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**Bridge Farm, Catterick
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Interim Report

May 2012

Client Cemex UK



Bridge Farm, Catterick North Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Interim Report

Summary

Over the last ten year a succession of watching briefs during quarrying at Bridge Farm, Catterick has revealed limited evidence of archaeological activity This evidence includes a section of shallow ditch previously identified on aerial photographs and most recently the discovery of part of a medieval human skeleton at the northern limit of the site as it was in October 2011

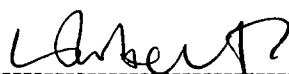


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Report Information

Client Cemex UK
Address Coldharbour Lane, Thorpe, Egham, Surrey TW20 8TD
Report Type Archaeological Watching Brief
Location Bridge Farm, Catterick
County North Yorkshire
Grid Reference SE 2363 9907
Period(s) of activity represented Roman, Medieval
Report Number 3882
Project Number 3826
Site Code BFC
Planning Application No
Museum Accession No
Date of fieldwork 2001-2011
Date of report May 2012
Project Management Ian Roberts BSc FSA MifA
Fieldwork supervisor Dave Berg, Dave Cudlip, Gareth Dean, James Gidman, Paul Gwilliam, Debora Moretti, Alison Morgan, Liz Muldowney, Ian Roberts, Marina Rose, Luigi Signorelli, Adam Tinsley, Alistair Webb, Dave Williams
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Authorisation for
distribution



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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was originally commissioned by RMC Aggregates then Cemex UK to conduct an archaeological watching brief during the topsoil and subsoil stripping of phases 5-20 of the quarry workings at Bridge Farm, Catterick

Site location and topography

The site is located approximately 120m to the north of Catterick village, to the east of Leeming Lane and to the south of the River Swale. The gravel extraction area is centred on SE 2363 9907

Soils, geology and land-use

The site is situated on the flood plain of the River Swale. The local geology is of river terrace sands and gravels with occasional pockets of alluvial silt overlying Dolostone of the Cadeby formation (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/>). The overlying soils are mapped as deep well drained coarse loamy and sandy soils, locally over gravel (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1980). The land use prior to mineral extraction was arable.

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Catterick has long been recognised as an important multi-period landscape. The Roman town of *Cataractonium* is situated approximately 1km to the north-west of the site. Situated on the bank of the River Swale, the site of the Roman town commanded both the river and Dere Street which was an important communications route to the north. Further evidence of a Roman settlement straddling Dere Street, to the south of the modern village, had been identified within the vicinity of Baines Farm (Wilson 2000). Immediately to the west of the site is a Roman marching camp, identified from aerial photographs and geophysical survey (Wilson 2000). Further marching camps have also been identified to the west of Leeming Lane and to the north of the River Swale.

Excavations within the grounds of the racecourse to the west identified an area of multiperiod occupation spanning 4000 years (Moloney *et al* 2003). A late Neolithic/early Bronze Age burial cairn and associated pits comprised the earliest evidence for activity on the site. The cairn was subsequently incorporated into a substantial ringwork, potentially a henge monument, which later became the hub of an Iron Age settlement. The final phase of activity saw the site occupied by a 5th/6th-century Anglian inhumation cemetery.

Excavations by Tony Brewster to the south of the racecourse, at Pallet Hill Quarry, had previously revealed two enclosures with associated structures (see Moloney *et al* 2003, 46 (3)), which ceramic data places within the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age.

An archaeological watching brief carried out during Phases 1-4 in the northern area of the extraction site revealed evidence of a medieval rural landscape comprising field boundaries two limekilns and a rectangular building interpreted as a barn (Stone 1997, O'Neil 2001)

3 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the site and, if present, determine their extent, condition, character, quality and date. In addition an overall aim of the work was to develop an understanding of the landscape history of the extraction area.

4 Methodology

All ground disturbance was monitored by an archaeologist. Initially an archaeologist was required to inspect the area of topsoil removal after it had been stripped. Latterly, due to the identification of archaeological remains, an archaeologist was present on site during the stripping activities. Under both circumstances the resultant surfaces were inspected for the presence of archaeological remains and any further excavation and cleaning of the surfaces was undertaken by hand through the following strategies:

Linear features were subject to a 10% sample by length or a minimum sample of 1m if the feature was less than 10m long. Each sample section was no less than 1m in length and was excavated to the full depth of the feature. Pits and post-holes were subject to a 50% sample by volume.

All excavated features were subject to a full written, drawn and photographic record with plans being produced at a minimum scale of 1:50 and sections at a minimum scale of 1:20. All plans and sections included spot heights related to Ordnance Datum reduced to two decimal places. In areas where archaeology was present, the limits were surveyed using a Geodimeter Total Station or a VRS Differential GPS and fixed in relation to nearby permanent structures and the national grid.

All investigations were undertaken in accordance with professional standards (IfA 2008) and ASWYAS standards (ASWYAS 2001-2011).

5 Results

To date the monitoring of the topsoil strip extends to within Phases 13-16 of the proposed extraction area. This has involved 31 separate visits over a ten year period. The majority of the visits have not identified any archaeological remains. Below is a tabulated summary of observations (see Fig. 2 for locations).

Table 1 Summary of observations

Date	Attending Archaeologist	Observations
30 7 2001	I Roberts	No archaeology observed
8 10 2001	I Roberts	No archaeology observed
10 1 2002	D Cudlip	No archaeology observed but two conjoining pieces of worked flint were recovered from the stripped surface
20 9 2002	J Gidman	No archaeology observed
25 9 2002	J Gidman	No archaeology observed
27 9 2002	J Gidman	No archaeology observed
2 10 2002	G Dean	No archaeology observed
7 10 2002	M Rose	No archaeology observed
28 9 2004	D Berg	No archaeology observed
7 2 2005	J Gidman	No archaeology observed
12 8 2005	A Morgan	No archaeology observed but five sherds of glazed pottery were recovered from the stripped surface
10/17 5 2006	L Signorelli	A single shallow linear feature (1002/1004) was identified running on a north-west to south-east alignment (see below for details)
24 1 2007	L Signorelli	No archaeology observed
5 2 2007	L Signorelli	No archaeology observed
4 7 2007	M Rose	A continuation of the linear feature 1002 was identified towards the eastern end of the stripped area (see below for details)
19 2 2008	M Rose	No archaeology observed
19 6 2008	L Muldowney	No archaeology observed
24 6 2008	M Rose	The continuation of the linear feature was identified (see below for details)
23 10 2008	M Rose	No archaeology observed but one piece of very abraded CBM was recovered from the surface
21/22 4 2009	D Moretti	A single possible post-hole (1018) was identified close to the northern edge of the area (see below for details)
14 5 2009	M Rose	A line of deliberately placed cobbles (1021) was revealed (see below for details)
29 1 2010	A Tinsley	No archaeology observed
7/8 10 2010	D Williams	No archaeology observed
14/15 10 2010	D Williams	No archaeology observed
9/10 3 2011	A Webb & M Rose	No archaeology observed
7/8 4 2011	D Williams	No archaeology observed but some pottery, CBM and bone fragments were recovered from the stripped surface
27 5 2011	M Rose	No archaeology observed
5/6 7 2011	M Rose	No archaeology observed
14-16 9 2001	M Rose	No archaeology observed but several pieces of abraded CBM were recovered
27/18 10 2011	M Rose	The partial remains of a human skeleton (SK1) were discovered (see below for details)

10th and 17th May 2006

Two sections of 1.5m in length were excavated across the linear feature (1002/1004) which showed it to be between 0.8m and 1.1m in width and between 0.1m and 0.18m in depth. It contained a single fill of dark brown sandy silt with inclusions of rounded pebbles. Fragments of animal bone were recovered from its fill (1003) from which a soil sample was also taken.

4th July 2007

The linear feature (1006/1008) continued on a north-west to south-east alignment. Two sections were excavated showing a width of between 0.84m and 1.07m and a depth of between 0.15m and 0.23m. The feature contained a single fill of dark brown sandy silt of which a sample was taken (1005). Fragments of animal bone were recovered from the fill and also to the east of the feature from residual subsoil. An area to the west of 1006 was excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision to locate a possible second linear feature as identified from aerial photographs. No further archaeological features were identified although a paleochannel was observed that may have been the cause of the second linear anomaly.

24th June 2008

The westward deviation of the above feature may represent the corner of an enclosure, as identified from aerial photographs. Three sections excavated through the feature (1011/1013/1015) revealed it to have had a width of between 0.68m and 1.12m and a depth of between 0.09m and 0.27m. As in previous investigations, it was found to have a single fill of dark brown sand silt. The westward continuation of this right-angled turn was not detected and the gully was found to peter out rather than end in a defined terminal, suggesting that it had probably been removed by later agricultural activity. A number of animal bones were recovered from the subsoil at the eastern edge of the site.

21st and 22nd April 2009

Post-hole 1018 contained a single fill (1017) of mid-orangey brown silty sand from which was recovered a single iron nail. Animal bone also found within the area of a paleochannel, but no associated cut was identified.

14th May 2009

A cobble feature (1021) ran for the full width of the stripped area and had probably continued into previously stripped areas, and was found to consist of a single line of cobbles laid at an angle. A sample area of this feature was excavated but no identifiable insertion cut was seen. The feature was probably a land drain. A single iron object was recovered.

27th and 28th October 2011

The lower limbs, from mid-femur downwards, of a human skeleton (SK1) were discovered. The burial was located within the base of the subsoil (1102) resting on the top of the natural gravel (1103), with no grave cut in evidence. The remains had probably been positioned in an extended supine position and aligned east-west (head to the west). There were no associated finds and neither was there any evidence of other burials. The rest of the area did not reveal any other archaeological remains.

6 Human Remains by Malm Holst

The human remains have been assessed in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (Mays *et al* 2002). The potential of the remains to supply osteological information on age, sex, stature and metrics was assessed, and a note was made of any obvious pathological conditions that would require more detailed recording.

The skeleton is severely fragmented and exhibited moderate surface erosion and is therefore classed as being in a very poor condition. Fragments of the left and right tibia and fibula shaft have been recovered, as well as bone fragments from the joints of the left femur and tibiae, and fragments of the left navicular, calcaneus, talus and intermediate cuneiform (ankle, heel and foot arch bones). This means that the skeleton is only 25% complete. The remains represent an individual who was aged eighteen years or older, based on the fusion of the joints. It was not possible to determine the sex of the individual (Table 1), nor were any pathological lesions observed.

Table 2 Summary of inhumation data

Skeleton No	Context No	Preservation	Completeness	Sex	Age	Stature	Pathology
1	1100	Very poor	25%	Undetermined	Adult, 18+	-	-

Potential

The high degree of fragmentation and moderate surface erosion of the skeleton limits the potential information to be gained from further study. Sex determination was impossible to undertake and no metrical analysis will be possible, due to the severity of fragmentation. The erosion of the bones and loss of many of the joint surfaces will have removed evidence for pathological conditions.

Recommendations

As further osteological analysis would not contribute additional information about this skeleton, it is recommended that full osteological analysis is not necessary.

7 Radiocarbon Date

A fragment of left fibula shaft was selected from SK1 for submission for AMS dating. The result, shown in Table 3 below, is indicative of a probable date in the late 11th or 12th century AD.

Table 3 AMS dating result

Lab Code	Feature	Material	Radiocarbon age BP	Calibrated 1 sigma date range (68.2%)	Calibrated 2 sigma date range (95.4%)	Delta ¹³ C rel PDB (‰)
SUERC-39022 (GU-26615)	1100 (SK1)	Human Bone	890 ± 30	1051 - 1208 AD	1041 - 1217 AD	-20.3

8 Discussion

The ditch located at the eastern side of the site and excavated in stages from 2006-2008, corresponds with cropmark evidence identified from aerial photographs. Although the remains of this feature were very shallow, its shape and location suggest that it forms a boundary. The lack of any other definitive boundary features on the site makes it difficult, however, to determine what was bounded by the ditch. The evident truncation of the ditch by ploughing means that shallower features are less likely to survive, although the detection of a post-hole and, moreover, the remains of a human skeleton, are indicative of the potential of the site.

The radiocarbon date range of the late 11th to early 13th century for the human remains is unexpected, given the previous Roman and Anglian burials found in the area. The date and the apparent east-west orientation of the body would suggest that it was probably a Christian interment. However, its seemingly remote and isolated occurrence poses questions for the further work on this site – namely, whether it represents an outlier to an hitherto unknown cemetery to the north, or a singular covert burial on the outskirts of the medieval settlement.

9 Conclusions

Despite the intermittent and shallow nature of the archaeological features within the mineral extraction area at Bridge Farm, Catterick, the site still retains significant potential for further archaeological revelations, epitomised by and centring upon the discovery of the medieval human remains.

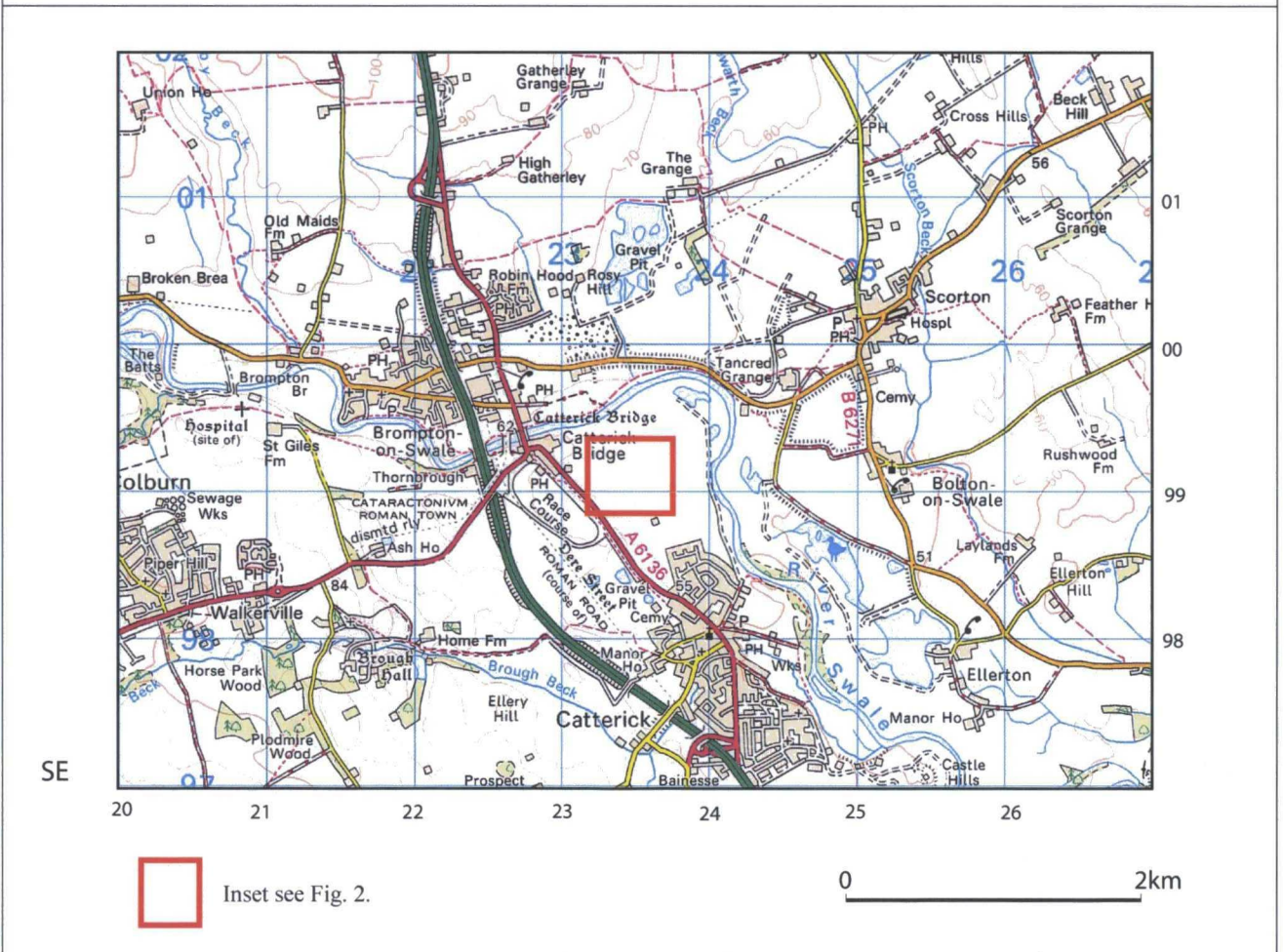
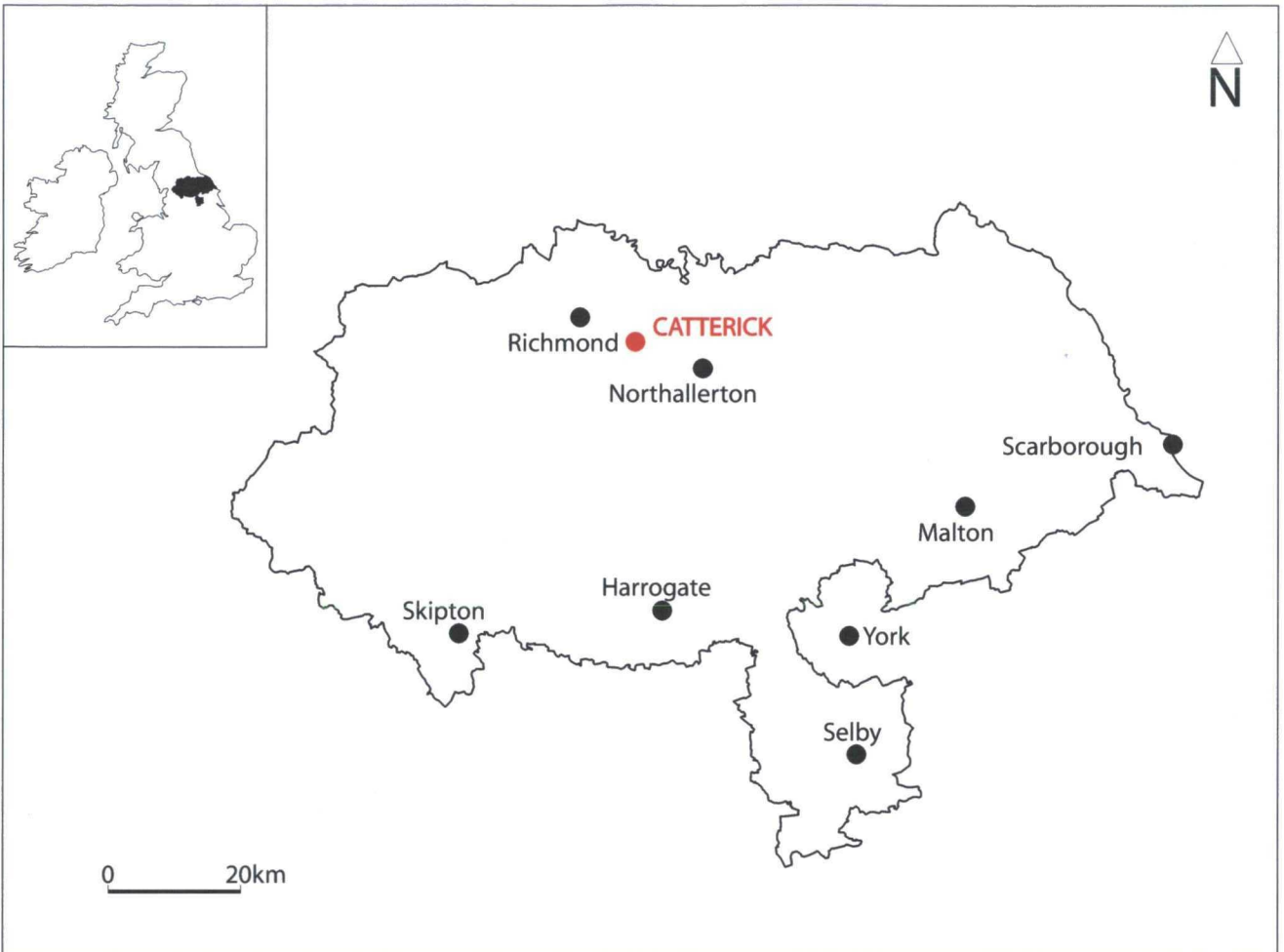










Fig. 1. Site location

	STRIP AREAS
	ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES
	CROPMARKS
	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL
	POTTERY
	ANIMAL BONE
	IRON OBJECT
	HUMAN REMAINS

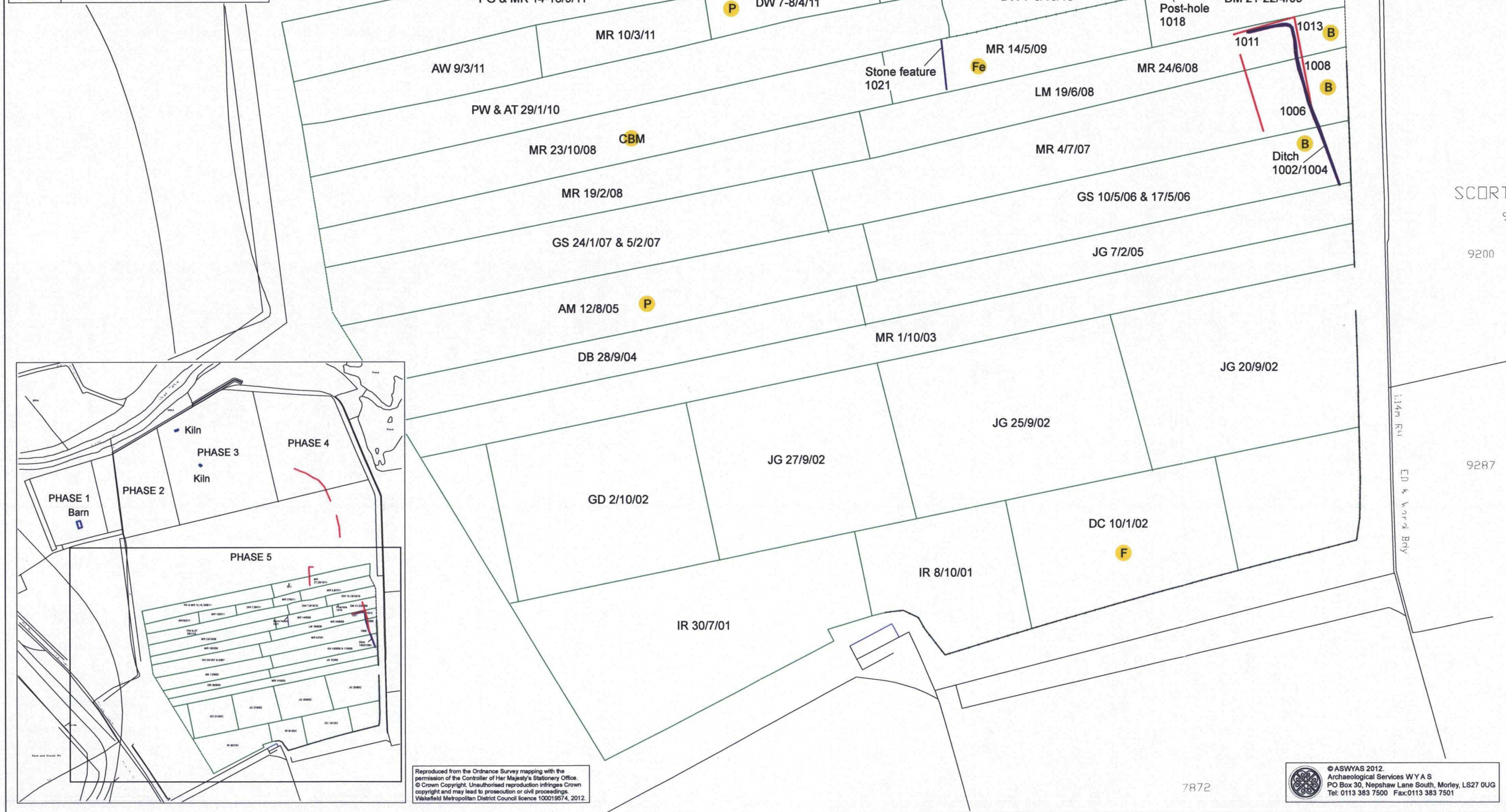


Fig. 2. Site plan showing areas and dates of monitoring (1:2000 @A3)

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