovered from layer [1011] in ditch [1003] although this layer relates to the period following the silting up of the ditch. Stead (1960) suggests that the ditches may relate to the Romano-British double-ditched enclosure at Newham's Pit to the east, however it is tempting to ascribe a prehistoric date to their construction and propose that the ditches continued to be respected during the Romano-British period. The profiles of ditches [1003] and [1017] may lend some weight to this hypothesis. The sides of both ditches initially slope fairly moderately to a 'shoulder' and thereafter have a markedly steeper incline to the base. The steeper incline may result from repeated clearing or recutting during the use of the ditches. Certainly ditch [1003] has a cleaning/recut slot [1014] towards the base. It is suggested that ditches [1003] and [1017] are contemporary and that ditch [1002] maybe contemporary with them. This hypothesis is based mainly on the similarity of the depositional sequences apparent within each ditch.

The inhumation is considered to be of Anglian date on the basis of the small iron knife blade and the brooch found in association with the burial, and the depth at which it was placed: a number of the inhumations associated with the Early Bronze Age cemetery were recorded as having been disturbed by ploughing. This interpretation is reinforced by its position in relation to the Anglian cemetery to the southwest excavated by Brewster in 1936/7 and the fact that it post-dates the backfill [1022] of ditch cut [1017].

The iron knife blade was positioned underneath the pelvis. The brooch was recovered from the cranial sample excavated under laboratory conditions, hence its exact position within the burial is unknown. It is likely, however, to have held a garment at the throat of the individual. A human mandible was recovered from the grave fill [1029], found situated upon the pelvis of the inhumation. The positioning of the mandible is thought to represent coincidental as opposed to intentional placing, although the latter cannot be completely dismissed. Several tibia and phalange shaft fragments were also recovered from the grave fill. The mandible and tibia fragments are not part of skeleton [1028] as they duplicate elements already present,

however the phalange shaft fragments may be associated. The presence of human bone fragments in ditch fill [1022] and the grave fill [1029] suggests these contexts are rather mixed, incorporating redeposited material. These scattered human remains suggest that intercutting of earlier graves may have taken place (Johnstone, Speight and Carrott, Appendix 5 below). The animal bone fragments recovered from the grave fill are also thought to be redeposited.

The inhumation is most likely, therefore, to be an outlier to the Anglian cemetery excavated by Brewster at Grainger's Pit.

6.0 Conclusions

In view of the inhumation recovered during the archaeological works covered by this report and other archaeological works undertaken in the immediate vicinity, it would not be unreasonable to assume that further inhumations relating to the Anglian and/or the Early Bronze Age cemeteries may be present under the remaining 2-3m wide strip of land adjacent to the field boundary on the northwest side of the site. It is therefore the recommendation of *On-Site Archaeology* that the aforementioned strip of land is not impinged upon in the process of development, in order that any potential archaeological remains are preserved *in situ*. Providing this strip of land is maintained, it is the opinion of *On-Site Archaeology* that no further archaeological works are required.

A measured survey of this strip in relation to the boundary fence between this property and the adjacent garage is illustrated in Figure 3.

7.0 Bibliography.

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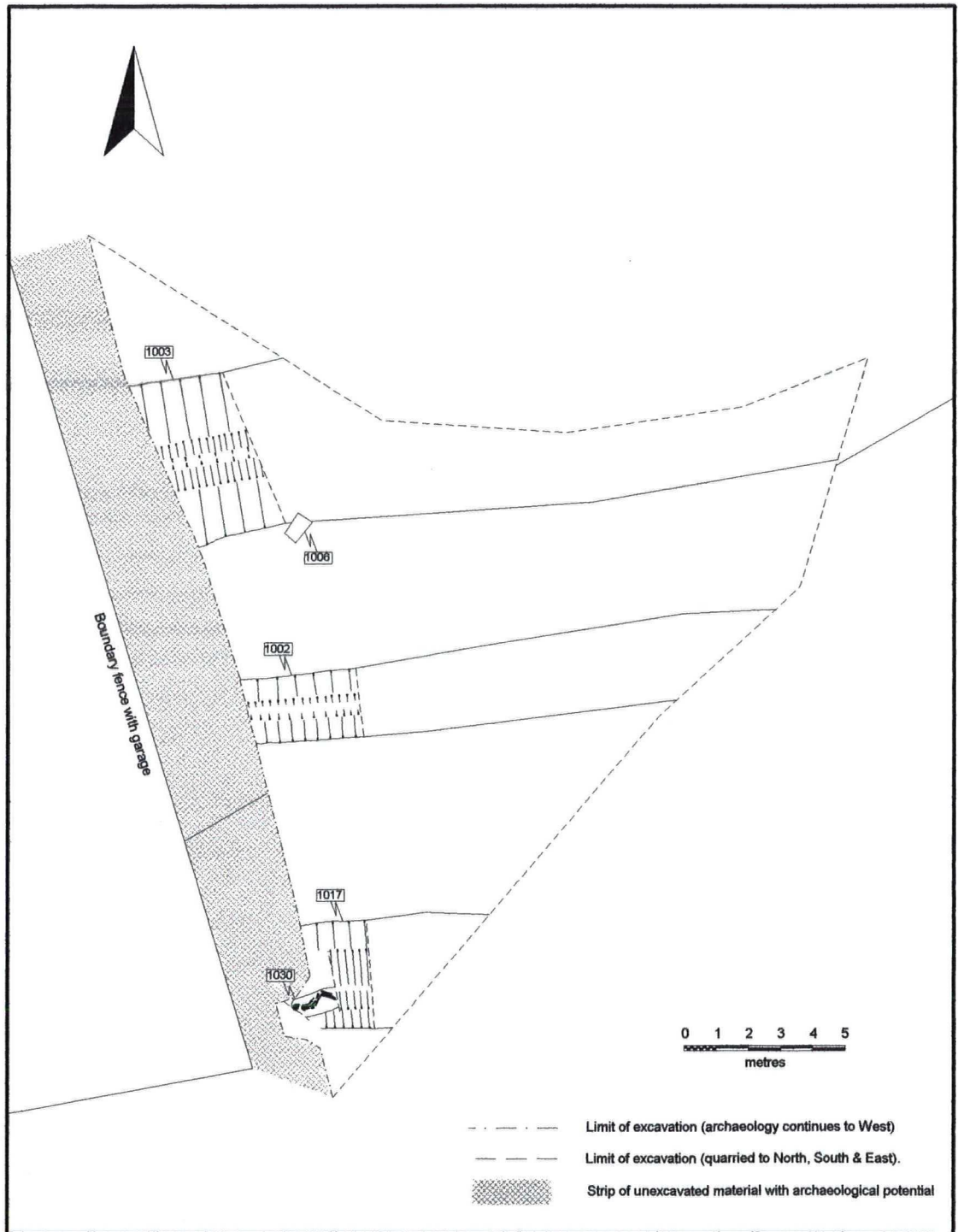


Figure 3 Overall site plan. Scale 1:200

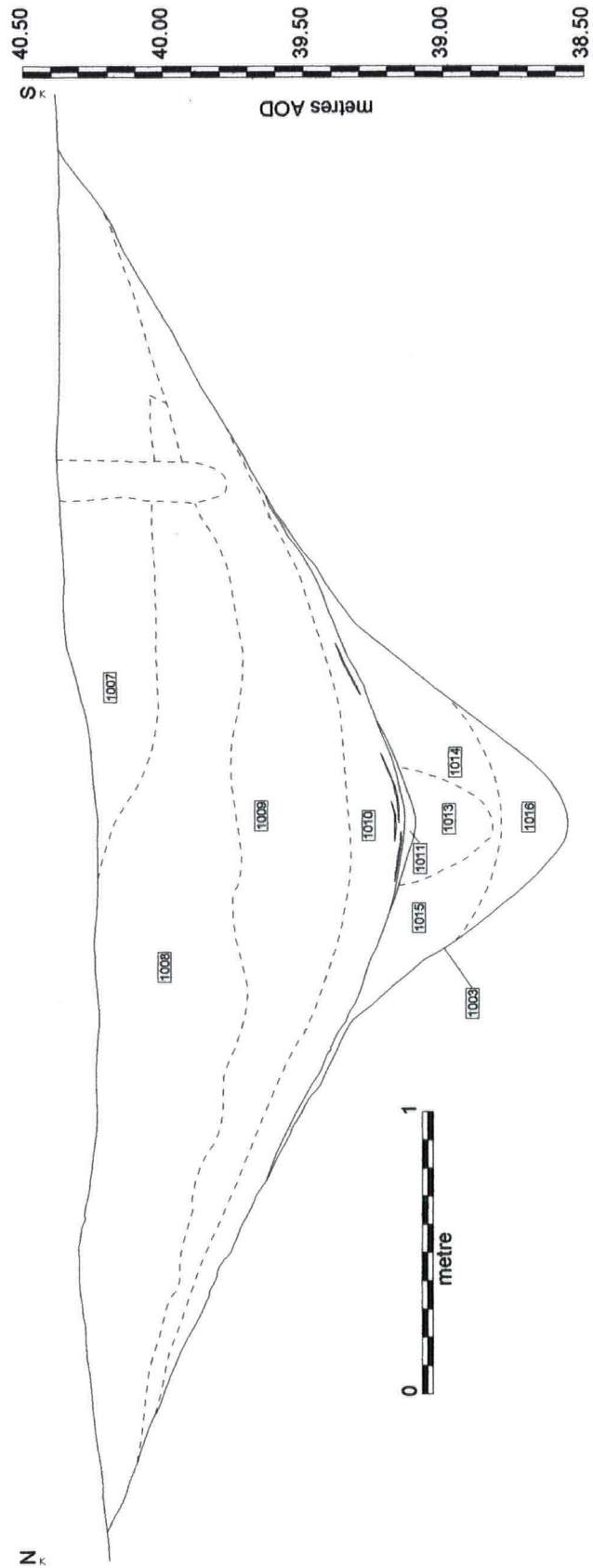


Figure 4 Ditch [1003], section Scale 1:25

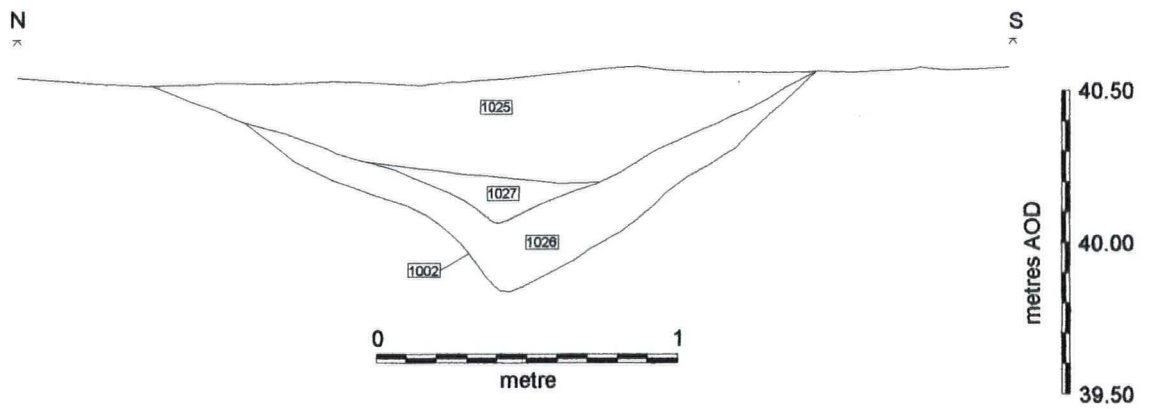


Figure 5 Ditch [1002], section. Scale 1:25

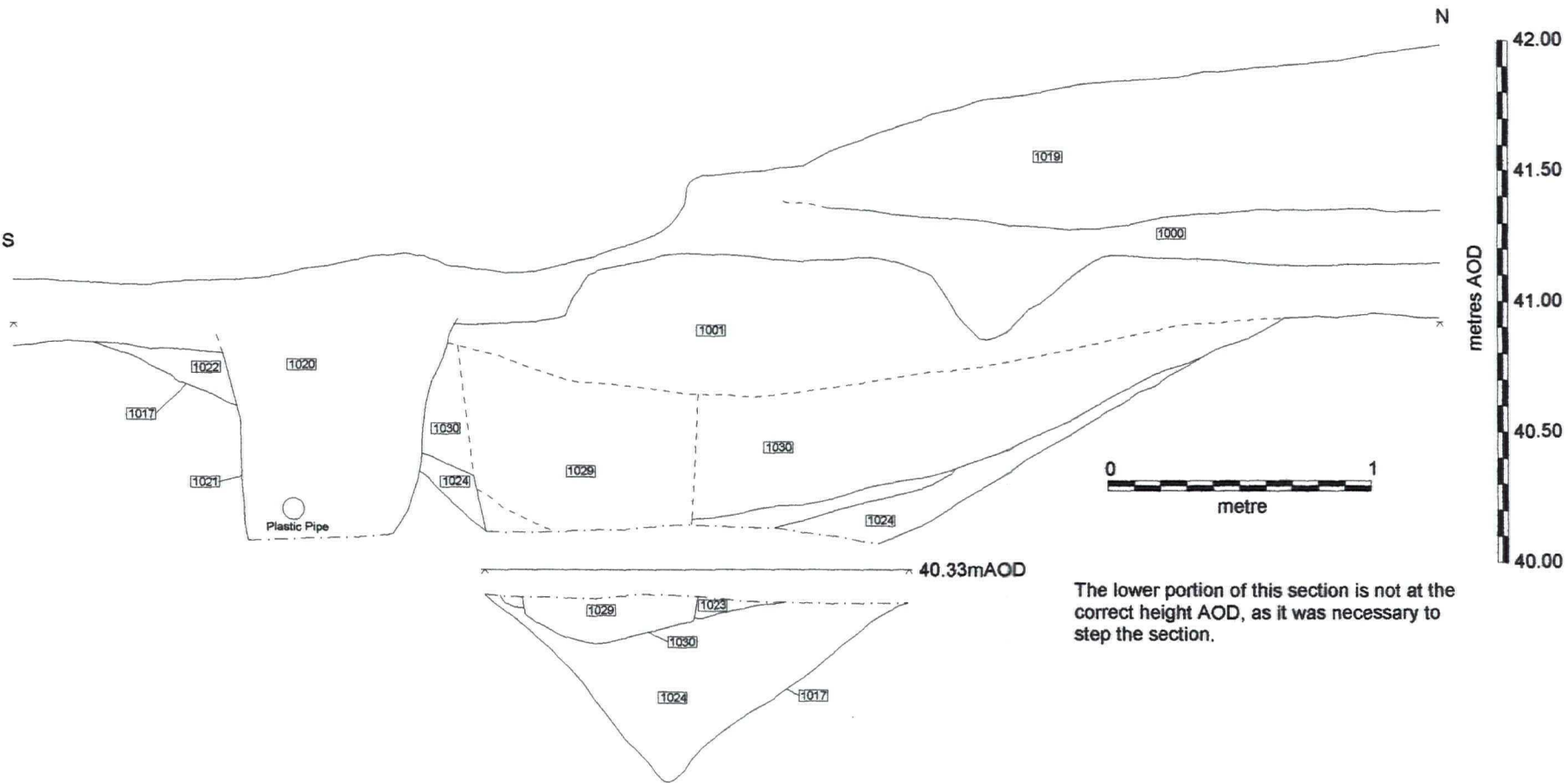


Figure 6 Ditch [1017], section. Scale 1:25