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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT  
COWSTAND FARM, CATTERICK LANE,  
CATTERICK, NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**Summary Report and Data Assessment**

**PRE-CONSTRUCT  
ARCHAEOLOGY LTD.**

**Archaeological Investigations at  
Cowstand Farm, Catterick Lane, Catterick, North Yorkshire**

**Summary Report and Data Assessment**

**Site Central NGR SE 2385 9725**

**Site Code CFC 00**

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April 2001**

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April 2001**

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## CONTENTS

	page
<b>List of Figures and Plates</b>	
<b><i>PART A SUMMARY REPORT</i></b>	
1	NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY 1
2	INTRODUCTION 2
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES 6
4	FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY 7
5	PHASED SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE 9
6	DISCUSSION 17
<b><i>PART B DATA ASSESSMENT</i></b>	
7	STRATIGRAPHIC DATA 21
8	ROMAN POTTERY 22
9	METALWORK 24
10	FAUNAL REMAINS 27
11	PLANT MACROFOSSILS 29
12	HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS 31
13	IRON WORKING DEBRIS 34
14	SUMMARY OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT DATA 36
15	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 37
16	REFERENCES 38
<b>Appendices</b>	
Appendix A	Stratigraphic Matrix
Appendix B	Context Descriptions

## List of Figures and Plates

		<i>page</i>
Figure 1	Site Location	3
Figure 2	Area of Investigation	8
Figure 3	Phase I	10
Figure 4	Phase II	11
Figure 5	Phase III	12
Figure 6	Section 1	15
Figure 7	Section 2	16
Figure 8	The Site in its Archaeological Context	18
Figure 9	Tinned bronze spoon Δ1	25
Plate 1	Inhumation burial [17]	39
Plate 2	Tinned bronze spoon Δ1	40

***PART A SUMMARY REPORT***

# 1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1 1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological investigation undertaken by Pre Construct Archaeology Limited during construction of a radio base station and access road at Cowstand Farm off Catterck Lane Catterck North Yorkshire The site s central National Grid Reference is SE 2379 9722
- 1 2 The construction work was undertaken by Crown Castle UK Limited on behalf of One 2 One Communications Limited The archaeological investigations involved a programme of monitoring and recording during which a small scale rescue excavation was undertaken The fieldwork took place between the 21<sup>st</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> June and on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2000
- 1 3 The construction work involved topsoil stripping within a rectangular area to house the base station compound the excavation of a square trench to house the radio mast s concrete foundation topsoil stripping along the route of an access road and the excavation of a series of postholes around the perimeter of the compound Most of the groundworks were too shallow to impact upon archaeological levels although within the foundation trench remains of significance were encountered
- 1 4 Within the area of the square foundation trench an inhumation burial of Roman date was exposed Two other possible graves neither of which contained human skeletal remains were recorded close by One of these contained a tinned bronze spoon To the north was an interrupted ditch possibly a boundary feature associated with the cemetery activity Sometime later in the Roman period the inhumation burial had been truncated by a substantial linear boundary ditch perhaps part of a field system There was some evidence to suggest that a later boundary feature probably of late Roman or Anglian date had been cut across the southern edge of the area of investigation
- 1 5 The investigations at Cowstand Farm yielded a small but significant body of archaeological evidence related to the Roman roadside settlement associated with the stretch of the Dere Street Roman road to the south of the major settlement of Cataractonum

## 2 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 General Background

- 2.1.1 A scheme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Pre Construct Archaeology (hereafter PCA) Limited on land adjacent to the A1(T) at Cowstand Farm off Cattenck Lane Cattenck North Yorkshire in advance of development proposals by Crown Castle UK (hereafter CC UK) Limited
- 2.1.2 The development proposals involved the erection of a radio base station in one corner of a field at Cowstand Farm. The site lies within an area of potential archaeological importance close to the site of Baines Farm Cattenck where prior archaeological excavation has recovered evidence for Romano British occupation and activity along the Dere Street Roman road as well as a number of Anglian burials
- 2.1.3 The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken as a planning condition of Richmondshire District Council in order to mitigate the impact of the development upon the archaeological resource at the site. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring and recording was prepared by the Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council on the request of CC UK Limited in response to their proposals<sup>1</sup>
- 2.1.4 PCA Limited was contracted to undertake the archaeological monitoring and recording by CC UK Limited. The fieldwork was undertaken under the direction of Robin Taylor Wilson on the 21<sup>st</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> June and on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2000

### 2.2 Planning Background

- 2.2.1 In April 2000 Richmondshire District Council was notified by CC UK Limited on behalf of One 2 One Communications Limited under Part 24 of the *Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995* of a proposal to construct a ground based 15 metre high slim line monopole on land at Cowstand Farm off Cattenck Lane Cattenck. The planning application reference was 1/15/300/TEL
- 2.2.2 The development proposals involved the construction of a site compound measuring c 14m x 10m surrounded by a palisade fence. Within the compound the monopole would be constructed upon a concrete base measuring 6m x 6m inserted into square trench excavated to a depth of 1.20m. A portable radio equipment cabin measuring 2.68m x 2.68m would be sited adjacent to the monopole within an area stripped of turf and topsoil measuring c 3m x 5m. In addition an access road to the proposed compound from Cattenck Lane to the west would be stripped of turf and topsoil to a depth of c 250mm. The site would be supplied with electricity and British Telecommunications supplies via slit trenches excavated to a depth of c 300mm

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<sup>1</sup> Heritage Unit North Yorkshire County Council 2000

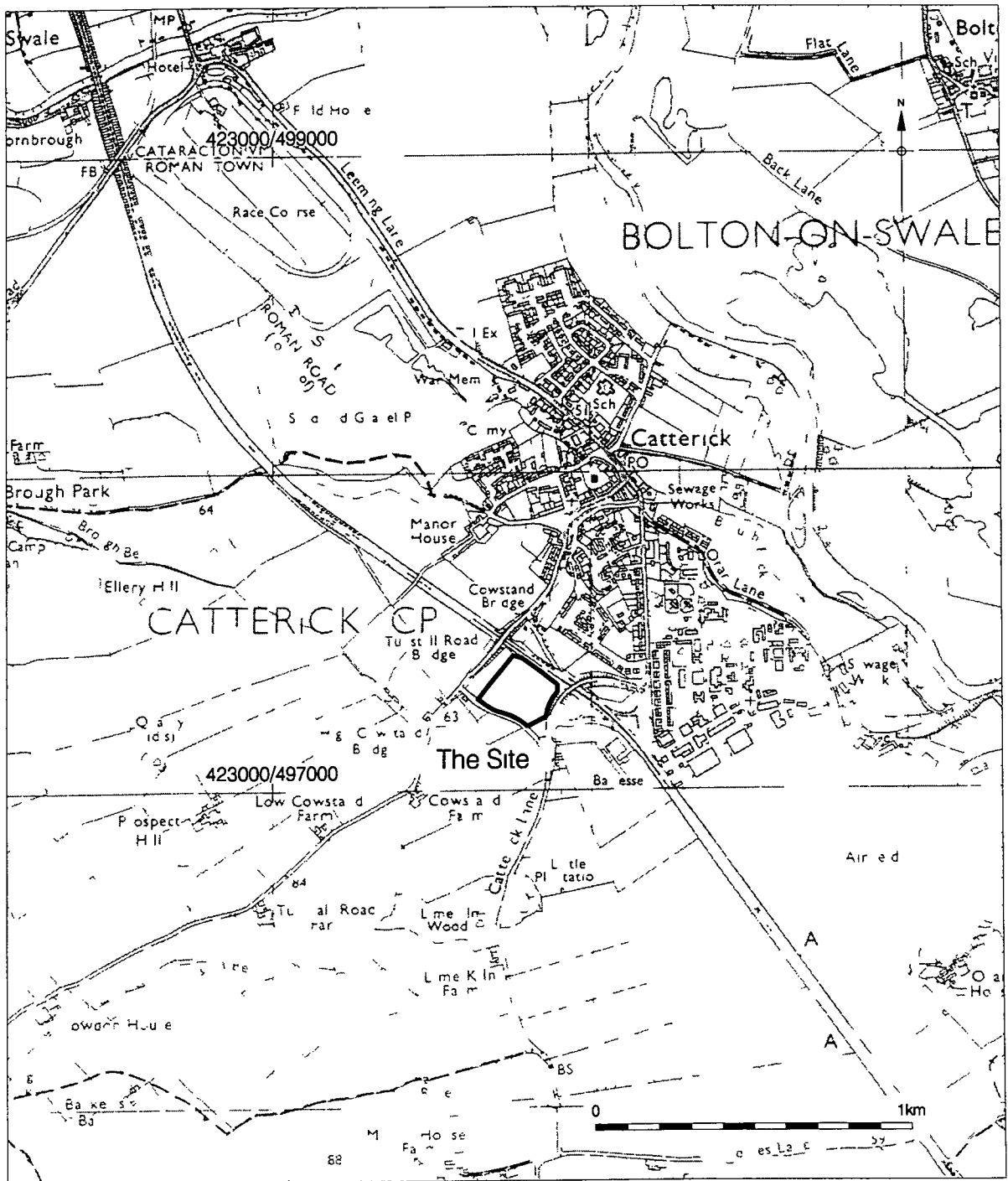


Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:20 000



2 2 3 In response to these proposals the North Yorkshire s County Archaeologist advised Richmondshire Distnct Council that a scheme of archaeological recording should be undertaken because of the archaeological sensitivity of the area in question The WSI prepared on the request of CC UK Limited represented a summary of the broad archaeological requirements to mitigate the impact of the development proposals upon the archaeological resource This was in accordance with Policies 47 and 48 of the Richmondshire Distnct Local Plan and government guidance set out in PPG16 <sup>2</sup>

2 2 4 A condition of the WSI was that in the event of archaeological remains of significance being encountered durng the groundworks they should be excavated and recorded in a proper manner

2 2 5 PCA Limited was approached by CC UK Limited to provide a fee proposal for the undertaking of the archaeological monitonng and recording to be earned out in accordance with the County Council s WSI The proposal was accepted and PCA Limited was contracted to undertake the work

### 2 3 Site Location and Description

2 3 1 The site lies to the west of Cattenck Village and Marne Barracks within the pansh of Cattenck North Yorkshire Cattenck is located approximately six miles south of Scotch Corner and five miles south east of Richmond (Fig 1)

2 3 2 The base station development is situated in a sub square field immediately to the west of the present A1(T) road between Cattenck Lane and the A6136 road to the north west of Bainesse Farm and Bainesse Lodge The site s central National Gnd Reference is SE 2379 9722 (Fig 2)

2 3 3 The base station compound is situated in the south western corner of the field The access road runs immediately adjacent to the fence separating the field from a small three cornered field immediately to the south and then turns to the north west running immediately adjacent to the hedge skirting Cattenck Lane

2 3 4 The field in which the base station compound lies is basically flat lying on the 60m contour At the time of the fieldwork the field was under pasture

2 3 5 The solid geology of the Cattenck area is divided roughly on a N S axis into Lower Magnesian Limestone in the west and Carboniferous Sandstones in the east Throughout the area the drift geology comprises Boulder Clay river gravels or alluvium <sup>3</sup> The Cattenck area is associated with deep well drained coarse loamy and sandy soils favourable for arable and pastoral farming <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Department of the Environment 1990

<sup>3</sup> Bntish Geological Survey Map Sheet No 41

<sup>4</sup> Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983

## 2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.4.1 The area around the Roman fort and town of Cataractonium is one of high archaeological potential which has been the subject of a number of detailed archaeological investigations in recent years. Between the 1930s and 1990s a series of archaeological investigations was carried out within a corridor along the present A1(T) road in response to works to bypass Cattenack village and upgrade the A1 highway.
- 2.4.2 Immediately to the east of the development site the A1 follows to large extent the course of the Dere Street Roman road which was the main north-south highway connecting the legionary fortress at York with the forts of the Hadrianic frontier. Prior archaeological investigations have established the existence of an extensive Romano-British roadside settlement to both the east and west of Dere Street.<sup>6</sup> This settlement, surrounded by extensive field systems and associated burial grounds, was apparently distinct from the defended Roman town of Cataractonium which developed on the southern bank of the River Swale, some 2km to the north.
- 2.4.3 Of particular relevance to the development are the intensive archaeological excavations undertaken in the early 1980s at Baines Farm by the Central Excavation Unit (hereafter CEU) of the Department of the Environment which uncovered a substantial area of the Romano-British settlement (CEU Site 46) (Fig. 8). Three main areas (Areas 1, 10 and 13) were excavated in response to the Cattenack south roundabout scheme, both to the east and west of the A1. Investigations in these areas revealed a series of Romano-British buildings aligned along the roadside of Dere Street, as well as parts of the surrounding field system. Eight phases of occupation and use were recorded, dating from the late first century to the end of the third century AD. In Area 13, immediately to the east of the Cowstand Farm site, the earliest Roman phase produced evidence of small-scale metal working. The next phase took the form of a post-built strip building set at right angles to Dere Street, which in turn was superseded by a T-shaped oven. To the north was a cobble and gravel road adjoining Dere Street.<sup>6</sup>
- 2.4.4 In addition, a number of human burials were recorded either side of Dere Street to the north-west of Baines Farm during the Site 46 excavations. In Area 10, to the east of the road, seven burials were recorded, two being certainly Anglian, the remainder either Roman or Anglian. In Area 13, two burials of uncertain date were found, one in a stone-lined grave. Two other features that could have been graves were excavated, although neither contained any bone.<sup>7</sup> Anglian burials were also recorded in 1959 on the line of the A1, c. 0.5km to the north of Baines Farm, this site being sandwiched between Areas 1 and 13 in Site 46.
- 2.4.5 In 1993 English Heritage's Central Archaeology Service (hereafter CAS) undertook archaeological survey work in an area west of and close to the Cowstand farm site (CAS Site 519).<sup>8</sup> Geophysical (magnetometry) survey located a series of ditch and pit-like anomalies interpreted as an enclosure containing occupation features. The site, however, was not subject to invasive archaeological investigation to test the origin of these anomalies.

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<sup>6</sup> Wilson 1984 and 1994

<sup>6</sup> Rankov 1982

<sup>7</sup> Wilson *et al.* 1996

<sup>8</sup> Wilson 1994

2.4.6 In view of the proximity of these Romano British and Anglian finds to the development site it was felt that there was high potential for features, finds and burials of these dates to be encountered during the development groundworks.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

3.1 The work described in this report was undertaken as a mitigatory response to development proposals on land at Cowstand Farm, Cattenock.

3.2 The objectives of the archaeological recording work were:

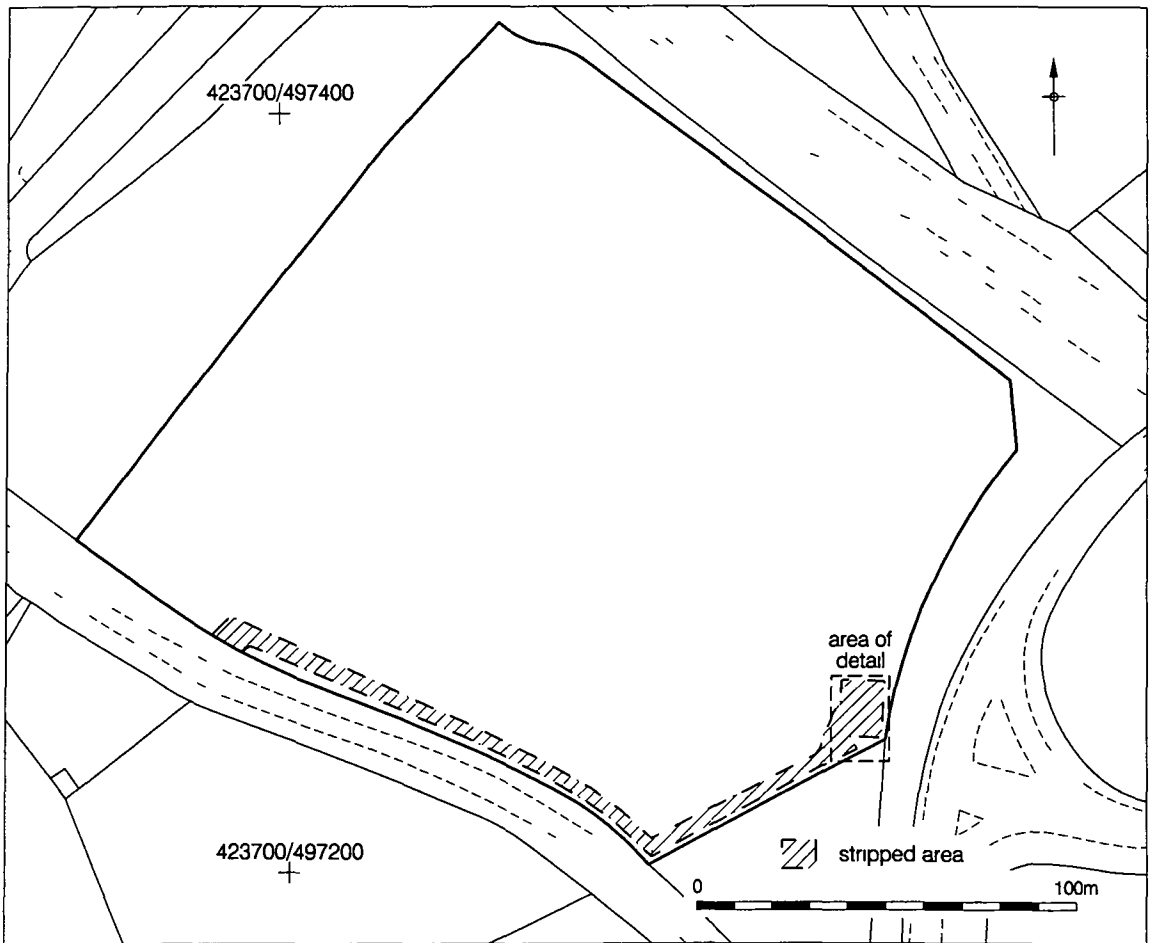
- to locate, sample, record and interpret any archaeological deposits exposed during development;
- to locate, recover, identify and conserve (as appropriate) any archaeological artefacts exposed during development;
- to prepare a report summarising the results of the work;
- to prepare and submit a suitable archive to an appropriate museum.

## 4 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

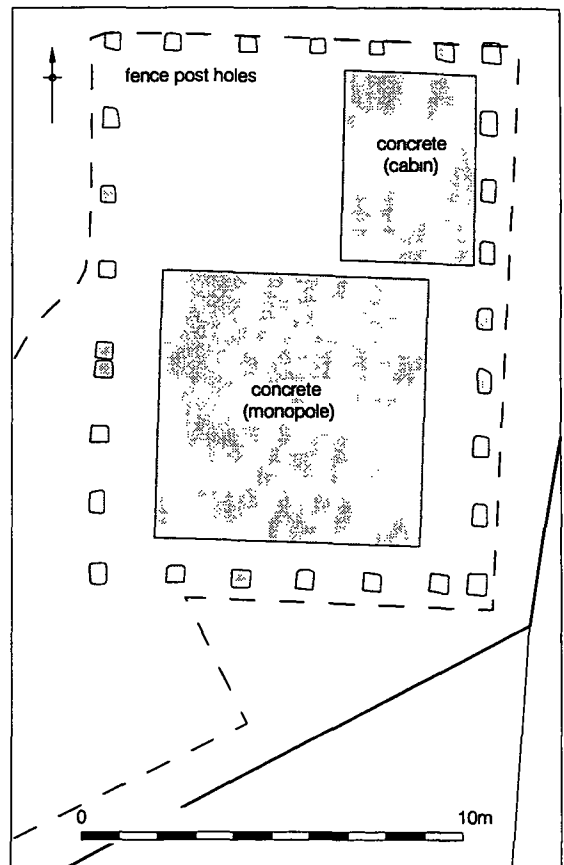
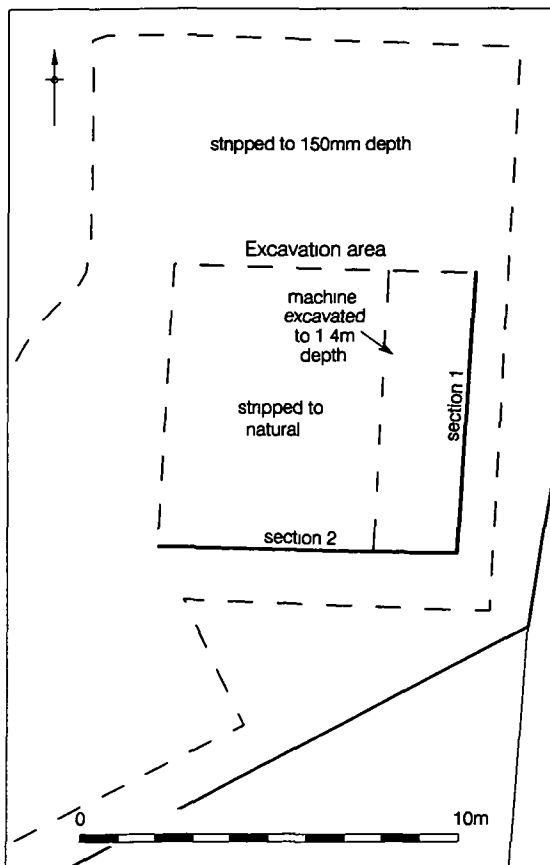
- 4 1 On Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup> 2000 a back acting mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide ditching bucket was used to strip turf and topsoil to a depth of c 150mm across the area of the development compound which measured c 14m x 10m. This work was monitored by the author.
- 4 2 No archaeological remains were encountered at the exposed surface which was partway through topsoil across the entire area of the compound.
- 4 3 The mechanical excavator was then used to remove the remainder of the topsoil within a 6m x 6m trench at the southern side of the compound. This trench was to be the location of the concrete base for the monopole. The trench was to be finally excavated to a depth of 1.20m although machining was halted at a depth of c 0.40m at which point the natural sub stratum was reached when it became apparent that archaeological remains of significance had been discovered.
- 4 4 On Thursday June 22<sup>nd</sup> a team of two archaeologists from PCA cleaned the exposed surface within foundation trench in order to assess the archaeological remains. On that and the following day the archaeological remains were subject to a programme of archaeological excavation, sampling and recording in accordance with the Brief included within the County Heritage Unit's WSI.
- 4 5 On Thursday June 22<sup>nd</sup> the investigations were visited by Ian Panter, the English Heritage Advisor for Archaeological Science with responsibility for Yorkshire. Mr Panter had been advised by the archaeological team that an inhumation burial of Roman or Anglian date had been discovered and he was able to offer advice on the lifting of the remains. A Licence for the Removal of Human Remains issued under Section 25 of the Burial Act 1957 was obtained from the Coroner's Section of the Home Office on June 22<sup>nd</sup> (licence no. A2716).
- 4 6 While the excavations were being undertaken, turf and topsoil were stripped to a depth of c 150mm from an area to be occupied by an access road within the southern and part of the western perimeter of the field. The archaeological team monitored the work. No remains of significance were encountered at the exposed surface which lay partway down the topsoil horizon.
- 4 7 On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2000 a series of postholes were excavated by a back acting mechanical excavator to a depth of c 500mm around the perimeter of the compound. The author monitored this work. No remains of significance were encountered in any of the postholes, each of which measured 700mm x 500mm.
- 4 8 This report sets out the findings of the archaeological investigations at Cowstand Farm. It includes a post excavation assessment of the stratigraphic, artefactual and palaeoenvironmental data recovered in accordance with the guidelines of English Heritage as set out in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition) <sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> English Heritage 1991



1 2000



1 200

Figure 2  
Area of Investigation

## 5 PHASED SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 5 1 Natural Sub stratum

5 1 1 Natural sub stratum [10] was exposed across the full extent of the area to be occupied by the concrete foundation. The sub stratum consisted of compact mid brown sand and gravel encountered at a maximum height of 58.63m OD in the south western corner of the excavation area.

### 5 2 Phase I (Fig 3)

5 2 1 An irregular hollow [19] recorded against the western limit of excavation was interpreted as being the earliest feature to be recorded. It measured 1.24m N S x 0.75m E W and had a maximum depth of 0.34m. The general irregularity of the feature indicates that that it may have been a tree roothole rather than a pit of anthropogenic origin. The silty sand fill [18] of the feature interleaved with the underlying natural at many places as the feature was excavated. No cultural material was recovered from the feature.

### 5 3 Phase II (Fig 4)

5 3 1 Cutting through probable tree roothole [19] was a linear gully/ditch [6]. The feature had evidently been heavily truncated horizontally so that it was only 0.60m wide and less than 100mm deep along the exposed length. To the west it met the limit of excavation and from there extended 3.20m to the east whereupon it appeared to terminate in a rounded butt end. Close to the western limit of excavation what appeared at first to have been an interruption in the feature may simply have been a result of horizontal truncation. The linear feature was filled with a generally loose silty sand deposit [5] which had few inclusions. Its base was recorded at a minimum depth of 58.24m OD against the western limit of excavation.

5 3 2 Less than 1m to the east of the previously described feature was the terminal of another linear ditch [8]. This ditch was recorded in plan extending for c 2.3m to the east of its terminal. It was 0.9m wide up to 0.3m deep and filled with a mid brown silty sand [7] from which two sherds of first third century Roman pottery were recovered. What is interpreted as the same feature was recorded as ditch [16] in the easternmost section of the excavation area (Fig 6). Although truncated to the south by a later ditch [14] the section demonstrated that ditch [16] was originally at least 0.40m deep with its base at 58.19m OD. It is assumed that ditches [6] and [8]/[16] were open contemporaneously and that their terminals would have formed a narrow entranceway within the ditch defined boundary.

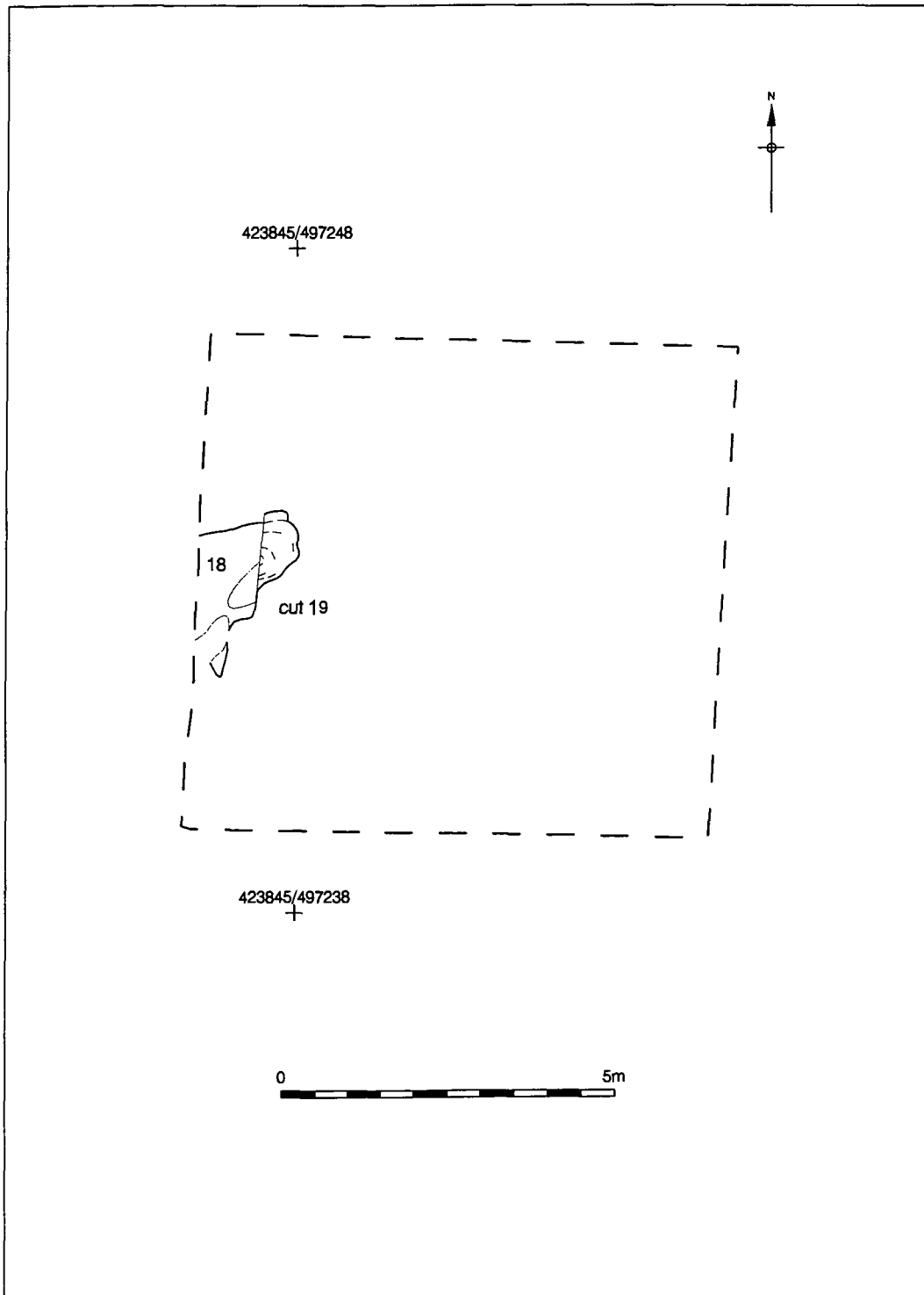
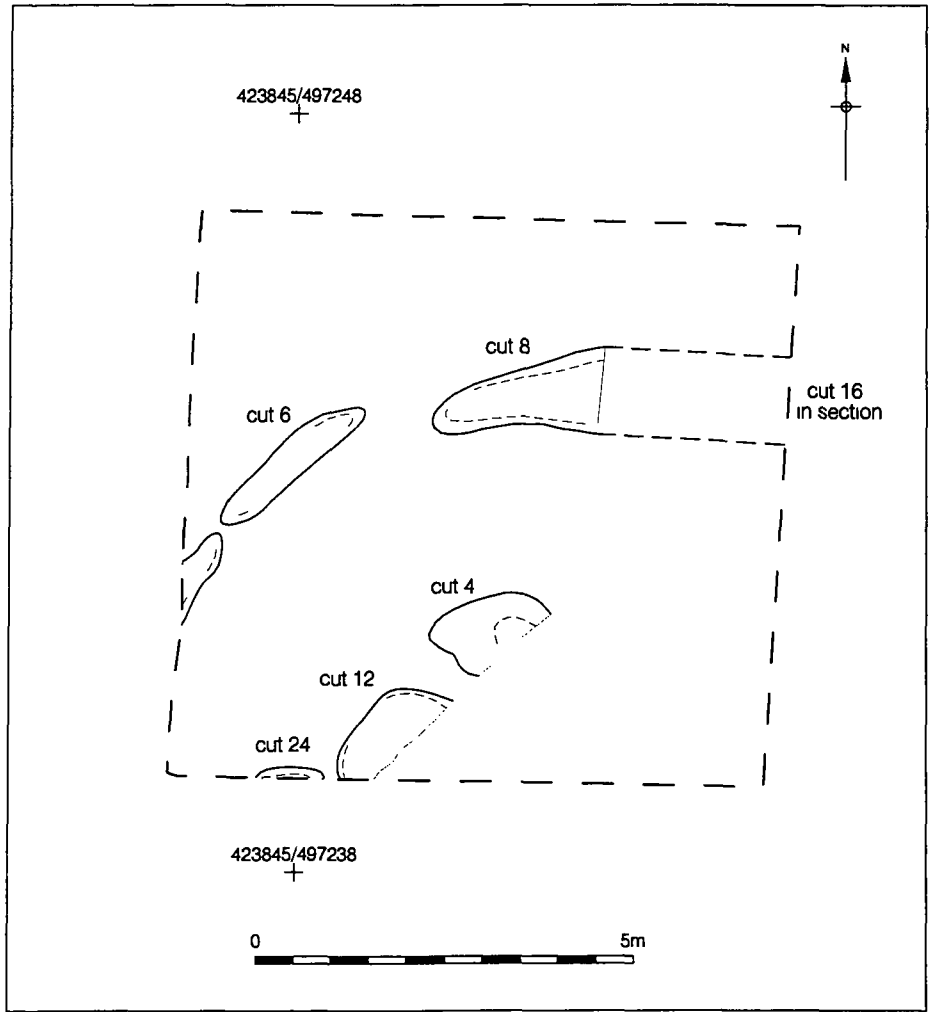
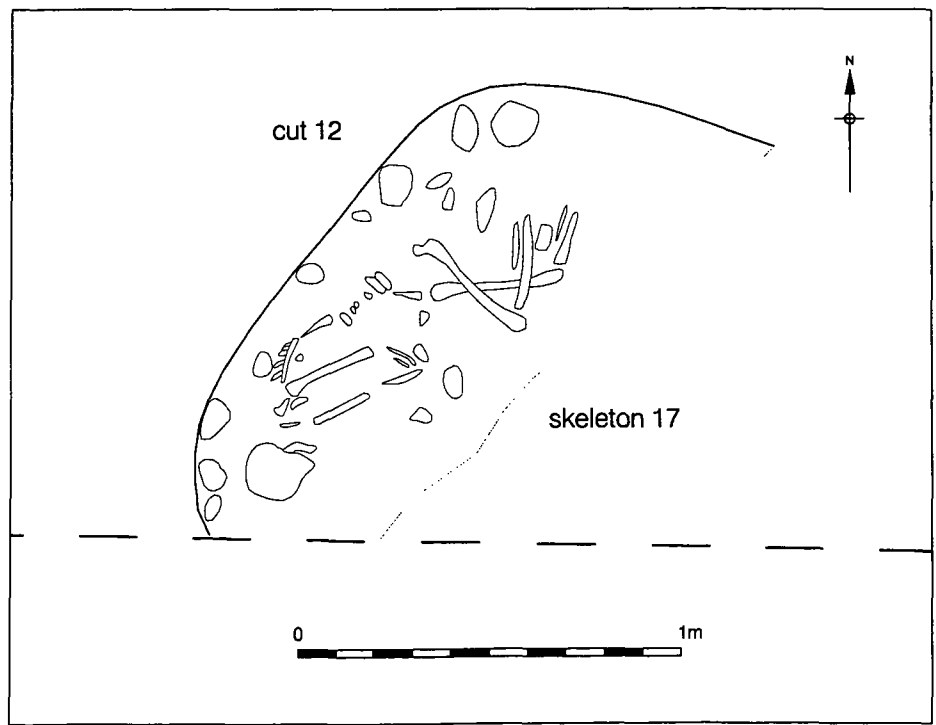


Figure 3  
Phase I  
1 100



1 100



1 20



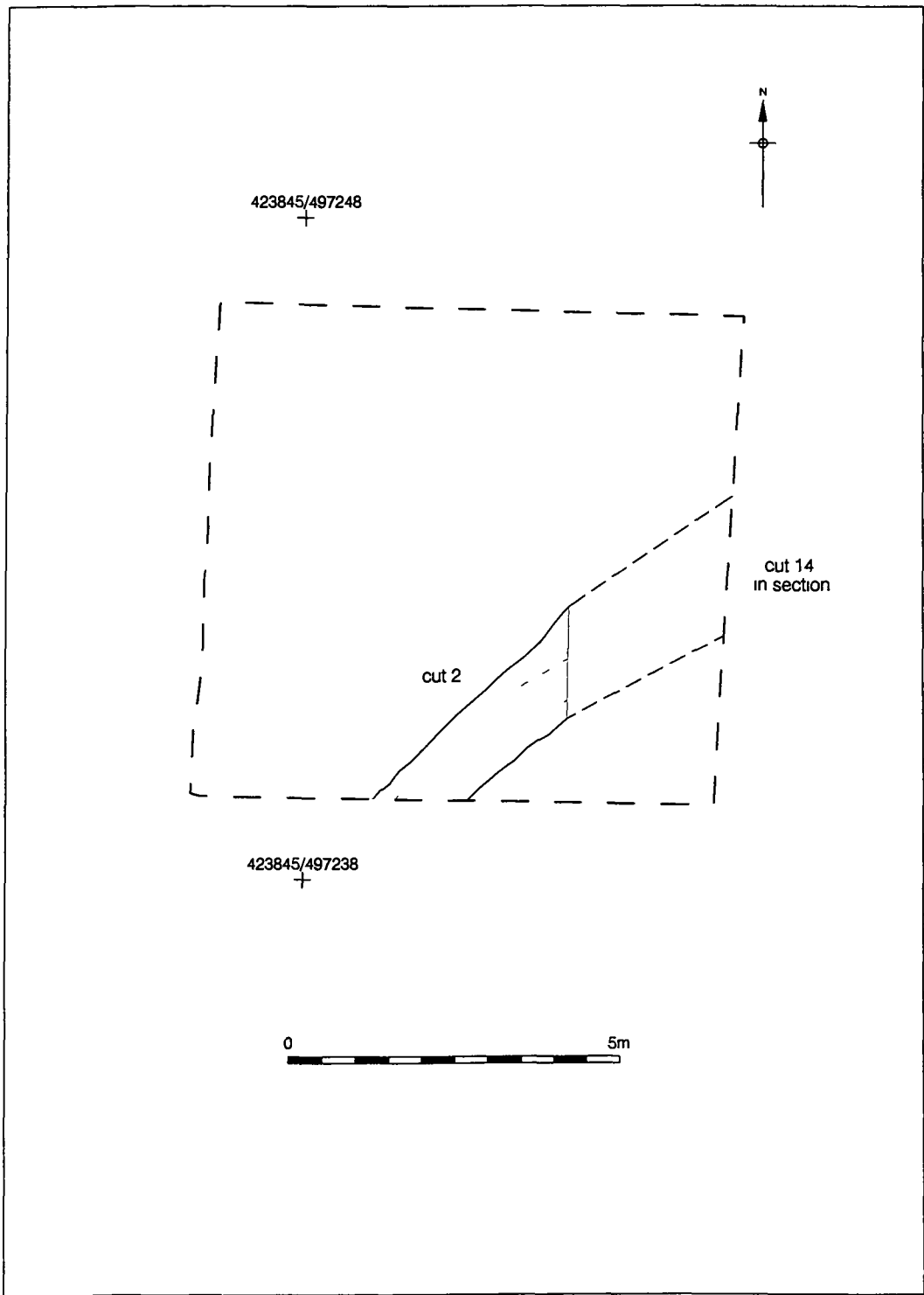


Figure 5  
Phase III  
1 100

- 5 3 3 A group of three features recorded adjacent to the southern limit of excavation are interpreted as representing part of a cemetery of probable second century A D date Only one of the features however was definitely a grave This was an E W orientated grave cut [12] in which a crouched inhumation [17] was exposed The grave was at least 1 50m in length and at least 0 60m wide although none of its southern side survived having been truncated by a later ditch [2] The grave survived to a maximum depth of 0 20m with its base at 58 16m OD The poorly preserved skeleton was positioned lying on its right side with its head to the west No grave goods were recovered although a single sherd of Roman pottery of first third century date was recovered from the grave fill [11] which was a generally unremarkable mid to dark brown sandy silty deposit Two short lines of iron hobnails at the eastern end of the grave cut indicated that the individual was buried with its footwear
- 5 3 4 Less than 0 5m to the east of grave [12] and like that feature truncated to the south by ditch [2] was an irregularly shaped hollow [4] This may have been the grave of a neonate or young child although no human bone survived within the feature The putative grave was 1 60m in length and its truncated north south dimension was 0 94m The feature which survived to a depth of up to 0 30m with its rounded base at 58 21m OD was filled with a reddish brown silty deposit [3] from which a tinned bronze spoon of first third century date was recovered
- 5 3 5 Less than 0 20m to the west of grave [12] part of a feature [24] which may have been another grave was exposed adjacent to the southern limit of excavation Its shape in plan orientation full depth and dimensions were not determined although it was at least 1 20m wide and 0 15m deep It was filled with a greyish brown silty deposit [23] from which no cultural material was recovered
- 5 3 6 Although dating evidence from the grave group was not abundant a reasonable assemblage was recovered from ditch [2] which cut through two of the features and is described below in Phase III A late second century A D date for the infilling of that feature implies that the Phase II features date from the late first to mid second century

#### 5 4 Phase III (Fig 5)

- 5 4 1 A substantial linear E W orientated boundary ditch [2] was recorded in plan running obliquely into the southern limit of the excavation area A 3m length of the feature was excavated and what is interpreted as being the same feature appeared in section further to the east as ditch [14] where it was 2 10m wide and at least 0 55m deep (Fig 6) The ditch generally had concave sides and a flatfish base which sloped down slightly to the east to a minimum depth of 57 98m OD at the eastern limit of the area It was filled with a brownish grey clayey silt deposit [1]/[13] which yielded a good assemblage of Roman pottery some animal bone and a small quantity of ironworking debris
- 5 4 2 Ditch [2] truncated grave [12] and probable grave [4] having been cut following disuse of the cemetery area The dating evidence provided by the pottery assemblage suggests that the ditch infilled during the final decades of the second century A D A reasonable interpretation is that it was probably a field or property boundary associated with the known Roman roadside settlement to the east

## 5 5 Phase IV

- 5 5 1 The majority of the profile of a feature [22] was recorded in the west facing section of the excavation area (Fig 7). This appeared to be a linear E-W orientated ditch with a stepped northern side and a V-shaped profile in its lower portion. The feature was at least 2.10m wide and 0.60m deep at 57.98m OD and extended to the west for c. 7m. The feature's primary fill [21] was a greyish-brown sandy deposit [21] up to 0.35m thick from which no cultural material was recovered. Its upper fill [20] was a brownish-grey silty deposit up to 0.30m thick which likewise yielded no cultural material. The feature met the southern limit of excavation at such an oblique angle that only its upper fill appeared in section for several metres, some of it overlying the fill of Phase III ditch [2]. It is suggested that ditch [22] was cut, possibly during the late Roman or Anglian period, in order to delineate a new field or property boundary.

## 5 6 Phase V

- 5 6 1 The remains of a layer of modern topsoil [9] was recorded across the entire excavation area. It consisted of friable mid-brown sandy silt with frequent pebbles throughout. The deposit had an average thickness of c. 250mm thick in the sections of the foundation trench, although an additional thickness of c. 100mm, including an overlying turf, had initially been stripped across the whole area of the base station compound.

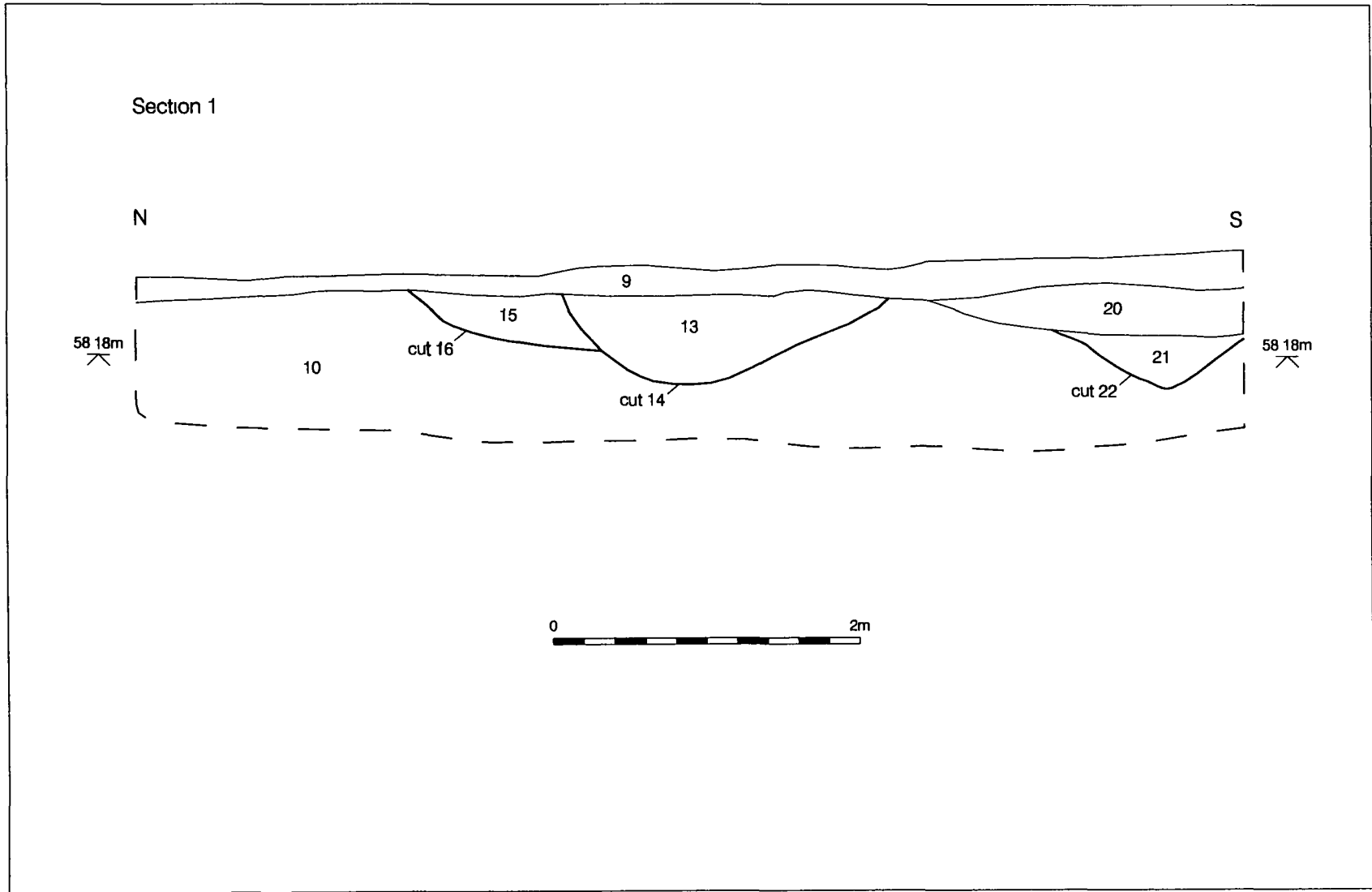


Figure 6  
Section 1  
1 40

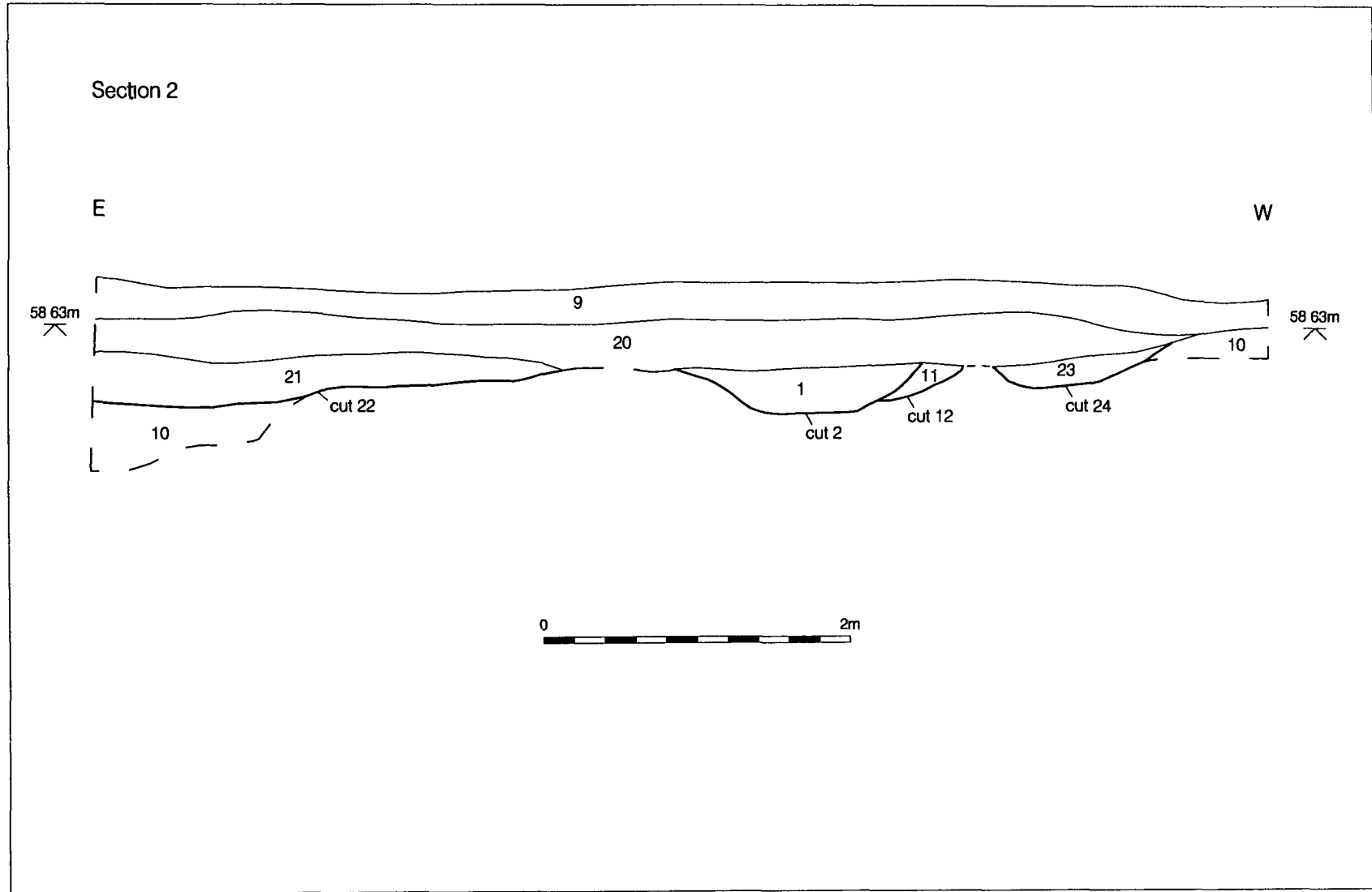


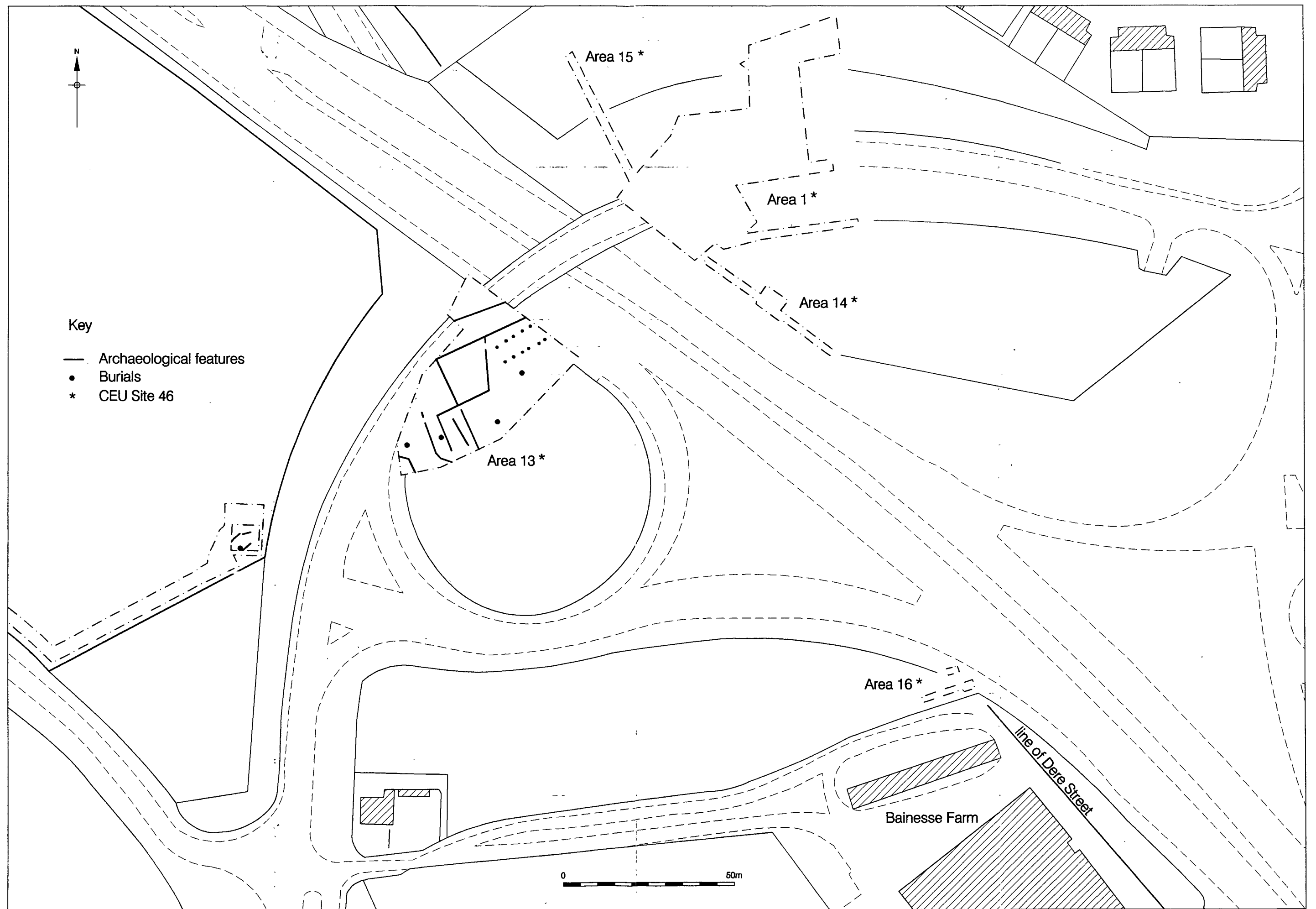
Figure 7  
Section 2  
1 40

## 6 DISCUSSION

- 6 1 The site at Cowstand Farm provided further information about the extensive Romano British roadside settlement which has been previously investigated during extensive excavations in the vicinity of Baines Farm which lies some 200m to the south west. Romano British occupation has been demonstrated from c AD 80 in the vicinity of Baines Farm and the Roman Dere Street road lies as close as c 120m to the north east of the Cowstand Farm site. Although essentially keyhole in nature the investigations herein described recorded multi phase activity during the Roman period and in broad terms these findings highlight the richness of the archaeological resource even on the periphery of the roadside settlement area.
- 6 2 Cemetery activity exposed in the southern part of the excavation area has been interpreted as being of probable second century date. A grave of a young adult of indeterminate sex was recorded along with a possible neonate or young infant burial and part of another possible grave. A tinned bronze round bowled spoon recovered from the putative neonate burial may have been a baptismal spoon.
- 6 3 Two burials of uncertain date recorded in the southern part of Area 13 at CEU Site 46 represent the closest cemetery activity to the site lying c 60-80m to the north east of the Cowstand farm inhumation (Fig 8). One of these graves (2520) was Roman or later and contained the well preserved skeleton of a male aged 45 years or more aligned W-E. The other grave (2567) which was essentially unphased was aligned N-S and was lined with limestone blocks and floored with irregular flat slabs. It contained the poorly preserved skeleton of a female aged 25-30. Two other features in Area 13 (2507 and 2562) were thought to be probable graves although no human skeletal remains were recovered. The excavator noted that soil conditions were variable across the site and that burials cut into the sub-soil survived less well than Anglian burials to the east of Dere Street which had been cut into Roman building remains.<sup>10</sup> With this in mind it seems likely that the two putative graves at Cowstand Farm had originally contained the bodies of neonates or young children the bones of which commonly survive to a far lesser extent than older individuals since the processes of ossification are far from complete.
- 6 4 Disuse of the cemetery at Cowstand Farm was succeeded by the establishment of a major NE-SW orientated field or property boundary which is thought to have infilled during the final decades of the second century. The feature is likely to have been part of the same field system recorded within Area 13 of CEU Site 46 (Fig 8). Cultural material recovered from the fill of the ditch at Cowstand Farm was generally typical of the type of settlement related debris one might find at such a location. The pottery was predominantly common coarseware types and the faunal remains were indicative of low status food debris. The presence of slag demonstrates that ironworking was being undertaken in the vicinity of the site a not unusual occurrence at Roman roadside locations. In Area 13 of CEU Site 46 the earliest Roman occupation was in fact characterised by evidence of small scale metal working. The subsequent phase of activity at that site was notable for a roadside strip building the characteristic artisan dwelling in the Romano British population.

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<sup>10</sup> Wilson *et al* 1996



6 5 Another substantial field or property boundary ditch was cut in the southern part of the excavation area at Cowstand Farm probably during the late Roman or Anglian periods. Dating evidence was not recovered to confirm the date of this phase of activity although occupation through to the end of the third century has been demonstrated at Baines Farm and further east a fourth century building was discovered in 1939 <sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Hildyard 1955



***Part B DATA ASSESSMENT.***

## 7 STRATIGRAPHIC DATA

### 7.1 Paper Records

7.1.1 The contents of the paper archive are set out in the following table

Item	No	Sheets
Context register	1	1
Context sheets	24	24
Section register	1	1
Section drawings	2	6
Plans	4	10
Environmental sample register	1	1
Environmental sample sheets	2	2
Small finds register	1	1

### 7.2 Photographic Records

7.2.1 The contents of the photographic archive are set out in the following table

Item	No	Sheets
Colour slide register	1	1
Colour slides	35	2

### 7.3 Project Archive

7.3.1 The complete project archive including the paper and photographic records is currently housed at the Northern Office of Pre Construct Archaeology Limited. The archive will be deposited either with the Richmondshire Museum, Ryder's Wynd, Richmond, North Yorkshire or with the Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York for permanent storage. Archive deposition will be undertaken with reference to the North Yorkshire County Council document *Guidelines on the Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*. The detailed requirements of the repository will also be met prior to deposition.

7.3.2 Some elements of the field archive are to be discarded as described below in Section 14.2. The human skeletal remains will be reburied at an appropriate time and place. In the meantime they will be housed with the project archive.

## 8 ROMAN POTTERY (By Jerry Evans)

### 8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Some 62 sherds were recovered from the investigations these being from three stratified contexts and unstratified deposits. All were of Roman date although typical later Roman material was entirely absent from the assemblage. Given the general lack of first century and later third fourth century activity at Baines Farm<sup>12</sup> and the internal evidence of this assemblage it seems quite probable that all the material recovered during the investigations at Cowstand Farm was deposited in the second century.

### 8.2 Catalogue

Context	Description	Weight	Date
1	Oxidised mortarium base white slipped with white quartz inclusions	115g	Later 1 <sup>st</sup> mid 2 <sup>nd</sup> c
1	Oxidised ring necked flagon neck sherd		1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> c
1	Oxidised beaded bowl rim a Dr 37 copy	22g	Later 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> c
1	Two whiteware bodysherds and a whiteware closed form base sherd	36g	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> c
1	BB1 simple rimmed dish with intersecting arc decoration	15g	c A D 180+ <sup>13</sup>
1	Three greyware bodysherds with acute lattice decoration	63g	Hadrianic Antonine
1	Eleven greyware bodysherds	180g	
1	Six greyware simple jar base sherds from four vessels	230g	
1	Greyware lid with a simple swelling rim	97g	
1	Samian bodysherds from Dr 33 CGS bodysherd from Dr 33 CGS rim chip from indet CGS	7g	A D 140 180 A D 140 200 A D 140 200
1	Sixteen handmade gntty bodysherds with black core orange margins and brown black surfaces with translucent quartz temper	130g	
1	Two joining simple base sherds in the same fabric	17g	
1	Two joining rimsherds in the same fabric from a barrel jar perhaps an Iron age tradition form. The fabric perhaps relates to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> century Cattenack gntted wares	15g	Perhaps 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> c

<sup>12</sup> Bell and Evans forthcoming

<sup>13</sup> Gillam 1976

7	Two joining sherds probably Dressel 20 bodysherds	22g	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> c
11	Fine greyware base sherd from a closed form with common very fine sand temper	2g	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> c
Unstrat	Three oxidised bodysherds		
Unstrat	BB1 bodysherd		
Unstrat	BB1 flange rimmed dish/bowl		Hadnatic early 3 <sup>rd</sup> c
Unstrat	Greyware Dr 37 copy bowl rim		Later 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> c
Unstrat	Gntted ware base fragment		
Unstrat	Samian base fragment form indet CGS very micaceous		2 <sup>nd</sup> c rather than 1 <sup>st</sup> c

### 8 3 Discussion and Recommendations

8 3 1 The assemblage is too small to have any potential to inform about subjects such as pottery supply to the area and its only purpose can be to provide dating evidence for the features investigated. However, only context [1] can be closely dated. The coarse pottery included would suggest that the ditch fill continued to accumulate into the last decades of the second century. The samian would tend to suggest an Antonine date range consistent with the better coarse pottery dating evidence.

8 3 2 None of the material warrants illustration.

8 3 3 The complete assemblage should be housed with the project archive.

## 9 METALWORK

### 9 1 X radiography materials analysis and conservation (By ASUD)

#### 9 1 1 Quantification

One copper alloy object (CFC 00 Δ1) and a bag of tiny iron objects were received for X radiography with further conservation work required on the copper alloy object. One X ray plate was used.

#### 9 1 2 Ironwork CFC 00 [17] 2Δ

The X ray shows the objects to be iron hobnails. They are highly corroded but stable. For long term storage they should be placed in an airtight container with active silica gel.

#### 9 1 3 Copper alloy CFC 00 [3] 1Δ

The X ray confirms the object to be a spoon with a shallow round bowl.

After X radiography the surface of the metalwork was examined using x16 microscopy. The copper alloy is plated with a white metal which was analysed using Energy Dispersive X ray Fluorescence (EDXRF) and found to be tin. The alloy of the spoon itself is a leaded bronze. It is likely that the white metal was originally plated over the whole object but is now rather disrupted over the spoon handle. The plating is more intact over the bowl but scattered with small warts of copper corrosion products.

The spoon is undecorated apart from a raised ridge running around the inside of the bowl about 4mm below the rim. The spoon handle is now incomplete and appears to have been attached to the bowl later. Fine circular polishing marks can be seen using microscopy around the inside of the spoon bowl.

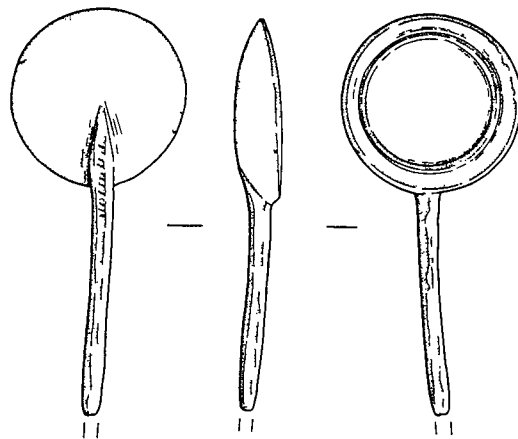
The soil and loose corrosion were removed from the surface of the spoon using handtools and water applied with cotton wool swabs. The cleaned spoon was stabilised using 3% Benzotriazole in industrial methylated spirit (IMS). It was then coated with Inralac in toluene.

The object was repacked in a small rigid polystyrene box. It should be stored in a stable environment with no large fluctuations in temperature or relative humidity, ideally in an airtight polythene box with active silica gel.

### 9 2 Discussion and Recommendations

#### 9 2 1 The Spoon (By David Sherlock)

The spoon from Cowstand Farm is a common type with a wide distribution in Roman Britain and beyond. It has a small circular bowl and the type is commonly known as a *cochlear*. The type is usually either in silver, bronze or, as in this example, tinned bronze. Tinning was probably done in imitation of silver.



Scale 1 1

The standard typology of Roman spoons is still that formulated by Strong <sup>14</sup> This type is dated to the second and third centuries A D which broadly agrees with the pottery dating evidence from Cowstand Farm

By way of parallels the Backworth hoard Northumberland <sup>15</sup> yielded a similar example and rather further afield a silver example dated to the late second century was recovered from Eccles villa Kent <sup>16</sup> Another example also comes from Cattenck <sup>17</sup> on which the handle is complete giving a total length of at least 8.4cm for the Cowstand Farm spoon

The spoon should be published. A line drawing and description should form part of a short article on the investigations to be submitted to the Yorkshire Archaeological Society's Roman Antiquities Section *Bulletin*

The spoon should be housed with the project archive along with its X ray

#### 9.2.2 *The Iron Hobnails (By Robin Taylor Wilson)*

A total of 24 iron hobnails or hobnail fragments was recovered either by hand collection during the excavation of skeleton [17] or otherwise from a sample of the grave fill taken in the vicinity of the feet with the purpose of recovering other hobnails

All the hobnails were highly corroded. All had a square or rectangular sectioned shank and an oval head. The maximum length amongst the group was 20mm. The head diameter was typically 8.9mm and the shank thickness was typically 2mm.

The hobnails do not merit further analysis or publication.

The collection of nails should be housed with the project archive along with the relevant X ray

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<sup>14</sup> Strong 1966

<sup>15</sup> *British Museum Catalogue of Silver Plate* 1921 48

<sup>16</sup> *Antiquaries Journal* 1969 395

<sup>17</sup> Wilson forthcoming

## 10 FAUNAL REMAINS (By ASUD)

### 10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 A few animal bones were recovered during hand excavation of Roman ditch [2] from its fill [1]. The material is in moderate condition and has suffered substantial damage during lifting. A catalogue of the bones present follows.

### 10.2 Catalogue

Context	Species	Element	Comments
[1]	Cow	jaw	L Grant (1982) P4f M1l M2k M3j
	Cow	jaw	R Grant (1982) P4f M1l M2k M3g
	Cow	aph	pf rodent nibbled
	Cow	rad/uln	chopped
	Cow	ast	poor condition
	Cow size	vc	cnan
	Cow size	nb & vert	small frags
	Horse	tooth	upper molar
	Sheep/goat	mt	shaft frag no zones
	Sheep/goat	tooth	UM2k
	Pig	tooth	lower incisor frag
	Pig	mc3	dn

### 10.3 Discussion

10.3.1 The majority of the fragments are from cattle or cattle-sized bones. Two cattle mandibles are the largest items present. These appear to be a pair and may have been deposited in articulation. The full adult dentition is present with wear stages indicative of survival beyond maturity. One cattle toe bone has small rodent gnawing marks on the distal end, although preservation is not good enough to determine the species responsible. A fused radius and ulna shaft has a clear chop mark still apparent. Further evidence of gnawing or butchery has been obscured by modern damage. One cervical vertebra with unfused epiphyses is present, representing a younger animal than the mandibles. Further fragments of nb and vertebra are present but are too fragmented to determine how many elements are represented.

10.3.2 The other species present are horse, sheep/goat and pig. Horse is indicated by one maxillary tooth, sheep by one maxillary tooth and a long bone shaft fragment, and pig by a broken mandibular tooth fragment and a foot bone.

10.3.3 The composition of this small assemblage may have been affected by the recovery techniques used, as well as survival factors in the burial environment. The assemblage appears to reflect a small dump of low status food detritus.



#### 10 4 Recommendations

10 4 1 Further detailed study of this small group is not warranted. The information recorded should however be made available for future addition to the faunal data from Cattenck synthesised by Stallibrass<sup>18</sup>

10 4 2 The assemblage can be discarded

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<sup>18</sup> Stallibrass 1997

## 11 PLANT MACROFOSSILS (By ASUD)

### 11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 One bulk soil sample was collected during the investigations for its potential to provide palaeoenvironmental and economic information. The material was recovered from context [1] (sample number 1) the fill of ditch [2].

### 11.2 Methodology

11.2.1 The sample was manually floated and sieved through a 500µm mesh sieve. Its residue and flot were retained and the matrix and contents described. The flot was then scanned at up to x40 magnification for charred and waterlogged plant macrofossils. Identification of macrofossils was confirmed by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services, University of Durham. The abundance of each waterlogged species was noted on a scale of 1 (rare) to 5 (abundant). Total counts of charred species were logged.

### 11.3 Results

11.3.1 The results are summarised in the following table.

Context No /Sample	Volume processed (ml)	Volume of flot (ml)
1/1	10 000	75

11.3.2 Assessment of the sample residue revealed the presence of mammal bone, both burnt and unburnt, and pottery fragments. The flot matrix was composed of, in descending abundance:

- coarse sand
- mammal bone
- silt
- charcoal
- modern roots

11.3.3 Charred botanical remains included one hulled barley grain, one wheat grain, and two hazelnut fragments. The waterlogged seeds included, with abundance, orache (1) and black bindweed (1).

#### 11 4 Discussion

11 4 1 The hulled barley and wheat grains represent common crops for the Romano British period <sup>19</sup>  
The two waterlogged species in the flot are both weeds or ruderals / e found in areas of arable activity or disturbed ground The low number of charred and waterlogged botanical remains hinders the amount of significant information that the context can produce In addition the presence of only durable waterlogged seeds indicates differential preservation in poor conditions which produces a biased sample The poor preservation conditions may also have limited the quantity of charred material within the sample

#### 11 5 Conclusions and Recommendations

11 5 1 Overall the low numbers of both charred and waterlogged grain from the sample suggest that the preservation conditions were not suitable for most botanical remains and that the ditch was not the recipient of domestic waste The context therefore has little potential to produce agricultural or environmental data and further work is not recommended

11 5 2 The sample flot and residue can be discarded

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<sup>19</sup> Huntley and Stallibrass 1995

## **12 HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS (BY ASUD)**

### **12 1 Introduction**

12 1 1 The human skeletal remains consist of the single articulated humerus of an immature individual (context [17]) (Plate 1) and several unidentifiable fragments of bone from another individual (context [3]). No information has been gained from analysis of context [3]. Therefore the observations of this report have been limited to skeleton [17]. The skeletal material was examined in order to discern age, sex, stature and the presence of any pathological abnormalities. A catalogue of the bones present has been compiled (see below).

### **12 2 Methodology**

#### **12 2 1 Sexing**

The sexing of skeletally mature individuals may be based upon a variety of diagnostic criteria of the pelvis and skull<sup>20</sup> together with a consideration of metrical data and observations regarding general robusticity. Ascertaining the sex of skeletally immature individuals, as in the case of skeleton [17] from Cowstand Farm, is however potentially problematic due to the less pronounced sexual dimorphism and the overlap in metrical features prior to the completion of growth.

#### **12 2 2 Ageing**

The wide variety of developmental stages occurring during the growth period means that skeletally immature individuals can be aged with much more confidence and precision than adult skeletal remains, despite generally poorer preservation and recovery of immature bones. The following methods have been used to estimate the age at death of skeleton [17]: dental development and eruption<sup>21</sup>, skeletal maturity indicators and epiphyseal union<sup>22</sup>. Details of the ages obtained from each technique are presented below.

#### **12 2 3 Stature**

Although a number of authors have derived formulae to enable the estimation of stature from long bones<sup>23</sup>, these do not apply to skeletally immature individuals. Had skeleton [17] been fully mature, however, the poor state of preservation would have precluded any attempts to estimate stature.

#### **12 2 4 Pathology**

The individual was examined for evidence of degenerative and infectious diseases, metabolic and endocrine disorders, nutritional deficiency, trauma and neoplastic disease. The dentition was also examined for the presence of pathological lesions or abnormalities.

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<sup>20</sup> Krogman and Iscan 1986

<sup>21</sup> Moorrees *et al.* 1963, Ubelaker 1989

<sup>23</sup> Schwartz 1995

<sup>22</sup> e.g. Trotter and Gleser 1952

12 3 Catalogue

12 3 1 Cranial

Fragment of right temporal in the region of the mandibular fossa and zygomatic arch. An anterior central fragment of the frontal bone exhibiting a retained metopic suture. Several small fragments of the sphenoid were also present along with unidentified fragments of the cranial vault containing no diagnostic features. Fragments of the maxilla and mandible are present although these are broken and damaged.

12 3 2 Dentition

Max	R	U	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		1	2	3	4	5	6			L
Mand	R	U	7	6	5	4	3	2	1		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	U	L

= jaw not present U= unerupted

12 3 3 Post Cranial

Upper limbs

*Left* Humerus is present but fragmentary the proximal end is unfused. Glenoid and coracoid process of the scapula are present unfused.

*Right* The shaft of the right humerus along with the unfused humeral head and a shaft fragment of either the radius or ulna are present. No carpals or bones of the hands have been preserved. Scapula fragment is present glenoid unfused.

*Unsided* Fragment of clavicle

Lower limbs

*Right* Proximal femur (head and greater trochanter unfused) unfused femoral head fragment and unfused condyle fragment of distal epiphysis. Proximal tibia fragment and unfused proximal epiphysis fragment. Shaft fragment of right fibula.

*Left* Femur is fragmented but almost complete both the proximal and distal epiphyses are present (lesser trochanter unfused). Only part of the unfused proximal tibia remains and the patella is present. Bones of the left foot that are present include fragments of the talus naviculum intermediate cuneiform and lateral cuneiform. Eight other unidentifiable fragments of the feet are present but no metatarsals or phalanges.

Axial Skeleton

*Innominate* Fragment of left ilia fragment of right ischium. Three other unidentified fragments too heavily damaged and abraded.

*Vertebrae* fragments of 3 lumbar vertebrae vertebral arches of 6 thoracic vertebrae abraded bodies of 2 unidentified vertebrae and 1 sacral vertebra.

*Ribs* 8 unisided nb shaft fragments and fragments of 1 right and 1 left nb

## 12 3 Results

### 12 3 1 Preservation

Poor The individual was less than 50% complete none of the hand and foot phalanges or metapodials had been preserved and many of the ribs and vertebrae had completely decayed Those remaining bones had undergone significant fragmentation as the result of both chemical and physical post depositional factors

### 12 3 2 Position and orientation

The individual had been placed on its right side in a south west/north east orientation (head to south west) both legs were flexed and the arms bent so that the hands would have rested next to the head (Plate 1)

### 12 3 3 Sex

Unknown Ascertaining the sex of skeletally immature individuals as in the case of skeleton [17] is potentially problematic due to the less pronounced sexual dimorphism and the overlap in metrical features prior to the completion of growth These difficulties were compounded by the incomplete and fragmentary condition of the remains and it was not therefore possible to sex the individual

### 12 3 4 Age

13 16 years It is evident from the non fusion of the epiphyses of the long bones that this skeleton is not yet fully mature

### 12 3 5 Pathology

No pathological conditions or abnormalities were noted in either the cranial (excluding the dentition) or postcranial bones The poor condition of the skeleton however meant that such observations were extremely limited It should also be noted that relatively few illnesses affect the bones and generally only do so if they are of a chronic (long term) nature

### 12 3 6 Dental Pathology

No carious lesions abscesses or calculus were present in this individual There was evidence of hypoplastic lines on both the anterior and posterior teeth Although evidence of hypoplasia can be observed on both the maxillary and mandibular teeth they are more pronounced on the former Enamel hypoplasia along with other dental enamel defects has a variety of causes including illness poor nutrition or a traumatic episode It is therefore not possible to speculate upon the reason for the condition in this individual other than to say that its presence is likely to indicate a period of some health stress Hypoplastic defects are not uncommon in archaeological populations

## 12 4 Conclusions and Recommendations

12 4 1 The poor condition of skeleton [17] severely limits the information that can be obtained from the remains The skeleton is that of an individual of unknown sex aged between 13 and 16 years of age The only evidence of pathology was the presence of hypoplastic lines on the majority of the teeth present indicating a period of some health stress

- 12 4 2 No further work is recommended as the remains have been subject to full analysis
- 12 4 3 The remains should be reburied without due care and consideration In the meantime the remains will be packed and stored in accordance with the guidelines set out in IFA Technical Paper 13<sup>24</sup>

## 13 IRON WORKING DEBRIS (By Lynne Keys)

### 13 1 Introduction

- 13 1 1 A small quantity (700g) of material identified as iron slag was recovered during the excavation at Cowstand Farm It was found in a substantial boundary ditch (context [2]) which was securely dated to the second century A D

### 13 2 Methodology

- 13 2 1 For assessment the slag was visually examined and categorised on the basis of morphology and colour Each category of slag was weighed and the smithing hearth bottoms were individually weighed and measured A magnet was used to test soil in the bag and on the slags for hammerscale

### 13 3 Quantification

Context	Feature	Slag ID	Weight	Length	Breadth	Depth	Comment
1	2	smithing hearth bottom	202	100	65	30	
1	2	smithing hearth bottom	402	100	60	50	some hammerscale flake on surface
1	2	vitrified hearth lining	74				slag adhering
1	2	undiagnostic	22				
1	2	hammerscale	0				some flake in soil very little

### 13 4 Provenance

- 13 4 1 The slag came from a boundary ditch (context [2]) It was probably earned there for discarding or was redeposited from another dumping spot closer to the forge

### 13 5 Conservation

- 13 5 1 Iron slag being fayalitic (an iron silicate) does not deteriorate and needs no special storage

<sup>24</sup> McKinley and Roberts 1993 7 8

### **13 6 Comparative Material**

13 6 1 Small amounts of iron smithing slag thrown into cut features after being cleared out of the forge are ubiquitous all over Britain. They form the most common assemblages of iron slag.

### **13 7 Recommendations**

13 7 1 There is no recommendation for further work since such a small amount of iron slag discarded in a boundary ditch merits no further attention. However, a mention of the presence of the slag should be included within any future short article on the investigations. The evidence of metal working activity in Area 13 at CEU Site 46 is probably of direct relevance to the findings here.

13 7 2 As the investigations were of a limited nature and there is no likelihood of further work at the site, there seems no reason to retain the material.



## 14 SUMMARY OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT DATA

### 14.1 Summary of Significance

14.1.1 The small size of the area of investigation at Cowstand Farm clearly limits the significance of the project data. Nevertheless, the findings are of interest principally because multiphase activity of Romano-British date was recorded here, albeit on the periphery of the roadside settlement area. The data therefore adds to our existing knowledge of the extent of the area brought into use by the inhabitants of the roadside settlement.

14.1.2 The significance of each element of the project data is summarised in the following table, which also lists a recommendation for the necessity of further analysis. In addition, an outline proposal of any further action required in each case is set out.

Data	Archaeological Significance	Further Analysis	Proposal
Stratigraphic	Moderate	No	1 Short summary of the findings should be prepared for publication 2 House material in project archive
Roman pottery	Low	No	House material in project archive
Metalwork Iron	Low	No	House objects and X ray in project archive
Metalwork Tinned bronze	Moderate High	No	1 Illustration to be included in published summary of the findings 2 House object and X ray in project archive
Faunal remains	Low	No	Discard material
Plant macrofossils	Low	No	Discard material (flots and residues)
Human remains	Moderate	No	The remains should be reburied
Iron working debris	Low	No	Discard material

### 14.2 Recommendations

14.2.1 It is recommended that a short summary of the findings at Cowstand Farm should be prepared for inclusion in the Yorkshire Archaeological Society's *Roman Antiquities Section Bulletin*. A line drawing of the tinned bronze spoon should be included within the article, as this is an artefact of note. In addition, a brief note upon the findings should be sent to *Britannia* for its annual Roman Britain round up of fieldwork.

14.2.2 A copy of this report is to be sent to Mr P. Wilson, who wishes to reference the work in his forthcoming CBA Research Report *Roman Catterick (Cataractonium): A Roman town and its hinterland. Excavation and Research 1958-1997*.

14.2.3 Following the discarding of those elements of the project archive that do not merit retention, the archive will be housed permanently either at Yorkshire Museum in York or at the Richmondshire Museum in Richmond. The human remains should be reburied at an appropriate location, with all due care and consideration.

## 15 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The graphics were produced by Cate Davies of PCA.

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