

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors



ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

LAND NORTH-EAST OF

SWANLAND ROUNDABOUT

SWANLAND

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE

July/August 2021

Humber Field Archaeology Report no. 2186

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WORKS
ON
LAND NORTH-EAST OF
SWANLAND ROUNDABOUT
SWANLAND
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE
August 2021**

Work carried out for Mr. John Levison

Planning Reference:	21/00925/PLF
National Grid Reference:	TA 00920 27956
Site Code	SRS2021

Doug Jobling

HUMBER FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY, The Old School, Northumberland Avenue,
KINGSTON UPON HULL, HU2 0LN

October 2021

Humber Field Archaeology Report no. 2186

REPORT DETAILS	
<i>Report title:</i>	Archaeological works on land north-east of Swanland Roundabout, Swanland, East Riding of Yorkshire.
<i>Document Type:</i>	Fieldwork report
<i>Report Number</i>	2186
<i>Client Name:</i>	Mr. John Levison
<i>Site Code:</i>	SRS2021
<i>National Grid Reference:</i>	TA 00920 27956
<i>Version:</i>	1
<i>Date:</i>	27 th October 2021
<i>Author(s):</i>	Doug Jobling
<i>Position(s):</i>	Archaeology Project Officer;
<i>Checked by:</i>	Dave Atkinson
<i>Position:</i>	Project Manager
<i>Approved by:</i>	Peter Connelly
<i>Position:</i>	Archaeology Manager

Contents

List of Figures	4
List of Plates	4
1 SUMMARY	5
2 INTRODUCTION	6
2.1 Circumstances of the fieldwork	6
2.2 Site topography and geology	6
2.3 Archaeological background	7
3 THE EXCAVATIONS	8
3.1 Methodology	8
3.2 Results	8
4 SPECIALIST REPORTS	11
4.1 Assessment of the pottery and clay tobacco pipe	11
4.2 Assessment of the bulk finds other than pottery	13
4.3 The recorded finds	14
4.4 The biological remains	16
5 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	22
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	23
REFERENCES	23
APPENDICES	26
Appendix 1	26
Appendix 2	28
Appendix 3	31
Appendix 4	32
Appendix 5	34

List of Figures

(located at end of report)

Figure 1 Site location plan (red)

Figure 2 Plan showing the general groundworks, the location of the current archaeology (top), the previous archaeology works (bottom left) and the NMP enclosure plot

Figure 3 Plan showing the archaeological features recorded at the site

Figure 4 Recorded features in section S.1 – S.4

Figure 5 Recorded features in section S.5 – S.8

Figure 6 Recorded features in section S.9 – S.11

Figure 7 Recorded features in section S.12 – S.17

List of Plates

(located at end of report)

Plate 1 Initial stripping of the roundhouse area, looking north-west

Plate 2 Ditch terminus 131, looking south-east (1m scales)

Plate 3 Linear ditch 106, looking east (0.5m scale)

Plate 4 Large water collection pit 118, cutting through ditches 114 (left) and 117 (right).
Looking west, 1m scales

Plate 5 Ditch 114 (left) and later ditch 117 (right) in a machine cut sondage at the east of the site, looking west (1m scales)

Plate 6 Ditch 129 as it exits the site to the north (1m scale)

1 SUMMARY

In July and August 2021 an archaeological monitored topsoil strip, followed by targeted trial excavation to ensure preservation by record was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology in advance of the erection of an agricultural roundhouse building on land north-east of Swanland Roundabout, Swanland, East Riding of Yorkshire, HU14 3NG.

The monitoring of the topsoil strip and selective areas of ground reduction revealed an archaeological landscape dating to the Romano-British period. This was in the form of a large west to east oriented ditch, and which ran across the site and a further large ditch (with terminal end) oriented north to south in the south-western area of the site. These features were accompanied by one or two small pits. These features were superseded by slightly later north to south aligned ditches which cut over the top of the earlier, larger features. One of the later ditches appeared to empty into a large water collection pit which also truncated the earlier ditch sequence. Pottery recovered from the features at the site demonstrated a broadly 2nd century appearance across the main two phases of activity.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Circumstances of the fieldwork

The report presents the results of a programme of archaeological monitored topsoil strip, to be followed by targeted trial excavation to ensure preservation by record, has been produced in support of the proposals for the erection of an agricultural roundhouse building on land north-east of Swanland Roundabout, Swanland, East Riding of Yorkshire, HU14 3NG (Figure 1).

A planning application for this development (reference DC/18/03802/PLF) was submitted to the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 22nd November 2018. Permission was subsequently granted on 29th January 2019, subject to a condition (no. 3) which states:

‘No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

The programme shall be carried out as approved, unless otherwise agreed in writing beforehand with the Local Planning Authority (to protect archaeological interests: to comply with Policy ENV3 of the East Riding Local Plan and guidance within the National Planning Policy Framework (section 16).

This pre-commencement condition is imposed because the application site lies within the historic core of the village, with remains of the medieval village running through the proposal site itself and to comply with Policy ENV3 of the East Riding Local Plan 2016. A pre-commencement condition is required to ensure adequate recording and mitigation measures can be identified and incorporated into the scheme.

The Humber Historic Environment Record Office (HHER), archaeological advisors to East Riding of Yorkshire Council, had recommended that an archaeological monitored topsoil strip, to be followed by targeted trial excavation to ensure preservation by record be undertaken to record any surviving archaeological remains which might be disturbed and/or destroyed during development.

Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) were appointed to undertake the archaeological work and produced a site-specific written scheme of investigation (WSI, Atkinson 2021) which was submitted to and approved by HHER and the local planning authority in advance of any work commencing on site.

2.2 Site topography and geology

The proposed development site occupies an area of c.3360m². The site is adjacent to Swanland Roundabout, on the roundabout’s north-eastern corner. The site is bounded to the south-east by a depot, to the south by the previously built agricultural building (Jobling 2020) and the B1231, to the west by the A164 and to the north by agricultural land.

The site lies at around 60mAOD. The underlying superficial geology is Devensian Till (Diamicton), which are glacial in origin. They are detrital, created by the action of ice and meltwater, they can form a wide range of deposits and geomorphologies associated with glacial and inter-glacial periods during the Quaternary

(data from <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> – geology of Britain viewer).

Overlying soils are described as freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>).

2.3 Archaeological background

The following background information has been taken in part from a letter by the HHER (dated 8th July 2019).

The site of the proposed development lies in a landscape containing heritage assets dating from the prehistoric and Romano-British periods. Within the red-line boundary of the application and directly to the south and west of the proposed livestock building, the crop-marks of an Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure have been identified. This feature was first identified during the Hull Valley National Mapping Project undertaken by English Heritage in 2012. The enclosure measures approximately 68m by 65m. Further remains dating from the Iron Age/Romano-British period have been identified to the south-west of the application plot. These features appear to represent a field system, with at least one possible enclosure recorded. During the construction of the Humber Bridge Approach Road in 1990, several Mesolithic or Neolithic flint finds were recorded.

In September 2020 a programme of archaeological monitored topsoil stripping followed by targeted trial excavation to ensure preservation by record was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during the erection of an agricultural roundhouse livestock building on the site immediately adjacent to this site to the south-west.

The work revealed the presence of the south-eastern corner of an Iron Age/Romano-British squared enclosure, which was initially identified by the Hull Valley National Mapping Project undertaken by English Heritage in 2012. That previous project suggested that the south-eastern corner had an opening (as seen through cropmarks), but the current evidence demonstrates that the corner was fully intact. Pottery recovered from surface collection and from deposits within the ditch arms recovered items which were both of general Late Iron Age wares (1st century BC to 1st century AD) and Roman Greyware (2nd to early 3rd century). This suggests that the large feature was possibly open, or recut, for a couple of centuries at least with activity going into the mid-Romano-British period.

3 THE EXCAVATIONS

3.1 Methodology

The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from HFA, in accordance with the written scheme of investigation for archaeological monitored topsoil strip, to be followed by targeted trial excavation to ensure preservation by record, produced by HFA, (Atkinson, D. July 2021), HER Reference: 21/00925/PLF and with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 (a) Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation and (b) Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation.

The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of the stripping of the topsoil from the area of the new roundhouse. This work was undertaken in two main stages; the first being the removal of the topsoil across the site to a depth of around 0.30m below the current ground surface, the second being a deeper strip (most noticeably on the west and north) which removed natural clay and the exposed (and recorded) archaeological deposits for up to a further 0.60m below the initial stripped area. This additional material was moved to the eastern side of the stripped area to level the ground up in that part of the site. The diameter of the strip was 51m. Further, the eastern half of the site needed to be raised up due to discrepancies in ground level, therefore, little in the way of any archaeological deposits were exposed in that area.

Standard Humber Field Archaeology recording procedures were used throughout; each identified feature was allocated a context number, with written descriptions recorded on pro forma sheets. Plans and sections were drawn to scale on pre-printed permatrace sheets. A digital photographic record was maintained. The locations of the trenches and the level of the features were surveyed relative to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Datum respectively, using survey-grade GPS equipment. Finds encountered were recorded to professional standards using recognised procedures and numbering systems compatible with the accessioning system employed by the recipient museums service (in this case East Riding of Yorkshire Museums Service).

3.2 Results

Analysis of the stratigraphic sequence, along with a brief analysis of the pottery, has enabled three broad chronological phases to be assigned to the site, as follows:

- Phase 1** Romano-British (2nd century)
- Phase 2** Romano-British (2nd century/very early 3rd century)

Context numbers allocated to archaeological deposits and features are referred to in the text below and Figures 2-7 show them as recorded in plan and in section. A selection of photographs has also been included (Plates 1-6). The majority of the fills of the recorded features were very similar in appearance, being broadly mid brown grey, or mid grey brown clayey silts, most of which appeared to be representative of natural infilling rather than deliberate dumps of material. In some cases, the fills contained pottery, and other, artefacts probably arising because of casual discard; these artefacts are recorded and discussed in the relevant Finds section.

Phase 1

This first phase of activity is characterised by large ditches representing field boundaries or animal enclosures.

A large west-south-west to east-north-east oriented ditch 114/137 entered the site from the west and ran for approximately 35m before disappearing underneath the raised area to the east. The ditch was between 1.3m and 1.7m wide and between 0.60m and 1.20m deep, draining away from the east to the west, its lowest recorded point being at 55.38mOD. The ditch was recut on its northern side by 117, which was up to 2.3m wide and 0.90m deep (54.85mOD), changing the focus of the draining action to move towards the east.

Offset to the south of these ditches were two smaller ditches on the same alignment, both of which had terminal ends creating an enclosure entrance: 103 and 106. Both ditches were broadly similar in width and depth: 0.90m wide and up to 0.45m deep (56.04mOD).

A north-west to south-east ditch, 129, is likely broadly contemporary with 117/137 as it has a terminal end which stops short of the larger ditch, probably suggesting that they were open at the same time. Ditch 129 was greater than 11.70m long, extending outside the site to the north, was 1.10m wide and up to 1.05m deep (55.55mOD).

A singular pit, 123, was offset by 5m from ditch 117. It had a semi-rounded trefoil shape, was approximately 2m wide and up to 0.38m deep (55.75mOD).

In the south-western area of the site was the terminal end of another large ditch, 131. The ditch was oriented north-west to south-east, being a minimum of 10m long, heading outside the excavation area underneath a previously stripped section of access road. The ditch was not observed during the previous programme of work as the road strip did not penetrate below the level of the topsoil (Jobling 2020) The full width of the ditch was not exposed as it was partially obscured by the excavation edge to the west, but the ditch was up to 3.38m wide and 0.80m deep (54.92mOD). As with all the larger features, the fills within this large terminal end appeared to be because of natural accumulation.

Phase 2

This second phase of activity also likely represent field boundaries or animal enclosures, but the orientation of the features was altered, running north-west to south-east instead.

Linear gully 136 was 12m long, exiting the site to the south. The feature was 0.45m wide and up to 0.23m deep (56.09mOD) with a terminal end at the north-west. Offset by 8.00m to the west was gully 108; it was 11.25m long, rising up at both ends to disappear (with no apparent terminal ends). The ditch was up to 1m wide and 0.40m deep (55.91mOD). 2.50m to the west of 108 was a shallow pit 146, which was 1.45m in diameter and 0.30m deep (55.95mOD).

Ditch 110 was, visibly, the longest feature in this phase. It was 32.00m in length, 1.20m wide and up to 0.40m deep (55.72mOD). This feature clearly cut across Phase 1 large ditch 117. To the west of 117 were small stretches of linear gullies 127 and 141, both were very and/or relatively shallow in comparison to the remainder of the recorded features. 127 had a terminal end at the south, was greater than 2.69m long (exiting the site to the north-east), up to 0.35m

wide and very shallow at 0.03m deep (56.40mOD). Gully 141 was similar; greater than 3.50m long (exiting the site to the west) and 0.25m deep (56.17mOD).

The last two features recorded and investigated were another linear ditch 125 which ran into and fed a large water collection pit 118. Ditch 125 was greater than 17.20m long (exiting the site to the north), 1.55m wide and 0.45m deep (55.68mOD). The southern end of the ditch appeared to empty (and therefore fill) into a large water collection pit 118. Pit 118 cut into the top of an already infilled west to east aligned enclosure ditch 114/117. The pit had steep, near vertical sides, leading to a rounded/flattish base. The dimensions of the pit were 2.98m in diameter and up to 1.40m deep (54.70mOD).

All these features were sealed by the current topsoil horizon, 101.

4 SPECIALIST REPORTS

4.1 Assessment of the pottery and clay tobacco pipe

Peter Didsbury MPhil FSA

Introduction and methodology

A total of 353 sherds, weighing 3536 grams and having an average sherd weight (ASW) of 10.0 grams, was submitted for examination. It came from 15 different archaeological contexts, in 11 features. All material was quantified by the two measures of count and weight, according to fabric type within archaeological context. This data was entered onto an Access database, which now forms the basic ceramic archive for the site. This database is provided in stand-alone electronic form and is also, for ease of reference, embedded in this report as Appendix 4. The various codes employed in the database are presented in Appendix 3.

Fabric terminology

Broad, generic, categories of ware are given alphabetic and alphanumeric codes. Fabrics in the handmade indigenous tempering traditions are given codes beginning with H, wheelthrown and other Roman fabrics/wares with R. See Appendix 3.

The assemblages

Phase 1

Major ditch 114/137 (fills 112 and 138, 139, 140, respectively) produced an aggregated assemblage of 111 sherds, weighing 2520 grams and having an ASW of 22.7 grams.

Fill 112 of ditch cut 114 contained a single rim/body sherd of a samian form 36 (variant without leaf-trailed decoration on the rim). The form is held to be mainly Flavian or later, and most common in the late second century. A sherd from the same or a similar vessel was found in uppermost fill 140 of ditch cut 137.

Ditch cut 137 has 138, 139 and 140 as successive fills. In 138 the chronological emphasis appears to be on the first half of the second century, exemplified by: a ring-necked flagon cf. Gillam 1957, Type 5 (c. AD 110-150); the base from a possible samian form 18/31 (c. AD 120-150); a greyware inturned rim bowl of a type known in the region through the second and into the earlier third century; and greyware with fabric and combed decoration comparable to material from the Antonine kilns at Roxby (Stead 1976). A first- or second-century handmade jar in the indigenous potting tradition can be paralleled widely in the region, including at Hawling Road, Market Weighton see database for reference).

Fill 139 has both indigenous tradition material and greywares, some material in both categories having joining sherds to vessels in fill 138, below. Of particular interest in this assemblage is the pulled spout in handmade pale greyware of an apparent crucible, still retaining traces of copper on its interior.

Uppermost fill 140 has the latest material in the ditch. Most of the assemblage resembles that from 138 and 139, but there is a wide-mouthed greyware jar or bowl of third-century

appearance, and the rim of a Dalesware jar. The latter is known to have appeared just before AD 200 at Winterton Roman Villa.

Two smaller ditches on the same alignment, viz. 103 and 106, lay south of the above. Ditch 103 had fills 104 and 105, yielding an aggregated assemblage of 17 sherds, weighing 383 grams (ASW 22.5 grams). It includes a probable samian form 31 (post *c.* AD 150, if correctly identified) with greywares suggesting Antonine to Severan parallels. A date for the latest material in the early third century is certainly possible. A sherd of probable CBM was also present. The database may be consulted for further details and references.

The second of these ditches (106, fill 107) produced an assemblage of 41 sherds, weighing 192 grams (ASW 4.7 grams). Once again, greyware fabrics and forms seem to point to the Antonine and Severan periods. Published parallels are cited in the database.

Ditch 129 (fill 130) was considered broadly contemporary with 117/137. It produced 8 sherds, weighing 82 grams (ASW 10.3 grams). These comprised a sherd of colour-coated ware of unknown form, but possibly non-beaker) and greywares including a lipped dish similar to those at Winterton Villa in Severan contexts. References are cited in the database.

Pit 123 (fill 124) contained a single sherd, weighing 18 grams. It was the base of a small greyware jar whose general characteristics strongly suggested a second-century date. It was very abraded/weathered.

Finally, for Phase 1, large ditch 131 produced 16 sherds, weighing 226 grams (ASW 14.1 grams). Roman grey and calcareously gritted wares in its fill (133) were chronologically non-diagnostic, but the samian component included two form 33 cups, the most popular cup form in the mid and late second century.

Phase 2

Accounts of the assemblages in this phase may be prefaced by the observation that they are generally of limited evidential value. Only one of the four assemblages (viz, fill 128 of linear gully 127) contained more than 6 sherds, and most of them presented very low ASW values.

Fill 135 of linear gully 136 contained 6 sherds, weighing 51 grams (ASW 8.5 grams). The two components present were handmade vesicular wares of Roman date and wheel-thrown greyware from a single vessel in a blue-grey sandy fabric. Such fabrics, at least when burnished, are typical of the second- and third-century at Dragonby (Gregory 1996, 515-517).

Fill 111 of ditch 110 contained 5 sherds weighing 74 grams (ASW 14.8 grams). A sherd of unattributed ware and the greyware component afford no diagnostic evidence. The samian consists of the footring base of a probable form 31. If correctly identified this would indicate a depositional date after *c.* AD 150 and possibly through to the end of the importation period in the mid third century. The calcareously tempered wares *might* possibly include material from a Dalesware or proto-Dalesware jar but this should not be relied upon.

Fill 128 of linear gully 127 contained 23 bodies, flakes and crumbs weighing 74 grams (ASW 3.2 grams) in a coarse sandy greyware of uncertain date. Much appeared to derive from a single vessel.

Fills 120 and 121 of pit 118 produced 4 sherds weighing 15 grams (ASW 3.8 grams), comprising handmade material and wheel-thrown greyware. The latter are in a blue-grey sandy ware typical of pre-HOSM greywares in the region. Sherds in this fabric appear in both fills and provide an inter-contextual join between the two.

Conclusions and recommendations

Most of the assemblages from this site present a second-century complexion. The material appears to date from as early as the first half of the century (*e.g.* in Phase 1 context 138) though most of the samian would appear to post-date the middle of the century. Chronologically, there is little to distinguish the pottery from the two phases, many assemblages inviting an Antonine-Severan attribution. Definite third-century deposition is demonstrable in Phase 1 ditch 137, which contained a Dalesware jar rim, but it should be noted that this came from topmost fill 140 and may therefore represent final silting or “wash-in”. Open forms with Severan parallels are also present in ditch 129.

The site assemblage sheds little light on the economic strategies or lifestyle of the generating community, though the presence of a crucible in 139 is noted. It clearly had access to good quality Roman greywares and samian. The latter is to be expected at the date suggested, and reception of greywares, many probably emanating from kilns south of the Humber, would be facilitated by road and river connections in the region as well as by proximity to the Roman power at Brough (Didsbury 1990, *passim*).

No further work on the site assemblage suggests itself as being necessary, though, should a publication be envisaged, it would be necessary to obtain specialist opinion on the small samian assemblage and to refine the dating accordingly if necessary. The crucible should also receive attention from the Finds Officer and perhaps from an external specialist.

The material should be retained in a suitable regional material archive, if at all possible

4.2 Assessment of the bulk finds other than pottery

Pamela M. Cartwright

Aims and Objectives

The following report will assess the potential of the assemblage from the excavation for further analysis. The format of the report is designed to comply with current standards and guidance for best practice in the production of archaeological artefact assessments.

Introduction and Methodology

All artefacts from the SRS2021 excavation were recorded using the Humber Field Archaeology pro-forma ‘Bulk finds’ sheets and ‘Context finds’ sheets. Objects were packaged appropriately for long term storage, in accordance with conservation and museum guidelines.

The Flint

Two pieces of flint were collected and identified as debitage from tool manufacture (L. Wastling, *pers. comm.*). A chunk from the fill of ditch terminus 103 displays a flake removal. Another chunk from the fill of ditch terminus 106 displays its removal from a core and possible retouch to one edge. Both are residual material within Phase 1 features of Roman date.

Flint Table

Context	Quantity	Weight(g)	Comments
103	1	7	Chunk with flake removed
107	1	8	Chunk with flake removed, retains outer cortex
Total	2	15	

The Ceramic Building Material

A single abraded fragment of Romano British brick was collected from the upper fill of water collection pit 118. There are no diagnostic features, and no complete dimensions but the soft alluvial fabric is typical for the period.

The presence of Romano British brick could be an indicator of a structure somewhere in the vicinity as material like this tends not to travel far. No further information can be ascertained from one single abraded piece.

Ceramic Building Material Table

Context	Quantity	Weight(g)	Comments
122	1	280	Non-diagnostic Romano British fabric
Total	1	280	

Statement of Potential and Recommendations

This small assemblage has very limited potential for further work. The flint is residual tool manufacturing debris, and the brick fragment is abraded and non-diagnostic to type.

No further work is required on the flint and brick, both of which are recommended for discard upon the completion of the report.

4.3 The recorded finds

Pamela M. Cartwright

Aims and Objectives

The following report will assess the potential of the recorded finds assemblage from the excavation for further analysis. The format of the report is designed to comply with current standards and guidance for best practice in the production of archaeological artefact assessments.

Introduction and methodology

All artefacts were recorded using the Humber Field Archaeology *pro-forma* finds record sheets. Data obtained from the *pro-forma* sheets was used to create access databases. Objects were packaged appropriately for long term storage, in accordance with conservation and museum guidelines.

Quantification of Recorded Finds by Material and Function

Two Recorded finds numbers were allocated during the excavation.

Iron – 1 object

Function	Interpretation	Quantity
Structural	Nail	1
Total		1

Flint – 1 object

Function	Interpretation	Quantity
Tool	Scraper	1
Total		1

Discussion

This small assemblage of artefacts represents activities undertaken at or near the site.

Scraper. Flint. ‘Thumbnail’ scraper of mottled grey and brown flint. Scale-flaking with abrupt edge retouch and a pronounced bulb of percussion.

L. 28mm W. 21mm Th.10mm W. 8 grams.

RF1 Context 121 Phase 2

This flint was recovered from the fill of water collection pit 118 which was dated to the Roman British period. It was manufactured during the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age period.

Nail. Iron. The nail was hand-wrought with a square shank and large flattened sub-triangular head.

L. 81mm Shank 8 x 8mm Head 23 x 23mm.

RF 1 Context 140 Phase 1

This nail was recovered from the upper fill of a ditch, which also contained Romano British greyware pottery.

Statement of Potential and Recommendations

The recorded finds assemblage from this excavation has limited potential for further work. Neither object would benefit from specialist examination. No further work is therefore recommended.

The flint scraper is should be retained and deposited within the relevant museum. The nail is recommended for discard.

Recorded Finds Table

RFNO	Context	Material	Interpretation	Function
1	121	Flint	Scraper	Flint tool
2	140	Fe	Nail	Structural

4.4 The biological remains

John Carrott, Jane Barker and Charlotte England (Palaeoecology Research Services Limited/PRS)

Summary

Four bulk sediment samples, recovered from the basal fills of three Romano-British ditches and the single fill of a Romano-British gully during a further archaeological evaluation by monitored topsoil strip and targeted trial excavation at land north-east of Swanland roundabout, Swanland, East Riding of Yorkshire, were submitted for an assessment of their bioarchaeological potential. The features were interpreted as representing two phases of field boundaries or animal enclosures and the three samples from the basal ditch fills were selected for processing for the assessment.

Biological remains of probable ‘ancient’ origin (i.e. likely to be contemporary with deposit formation) recovered from the sediment samples were largely restricted to small quantities of charcoal (from all three samples) most of which could not be identified more closely than as diffuse- or ring-porous (one fragment was provisionally identified as ?hazel; cf. *Corylus*). Two of the samples also gave small assemblages of poorly preserved charred cereal remains, which included one or two grains of wheat (or ?wheat) and a trace of chaff in the form of single glume base fragments from each, and ‘seeds’. There was also a small assemblage of burnt bone from one of the deposits (all indeterminate fragments approximately two-thirds of which were fully calcined to white) and another gave single fragments of indeterminate calcined bone and burnt tooth. No microfossils were recorded from the deposits and the only artefacts recovered were two sherds of pottery from one of the fills. Other organic remains noted were clearly or almost certainly modern intrusions/contaminants – rootlet from all three deposits and occasional fragments of indeterminate modern invertebrate cuticle from two.

Introduction

The current works encountered ditches, gullies and a pit relating to two phases of activity (Phases 1 and 2) both of which appeared to date to the 2nd century AD (based on stratigraphic analysis and an initial appraisal of recovered pottery).

Four bulk sediment samples (‘GBA’/‘BS’ sensu Dobney et al. 1992), three from the basal fills of Phase 1 ditches and one from the single fill of a Phase 2 gully, were submitted to PRS, for an assessment of their bioarchaeological potential.

Methods

The lithologies of the sediment samples were recorded, using a standard pro forma, prior to the processing of the three from the basal fills of Phase 1 ditches (selected by HFA) for the recovery of plant and invertebrate macrofossils, broadly following the techniques of Kenward et al. (1980), producing a washover and a residue fraction for each.

No preservation by anoxic waterlogging was observed and the washovers were dried prior to recording. The residues were essentially mineral in nature and were also dried prior to separation into fractions (using 1, 4 and 10 mm sieves) to facilitate the sorting and recording of their components. The descriptions of the dry residues were recorded after sorting. Quantities of inorganic and environmental material refer to the larger pieces which have been extracted and reserved; smaller fragments remain in the residues and are not included. All remains (biological and artefactual) were sorted to 1 mm and the less than 1 mm fractions retained unsorted. The residues (including the less than 1 mm fractions) were scanned for magnetic material.

The processed sample fractions were examined for plant, invertebrate and vertebrate remains, using a low-power binocular microscope (x7 to x45) where necessary. The components were recorded either as actual counts or via a five-point semi-quantitative 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. The processed sample fractions were scanned until no new remains were observed and a sense of the abundance of each taxon or component (relative to the processed fraction as a whole) was achieved. 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 sizes of the processed samples.

‘Ancient’ plant macrofossil remains recovered were mostly of charcoal and species identification was attempted for a small number of fragments which were over 4 mm in at least one linear dimension. The 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 (x100 and x150). Identification was attempted by with reference to published works (principally Hather 2000 and Schoch et al. 2004).

The few other plant macrofossils were compared with modern reference material (where possible) and with published works (e.g., Cappers et al. 2006 and, for cereal identifications, Jacomet 2006), and identified to the lowest taxon possible or necessary to achieve the aims of the project. Nomenclature for plant taxa follows Stace (1997); only one species level identification was possible, however.

Identification of vertebrate material recovered to species or species group was attempted using the PRS modern comparative reference collection and published works (e.g. Schmid 1972; Hillson 1990). However, in the event, no identifications were possible and none of the remains could even be assigned to a size range – as ‘large mammal’ (assumed to be cattle, horse or large cervid), ‘medium-sized mammal’ (assumed to be caprovid (sheep/goat), pig or small cervid), for example – and all of the fragments were ‘indeterminate’. Other information, such as fragment size and evidence of burning, was noted, where applicable.

A small quantity of sediment from each of the selected samples was examined as a microfossil 'squash' subsample. These were examined using the 'squash' technique of Dainton (1992), originally designed specifically to assess the content of eggs of intestinal parasitic nematodes; however, this method routinely reveals the presence of other microfossils, such as pollen and diatoms, and, where present, these were also noted. The assessment slides were scanned at x150 magnification and at x600 where necessary.

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

Results

The results of the investigations are presented below in context number order by Phase. A summary of the processing method and an estimate of the remaining volume of unprocessed sediment follows the sample numbers.

Sediment descriptions for all the submitted samples are shown in Appendix 5.

Phase 1 – Romano-British (2nd century AD)

Context 116 (basal fill of ditch 117)

Sample 3/T (3.75 kg/3 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover and microfossil 'squash'; no unprocessed sediment remains)

Dry, mostly light/mid grey (mottled with light/mid and mid brown at a mm-scale), brittle to crumbly (working more or less plastic when wetted), slightly sandy clay. Stones (2 to 20 mm) were present.

The tiny washover (dry weight 5.2 g/~10 ml) was mostly composed of roughly equal thirds of somewhat sediment encrusted rectilinear charcoal (to 14 mm but almost all less than 4 mm; abundance score 4), small 'crumbs' of aggregated sediment (to 3 mm; score 4) and modern rootlets (score 4), together with a little sand (score 2) and a few fragments of indeterminate modern invertebrate cuticle (score 1). The largest charcoal fragment was a somewhat sediment encrusted, partial roundwood fragment (representing 6+ years of wood growth but with no wane edge or bark in evidence), of a diffuse-porous species. The three rectilinear charcoal fragments over 4 mm were also examined more closely and one of these was also partially identifiable as of a diffuse-porous species; the two other fragments crumbled and remained indeterminate. There were also 11 charred grains/grain fragments which were poorly preserved (sediment encrusted and missing much of their original surfaces) but including one which was probably wheat (cf. *Triticum*), a single charred glume base fragment (chaff from a glume wheat such as emmer, spelt or einkorn – *Triticum dicoccum* Schübl., *T. spelta* L. or *T. monococcum* L., respectively), and two charred 'seeds' (i.e. actual seeds or other similar plant structures) which were trigonous in form but not identifiable more closely owing to rather poor preservation and sediment encrustation.

The small residue (dry weight 518.0 g: >10 mm – 49.0 g; 4-10 mm – 102.0 g; 1-4 mm – 196.6 g; <1 mm – 170.4 g) was mostly stones (to 31 mm; score 5), with some sand (score 2; all of the less than 1 mm fraction) and a little charcoal (to 16 mm but mostly less than 4 mm; 2.2 g; score 3). All the charcoal was somewhat sediment encrusted, rectilinear fragments,

which were rather fragile – three of the six examined more closely were partially identifiable as diffuse-porous but the other three crumbled and remained indeterminate. There was also a tiny magnetic component (to 1 mm; <0.1 g) entirely composed of ?heat-affected sand.

The ‘squash’ subsample was almost entirely inorganic, with just a few black flecks of microscopic ?charcoal (score 1). No microfossils were present.

Context 138 (basal fill of ditch 137)

Sample 2/T (7 kg/6 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover and microfossil ‘squash’; no unprocessed sediment remains)

Moist, mostly light/mid to mid grey (mottled with mid brown and mid reddish-brown at a mm-scale), stiff to slightly sticky (working more or less plastic), slightly sandy clay. Stones (2 to 6 mm), charcoal and occasional modern rootlets were present.

The minute washover (dry weight <0.1 g/<1 ml) was mostly modern rootlets (score 5), with a little fine indeterminate rectilinear charcoal (to 1 mm; score 1) and sand (score 1).

The small residue (dry weight 1348.5 g: >10 mm – 255.4 g; 4-10 mm – 211.1 g; 1-4 mm – 606.5 g; <1 mm – 275.5 g) was mostly stones (to 65 mm; score 5), with some sand (score 2; almost all of the less than 1 mm fraction but this also contained a few black flecks of ?charcoal (unsorted)) and a little charcoal (to 12 mm but almost all less than 4 mm; 1.1 g; score 2). Almost all of the charcoal was somewhat sediment encrusted, rectilinear fragments – the two fragments which were over 4 mm and examined more closely were both partially identifiable as diffuse-porous. One charcoal fragment (to 9 mm; diameter to 4 mm) was a piece of partial roundwood representing six or more years of wood growth (no waney edge or bark was in evidence) and provisionally identified as ?hazel (cf. *Corylus*). Other biological remains recovered were limited to one burnt tooth fragment (to 9 mm; <0.1 g) and one calcined bone fragment (to 9 mm; <0.1 g) – both indeterminate. There was also a tiny magnetic component (to 3 mm; <0.1 g) entirely composed of ?heat-affected sand and small stones.

The ‘squash’ subsample was almost entirely inorganic, with just a few black flecks of microscopic ?charcoal (score 1). No microfossils were present.

Context 143 (basal fill of ditch 129)

Sample 4/T (6.75 kg/6 litres sieved to 300 microns with washover and microfossil ‘squash’; no unprocessed sediment remains)

Just moist, varicoloured (jumbled shades of brown, grey-brown and grey from light to dark), brittle to crumbly (working more or less plastic when wetted), slightly sandy clay. Stones (2 to 20 mm) and charcoal (which appeared rather fragile) were present.

The tiny washover (dry weight 4.0 g/~10 ml) was mostly somewhat sediment encrusted and rather fragile rectilinear charcoal (to 19 mm but mostly less than 4 mm; abundance score 5). Minor components were ‘crumbs’ of aggregated sediment (to 3 mm; score 2), modern rootlet and indeterminate invertebrate cuticle fragments (score 1 and 2, respectively), a trace of sand (score 1) and occasional charred grains/grain fragments and ‘seeds’ (both score 2). Six of the larger charcoal fragments were examined more closely and four of these were of a ring-porous species (not oak but not identifiable more closely); the remaining two fragments both

crumbled and remained indeterminate. The charred grains/grain fragments were poorly preserved (sediment encrusted and missing much of their original surfaces) but two were of wheat (*Triticum*) and there was also one charred glume base fragment. The charred ‘seeds’ were similarly poorly preserved and largely indeterminate but did include one ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia* L.) seed.

The small residue (dry weight 725.5 g: >10 mm – 56.1 g; 4-10 mm – 156.5 g; 1-4 mm – 305.6 g; <1 mm – 207.3 g) was mostly stones (to 28 mm; score 5), with some sand (score 2; almost all of the less than 1 mm fraction but this also contained frequent black flecks of ?charcoal (unsorted)), with some bone fragments (to 17 mm; 5.1 g) and charcoal (to 13 mm but predominantly less than 4 mm; 7.2 g; score 3). All the charcoal was poorly preserved (very fragile), somewhat sediment encrusted, rectilinear fragments – of 11 larger fragments examined more closely only three could be partially (and tentatively) identified as ring-porous, the rest crumbled and remained indeterminate. The bone assemblage comprised 64 indeterminate fragments all of which were burnt with approximately two-thirds fully calcined. This residue contained the only artefacts recovered from the samples in the form of two sherds of pottery (to 39 mm; 13.4 g); there was also a tiny magnetic component (to 1 mm; <0.1 g) but this was all ?heat-affected sand.

The ‘squash’ subsample was almost entirely inorganic, with just a few black flecks of microscopic ?charcoal (score 1). No microfossils were present.

Discussion and statement of potential

Biological remains of probable ‘ancient’ origin (i.e. likely to be contemporary with deposit formation) recovered from the sediment samples from the basal fills of the Phase 1 Romano-British ditches (117, 129 and 137) were restricted to small quantities of predominantly rectilinear charcoal (from all three samples), with a few pieces of partial roundwood charcoal from ditches 117 and 137, small assemblages of charred cereal remains and ‘seeds’ from ditches 117 and 129, and a little burnt bone from ditches 129 and 137.

The charcoal was poorly preserved (sediment encrusted, fragile and crumbly) but a small number of fragments (including some of the partial roundwood) from ditches 117 and 137 could be partially identified as of a diffuse-porous species – with one from 137 provisionally identified as ?hazel (cf. *Corylus*) – whereas those identified from 129 were all ring-porous (not oak but not identifiable more closely).

The charred cereal remains and ‘seeds’ were similarly poorly preserved – of the latter only a single seed of ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia* L.) from ditch 129 could be identified to species. For the cereal grains, two from 129 were wheat (*Triticum*) and one from ditch 117 was (tentatively) identified as ?wheat – both assemblages also included single fragments of charred glume base (chaff) lending support to the grain identifications and further suggesting that the cereal represented was a glume wheat such as emmer, spelt or einkorn (*Triticum dicoccum* Schübl., *T. spelta* L. or *T. monococcum* L., respectively).

No microfossils or ‘ancient’ invertebrate remains were recorded from the deposits and although a small assemblage of burnt bone (approximately two-thirds of which was fully calcined to white) was recovered from ditch 129, and one calcined bone fragment and one burnt tooth fragment from ditch 137, none of the fragments could be identified (or even assigned to a size category).

Other organic remains noted were clearly or almost certainly modern intrusions/contaminants – rootlet from all three deposits and occasional fragments of indeterminate modern invertebrate cuticle from ditches 117 and 129.

Artefactual material consisted of just two sherds of pottery recovered in the residue from the sample from ditch 129.

Although slightly larger quantities of biological remains were recovered here than from the samples taken during the previous works in 2020 (see Carrott and Barker 2020), overall, ditches 117, 129 and 137 also appear to have infilled via essentially natural processes. There was no evidence to suggest anything more than casual waste disposal or accidental inclusions – the charcoal most likely reflects a ‘background’ level of fuel waste, the cereal remains were probably charred accidentally during food preparation or crop processing (perhaps more likely the latter given the nature of the archaeology), and the burnt bone/tooth fragments may represent a trace of food waste, for example.

Although the quantities were very small, sufficient charcoal was recovered from all three deposits for radiocarbon dating (via AMS) to be attempted. This material cannot be recommended for the purpose, however, as all of the fragments were of an indeterminate number of years of wood growth and, consequently, the associated ‘old wood’ problems could result in a radiocarbon date significantly earlier (by an unknown amount but potentially several hundreds of years in the case of long-lived species) than the charring event being returned. The small numbers of charred grains/grain fragments and ‘seeds’ from ditches 117 and 129 would provide suitable material for AMS dating but, as the quantities of charred material recovered were so small, there would be considerable doubt regarding the validity of extending any dates returned to the deposits as a whole – given the presence of rootlet and the consequent possibility of bioturbation and displacement of individual small remains.

Recommendations, Retention/Disposal and Archive

No further study of the small quantities of biological remains recovered from these deposits is warranted.

The two sherds of pottery from ditch 12) will be returned to the excavator to be considered by the appropriate specialist and included within the physical archive for the site if warranted.

Unless required for purposes other than the study of biological remains, all the other extant material may be discarded.

All material is currently stored by PRS, pending return to the excavator or permission to discard, along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

5 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is solely the opinion of HFA, and may not reflect that of HHER, archaeological advisor to the LPA.

The archaeological work undertaken on the adjacent site (Jobling 2020) demonstrated that the enclosure depicted by the Hull Valley National Mapping Project was present, and that the original mapping was ‘out’ slightly by a factor of 10m. It also demonstrated that the south-eastern corner was present when the initial mapping suggested otherwise. Dating of the feature suggested two possible phases of activity with 1st century BC and 1st century AD Late Iron Age wares and 2nd to early 3rd century Romano-British wares. This indicates that perhaps the feature was in use over an extended period, perhaps being recut.

The current archaeological work on this new agricultural roundhouse has further demonstrated the presence of archaeological features, the majority of which were not immediately visible below the topsoil horizon. There was a thin (0.10m – 0.25m) layer of redeposited natural clays which sealed and ‘hid’ the features; this deposit likely arising from hill wash, the site dropping, as it does, from the west and north to the south and east. It is this hill wash which may have masked elements of the large enclosure recording during the 2012 Hull Valley National Mapping Project rendering sections of it not visible, and it also obscured the current archaeological horizon.

The evidence shows that there are two large ditches (of similar date) at the current site which are accompanied by a pit and a smaller linear ditch. Shortly thereafter, in a second phase of activity, a series of smaller linear ditches cut over them, one of which empties into a likely water collection pit. Both phases of occupation differ from the previous programme of work in that both Phases 1 and 2 can be considered as existing during the 2nd century Romano-British period exclusively, eschewing any earlier Late Iron Age (1st century BC to 1st century AD) activity. There was some slightly later early 3rd century pottery from context 140 from ditch 137, however, given the short timeframe in which the site activity occurs, it is probable that these substantial features would have been visible in the landscape for some period after the use had finished leading to occasional episodes of later casual discard.

The current evidence, in conjunction with the previous archaeological work, suggests a wider landscape of Late Iron Age and Romano-British activity and occupation underlying the current surface horizon. The archaeology, in places, also appears to be masked by a thin layer of clay hill wash.

It is therefore the recommendation of HFA that a suitable scheme of archaeological fieldwork and accompanying post-excavation analysis be undertaken in this area should any further works be applied for in the future. This would likely be in a similar form as the type of work which has just been completed (as suggested by Richard Newman, Principal Archaeologist of HAP, advisor to the LPA) and additionally, we would also suggest that prior to any work taking place, that a geophysical survey be undertaken within the area of any future development at the site to help determine the absence or presence of any archaeological deposits or features prior to any ground works proper.

It is also recommended that the results from this current work, and the previous work in 2020, be incorporated into the ‘round-up’ section of the regional archaeological journal, in this case, *The East Riding Archaeologist*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are accorded to Mr. John Levinson for his help and co-operation during this project. Thanks are also accorded to site contractors John and Swanny for their help also.

The site recording was undertaken by Doug Jobling (BA Hons), Brad Eyre (BA) and Steve Kennedy.

Finds processing and reporting was undertaken by Pam Cartwright, Lisa M. Wasting (FSA) and Peter Didsbury (MPhil, FSA). The environmental sample work was undertaken by John Carrot and Charlotte England (PRS).

Report text, figures and plates are by the author.

Administrative support was provided by Georgina Richardson.

REFERENCES

- Atkinson, D., 2021
Erection of an agricultural roundhouse building: Land north-east of Swanland Roundabout, Swanland, East Riding of Yorkshire, HU14 3NG. Written scheme for an archaeological monitored topsoil strip, followed by targeted trial excavation to ensure preservation by record.
- Brown, D. H., 2007
Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in the creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Published by IFA on behalf of the Archaeological Archives Forum
- Cappers, R. T. J., Bekker, R. and Jans J. E. A., 2006).
Digitale Zadenatlas van Nederland. Groningen Archaeological Studies 4. Groningen: Barkhuis Publishing and Groningen University Library.
- Carrott, J. and Jane Barker, J., 2020
Assessment of biological remains from two sediment samples recovered during a monitored topsoil strip and targeted trial excavation at land north-east of Swanland roundabout, Swanland, East Riding of Yorkshire (site code: SRS2020). PRS 2020/26.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a
Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation, December 2014
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014b
Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation, December 2014
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014c
Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives December 2014
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014d
Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief, December 2014
- Darling, M. J., 1984
Roman Pottery from the Upper Defences. The Archaeology of Lincoln XVI-2. Council for British Archaeology (London)
- Dainton, M., 1992
A quick, semi-quantitative method for recording nematode gut parasite eggs from archaeological deposits. *Circaea*, the Journal of the Association for Environmental Archaeology 9, 58-63.

- Didsbury, M. P. T., 1990
 'Aspects of Late Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement in the Lower Hull Valley'. Unpublished M. Phil. thesis (University of Durham)
- Dobney, K., Hall, A. R., Kenward, H. K. and Milles, A., 1992
 A working classification of sample types for environmental archaeology. *Circaea*, the Journal of the Association for Environmental Archaeology 9 (for 1991), 24-6.
- Evans, J. with Creighton, J., 1999
 'The Hawling Road ceramic series', in Halkon and Millett 1999, 200-229
- Gillam, J.P., 1957
 'Types of Roman coarse pottery vessels in Northern Britain, *Archaeologia Aeliana* (fourth series) 35, 180-251.
- Gregory, A. K., 1996
 'Romano-British Pottery', in May 1996, 513-585
- Halkon, P. and Millett, M., 1999
 Rural Settlement and Industry: Studies in the Iron Age and Roman Archaeology of Lowland East Yorkshire. Yorkshire Archaeological Report 4, Yorkshire Archaeological Society and East Riding Archaeological Society (Leeds)
- Hather, J. G. , 2000
 The identification of the Northern European Woods: a guide for archaeologists and conservators. London: Archetype Publications.
- Hillson, S., 1990
 Teeth. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Jacomets, S., 2006
 Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites – 2nd edition. Basel: IPAS, Basel University.
- Kenward, H. K., Hall, A. R. and Jones, A. K. G., 1980
 A tested set of techniques for the extraction of plant and animal microfossils from waterlogged archaeological deposits. *Science and Archaeology* 22, 3-15.
- May, J., 1996
 Dragonby. Oxbow Monograph 61 (Oxford)
- Jobling D, 2020
 Archaeological monitored topsoil strip, followed by targeted trial excavation to ensure preservation by record on Land north-east of Swanland Roundabout, Swanland, East riding of Yorkshire, HU14 3NG
 Humber Field Archaeology Report No. 2151. Sept 2020
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 2019
 National Planning Policy Framework
- Schmid, E., 1972
 Atlas of animal bones. Amsterdam: Elsevier.
- Stace, C., 1997
 New flora of the British Isles: 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Stead, I. M., 1976
 Excavations at Winterton Roman Villa and Other Sites in North Lincolnshire 1958-1967. DOE Archaeological Report 9, HMSO (London)
- Stead, I. M., 1980
 Rudston Roman Villa. Yorkshire Archaeological Society (Leeds)

Online

Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute

<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>

The British Geological Survey

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> – geology of Britain viewer).

Schoch, W. H., Heller, I., Schweingruber, F. H. and Kienast, F., 2004

Wood anatomy of central European species. Online version: www.woodanatomy.ch

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Context list

Context	Phase	Trench/Area	ContextType	Fill Of	Interpretation	Plan No	Section No	Sample	Photo	ProvDate
100			us		Unstratified			No	Yes	
101		site strip	DEP		Topsoil			No	Yes	MOD
102		site strip	NAT		Natural clays			No	Yes	RB
103	1	site strip	CUT		Ditch cut		1a	No	Yes	RB
104	1	site strip	FIL	103	Mottled orange grey brown silty clay		1a	No	Yes	RB
105	1	site strip	FIL	103	Dark grey silt clay		1a	No	Yes	RB
106	1	site strip	CUT		Ditch cut		1b	No	Yes	RB
107	1	site strip	FIL	106	Dark grey brown silt clay		1b	No	Yes	RB
108	2	site strip	CUT		Ditch cut		1c	No	Yes	RB
109	2	site strip	FIL	108	Mottled and mixed orange, grey and brown silty clay		1c	No	Yes	RB
110	2	site strip	CUT		Ditch cut		1d,1f	No	Yes	RB
111	2	site strip	FIL	110	Mottled and mixed orange, grey and brown silty clay		1d,1f	No	Yes	RB
112	1	site strip	FIL	114	Mid brown orange redeposited natural clays		2a	No	Yes	RB
113	1	site strip	FIL	114	Mid grey with mottled orange flecks silt clays		2a	No	Yes	RB
114	1	site strip	CUT		Ditch cut		2a	No	Yes	RB
115	1	site strip	FIL	117	Mid to dark orange brown grey silt clays		2a	No	Yes	RB
116	1	site strip	FIL	117	Mid orange grey silt clays		2a,1f	Yes	Yes	RB
117	1	site strip	CUT		Ditch cut		2a,1f	No	Yes	RB
118	2	site strip	CUT		Pit cut		3a	No	Yes	RB
119	2	site strip	FIL	118	Mottled light brown and dark grey silt clay		3a	No	Yes	RB
120	2	site strip	FIL	118	Pale grey brown silt clay		3a	No	Yes	RB
121	2	site strip	FIL	118	Pale brown grey silt clay		3a	No	Yes	RB
122	2	site strip	FIL	118	Pale orange brown silt clay		3a	No	Yes	RB
123	1	site strip	CUT		Pit cut		3b	No	Yes	RB
124	1	site strip	FIL	123	Mottled grey, orange, brown silt clay		3b	No	Yes	RB
125	2	site strip	CUT		Ditch cut		1e	No	Yes	RB
126	2	site strip	FIL	125	Mid brown silt clay		1e	No	Yes	RB
127	2	site strip	CUT		Ditch cut		1g	No	Yes	RB
128	2	site strip	FIL	127	Pale blue grey clay silt		1g	No	Yes	RB
129	1	site strip	CUT		Gully cut		1h,5b	No	Yes	RB
130	1	site strip	FIL	129	Mid grey brown silt clay		1h,5b	No	Yes	RB
131	1	site strip	CUT		Ditch cut	4	5	No	Yes	RB
132	1	site strip	FIL	131	Mid brown clat		5	No	Yes	RB
133	1	site strip	FIL	131	Mid grey clay		5	No	Yes	RB

Context	Phase	Trench/Area	ContextType	Fill Of	Interpretation	Plan No	Section No	Sample	Photo	ProvDate
134	1	site strip	FIL	131	Mid grey brown silt clay		5	No	Yes	RB
135	2	site strip	FIL	136	Blue grey silt clay		1i	No	Yes	RB
136	2	site strip	CUT		Gully cut		1i	No	Yes	RB
137	1	site strip	CUT		Ditch cut		6a	No	Yes	RB
138	1	site strip	FIL	137	Mid blue grey clay		6a	Yes	Yes	RB
139	1	site strip	FIL	137	Mid grey brown clay		6a	No	Yes	RB
140	1	site strip	FIL	137	Mid brown grey clay		6a	No	Yes	RB
141	2	site strip	CUT		Gully cut		6c	No	Yes	RB
142	2	site strip	FIL	142	Mid grey silt clay		6c	Yes	Yes	RB
143	2	site strip	FIL	129	Dark grey/black silt clay		5b	Yes	Yes	RB
144	2	site strip	FIL	129	Mixed yellow brown clay		5b	No	Yes	RB
145	2	site strip	FIL	145	Mid grey brown clay silt		px	No	Yes	RB
146	2	site strip	CUT		Pit cut		px	No	Yes	RB

Appendix 2

Archive

Project Details: Agricultural roundhouse building, land north east of Swanland Roundabout, Swanland, East Riding of Yorkshire, HU14 3NG

Site Code: SRS2021

National Grid Reference: TA 00920 27956

Planning Reference Number: 21/00925/PLF

Museum Reference or Accession Number: ERYMS (BAG) : 2021 42

Author: D Jobling **Date of fieldwork:** July and August 2021

Report Number: Humber Field Archaeology Report Number

Quantity:

1 x A4 ring binder and 1 x ½ standard museum box contain the site archive, both paper and physical respectively.

The digital archive is stored on Hull City Council Servers
Index to Archive

1. Project summary			
Archive component	Hard Copy	Digital Copy	Notes
1.1 Site Summary/ Abstract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
1.2 Archive Index	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
1.3 Guide to Elements of the Archaeological Archive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. Project Planning			
2.1 Planning Documentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.2 Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design/ Project Specification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.3 Risk Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.4 Correspondence (date order)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.5 Miscellaneous documentation (flow charts, bills, receipts, administration, staffing etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Initial Survey and Documentary Research			
3.1 HER Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.2 Historic Maps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.3 Documentary Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.4 Desk-Based Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.5 Geophysical Survey Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.6 Aerial Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.7 Other Survey material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4 Site Fieldwork Data			
4.1 Site notes and diaries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.2 Context Index and Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4.3 Level Books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.4 Plan Index and Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

4.5 Section Index and Section Drawings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4.6 Survey and Sketch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5 Photographic Record:			
5.1 Photographic Site Record Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5.2 Photographic Concordance Table (database printout)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5.3 Contact Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.4 Negatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.5 Colour Transparencies (slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.6 Prints	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.7 Digital Images (computer printout)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6 Post-excavation Fieldwork Data:			
6.1 Matrices and Phasing Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.2 AutoCAD Site Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.3 Site Structural Report Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7 Digital Archive			
7.1 Digital Archive Storage Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.2 Contents of digital archive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.3 CD / DVDs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.4 Other Discs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.5 Metadata for Digital Record (data about data, eg what the codes mean)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8 Material Archive Record			
8.1 Post-excavation Finds Progress Checklist Sheet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.2 Recorded Finds Index and Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.3 Context Finds Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.4 Bulk Finds Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.5 Recorded Finds Assessment Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.6 Recorded Finds Database Copy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.7 Recorded Finds Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.8 Bulk Finds Assessment Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.9 Bulk finds Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.10 Pottery Database Copy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.11 Spot Dating Record	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.12 Pottery Assessment Report Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.13 Pottery Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.14 Ceramic Building Materials Assessment Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.15 Industrial Residues Assessment Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.16 Scientific Analysis and Dating Reports	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.17 Finds Digital Photographs Index	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.18 Finds Digital Images (computer printout)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.19 Box Index	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.20 Material Archive Rationalisation Sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.21 Finds Archive Contents Sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9 Conservation Record			
9.1 Conservation Assessment Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.2 X-rays	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

9.3 Conservation Record Sheets for Individual Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.4 Further conservation Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10 Biological Material Record			
10.1 Sample Index and Sample Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.2 Biological Material Data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.3 Biological Material Assessment Report Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10.4 Animal Bone Assessment (if a separate report)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10.5 Shell Assessment (if a separate report)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.6 Human Bone Data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.7 Human Bone Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11-13 Dissemination			
11. Publicity: Press releases, paper cuttings, recordings of interviews both on the radio and T.V.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Final Assessment Report: The complete Assessment Report. Including illustrations and plates, as sent to the client and Historic Environment Record	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2186
13. Additional Reports: Interim Statements, watching brief report copy, papers and articles written for journals or other publications.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
14 Watching Brief Archive			
14. Watching Brief Archive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Publication Archive		<input type="checkbox"/>	Did this site proceed to publication after assessment?

Appendix 3

Pottery fabric and other codes employed in the database

1. Fabrics

Code	Common name
CBM	Ceramic building material
DW	Dalesware
H2	Hand-made in indigenous tradition, with non-soluble stone temper
H3	Hand-made in indigenous tradition, with mixed temper
PDW	Proto Dalesware
RCC	Roman colour-coated ware
RCG	Roman calcareously gritted wares
RG	Roman greyware
RS	Samian
UNAT	Unattributed to type or period

2. Other

HOSM	Holme upon Spalding Moor
WMB	Wide-mouthed bowl
WMJ	Wide-mouthed jar

Appendix 4

Pottery Database

It should be noted that references in the database are sometimes given in short form, using the site name only. Thus, the terms Roxby, Winteringham and Winterton all refer to Stead 1976.

Other short forms will be obvious.

ID	CTXT	FABRIC	NO	WT	REMARKS
14	104	RG	6	218	Mostly blue-grey sandy fabrics but one gritty as in context 130. Contains a carinated sherd from a carinated jar cf. Roxby form E or Winteringham no. 112. Late 2nd to early 3rd/Severan. Also a wide-mouthed jar, perhaps within the Roxby form F spectrum, though latter described as a wide-mouthed bowl. 2nd or 3rd.
13	104	RS	1	19	Rim and much of profile of a form 31 (?). Same fabric and colouration etc. as rest of the samian from the site. Dark red slip etc. If correctly identified then c. 150 onwards.
15	104	RCG	8	104	All one vessel. Very abraded. Jar with slightly everted rim. 2 x rim, bodies and crumbs. Cf. Winterton 8 et al, Antonine. But a simple long-lived form.
25	105	CBM?	1	37	Body.
26	105	RG	1	5	Small globular beaker, burnished blue-grey ware.
19	107	RG	34	151	Mainly sandy blue-grey ware with a few sherds of black-faced redware. Latter seems to be common in L2-E3 in region. Represented by rim sherds are: curved everted medium-mouthed jar with shoulder groove, blue-grey ware; dish cf Severan types at Winterton, blue-grey; a bead rim fragment from an open form; another curved everted rim jar in black-faced redware. Large jar is broadly similar to Gillam 140, AD 180-270.
20	107	RCG	7	41	Bodies and a basal angle, reduced, patchy red surfaces, vesicular.
9	111	UNAT	1	1	Flake of oxidized ceramic.
8	111	RCG	1	4	Vesicular rim/body sherd, fully reduced Just possibly DW or PDW.
7	111	RG	2	17	Joining freshly fractured bodies, fine sandy fabric with brownish exterior.
6	111	RS	1	52	Footring base, possibly of a form 31. If so, c. 150 through to the end. Very abraded. Patchy remnants of slip on all surfaces.
1	112	RS	1	66	Rim and body sherd, much of profile of a form 36. Type without trailed leaf decoration. Very micaceous with limestone (?) flecks Slip entirely eroded on exterior, with extant patches on interior. Form apparently from 60s through to end of export period. Predominantly Flavian or later and more common in late second.
3	120	RG	2	8	Bodies, two vessels. Fine sandy fabric, cf. the blue-grey ware of Dragonby. One sherd has brownish surfaces. Pre-HOSM fabrics. Brown-faced sherd a physical join to the RG sherd in 121.
5	121	H3?	1	4	Body. Thick red exterior margin and surface, very dark grey interior. Mixed sand and shell? Many voids.
4	121	RG	1	3	Body. Physical join to 121, q.v.
2	124	RG	1	18	Base/lower body of a small jar with turned underside and suction-breaking groove, Pale, fine, sandy greyware. Blackened area around basal circumference. Basal diameter c. 60mm. Very worn. General characteristics suggest second century .
12	128	RG	23	74	Coarse sandy greyware, much from single vessel. Large number of crumbs (5 sherds account for 59 grams of the total).
11	130	RCC	1	10	Thick-walled body, off-white core and very dark grey exterior coat. Worn

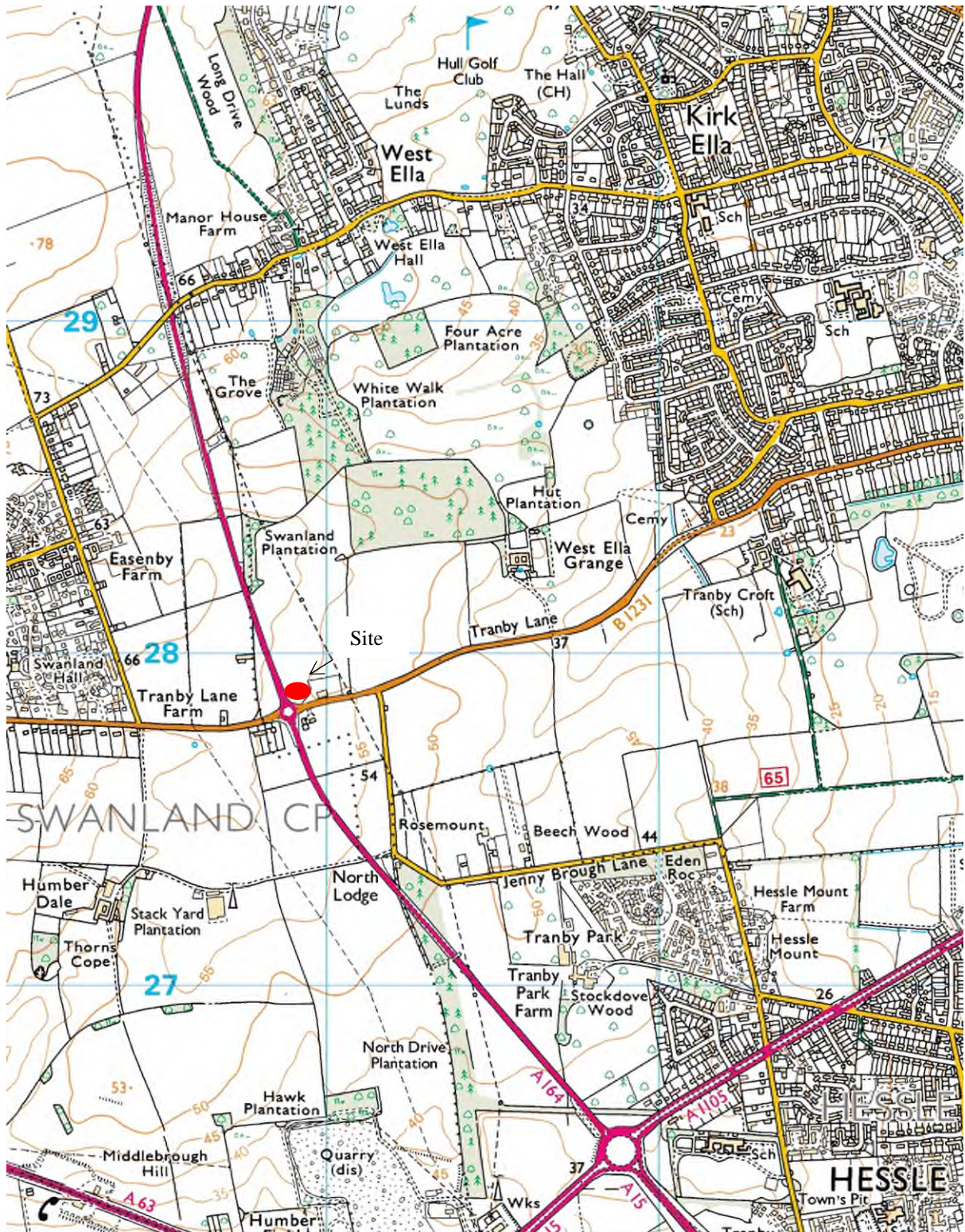
ID	CTXT	FABRIC	NO	WT	REMARKS
					slip on interior. Form and date uncertain. Non-beaker?
10	130	RG	7	72	Bodies, base and rim, possibly four vessels. Sandy, blue-grey and gritty fabrics. The base is gritty. Rim from an open form with neat lipped rim, probably acceptable as Severan, cf. nos 136-147 at Winterton Roman Villa.
18	133	RCG	7	45	Base and bodies, black surfaces with red margins/core. Worn and slightly vesicular.
17	133	RG	4	74	Worn sandy greywares, fairly thick-walled.
16	133	RS	5	107	Same range of fabrics. Includes 2 x joining rims of a 33, most popular cup in mid and late second. Plus another 33 rim, non-joining, and 2 bodies. Specialist opinion required.
23	135	RG	4	40	One vessel, blue-grey.
24	135	RCG	2	11	Bodies, vesicular.
27	138	H2	9	411	2 x rims, base and bodies. Jar with short everted rim, slightly dished on interior. Sooted. Same pot in 139. Cf. broadly Rudston 37, 45, therefore perhaps early second Hadrianic/early Antonine), or could be regarded as an essentially Knapton type. And cf. Hawling Road G091-JO1, "first or second".
28	138	RG	12	705	Complete jar base circuit; body with oblique combed lines; joining bodies of a WMJ/WMB with flattened rim; inturned rim bowl cf Lincoln Upper Defences no. 43 from the clearance levels below the colonia rampart, before AD 140. Dragonby pp 519-520 discusses dating of form. Latter physical join to vessel in 139. For combed decoration cf Roxby Form B, no. 11.
29	138	RS	2	41	Base and rim, possibly form 18/31 and Central Gaulish. If so, probably Hadrianic to early Antonine., c. 120-150. (Post mid second if 31.)
30	138	RO	4	166	Ring-necked flagon. Complete rim/neck after joins, cf. Gillam Type 5, c. 110-150. Also handle fragment of another (?) flagon.
21	139	H2	23	323	Large stone temper to c. 5mm, very variable, ill-sorted. Indigenous stone-tempered tradition, includes a thick-walled jar with rim like Knapton types.
22	139	RG	34	365	Of interest are: inturned rim bowl, physical join to the vessel in 138 q.v.; small jar or beaker base, turned with suction-breaking groove. Basal diameter c. 50mm.; body with oblique stroke decoration; probable lid, very worn, diameter c. 120mm, whitish fabric burnt post fracture, sooted on interior; pulled spout of a small handmade crucible with copper residues.
34	140	RG	22	282	Includes pie-dish cf. Roxby Form P, bowl with triangular lipped rim, cf. Winterton no. 12; body base of open form with basal chamfer; incipient/high flanged bowl, very worn, possibly into third century; and curved rim jar with very slight offset in neck.
31	140	RS	1	17	Rim of a 36 without leaf decoration, cf. same or similar in 112.
32	140	RCG	2	37	Bodies. Possibly DW???
33	140	DW	1	7	Jar rim.

Appendix 5

Environmental Sample Table

Notes from initial visual inspection of bulk sediment samples. Note: sample and context numbers appear in bold face for the samples processed for the assessment.

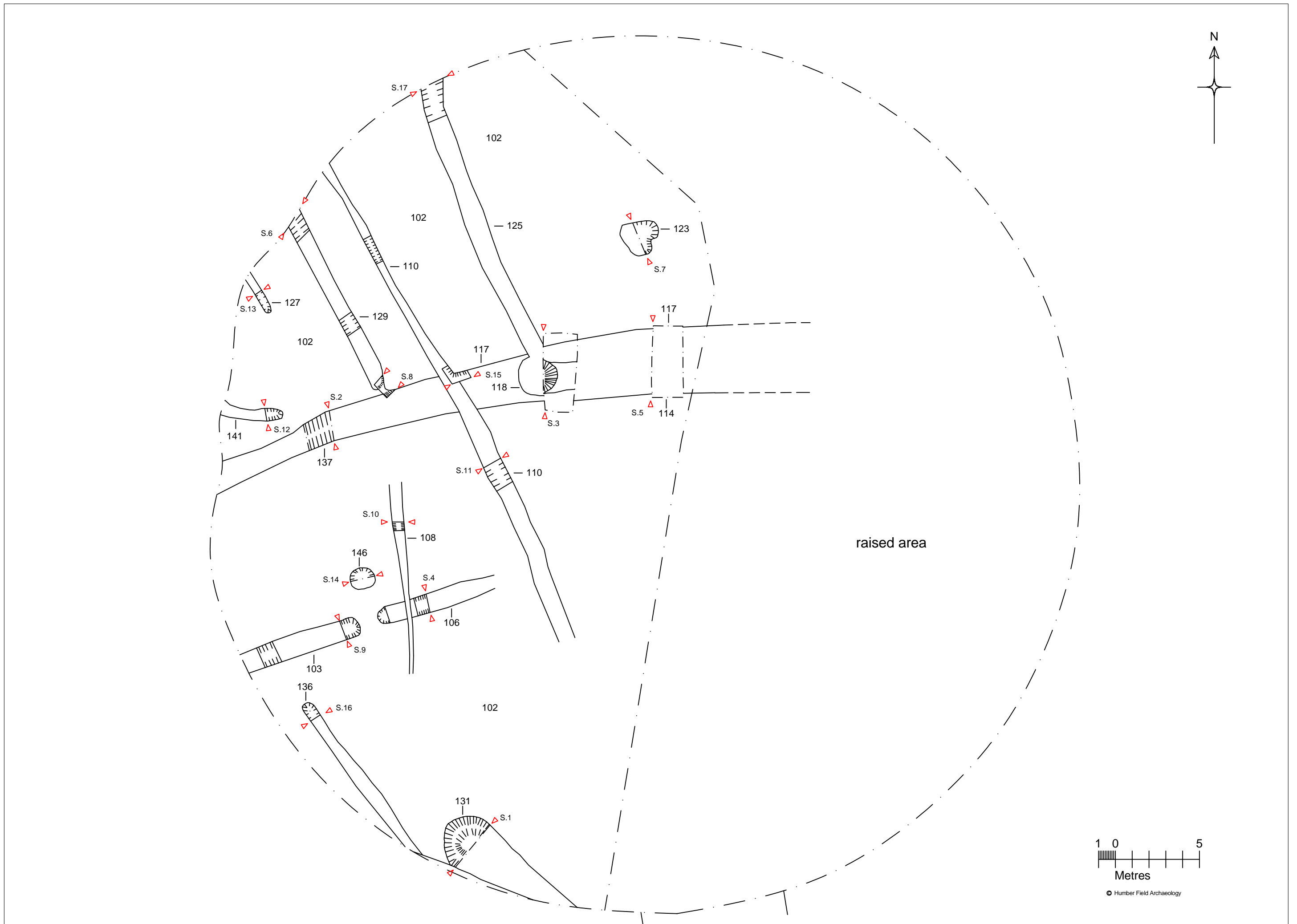
SN	CN	Context type; Phase	Approx. sample size (litres/kg)	Potential	Sediment description and notes
1	142	Single fill of gully (141); Phase 2	4/5.5	Low	Moist, mid brown to mid grey-brown (mottled at a mm-scale), brittle to crumbly (working more or less plastic), slightly sandy clay. Stones (2 to 20 mm), charcoal and modern rootlets were present.
2	138	Basal fill of ditch (137); Phase 1	6/7	Low	Moist, mostly light/mid to mid grey (mottled with mid brown and mid reddish-brown at a mm-scale), stiff to slightly sticky (working more or less plastic), slightly sandy clay. Stones (2 to 6 mm), charcoal and occasional modern rootlets were present.
3	116	Basal fill of ditch (117); Phase 1	3/3.75	Low	Dry, mostly light/mid grey (mottled with light/mid and mid brown at a mm-scale), brittle to crumbly (working more or less plastic when wetted), slightly sandy clay. Stones (2 to 20 mm) were present.
4	143	Basal fill of ditch (129); Phase 1	6/6.75	Low	Just moist, varicoloured (jumbled shades of brown, grey-brown and grey from light to dark), brittle to crumbly (working more or less plastic when wetted), slightly sandy clay. Stones (2 to 20 mm) and charcoal (which appeared rather fragile) were present.

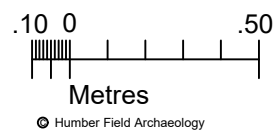
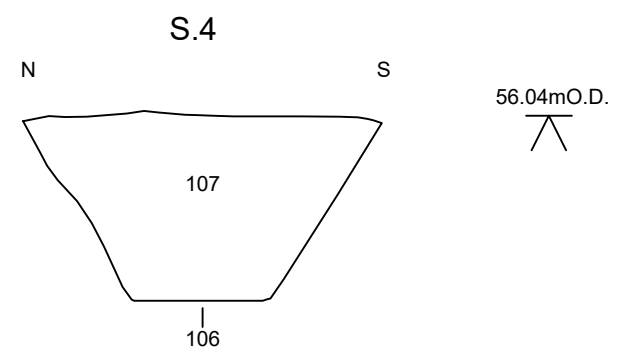
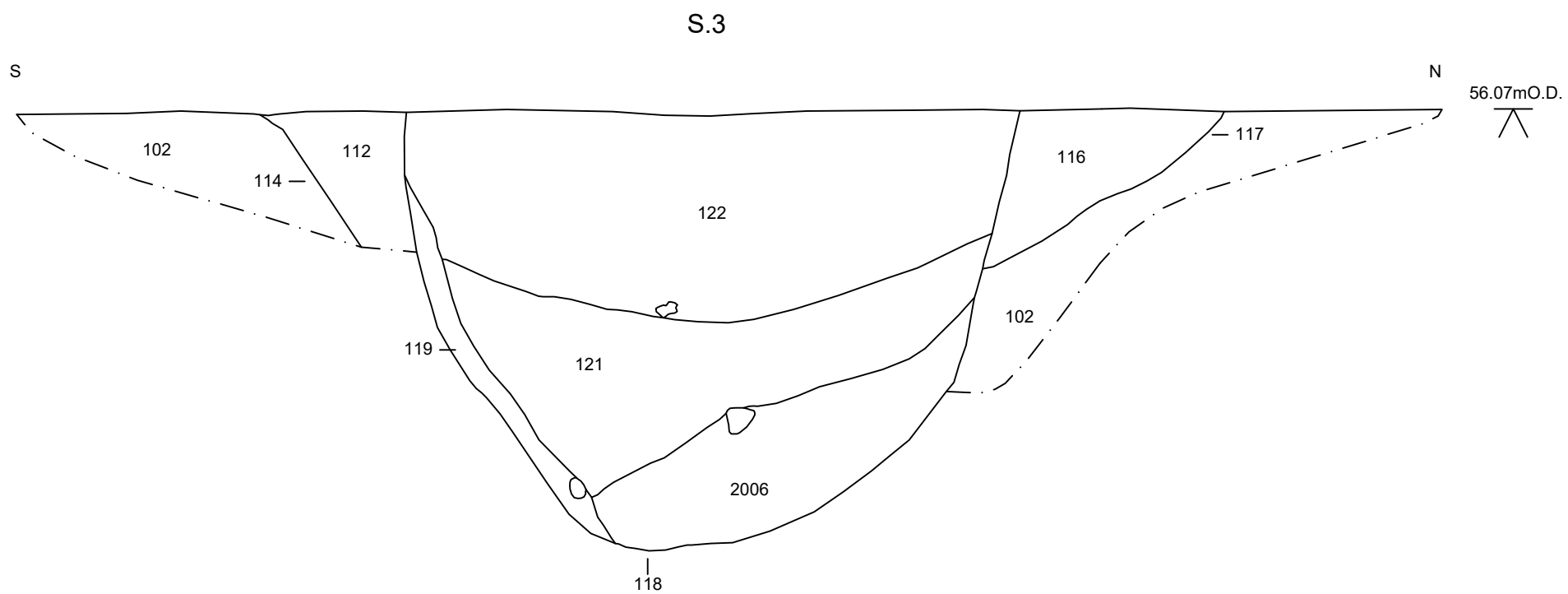
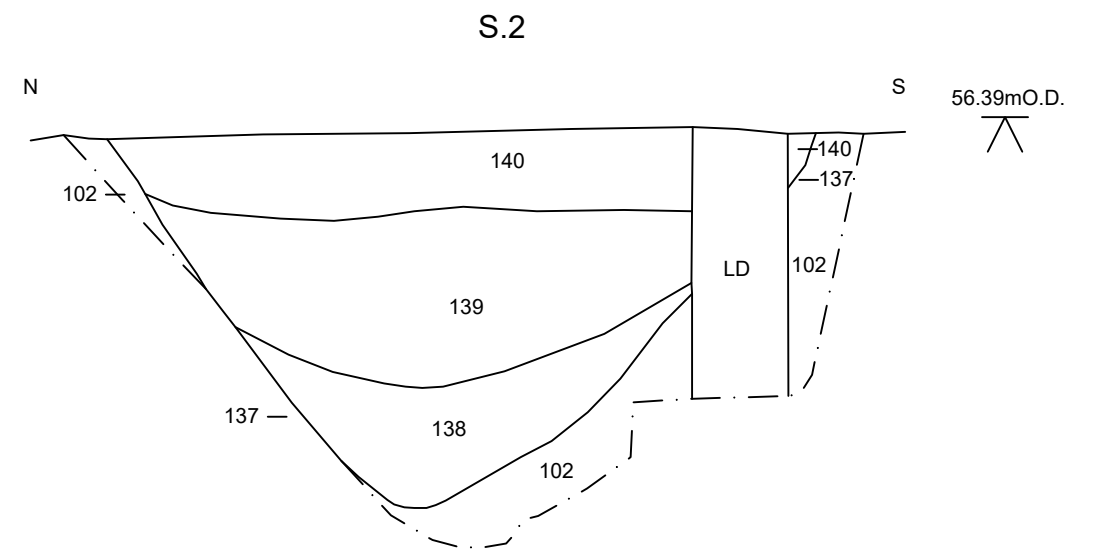
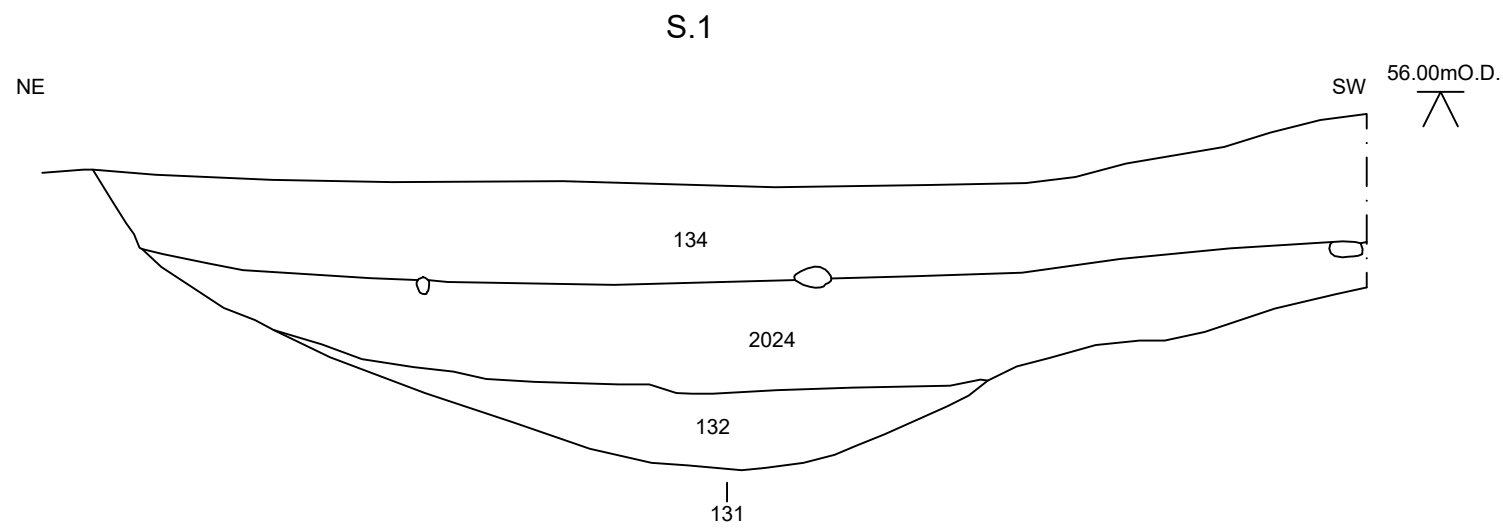


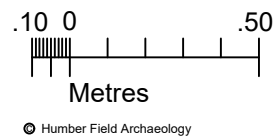
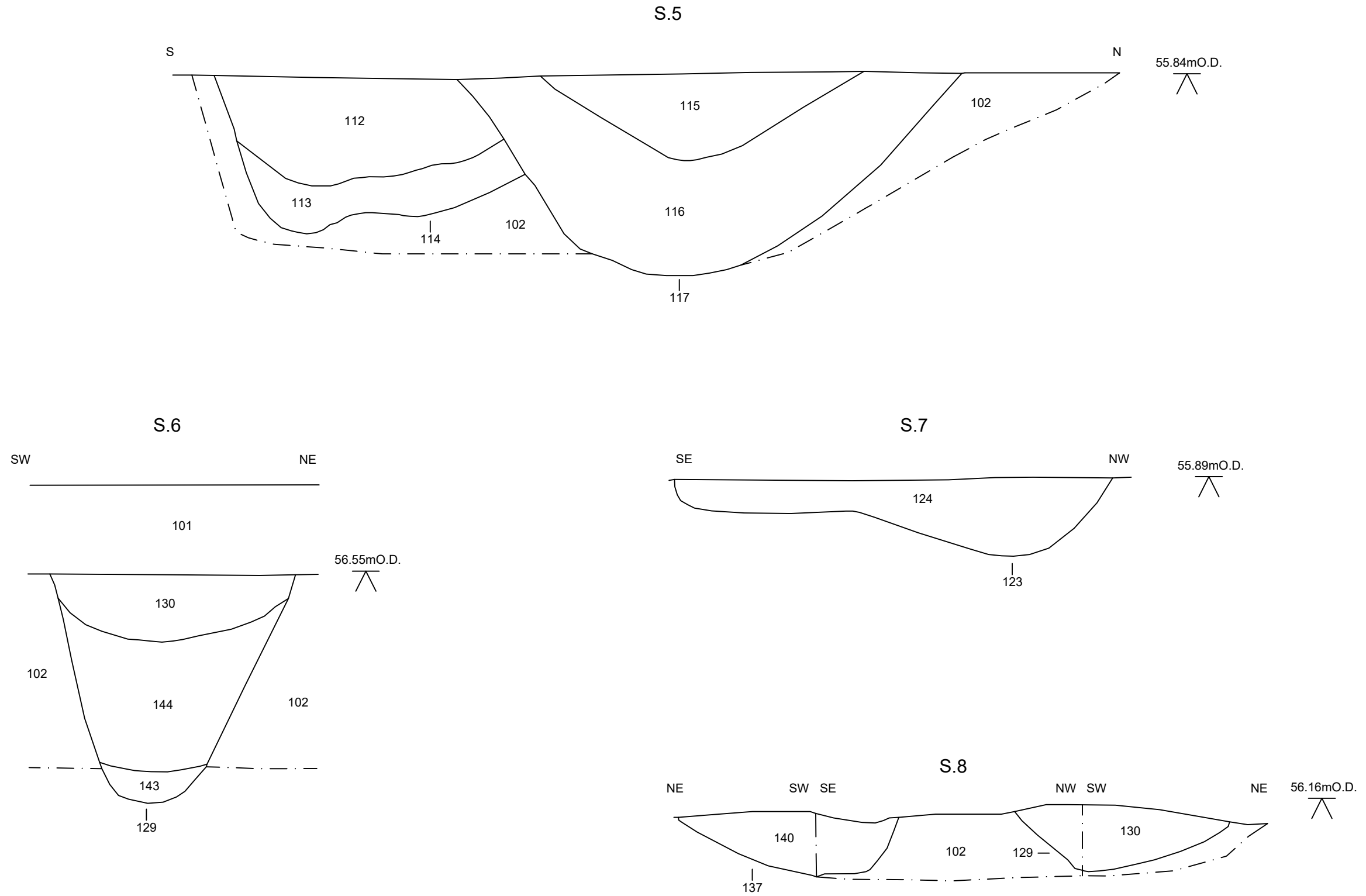
© Crown copyright. Licence number 100034493
Figure 1 Site location plan (red)

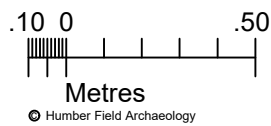
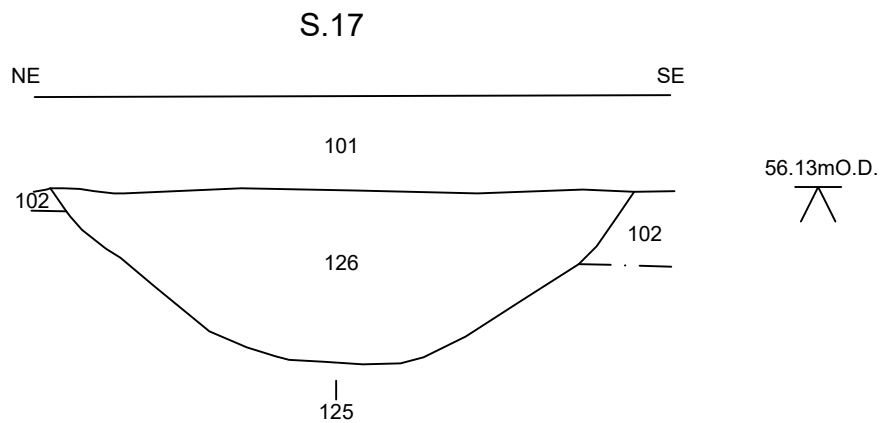
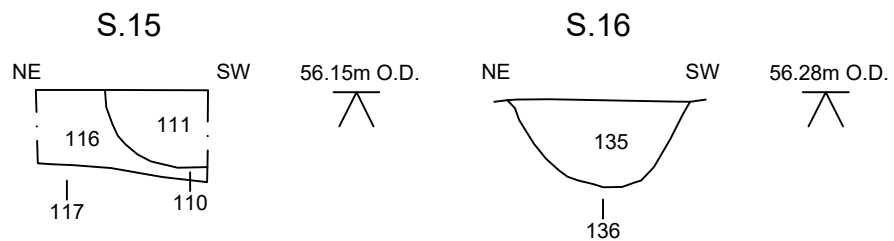
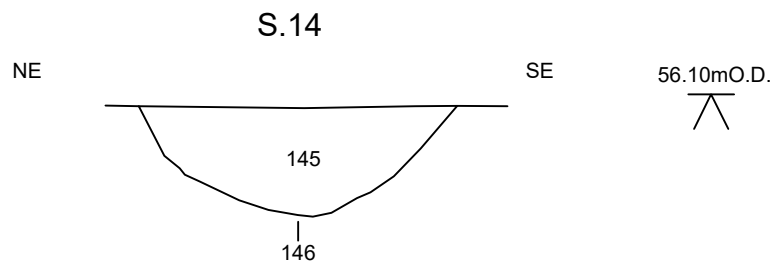
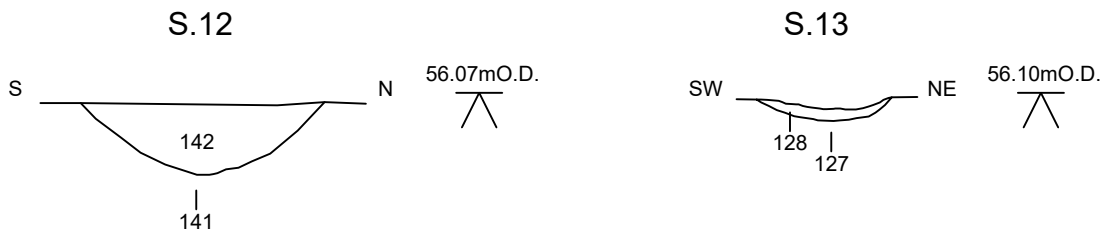


Figure 2 Plan showing the general groundworks, the location of the current archaeology (top), the previous archaeology works (bottom left) and the NMP enclosure plot









© Humber Field Archaeology



Plate 1 Initial stripping of the roundhouse area, looking north-west



Plate 2 Ditch terminus 131, looking south-east (1m scales)

Plate 3 Linear ditch 106, looking east (0.5m scale)



Plate 4 Large water collection pit 118, cutting through ditches 114 (left) and 117 (right). Looking west, 1m scales



Plate 5 Ditch 114 (left) and later ditch 117 (right) in a machine cut sondage at the east of the site, looking west (1m scales)



Plate 6 Ditch 129 as it exits the site to the north (1m scale)



Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors

The Old School, Northumberland Avenue,
KINGSTON UPON HULL, HU2 0LN

Telephone (01482) 613191

Email: hfa@hullcc.gov.uk

www.humberfieldarchaeology.co.uk



Project Management • Desk-based Assessment • Field Survey • Fieldwork • Finds Research
• Post-excavation Analysis • Inter-tidal Work

Humber Field Archaeology is an independently-funded part of the Humber Archaeology Partnership, a partnership serving The East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council