

**NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES LTD**  
**LAND AT 484 THORNABY ROAD, THORNABY-ON-TEES**  
**Negative Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**Site name:** Land at 484 Thornaby Road, Thornaby-on-Tees      **Grid reference:** NZ 4512 1644

**Parish:** Thornaby-on-Tees      **District:** Borough of Stockton-on-Tees

**County:** North Yorkshire

**Administrative authority:** Tees Archaeology      **Development:** Residential

**Client:** Crosswell Park Development Ltd

**Site supervisor:** Henry Atherden      **Project manager:** Matt Town

**Fieldwork Dates:** 03.12.19 – 04.12.19      **NAA project number:** 2035      **Site code:** TRT19

**NAA report number:** 2019/123      **Report date:** 05 December 2019

## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

1.1 The evaluation was undertaken in support of a planning application for a proposed residential development at 484 Thornaby Road, Thornaby-on-Tees. A Heritage Assessment (Speed 2019a) carried out on the site identified the potential for archaeological remains within the proposed development area (PDA). It highlighted that the greatest potential for remains would be of medieval domestic or agricultural activity, given that the PDA sits within the footprint of the medieval village of Thornaby (Historic Environment Register (HER) 0947). However, Roman and Early-Medieval period artefacts (HER 444; HER 1311) recovered from the vicinity of the PDA also raised the possibility of the presence of earlier remains. On this basis, a brief for the evaluation was prepared by Tees Archaeology (Daniels 2019), which stipulated the need for a single trial-trench running north to south across the PDA.

## **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing the scope of works of the evaluation was produced by NAA in late November 2019 (Speed 2019b) and approved by Tees Archaeology. The WSI proposed a single trial-trench measuring c.8m by c.1.5m located as close as possible to the location suggested in the brief.

- 2.2 The WSI allowed for some adjustment in the location of the trench in order to avoid any obstructions or services identified once work commenced. It was necessary to move the trench c.2.5m to the west of the proposed trench footprint due to the presence of extensive tree roots. Additionally, the length of the trench had to be reduced to c.6.9m due to the presence of stumps along the northern boundary of the PDA. The trench was excavated north to south across the PDA perpendicular to the external wall of the adjacent property at 486 Thornaby Road.
- 2.3 Under the direction of a supervising archaeologist, a back-acting mechanical excavator fitted with a ditching bucket removed overburden (vegetation, loose stones, rubble, modern building debris, topsoil and subsoil) down to natural sub-soil geological deposits.



*Plate 1: footprint of trial-trench within PDA after setting out, facing North.*

### 3.0 RESULTS

- 3.1 No significant archaeological deposits or features were identified within the trench. Natural geology (3) was encountered at between about 0.6m and 0.75m below ground level along the length of the trench. This deposit (3) was identified as representing superficial natural geology and comprised compact, mottled or mixed light-grey and



mid-reddish-brown clay with patches of light yellowish-brown sand and occasional inclusions of manganese deposits or iron panning.



*Plate 2: overview of stripped trench looking north; scales 2m and 0.5m.*

- 3.2 Natural geology (3) was sealed by subsoil (2) which was identified extending the total length of the trench. Subsoil (2) comprised compact, mid- to light-greyish brown, silt clay with occasional charcoal flecking, coal and daub inclusions. This deposit was not more than 0.36m thick or less than 0.22m thick. A sherd of pottery and a fragment of animal bone were recovered from this deposit both of which should be considered residual. After a brief examination, the sherd of pottery is thought to have been produced in the Roman period but is otherwise undiagnostic (pers. comm. Britton, C; Wadeson, S).

3.3 Subsoil (2) was truncated by animal burial (4) thought to represent a modern pet burial in the garden space adjacent to the house at 486 Thornaby Road. The cut of the animal burial (4) was observed in the east-facing section of the trench, at a maximum of 0.4m deep and 0.42m wide. The cut of the burial (4) was found to contain a single mixed deposit (5) consisting of a moderately compacted mixed light-brown clay and dark-grey loam thought to represent a recent backfill. Animal bones were observed in the base of the feature (4), which appeared articulated and therefore were thought to be the remains of a pet. The feature was sealed by topsoil (1).



*Plate 3: animal burial (4) cutting subsoil (3); scale shown 0.5m.*





*Plate 4: suspected pet burial within topsoil at southern end of trench.*

- 3.4 The topsoil (1) observed across the full extent of the trench comprised a very dark-grey loam and it had been subject to heavy rooting and overall disturbance. This modern garden topsoil (1) was not more than 0.4m thick or less than 0.3m thick and was found to contain 19th-century pottery and modern debris including glass and plastic rubbish. During machine excavation a second suspected pet burial was identified within the topsoil, but this is not considered significant.
- 3.5 No significant archaeological remains were identified in the trial-trench at 484 Thornaby Road, and the modern remains identified are considered characteristic of the recent land use as a garden space. The following plates form a sequence showing the full east-facing section of the trench, as a record of the negative results of this trial-trench evaluation.





*Plate 4: southernmost extent of trench, looking west, scales shown 2m and 0.5m.*



*Plate 5: central part of trench, looking west; scales shown 2m and 0.5m.*





*Plate 6: northernmost extent of trench, looking west, scales shown 2m and 0.5m.*

**Documentation:** pro-forma records, digital photographs

**Archive deposition:** internal at NAA

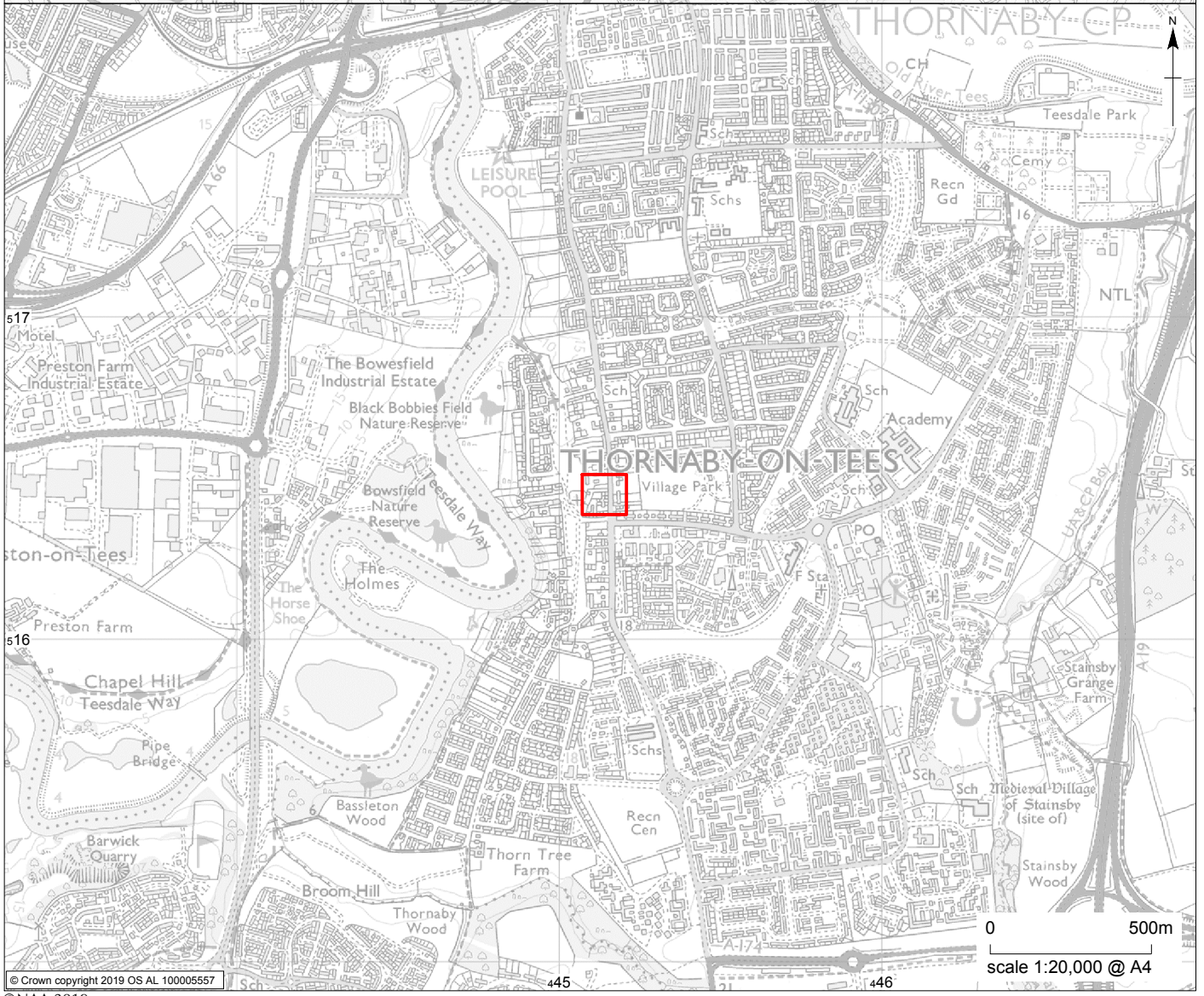
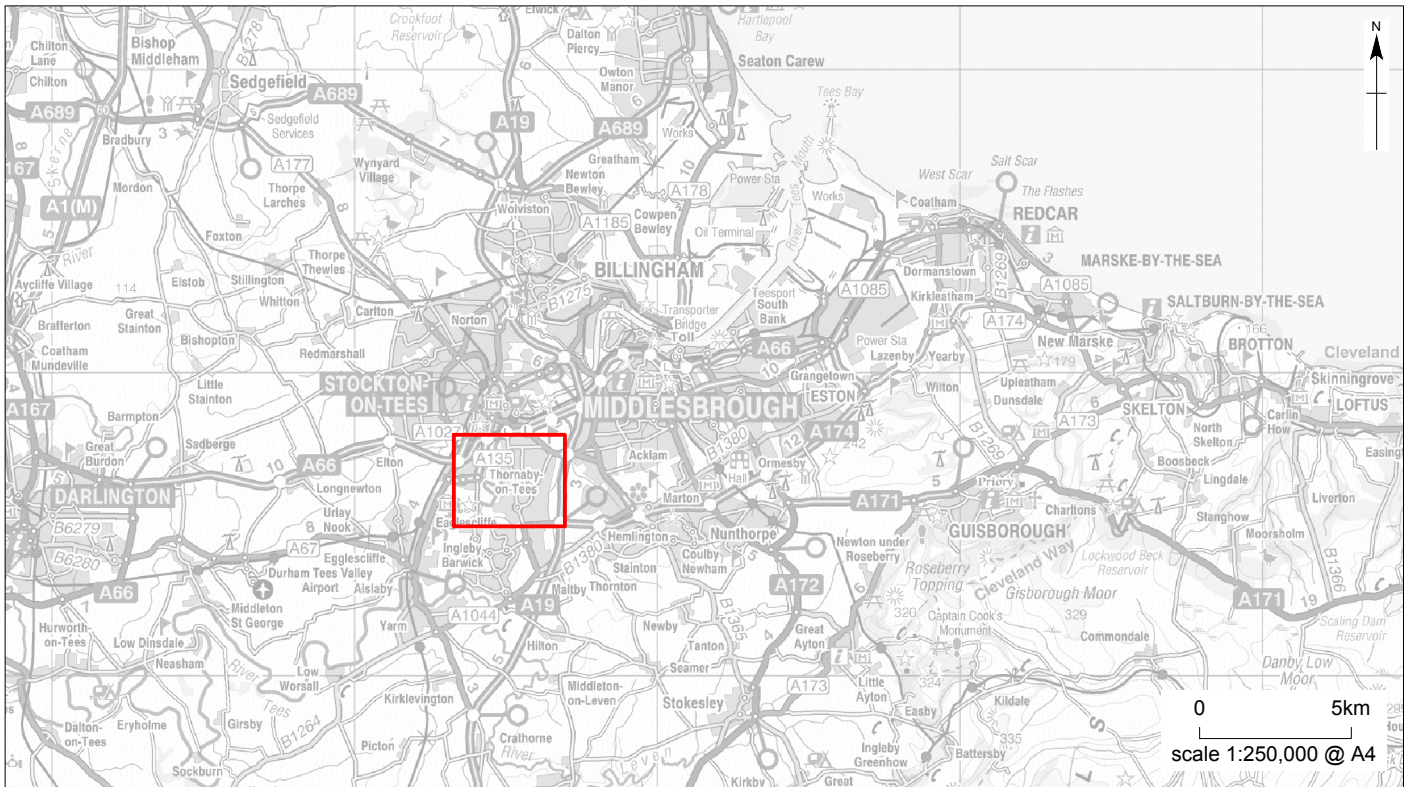
### References

Daniels, R. (2019) *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at 486 Thornaby Road, Stockton on Tees*. Unpublished Report Tees Archaeology.

Speed, G. (2019a) *Land at 484 Thornaby Road, Thornaby-on-Tees: Heritage Assessment*. Unpublished NAA Report No. 19-117.

Speed, G. (2019b) *Land at 484 Thornaby Road, Thornaby-on-Tees: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished NAA Report No. 19-108.



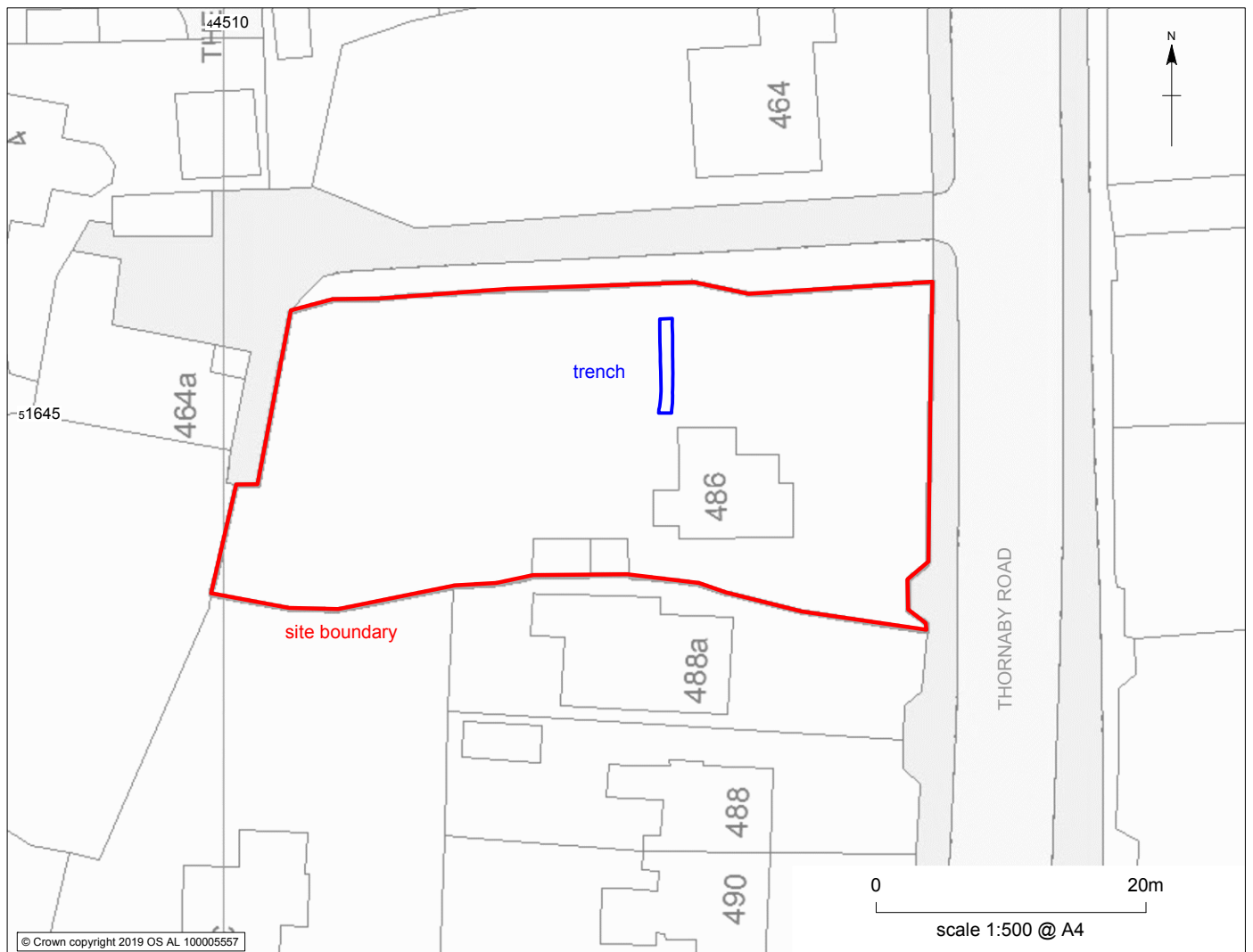


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Land adjacent to 484 Thornaby Road, Thornaby: site location

Figure 1

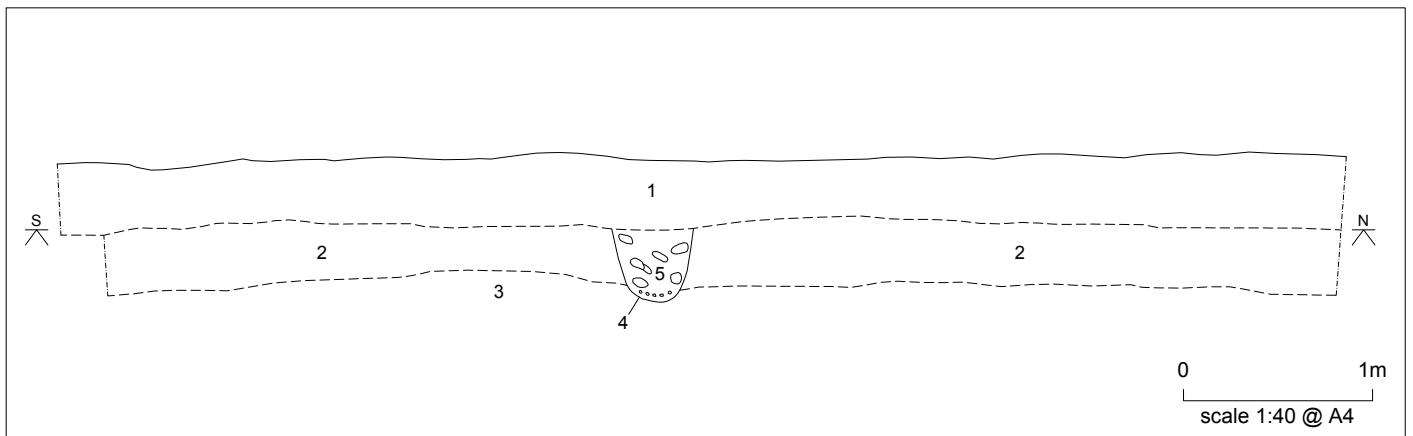




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Land adjacent to 484 Thornaby Road, Thornaby: trench location

Figure 2



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Land adjacent to 484 Thornaby Road, Thornaby: section

Figure 3