



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:

**63 Toll Bar Road, Swinton, Rotherham,
South Yorkshire**



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Summary

Two phases of an archaeological evaluation were carried out during October 2014 and May 2015 to assess the extent and survival of any underlying archaeological remains on land to the rear of 63 Toll Bar Road, Swinton, Rotherham (hereafter 'the Site') by Elmet Archaeological Services Ltd (hereafter 'Elmet'). The Site was identified during gardening work carried out by the tenant, Mr Andrew Allen, who recovered around eighty pieces of Roman pottery dating to between the first and third centuries AD. A crowd funded project was designed by Elmet with the aim of investigating any underlying archaeological remains and place the assemblage in context of the wider landscape.

The first phase, involving the excavation of **Trench 1**, was carried out with financial support raised via the crowd funding website Sponsume and with the assistance of paying members of the public. The second phase, excavating **Trench 2**, was undertaken solely by Elmet and their trained archaeologists.

Both phases of excavation uncovered underlying archaeological remains, potentially dating to the Roman period. **Trench 1**, excavated in October 2014, measured 5m x 3m and uncovered a Roman field boundary ditch and two possible postholes. A number of modern intrusive pits, relating to gardening activity, were also found. **Trench 2** was excavated in May 2015, measured 2.3m x 3.1m and was located directly adjacent to the original trench to the south west. A potential Roman ditch was discovered along with a number of intrusive modern features, again associated with recent gardening activity.

The archive from the fieldwork will be deposited with Clifton Park Museum, Rotherham in due course and an OASIS form will also be submitted at time of deposition.

Acknowledgements

Elmet would like to extend our thanks to the current tenants of 63 Toll Bar Road, Mr Andrew Allen and Miss Lindsay Gordon, whose cooperation during the project was greatly appreciated. The Site was initially excavated as a crowd funded project through Sponsume and had over ninety individual sponsors who donated the money necessary to begin investigations. The following is a list of those sponsors, along with people and organisations who have given their time, expertise and support to the project.

Richard Alexander, Jeanette Allam, Russell Almond, Eileen Ashcroft, Sue Ashton, John Ashtone, Paul Bain, Rob Barnett, Elspeth Barraclough, The Barnsley Chronicle, Natalie Baxter, BBC Look North, BBC Radio Sheffield Midmorning Crew, Naomi Beaumont, Katie Bell, Jennie Bentham, Dr. Mike Bishop, Helen Bowen, The British Archaeological Jobs Resource, Giles and Ruth Brierley (Swinton Heritage), Joanne Brown, Kate Brown, Clare Burke, Kylie Buxton, Chris at Subliblanks.com, Thomas Chubb, Lucy Creighton (Sheffield Museums), Peter Day, The Dearne Valley Weekender, Janet Dickinson, Helen Donnelly, Kathryn Dunn, Samuel Dunn, Elizabeth Evenden, Chris Fowler, Alison Gaskell, Darren Gaskell, John Geldard, Paul Gething, Mabel Gilliver, Laura Gildea, Lindsey Gordon, Monica Grant, Ralph Green, Dave Griffiths, Philip Hand, Rebecca Hankinson, Jackie Harmon, Linzi Harvey, Angela Hayes, Claire Haskett, Helen Holderness, Emma Houghton, Chris Hoyle, Lawrence Jell, Karen Johnston, John Kirk, Sarah and Mark Lee, Glynis Lindsay, Lee Martin, Karen McIntyre, Ruth McTighe, Raoul Meadows, Tina Meadows, David Mennear, Craig Mollekin, Michael and Rebecca Monarchi, Pauline Morton, Alexis Mosley, Michelle and Kevin Mulheir, Cath Neal, Katherine Newton, Karl Noble (Clifton Park Museum, Rotherham), Tracy O'Donnell, Beverley Oliver, Past Horizons, Ged Poland (The University of Sheffield), Julieanne Porter, Jonathan Prew, Jonathan Price, David Pritchard, Joan Rawson, Adam Reaney, Matthew Reeves, Philip Roberts, Jonathan Robinson, Peter Robinson (Doncaster Museum), The Rotherham Advertiser, Rotherham Archaeological Society, Dr. Hannah Russ (Oxford Brookes Archaeology and Heritage, Oxford Brookes University), Bex Sables, Leah Saddington, The Sheffield Star, Carole and David Sotheran, Michaela Stafford, Carl and Kerrie Staines, Martin Stiles, Dr. Carrie L. Sulosky Weaver (University of Pittsburgh), Melanie Swanwick, Jean Thornton, Nicola Turton, Dr. Simon Underdown (Oxford Brookes University), Burcu Urundul, Christopher John Walker, Helen Walder (Doncaster and District Heritage Association), Andrew Ward, Diane Watson, Sarah Whitley, Emma Wilkinson, Alan Williams, Trevor Wilson (Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council), James Wright, Bethany Wyatt, Ken Wyatt, Chris Wylie and Carly Youren.

The two phases of excavations were undertaken between 6th - 13th October 2014 and 22nd - 29th May 2015. The first phase of excavation was managed by Alex Sotheran and supervised by Lauren McIntyre. The excavation work was carried out by Jeanette Allam, John Ashton, Sue Ashton, Ruth Brierley, Helen Donnelly, Ruth McTighe, Bev Oliver and Adam Reaney.

The second phase of the excavation was managed by Christine Rawson and supervised by Philip Roberts. Excavation work was carried out by Philip Roberts, Dane Alexander Wright and Kate Brown.

The pottery report was prepared by David G. Griffiths of DG Archaeology. The glass report was prepared by Birgitta Hoffmann. Environmental samples were analysed and prepared by John Carrot and Angela Walker of Palaeoecology Research Services Ltd.

This report was written by Philip Roberts and Alex Sotheran with illustrations prepared by Kate Brown. The project was monitored by Jim McNeil of South Yorkshire Archaeological Services (SYAS).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 The Site was identified during gardening work carried out by the tenant, Mr Andrew Allen, who recovered around eighty pieces of Roman pottery dating to between the first and third centuries AD (Peter Robinson, *pers comm*). Based on this discovery Mr Allen contacted Colin Merrony of the University of Sheffield who carried out an unpublished resistivity survey, which identified a number of potential archaeological features. As a result of this investigation a crowd funded project, using the platform Sponsume, was designed to identify any underlying archaeological remains and place the pottery assemblage in context of the wider local landscape. Over ninety donors provided the funding to allow the first phase of the project to commence and the site work was carried out by several paying members of the public, closely supervised by Elmet staff and following ClfA guidelines (2014a).
- 1.1.2 The first phase carried out in October 2014 involved the excavation **Trench 1** which measured 5m by 3m and revealed several underlying archaeological remains of Roman date, including a possible boundary ditch. Other archaeological features were excavated including two possible post holes and several modern intrusive pits. A large deposit that was probably original topsoil dating to the pre-1950's was also identified. Several pieces of Roman pottery were also recovered.
- 1.1.3 A second phase was carried out in May 2015 and consisted of an extension, **Trench 2**, excavated directly adjacent to **Trench 1** to the south west. This measured 2.3m x 3.1m and was excavated in order to locate features uncovered in the first phase. While the earlier features were not uncovered a ditch was discovered, along with a number of modern pits associated with recent gardening activity.

1.2 Site Location, Description and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Site is located at NGR 44698 98976 and comprises of a garden located at the rear of 63 Toll Bar Road covered with grass turf (**Figure 1**). Swinton is an area some 7 kilometres to the north east of Rotherham at a height of approximately 84m above mean sea level. The town of Mexborough lies to east, with Wath-upon-Deerne to the west. Rawmarsh lies to the south, while Bolton-upon-Deerne is to the north.
- 1.2.1 The area is densely populated with small pockets of open land, predominantly to the north west and south west as the area opens up to countryside. 63 Toll Bar Road is sited within a housing estate developed in the second half of the 20th Century with regularly laid out buildings which feature small gardens to the front and larger gardens to the rear. The property is semi-detached, adjoined on the north east and bound by further residential properties to the front and both sides with a school field belonging to Swinton Fitzwilliam Primary School at the rear.
- 1.2.3 The geology of the site is formed of Oaks Rock sandstone; a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 310 – 312 million years ago during the Carboniferous Period in an environment dominated by rivers. No superficial deposits in the area have been recorded (British Geological Survey 2015).

Figure 1: Site location



 ELMET ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD		Figure 1	
Project Ref: Toll Bar Road	Drawn By: KB	Checked by: CR	Drawing No: TB15.12/06.1
Report Ref: TB14	Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2015 All rights reserved. Licence number 100052331		

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following is an overview of the archaeological remains and heritage assets that have been identified within the immediate area of the Site as summarised from the Desk Based Assessment (DBA) by Elmet (2014a).

2.2 Neolithic and Bronze Age (c. 6000 – 800BC)

2.2.1 No sites from this period were found near the Site and any evidence for prehistoric activity is demonstrated by a number of findspots of tools and arrowheads. A Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead (HER 0082/01) was found in 1962 at 16 St Michaels Avenue located approximately 2km to the north east. Further evidence for prehistoric activity comes from a dozen waste flint flakes (HER 01780/01) discovered at Three Corner Plantation, in 1979 at 64 Valley Road approximately 1km to the north west. The date of this assemblage is difficult to pinpoint with any accuracy and ranges from the early Mesolithic to the late Iron age (10000 BC – 42 AD). An undated flint implement (HER 04141/01) has also been recovered from the Roman Rig site at Wood Farm in 1964, on an eroded bank of the earthwork. An undated but possible prehistoric arrow head (HER 4437/01) was also located at 45 Cresswell Road in 1962 approximately 1.4km north east of the Site.

2.3 Iron Age (800BC – 43AD)

2.3.1 The only Iron Age activity attested to in the area is demonstrated by a Bee-hive quern stone (HER 01095/01) of possible Iron Age/Roman date discovered at 83 Rockingham Road in 1970 approximately 0.3km west of the Site. Although this indicates possible occupation in the area, without a secure context and accurate dating this is uncertain.

2.4 Roman (43 – 410AD)

2.4.1 The Site lies between the Roman forts at Templeborough (approximately 8km to the east) and Danum (approximately 13km to the west) and it is possible that these sites were active during any Roman activity at Swinton. The relative immediacy of two large Roman sites to the Site infers that it may have been part of a larger Roman landscape and it is believed that Swinton (along with Abdy and Wath) was developed as a settlement to service the garrisons at both of these forts (Travis 2001). The proximity of the two military forts would have afforded some deal of security to the settlement and a Roman road is known to exist as the modern day Warren Vale, which passes very close to the Site and which would have joined Rotherham and Doncaster (Travis 2001).

2.4.2 The evidence for Roman activity in the area comes largely from find spots of Roman coins which have been retrieved in Swinton and the surrounding area. In the garden of 29 St Michaels Avenue a single Roman coin (HER 04468/01) of Antoninianus of Victorius, Pax Aug was uncovered. Another find spot consisted of a single silver

denarius coin (HER 01093/01) of Emperor Nero, dating from 63 – 68 AD, located at 14 Romwood Avenue in 1964.

- 2.4.3 A large assemblage of Roman coinage was recovered in the 19th century when a hoard of around 300 – 400 silver roman denari (HER 00832/01) was found in 1853, during excavations to build a cellar at Rockingham Road, Swinton. The assemblage was described as having been found in a ‘vase’ and examples include coins of Nero, Galba, Vespasian, Domitian, Nerva, Trajan, Hadrian, Sabina, Antonius Pius, Faustine I, Marcus Aurelius, Commodus, Severus, Julia Domna, Geta, Caracalla and Plautilla. The coins all date between 54 and 217 AD. It has been suggested that the horde may indicate the presence of a nearby farm/farmstead or even villa, a claim also supported by the existence of several platforms in Wath Wood, which lies approximately 1.14km to the east of the Site (Travis 2001). A second coin hoard from Rawmarsh (HER 04268/01) was discovered in 1908 during work on the tramway and contained coins dating to between 43 and 409 AD.
- 2.4.4 Finds securely dated to the Roman period are sparse and do not give a clear definition of occupation in the area of Swinton, but indications from the large coin hoard and possible platforms in Wath Wood may point to the area being utilised by farmsteads/farms, a conclusion that may be strengthened by the proximity of the Site to a Roman road between two major military sites.
- 2.4.5 The Roman Ridge (or Rig) (HER 00111/01) lies close to the Site, approximately 0.77km to the west. Built of clay and sandstone, the ridge is an earthwork of possible Roman or Iron Age date, although this has not been confirmed by archaeological investigation. The earthwork also acts as a modern parish boundary between Swinton and the neighbouring village of Wath-Upon-Dearne.

2.5 Anglo-Saxon Period (410-1066AD)

- 2.5.1 No archaeological remains or artefacts dating to the Anglo-Saxon period have been located or identified in the area surrounding the Site and there are no entries in the HER for this period. However, Swinton is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 with a value of £2 under the lordship of a man named Rethar within the manor of Wath-upon-Dearne (Open Domesday 2015). It is also probable that the field systems laid out in the Romano-British period were still being farmed and this practise probably continued into the Anglo-Saxon period during which time the settlement at Swinton developed as a pig-based economy (Travis 2001) from whence it took its name.

2.6 Medieval Period (1066-1530AD)

- 2.6.1 There are only two remains dated to the medieval period noted in the HER within the locality of the Site. The grade II listed Swinton town cross (HER 00183/01) is a medieval cross, and is currently located 1.6km to the South of the tower of the church of St Margaret. Swinton Old Hall (HER 00187/01) was a medieval hall house subsequently incorporated into a 16th century or earlier structure and was demolished in 1963, when the site was then redeveloped.

2.7 Post-Medieval period (1530-1900AD)

- 2.7.1 The post-medieval period saw a rise in the industrial nature of the area around Swinton, with the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation, river Don and railway all running to the east of Swinton. The Dearne and Dove Canal also joins the Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation at Swinton Bridge (Barnsley, Dearne and Dove Canal Trust 2015). Support from this infrastructure allowed for the development of various heavy industries including glass works, steel works and chemical factories.
- 2.7.2 This increase in industrial activity in Swinton and the surrounding area is reflected in the large number of associated HER entries. A grade II listed bottle kiln, referred to as the 'Waterloo Kiln', and various pottery works buildings, including a gatehouse and Strawberry Cottage, remain from the Rockingham Pottery Works (HER 02218/01). The Rockingham Works first recorded owner was Joseph Flint, who paid rent to the 1st Marquis of Rockingham in the 1740s for 'digging clay and renting a brick works'. The site continued to expand under subsequent owners, which included William Malpass and the Works principle output was a chocolate brown tea or coffee service. In 1785, owners Bingley Wood and Co. went into a partnership with Leeds Pottery, which was subsequently dissolved in 1806 and the pottery was acquired by the Brameld family in 1807. Following bankruptcy in 1825, the pottery was purchased by William Wentworth Fitzwilliam, 2nd Earl Fitzwilliam and renamed The Rockingham Works in 1826 after his uncle, Charles Watson Wentworth and closed in 1842 (Hey 2011).
- 2.7.3 One kiln, of an original 8 belonging to The Don Pottery Works (HER 03523/01), currently survives. The works were established in 1801 by John and William Green and lay on the bank of the Don canal on the boundary between Swinton and Mexbrough. Don pottery was exported across the world, including the Middle East, Russia and South America. Business fell into decline in the 1830s and by 1834 the Greens declared bankruptcy. In 1839, the owner of Mexborough Pottery bought the Don Works and both were run by Samuel Barker until 1848, when all production was moved to the Don site. It was rented out to partners in 1882, but remained trading under the name of Samuel Barker and Sons. The Don Works were closed in 1893, when all stock was sold off in order to pay overdue rent (Hey 2011).
- 2.7.4 Non-industrial aspects of Swinton during this period include a post-medieval sundial (HER 02811/01) which was ploughed up on Swinton Common. A Norman Chapel was demolished in 1815, and replaced by a Victorian church dedicated to St Margaret at a cost of £6000. Two Norman arches were also preserved and moved to the new churchyard. This new church, however, burned down in 1897 and was rebuilt and consecrated by the Archbishop of York. The cost came to £5956, which was paid for by the Fire Insurance Company, Earl Fitzwilliam, Diocesan Church Extension Society local fund raising (Quarrell 1954).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

- Assess the form and function of any underlying archaeological remains that were indicated by the recovery of a dated pottery assemblage and subsequent geophysical survey.
- Record, as far as reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, form, character and significance of any archaeological remains uncovered.
- To engage with the local community via regional media outlets (radio, TV, newspapers), group site visits and the dissemination of the written report to appropriate sponsors and the local museum.
- To teach basic archaeological skills to members of the public who donated to work on the excavation and engage them with the past using the Site as a vehicle.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 The location of the excavation was informed by the recovery of the pottery assemblage, the Project Design created by Elmet (2014b) and the results of the as yet unpublished geophysical survey and was positioned to give good coverage of the survey area and to test perceived 'blank' areas. Two evaluation trenches were excavated and the work was carried out in two phases. The first phase consisted of **Trench 1**, a 5m x 2m trench with a 2m x 1m extension to the east. The second phase, **Trench 2**, consisted of a 3.1m x 2.3m trench located directly adjacent to **Trench 1** to the south west.

4.2 Hand Excavation

4.2.1 Topsoil and overburden was removed by hand using spades and shovels in a series of level spits to the beginning of the upper archaeological horizon and/or natural geology. Features and associated deposits were excavated with mattocks, shovels and trowels under the supervision of experienced Elmet archaeologists.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 The features were planned at a scale of 1:20, with any individual feature requiring greater detail recorded at 1:10, by measured drawing and photography and the deposits encountered described fully on pro-forma individual context recording sheets as necessary. The sections of excavated archaeological features were also recorded by measured drawing at an appropriate scale (normally 1:10). Spot heights and those of individual features were recorded relative to Ordnance Datum using a levelling instrument (commonly known as a 'dumpy level'). All work was carried out in accordance with industry and Elmet Archaeology guidelines (CIfA 2014b and 2014c).

4.3.2 A photographic record (SLR colour digital, 12 megapixel resolution) was maintained during the course of the fieldwork and included the following:

- the site prior to commencement of fieldwork.
- the site during work, showing specific stages of fieldwork.
- the layout of archaeological features within each trench.
- individual features and, where appropriate, their sections.
- groups of features where their relationship is important

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following is a summary of the results of the two phases of excavation. Detailed descriptions of all the contexts can be found in **Appendix 1** and are referred to in the text in bold.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 The initial evaluation began with the excavation of a single trench measuring 5m x 2m, which was subsequently extended by an additional 2m x 1m area when it became apparent that there were features beyond the south west edge of excavation. The trench was orientated north east to south west and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.47m

5.2.2 **Trench 1 (Figure 2)** consisted of a topsoil/turf layer, **1001**, which was a dark greyish brown silty sand and excavated to a depth of between 0.14-0.3m. **1001** contained occasional 20th century finds such as ceramic and glass as well as red brick fragments, indicating that the deposit has been highly disturbed fairly recently. Beneath this laid subsoil **1002**, a very mixed reddish brown silty sand deposit which was excavated to a depth of 0.26-0.64m and was cut by several modern features associated with gardening activity. The above deposits were most likely formed by the intentional raising of the ground level during the construction of the housing estate in the 1950's and 60's. Below **1002** lay what has been interpreted as a potential earlier topsoil deposit **1003** which had a thickness of 0.28m. It consisted of a mixed mid yellow brown sandy silt suggesting an earlier topsoil with a diffuse horizon with natural deposit **1013** which developed over time. It contained a mix of Roman and post medieval/modern pottery sherds supporting this. Beneath this lay the natural bedrock **1013**, found at a depth of 0.74m and consisting of compacted light brownish yellow sandstone.

5.2.3 The bedrock **1013** was cut by the earliest feature uncovered on site, a linear ditch **1022**, (**Figures 2 and 3, Plates 1 and 2**) which had a depth of 0.73m and width at the top of 1.20m. The ditch was aligned north east to south west and measured 2.7m, extending beyond the edge of excavation. The ditch had a sharp break of slope at the top with steep sides before turning near vertical and forming a flat bottomed base. The north western side of the ditch **1022** had a flat 'shelved' area which measured 1.60m x 0.73m wide and had potential postholes **1028** and **1029** cut into it.

- 5.2.4 The primary fill of **1022** consisted of a friable mid brown orange sand, **1023**, with angular sandstone inclusions and had a thickness of 0.61m and width of 0.87m. A total of 8 sherds of black-burnished ware and one sherd of courseware pottery were recovered, which dated to the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD (**Appendix 2**). A small fragment of fire damaged Roman glass dating to between the 1st and 4th century AD was also found (**Appendix 3**). Overlaying **1023** was secondary fill **1021**, consisting of a friable light yellow brown coarse sand with frequent small angular stone inclusions which extended to a thickness of 0.28m. **1021** also contained a total of eight Black-burnished ware and five courseware pottery sherds dating from the late 2nd to early 3rd century AD (**Appendix 2**). Sealing ditch **1022** was **1025**, a mid reddish brown compact silty sand horizon below **1003**. It varied in thickness from between 0.04m – 0.15m and extended beyond the limits of excavation. It appears that **1025** was an interface between the upper ditch fill **1021** and probable previous topsoil layer **1003** as it had elements of both these contexts in its matrix.
- 5.2.5 The two postholes **1028** and **1029** (**Figure 2, Plates 1 and 3**) were cut into the north western shoulder of **1022** through **1013**. **1028** was 0.20m deep and a diameter of 0.31m, whilst the possible post hole **1029** had a depth of 0.10m a diameter of 0.20m and was located 0.2m to the south west. Both appeared to have been cut when the ditch was originally open as they were filled with the primary ditch fill **1023** and are of unknown date and function.
- 5.2.6 A number of modern features, **1004**, **1006**, **1008**, **1017** and **1027** (**Figure 2**), were uncovered, associated with modern gardening activity, and consisted of a tree bole and a number of circular pits used as dumps for garden waste. The tree bole **1004** was sub circular in shape and 0.6m in depth. The other features were circular pits varying in diameter from 0.4m (**1006**) to 0.7m (**1008**) and in depth from 0.16m (**1008**) to 1m (**1017** and **1027**). All the features were backfilled with a similar rubble fill of brick and concrete fragments suggesting a series of waste dumps. The discovery of **1017** led to the small 2m x 1m extension in the east in order to ascertain any truncation it may have caused to the underlying archaeology.
- 5.2.7 Two features were identified at the south-west end of the trench, both of which were cut through the original topsoil deposit **1003**. The small oval, possible post hole **1010** (**Figure 2, Plate 6**) had a depth of 0.20m, vertical sides and a flat base. This was filled with **1009**, a loose greyish brown sandy silt. This was initially thought to be a tree bole or similar, but the regular nature of the cut and proximity to the post hole **1015/1020** suggests that it could have been a man made post hole of unknown purpose. The fact that it is sealed by the subsoil **1002** indicates that while not strictly modern it post dates the Roman ditch.
- 5.2.8 A probable post hole **1020** (**Figure 4, Plate 7**) had been cut through the layer **1003** down to the natural bedrock **1013** to a depth of 0.57m. It had straight flat sides and was circular in plan. A stepped base was uncovered suggesting that **1020** had been recut later by **1015** possibly for the purpose of removing the post. **1015** was roughly circular with a length of 0.66m, a width of 0.56m and a depth of 0.46m. Both **1015** and **1020** were filled with **1012**, a friable orange brown sandy silt with a lot of root disturbance. The deposit contained a mix of Roman pottery, including Black-

burnished ware and modern industrial waste such as slag along with slate, brick and modern ceramic (**Appendix 2**). A bulk sample of 10 litres was taken from **1012**, which revealed further modern material, including a clay pipe stem fragment, glass fragments and a polystyrene bead (**Appendix 4**), along with coal and cinder. This indicates that the feature is of a modern date with intrusive Roman material.

5.3 Trench 2

- 5.3.1 The general stratigraphy (consisting of topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits) within **Trench 2 (Figures 5 and 6, Plate 8)** was identical to that found in **Trench 1** which is explained by the fact that they are adjacent to one another. The topsoil of this area, **2001**, was dark grey brown silty sand, excavated to a depth of 0.3m. Beneath this lay thin subsoil deposit **2002** measuring 0.04m – 0.12m in thickness, comprising of light reddish orange brown silty sand. As in **Trench 1**, the natural **2003** was light yellow brown sandstone bedrock, which was discovered at a depth of 0.42m.
- 5.3.2 Only one feature of potential Roman date was uncovered during the excavation of **Trench 2**. This was a south west – north east aligned ditch **2004 (Figure 7, Plate 9)** which was truncated by modern pits associated with gardening activity such as **2014** and **2016**. **2004** had steep convex sides and a relatively shallow concave base at an excavated depth of 0.34m and a maximum width of 0.7m. It was particularly different in form and dimensions to ditch **1022** uncovered to the north and is likely to be a separate feature. It was filled with deposit **2005**, a mid orange brown sandy fill very similar to **2003**, which suggests it is a redeposited natural placed during the process of backfilling the ditch when it fell out of use. No finds were recovered from this deposit making dating of this feature difficult; however, its form suggests a possible Roman field boundary.
- 5.3.3 A series of modern truncations were also uncovered, in the form of pits associated with modern gardening activity dating to the 20th and 21st centuries, these include **2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014** and **2016**. A brief summary of the features will be offered with particular focus on pits **2014** and **2016** as they truncate ditch **2004** especially to the north east of the trench where it becomes difficult to identify and locate it.
- 5.3.4 Pits **2006, 2008, 2010** and **2012 (Figure 8, Plate 10)** are the product of recent gardening activity which has resulted in a series of sub-oval/sub-circular/sub-rectangular pits used for the dumping of rubbish or tree/plant boles. They vary in diameter from 0.17m (**2012**), to 0.4m (**2010**, as excavated) and in depth from 0.23m (**2012**) to 0.57m (**2010**). The function of these pits has been inferred from both their form and shape and the fills associated with them. For example, pit **2006** has a highly irregular base with a great deal of undulation indicating rooting which suggests a plant bole. In contrast, pit **2008** is filled with **2009** which contains building material such as brick and paving slab fragments indicating it was utilised as a waste dump. Further consultation with the current tenant of the property has confirmed many of the initial conclusions regarding these features.
- 5.3.5 Of particular note are pits **2014** and **2016 (Figure 9, Plate 11)** which heavily truncate the ditch **2004**, especially at the north east end where the ditch becomes difficult to

locate. **2014** is a relatively shallow sub oval rubbish pit, excavated to a depth of 0.21m, and filled with a rubble deposit, **2015**, containing brick fragments, concrete slab and breeze blocks. **2016** is located directly to the north east and is sub angular in shape with a depth of 0.42m. It has been filled with **2017**, **2018** and **2019** and visible tiplines within the deposits suggest a process of deliberate backfilling of the feature after it went out of use. Both these features truncate **2004** further obscuring any continuation of the ditch with only inferences being able to be made about its location on Site.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The remains identified during the evaluation on land at 63 Toll Bar Road indicated that there was activity on the Site during the Roman period. Three sets of features can be examined to expand upon this conclusion, the ditches **1022** and **2004** and post holes **1028** and **1029**.

6.2 Ditch 1022

6.2.1 The ditch **1022** was aligned north-east to south-west within **Trench 1** and extended beyond the edge of excavation. The lack of any evidence of nearby Roman buildings, such as roof tiles, plaster, tesserae and so on indicates that the ditch was situated in a rural environment, most likely a farming landscape. Several pieces of Black-burnished ware and one piece of courseware pottery dated to the Roman period were recovered from the primary deposit **1023** which dates the ditch the late 2nd century - early 3rd century AD. The pottery also suggests the relatively low status of rural population of the area (**Appendix 2**). Further to this was the recovery of a small fragment of broken Roman glass, dating to between the 1st and 4th centuries AD (**Appendix 3**), which had been malformed in fire, most likely by accident, before deposition.

6.2.2 The lack of any high status wares, such as decorated Samian ceramics, further supports the idea of a rural farming landscape and it is possible a farmstead is located nearby. As such it is likely that **1022** acted as a boundary, either for a field system or livestock. The lack of any visible tipping lines with the backfill **1023** indicates it was abandoned and silted up over time due to natural erosion.

6.3 Post Holes 1028 and 1029

6.3.1 Two small post holes were cut into the 'shoulder' of ditch **1022** and filled with **1023**, which was also the primary fill of the ditch. No finds were recovered from either post hole but as they were filled with **1023** it seems reasonable to surmise that they are contemporary in terms of date with the ditch. The function of the post holes is somewhat more difficult to discern, however. Their proximity to each other suggests they are related and possibly performed the same function. The nearby ditch **1022** may suggest the post holes formed part of a fence line associated with land division. Unfortunately the scarcity of other postholes nearby means that this is only conjecture at this time and would require further excavation to confirm.

6.4 Ditch 2004

- 6.4.1 A second ditch **2004** was uncovered in **Trench 2** and located to the south west of **1022**. The difference in dimensions and form between the two ditches and the truncation of **2004** by modern gardening activity means that identifying any physical or stratigraphic relationship between **1022** and **2004** is impossible. However, the form of **2004** and the fact that it shares the same alignment as **1022** indicates that it performed a similar function and acted as a field boundary or enclosure for livestock.
- 6.4.2 No finds were recovered so dating the ditch securely is somewhat problematic but there is enough evidence to suppose the above interpretation is acceptable based on the current amount of information available. As with deposit **1023**, the backfill **2005** has no visible tipping lines suggesting a long period of erosion over time after the ditch fell out of use.

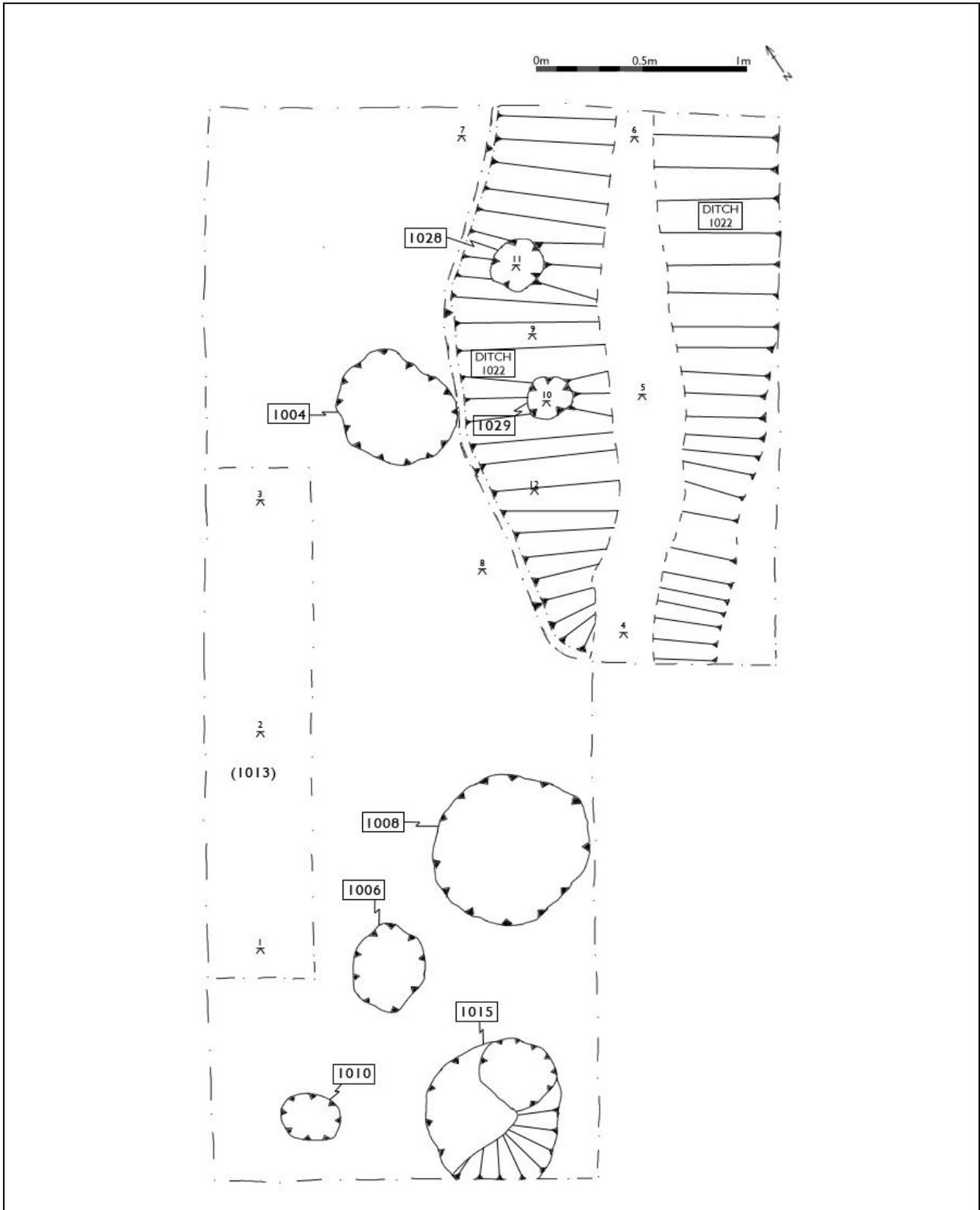
6.5 Conclusion

- 6.5.1 The discovery of ditches **1022** and **2004** suggest that the evaluation of land at 63 Toll Bar Road, Swinton has uncovered a small fragment of a wider Roman agricultural landscape dating to the 1st – 4th centuries AD. The relatively small area of excavation means that only limited conclusions can be made but evidence has been uncovered to indicate the presence of a Roman field system with the potential of nearby rural settlements in the form of small dispersed farmsteads. Whether this landscape is part of wider arable or pastoral agricultural practices is unknown at the current time and would require further investigation.

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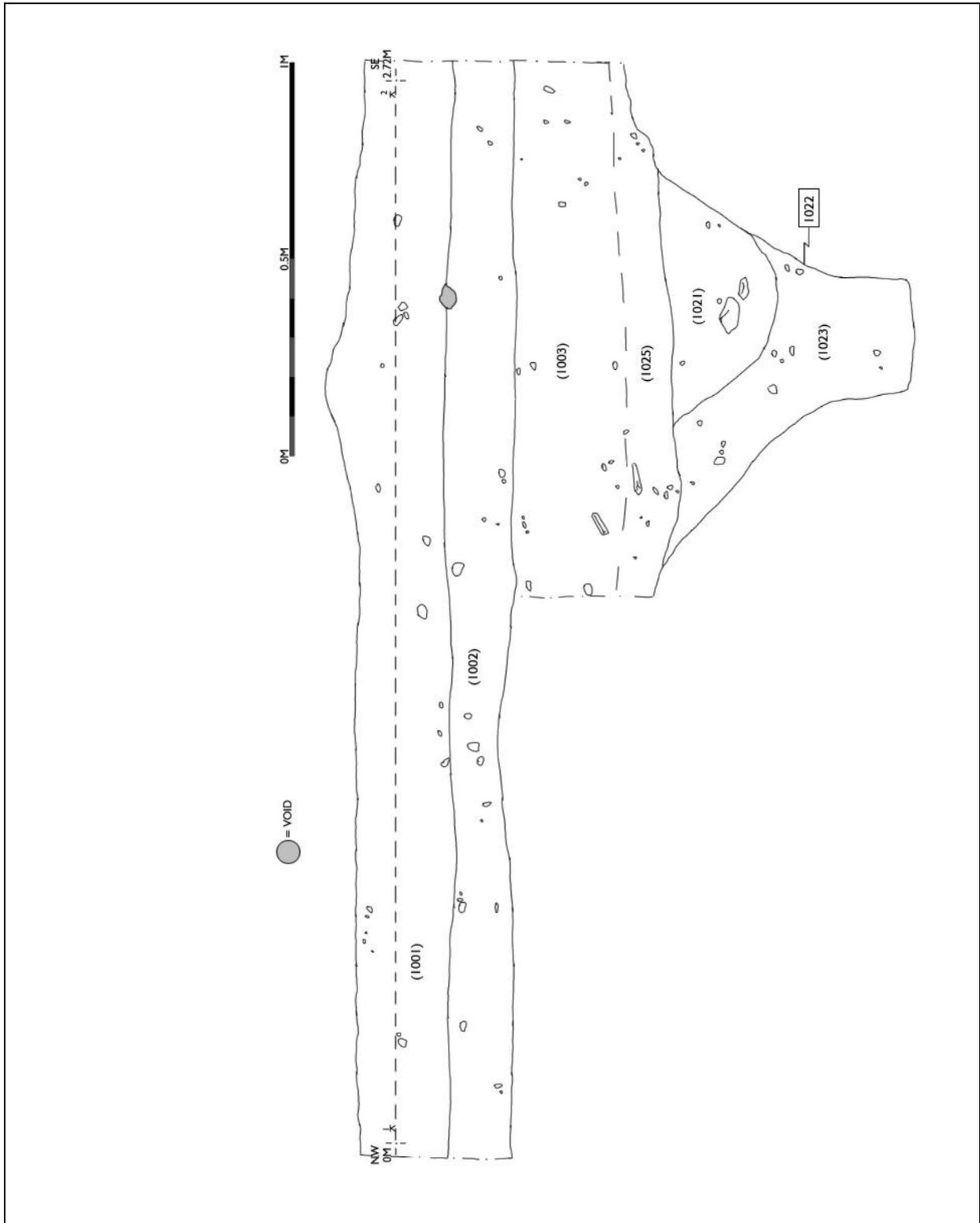
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Figure 2: Post excavation plan of **Trench 1**.



 ELMET ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD		Figure 2	
Project Ref: Toll Bar Road	Drawn By: KB	Checked by: CR	Drawing No: TB15.12/06.2
Report Ref: TB14	Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2015 All rights reserved. Licence number 100052331		

Figure 3: South west facing section of Roman field boundary ditch 1022.



 ELMET ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD		Figure 3	
Project Ref: Toll Bar Road	Drawn By: KB	Checked by: CR	Drawing No: TB15.12/06.3
Report Ref: TB14	Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2015 All rights reserved. Licence number 100052331		

Figure 4: South east facing section of recut posthole **1015/1020**.

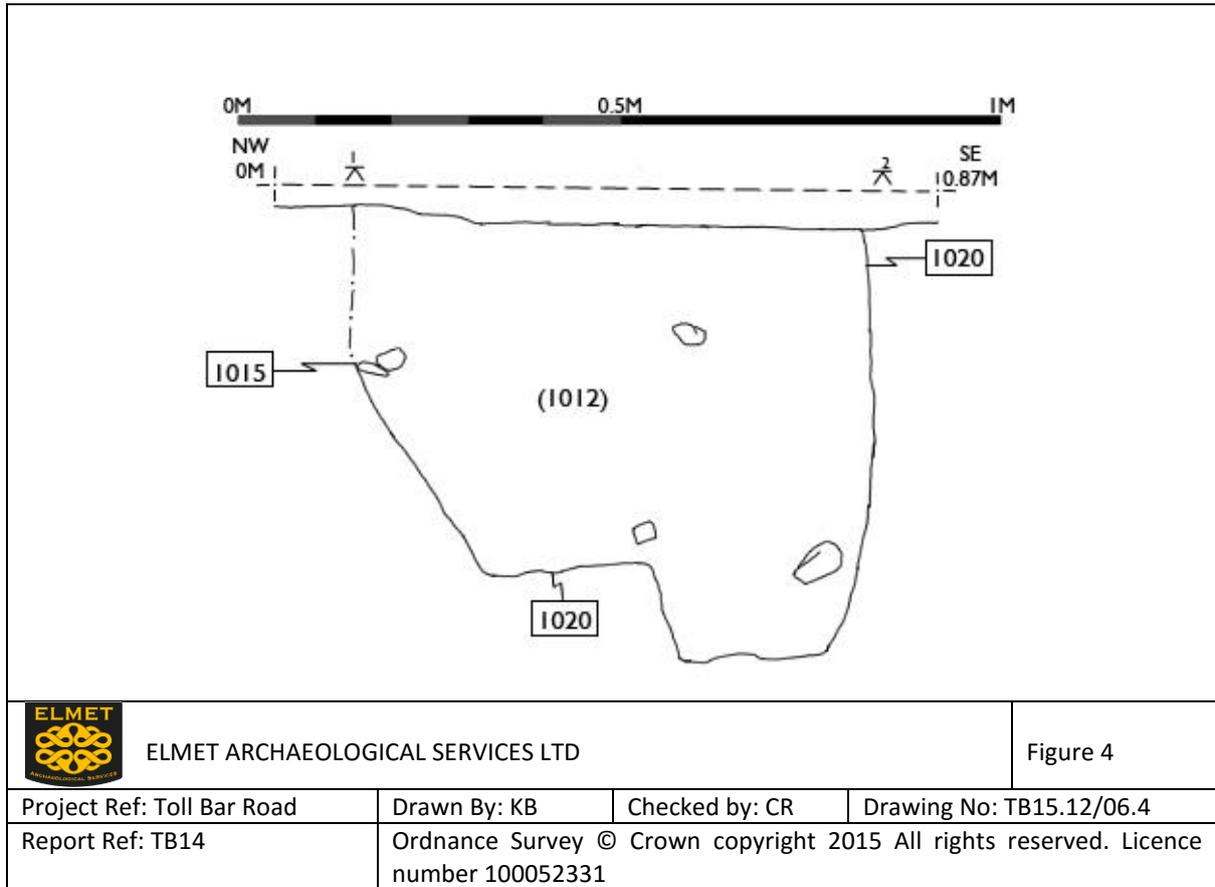
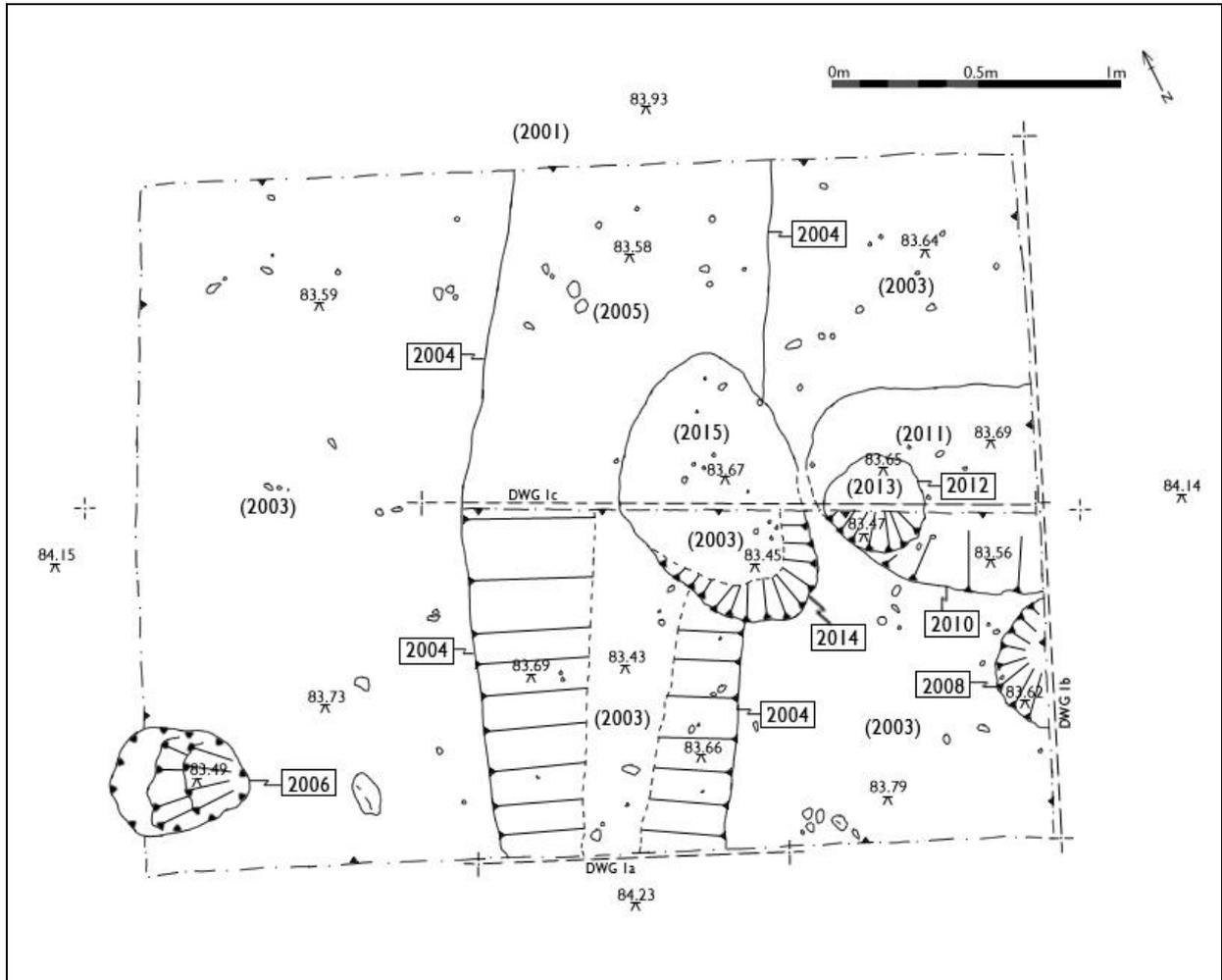


Figure 5: Post excavation plan of Trench 2.



 ELMET ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES LTD		Figure 5	
Project Ref: Toll Bar Road	Drawn By: KB	Checked by: CR	Drawing No: TB15.12/06.5
Report Ref: TB14	Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2015 All rights reserved. Licence number 100052331		

Figure 6: Overlay of northern end of **Trench 2** after excavation of modern pit **2016**.

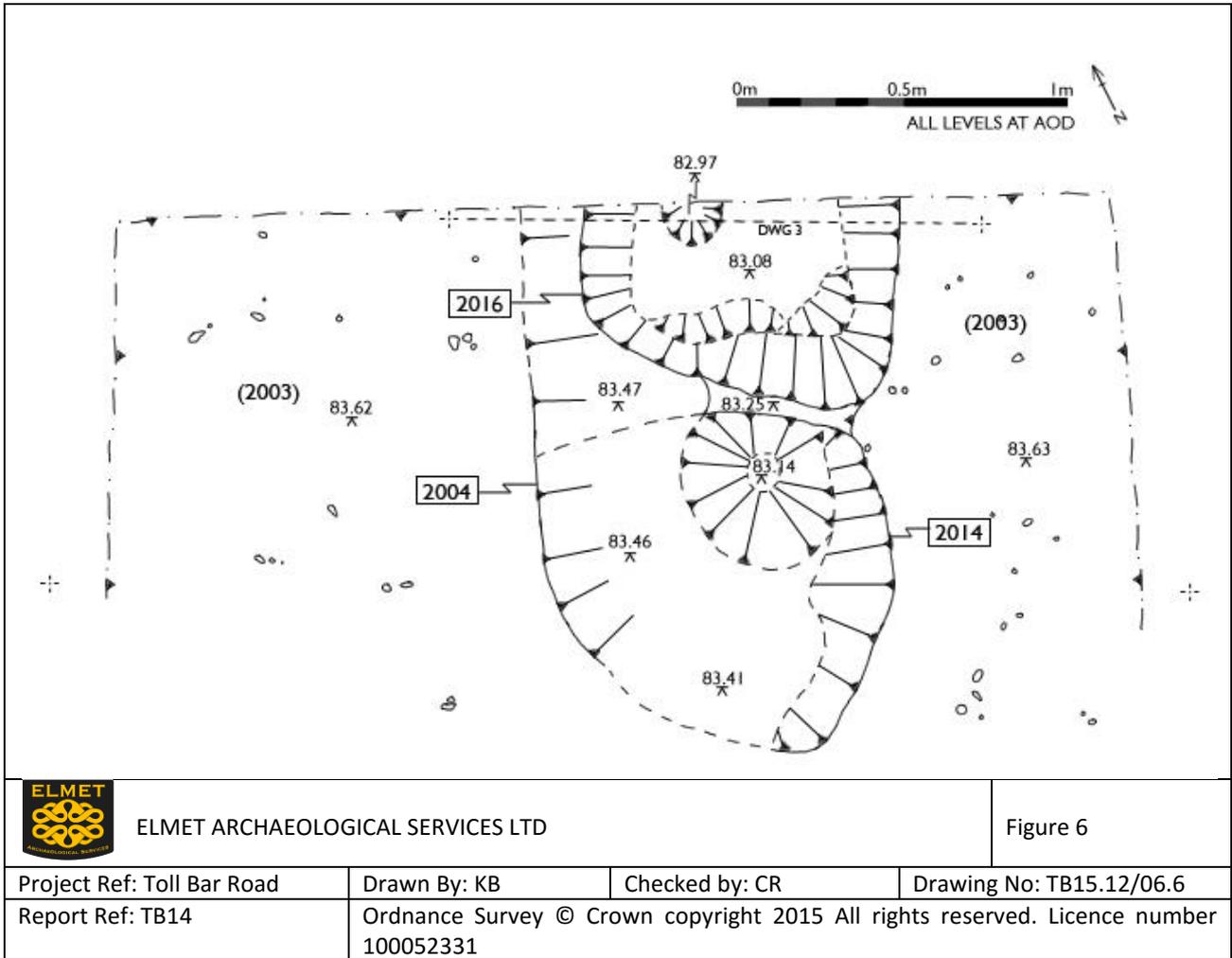


Figure 7: North east facing section of possible Roman ditch **2004**.

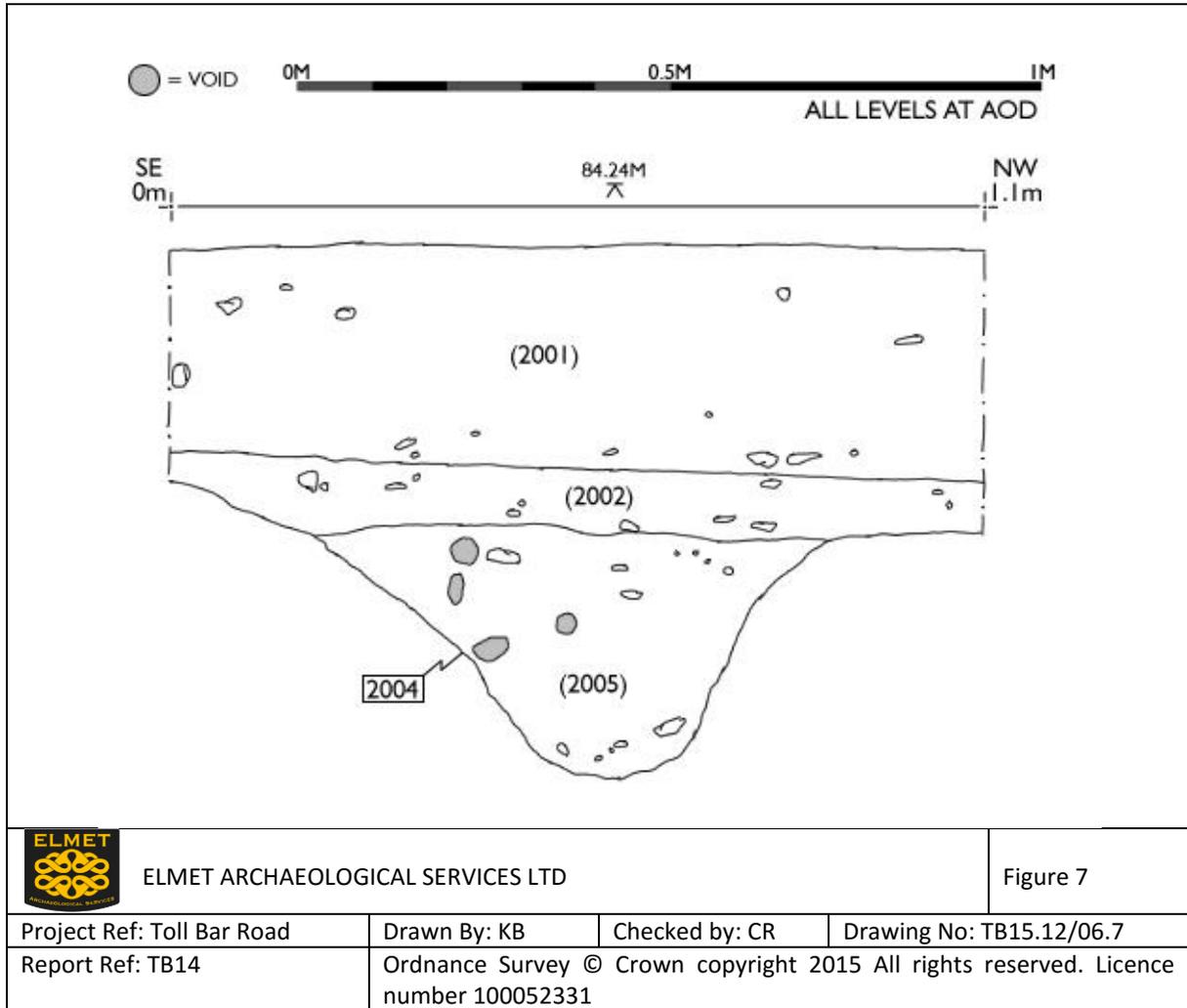


Figure 8: South west facing section of modern gardening features.

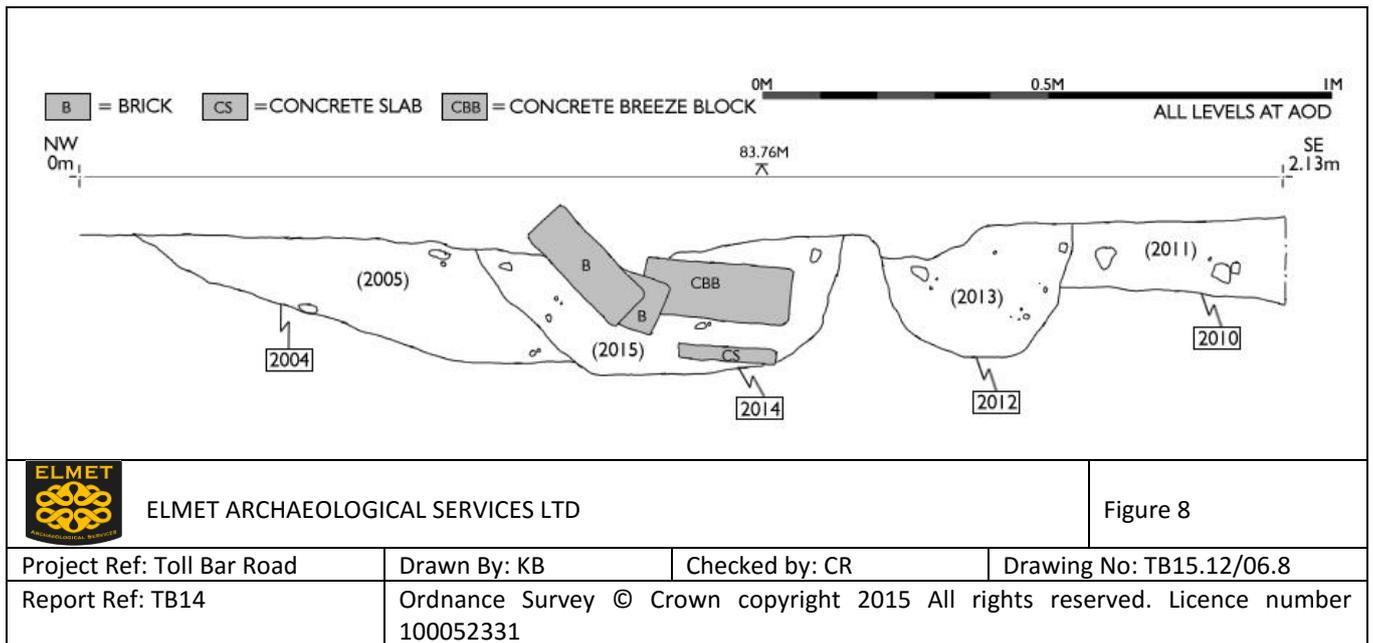


Figure 9: South west facing section of modern pit 2016 associated with gardening activity.

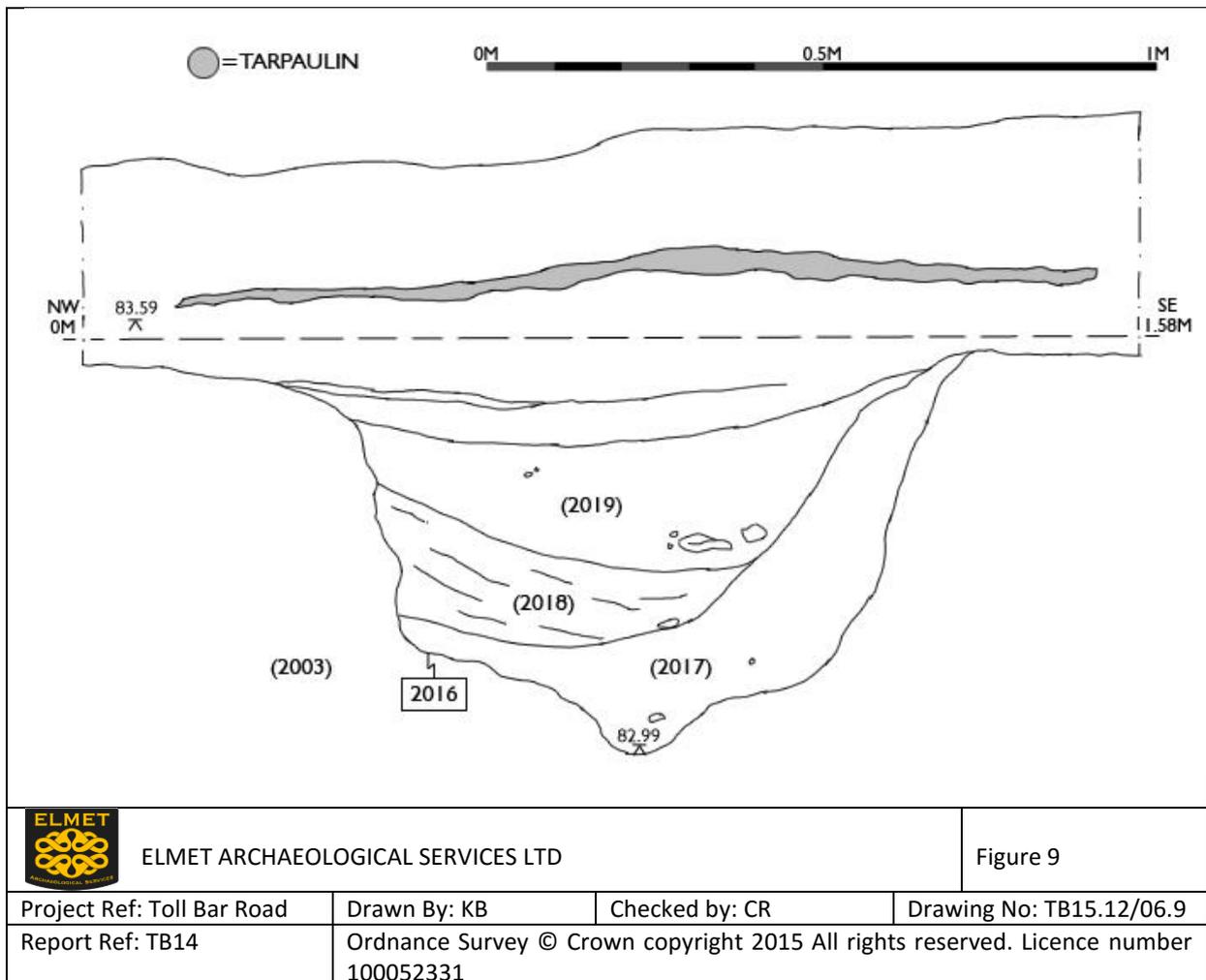


Plate 1: South west facing section of ditch **1022** with post holes **1028** and **1029**.



Plate 2: South west facing section of ditch **1022**.



Plate 3: Post holes **1028** and **1029**, facing north.



Plate 4: Original pre 1950's topsoil layer **1003**, facing west.



Plate 5: Post hole **1010**, facing west.



Plate 6: Recut post hole **1015/1020**.



Plate 7: Pre excavation shot of **Trench 2** facing south west.



Plate 8: North east facing section of possible Roman field boundary ditch **2004**.



Plate 9: South east facing section of **Trench 2** with excavated modern features.



Plate 10: South west facing section of modern gardening feature **2016**.



APPENDIX 1: List of Contexts

Area	Context	Description	Depth
Trench 1	1001	Topsoil: Loose mixed dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent small stone/brick/rubble inclusions	0.20m
Trench 1	1002	Subsoil: Compact mid reddish brown silty sand with frequent sandstone fragment/plastic/brick/glass/mudstone inclusions	0.35m
Trench 1	1003	Possible Occupation Layer: Compact mid brownish yellow silty sand with frequent sandstone/charcoal inclusions	0.33m
Trench 1	1004	Tree Bole: Sub-circular cut filled with loose dark greyish brown silty sand	0.60m
Trench 1	1005	Fill: Loose orangey brown silty sand with frequent rubble, fill of 1006	0.43m
Trench 1	1006	Cut: Circular cut with sharp break of slope, vertical sides and flat base, modern rubble dump, filled by 1005	0.43m
Trench 1	1007	Fill: Loose greyish brown silty sand with frequent rubble, fill of 1008	0.16m
Trench 1	1008	Cut: Circular cut with sharp break of slope, irregular shaped sides, irregular shaped base, modern rubble dump, filled by 1007	0.16m
Trench 1	1009	Fill: Loose mid brownish grey sandy silt, fill of 1010	0.20m
Trench 1	1010	Cut: Oval cut with sharp break of slope, vertical sides, flat base, filled by 1009	0.20m
Trench 1	1011	Voided Context	-
Trench 1	1012	Fill: Friable orangey brown sandy silt, fill of 1015/1020	0.57m
Trench 1	1013	Natural Bedrock: Compact light brownish yellow sandstone, natural geology	-
Trench 1	1014	Voided Context	-
Trench 1	1015	Cut: Circular cut with sharp break of slope, vertical sides, slightly undercut on east edge, flat base, filled by 1012	0.46m
Trench 1	1016	Fill: Loose modern rubble fill of 1017	1.00m
Trench 1	1017	Cut: Circular modern cut with sharp break of slope, irregular sides and base, filled by 1016	1.00m
Trench 1	1018	Voided Context	-

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Trench 1	1019	Voided Context	-
Trench 1	1020	Cut: Circular cut with sharp break of slope, vertical sides and flat base, filled by 1012 , truncated by 1015	0.57m
Trench 1	1021	Fill: Loose light yellowish brown coarse sand with frequent sandstone inclusions, upper fill of 1022	0.31m
Trench 1	1022	Cut: Linear cut running NE-SW, with sharp break of slope, irregular sides and flat base, filled by 1021 & 1023	0.70m
Trench 1	1023	Fill: Loose mid brownish orange sand with frequent sandstone inclusions, lower fill of 1022	0.60m
Trench 1	1024	Cut: Sharp cut in 1003 , possible modern levelling truncation	0.14m
Trench 1	1025	Fill: Compact mid reddish brown silty sand, underlying 1003 and sealing 1021	0.20m
Trench 1	1026	Fill: Loose modern rubble fill of 1027	1.00m
Trench 1	1027	Cut: Circular modern cut with sharp break of slope, irregular sides and base, filled by 1026	1.00m
Trench 1	1028	Cut: Sub-circular cut in NW side of 1022 , sharp break of slope, vertical sides, flat base, filled by 1023	0.20m
Trench 1	1029	Cut: Sub-circular cut in NW side of 1022 , sharp break of slope, vertical sides, flat base, filled by 1023	0.10m
Trench 2	2001	Topsoil: A loose/friable dark grey brown silty sand with small stone inclusions and bioturbation.	0.30m
Trench 2	2002	Subsoil: A friable light grey/orange brown silty sand with small stone inclusions and bioturbation.	0.04 - 0.10m
Trench 2	2003	Natural: A firm orange yellow sand and sandstone natural and bedrock deposit.	(0.56m)
Trench 2	2004	Cut: A probable linear Roman field boundary ditch aligned ne-sw. Filled with 2005 .	0.19-0.33m
Trench 2	2005	Fill: A firm mid orange brown sand with occasional sub angular stone inclusions, probably formed by erosion of side edges.	0.19-0.33m
Trench 2	2006	Cut: A small sub oval pit, probably a tree/plant bole. Filled with 2007 .	0.51m
Trench 2	2007	Fill: A loose friable mid orange brown silty sand with occasional sub rounded stone inclusions and bioturbation.	0.51m
Trench 2	2008	Cut: A sub oval pit related to modern gardening activity. Filled with 2009 .	0.48m
Trench 2	2009	Fill: A loose/friable mid grey brown with a lens of redeposited natural and fragments of CBM.	0.48

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Trench 2	2010	Cut: A sub rectangular cut aligned se – nw associated with modern gardening activity. Filled with 2011 .	0.56m
Trench 2	2011	Fill: A loose/friable mid grey brown sand with red brick fragment inclusions.	0.56m
Trench 2	2012	Cut: A circular pit with concave base. Probably a tree/plant bole filled with 2013 .	0.23m
Trench 2	2013	Fill: A loose/friable mid grey brown silty sand with 'streaks' of probable redposited natural and bioturbation.	0.23m
Trench 2	2014	Cut: A sub oval pit with a flat base excavated as a rubbish dump. Filled with 2015 .	0.22m
Trench 2	2015	Fill: A mid grey brown silty sand waste deposited with CBM fragment inclusions.	0.22m
Trench 2	2016	Cut: A sub-circular/oval pit possibly cut by 2014 . Probably a modern garden feature that may also truncate 2004 . Filled with 2017, 2018 and 2019 .	0.56m
Trench 2	2017	Fill: Primary light orange yellow sand fill of 2014 .	0.05 – 0.56m
Trench 2	2018	Fill: Secondary dark red brown silty sand fill of 2014 . Probable deliberate backfill.	0.20m
Trench 2	2019	Fill: Secondary mid orange brown silty sand fill of 2014 .	0.20m

Appendix 2: Pottery Report

Swinton, South Yorkshire: Report prepared by David G. Griffiths (January 2015) for Elmet Archaeological Services on Roman pottery recovered from excavations conducted in 2014.

Introduction

This report presents the Roman pottery recovered from excavations at Swinton, South Yorkshire, conducted by Elmet Archaeological Services during August 2014. A total of 36 Roman pottery sherds (244 grams) were recovered from stratified deposits, of which 11 were diagnostic and represented at least 4 vessels. Numerous sherds of Post-Medieval and ‘modern’ ceramics (up to the 20th century AD) were present in **1001**, **1002**, **1003**, **1012**, and **1018**; these items are not included in this report.

All Roman ceramic material recovered was classified and quantified by ware class (Black-burnished ware and coarsewares), and **Table 1** presents the bulk pottery data (sherd count and weight) by context. Full fabric descriptions for each ware class are presented, along with a detailed written description and illustration for all diagnostic sherds.

Table 1. Roman bulk pottery by context, sherd count, and weight (in grams).

Context	Black-burnished count	Black-burnished weight	Coarseware count	Coarseware weight	Total count	Total weight
1001			5	16	5	16
1002			1	3	1	3
1003	2	1			2	1
1012	3	30	1	8	4	38
1016						
1018	2	6			2	6
1021	8	50	5	44	13	94
1023	8	75	1	11	9	86
Total	23	162	13	82	36	244

Discussion

It must be first noted that **1021** and **1023** were the only archaeological deposits which did not contain ‘modern’ material (e.g. pottery, glass, brick etc. dating to approximately the 18th to 20th centuries AD). These two contexts may be considered as undisturbed deposits dating to the Roman period (based on the material culture recovered). The Roman pottery assemblage was relatively small, and, subsequently, its analysis did not allow for information to be gained regarding site function. However, these few pots do provide tentative evidence regarding social status and a broad date range for occupation. No fine tablewares (e.g. Samian or colour-coated wares) were recovered from these investigations, indicating a relatively low social status for the inhabitants of the site.

Information regarding site chronology was gained from three Featured Vessels, no’s 1, 2/4, and 5. Two of these were Rossington Bridge Black-burnished ware jars (no’s 1 (**1012**) and 2/4 (**1021** and **1023**), which were produced locally in South Yorkshire (Tomber and Dore

1998, 202) during the third century AD, similar examples have been found in third century AD deposits at Brougham, Cumbria (Cool 2004, 218), and Dalton Parlours, near Tadcaster (Sumpter 1990, 139). A cross-hatched Black-burnished ware decorated body sherd (no. 6) was recovered, and was possibly part of either vessel no. 1, or no. 2/4. Vessel no. 5 (**1023**) was also likely to have been produced in the Yorkshire region, possibly in the late second century or third century AD.

Given the relatively few diagnostic vessel sherds recovered from Swinton, occupation of the site may be tentatively suggested (based on the pottery) from as early as the late second century AD, and continued throughout the third century AD. Black-burnished ware pottery (at least two vessels were present at Swinton) features heavily on Romano-British sites throughout the north of England during this period. Further investigations may provide evidence to refine the chronology for occupation, and offer information regarding the range of activities taking place at Swinton during the Roman period.

Catalogue

This catalogue only includes those vessel sherds where form may be firmly identified; quantification was by sherd count and weight.

Abbreviations:	Fabric inclusions:	A - abundant
RE - rim equivalent (percentage)		C - common
BE - base equivalent (percentage)		S - sparse
		VS – very sparse

Fabric descriptions

- B01** Rossington Bridge Black-burnished ware 1. Grey to dark grey fabric and grey to black burnished surface. **Inclusions:** A: quartz; S: grey; VS: mica.
- R04** Reduced. Grey, hard, ill-sorted. Similar to Holme-on-Spalding Moor Reduced ware, wheel-made. **Inclusions:** A: white (0.1mm), C: black, rounded (some c.1-2mm). **Munsell:** 7.5YR 4/1 dark grey to 4/2 brown.
- R06** Reduced. Hard, irregular fracture, ill-sorted, wheel-made. **Inclusions:** C: quartz, S: white. **Munsell:** 7.5YR 3/1 very dark grey

Featured Vessels

1

Rossington Bridge Black-burnished ware 1 (Tomber and Dore 1998, ROS BB I) jar with everted rim, broad collar, and carinated shoulder. Surface heavily eroded. c. AD 240 – 270 (e.g. no. 271, Brougham (Cool 2004, 218)). **Fabric** B01. **Rim diam.** 132mm; **RE** 17.5%; **Count** 3; **Wt.** 30g. **Context** 1012.

2/4

Rossington Bridge Black-burnished ware 1 (Tomber and Dore 1998, ROS BB I) jar with everted rim and groove where rim meets shoulder; sharp curve to shoulder. c. AD 230 – 300 (e.g. no. 32, Dalton Parlours (Sumpter 1990, 139). **Fabric B01. Rim diam.** 120mm; **RE 35%; Count 4; Wt.** 36g. **Contexts 1021** (no. 2, 2 sherds) and **1023** (no. 4, 2 sherds).

3

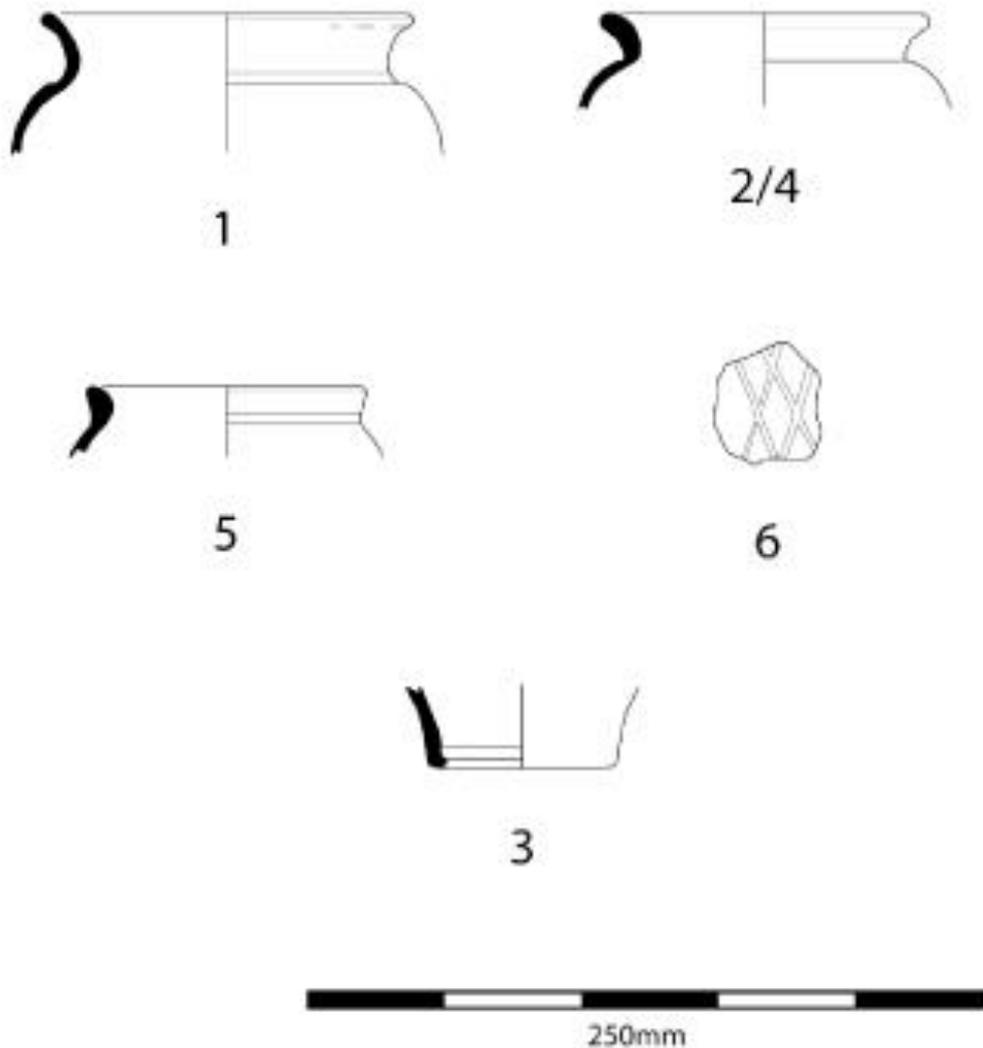
Coarseware base sherd, heavily eroded. **Fabric R06** (core: dark grey, reduced; margins: brown). **Rim diam.** 70mm; **RE 12%; Count 1; Wt.** 7g. **Context 1021.**

5

Coarseware jar with everted rim. Grey fabric with burnished outer-surface and rim. c. AD 150 – 200 + (similar to no. 220, Castleford (Rush 2000, 114). **Fabric R04. Rim diam.** 102mm; **RE 30%; Count 2; Wt.** 25g. **Context 1023.**

6

Rossington Bridge Black-burnished ware body sherd with cross-hatched decoration (likely part of vessel no. 1 or no. 2/4). **Fabric B01. Count 1; Wt.** 12g. **Context 1023.**



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Appendix 3: Glass Report

Swinton, South Yorkshire: Report prepared by Birgitta Hoffmann (February 2015) on a Roman Glass fragment recovered from excavations in 2014.

1 piece of glass was submitted located in **1023** Primary ditch fill.

Material: Colourless with bluish tinge no bubbles visible.

Dimensions: 26mm x 34.1 x 6.38 Surviving width of handle attachment: 16.7 mm surviving height: 10.5 mm

The fragment is from the shoulder of a handled vessel, most likely some form of jug. The handle originally attached vertically to the shoulder and continued up. While colourless handled vessels belong mostly to the tableware from the first to fourth century, the small piece and the heat deformation has made it impossible to identify the exact type of vessel it may have come from, and thus no narrower date range than the Roman period can be suggested.

The pitted surface on the upper side of the fragment and the slight deformations of the original shape are due to a secondary exposure to heat of the vessel, melting the edges of the vessel and contracting them. A comparison with modern glass sherds exposed to a variety of heat sources and temperatures suggests that the heat was high but not excessive, but more likely accidental (eg. a small fire on a hearth or small bonfire, rather than the centre of a blaze). The exposure to heat was uneven, mainly affecting the inner surface of the vessel. This suggests that the vessel was already broken, when exposed to heat. The breaks on the handle and on one side of the shoulder are sharp and have most likely occurred after the heat exposure. There are no tool impressions or other indicators that this heat deformation was intentional or even took place in the context of a workshop.

Appendix 4: Environmental Report

Assessment of biological remains from two sediment samples collected during excavations at 63 Toll Bar Road, Swinton, Rotherham, South Yorkshire

Introduction

Two sediment samples ('GBA'/'BS' *sensu* Dobney *et al.* 1992), from post hole fill **1012** and primary boundary ditch fill **1023**, were submitted to Palaeoecology Research Services Limited (PRS), Kingston upon Hull, for an assessment of their bioarchaeological potential.

Methods

The sediment samples were inspected and their lithologies recorded, using a standard *pro forma*, prior to processing for the recovery of organic macrofossils (and artefactual remains) broadly following the techniques of Kenward *et al.* (1980).

The washovers did not appear to contain uncharred 'ancient' organic remains and were dried prior to examination for macrofossils using a low-power microscope (x7 to x45 magnification).

The residues were primarily mineral in nature and were dried prior to the recording of their components. The residues were separated into three fractions using 10 mm and 4 mm sieves. Sorting for all remains, including artefacts, was undertaken to 4 mm. Residue less than 4 mm was retained unsorted. All residue fractions (including those less than 4 mm) were scanned for magnetic material.

All of the components of the washovers and residues were recorded using a five-point semi-quantitative scale (see Key to **Table 2**). The abundance of recovered organic and other remains within the sediments as a whole may be judged by comparing the washover weights/volumes and the quantities of remains recovered from the residues with the size of the processed sediment samples.

Macrofossil remains were identified by comparison with modern reference material (where possible), and the use of published works (e.g. Cappers *et al.* 2006 and Jacomet 2006 for plant remains). Remains were identified to the lowest taxon possible or necessary to achieve the aims of the project.

Charcoal identifications were attempted for a small number of larger fragments, all of which were over 4 mm. Pieces were broken to give clean cross-sectional surfaces and the anatomical structures were examined using a low-power binocular microscope (x7 to x45) and higher magnification where necessary (x150). Identifications were made by comparison with modern reference material where possible, and with reference to published works (principally Hather 2000 and Schoch *et al.* 2004).

A microfossil 'squash' subsample (~5 ml) from each deposit was examined using the 'squash' technique of Dainton (1992). Originally designed specifically to investigate the content of eggs of intestinal parasitic nematodes, this method routinely reveals the presence of other microfossils, such as pollen and diatoms, which were the main focus of the investigations here. The slides were scanned at x150 magnification and at x600 where necessary.

During recording, consideration was given to the suitability of macrofossil remains for submission for radiocarbon dating by standard radiometric technique or accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS).

Results

The results of the assessment are presented in **Tables 1 to 4**. **Table 1** lists the sediment samples and shows the sediment descriptions and sizes of the subsamples processed, together with context information for the deposits (provided by the excavator). **Table 2** gives details of the remains recovered from the deposits in the washover fraction. **Table 3** shows the descriptions of the residue fractions and the biological and other remains recovered from them. **Table 4** presents the results of the microfossil investigations.

Discussion and statement of potential

Ancient organic material recovered from the fill of post hole **1020** (and associated larger cut **1015**) and the primary fill of ditch **1022** (which also filled possible post holes **1028** and **1029**) was restricted to a little charcoal and, from the former, a single very poorly preserved indeterminate charred grain fragment. Both deposits contained some modern intrusive/contaminant material, principally rootlet and small numbers of modern 'seeds' but also including occasional invertebrate remains (earthworm egg capsules from Context **1012**).

Most of the charcoal recovered from the two samples was small (less than 4 mm), indeterminate, rectilinear fragments but **1012** also yielded a few larger fragments including one charred roundwood twig fragment representing four years of wood growth which could be partially identified as of a diffuse-porous species (a species level identification could almost certainly be achieved by further study). All of the charcoal present probably represents fuel waste; coal was also present (and cinder in **1012**).

No interpretatively valuable microfossils were present in either of the deposits. Artefactual material from the samples was exclusively from **Context 1012** and consisted of a background level of hammerscale and amorphous slag (far too little to imply any significant metalworking in the immediate vicinity), a few shards of clear glass (modern), a single fragment of clay pipe stem and a clearly modern 'bead' of polystyrene.

1012, and perhaps also **1023**, yielded sufficient charcoal for radiocarbon dating (via AMS) to be attempted. However, all of the charcoal from **1023** would be unsuitable for this purpose being of indeterminate species and number of years of growth and, therefore, subject to the 'old wood problem' whereby any date returned could be significantly earlier than the charring event (the carbon content of the wood being fixed at the time of its growth). The charred grain and roundwood charcoal fragments from **1012** could be considered for submission but this deposit was clearly highly insecure/mixed in nature as it contained intrusive remains (e.g. rootlet and earthworm egg capsules) and artefactual material spanning many centuries – modern glass and polystyrene, together with clay pipe (post-medieval) recovered from the sample, but also Roman pot and prehistoric flint recovered on site (excavator's site text) – and, consequently, any date returned from the charcoal could not be reliably extended to the deposit as a whole.

Recommendations

The dearth of ancient organic remains recovered from the samples precludes any further study.

Retention and disposal

The small quantity of artefactual remains recovered from **1012** may be retained at the excavator's discretion but the remainder of the washover and residue fractions and the 'squash' subsamples of unprocessed sediment may be discarded.

Archive

All of the extant material is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 4, National Industrial Estate, Bontoft Avenue, Kingston upon Hull), pending return to the excavator (or permission to discard), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

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Table 1. 63 Toll Bar Road, Swinton, Rotherham, South Yorkshire: Notes from initial visual inspection of bulk sediment samples and processing

Context number	Sample number	Context type	Initial sediment description	Processed sample size wt/vol (kg/l)	Remaining sediment
1012	1	Single fill of post hole 1020 and larger cut 1015 (interpreted as having been cut to aid the removal of the contents of 1020)	Moist, light/mid yellow-brown to mid grey-brown (colours mottled at mm- and cm-scales), unconsolidated to crumbly (occasionally), silty sand. Stones (2 to 60 mm), modern glass, clay pipe stem and modern rootlet were present.	11.5/10	'Squash' subsample only – approximately 5 ml
1023	2	Primary fill of ditch 1022 – also filling possible post holes 1028 and 1029	Moist, light yellow-brown to light/mid grey-brown, unconsolidated (occasionally crumbly – also with some heat-affected fused lumps), slightly silty sand. Stones (6 to over 60 mm) and modern rootlet were present.	10.5/9	'Squash' subsample only – approximately 5 ml

Table 2. 63 Toll Bar Road, Swinton, Rotherham, South Yorkshire: Summary information regarding the assessment of the content of the sample washovers (all dried), in context number order. Key: 'CN' = context number; 'SN' = sample number; 'Wt (kg)/Vol (l)' = Weight (kilos)/Volume (litres) of processed subsample; 'WO wt (g)/Vol (ml)' = weight and volume of washover in grams and millilitres; 'C'coal' = charcoal; 'Ch'd' = charred; 'eec' = earthworm egg capsules; 'nc' = nematode cysts; 'Root' = modern rootlet. Semi-quantitative abundance scale: 1 – few/rare, up to 3 individuals/items or a trace level component of the whole; 2 – some/present, 4 to 20 items or a minor component; 3 – many/common, 21 to 50 or a significant component; 4 – very many/abundant, 51 to 200 or a major component; and 5 – super-abundant, over 200 items/individuals or a dominant component of the whole.

CN	SN	Wt (kg)/ Vol (l)	WO wt (g)/ Vol (ml)	C'coal (<2 mm/ 2-4 mm/ >4 mm)	Ch'd grain/ chaff	Unch'd seed	eec/ nc	Sand	Root	Notes (see Table 2 for additional notes for charcoal)
1012	1	11.5/1 0	53.4/175	2/2/1	1/-	2	2/-	3	5	<p><u>Charcoal</u>: mostly indeterminate fragments (to 16 mm) but including some charred root/rhizome and 1x charred roundwood twig (to 20 mm) of a diffuse-porous species and representing four years of wood growth</p> <p><u>Charred grain/chaff</u>: a single poorly preserved (most surfaces damaged or missing) indeterminate grain fragment</p> <p><u>Uncharred 'seeds'</u>: mostly orache/goosefoot (<i>Atriplex/Chenopodium</i>; score 2); a few dock (cf. <i>Rumex</i>; score 1)</p> <p><u>Root</u>: formed approximately half of the total washover volume</p> <p><u>Other</u>: coal (to 22 mm, but mostly less than 4 mm; score 5);</p>

CN	SN	Wt (kg)/ Vol (l)	WO wt (g)/ Vol (ml)	C'coal (<2 mm/ 2-4 mm/ >4 mm)	Ch'd grain/ chaff	Unch'd seed	eec/ nc	Sand	Root	Notes (see Table 2 for additional notes for charcoal)
										cinder (to 20 mm; score 4); amorphous 'slag' (to 5 mm; score 1); modern clear glass (to 5 mm; score 1); 1x polystyrene 'bead' (to 4 mm)
1023	2	10.5/9	15.8/10	2/-/-	-/-	2	-/-	5	2	<p><u>Charcoal</u>: indeterminate fragments (to 2 mm)</p> <p><u>Uncharred 'seeds'</u>: at least three forms present – not identified but some would be if studied further</p> <p><u>Root</u>: formed approximately one-tenth of the total washover volume</p> <p><u>Other</u>: coal (to 12 mm, but mostly less than 4 mm; score 4); cinder (to 10 mm; score 3)</p>

Table 3. 63 Toll Bar Road, Swinton, Rotherham, South Yorkshire: Biological and non-biological remains recovered from sample residues. Key: 'CN' = context number; 'SN' = sample number; 'Wt (kg)/(Vol (l))' = weight and volume of sample processed in kilograms and litres; 'mm' = maximum linear dimension in mm; 'g' = weight in grams;; '*' = flakes/spheroids of hammerscale; 'sq' = semi-quantitative abundance score (scale as for Table 2).

CN	SN	Wt (kg)/ Vol (l)	Residue wt (g)	Residue fraction %s >10/4-10/<4 mm	Ceramic sq/mm/g	Mag */g	Description of residue, notes and identifications
1012	1	11.5/10	6223.6	8/3/89	1/13/0.4	2/2.0	<p>Mostly sand (score 5) and stones (to 60 mm; score 4) – stones appeared to be mostly sandstone but with some unusually smooth surfaces (faced or surfaced) and perhaps derived from the possible floor surface encountered at the site</p> <p><u>Ceramic</u>: 1x piece of clay pipe stem</p> <p><u>Magnetic</u>: mostly heat-affected stones (to 4 mm) and sand; a little flake (to 3 mm; <0.1 g; score 2) and sphere (to 2 mm; <0.1 g; score 1) hammerscale</p> <p><u>Other</u>: 1x piece of cinder (to 25 mm; 1.3 g); coal (to 15 mm; score 3) – not sorted; 2x shards of modern clear glass (to 24 mm; 0.9 g)</p>
1023	2	10.5/9	7270.7	27/4/69	-	-/0.1	<p>Mostly sand (score 5) and stones (to 115 mm; score 5) – stones appeared to be mostly sandstone but with some unusually smooth surfaces (faced or surfaced) as also seen in Sample 1 (1012) and, again, perhaps derived from the possible floor surface encountered at the site</p> <p><u>Magnetic</u>: all heat-affected stones (to 4 mm) and sand (combined core 1) – returned to residue fraction</p> <p><u>Other</u>: coal (to 3 mm; score 1) – not sorted</p>

Table 4. 63 Toll Bar Road, Swinton, Rotherham, South Yorkshire: Results from the microfossil 'squash' subsamples. Key: 'CN' = context number; 'SN' = sample number.

CN	SN	General description of 'squash'	Notes
1012	1	Mostly inorganic, with a little organic detritus	A single soil nematode (dead) was seen but there were no interpretatively valuable microfossils present
1023	2	Almost entirely inorganic, with a trace of organic detritus	No microfossil remains present

