

07 March 2022

FULL ANALYSIS OF HUMAN REMAINS FROM FIELD 220 OF THE A1 WIDENING SCHEME

Katie Keefe & Malin Holst

Introduction

During excavations in August 2014, a deposit thought to contain human remains was identified during excavations in Field 220, at Scotch Corner, North Yorkshire, by Northern Archaeological Associates. This document presents the objectives, methods and results of the analysis of these remains.

Once deposit (19035), a fill of gully terminus [10933], containing 570g of burned bone was analysed, it became clear that the only identifiable fragments comprised of animal bone, and that none of the remaining fragments could be positively identified as human.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the remains undergo analysis by a zooarchaeologist. It may also be possible to use histological techniques or ZooArchaeology by Mass Spectrometry (ZooMS), whereby bones are identified by differences in the mass of the peptides, which arise as a result of sequence differences between species, with the aim of ascertaining whether the unidentified cremated bone is human or animal.

Appendix

Table 1 Summary of cremated bone assemblages

Field No	Fill No	Feature Type	Period	Artefacts and Inclusions	Bone Colour	Preservation	Weight (g)	Percentage of Expected Quantity of Bone
220	19035	Ditch terminus	Iron Age?	-	White	Moderate	570g	Not human