



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



**SHOPPING PARK, MONKS CROSS,
YORK**

EVALUATION REPORT

by Mark Johnson

REPORT NUMBER 2012/40



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

York Archaeological Trust undertakes a wide range of urban and rural archaeological consultancies, surveys, evaluations, assessments and excavations for commercial, academic and charitable clients. It can manage projects, provide professional advice and monitor archaeological works to ensure high quality, cost effective archaeology. Its staff have a considerable depth and variety of professional experience and an international reputation for research, development and maximising the public, educational and commercial benefits of archaeology. Based in York, with offices in Sheffield, Glasgow and Nottingham, its services are available throughout Britain and beyond.



© 2012 York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research Limited

Registered Office: 47 Aldwark, York, UK, YO1 7BX

Phone: +44 (0)1904 663000 Fax: +44 (0)1904 663024

Email: archaeology@yorkat.co.uk Internet: <http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk>

Registered Charity in England & Wales (509060) & Scotland (SCO42846)

A Company Limited by Guarantee Without Share Capital Registered in England No. 1430801

Offices in: SHEFFIELD, trading as *ArchHeritage* GLASGOW, trading as *Northlight Heritage* NOTTINGHAM, trading as *Trent & Peak Archaeology*

CONTENTS

	Page
SUMMARY	1
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. METHODOLOGY	2
3. LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	6
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	6
5. RESULTS.....	10
6. DISCUSSION.....	36
7. POTTERY	39
8. SMALL FINDS.....	41
9. CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIALS	42
10. ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES	44
11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	51
12. BIBLIOGRAPHY	52

Figures

1. Site location map.....	2
2. Location of trenches: as proposed.....	4
3. Location of trenches: as excavated	5
4. Plan showing the location of earlier investigative archaeological works up to 2003.....	8
5. Plan showing prehistoric and un-dated features revealed by the 2003 excavations	9
6. Plans of archaeological, and probably archaeological, features	38

Plates

Cover: View of Trench 12 during the course of secondary investigation

1. Trench 1, curvilinear feature 1004, looking south.....	11
2. Trench 2, looking north-east	12

3.	Trench 3, Cuts 3004 and 3012, looking south	13
4.	Trench 4, looking east.....	14
5.	Trench 5, typical section showing deposit sequence, looking north	15
6.	Trench 6, typical section showing deposit sequence, looking north-east	16
7.	Trench 7, looking south.....	17
8.	Trench 7, typical section showing deposit sequence, looking west	17
9.	Trench 8, looking west	18
10.	Trench 11, after rain, looking north.....	20
11.	Trench 12, at its fullest extent, looking north-east.....	21
12.	Trench 12, natural feature 12003, looking west	22
13.	Trench 14, looking west	23
14.	Trench 14, probable natural feature 14004 and land drain 14005, looking south	23
15.	Trench 15, looking north	24
16.	Trench 16, archaeological and modern features	25
17.	Trench 17, feature 17002, looking south	26
18.	Trench 20, feature 20003, looking east-south-east.....	28
19.	Trench 22, feature 22002, looking south-west	29
20.	Arrowhead from Trench 22	30
21.	Trench 23, looking west	31
22.	Trench 24, complex of ?natural features, looking north-west.....	32
23.	Trench 25, gully 25009, looking north.....	33
24.	Trench 25, complex of modern features, looking north	33
25.	Trench 26, ditch 26002 and modern land drain 26005, looking west.....	34
26.	Trench 30, looking north	35

Tables

1.	Pottery listing.....	39
2.	Small finds listing	41
3.	Summary of CBM, stone floor and stone roofing tile by period and form	42

4.	Summary of CBM by context	42
5.	Soil sample sorting codes	44
6.	Sorting results	50
7.	Flot assessment results	51

SUMMARY

Of 31 archaeological evaluation trenches recently excavated at Monks Cross, eight revealed some traces of archaeological remains. These took the form of small ditches/gullies, a curvilinear gully together with a small number of pit and posthole-sized features. Only one of these features contained any dating evidence, a Bronze Age arrowhead from the fill of a ditch within Trench 22. Although effectively undated, the majority of these features may be of prehistoric origin, a suggestion that finds support within the analysis of environmental samples. The fairly low density of features broadly mirrors that of the prehistoric and undated features found in the large adjacent excavation in 2003.

1. INTRODUCTION

Between 20th August and 7th September 2012 York Archaeological Trust carried out a programme of archaeological evaluation of 31 trenches, on land at Huntington South Moor, York, (NGR: SE 6256 5452), (Figure 1 Site location map; Figure 3 Trench location plan). The evaluation work followed a 'brief', approved by the City of York Archaeologist and prepared by Ove Arup and Partners Ltd acting on behalf of Oakgate Properties Ltd.

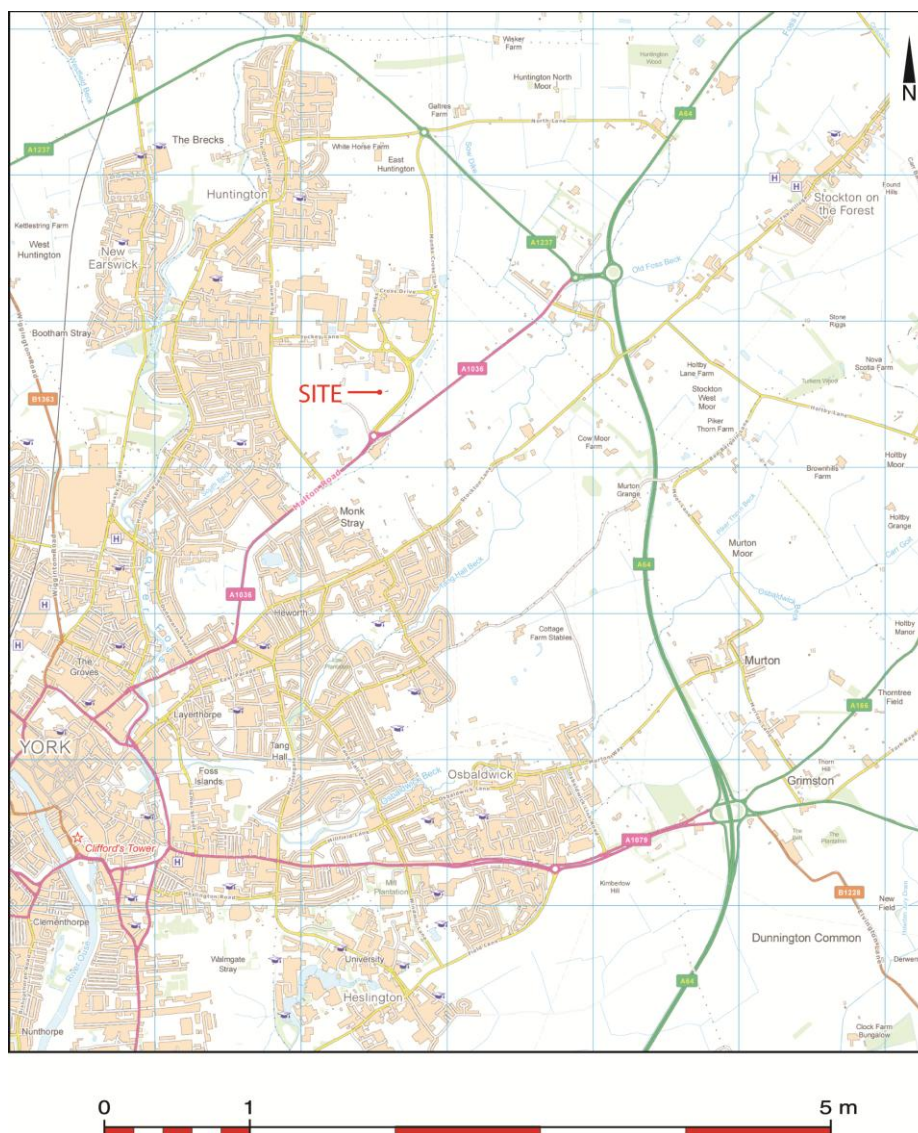


Figure 1 Site location map

2. METHODOLOGY

The evaluation was comprised of the excavation and recording of 31 trenches, each nominally 30m x 2m. The location of the trenches was designed to provide a representative sample across the site (Figure 2). Limited movement of the intended position of some trenches was necessary owing to the presence of great crested newt sensitive areas, and to a lesser degree, the presence of trees (Figure 3). Those trenches requiring the greatest movement were 9, 23, 24, 25, and 26. The position of each trench was recorded by GPS surveying equipment and subsequently plotted on geo-referenced vector maps. The trenches were mechanically stripped of topsoil/overburden by a 360° excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. Each trench was selectively cleaned,

planned, levelled, representative parts of sections drawn and a series of photographs taken. Where archaeological features, or potential features, were encountered, these were excavated and environmental samples taken. All features and deposits were described and recorded using standard pro-forma 'context cards' Excavation and recording procedures were in accordance with York Archaeological Trust fieldwork standards (YAT 2009).

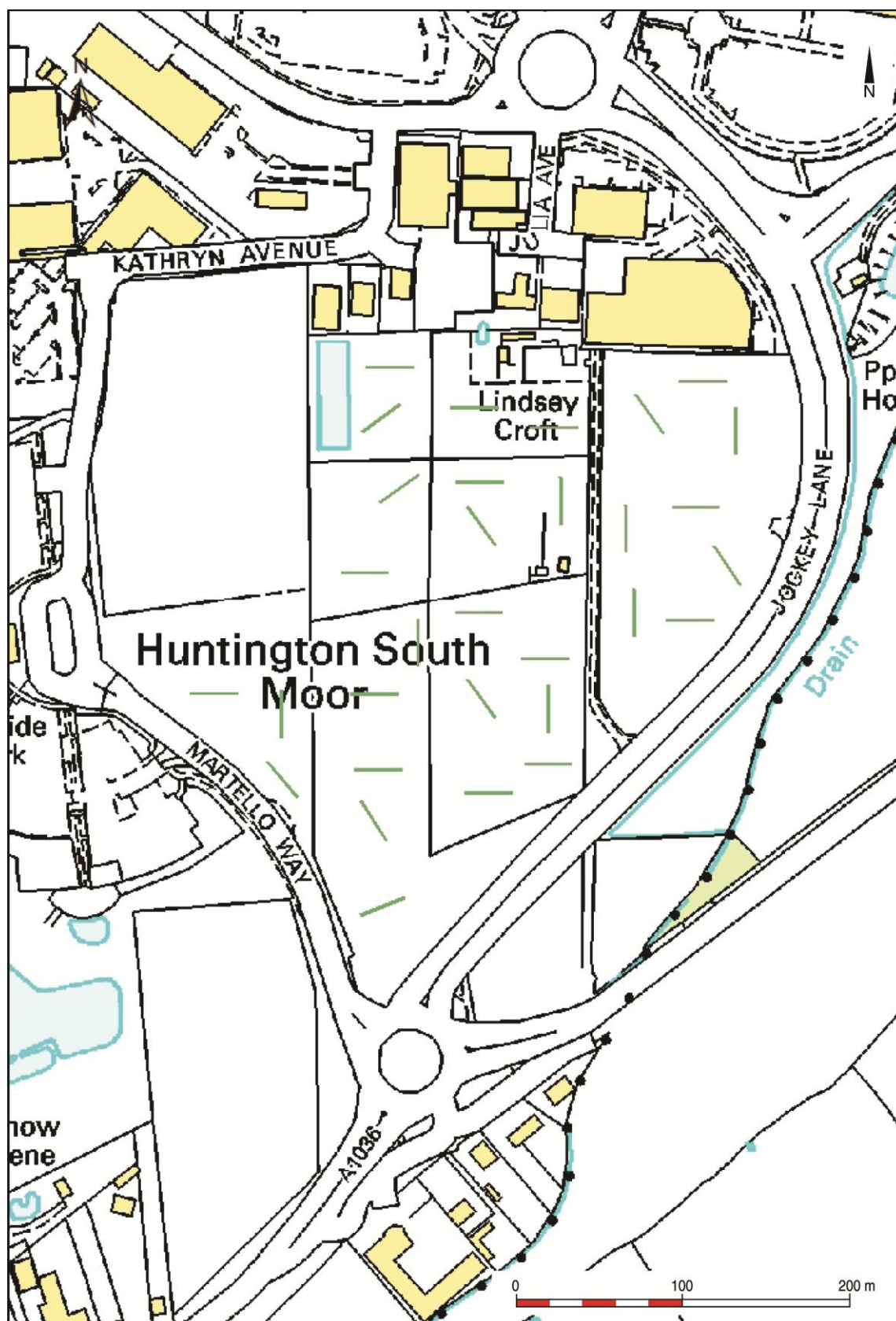


Figure 2 Location of trenches: as proposed

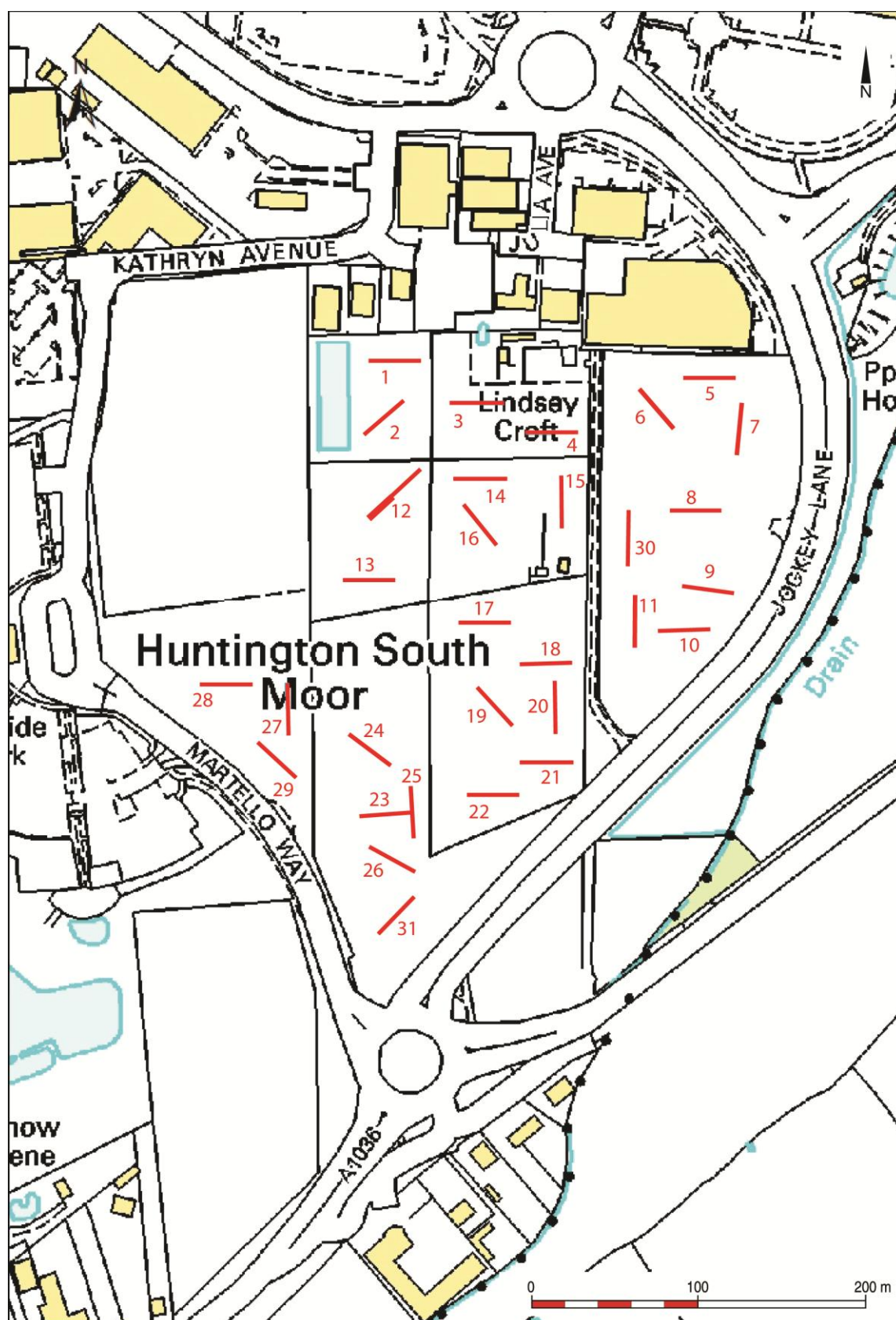


Figure 3 Location of trenches: as excavated

3. LOCATION, GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located just under 4km north-east of the centre of York and around 1.5km south-east of the village of Huntington. The roads of Jockey Lane and Martello Way bound the south, east and west sides of the site whilst the northern part of the site is bounded by a complex of non – residential buildings. All land in the locality is low-lying, typically around 14.5m - 15m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and is relatively flat. Two watercourses flow through the area, the River Foss just over 1km to the west and the Tang Hall Beck 1km to the east. The underlying solid geology of the area is of Bunter and Keuper sandstones, (Geol. Surv., 1959). This is overlain by a drift geology of Warp and Lacustrine clay. The extant topsoils across the area are clayey and, being of limited cultivable value, primarily support pasture. Ground water levels across the site vary seasonally though the ground is frequently wet and areas of standing water are often common. All land within the area of investigation has until recently been used for the grazing of horses. Areas to the north of the evaluation area have been developed in recent years as out of town retail outlets with a sports stadium and a swimming pool complex. Internally, the area of the evaluation site is partitioned into small rectangular fields whose hedged boundaries follow north - south and east - west alignments.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Complexes of prehistoric features have been examined to the north of Hopgrove farm around 1.5km north-east of the site and at Rawcliffe Moor around 3.5km to the north-west of the site (YAT Gazetteer). During the large-scale excavations in the locality of the evaluation area in 2003 parts of a prehistoric landscape were also revealed (Figures 4 and 5). Although dating evidence was sparse this did include at least one Neolithic pit as well as a stretch of curvilinear ditch. A major landscape boundary, in the form a pit alignment which is likely to have had Bronze Age or Iron Age origins, was also encountered. This feature was later re-defined by a broad shallow cut, and this remained visible until at least the 2nd century AD. A cluster of pits and small post-holes together with two small ring-gullies - probably hay stack or hay rick gullies, were also revealed and may again have been of prehistoric date.

The evaluation site lies around 4km north-east of the Roman Legionary fortress and its associated urban settlement. In the known and postulated disposition of Roman roads in the area (Brinklow 1986), the site probably lies approximately 400m north-west of Road 4, which ran from York to Malton. Road 3 (York to Stamford Bridge), which merges with Road 4 close to the junction of Malton and Heworth Roads with Stockton Lane, follows a slightly more easterly route than Road 4, Beyond the military and urban core of Roman York and within

the wider locality a number of finds and features of the period have been made. Features of Romano-British date, probably relating to a farmstead, have been located 2.5km to the east at Stockton Moor West (York Archaeological Trust Gazetteer site 742). Approximately 1.5km to the south-east of the site at Apple Tree Farm a pottery production site has been located (Lawton 1989; 1993). A pit containing pottery wasters was found in the locality of Apple Tree Farm in 1968 with further pottery being reported in 1972, whilst further excavation was carried out in the late 1980s. Probably functioning from the late 1st century until some point around the mid 2nd century, this site produced a range of vessels in different fabrics and is likely to have had military connections. Earlier work by Peter Wenham in the same area had recorded the discovery of three coffined burials, two within gritstone sarcophagi, during the course of drainage works. In addition, a metalled road, aligned west-south-west / east-north-east and held likely to have been in use from the early 2nd - 4th century, was also discovered. Quantities of Roman pottery were recovered whilst these drainage works were carried out and also during building operations on the nearby Ashley Park housing estate. Around 1km south of the site, near 210 Stockton Lane (SE 6246 5325), 2nd - 4th century pottery that is thought to be derived from occupation, rather than burials, was discovered in the 1940s, (YAJ, 1943, 424).

A considerable amount of archaeological work has previously been carried out in the immediate locality of the site. An evaluation of eight 10m x 10m trenches was carried out in 2000 though this produced little in the way of features of any antiquity (McNab 2000). In March 2002 English Heritage air photographers identified two camps in close proximity to the evaluation area, one partially underneath the sports stadium, the other immediately to the south-east. Both camps were subjected to geophysical survey and the south-easterly camp evaluated with 13 trenches of various sizes (Ottaway 2002).

Between March and June 2003 substantial parts of the south-easterly Roman Camp were excavated (Johnson 2004). The camp proved to have been marked out with considerable geometric accuracy to precise measurements (in Roman feet), though the encompassing ditch had been cut with less precision and finesse. Evidence was found to indicate that this camp was short-lived and was subsequently slighted with parts of the rampart being backfilled into the ditch. It was suggested that this camp was of a temporary nature and not created as a practice work. With a greater degree of speculation, it was suggested that the military and historical context for the camp may be one in which troops and supplies were mustered around the legionary fortress at York prior to campaigning in the north during the reign of Emperor Hadrian.

Little has found relating to medieval activity and it is probable that the area was used as pasture. Poorly pronounced close spaced, straight ridge and furrow has been observed across parts of the locality and this is thought to relate to a short period of cultivation during the post-medieval period.

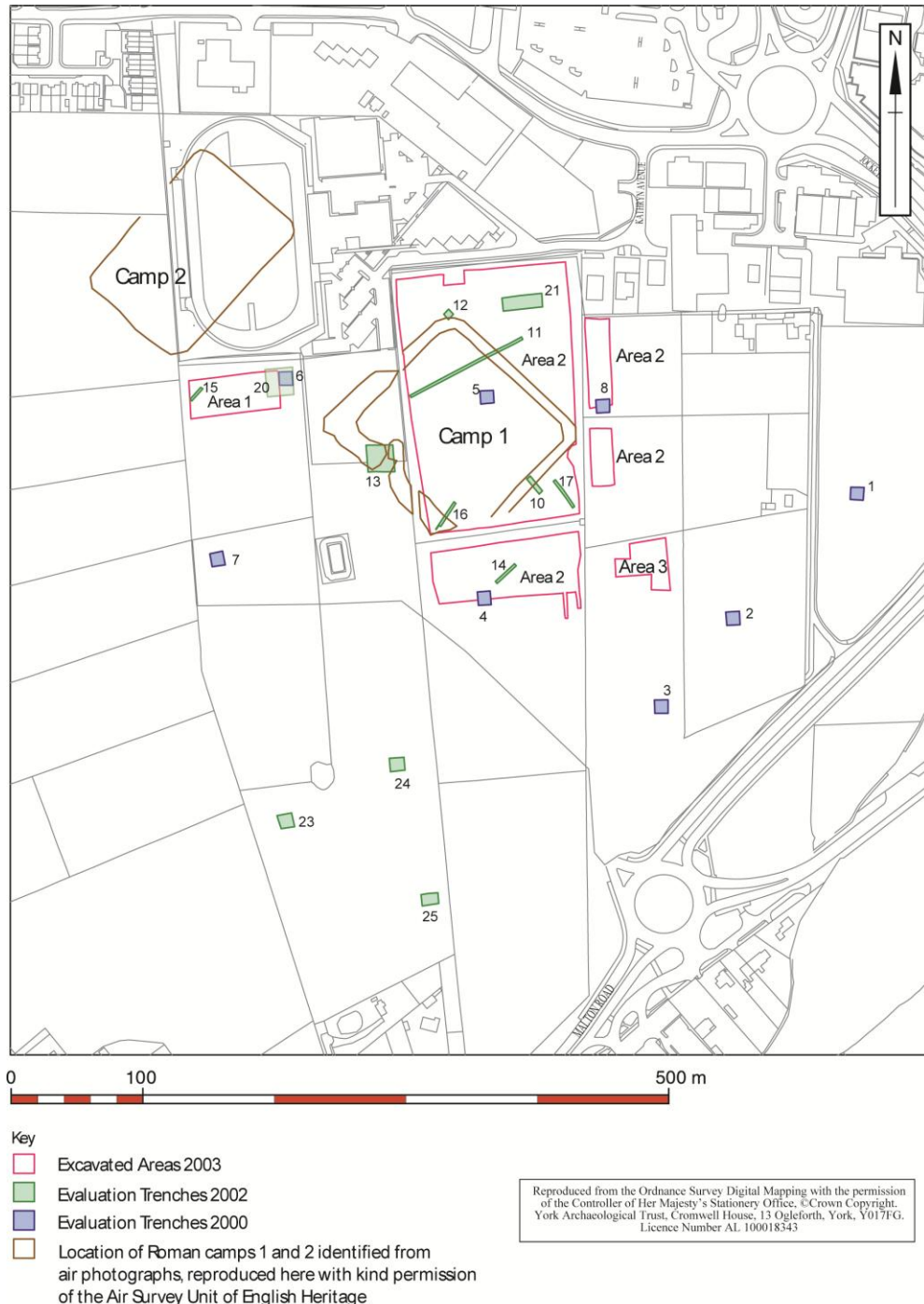


Figure 4 Plan showing the location of earlier investigative archaeological works up to 2003.); prior to construction of Martello Road and the Park and Ride facilities. (Reproduced from Johnson 2004)

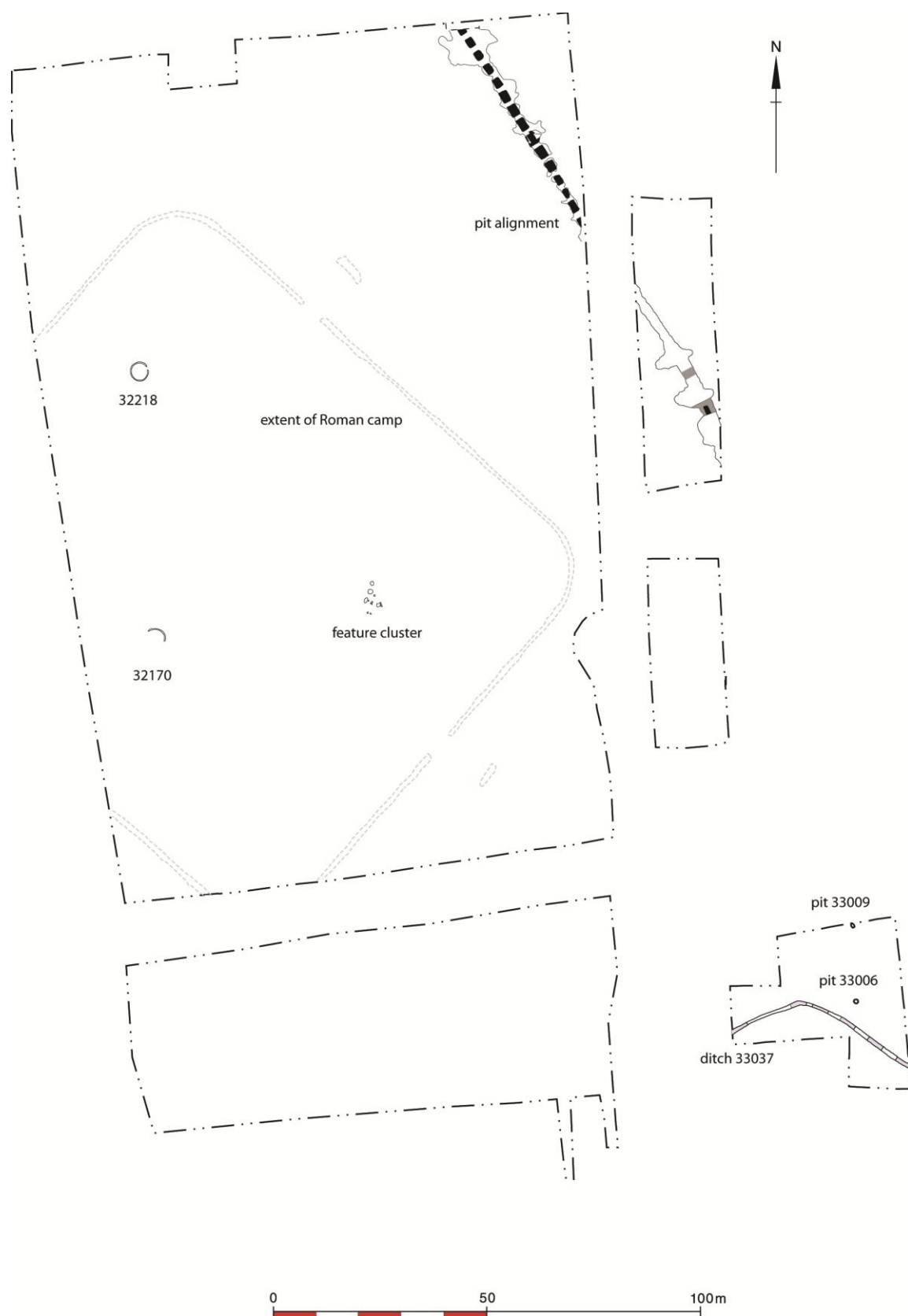


Figure 5 Plan showing prehistoric and un-dated features revealed by the 2003 excavations with the Roman Camp shown in faint outline. (Reproduced from Johnson 2004)

5. RESULTS

On a trench by trench basis archaeological remains, and indeed their absence, are described and considered below. A broader consideration of the remains as a whole are given within the wider setting of the known archaeology of the locality in Section 6.

5.1 TRENCH 1

Natural deposits in Trench 1, in the form of firm, pale greyish yellow, silty clay, context 1005, extended fully along the base of the trench, typically at a level close to 14.30m AOD. Two features were seen to cut into natural deposits. The smaller of these was a flat-based, steep-sided sub-circular cut, context 1002, some 0.24m in diameter and with a depth of 0.09m. Having a fill of brownish grey clayey silt, context 1001, the only finds material recovered from this feature were a few flecks of charcoal. The remaining feature was a short stretch of curvilinear gully some 0.50m wide and with a depth of up to 0.52m, context 1004. The south-west edge of this feature was vertically sided, indeed in places slightly under-cutting. The north-eastern edge by contrast was only moderately steep sided. The terminal end of the feature was less than 0.30m deep though this dropped sharply to the south. Three fills were recorded within cut 1004. The primary of these was a pale bluish grey silty clay, context 1007, restricted to the deeper parts of the feature. This fill was overlain by context 1006, a dark grey clayey silt containing quantities of charcoal flecks. The uppermost fill, context 1003, was a greyish brown clayey silt. Apart from the flecks of charcoal, no finds material was recovered from this feature. The origin of cut 1004 is uncertain. Although having an appearance in general accord with that of an archaeological feature the undercut nature of its south-western edge and stepped character of its base does raise some doubt. It cannot be excluded that 1004 may represent part of a natural feature with the charcoal perhaps being derived from the burnt out root system of a tree? All features in Trench 1 were overlain by the extant topsoil of dark greyish brown clayey silt, context 1000. Finds principally of 19th century and modern date were recovered from the topsoil.



Plate 1 Trench 1, curvilinear feature 1004, looking south

5.2 TRENCH 2

Within Trench 2 natural deposits, context 2001, were revealed at depths generally just under 14.50m AOD. This material was a yellowish grey silty clay that was seen to contain a number of whitish yellow coloured sandy lenses. No archaeological features were seen to cut through natural deposits. The topsoil sealing natural deposits, context 2000, was a dark greyish brown sandy clay silt. Finds from the topsoil were comprised of a few sherds of post-medieval pottery.



Plate 2 Trench 2, looking north-east

5.3 TRENCH 3

Natural deposits, context 3001, were revealed in Trench 3 at a depth that was typically fractionally under 14m AOD. 3001 was composed of yellowish orange silty clay and contained lenses of pale greyish brown silty sand.

A single feature, likely to be of some antiquity, was present adjacent to the southern baulk of the trench. That part of this feature, context 3004, that was revealed in the trench was around 1.74m in length and had a depth of up to 0.56m. The sides were moderately steep and the base fairly flat. The edges of this cut were somewhat diffuse, this perhaps owing to weathering and root action. Four fills occupied cut 3004. The primary of these, context 3010, was a yellowish orange sandy clay containing a number of dark clay lenses. This material is likely to represent natural deposits eroding in from the sides of the feature. 3010 was overlain by context 3009, a dark blackish grey sandy clay containing frequent flecks of charcoal. Context 3008 sealed 3009. This was a mixture of yellowish orange and mid grey sandy clays that contained occasional charcoal flecks and may again be derived from erosion rather than deliberate backfilling. The uppermost fill of 3004 was context 3002, a mid brownish grey silty clay containing occasional flecks of charcoal. The largely in-filled feature 3004 appears to have been partially re-defined by a smaller cut on its western side. This cut,

context 3012, was around 0.90m in length, had a depth of up to 0.56m and had very steep sides and a flattish base. A single fill, context 3011, occupied this later cut. This material was yellowish grey, slightly sandy clay that contained occasional flecks of charcoal. These two features appear likely to have been pits though their precise function beyond this is not clear. No artefactual material was recovered from either feature and their origin remains unclear.

Other features within Trench 3 were of modern date. One of these a shallow, narrow linear cut containing dark soil identical to the topsoil, contexts 2003/2005, appears to have been created by a machine with a toothed bucket. Four north – south aligned ceramic land drains, collectively numbered 3006/3007, also cut across the trench. Topsoil in the trench, context 3000, was a greyish brown, sandy clay silt and contained finds of post-medieval and modern date, together with a fragment of Roman ceramic building material.



Plate 3 Trench 3, Cuts 3004 and 3012, looking south

5.4 TRENCH 4

Natural deposits in Trench 4, context 4005, occurred at a height of around 13.90m AOD and were comprised of light brownish grey silty clays. The basal parts of two small sub-circular features were present in the central part of the trench. The easterly of these, context 4002, had a diameter of 0.18m and a depth of just 0.02m and was filled with a dark grey silty clay, context 4001. The westerly of the features, context 4003 had a diameter of 0.18m, a depth of 0.05m and was again filled with a dark grey clayey silt. These features may represent the basal parts of small postholes though their slight and ephemeral nature allows for the possibility of a natural origin. Neither feature produced any dating evidence. The topsoil, context 4000, was a dark greyish brown clayey silt that contained a few sherds of post-medieval pottery and a piece of medieval tile.



Plate 4 Trench 4, looking east

5.5 TRENCH 5

Within Trench 5 natural deposits, context 5002, occurred at height of around 13.60m AOD and were seen to be comprised of brownish grey, slightly silty clay. The relatively low height of the level of natural in this, and adjacent trenches, together with the evidence for considerable earthmoving operations in this part of the site, suggests that natural deposits have been truncated in this part of the site. Such truncation may be to depths of around 0.5m or more. The natural deposits were sealed by a layer of compacted limestone chippings, context 5001, generally around 0.25m – 0.40m deep. In the east central part of the trench a substantial concrete setting was seen be partially sealed by the limestone chippings. Overlaying the limestone layer was the extant topsoil, context 5000. This material was generally around 0.40m or more thick. Comprised essentially of a dark brownish grey clayey silt the topsoil also contained fragments of brick, occasional pieces of concrete and other modern materials together with a quantity of limestone chippings.

The land in the area of Trench 5 has clearly been subject to modern ground-works. This appears to have included a ground strip that removed the original topsoil as well as the upper parts of the natural clays. This was then sealed by compacted limestone chippings within which concrete settings were also present. Subsequently, a poor topsoil containing a

range of modern materials, together with a fragment of Roman brick was reinstated over the limestone chippings.



Plate 5 Trench 5, typical section showing deposit sequence, looking north

5.6 TRENCH 6

Firm, yellowish grey silty clay natural deposits, context 6003, were revealed in Trench 6 at depths generally around 13.75m AOD. As was the case with Trenches 5 and 7, the uppermost parts of natural deposits in this area appear to have been truncated in an earlier site strip. The only feature seen to be cutting into natural deposits was a ceramic land drain aligned east – west, context 6004, in the south central part of the trench. Sealing the natural deposits and land drain was a mixed deposit up to 0.5m deep, context 6002. This material was essentially a blackish grey clayey silt containing quantities of re-deposited natural clay in lenses that was peppered throughout with small fragments of limestone. In the area of the south-eastern end of the trench a layer of limestone chippings, context 6001, up to 0.25m overlay deposit 6002. The uppermost deposit forming the extant topsoil was context 6000. This was a dark greyish brown slightly sandy clay silt containing occasional chippings of limestone and fragments of brick. A handful of 19th century pottery was recovered from the topsoil.

Like Trenches 5 and 7, the area of Trench 6 has been subject to earlier ground-works within the modern period. This has included the stripping of earlier topsoils into the upper parts of natural deposits. Subsequently mixed soils and limestone chippings have been deposited and the area then reinstated with a rather poor topsoil.



Plate 6 Trench 6, typical section showing deposit sequence, looking north-east

5.7 TRENCH 7

Natural deposits in Trench 7, in the form of yellowish grey slightly silty clay, context 7002, were encountered at heights of around 13.40m AOD. This depth and the character of overlaying deposits suggest that this material has been truncated in its upper parts. Directly overlaying natural deposits was a layer of very compact limestone chippings, context 7001, typically in the region of 0.30m thick. The limestone chippings were overlain by a layer of orangish brown sandy silt containing significant quantities of limestone chippings, context 7003, which was in turn sealed by the extant brownish grey clayey silt topsoil, context 7000.

The Trench 7 deposit sequence has considerable commonality with that of Trenches 5 and 7. The area of Trench 7 has clearly been subject to a deposit strip in the modern period which has included the truncation of some natural material. Subsequently, limestone chippings and other fill has been deposited before the ground was reinstated with a poor topsoil.



Plate 7 Trench 7, looking south



Plate 8 Trench 7, typical section showing deposit sequence, looking west

5.8 TRENCH 8

Natural deposits of mid brown slightly silty clay, context 8001, extended across the base of Trench 8 at heights generally around 13.60m AOD. Part of a single feature, context 8003 was seen to cut into the natural clays in the south central part of the trench. Only the basal parts of this feature, which was sub-circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.30m survived. The fill of this cut, context 8002, was a dark brown silty clay containing a quantity of small fragments of limestone. Finds from this fill were comprised of a sherd of vessel glass and a ceramic gaming piece of 19th – 20th century date. This feature was sealed by the extant topsoil of dark brownish grey clayey silt, context 8000 which contained some later post-medieval finds material. A low density of limestone chippings were randomly scattered throughout the topsoil, together with a quantity of modern materials. These characteristics of the topsoil suggest that it has been disturbed in modern times and the likelihood that Trench 8 lies within the area of ground-works attested in Trenches 5, 6 and 7.



Plate 9 Trench 8, looking west

5.9 TRENCH 9

Yellowish brown slightly silty, context 9003, clays forming natural deposits in Trench 9 were exposed at depths generally around 13.70m AOD. No features were seen to cut through this material. The natural deposits were directly overlain by very mixed deposit, context 9002, which was in excess of 0.60m deep at the eastern end of the trench and tapered down to less than 0.20m deep towards the western end. This material was composed predominantly of re-deposited natural clays with lesser quantities of topsoil like deposits and contained frequent inclusions of modern materials including rubble. Deposit 9002 was capped by the extant topsoil, context 9001. This topsoil, essentially a greyish brown slightly sandy clay silt, contained significant quantities of clumps of natural clay together with a small rubble content.

Deposits 9002 and 9001 above the natural clays have clearly been laid subsequent to a site strip down to natural clays in modern times and are almost certainly part of the same works apparent in trenches 5, 6, 7 and 8.

5.10 TRENCH 10

The deposit sequence in trench 10 broadly mirrors that of Trench 9. Natural clays in the form of yellowish brown slightly silty clays, context 10002, were exposed at heights of around 13.75m AOD. These were directly overlain by a very mixed deposit, context 10001, between 0.35m – 0.57m deep. This material was for the most part a dark greyish brown, slightly clayey sandy silt though contained significant quantities of re-deposited natural clay and had a lesser rubble content. Although the upper parts of this deposit were less clayey in its upper parts it was not possible to distinguish a separate topsoil, as was the case with the adjacent Trench 9.

The characteristics of these deposits indicate that the area of Trench 10 lies within the same area of modern ground-works as Trenches 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

5.11 TRENCH 11

Natural deposits of yellowish grey brown, slightly silty clay, context 11002, were exposed at the base of trench 11 at a depth of around 13.75m AOD. These deposits were directly sealed by the extant topsoil, context 11001. The topsoil was a dark greyish brown clayey silt generally around 0.25m in depth. There is no reason to believe that the topsoil, or natural clay, have been disturbed in modern times and as such would appear to lie beyond the area of disturbance evident in trenches 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Finds from the topsoil included later post-medieval pottery and a fragment of later medieval brick



Plate 10 Trench 11 after rain, looking north

5.12 TRENCH 12

Within Trench 12 natural deposits, context 12001, were reached at a depth generally around 14.30m AOD. These deposits were silty clays, the colour and clay content of which was seen to be banded when examined at greater depths. It was anticipated that the pit alignment examined in the excavations of 2003 would extend across the south-western part of the trench. Despite careful cleaning and inspection this landscape feature could not be identified within the trench, nor in a hand dug sondage some 3.5m long and some 0.35m deep cut into natural deposits in the area of its predicted location. It was decided therefore to widen the south-western end of the trench from 2m to 3.10m and to extend the trench from a length of 30m to a total length of 36.7m. Again, it did not prove possible to identify the feature within this extended area. It was finally decided to resort to carefully machine excavating the south-western parts of the extended trench in spits down to a total depth of 0.70m, well into natural deposits. The pit alignment was not identified by these final works. A patch of clean orangey grey silty sand, context 12002, within a somewhat amorphous cut, context 12003, was identified towards the upper parts of the sequence of natural deposits in the extreme south-western part of the extended trench, well beyond the predicted course of the pit alignment. Feature 12003 bore exceedingly little similarity to the pits excavated in 2003 and has been interpreted as a natural feature, possibly the position of the root bole of a tree. There appear

to be two likely explanations for the absence of the pit alignment. Firstly, it may terminate at some point between its known south-eastern position, as excavated in 2003, and Trench 12. In this regard it is noteworthy that the south-eastern excavated parts were of different character to those excavated parts further to the north-west. Secondly, the course of the pit alignment may curve or turn.

The only feature of human origin identified within the trench was an east – west aligned ceramic land drain in the central part of the trench, context 12004. The uppermost deposit in the trench was the extant silty sand topsoil, context 12000. The lower horizon of this material, context 12005, at its interface with natural deposits was noted as being somewhat clayier. Finds from these soils were of post-medieval and modern date.



Plate 11 Trench 12 at its fullest extent, looking north-east



Plate 12 Trench 12, natural feature 12003, looking west

5.13 TRENCH 13

Natural deposits within Trench 13, in the form of orangish brown silty clays, context 13001, were exposed at a depth of around 14.60m AOD. No features were seen to cut into these deposits. Sealing the natural deposits was the extant topsoil of dark greyish brown, sandy clay silt, context 13000 that contained finds of post-medieval date.

5.14 TRENCH 14

Orangish yellow silty clays representing natural deposits, context 14002, were revealed in Trench 14 at a depth of around 14.10m AOD. Towards the eastern end of the trench the northern parts of a shallow sub-rectangular feature with gently sloping sides and a flattish base were observed. The cut, context 14004, was around 0.80m wide and up to 0.07m deep. This was occupied by a fill, context 14003, of mottled, greyish brown – yellow, slightly clayey silt that contained small flecks of a hard ‘crunchy’ grey coloured material, probably a mineral. It is possible that 14004/14003 represents a natural, rather than archaeological feature. Immediately to the east of 14004 a north – south aligned ceramic land drain, context 14005, was present. This was overlain by the extant topsoil of dark greyish brown, slightly clayey sandy silt, context 14001. Finds from the topsoil were comprised of 19th century pottery and a fragment of ?medieval brick and a pewter spoon of later 18th – 19th century date.



Plate 13 Trench 14, looking west



Plate 14 Trench 14, probable natural feature 14004 and land drain 14005, looking south

5.15 TRENCH 15

Orangish yellow slightly silty clays, context 15002, representing natural deposits were observed in Trench 15 at a depth of around 13.90m AOD. No features were seen to cut through this material. 15002 was sealed by the topsoil, context 15001, a dark greyish brown, slightly clayey sandy silt. Finds recovered from the topsoil were principally comprised of modern material and included what may be a fragment of a later post-medieval – modern slate writing tablet.



Plate 15 Trench 15, looking north

5.16 TRENCH 16

Natural deposits in the form of yellowish orange silty clays with occasional lenses of white sand, context 16001, were exposed at heights just below 14.20m AOD. A number of features were seen to cut through natural deposits in the south-east central part of the trench. The earliest of these was a north – south aligned shallow linear cut, context 16011, that was truncated by a modern field drain and appeared to be cut also by part of a ring-gully. With a surviving width of some 0.20m this feature survived to a depth of only 0.04m. The fill of this cut, context 16010, was a light yellowish grey silty sand which produced a few flecks of charcoal but no other artefactual material. The north-eastern part of a small ring-gully lay within the trench, the remainder beyond the south-western baulk. That part within the trench survived as two arcs, contexts 16009/16008, 16002/16003, separated by a narrow gap barely 0.20m wide. Both arcs were of similar proportions though much of the southern arm was truncated by a later field drain. This gully had a width of 0.19m – 0.30m, had moderate – gently sloping sides, a concave base and had a depth of between 0.07m – 0.09m. The fill of both arcs of the gully were grey sandy silts containing very occasional flecks of charcoal. No dating evidence was present within this material. A sub-rectangular stakehole-like cut, context 16007, occupied the gap between the two arcs of the gully. This cut had a length of

0.21m, a width of 0.12m, a depth of 0.08m and displayed very steep sides and a fairly flat base. This small cut was occupied by a single fill of yellowish grey silty sand, context 16006, which contained no finds material except for a small number of charcoal flecks.

A north – south aligned ceramic field drain of modern date, context 16004/16005, cut through the south-eastern sides of both the ring-gully and the seemingly earlier linear gully. Around 1m to the south-east of the ring gully the north-eastern parts of a further linear cut, context 16012, were noted. This measured just under 0.60m wide and continued beyond the south-western baulk of the trench. Having vertical sides this regular cut contained a backfill of pure clay that was interleaved with clumps of turf and topsoil. It did not prove possible to excavate this deep feature beyond arms length. The nature of the fill of feature 16012 points towards the strong likelihood that it is of modern date, quite probably a machine cut sondage for geotechnical investigations. The extant topsoil of brownish grey, slightly clayey silty sand, context 16000, sealed all deposits and feature. This material produced post-medieval pottery.



Plate 16 Trench 16 showing the remnants of cut 16011 (upper left) cut by both the ring gully and the modern field drain. Stakehole 16007 can be seen between the two arcs of gully in the central part of the photograph, looking south-west

5.17 TRENCH 17

Within Trench 17 natural deposits of greyish yellow silty clay, context 17003, were exposed at heights fractionally above 14.20m AOD. Towards the eastern end of the trench the northern parts of a shallow cut, context 17002, were exposed. This feature measured around 1.50m across, with a surviving depth of a little over 0.05m, had gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Cut 17002 was occupied by fill 17001, a mid brownish grey silty sand containing a number of flecks of charcoal, pebbles and iron pan-like material. The origin of this feature is uncertain. It may represent the basal part of a shallow pit or alternatively even be of natural origin – perhaps having been occupied by a tree bole? Feature 17002 and the natural deposits were sealed by the extant topsoil, context 1700, a dark blackish brown sandy clay silt. Finds from the topsoil included later post-medieval pottery.



Plate 17 Trench 17, feature 17002, looking south

5.18 TRENCH 18

Yellowish orange silty clays forming natural deposits, context 18001, were reached in Trench 18 at depths between 13.80m – 14.00m AOD. No archaeological features were seen to cut into, or overlie, the natural deposits. Topsoil, context 18000, of dark greyish brown, clayey sandy silt sealed the natural deposits. Finds of 19th century brick and later post-medieval pottery, together with a fragment of a slate writing tablet, were recovered from the topsoil.

5.19 TRENCH 19

Natural deposits, context 19001, of yellowish orange silty clay were revealed in trench 19 at depths of around 14m AOD. This was sealed by the extant topsoil, context 19000, a dark greyish brown clayey sandy silt. No archaeological features were encountered in this trench though finds of post-medieval pottery, together with a medieval sherd, were recovered from the topsoil.

5.20 TRENCH 20

Natural deposits, context 20004, of orangey yellow silty clays with veins of greyish blue clay were exposed at heights between 13.70m – 13.85m AOD in Trench 20. A single feature, 20003, was seen to cut into this material in the south-eastern part of the trench. This was proved to be a terminal end of linear gully-like feature, the remainder of which extended beyond the limits of excavation. The feature was generally around 0.35m wide, around 0.18m deep and had moderately steep sides and a slightly concave base. Variation to these proportions was evident at the slightly bulbous terminal of the feature where a significant deepening was also evident. This deepening was sub-rectangular in shape, near vertically sided with a concave base and extended for an additional 0.23m below the surrounding basal part of the cut. Although the fill of the small cut was indistinguishable from that of the gully fill itself it seems likely that it represents a separate, but related feature; probably originally housing a small post at the end of the gully. The fill of the gully and post/stake hole, context 20002, was a dark grey silty clay containing some charcoal flecks but no other artefactual material. At least some of the charcoal appeared to be derived from oak. Almost certainly of archaeological origin, little more can readily be stated about this small section of the end of a gully.

A topsoil of dark greyish brown, clayey sandy silt, context 20001, sealed feature 2003. Finds from the topsoil included pottery of post-medieval date.



Plate 18 Trench 20, feature 20003, looking east-south-east

5.21 TRENCH 21

At heights of between 13.75m – 13.90m AOD natural deposits of yellowish orange, slightly silty clay, context 21001, were exposed. The variation in this height along an east – west axis is explained by the presence of the late, close spaced, straight ridge and furrow being particularly evident in this part of the site. No archaeological features or deposits were evident in Trench 21 and natural deposits were directly overlain by the extant topsoil, context 21000, of dark greyish brown sandy clay silt. Finds from the topsoil were comprised of later post-medieval pottery.

5.22 TRENCH 22

Natural deposits in Trench 22, context 22003, was revealed at heights fractionally above 14m AOD. These deposits were quite variable within the trench. Towards the west side these were of mottled orangish yellow sands whilst towards the east side these were of brownish orange silty clay. A number of areas of variation within these deposits were examined and all were concluded to be almost certainly of natural origin. A single feature, context 22002, was seen to cut natural deposits in the west central part of the trench. This

linear cut was aligned south-west – north-east, had a width marginally under 0.5m and a surviving depth of up to 0.38m. In profile this cut was vaguely bowl-like, having moderately steep sides and a rounded base and clearly represents a small ditch. A single fill, context 22001, occupied this feature. This was a soft, dark brown, sandy silt that had inclusions of only very occasional small pebbles. A few small fragments of charcoal together with a small quantity of calcined bone were recovered from an environmental sample from this context. A single artefact was recovered from this fill, this being a large fragment of a small tanged and barbed arrowhead fabricated of what is probably Wolds flint and of Bronze Age date. Whilst this ditch could originate in the Bronze Age, the arrowhead may be residual and the feature of later date. Ditch 22002 was overlain by the extant topsoil, context 22000, a dark greyish brown sandy silt that contained finds principally of post-medieval date but also included a single medieval sherd.



Plate 19 Trench 22, feature 22002, looking south-west

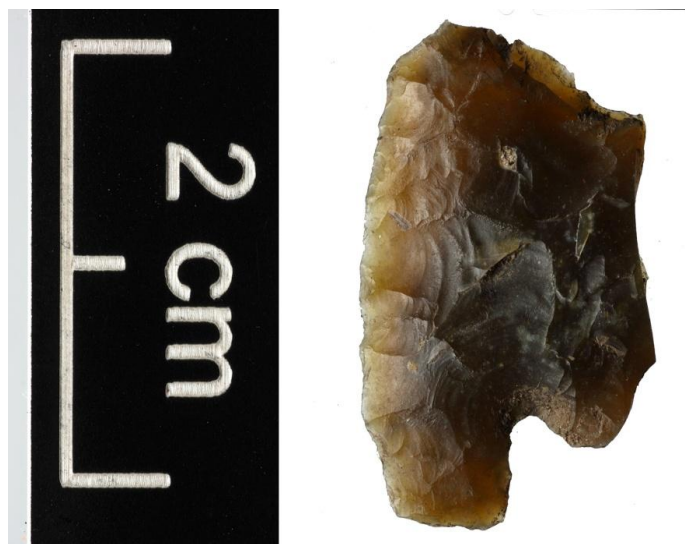


Plate 20 Arrowhead from Trench 22

5.23 TRENCH 23

The presence of Great Crested Newt sensitive areas required the re-location of Trench 23 several metres to the south of its intended position. In its new location the trench extended from, and at 90° to, Trench 25 – itself a subject of greater re-location. Natural deposits of yellowish grey, slightly silty sand, context 23001, were located at the base of Trench 23. Only towards the western end of the trench did these deposits become clayier. No features were seen to cut into the natural deposits which were overlain by the extant topsoil, context 23000. This topsoil was a dark greyish brown silty sand that contained finds material of post-medieval brick and pottery.



Plate 21 Trench 23, looking west

5.24 TRENCH 24

Owing to the presence of environmentally sensitive areas Trench 24 was re-located several metres to the south and re-orientated from an east – west axis to one aligned north-west – south-east. Natural deposits of light brownish orange silty sand were encountered in this trench at depths of between 14.25m – 14.60m AOD, this variation owing to a slight rise in ground level to the west. In the central part of the trench a complex of features, probably of natural origin, were examined. Two elements of this, cuts 24009 and 24006, were narrow steep sided slot-like features containing ‘clean’ fills of slightly silty clays. Also present was a 0.98m wide feature and 0.70m deep, context 24007. This had a ‘wedge’-like profile of a near vertical north-western edge and a gently sloping south-eastern edge. This contained a fill of clean pale brownish grey sand containing flecks of iron-pan like material, context 24003. Towards the northern end of 24003 an area of charcoal-like material (possibly some sort of mineral) was present, contexts 24008/24004. The slightly irregularly shaped nature of these features, combined with their possessing clean, bright fills that were either of clay or sand, and in producing no finds material, suggests the possibility that the elements described above were of a ‘natural origin’. However, the exception to this may be cut 24007 whose fill contained charcoal and fragments of carbonised hazel nutshell as well as a very small flake of flint. Although of somewhat linear appearance the steep profile of this feature suggests the probability that this may have been a pit rather than a ditch. These features were sealed by the extant topsoil of dark greyish brown sandy silt. Finds of 18th – 19th century pottery and later medieval – post-medieval brick were recovered from this topsoil.



Plate 22 Trench 24, Cut 24007 and complex of ?natural features, looking north-west

5.25 TRENCH 25

Natural deposits in the form of yellowish orange silty sand with lenses of pale greyish sandy clay, context 25001, were reached at depths of between 14.06m – 14.15m AOD. This disparity in depth is owed to a slight rise in the profile of ground level in the area to the north of Trench 25. A single archaeological feature, context 25009, was present in the southern part of the trench. This was an east – west aligned gully-like feature of fairly small proportions. With a width of some 0.71m and a depth of some 0.21m, 25009 had fairly gently sloping edges and a rounded base. Fill 25008, a light grey sandy silt containing occasional flecks of charcoal, though no other artefactual material, occupied this cut. This archaeological feature was truncated in its uppermost surviving western parts by a linear area of disturbance containing modern materials, contexts 25011/25010.

Further modern features were present within Trench 25. This included a north-west – south-east aligned ceramic field drain, context 25012, in the extreme north of the trench and immediately to the south of this a series of larger linear cuts, contexts 25003, 25005 and 25007, and aligned at a variety of angles were identified. These measured between 0.20m – 0.52m wide and had vertical or near vertical sides. These were excavated for depths of in excess of 0.50m though their basal parts were not reached. The fills of these features, contexts 25002, 25004 and 25006 were very distinctive blackish brown clayey silts containing clumps of orangish brown clay and lenses of orangish brown sand. Pieces of modern pottery were found within these fills. Clearly of modern origin these features may relate to attempts to improve the drainage in this vicinity. A topsoil of dark greyish brown sandy silt containing post-medieval pottery, with a fragment of earlier brick, sealed the modern features.



Plate 23 Trench 25, gully 25009, looking north



Plate 24 Trench 25, Complex of modern features, looking north

5.26 TRENCH 26

At a height of around 13.60m AOD natural deposits of yellowish orange silty clay were exposed across the base of Trench 26. Close to the south-eastern end of the trench a ditch, cut 26002, aligned east-north-east – west-south-west was exposed. This feature had a width of generally around 0.80m and a depth typically just over 0.20m. The north-western side of the cut was moderately steep, the south-eastern side much more gently sloping whilst the very basal part was fairly flat. A single fill of mid brownish grey clayey silt, context 26003, containing a handful of pebble inclusions, occupied this cut. No dating evidence was recovered from ditch 26002 though a single fragment of carbonised hazel nutshell was present. A modern vertically sided land drain aligned approximately east – west, cut 26005, cut through ditch 26002 at a slight angle. The lowest observed fill of this narrow feature was of coarse gravel, context 26006, whilst this was sealed by an upper fill of mid brownish grey silty clay, context 26004. Sealing all the features within this trench was the extant topsoil of dark greyish brown slightly clayey sandy silt, context 26000. Finds recovered from the topsoil included later post-medieval pottery.



Plate 25 Trench 26, Ditch 26002 and modern land drain 26005, looking west

5.27 TRENCH 27

Natural deposits of yellowish orange fine sandy clay, context 27000, were reached at depths around, or just above 14.40m AOD. No archaeological features or deposits were seen to cut or overlie the natural deposits. The topsoil at the trench was a dark greyish brown sandy clay silt, context 27000, that contained finds principally of post-medieval pottery.

5.28 TRENCH 28

Within Trench 28 natural deposits of yellowish orange sandy clay, context 28000, were exposed at depths generally around 14.45m AOD. This was sealed by the extant topsoil of dark greyish brown sandy clay silt, context 28000 that contained finds of post-medieval century pottery. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within trench 28.

5.29 TRENCH 29

At depths generally just fractionally over 14.25m AOD natural deposits, context 29001, were exposed. These were comprised of yellowish orange silty clays. No archaeological features or deposits were seen to cut or overlie this material. The topsoil in this area, context 29000, was a dark greyish brown slightly clayey sandy silt that contained pottery of post-medieval date together with a fragment of Roman brick.

5.30 TRENCH 30

Natural deposits of yellow grey slightly silty clay were exposed in Trench 30 at a height of around 13.80m AOD. No archaeological deposits or features were seen at or above this

level. The extant topsoil in the area of the trench, context 30000, was a dark brownish grey slightly sandy clayey silt. Only finds of modern materials were recovered from the topsoil.



Plate 26 Trench 30, looking north

5.31 TRENCH 31

Within trench 31 natural deposits, context 31001, were revealed at a depth of around 13.50m AOD. These were comprised of yellowish orange silty clays. Within the central part of the trench a small irregularly shaped feature with shallow sides and an uneven base, context 31003, was identified. This measured some 0.70m by 0.50m and had a depth of up to 0.10m and was filled with a soft yellowish grey silty sand, context 31002, that contained large amounts of decayed root matter. This feature seems likely to relate to the basal parts of a former tree root system. The only other features in trench 31 were three parallel, and roughly east - west aligned, ceramic land drains, context 31004. All features in Trench 31 were sealed by the extant topsoil of dark greyish brown sandy silt, context 31000. Finds from the topsoil were of later post-medieval date.

6. DISCUSSION

The excavated trenches revealed a fairly low density of archaeological features, these occurring in trenches 1, 3, 14, 16, 17, 20, 22, 25 and 26 (see Figure 6). One of these, Trench 20, produced part of a tanged and barbed arrowhead of Bronze Age date found within the fill of a small ditch. None of the remaining features produced any dating evidence. This absence of finds, general morphology and consideration in relation to the Monks cross excavations of 2003 suggests that these 'undated' features may be of prehistoric origin. The density of these features uncovered during the evaluation is broadly on a par, if not slightly greater, than the category of features labelled as 'prehistoric and undated' of the 2003 excavations.

The character of the features, although fragmentary, can be broken down into four broad groups: posthole size features, pit size features, linear ditches/gullies and curvilinear gully. Those features of posthole size are cuts 1002 and 17002 from trenches 1 and 17 respectively. Those of pit size being cuts 3004/3012 and 14004 from trenches 3 and 14. Ditch or large gully-like features were seen in trenches 1, 16, 20, 22, 25 and 26, two of which, in trenches 1 and 20, were terminal ends. It can be suggested with some confidence, on the basis of alignment, that the ditches found in trenches 22 and 26 are one and the same feature. Part of a curvilinear gully-like feature was observed in trench 16. This is likely to have formed part of circular gully of similar form to examples uncovered during the 2003 excavations. It is estimated that its full diameter is likely to be in the region of 3.5m or less, these dimensions also being comparable to the earlier excavated examples.

It was anticipated that the pit alignment discovered in the 2003 excavations would be present in Trench 12. Despite thorough cleaning, extension and widening of Trench 12, followed by machining to greater depth, no indications of the pit alignment could be identified and its absence requires some consideration. There appear to be two likely explanations, firstly, the alignment may change course and secondly, the alignment may terminate to the immediate north-west of Trench 12. The former suggestion is certainly possible though it is perhaps surprising that its course was not detected in one of the other trenches if this were the case. The second suggestion is equally plausible and may find a modicum of support from the observation that in the 2003 excavation the pits in south-eastern part of the works were slightly less substantial than those to the north-west.

Given the distribution of the trenches and the small parts of features found within them it is difficult to be certain how they articulate both to each other and to the curvilinear ditch of Area 3 of the 2003 excavations. A 'joining dots' exercise allows for multiple scenarios and it is likely that this question could only be answered by further observations.

The only other traces of older human activity are the faint remains of north – south aligned, straight, close-spaced ridge and furrow that are just visible, in places, in the field where trenches 17 – 21 lay. The morphology of this ridge and furrow, together with the extremely heavy later post-medieval bias in the topsoil finds assemblage, suggests that this may relate to a short period of cultivation in the very late 18th – earlier 19th centuries.

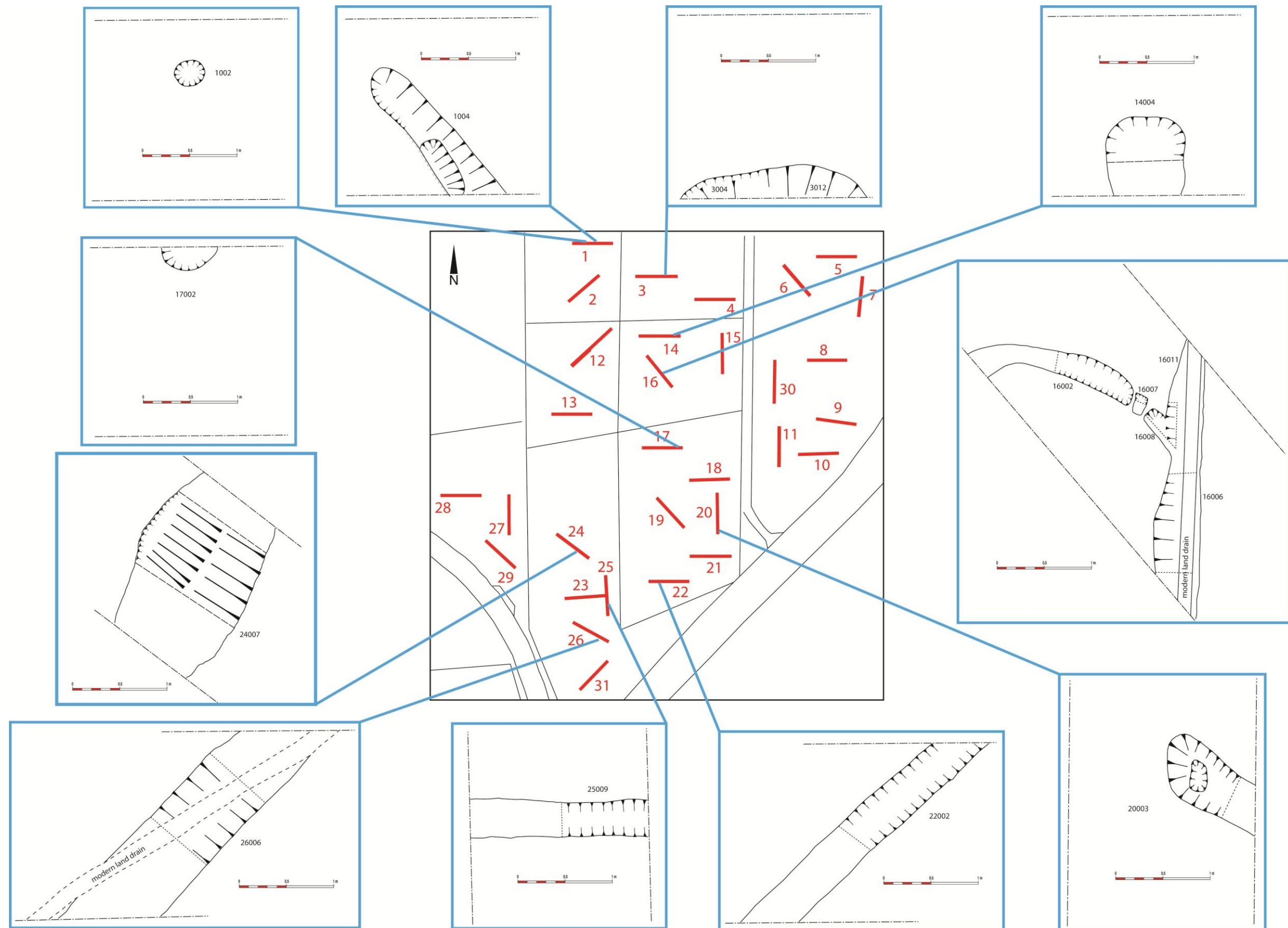


Figure 6 Plans of archaeological, and probably archaeological, features, in relation to their positions within individual trenches

7. POTTERY REPORT

By Anne Jenner

A total of one hundred and sixty five sherds were recovered from excavations at the shopping Park at Monks Cross (see Table 1). They are mostly small and many are abraded wares, many of which may have been distributed during manuring or working the land. All were recovered from either the topsoil or from deposits of modern origin.

The majority of the wares are for the table and therefore of a domestic nature. They range in date from the medieval period (one sherd) to the 20th century. The majority, however, were probably in use during the 19th century, though the slip wares may have been in currency as early as the late 17th/early eighteenth centuries, the cream wares and banded slipwares during the late 18th and 19th centuries and the transfer printed, white earthenwares and stone wares in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The assemblage is of a predictable, fairly mundane nature for this period in York and its environs and probably represents original owners of a moderate and not particularly affluent background. Consequently, there are few, if any, pieces of note and no further recommendations for further work, though the black basalt type wares are of moderate interest as they may have been made at Stoke-on-Trent or more likely copied at Leeds or at the Don pottery in the 19th century. And, as they are rarer than the rest of the material they may indicate a slightly higher status, or simply the more expensive end of the market.

Context	Find	Quantity	Dating	Details
1000	BF39	5	19 th century	1 transfer printed ware with stylised blue foliate design on speckled ground 2 slip dishes in buff fabric with feathered and striped designs and small thumb prints along rim 1 cream ware 1 moderately gritted oxidised earthenware dish or pancheon rim with matt green brown glaze 1 coarsely gritted oxidised earthenware with light grey reduced surface and margin All small sherds
2000	BF40	5	19 th century	2 English stoneware with brown glaze 1 white earthenware 1 cream ware 1 high fired good quality white earthenware bowl rim with under glaze blue decoration
3000	BF41	12	19 th century	1 Ryedale type earthenware open form medium sized sherd 1 porcelain with under glaze blue palm tree 1 post medieval coarsely gritted oxidised earthenware with matt green brown glaze 1 English brown stoneware ribbed strap handle with brown glaze 1 black glazed fine oxidised earthenware 4 transfer printed 2 pearl ware scrap 1 ?cream ware scrap
4000	BF42	9	19 th century	2 white earthenware plate with blue feathered rim 3 white earthenware scraps burnt 1 transfer printed scrap 1 pearl ware scrap 1 cream ware 1 black glazed fine oxidised earthenware
4001	BF43	1	? 18 th century	1 post medieval oxidised earthenware with light matt green glaze scrap
5000	BF44	1	19 th century	1 transfer printed ware ?saucer base with light blue foliate design Small sherd
6000	BF45	8	19 th century	4 transfer printed ware with blue decoration 1 black glazed fine oxidised earthenware 1 brown glazed oxidised earthenware with drip of grey ?slip on external unglazed surface 1 tin glazed ware rim 1 pearl ware
8000	BF46	15	19 th century	1 black glazed fine oxidised buff ware pancheon rim 6 transfer printed 1 transfer printed proto-flow blue 1 transfer printed scrap with maroon decoration 1 transfer printed with brown decoration 1 pearl ware 1 cream ware scrap 2 ?pearl ware crazed glaze 1 pearl ware with geometric design in under glaze blue with dots filled in with over glaze pink

9001	BF47	1	Late 18 th -19 th century	1 black basalt-type ware jug rim small
9002	BF48	2	19 th century	1 pearl ware 1 white earthenware with crazed glaze
10001	BF49	12	19 th century	2 white salt glazed stoneware 2 transfer printed 1 cream ware 3 pearl ware including cup handle 1 tin glazed 1 fine oxidised open ware with shiny green brown glaze medium sherd 1 English stoneware with brown glaze and tooled incised decoration 1 coarse oxidised earthenware with black glaze scrap
11001	BF50	8	19 th century	4 transfer printed 1 white earthenware plate rim with blue moulded scalloped and feathered rim 1 cream scrap 1 White earthenware scrap 1 black glazed earthenware glaze flaking
12000	BF51	14	19 th century	5 transfer printed including lid seated oval bowl 1 tin glazed light blue 2 cream dish rim 1 coarse oxidised scrap with white glaze ?tile 1 white earthenware scrap 1 slipware with fine oxidised fabric and marbled decoration medium sized sherd 1 English stoneware rim of ?inkwell 1 post medieval oxidised earthenware with flaked green brown glaze 1 slipware posset
13000	BF52	7	19 th century	1 plain banded slipware bowl base medium sherd 2 transfer printed 2 cream 1 post medieval earthenware jar rim with flaked green brown glaze medium 1 slipware posset rim with applied brown spots
14001	BF53	7	19 th century	3 transfer printed proto flow blue 4 cream All small sherds
15001	BF54	8	19 th century	5 cream including bowl base 1 transfer printed light blue stylised foliate design 1 post medieval earthenware with brown glaze 1 transfer printed proto flow blue
16000	BF55	9	19 th century	3 English stoneware with brown glaze medium 1 fine oxidised earthenware bowl rim with bifid edge and traces of thin green glaze medium 3 cream 1 pearl 1 transfer printed cup with foliate fine line and dot design in pinkish purple
17000	BF56	6	19 th century	1 white earthenware plate with moulded scalloped blue feathered rim 2 transfer printed 1 pearl 1 bandslip plain 1 pearl
18000	BF57	9	19 th century	1 sponge ware bowl rim 1 white earthenware bowl with blue feathering on short everted rim 2 plain banded slipware 3 transfer printed 1 cream elaborate handle 1 highly fired post medieval earthenware with shiny mid brown glaze
19000	BF58	5	19 th century	2 cream 1 pearl 1 medieval unglazed ware with reduced core 1 terracota
20000	BF59	39	19-20 th century	1 white earthenware tankard base with black zig-zag band medium 6 transfer printed 1 black basalt type with rough scored surface 1 tin glazed ware dish with red and blue band inside rim 2 slipware with fine oxidised fabric medium 1 white earthenware with scalloped rim and blue feathered edge 1 terracotta plant pot rim 1 cream ware with mid blue interior 1 flow blue bowl rim with purple band 1 banded slipware 1 white earthenware with blue stripes 1 tin glazed glaze missing 1 English stoneware bottle with brown glaze 4 white earthenware 5 cream 1 ?cream with light blue decoration 1 white earthenware bowl with blue beaded rim medium 1 English stoneware with brown shiny glaze and cream stripe 2 buff coarse ware with flaked buff glaze 1 matt white earthenware rim 5 white earthenware scraps
21000	BF60	17	Early-mid 20 th century	3 white earthenware crackled glaze 1 white earthenware dish with yellow and red over glaze decoration 6 cream including jar rim 1 fine oxidised open form with friaked slip 3 transfer printed scraps 1 ?sponge cup handle 1 fine oxidised 1 china with red green and blue underglaze
22000	BF61	18	19 th century	7 transfer printed 2 porcelain 1 English brown stoneware 1 fine oxidised earthenware with plain slip 1 cream ware with moulded basket decoration 5 cream 1 medieval finely gritted glazed with copper spots
23000	BF62	9	19 th century	3 ?sponged dish 1 pearl handle 2 white earthenware dish 3 banded slipware
23004	BF63	2	18TH/19TH CENTURY	1 banded slipware with white fabric and brown lines 1 slipware posset cup base Small sherds
24000	BF64	1	19 th century	1 pearl 1 cream Small sherds
25000	BF65	3	20 th century	1 English stoneware marmelade bottle with fine ribbing 1 pearl 1 porcelain
25002	BF66	7	19 th century	1 English brown stoneware 5 creamware 1 transfer printed scrap with lurred pattern
26000	BF67	15	19 th century	1 white earthenware plate with wide scalloped blue feathered rim 3 transfer printed 1 terracotta 8 cream ware plate 1 white earthenware 1 burnt ?cream All small to medium sherds
27000	BF68	10	19 th century	3 transfer printed bowl small and medium sized 4 cream 1 terracotta 1 pearl ware bowl base with under glaze blue stylised flower 1 manganese dusted brown glazed All small and one medium sized sherds
28000	BF69	13	Late 19 th -20 th century	1 terracotta 1 fine oxidised earthenware bowl rim with brown glaze 2 transfer printed with blue scene 2 cream 3 white earthenware 1 sponged 1 transfer printed jug handle 1 Hambleton/Ryedale type with light green glaze 1 highly fired buff earthenware with light green glaze
29000	BF70	4	19 th century	1 transfer printed bowl base 1 English stoneware bottle base 1 white earthenware 1 black glazed fine oxidised earthenware All small sherds

31000	BF71	7	19 th century	2 white earthenware plate with blue feathered rim 1 banded slipware medium 1 slipware with fine oxidised fabric 1 English stoneware medium 1 cream 1 white earthenware with dark blue glaze
-------	------	---	--------------------------	---

Table 1 Pottery listing

8. SMALL FINDS

By Nicola Rogers

A total of six small finds were recorded and assessed. The small finds were recovered from five different trenches, and are described below by trench.

TRENCH 8

Trench 8 produced two small finds, both from Context 8002: SF2 is a ceramic gaming piece of 19th – 20th century date, and SF3 is a fragment of glass vessel, which might be of Roman date, but is more likely to be post-medieval.

TRENCH 14

A pewter spoon fragment SF6 was found in Context 14001, and is possibly of late 18th – 19th century date.

TRENCH 15

A slate fragment SF5 is possibly from a 19th – early 20th century slate writing tablet; it was recovered from Context 15001 (see also SF4 below).

TRENCH 18

SF4, context 18000 is certainly a writing slate fragment.

TRENCH 22

SF1 is a fragmentary tanged and barbed arrowhead, probably of Bronze Age date.

CONCLUSION

This very small assemblage unfortunately tells us virtually nothing about the nature of this site – the most informative object is clearly SF1 which suggests activity in the Bronze Age in the area. It is unclear how the other finds relate to the site, but it seems possible all could have been brought there in dumped soil.

Find	Context	Name	Material
SF1	22001	Arrowhead	Flint
SF2	8002	Gaming Piece	Fired Clay
SF3	8002	Vessel Fragment	Glass
SF4	18000	Writing Tablet Fragment	Slate
SF5	15001	Fragment	Slate
SF6	14001	Spoon	Lead Alloy

Table 2 Small finds listing

9. CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIALS

By J.M. McComish

A total of 715g of ceramic building material (CBM) and possible stone roof tile was recovered from the site, which ranged in date from Roman to modern. All the material was recovered from the topsoil and modern deposits. The CBM was recorded to a standard YAT methodology and the results are summarised in Table 3. A summary of the material by context is given in Table 4.

Period	Form	# of sherds	Total weight
Roman	Brick	3	125
Medieval	Brick	3	45
	Plain	9	180
Post-medieval	Brick	2	100
Modern	Drain	3	200
	Slate	1	5
	Wall tile	1	50
Undated	Stone peg tile?	1	10

Table 3 Summary of CBM, stone floor and stone roofing tile by period and form

Context	Dating	Forms present
3000	13-16th	Plain, Roman brick
4000	13-16th	Plain
5000	1-4th	Roman brick
6000	1850+	Wall tile
8000	Undated	Stone peg?
9002	1850+	Drain, Post-medieval brick

10001	13-16th	Plain
11001	14-16 th ?	Plain, Medieval brick?
14000	14-16th?	Medieval brick?
15001	13-16th	Plain
18000	1850+	Plain, slate
23000	16-18th	Post-medieval brick
24000	14-16th?	Medieval brick?
25000	13-16th	Plain
26000	1850+	Drain
27000	13-16th	Plain
29000	1-4th	Roman brick
31000	1850+	Drain

Table 4 Summary of CBM by context

Three sherds of Roman tile were present, but all were too fragmentary to determine the original form. They were in fabrics seen elsewhere in York, one sherd was 24mm thick, but no dimensions survived on the other two sherds.

The medieval material is comprised nine sherds of plain tile of 13th-16th century date, all of which was in fabrics typically seen in York and its immediate hinterland. One of the plain tiles was glazed. There were two sherds of brick which may be of 14th-16th century date, but the sherds were so small that a secure identification was impossible and it is possible that they could be of post-medieval date.

The only post medieval material was two sherds of slop-moulded brick of 16-18th century date. Modern material included three sherds of machine made field drains, a sherd of machine made wall tile and a sherd of Welsh roofing slate all of which date to the mid 19th century or later. In addition there was a small sliver of micaceous sandstone which may have originated from a stone roof tile, but again the fragment was too small to be certain of this identification.

The small collection of CBM was of little interest, beyond providing dating evidence for the contexts concerned. It does not merit any further research.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

By Sharon Carson, Clark Innes and Jennifer Miller

10.1 SUMMARY

Features sampled took the form of small ditches/gullies, a curvilinear gully and a small number of pit and posthole-sized features. Only one of these features contained any dating evidence, a hand collected Bronze Age arrowhead from the fill of a ditch within Trench 22. Although effectively undated, the environmental evidence would support the suggestion that the majority of these features may be of prehistoric origin.

10.2 INTRODUCTION

A total of five samples from pit fill features from excavations at Monk's Cross, York were submitted for general biological analysis (GBA). They were analysed to assess the preservation potential of biological materials within the deposits of a possible Prehistoric site. It was anticipated that comparative analysis of these samples and the interpretation of inorganic and environmental material would determine the viability of further analysis in interpreting the nature of the site.

10.3 METHODOLOGY

10.3.1 BULK SAMPLE PROCESSING

Bulk samples were received within 10 litre plastic tubs, sealed to exclude light and air. They were floted for the recovery of environmental evidence and artefacts using standard methods and a *Siraf* flotation system including a bespoke pumped recycled water system with four settling tanks. Samples were disaggregated by agitating in water over a 500µm diameter mesh supported over a flotation drum. Light, primarily organic materials that floated as wash-over (flots) were retained on 500µm and 1mm calibrated mesh diameter *Endicot* sieves whilst other materials larger than 500µm that did not float remained on the mesh as the retent.

Wet retents were spread out on plastic trays and examined visually before being tagged and dried. The flot material was wrapped in blue acid-free paper, tagged and recorded before being air dried on trays in a warm drying room. Once dried, the retents were sieved using 4mm and 2mm *Endicot* sieves and sorted using magnified illuminated lamps for all categories of artefacts and ecofacts. A magnet was employed to locate magnetized stone and metals.

Sorted materials were bagged and labelled for submission to specialists and weighed (where relevant) using an *Ohaus CS200* digital scale calibrated to 0.01g. Sorted residues were also weighed on a digital scale, bagged and stored pending decision regarding disposal. The sorting codes employed are shown in Table 5 and the results of the retent sorting noted and presented in Table 6.

Analysis of the flots was undertaken using a *Nikon 93756* binocular microscope at variable magnifications of between x8 and x40 with associated *Schott KL-1500 LCD* cold light source. Relative abundances of each notable component was recorded and presented in Table 6.

10.3.2 BOTANICAL MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION

Botanical material from each sorted flotation retent was added to the corresponding flot before being sorted through a 500µm and 4mm sieve, with fragments over 4mm separated for identification. Full charcoal assessment was not undertaken as part of this assessment phase but a representative sample of up to 10 fragments from each of the samples was selected for analysis. Charcoal identification in all cases was undertaken using the reflected light of a Zenith metallurgical microscope at X63 magnification with reference to Schweingruber (1990). Seed identification was undertaken with reference to Beijerinck (1947), Cappers (2006) and the Dickson botanical reference collection. Plant nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

10.4 RESULTS

10.4.1 CONTEXT 1003 [01] TRENCH 1

This sample was described in the field as the uppermost fill from the ditch/gully of cut 1004 and consisted of greyish brown clayey silt with a cream coloured marbling. The origin of this cut was uncertain and was interpreted as possibly being part of a natural feature with the charcoal being derived from the burnt out root system of a tree. A significant amount of charcoal was recovered from this sample with a very small amount of coal and a notable abundance of burnt clay fragments, which were sub rounded and globular in form.

The flot contained an abundance of modern roots/grasses and a significant amount of charcoal. A brief visual analysis of some of the fragments identified them to be oak (*Quercus*) but most of the fragments were indeterminate due to a substantial degree of iron staining silt infilling.

The presence of the burn clay fragments may possibly corroborate the hypothesis of the feature being part of a burn out root system as the material appears to be similar in

description to the surrounding material and traces of the yellow mottling/marbling can be seen within the clay fragments.

10.4.2 CONTEXT 20002 [02] TRENCH 20

This sample was taken from a fill from Trench 20 and the feature within it was interpreted as the terminal end of the small gully and post/stake hole. Small flecks of charcoal were recorded from the context on site. The matrix of the sample was very dense clay of a dark brown and grey colouration, very compact and difficult to break down with a notable absence of gravels. A significant amount of charcoal was recovered from the floated residues and a smaller volume of coal. Three fragments of red/orange ceramic material which may be pottery were also recovered but the sherds were of a size which inhibited proper evaluation.

The main organic materials recovered from the flots were modern roots/grasses and a small number of modern seeds, primarily creeping/bulbous (*Ranunculus repens/bulbosus*) buttercup. Further identification was not undertaken as the seeds were not contemporary with the deposition of the fill of the post/stake hole. A small amount of charcoal was recovered from the flots and some of the fragments appeared to be oak (*Quercus*) but the majority of the fragments again were indeterminate due to iron staining and silt infilling. A single earthworm was found during analysis of the flots indicating that the soils have undergone a degree of post depositional mixing through bioturbation.

10.4.3 CONTEXT 22001 [05] TRENCH 22

This sample was taken from a fill from Trench 22 and has been interpreted as a single fill within a bowl shaped cut into natural geology. The sample had a very soft silty consistency, dark brown/grey in colour and contained a small volume of gravel. A single find of a large fragment of a small tanged and barbed arrowhead was hand recovered from this fill, and is probably Bronze Age in date. Charcoal and coal were recovered from the retents after processing. A small quantity of calcined bone from the samples was the only such find from the investigation.

Modern roots again were the most abundant component of the flots, and a significant amount of fungal resting spores were recorded. The sample contained very little charcoal and no fragments over 4mm. Modern seeds were observed including primarily creeping/bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus repens/bulbosus*).

10.4.4 CONTEXT 24003 [03] TRENCH 24

This sample was interpreted in the field as a pit backfill and flecks of a charcoal or iron pan like material were recorded on site. The sample was dark grey, soft and viscous with

gravelly inclusions and had a white/yellow marbling throughout. Significant amounts of charcoal were recovered from the retent residues after the flotation process, and a small amount of coal was also recorded. A very small orange coloured flint flake was also recovered from the residues. Most notably the residues contained a significant amount of carbonised hazel (*Corylus*) nutshell, most of which were fairly large fragments.

The flot of this sample contained fewer modern roots compared to the other samples, but the components also included modern bark, seeds and also some fragments of plastic. Carbonised hazel nutshell fragments and a carbonised rhizome were also recovered. The charcoal fragments were mainly from small twigs and round wood. A brief analysis of the charcoal was carried out and consisted of only hazel (*Corylus*) with no other taxa present. The fragments were also iron stained.

10.4.5 CONTEXT 26003 [04] TRENCH 26

This context was interpreted in the field as ditch backfill. It was the fill of cut 26002, described as grey clayey silt. A sherd of orange pottery <3mm had faint traces of an earlier glaze. A small volume of red/orange tile type material was also recovered along with a very small volume of coal. One fragment of carbonised hazel (*Corylus*) nutshell was recovered from the residue.

The flot contained a significant amount of modern roots/grasses and an abundance of insect/invertebrate remains. Notably, the sample did not contain any charcoal and the flot itself was fairly small in volume consisting primarily of modern materials.

10.5 DISCUSSION

The majority of the botanical remains were relatively modern and were not identified in detail as a result. Most of the seeds were buttercups, primarily creeping/bulbous buttercup (*Ranunculus repens/bulbosus*) and although the seeds of both taxa are fairly robust and can persist in the soil matrix for considerable periods, they are unlikely to be contemporaneous with the period of occupation. It is more probable that they are more recent and have been carried down through the soil profile as a result of bioturbation. All of the samples contained a significant number of roots and insects/invertebrates, with an earthworm in one sample and fragments of modern plastics in others further highlighting the degree of bioturbation observed.

Hazel (*Corylus*) nutshell was found in samples 3 and 4, but was particularly abundant in sample 3 with fairly large fragments recovered from the retent. The charcoal fragments from this sample appeared to be predominantly from small hazel twigs and round wood.

Carbonised hazel nutshells are commonly recovered from archaeological sites of many periods ranging from the Mesolithic to later prehistoric and historic periods (Dickson & Dickson 2000), and hazelnuts are considered to have been one of the most important plant foods before the introduction of cereal cultivation. The nuts are rich in many vital nutrients including fats, starch and sugars. Although the presence of carbonised hazel nutshell can be interpreted as evidence of plant food exploitation, the sample also contains hazel charcoal so it may possibly be indicating in situ burning for clearance. However, the nutshells were smashed rather than having germinated naturally, suggesting that a hearth of some description, however temporary, is perhaps a more likely provenance for these remains.

The majority of the biological remains within the samples are probably modern and do not reflect the environmental conditions of the initial deposition phases, although the charcoal is likely to be contemporary with the age of these features. Detailed charcoal identification was not undertaken as part of the assessment, but fragments over 4mm in size were observed to determine a general representation of the taxa present, with both hazel and oak recorded. Iron staining and silt infilling occurred in all of the fragments which made identification difficult and most of the fragments were indeterminate other than in sample 3. The taxon assemblage and post depositional alteration of charcoal fragments would be consistent with the proposed early prehistoric period suggested during excavation, although AMS dating would be required to confirm this absolutely.

	Code	Definition
Sample	Context	Context number
	Num	Sample number
	Type	Type of sample
	Vol	Sample volume before processing
	Res. Vol	Residue volume before flotation and sorting
Sorting %	Enviro	All environmental material.
	CBM	Ceramic Building Material
Sample weights (g)	C.V	Charred Vegetation
	Plant Macros	All plant macrofossils

	Wood		
	Faunal		Animal and human remains
	Shell		Freshwater and marine molluscs
	Pottery		Ceramics
	CTP		Clay Tobacco Pipe
	CBM		Ceramic Building Material
	Metal		
	Glass		
	Slate		
	Mortar		
	Coal		
	Plaster		
	Stone	Lithic	Stone tools and debitage
		Wkd	Worked stone including masonry
		Other	Anomaly or noteworthy
	Industrial	Slag	Metal and glass slag
		Other	Other industrial material/products

Table 5 Soil sample sorting codes

	Sample information (Volumes in L)				Sorting %		Sample weights (g)																			
Context	Num	Type	Vol	RVol	Enviro	CBM	C.V.	Plant macros	Wood	Bone	Shell	Pottery	CTP	CBM	Metal	Glass	Slate	Mortar	Coal	Plaster	Stone			Industrial		
																					Lithic	Wked	Other	Slag	Other	
1003	1	GBA	30	0.05	100	100	43.13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.89	-	-	-	-	-	30.30	Burnt Clay
20002	2	GBA	10	0.01	100	100	2.09	-	-	-	-	0.18	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.42	-	-	-	-	-	-	
22001	5	GBA	10	0.02	100	100	0.81	-	-	0.09	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.87	-	-	-	-	-	-	
24003	3	GBA	10	0.08	100	100	31.63	0.58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.14	-	0.05	-	-	-	-	
26003	4	GBA	30	0.05	100	100	0.00	0.04	-	-	-	-	-	0.75	-	-	-	-	1.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Table 6 Sorting results

4293161 Monks Cross	Context	1003	20002	22001	24003	26003
Yorym 651	Sample	1	2	5	3	4
Modern roots - grasses		+++++	+++++	+++++	+++	+++++
Modern bark		-	-	-	++	-
Modern seeds		-	+	+	+	+
Modern dicot. leaf fgmt.		-	-	-	-	+
Modern plastic		+	-	-	+	+
Charcoal		++	+	+	++	-
Coal		+	+	++	-	+
Insect/Invertebrates (incl. eggs)		-	+	+	+	++
Fungal resting spores		+	-	+++	++	+
Hazel nutshell (c)		-	-	-	+	-
Rhizomes (c)		-	-	-	+	-
Charcoal						
Total charcoal F+R		60ml	6ml	<5ml	50ml	0
Total charcoal F+R >4mm		30ml	3ml	0	30ml	0
Total charcoal F+R <4mm		30ml	3ml	<5ml	20ml	0
Other	common name					
(c) <i>Corylus</i> nutshell fgmt.	Hazel nutshell	-	-	-	8 (0.17g)	-
Lumbricidae	earthworm	-	1	-	-	-

Table 7 Flot assessment results

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Excavation

Steve Collison, Tom Coates, Megan Clement, Hannah Clay, David Klinge, Mark Johnson.

Report Author

M. Johnson

Survey

M. Abbot

GIS

Karen Weston

Editor

M. Stockwell

Specialist reports

As stated with individual reports

12. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Beijerinck, W. (1947) *Zadenatlas der Nederlandische Flora*. Veenan & Zonen, Wageningen

Brinklow, D., Hall, R.A., Magilton, J.R., and Donaghey, S., 1986. *Coney Street, Aldwark and Clementhorpe, Minor Sites, and Roman Roads*. The Archaeology of York 6/3

Cappers, R.T.J., Becker, R.M. and Jans, G.E.A. (2006) *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands*. Groningen: Barkhuis Publishing

Dickson, C., and Dickson, J.H. (2000) *Plants and People in Ancient Scotland*. Stroud: Tempus Publishing Ltd

Geol. Surv. (1959) Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales), solid and drift. Sheet 63.

Lawton, I., 1993. 'Apple Tree Farm 1987-1992: An Ebor Ware Kiln Site, Interim Report' *Yorkshire Archaeol. Ser. Roman Antiquities Section Bulletin* 10, 1992-93

Macnab, N., 2000. 'Land at Huntington South Moor, Monks Cross, York. Report on an Archaeological Desk-Top Study and Evaluation' *York Archaeological Trust, 2000 Field Report Number 32*.

Johnson, M. (2004) Huntington South Moor, An Assessment report on an Archaeological Excavation. *York Archaeological Trust Report Number 2004/16*

Ottaway, P., 2002. 'Huntington South Moor, Monks Cross, York. Report on an Archaeological Evaluation' *York Archaeological Trust, 2002 Field Report Number 26*.

Scheingruber, F.H. (1990) *Anatomy of European Woods*. Haupt, Berne and Stuttgart

Stace, C. (1997) *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

YAT (2005) *York Archaeological Trust Fieldwork Recording Manual, June 2005 revised*.

York Archaeological Trust Gazetteer. <http://www.iadb.co.uk/gaz/index.htm>

YAJ, 1943. Roman Yorkshire, 1941. *Yorkshire Archaeol. J*, 35, 424