YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON LAND BEHIND MAINSTREET, HOVINGHAM, NORTH YORKSHIRE

By B. Antoni

ASSESSMENT REPORT

Report Number 2015/03 March 2015

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BGS	British Geological Survey
m AOD	metres Above Ordnance Datum
m BGL	metres Below Ground Level

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Between April 2011 and April 2014 York Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological Watching Brief on Land behind Main Street, Hovingham, North Yorkshire. The watching brief revealed that the area had been favoured for the location of Early-Middle Bronze Age (1800-1500BC) cremations, which may have been associated with a burial mound or trackway. There was no evidence for activity relating to the later Prehistoric or Roman periods. There was, however, scant evidence for occupation in the Anglo Scandinavian/Anglo Norman period. A series of east-west aligned boundary ditches may have been established at this time. The set out and configuration of the boundaries remained up until the 14th century when the ditches were backfilled to create an open space put to the plough. By the 18th-19th century the area was once more divided into east/west aligned land plots by the imposition of several limestone boundary walls. These boundaries remained in place up until the 20th century, when the area was once more opened up to form a single plot, remaining as such up until the present development.

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	Land Behind Main Street, Hovingham, North Yorkshire
YAT Project No.	5833
Report status	Final
Type of Project	Watching Brief
Client	Trilandium Homes
Planning Application No.	07/00607/MFUL
NGR	NGR: SE 6695 7575 (centred)
Museum Accession No.	YORYM: 2007.600
OASIS Identifier	Yorkarch1-204775
Author	B. Antoni
Illustrations	B. Antoni
Editor	Dave Evans
Approved	David Aspden
Report Number and Date	2015/03 [12/03/15]

1 INTRODUCTION

Between April 2011 April 2014 York Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological Watching Brief on Land behind Main Street, Hovingham, North Yorkshire (NGR: SE 6695 7575; Figure 1, Plate 1). The nearest postcode for the site is YO62 4JT.

Plate 1 View of Site looking south

The site was the subject of a desk-based assessment and geophysical survey in 2006 (Johnson 2006, YAT Report 2006/26), followed by an archaeological assessment in 2007 (Johnson 2007, YAT Report 2007/53). The archaeological assessment concluded that significant archaeological features and deposits of the medieval to modern periods were likely to be encountered at a depth of between 0.20m – 0.50m BGL within the development area.

The watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation and service trenches in advance of the construction of a mix of 24 new detached and semi detached dwellings, with associated garages and access roads (Figure 2). Plots 14-21 and 23 had been previously investigated by archaeological trial trenching (Johnson 2007/53), hence they were not subject to this programme of archaeological watching brief.

Building plots A, 1-13 and 22 (Figure 2) were archaeologically monitored. Plots A, 1-10 and 22 were constructed on slab foundations cut to fit, whereas Plot 12-13 used strip foundations. The ground level was reduced to between 0.60–0.80m depth for the slab foundations, whereas Plots 12-13 strip foundations were up to 0.75m wide and 0.95m deep.

The development is served by a new access road and sewer system with paired inspection chambers (Figure 2; S1-5). The sewer system was installed in the base of roadway after it was

cleared down to construction formation level at 0.40m BGL. The individual inspection chamber trenches were 2-2.4m and the sewer pipe trenches were 2m wide. They were all excavated down to a depth of 2.20m below the formation level of the access road.

2 METHODOLOGY

All the groundworks were carried out by means of a tracked mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. All of the exposed archaeological features were recorded in plan before appropriate areas of individual features were targeted for archaeological hand excavation to inform stratigraphic relationships and for the recovery of dating evidence.

Deposits and features were recorded as drawn plans at a scale of 1:20, sections at 1:10, as well as being described using pro-forma context recording sheets, following the procedures laid down in the Trust's Fieldwork Manual (YAT 2009). Only a selection of the 31 recorded sections has been used to illustrate this report. A series of colour digital photographs was taken throughout.

The work was commissioned by Trilandium Homes, in compliance with conditions placed upon Planning Consents granted for the construction of the new dwellings (Planning Consent 07/00607/MFUL).

All artefacts and site records are currently stored with York Archaeological Trust under project number 5059, in concordance with Yorkshire Museum accession code YORYM: 2007.6001.

3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located to the rear of a row of buildings and gardens fronting Main Street on the eastern side of the village of Hovingham, North Yorkshire (Figure 1). The development area measures approximately 134m north-south, between 42m and 80m (east-west) and the land generally lies at c. 33m AOD. The development is within the Hovingham conservation area.

The north side of the site is bounded by modern housing and the west side by the housing fronting Main Street. The southern site boundary is delineated by open ground and the car park to the rear of the Malt Shovel public house, whereas the east side of the site borders agricultural land. The development occupies fairly level ground which had been cleared of overgrown grass and scrub before the watching brief commenced (Plate 1).

Hovingham lies towards the south-western end of the lowland Vale of Pickering. Immediately south of the village the land rises to the Howardian Hills (Geological Survey 1957). The vale is comprised principally of alluvial deposits and the Howardian Hills of limestone. There are no details of boreholes held by the British Geological Survey in the immediate vicinity of the site. The nearest borehole in the vale lies just over 1.5km to the east, at Fryton. This borehole revealed several metres of alluvial deposition above limestone bedrock (BGS, borehole SE67NE8). Maws Beck, a tributary of the River Rye runs through the northern part of Hovingham

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A detailed archaeological and historical background of the area has already been carried out for a desk-based assessment (Johnson 2006/26). The following text is an abridged version of the information presented in that document.

Prehistoric Periods (pre 1st century AD)

Evidence for the Pehistoric periods abounds in the vicinity of Hovingham with crop-mark sites, including dykes, track-ways, ditches, ring ditches, probable burial mounds, enclosures and a possible hut circle are evident to the south, south-east and south-west of the village. Certain of these appear likely to relate to the Bronze Age, many to the Iron Age whilst others could conceivably even be of Roman date, or had continued in use within the Roman period. Occasional stray finds of Prehistoric date, including a Bronze Age socketed axe have been recovered from the locality of the village.

Roman Period (1st – 5th centuries AD)

The most substantial Roman remains in the Hovingham area are located within Hovingham Park, some 300m to the west of Hovingham Hall. These comprised a building with a bath-house and decorated mosaic pavement, both characteristic of a Romanised farmstead or villa complex. A well preserved round barrow on the south side of the Hovingham–Malton road (B1257), some 0.6 km south-east of the development plot, is also thought to have been put up in the Roman period, although there is no conclusive evidence for this and it is still possible that the barrow is of Prehistoric origin. It has also been suggested that the B1257 follows the line of a former Roman road.

Anglian and Anglo-Scandinavian Periods (5th – 11th centuries AD)

The nature of earlier post-Roman activity in the area of the village is unclear. The earliest reported datable finds in Hovingham consist of cross, cross-shaft and architectural fragments of probable 8th to 10th century date in the parish church of All Saints. The tower of the church is believed to be of 11th century date, possibly pre-conquest. The church was largely rebuilt in 1860.

Medieval Period (11th – 16th centuries AD)

Hovingham is listed in the Domesday survey of 1086 and is mentioned in a number of charters throughout the Medieval period. Industrial activities, such as quarrying, rope-making, tanning and a watermill are believed to have been sited on the east side of the village south of Marr Beck. The 1856 and 1911 Ordnance Survey maps show a number of long narrow land plots behind some of the street front buildings in the village, including the development area, which closely resembled typical medieval tenement plots, suggesting that the boundaries within the village were set down at this time.

Post-medieval Period (16th – 19th centuries AD)

Many of the existing buildings within the village originated during the 18th and 19th centuries and a majority of these are Grade II listed. Grade I Hovingham Hall, a mid 18th century mansion of some architectural merit, lies within the heart of the village, some 150m south-west of the site. All Saints Church is situated Immediately to the north of the hall.

Modern Period (19th – 21st centuries AD)

The area of the development is known to have undergone a series of re-modellings within the modern period. This relates primarily to the erection and subsequent demolition of a number of buildings/structures and the removal of various boundaries. A significant impact on the wider landscape came with the introduction of the Thirsk and Malton Railway in 1853. Hovingham was equipped with a small station which became redundant when the line was dismantled in 1964.

5 RESULTS

The trenches will be discussed in numerical order, house plot by house plot and the title 'roadway' has been used to describe the location of features within the confines of the access road and sewer trenches. Only brief context descriptions will be used in the text, although greater detail can be gained by consulting **Appendix 2: Context List**, below.

5.1 House Plot A

House plot A (Figure 2) was an everted, 11.5 x 11m 'L' shaped plot located adjacent to the development access in the north-east corner of the site.

The foundation trench was cut down to 0.70m BGL and the top of natural, orange yellow sandy clays (10071). Natural 10071 was truncated by two linear features representing probable plough furrows (10085 and 10087) and a row of east-south-east/west-north-west aligned post-holes (Cuts 10089, 10091 and 10093).

Cut 10085 was located adjacent to the northern trench edge, it was an 8.50 m long, up to 0.20m deep, linear east-north-east/west-south-west aligned feature which continued beyond the eastern and western trench edges. The width of the cut tapered gently from 1.2m at the western trench edge, down to 0.30m at the eastern trench edge. The sides were steep and the base was generally flat with a central, 0.30m wide, 0.05m deep 'V' shaped slot cut along its length.

10085 was backfilled with a friable mid brown sand silt (10084), containing a single sherd of Anglo-Scandinavian pottery (see **Appendix 4: Pottery Report**).

Another possible plough furrow, 10087, emerged from the base of the eastern trench edge 4m south of Furrow 10085. Cut 10087 was east-north-east/west-south-west aligned linear feature, 3.50m long, 0.80m wide and had an obliquely rounded terminus at its western end. The backfill (10086) of 10087 was not excavated, although its make-up was the same as the fill (10084) of Furrow 10085, suggesting that they were contemporary.

Post-holes 10093, 10091 and 10089 formed a distinct east-south-east/west-north-west alignment, the eastern most (10093) being sited 1.5m south-west of the terminus of

ditch/gully 10087. The post holes were set 2.90-3.0m apart and were circular in plan, 0.30m-0.33m in diameter, 0.08m-0.11m deep and all had rounded bowl shaped profiles. They were all backfilled (10092, 10090 and 10088, respective) with the same deposit as furrow 10085 and ditch/gully 10087.

What these Post-holes represented is not currently understood. The similarity of the fills across all Plot A features suggested that they were contemporary.

The fills of the above (10084, 10086, 10092, 10090 and 10088) were sealed beneath a mid brown sand silt (10036) plough soil, up to 0.60m thick. Deposit 10036 was in turn sealed beneath a 0.10m thick topsoil of loose dark brown silt sand (10046), the top of which formed the ground surface when the watching brief was undertaken.

5.1.1 House Plot 1-2

House Plot 1-2 was located to the south of Plot A and comprised a semi-detached unit with a reversed 'C' shaped ground plan. The foundation trench was south-south-east/north-north-west aligned, 19m long x 11m wide and was excavated down to 0.83m BGL.

The top of sandy clay natural (10071; Figures 2 and 3, Section 17, 19 and 32) was observed at 0.50m-0.70m BGL and was sealed beneath a relict subsoil comprised of friable mid brown clay sand silt (10035), up to 0.26m thick. The top of a similar, 0.52m thick deposit (10037, below), was observed in Section No 32 (Figure 3).

In the roadway opposite Plot 2, the top of natural in the western side of inspection chamber S2 was cut away by Pit 10066 (Figure 3; Section No. 19, Plate2). Plot 2 features will be discussed first.

In Plot 2, the top of Deposit 10035 was truncated by Ditch cut 10031 (Plate 2), which ran across the full width of the southern half of the trench, continuing beyond both the east and west trench edges.

The southern side of 10031 had been re-cut (Ditch 10033, below), although enough remained to show that a linear, east/west aligned plan shape of at least 0.64m wide and 0.50m deep with a steep sided flat based profile was most likely for Cut 10031 in general.

Ditch 10031 was backfilled with a plastic red brown silt sand clay (10032), with moderate pale yellow clay lumps, occasional limestone fragments, burnt stone and clay pieces, charcoal flecks and pebbles.

Elements of similar sized ditches were observed in the roadway (Cut 10082) and building Plot 22 (Cut 10055). A rounded terminus was formed at the western end of Ditch cut 10055. The alignment and profile of both these ditch segments suggested that Cut 10035 continued for a further 24m to the west of Plot 2, the alignment diverging slightly towards the south as Plot 22 was approached. The backfills of both 10082 (10080-81) and 10055 (10053-54), were similar to the backfill (10032) of Ditch 10031. The upper fill of Ditch 10082 (10080) produced two sherds of 14th century pottery.

Plate 2 Section No.17, shows Ditches 10031 (behind scale) and 11033 (left). 0.10m scale divisions

The southern edge of fill 10032 (Ditch 10031) was cut away by Ditch 10033 which, despite continuing beyond the eastern and western trench edges, was only traceable across the base of Plot 2. Ditch 10033 was over 11m long, up to 1.08m wide, 0.55m deep with a steep south side, stepped moderate-steep northern side and a gently rounded, almost flat base. The backfill of Ditch 10033, a friable mid brown silt sand clay (10034), with occasional small pebbles and charcoal flecks, produced a single sherd of Late 14th century pottery.

Ditch 10033 did not appear to continue much further to the west of Plot 2 (it was absent in the roadway), which inferred that it represented a partial re-cut to realign the eastern end of Ditch 10035/10082/10055.

Fill 10034 was sealed beneath plough soil 10036, up to 0.40m thick.

Section 32 (Figure 2) was located in an area where the foundations penetrated to 0.70m BGL and natural was not reached. The earliest deposit here was a mid orange brown sand silt plough soil (10037), 0.51m thick. The top of 10037 was cut by a 0.24m wide, 0.30m deep, heavily truncated bowl like feature of indeterminate use (cut 10038), containing a backfill comprising lumps of pale orange yellow clay in a orange brown sand silt matrix (10039). The top of fill 10039 was sealed beneath plough soil 10036 which, in this location, was up to 0.18m thick.

Deposit 10036 was truncated by an animal burial pit (10047; Figure 3, Section 17), wall construction cut 10110 and land drain cut 10044 (Figure 3, Section No. 32).

Burial Pit 10047 was 0.46m wide, 0.16m deep and contained an articulated dog skeleton in a loose mid-dark brown sand silt matrix (10048).

Wall construction cut 10110 was 0.80m wide, 0.28m deep and had a square shaped profile. It was located 6m north of Ditch 10033 and it shared the same east/west alignment (Figure 2). The lack of construction cut backfill suggested that it was 'cut to fit' an east/west aligned boundary Wall, 10040, which could be traced for a combined distance of 22m across Plot 2 and the roadway to the west.

Wall 10040 had been demolished to ground level and all that remained below the surface was a 0.70m wide, 0.38m deep stub of a 2-3 course thick, roughly worked dry bond limestone ashlar and rubble. The southern edge of 10040 was sealed beneath a 0.20m thick deposit of limestone rubble (10041), in a mid brown silt sand matrix, which is thought to have been demolition discard used to level the ground after demolition had taken place.

Land drain cut 10044 was located 4.25m south of wall 10040 and it comprised an east/west aligned 0.28m wide east-west aligned vertical sided cut which ran across the full 11m width of Plot 2 and continued beyond the east and west edges of the same. The fill of 10044 comprised a dark brown silt sand (10045), with small clay lumps and decayed limestone flecks, was emptied to 0.69m BGL, exposing the top of a 0.16m diameter ceramic land drain. The land drain was left in place and the base was not reached.

Dog burial 10048 (Section No. 17), demolition spread 10041 and land drain fill 10045 (Section No.32) were all sealed beneath top soil 10046, up to 0.21m thick.

In the roadway west of Plot 2, the top of natural in inspection chamber S2 was cut away by Pit 10066 (Figure 3; Section No. 19, Plate3).

Cut 10066 was only seen in section and its northern edge had been cut away by a later feature (10061, below), hence both the plan shape and alignment are unknown.

What remained was 1.22m wide (north/south) and 0.22m deep with a southern edge that fell gently to a rounded, bowl shaped base. The top 0.07m of Natural 10071 had been scorched (10065), the colour grading from dark red-brown to red with depth.

Deposit 10065 was sealed by brown spotted, pale-mid yellow clay silt sand (10064), with occasional red burnt clay patches, 0.14m thick. Above this was a 0.06m thick deposit of desiccated pink burnt clay (10063), with moderate dark brown burnt clay patches. The top of 10063 was sealed by deposit 10062, a slightly plastic, brown spotted pale-mid yellow clay silt sand, 0.04m thick, interpreted as a dump of re-deposited natural used to level the top of pit 10066 after it had gone out of use.

The northern edge of 10062 had been cut away by Pit 10061, which was only seen in section (the southern edge located beyond the edge of chamber S2), the plan shape and orientation are unknown. What remained within the trench was 0.85m long (north/south), 0.16m deep, with a steep southern side and a flat uneven base. It was backfilled with a re-deposited natural comprising plastic, pale grey flecked mid orange yellow clay (10060), sealed beneath plough soil 10059 (=10036), 0.32m thick.

Plate 3 Cut 10066; east facing section No.19. 0.10m scale divisions

The top of 10059 fell away towards the north leaving behind a shallow, 2.20m long, steep sided depression which had been levelled with, primarily, dumps of re-deposited natural clay (10057) and limestone hardcore (10058), 0.06m thick, followed by re-deposited topsoil (10046), 0.06m thick. Deposits 10057-58 and 10046 were all used to consolidate and level the top of plough soil 10059 for a 0.18m thick limestone and brick rubble hard standing or track way (10056) serving the 19th/20th century agricultural buildings that previously occupied the site. Deposit 10056 sealed the top of 10046 and was, in turn, sealed beneath topsoil 10047, 0.02m thick, which had accumulated after the standing/track way had gone out of use. The surface of 10074 formed the ground level at the time the watching brief was undertaken.

5.1.2 House Plot 3-5

These three plots were located on the south side of Plots 1-2. Building Plots 3 and 4 were rectilinear in plan and north/south aligned, whereas Plot 5 turned slightly further to the west and was aligned north-north-east/south-south-west. The footprint of the foundation raft was 20.6m long, 8.60m wide and was excavated down to 0.70m BGL, the top of natural (10071; Figure 4, Section No. 26) was observed at 0.60m BGL. The only feature present in this foundation trench was a linear, east/west aligned, 1.65m wide, 0.60m deep ditch with moderately steep sides and flat base (10097; Plate 4). Ditch 10097 crossed the width of the trench on the boundary between Plots 3 and 4 and contained a single fill of friable, brown spotted, mid grey clay sand silt (10096), with small decayed sandstone fragments, small pebbles and flecks-small fragments of charcoal. Four fragments of late 13th century pottery were recovered.

Plate 4 West facing Section No. 19. Shows Ditch cut 10097. 0.10m scale divisions

The top of fill 10096 was sealed by a 0.22m thick deposit of plough disturbed natural comprising loosely friable, pale grey-brown clay silt sand (10098), with frequent brown and pale yellow sand spotting, occasional charcoal flecks and small pebbles. Deposit 10098 was sealed beneath plough soil 10036, 0.43m thick, which lay beneath top soil 10046, 0.28m thick. Deposit 10046 formed the ground surface at the time the watching brief was undertaken.

5.1.3 House Plot 6-8

Building Plots 6-8 were located south of Plots 1-5. The first 8.50m of the trench (Plot 6) was aligned north-north-east/south-south-west, before turning to run north/south (Plots 7-8). The foundation trench was, in general, rectilinear in plan, 20.8m long, 8.70m wide and was excavated down to 0.76m BGL. There were no features of archaeological interest present although there were two features recorded in the roadway opposite Plots 6-7. In this location the top of natural 10071 was observed at 0.53m BGL and had been truncated by Pits 10076 and 10079 (Figure 2).

Pit 10076 (Plate 5) was only observed in section, hence its plan shape and orientation are unknown. What could be recorded was 1.43m long (north/south) with gentle to steep sides and an irregular base. The northern half was 0.28m deep and had a rounded profile, whereas the southern side was 0.36m deep and the base had a 0.55m wide vertical sided square profile. The fill, a pale brown sand spotted, friable pale greenish brown clay sand silt (10075), had a 0.05m thick lens of charcoal extending across 95% of the profile, 0.30m above the base. Two medium sized limestone fragments were noted and a small fragment of burnt ?daub was recovered.

Plate 5 Record shot of west facing section No.15. Shows Pit 10076. 0.10m scale divisions

Pit 10079 (Plate 6) was located 3.75m south of Pit 10076. The trench had been partially backfilled before recording could take place, leaving 1.56m width (north/south) of the profile available for recording, the plan shape and alignment remain unknown. The exposed part of 10079 was 0.47m deep with a steep to vertical north side and flat base. The base was lined with a 0.15m thick layer of loosely friable, dark grey-black ash and charcoal (10078), sealed by a 0.29m thick upper fill of friable, pale greenish brown clay sand silt (10077) with occasional charcoal flecks. The similarity of deposits observed in Pits 10076 and 10079, suggested that they were contemporary and had, probably, been used for the disposal of waste arising from industrial and/or agricultural processes involving hot working/drying.

Both the fills of Pits 10075 and 10076 (10075 and 10077, respective) were sealed beneath plough soil 10036, which had been reduced to 0.38m thick by clearance down to road formation level.

Plate 6 Record shot of west facing section No. 14. Shows Pit 10079. 0.10m scale divisions

5.1.4 House Plot 9-10

House plot 9-10 (Figure 2) was located to the south of Plot 8 and it had an irregular, north/south aligned, 23.5m long, 10.5m wide rectangular plan shape and was reduced down to 0.50m BGL, to the top of natural 10071.

The earliest features observed were located within Plot 10 and comprised a potential cremation (Cut 10101) and a shallow ditch, investigated by hand excavating two slots, recorded under context numbers 10103 and 10105. For the purpose of this report, any reference to this feature will be discussed using identifiers Cut 10103=10105 and fill 10102=10104, respective.

Cut 10101 truncated the top of natural 10071 and had, in turn, been truncated and reduced in height by later ploughing. What remained of Cut 10101 was 0.20m in diameter, 0.20m deep with steep–vertical sided 'U'-shaped profile. The profile was 'cut to fit' for an Early-Middle Bronze Age 2 (1800-1500 BC) Bucket or Barrel Urn, of which only the lowest 0.18m of the vessel remained in the ground. Both the vessel and the cremated bone (**Appendix 4: Osteological Assessment**) within it were recorded under identifier 10100 (Plate 7). Cremation 10100 was located 0.10m to the north of Ditch 10103=10105 and was probably associated with it.

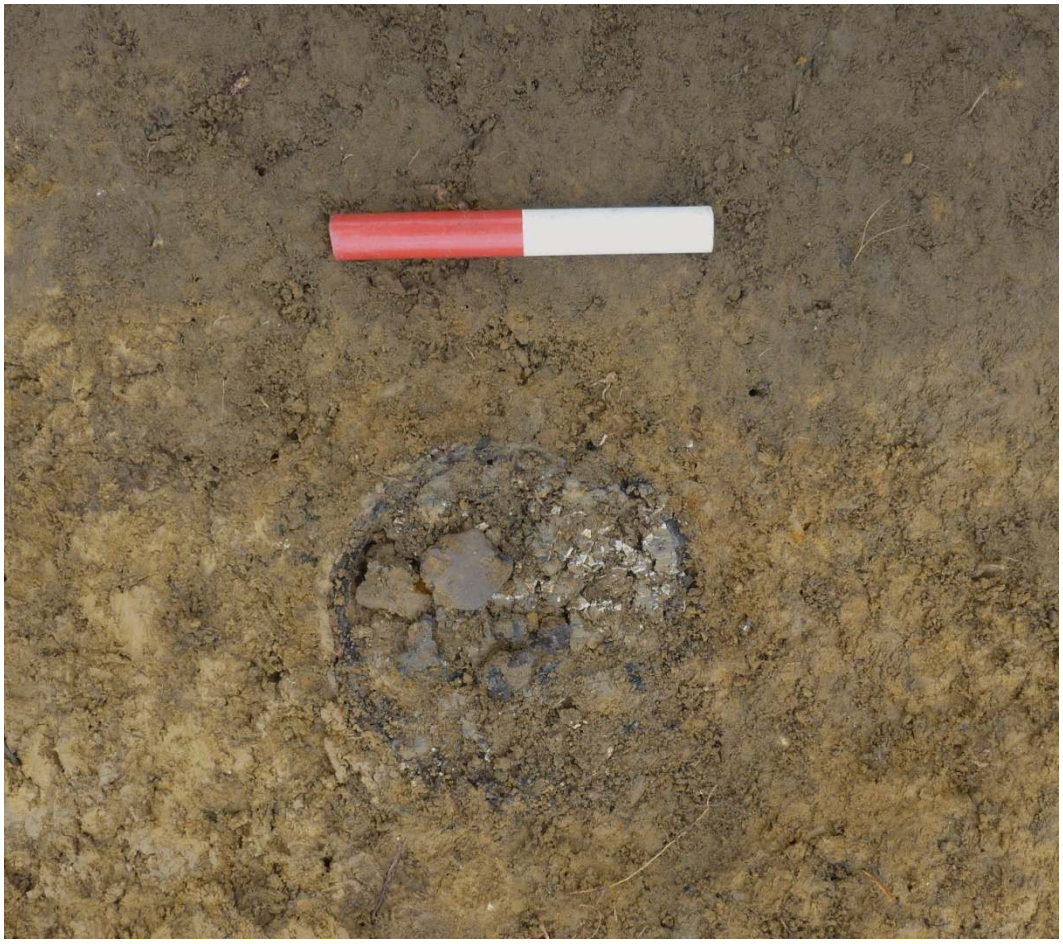

Plate 7 Vertical shot (south to top) showing cremation urn 10100 and Ditch 10103=10105 (top left-right) before excavation. 0.10m scale divisions

Ditch 10103=10105 crossed the full 10.5m width of plot 10, was linear in plan, east/west aligned, 0.50m wide, 0.22m deep and had a moderately steep irregular 'U' shaped profile (Figure 5; Section No. 27). Cut 10103=10105 was backfilled with a pale grey brown sand silt (10102=10104) with occasional flecks-small fragments of charcoal. Two small sherds of ?late 13th-14th century pottery were recovered from 10104. Both of these were picked from the interface of deposit 10104 and later plough soils, hence they are most likely intrusive.

A segment of east/west aligned ditch (Cut 10013; Plate 8), observed crossing the roadway trench 8.5m to the west, is thought to have represented the continuation of Ditch 10103=10105 for a further 12.50m in that direction. The location of ditch segment 10013 suggested that the alignment had been diverted slightly towards the north between the Plot 10 and the roadway

Ditch 10013 was a linear 0.80m wide, 0.30m deep, over 3.5m long feature with irregular steep sides with an uneven, flat or gently rounded base. The fills comprised a basal deposit of orange brown silt clay (10012) with occasional charcoal flecks, 0. 06m thick, sealed beneath an upper fill of soft mid brown sand clay silt (10011) with occasional small limestone pebbles and charcoal flecks.

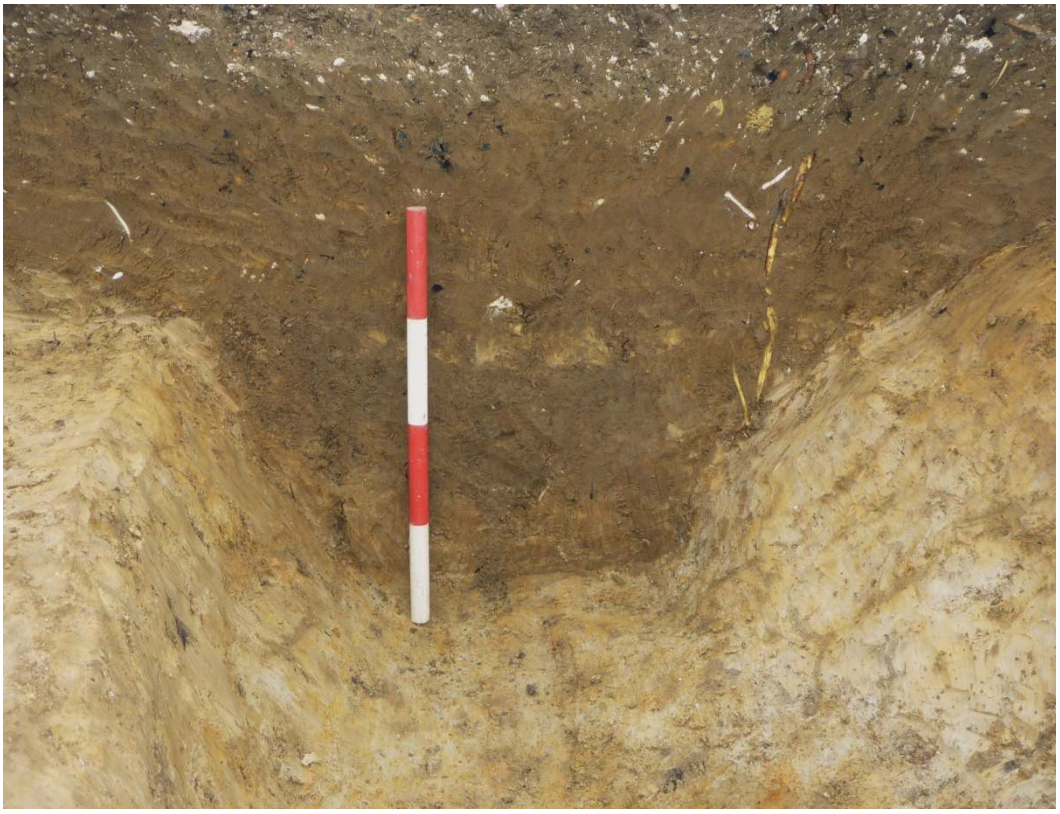

Plate 8 West facing Section No.5, shows Ditch 10013. 0.10m scale divisions

The earliest recorded feature in Plot 9, Ditch 10022, was cut directly into the top of natural (10071) and could also be followed across the roadway (Figure 2) to the west. Ditch 10022 was linear, east/west aligned, over 24m long, 1.37m wide and 0.48m deep, with gentle sides and rounded base (Plate 9). The single backfill, a friable mid grey brown clay sand silt (10021), with occasional small limestone fragments and charcoal flecks, went on to produce 3 sherds of late 13th/Early 14th century pottery.

Cremation 10100, the fills of Ditches 10103=10105, 10013 (10102=10104 and 10012, respective) and 10071 (10021) were all sealed beneath plough soil 10036, up to 0.30m thick. The top of deposit 10036 was truncated by the construction cut (10072) for an east west aligned boundary wall (10014) and a pair of post-holes (10016 and 10018).

Wall 10014 could be traced across the width of Plot 9 and the roadway, providing a length of 22m combined. Construction cut 10072 had been 'cut to fit' Wall 10014, a 0.80m wide, 0.48m thick construction, 2 courses deep, of dry bond, large roughly worked limestone ashlar and rubble bonded, in places, with a tenacious lime mortar.

Post-holes 10016 and 10018 were located in the roadway close to the north side of Wall 10014 (Figure 2) and were probably contemporary with it. Post-hole 10016, located 0.20m north of Wall 10014, had a 0.24m diameter circular plan shape and was back filled with a friable pale-mid grey brown clay sand silt with occasional small pebbles (10015; not excavated).

Post-hole 10018 was sited 0.44m north-north-west of 10016, was also circular in plan, 0.30m diameter and had survived as a 0.06m deep, moderately steep sided cut with a gently rounded

uneven base. Cut 10018 was backfilled with a soft mid grey brown silt sand (10017) with occasional small limestone fragments.

Plate 9 West facing Section No.13, shows Ditch 10022. 0.10m scale divisions

The western edge of Fill 10017 was truncated by a 0.28m diameter, 0.38m deep, steep-vertical sided post-hole (10020), with a pointed rounded base, backfilled with friable dark grey brown sand silt (10019), with moderate small limestone fragments, the limestone content probably representing collapsed post packing.

The top of Wall 10014 and the fills of post-holes 10016 and 10020 (10015 and 10019, respective), were all sealed beneath a 0.21m thick levelling deposit (10073) comprised of loose mid brown silt sand with frequent small-medium decayed limestone fragments and flecks-small lumps of mortar. The limestone and mortar fragments were probably introduced by plough strike to the top of the below ground stub of Wall 10014 left behind after its upper courses were demolished.

The top of Deposit 10073 was sealed by topsoil 10046, 0.16m thick, the top of which formed the ground surface when the watching brief was undertaken.

5.1.5 Roadway south area

Roadway south was an irregular rectilinear shaped area, located between building plots 11 and 12-13, which measured 26m east/west, 23m north/south (Figure 2) and was excavated down to road formation level, or to between 0.40m and 0.80m BGL.

In this area, the earliest features presented were a pair of possible cremations, Cuts 10002 and 10004, both cut into the top of natural 10071.

Cut 10002 (Figure 2) was located some 4.50m west of building Plot 11 and 13.50m north of the southern site boundary. This cut was circular in plan, 0.40m diameter, 0.06m deep with vertical sides and with an irregular, flat base. Held within it were the remains of another Early-Middle Bronze Age 2 Barrel or Bucket Urn (10001) which had been reduced almost to base level by later ploughing (see Cover Plate). The cremated bone contained within it (10000) was assessed and the results can be found below (**APPENDIX 4: Osteological Assessment**). Cut 10004, located 0.12m west-north-west of cremation 10000 (Plate 10), only contained a small amount of calcined bone (10003) with no trace of container present. This would suggest that this cremation was most likely to have been deposited in an organic container, such as a cloth or leather bag, rotted down to leave no visible trace behind.

Plate 10 Cremations 10000 (left) and 10003 before excavation. Vertical shot, south to top. 0.10m scale divisions

Both of these cremations may have been placed to respect Ditch 10006, located 3m to the south. Ditch 10006 (Figure 2; Figure 5, Section 4, Plate 11) was linear, east-north-east/west-south-west aligned and could be traced for a distance of 10m before exiting the trench. Ditch 10107 (Figure 5, Section No. 30), a feature observed in the attenuation tank west of Plot 12/13, suggested that it may extend for a further 42m in that direction. The profile of 10006 was similar to Ditch 10107 and they were both, in general, between 0.46 and 0.88m wide, (respective), 0.18m deep and had moderately steep sides and a flat, gently rounded base. The backfill of 10006 and 10107 (10005 and 10106, respective) was, however, varied and comprised either a crumbly, yellow sand spotted mid grey clay silt sand (10005) or a pale

yellow orange silt sand clay (10106), with moderate pale grey silt clay patches, occasional brown spotting, small-medium limestone fragments and charcoal flecks.

Plate 11 West-south-west facing Section No. 3, shows Ditch 10006. 0.10m scale divisions

A loose cluster of features comprising post-holes (10030, 10049, 10052 and 10068) and a pit (10070) were also observed. These were all cut into the top of natural 10071 and were located in the roadway between Building Plots 11 and 12/13.

Post-hole 10068, located 16m west of Plot 11, 6m south of Ditch 10006, was sub-circular in plan, 0.28m diameter, 0.13m deep with steep-vertical sides and slightly rounded base. Its backfill, 10067, a mid orange grey brown sand silt clay, with occasional flecks-small fragments of charcoal, went on to produce a single sherd of Anglo-Scandinavian pottery.

Post-hole 10049, sited 2m north-west of 10068, was sub-circular in plan, 0.25m diameter, 0.08m deep, with steep-vertical sides and rounded base. Its fill (10050) was a friable, orange tinged, mid grey brown sand clay silt, with occasional charcoal flecks.

Post-hole 10030 was located 4.50m south-west of 10049. Cut 10030 was east-west aligned and had a 'D' shaped plan form (flat side to north) and was 0.24m long, 0.20m wide and 0.35m deep with vertical sides and flat base. It is thought to have been relatively modern and represented the void left behind after the removal of a driven post. It contained a backfill (10029) of soft, sand spotted, mid brown grey sand clay silt, with occasional flecks-small fragments of limestone and brick, small pebbles and charcoal flecks.

The last of the post-holes in this area, Cut 10052, had an east-west aligned rectilinear plan form, 0.55m long, 0.16m wide, 0.40m deep with steep- vertical sides and gently rounded base. Cut 10052 was backfilled with a friable, orange tinged, mid grey brown sand clay silt (10051), with occasional charcoal flecks. Four sherds of 19th pottery were also recovered.

Pit 10070, located 1.75m east of post-hole 10068, was sub-circular in plan, north-south aligned, 1.45m long, 0.90m wide, 0.18m deep with gentle-steep sides and gently rounded base. Pit 10070 was thought to have been recent as it contained the remains of an articulated sheep, in a loose mid-dark brown silt sand matrix (10069).

A second pair of Pits (10025 and 10028; Figure 2), observed close by the eastern edge of the roadway, were also recorded. The largest of the two (10028) was 1.44m square, 0.30m deep, with gentle sides and gently rounded base and contained a basal silt of friable light brown sand clay silt (10027). The upper fill (10026), a friable mid brown sand clay silt, 0.23m thick, with occasional small soft animal bone fragments and charcoal flecks, produced two sherds of Anglo Scandinavian/Anglo Norman pottery.

Pit 10025, located 1.25m north-west of 10028, was ovoid in plan, east-west aligned, 0.80m long, 0.68m wide, 0.30m deep and had steep irregular sides and gently rounded base. In this instance the primary fill comprised a friable-plastic mid grey brown clay sand silt (10024), with occasional small limestone fragments, decayed limestone and charcoal flecks, 0.15m thick. The top of this was sealed by an upper fill compriseing friable, yellow sand spotted pale-mid grey brown silt sand (10023), with occasional charcoal and decayed limestone flecks.

Ditch 10008, located 0.25m north of ditch 10006 (Figure 5, Section No.4), was linear, east-west aligned, 0.92m wide, 0.40m deep, 16m long boundary ditch with steep/almost vertical sides and flat base. It contained a single fill of friable, orange brown flecked mid grey brown clay silt sand (10007), with occasional large limestone fragments, charcoal flecks and pinkish grey clay spotting.

The fills of all the above features, including cremations 10000/10003 were sealed beneath plough soil 10036, up to 0.54m thick. The top of 10036 was truncated by the construction of east/west aligned limestone walls 10009 and 10094, the cuts for these walls were not recorded. The northern most of the walls, 10094, was 0.80m wide and was only traced where it crossed the 3.5m width of the roadway, adjacent to the south-west corner of Plot 10. Wall 10009 was 0.42m wide and it was also observed within the foundation trenches of Plot 12, providing a combined length of 24m. Both 10009 and 10094 were a dry bond construction of random limestone rubble and medium to large, rough ashlar blockwork.

Both Walls were sealed beneath topsoil 10046, up to 0.20m thick, which formed the ground level at the time the watching brief was undertaken.

The only exception to this was observed during the excavation of the attenuation tank to the rear of Plot 13. In this location Deposit 10046 was sealed beneath a 0.30m thick deposit of friable mixed mid grey brown sand clay silt (10109; Figure 5, Section 30), containing a moderate amount of builders waste, with large scraps of plastic terram present on the interface with topsoil 10046.

The attenuation tank was originally excavated and backfilled without archaeological attendance. The trench was subsequently re-excavated during the watching brief; Deposit 10109 represented a survivor of material used to backfill the original excavation works.

6 DISCUSSION

The earliest features encountered were in the form of cremations 10000, 10003, and 10100, Two of them (10001 and 10100) were contained in the remains of Early-Middle Bronze Age Bucket or Barrel Urns of 1800-1500 BC date. As Cremation 10003 was found in close association with Urn 10001, it is also thought to be of similar date. As cremations of this period are usually placed within a burial mound or Barrow it was surprising that there was no evidence for the remains of the ring ditch usually associated with such a monuments. This suggested that either the Barrow structure had been completely removed by later ploughing or that these cremations were satellite internments placed around the perimeter of an already existing monument. If the latter is the case, then the fact that these internments were clustered around the south-east corner of the development suggested that a Barrow may have been located within the footprint of Plot 11 foundation.

It could also be proposed that shallow ditches 10105=10103=10013 (Plot 10) and 10006=10107 (roadway south and Plot 13) could have had been the focus of deposition. Both the alignment and the slight nature of these features (when compared to the later medieval boundaries observed crossing the site) suggested that they were earlier rather than later and could quite easily represent a pair of boundary and/or drainage ditches either side of an east-west aligned trackway. This is however speculative and may not necessarily be the case.

There was no evidence for any activity related to the later Prehistoric or Roman Periods, although the Anglo Scandinavian-Anglo Norman (AD850–1150) pottery recovered from Pit 10028 and Post-hole 10068, located towards the western edge of the roadway south area, attested to likelihood of settlement in the vicinity of the site. The Pits and Post-holes were in a loose scatter, which suggested that they may have been located within a yard at the rear of a property lying outside and to the west of the site.

A single sherd of 10th century Torksey ware pottery recovered from the fill (10084) of plough furrow 10085 suggested that activity of the period may have been present within the bounds of Plot A, although this remains somewhat tenuous as the pottery could quite easily have been intrusive. The base of a second plough furrow (10087) and a string of post-holes (10089, 10091 and 10093) remain undated but, as they were backfilled with the same material as furrow 10085, they are thought to be contemporary. How the post alignment worked in conjunction with furrows 10085/10087 is uncertain, although they may have been associated with stock management, or other farming activities.

The inception date for east-west aligned boundary ditches 10031, 10097, 10022 and 1008 is also unknown. It is quite possible that they originated in the 11th century, when the current layout of the village is thought to have originated. This would infer that these ditches were used to delineate burgage plots at the rear of dwellings lying to the west of the site. All that can be said is that they were no longer required and were backfilled by thelate 13th- early 14th century. Both the homogenous nature and similarity of fill across all these features

suggested that they had been backfilled in a concerted manner, attesting to a change of land use and/or tenure.

Pits 10066, 10076 and 10079 could have been in use from the prehistoric period up until the 14th century. They all contained, to a lesser or greater extent, evidence for burning. Pit 10066 had been subjected to severe heating as the base was burnt red/red-brown, discolouring the underlying natural to a depth of 0.07m. What process was necessary to cause this amount of discolouration is unknown, but it could be assumed that it was either industrial or agricultural in nature.

The fills of all the ditches and Pits 10066, 10076 and 10079 were sealed beneath an up to 0.60m thick build-up of plough soils (10036) which was evident across the whole of the development area.

The land was turned to the plough until it was once more divided into east west aligned plots by the imposition of Walls 10040, 10014/83, 10049 and 1009. Although these were only observed as the below surface stubs of limestone foundations, it was possible to ascertain that they were aligned on building scars still visible on the surviving east-west aligned limestone boundary walls of the properties currently fronting Hovingham main street. As many of these properties have their origins in the 18th-19th century, it could also be assumed that the limestone boundary walls have concordance with that date for their construction. Post-holes 10016, 10017, 10020 and 10052 also probably relate to unidentified structures put up at this time. The boundary walls appeared to have remained in use up until the 20th century, when they were removed to return the development area to an open area of land once more. How long the land remained open is uncertain, yet it was long enough to allow a thin topsoil (10046) to build up over the remains of the foundations.

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APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE

Table 1 Index to archive

Item	Number of items
Context sheets	109
Levels register	on plan sheets
Photographic register	N/A
Drawing register	N/A
Original drawings	31 sections and 15 plans on 18 plan sheets
B/W photographs (films/contact sheets)	N/A
Colour slides (films)	N/A
Digital photographs	191
Written Scheme of Investigation	N/A
Report	1

APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST

Table 2 Context listing

Location.	Context no.	Description
Roadway	10000	Fragmented, calcined bone (cremation)
Roadway	10001	Plough truncated pot base, contained 10000
Roadway	10002	Cremation cut, contained bone10000/Pot 10001
Roadway	10003	Fragmented calcined bone (cremation; no pot, probable organic container). Plough truncated
Roadway	10004	Cremation cut. Contained 10003.
Roadway	10005	Moist, crumbly, yellow sand spotted mid grey clay silt sand. Fill of Ditch/Gully 10006
Roadway	10006	Narrow, 10m long, 0.31m wide, East-North-East/-West-South-West aligned linear Ditch/Gully cut with steep sides and flat base (see also 10107). Contained 10005
Roadway	10007	Friable orange brown (fe?) flecked mid grey brown clay silt sand, with occasional large LS frags, charcoal flecks and pinkish grey clay spotting. Fill of Ditch 10008
Roadway	10008	Linear, East-West aligned, 0.92m wide, 0.40m deep, over 16m long boundary Ditch with steep or almost vertical sides and flat base. Contained 10007
Roadway	10009	East-West aligned boundary wall of dry bond, roughly worked limestone ashlar and rubble. 0.42m wide, over 3.5m long Fill of cut 10010
Roadway	10010	Wall construction cut. Contained 10009
Roadway	10011	Soft mid brown sand clay silt with occasional small limestone pebbles and charcoal flecks. Fill of Ditch/Gully 10013.
Roadway	10012	Basal silt of stiff orange brown silt clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of Ditch/Gully 10013
Roadway	10013	Linear, East-West aligned, 0.80m wide, 0.30m deep, over 3.5m long Dich/Gully cut with irregular steep sides and flat base. Continuation of Gully 10103/10105 (Plot 10) Contained 10011-12.
Roadway/Plot 9	10014	East-West aligned 3 course deep boundary wall of dry bond, large roughly worked limestone rubble. 0.80m wide, 0.40m deep over 3.5m long
Roadway	10015	Friable pale-mid grey brown clay sand silt with occasional small pebbles. Fill of post-hole 10016
Roadway	10016	Plough truncated post-hole cut, sub-circular in plan, up to 0.22m wide, 0.03m deep with gentle to steep sides and a flat base. Contained 10015
Roadway	10017	Soft mid grey brown silt sand with occasional small limestone frags. Fill of post-hole 10018
Roadway	10018	Plough truncated post-hole cut, circular in plan, up to 0.30m dia., 0.06m deep with gentle sides and a gently rounded uneven base. Replaced? By Cut 10020. Contained 10017
Roadway	10019	Friable dark grey brown sand silt with moderate small limestone frags (collapsed packing?). Fill of post-hole10020
Roadway	10020	Plough truncated post-hole cut, sub-circular in plan, up to 0.28m wide, 0.38m deep, with steep-vertical sides and a flat slightly pointed base. Replaces? Cut 10018. Contained 10019
Roadway/Plot 9	10021	Friable mid grey brown clay sand silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small limestone frags. Fill of Ditch 1022
Roadway/Plot 9	10022	Linear, East-West aligned Boundary Ditch cut, 1.37m wide, 0.48m deep, over 24m long with gentle sides and rounded base. Contained 10021.
Roadway	10023	Friable yellow sand spotted, pale-mid grey brown silt sand with occasional charcoal and decayed limestone flecks. Upper fill Pit 10025
Roadway	10024	Friable-plastic mid grey brown clay sand silt with occasional small limestone frags, decayed limestone and charcoal flecks. Lower fill Pit 10025
Roadway	10025	Ovoid in plan, East-West aligned, 0.80m long, 0.30m deep with steep irregular sides

		and gently rounded base. Pit of indeterminate use. Contained 10024/10023
Roadway	10026	Friable mid brown sand clay silt with occasional small animal bone frags and charcoal flecks. Upper fill Pit 10028
Roadway	10027	Friable light brown sand clay silt. Primary fill Pit 10028
Roadway	10028	Square in plan (rounded corners), 1.44m square, 0.30m deep with gentle sides and gently rounded base. Contained 10026-27. Pit of indeterminate use
Roadway	10029	Soft, yellow sand spotted, mid brown grey sand clay silt with occasional flecks-small decayed limestone frags, small CBM? Frags, small pebbles and charcoal flecks. Fill of post-pipe 10030
Roadway	10030	'D' shaped in plan, East-West aligned (flat side to North) 0.24m long, 0.20m wide, 0.35m deep with vertical sides and flat base. Contained 10029. Post-pipe void from pile driven post.
Plot 2	10031	Linear, East-West aligned boundary ditch (South edge removed by Ditch 1033) up to 0.38m wide, 0.50m deep, over 10m long. North edge steep-vertical with a flat base. Contained 10032
Plot 2	10032	Plastic rusty brown (fe?) spotted, red brown silt sand clay with moderate pale yellow clay lumps, occasional flecks –small decayed limestone frags, small burnt stone and clay pieces, charcoal flecks and small-medium pebbles. Fill of Ditch 10031
Plot 2	10033	Linear, East-West aligned boundary ditch (removed North edge Ditch 10031) up to 1.2mm wide, 0.50m deep, over 10m long. South edge steep-vertical, North edge irregular and stepped, both lead to flat narrow base. Contained 10034. Continuation of Ditch 10055 (Plot 22) and 10082 (Access)
Plot 2	10034	Friable mid red-brown silt sand clay with occasional small pebbles and charcoal flecks. Fill of Ditch 10033
Plot 2	10035	Friable mid brown clay sand silt with occasional small limestone frags and charcoal flecks. Cut by Ditch 10031, hence rare patch of pre-ditch soils not completely removed by plough.
All Areas	10036	Loose mid brown silt sand moderate flecks decayed limestone and occasional charcoal flecks. Agricultural plough soils.
Plot 2	10037	Friable mid orange brown sand silt with occasional flecks-small frags decayed limestone and charcoal flecks. Agricultural plough soils
Plot 2	10038	Plan shape /dimensions unknown as base and all North and East edges removed by land drain. South side 0.24m wide, 0.27m deep with moderately steep side. Base removed. Contained 10039. Function uncertain, either small pit/post hole
Plot 2	10039	'Lumps' of pale orange yellow clay in a friable mid orange brown sand silt matrix, with frequent decayed limestone flecks. Fill of small pit/post-hole? 10038
Roadway/Plot2	10040	Remnant of East-West aligned boundary wall, up to 2 courses deep dry bond roughly worked limestone ashlar and rubble, up to 0.70m wide, 0.38m deep, South edge partly destroyed. Fill of Cut 10110
Plot 2	10041	Small-medium limestone rubble in a matrix of friable mid brown silt sand. Demolition rubble banked up against South side Wall 10040.
Plot 2	10042	Only seen in section, not excavated. Small animal burial pit cut down against South edge Wall 10040, most likely rectilinear in plan with steep sides and flat base. Contained 10043
Plot 2	10043	Articulated complete and partial animal skeleton(s) in a friable mid grey brown sand silt with frequent decayed limestone frags, occasional small-medium clay lumps and charcoal flecks. Fill of burial pit 10042
Plot 2	10044	Linear, East-West aligned Land drain cut, up to 0.44m wide, 0.65m deep, over 10m long, vertical sides and unseen base. Contained 10045, which includes recent ceramic pipe (not removed).
Plot 2	10045	Loose dark brown silt sand with occasional small clay lumps and decayed limestone flecks. Drain trench backfill, 0.16m diam. ceramic land drain not removed. Fill of Cut 10044
Plot 2	10046	Loose dark brown silt sand with occasional charcoal flecks and flecks –small decayed limestone. Agricultural top soil.
Plot 2	10047	Only seen in section, most likely rectilinear in plan, c. 0.46m square, 0.16m deep with steep-vertical sides and flat base. Recent animal burial pit, contained 10048.

Plot 2	10048	Articulated dead dog in a loose mid-dark brown sand silt matrix, with moderate decayed limestone flecks and occasional charcoal flecks. Burial, recent, skeleton not recovered. Fill of Pit 10047
Roadway	10049	Sub-circular Post-hole cut, 0.25m diam, 0.08m deep, with steep-vertical sides and rounded base. Contained 10050
Roadway	10050	Friable, orange tinged, mid grey brown sand clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of post-hole 10049
Roadway	10051	Friable, orange tinged, mid grey brown sand clay silt with occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of Post-hole 10052
Roadway	10052	Post-hole cut, rectilinear in plan, East-West aligned, 0.55m long, 0.16m wide, 0.40m deep with steep – vertical sides and gently rounded base. Contained 10051
Plot 22	10053	Soft pale grey brown silt sand lenses in a plastic orange yellow silt sand clay, with occasional charcoal flecks and small pebbles. Basal silting within Ditch 10055
Plot 22	10054	Homogenous, plastic sticky pale grey brown sand clay silt with occasional large limestone frags, charcoal flecks and small pebbles. Backfill/levelling deposit, upper fill of Ditch 10055
Plot 22	10055	Linear, East-West aligned boundary ditch cut, exposed over distance of 10m from East edge of plot (rounded terminus at West end), 0.95m wide, 0.60m deep, with steep–almost vertical sides and rounded base. Contained 10053-54, continuation of Cuts 10082, 10031 and /or 10034
Roadway	10056	Limestone rubble in a fine-medium limeston gravel matrix with occasional small brick frags. L20th C. surface/standing associated with barns etc removed before watching brief commenced
Roadway	10057	Friable slightly plastic brown (fe?) spotted pale-mid yellow clay silt sand. Re-deposited natural levelling for surface 10056.
Roadway	10058	Loosely friable crushed limestone in a pale-mid grey brown silt sand matrix. Sub base for surface 10056
Roadway	10059	Loose mid brown silt sand moderate flecks decayed limestone and occasional charcoal flecks. Agricultural plough soils = 10036.
Roadway	10060	Plastic pale grey flecked mid orange yellow clay. Re-deposited natural, Fill of Pit 10061
Roadway	10061	Cut feature, only seen in section hence plan shape/orientation unknown. 0.85m long, 0.16m deep with steep southern edge leading to a flat uneven base. Pit of indeterminate use, contained 10060
Roadway	10062	Friable slightly plastic, brown (fe?) spotted pale-mid yellow clay silt sand. Re-deposited natural levelling top of Pit 10066.
Roadway	10063	Friable pink burnt clay with moderate dark brown burnt clay patches. Probable use deposit within top of Pit 10066
Roadway	10064	Friable slightly plastic, brown (fe?) spotted pale-mid yellow clay silt sand. With occasional red burnt clay patches. Re-deposited natural levelling between episodes of firing events within Pit 10066. Below 10063
Roadway	10065	C. 0.04m thick layer lining base of Pit 10063. Grades down from black – cherry red with depth. Not a deposit but heat discolouring of original natural ground.
Roadway	10066	Pit cut, only seen in section, North edge removed by Cut 10061. Plan shape/alignment not known, 1.22m wide, 0.22m deep. South edge fell gently to a rounded bowl shaped base. Pit of Industrial? use, contained 10062-64. Heat discoloured natural 10065 lines base
Roadway	10067	Friable mid orange grey brown sand silt clay with occasional flecks – small frags charcoal. Fill of post-hole 10068
Roadway	10068	Sub-circular in plan, 0.28m diam., 0.13m deep with steep-vertical sides and slightly rounded base. Post-hole cut, contained 10067
Roadway	10069	Recent sheep burial, articulated, in a loose mid-dark brown silt sand with moderate flecks-small frags decayed limestone and occasional charcoal flecks. Animal burial, fill of pit 10070
Roadway	10070	Animal burial pit, sub-circular in plan, North-South aligned, 1.45m long, 0.90m wide, 0.18m deep with gentle-steep sides and gently rounded bowl shaped base. Shallow rounded scoop (location of skull) attached to North-North-West edge of main pit. Contained 10069

All Areas	10071	Mixed orange sands and clays, of varying hue/ and consistency, with brown (fe?) spotting, fragments decayed limestone and small-medium pebbles. Ratio of inclusions varied across the development area. Natural fluvioglacial deposits
Roadway/Plot9	10072	East-West aligned linear construction cut (not excavated). Contained Wall 10014
Roadway	10073	Loose mid brown silt sand with frequent small-medium decayed limestone and flecks-small mortar lumps. Agricultural plough soils, same as 10036, in proximity with Wall 10014. Demolition debris introduced by plough striking to of below ground wall stub left behind by incomplete demolition
Roadway	10074	Loose dark brown silt sand with occasional charcoal flecks and flecks –small decayed limestone. Thin topsoil built up over demolition deposits arising from clearance of 20th C. barns or other agricultural buildings
Roadway	10075	Friable pale greenish brown clay sand silt with 0.05m thick lense of charcoal across 95% of profile, c. ½ way down in fill. Also has moderate pale yellow brown sand spotting below lense (occasional sand spotting above) and occasional (x2) medium limestone frags. Fill of Pit 10076
Roadway	10076	Industrial? pit feature, only seen in section. Plan shape/alignment unknown. 1.45m long (North/South), 0.40m deep, width unknown. North edge fell steeply to a rounded base before rising gently once more towards the south, where it fell away vertically to a flat base. South edge fell steeply then vertically to join with the base. Pit of, probably, industrial activity, otherwise unknown. Contained 10075, Assoc. with Pits 10079 and 10066? Located 2m NNE of Pit 10079
Roadway	10077	Friable pale greenish brown clay sand silt with occasional charcoal flecks. Upper fill /levelling deposit within Pit 10079. Above 10078
Roadway	10078	Loosely friable dark grey-black ash and charcoal, 0.15m thick. Industrially derived? use or dump deposit. Lines base of Pit cut 10079
Roadway	10079	Industrial? pit feature, only seen in section. Plan shape/alignment unknown. 1.60m long (North/South), 0.45m deep, width unknown. North edge fell in a gentle concave arc to a rounded base, South edge outside trench. Pit for, probably, industrial activity, otherwise unknown. Contained 10078-79, Assoc. with Pits 10076 and 10066? Located 2m SSW of Pit 10076
Roadway	10080	Friable mid grey brown sand silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small pebbles. Backfill of Ditch 10082. Above 10081
Roadway	10081	Friable orange sand clay spotted mid grey brown sand silt with occasional charcoal flecks and small pebbles. Basal silts within Ditch 10082.
Roadway	10082	Ditch cut, only seen in section, but obviously linear in plan East-North-East/West-South-West aligned, 3.80m long, 1m wide, 0.54m deep with steep sides and flat base. Segment of boundary ditch 10055/10031/10034. Contained 10080-10081
Roadway	10083	East-West aligned limestone rough worked ashlar rubble boundary wall, Continuation/part of Wall 10014 (Plot9)
Plot A	10084	Friable mid brown sand clay silt. Backfill of Furrow? 10085
Plot A	10085	Plough furrow?, linear in plan, East-North-East/West-South-West aligned, 8.50m long, 1.2m wide in West tapering gently to 0.30m wide at East trench edge. 0.20m deep with irregular gentle-steep sides and uneven base. East-North-East/West-South-West aligned, shaped 0.05m deep slot with a wide 'V' shaped profile in North side of base. Contained 10084
Plot A	10086	Friable mid brown sand clay silt. Backfill of ditch/gully 10087
Plot A	10087	Linear, East-West aligned, 3.50m long with rounded terminus at West end. 0.80m wide, 0.10m deep with irregular steep or rounded sides and 'U' shaped base. Possible boundary/drainage ditch or feature related to stock manangement (see post-holes 10089, 10091 and 10093; on same alignment but slightly offset towards West end of feature). Contained 10086
Plot A	10088	Friable mid brown sand clay silt. Backfill of post-hole 10089
Plot A	10089	Circular in plan, 0.30mdiam., 0.10m deep with a gentle bowl shaped profile. Assoc. with post-holes 10091 and 10093 (see also 10087). Contained 10088
Plot A	10090	Friable mid brown sand clay silt. Backfill of post-hole 10091
Plot A	10091	Circular in plan, 0.33m diam., 0.11m deep with a gentle bowl shaped profile. Assoc. with post holes 10089 and 10093 (see also 10087). Contained 10090
Plot A	10092	Friable mid brown sand clay silt. Backfill of post-hole 10093

Plot A	10093	Circular in plan, 0.30m diam., 0.08m deep with a gentle bowl shaped profile. Assoc. with post holes 10089 and 10091 (see also 10087). Contained 10092
Roadway	10094	Linear East-West aligned Wall of dry bonded rough worked random limestone frags, 24m long, 1.20m wide. Fill of Cut 10095 Not excavated.
Roadway/Plot 12	10095	Construction cut for Wall 10094. No construction cut backfill, excavated to dimensions of wall
Plot 3/4	10096	Friable, slightly plastic mid grey clay sand silt with moderate brown (fe?) spotting, occasional small decayed sandstone frags, small pebbles and flecks-small frags charcoal. Fill of Ditch 10097
Plot 3/4	10097	Ditch cut, linear East-West aligned, 8m long, 1.65m wide, 0.60m deep with moderately steep sides and flat base. Largest of boundary ditches on development so probably used for drainage purposes as well. Contained 10096
Plot 3/4	10098	Loosely friable pale grey brown clay silt sand with frequent brown (fe?) spotting, pale yellow sand spotting, occasional charcoal flecks and small pebbles. Dump of re-deposited natural or top of natural churned and disturbed by onset of ploughing.
	10099	VOIDED No.
Plot 10	10100	Plough truncated vessel containing cremation, both recorded under same identifier. Fill of 10101
Plot 10	10101	Circular in plan, 0.20m diam., 0.20m deep with steep–vertical sides and gently rounded base. Cut for cremation 10100, cut to shape of pot.
Roadway/Plot 10	10102	Friable pale brown sand silt with sparse charcoal flecks and small limestone pebbles. Fill of Ditch 10103
Roadway/Plot 10	10103	Linear, East-West aligned (slight dog-leg towards North at West end), 19.50m long, between 0.32-0.82m wide and up to 0.30m deep with gentle sides leading to a rounded or flat base. Recorded under identifier 10105 in slot removed adjacent East edge of Plot 10. Ditch/ gully associated with Cremation 10100, use unknown. Most likely associated with East-West ditch/gully 10006 (c. 10m to North) which has Cremations 10000 and 10003 close by its northern edge.
Plot 10	10104	Friable pale grey brown sand silt with occasional flecks-small frags charcoal. Fill of ditch/gully 10105
Plot 10	10105	Linear, East-West aligned, 0.35m wide, 0.19m deep with a moderately steep 'V' shaped profile. Ditch/gully cut (see Cut 10103), contains 10104
Plot 13 (attenuation tank)	10106	Stiff pale yellow orange silt sand clay with moderate pale grey silt clay patches, occasional brown (fe?) spotting, small-medium limestone frags and charcoal flecks. Fill of ditch/gully 10107.
Plot 13 (attenuation tank)	10107	Linear, slightly sinuous, East-West aligned, 3.20m long, 0.86m wide, 0.12m deep with gentle irregular sides and gently rounded base. Ditch/gully cut which was, as the dimension and profile suggested, the probable continuation of Cut 10006 but, as the West end of 10006 was located some 40m to the East, it is far from certain
Plot 13 (attenuation tank)	10108	Plastic pale grey silt clay with occasional charcoal, decayed limestone and mortar flecks. Relict disturbed subsoil at interface between natural and medieval? Plough soils.
Plot 13 (attenuation tank)	10109	Friable mixed mid grey brown sand clay silt with moderate builders waste. Modern disturbance (attenuation tank was backfilled after initial excavation took place without archaeological attendance. It was subsequently re-excavated for watching brief to take place).
Plot 2	10110	Construction cut, contains Wall 10040

APPENDIX 3 – THE POTTERY

By A. Jenner and T Manby

Introduction

A total of 375 sherds of pottery were retrieved from thirteen contexts during excavations at the above site. Although they consist entirely of what appear to be domestic vessels, one piece of daub was found (10075) and several sherds were either sooted during use (10021) or burnt (10104) during everyday domestic cooking and heating. It is also possible that some were caught up in small scale industrial processes involving high temperatures.

The diagnosis of fabric type and form is not always certain, due to post depositional alteration and colouration due to their association with lime and iron rich soil deposits. Added to this, sherds are generally small in size and in some cases may not be in primary deposits.

The date range for this material is from prehistoric to modern times, with the largest amount of material being from the Bronze Age (Manby, pers. comm.).

Methodology

The assemblage is divided into fabric and form groups by eye, using a binocular microscope with a magnification of x20, where necessary. Identification is made with reference to the fabric reference collection held at York Archaeological Trust as well as the relevant literature. The method used is described in detail elsewhere (see Orton, Tyers and Vince 1991)

The number and size of each fabric and form type are noted along with a 'spot' date, or latest date for each context, (see Table 1 below). Where fabrics vary from the closest known type, a fabric description is added. Weights are not generally taken at this stage, though this is necessary for prehistoric pottery, or when the client or recipient establishment specifically requires this to be done.

The prehistoric material was sent to Terry Manby to outline its date, type, form and function in relation to similar finds from Yorkshire.

Discussion

The prehistoric material is thought to date from 1800 to 1500BC, or Early Bronze Age Period 2 (T Manby, pers. comm.). Both vessels had cremations inside them. One may have been a collared urn, the other a bucket or barrel shaped urn. Unfortunately neither of their rims survived. One further vessel had disintegrated in situ. This may have been buried in an organic container such as a birch bark, cloth or leather bag.

Despite Roman activity in the area, there is little or no Roman pottery.

It is interesting to note the potential presence of Anglo Scandinavian material and activity to the north of the Howardian Hills and near the Spring line, above the Vale of Pickering. Little, if any material of this date has been found in this area before, though the village church is thought to have its origins around this time.

This would have been an ideal location, not only for occupation, but also perhaps for pottery manufacture. Despite this and the evidence of an oxidised variant to the Brandsby tradition, no evidence of medieval pottery production has been found here. The nearest kiln sites are thought to string along the southern side of the Howardian Hills, at Brandsby in particular, though other sites have been suggested at Crayke and a number of small villages along the spring line (Mainman and Jenner, 2013, 1231-2).

Recommendations for further work

It is always important to take radio carbon dates from the prehistoric cremation vessels, in order to help understand the chronological and spatial distribution of these wares in the landscape. The prehistoric material from this site is no exception to this rule. A full report on the prehistoric material is vital to inform further research on the prehistoric pottery of the area.

The identification of the possible Anglo Scandinavian sherds was not easy due to their size and post depositional decay. It may be worth getting confirmation from a specialist in this field, though these sherds are so small that this may be futile.

There are no recommendations for further work on any of the medieval and post medieval wares, as although the Brandsby and Hambleton wares have oxidised or reddish and sometimes whitish colouration, this either reflects the soil conditions, or that they are a variant made even more locally to the site than the Brandsby kiln site, which is located close by, but on the south side of the Howardian Hills.

Retention and discard

The prehistoric material should be retained in perpetuity, as there is a relative sparcity of this material and there is still much research needed to fully understand its significance.

At this stage, it is probably useful to retain the Anglo Scandinavian material as it may be better interpreted in the future. The medieval Brandsby and Hambleton wares should also be kept for future research, as they appear to vary from the ‘norm’. The post medieval wares may have less significance but should be kept initially, though it adds little to our knowledge of the types.

Table 3 Pottery by Context

Context	Quantity	Dating	Details
10000 (un-strat)	2	LATE 13TH/EARLY 14TH CENTURY	1 fine oxidised sandy Brandsby type 1 Brandsby type Small sherds
10080	1	LATE 13TH/EARLY 14TH CENTURY	1 Brandsby Small sherd
10084	1	?10TH CENTURY	1 ?Torksey type small
10021	3	LATE 13TH/EARLY 14TH CENTURY	1 medieval unglazed jar rim light brown oxidised surfaces and light grey core small 1 Brandsby type mottled green glaze small oxidised margins 1 Brandsby type unglazed lightly oxidised internal margin sooted externally medium
10026	2	?ANGLO SCANDINAVIAN/ANGLO NORMAN	1 sandy hard grey ware jar with distinct marjins flanged squared off rim 1 very fine oxidised jar with squared rim Small sherds
10034	1	LATE 14TH CENTURY	1 Hambleton glazed inside
10051	4	19TH CENTURY	2 pearl bowl or cup base with underglaze blue and brown decoration 1 cream 1 fine red ware manganese dusted mid brown glaze All small sherds
10067	1	ANGLO SCANDINAVIAN	1 ?Anglo Scandinavian grey ware unglazed very small
10075	1	?MEDIEVAL	1 unknown ?daub
10096	4	LATE 13TH CENTURY	2 oxidised gritty jar including squared rim 1 Brandsby 1 white gritty
10100	188	EARLY/MIDDLE BRONZE AGE	88 Bronze Age vessel with cremated remains removed weighs 733g including 100 scraps
10104	1	?LATE 13TH/EARLY 14TH CENTURY	1 burnt coarse grey fabric with fine sandy surfaces unglazed jar base 1 fine sandy lightly oxidised unglazed small sherds
10001	166	EARLY/MIDDLE BRONZE AGE	66 bucket or barrel urn 100 numerous scraps and burnt material Total weight 628g

APPENDIX 4 – OSTEOLOGY ASSESSMENT

By R. Whyte and J.Miller

Summary

Three samples of cremated bone excavated from Hovingham, just above the valley floor at the northern edge of the Howardian hills, were submitted for rapid assessment of future potential. The samples are considered to be from Early Bronze Age 2 cremations, although the bone was found to be poorly preserved and identifiable elements were primarily lacking. The overall potential for gathering information through complete analysis of the cremations is limited, although SK3 (10100) has more potential than the other two (10000; 10003). It is recommended that full analysis and reporting on the remains would take 2 days.

Introduction

Three cremation samples, excavated and washed by the York Archaeological Trust, were submitted to the Trust's Dickson Laboratory for Bio-archaeology for initial rapid assessment, in order to establish the potential for complete analysis in the future.

Methodology

Observational notes closely followed standard procedure, as documented in Brickley & McKinley 2004. As this was at assessment level, the samples were not passed through fractioned sieves. Instead a visual scan of each was made, to determine the frequency and nature of any large fragments of bone that would allow for analysis in the following categories; species identification; skeletal elements present; demographic data (age and sex), pathological data, and any non skeletal items present. Measures of total volume and weight were made for each cremation, as well as general descriptions of colour, fragment size and cracking. This was done in order to gain general ideas of preservation and taphonomy. Using all of this information, a short narrative description was created for each sample, as detailed below.

Results

SK1 (10000); 200ml, 187.50g

The volume and weight of the cremation were both low, suggesting that it had been subject to poor preservation conditions, or had been heavily disturbed. This correlates closely with field data noting significant plough truncation. The majority of the elements contained in the sample were below 10mm in size, with only occasional larger fragments, closer to 20-30mm. Very few, if any, fragments would be identifiable to species, meaning that conclusively identifying this as a human cremation would be highly improbable. Similarly, the appropriate elements for age, sex and pathology were not present, and so these would not be identifiable during complete analysis.

The colour of the bone fragments was universally a clean white, with almost no grey or black patches. This indicates that the bones were burnt at a high temperature in a well oxidised fire for a significant length of time. This is supported by surface cracking on a significant number of the fragments. The overall potential for this sample is very limited.

SK2 (10003); 75ml, 76.28g

Cremation SK2 (10003) displayed the lowest volume and weight out of the three, which again is consistent with significant disturbance including plough truncation. The vast majority of the fragments were very small at less than 10mm, with a particularly high frequency of fragments less than 5mm, with only a handful ranging up to 20mm. Of these larger fragments, a small few may have originated from long bones, and a small cranial fragment was noted, however these observations alone are not sufficient to identify the remains definitively as human. The elements needed to ascertain age, sex and pathology of the individual were not observed to be present.

As with the other two cremations, the colour of the bone fragments was universally white, with little to no patches of grey or black. This demonstrates that the pieces of bone were burnt in a well oxidised fire of high temperatures. As with SK1, it is unlikely that any significant information about the individual would be obtained from further analysis.

SK3 (10100); 1430ml, 1206.90g

SK3 (10100) was the most promising of the three cremations, reflected in the much higher overall volume and weight recorded. It also contained the largest fragments of bone, although as with the previous two cremations the assemblage was dominated by bone chips below 10mm. Nevertheless, occasional fragments as large as 50mm were recorded. These larger fragments appeared to be more diagnostic of species, and it is likely that complete analysis would be able to identify this conclusively as human. Observations of the fragments suggest that the potential to assign the individual to an age category cannot be excluded, although success in this endeavour is by no means certain.

As with the previous two cremations, the colour of the fragments was universally white, again demonstrating that they had been burnt in a well oxidised fire at high temperatures. Surface cracking was present throughout the fragments, again demonstrating that the bones had been subjected to prolonged heating. Of the three samples, SK3 has the best potential for further analysis, given that a number of potentially identifiable fragments of bone are present.

Discussion

Rapid assessment of the samples recovered from Hovingham has revealed three poorly preserved cremations. Overall the potential for the three is limited by their condition and volume, reflecting the degree of plough truncation to which they have been subjected. It is likely that complete analysis of SK1 and SK2 would not help confirm whether or not the remains were human; nor would it be possible to gain information on age, sex or pathology. On balance, it is highly probable that these samples do represent human cremations; however, this could not be proved categorically. SK3 demonstrated somewhat less disruption, and it was observed that it may be possible to identify it as human and assign it to a general age category, although this is not definitive. The bone fragments from the three samples all demonstrated similar colours and surface textures, which all demonstrated burning at high temperatures in well oxidised fires, likely to be in excess of 600^{o}C.

Complete analysis would not add significant further information to that given in this assessment, but would be enable it to be recorded in a more formal, quantitative manner. Complete analysis would concentrate on recording each cremation by fragment size and confirming whether there are any identifiable elements. It is recommended that complete analysis is performed to complete the site record, and that this analysis would take two days.

APPENDIX 5 - FIGURES

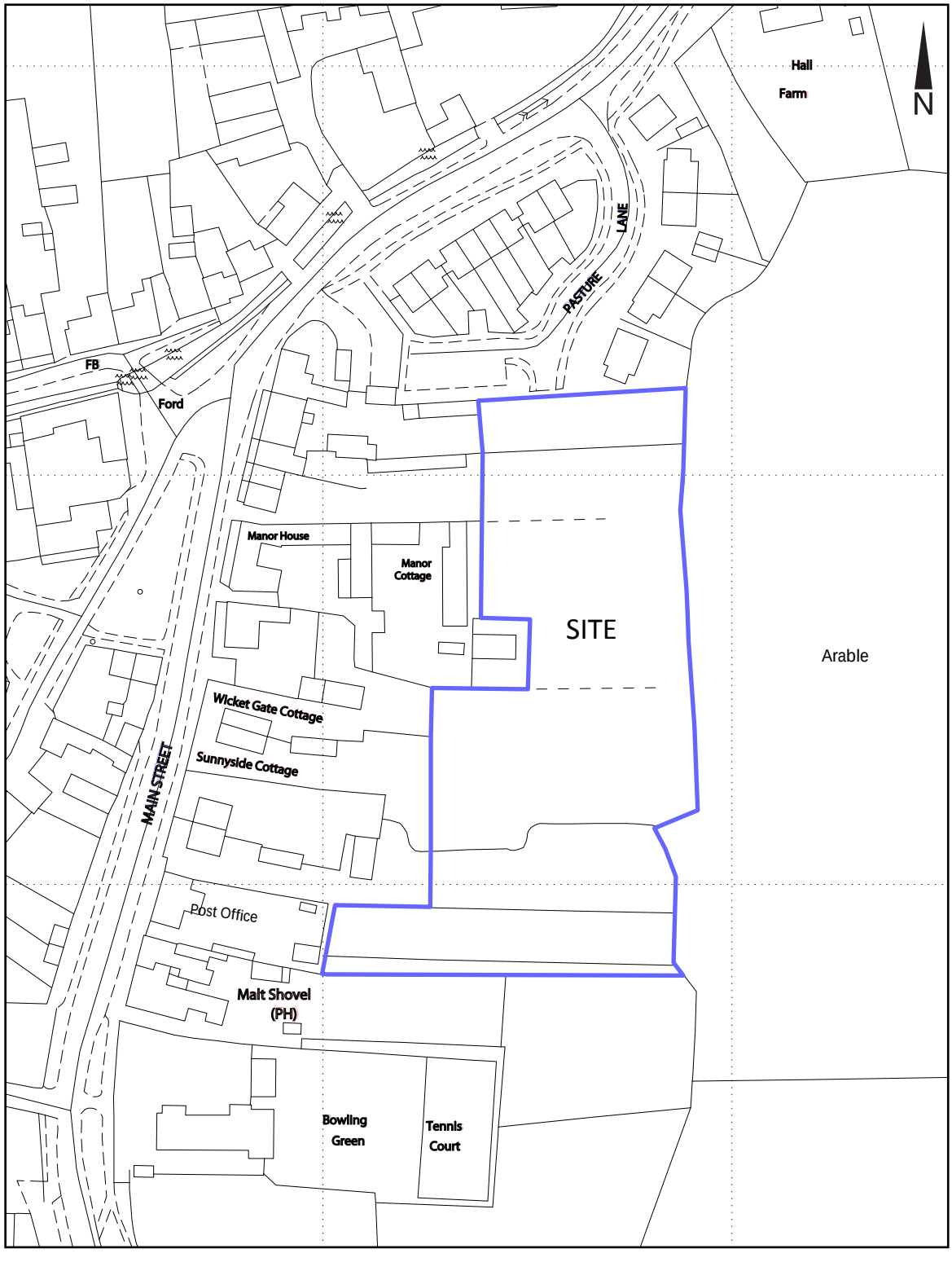

Figure 1: Site Location

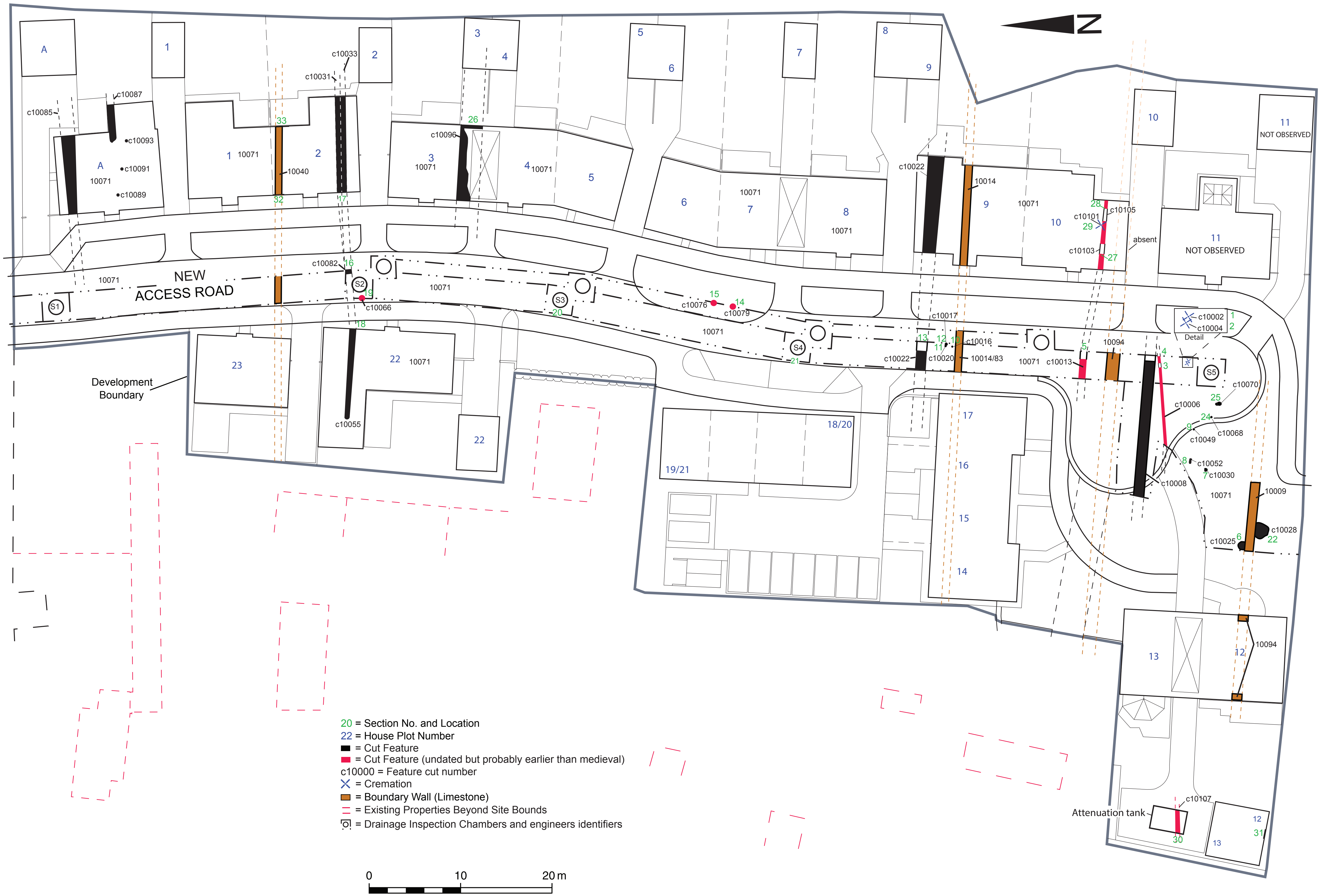

Figure 2: Site Plan

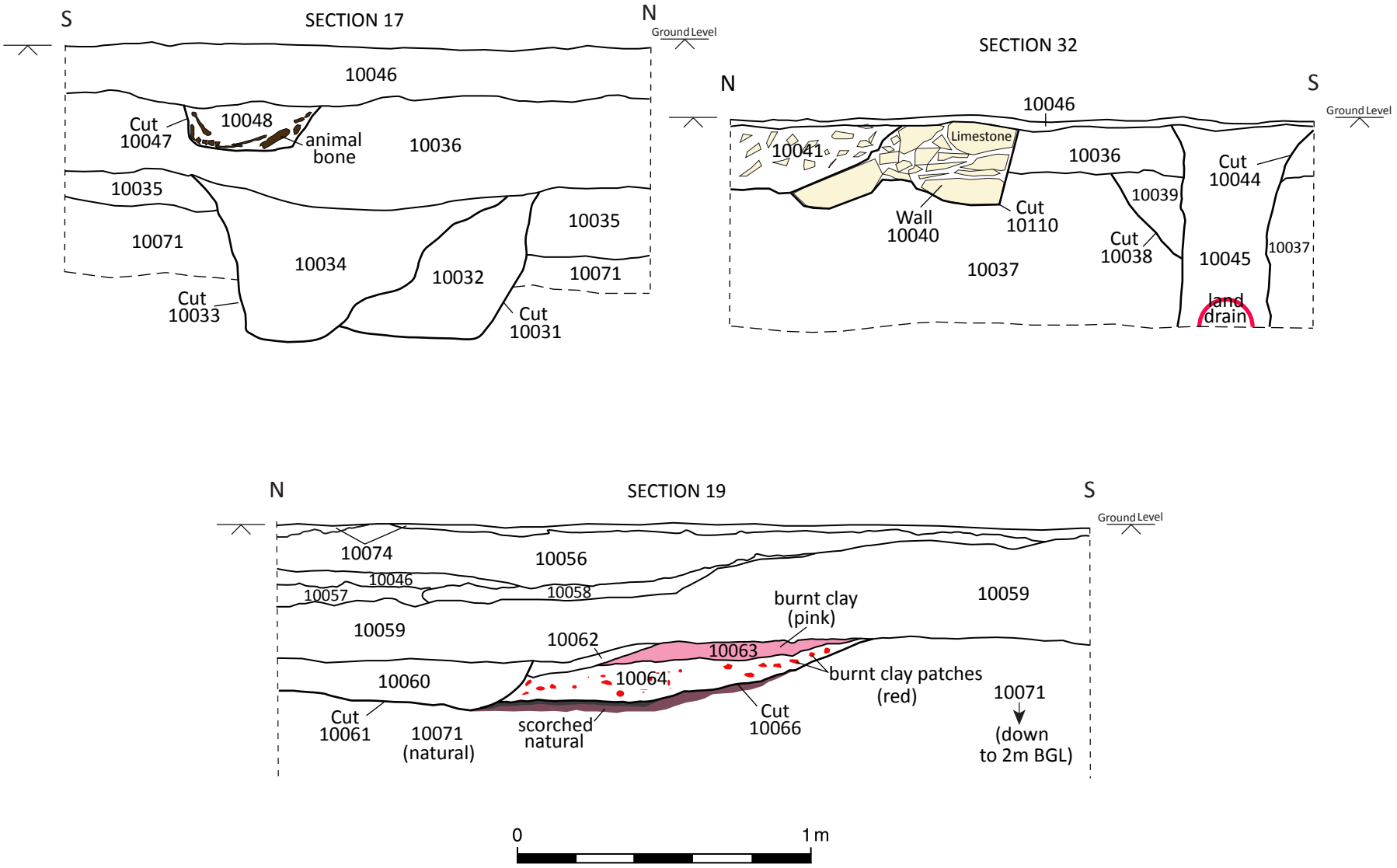

Figure 3: Sections 17, 19 and 32

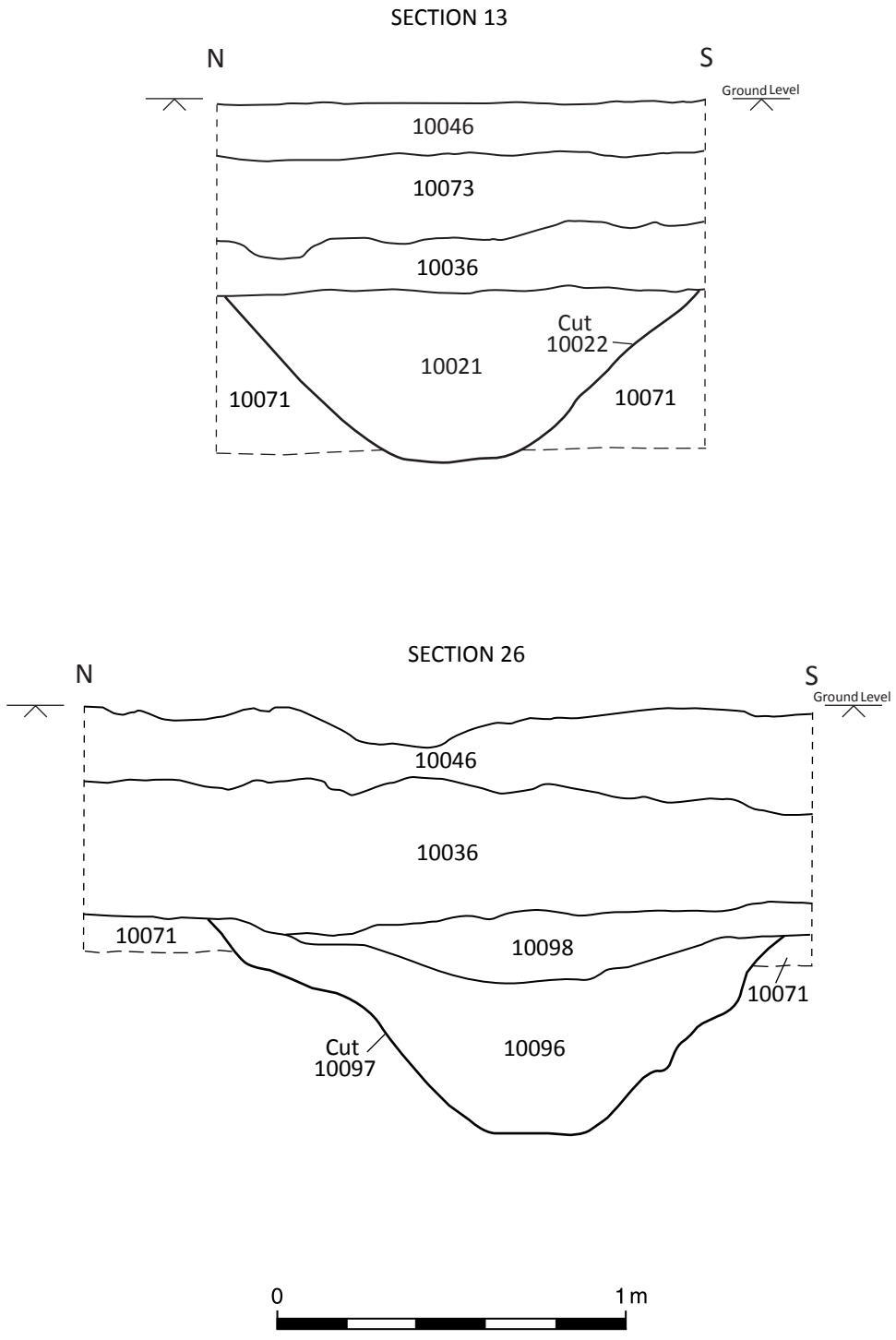

Figure 4: Sections 13 and 26

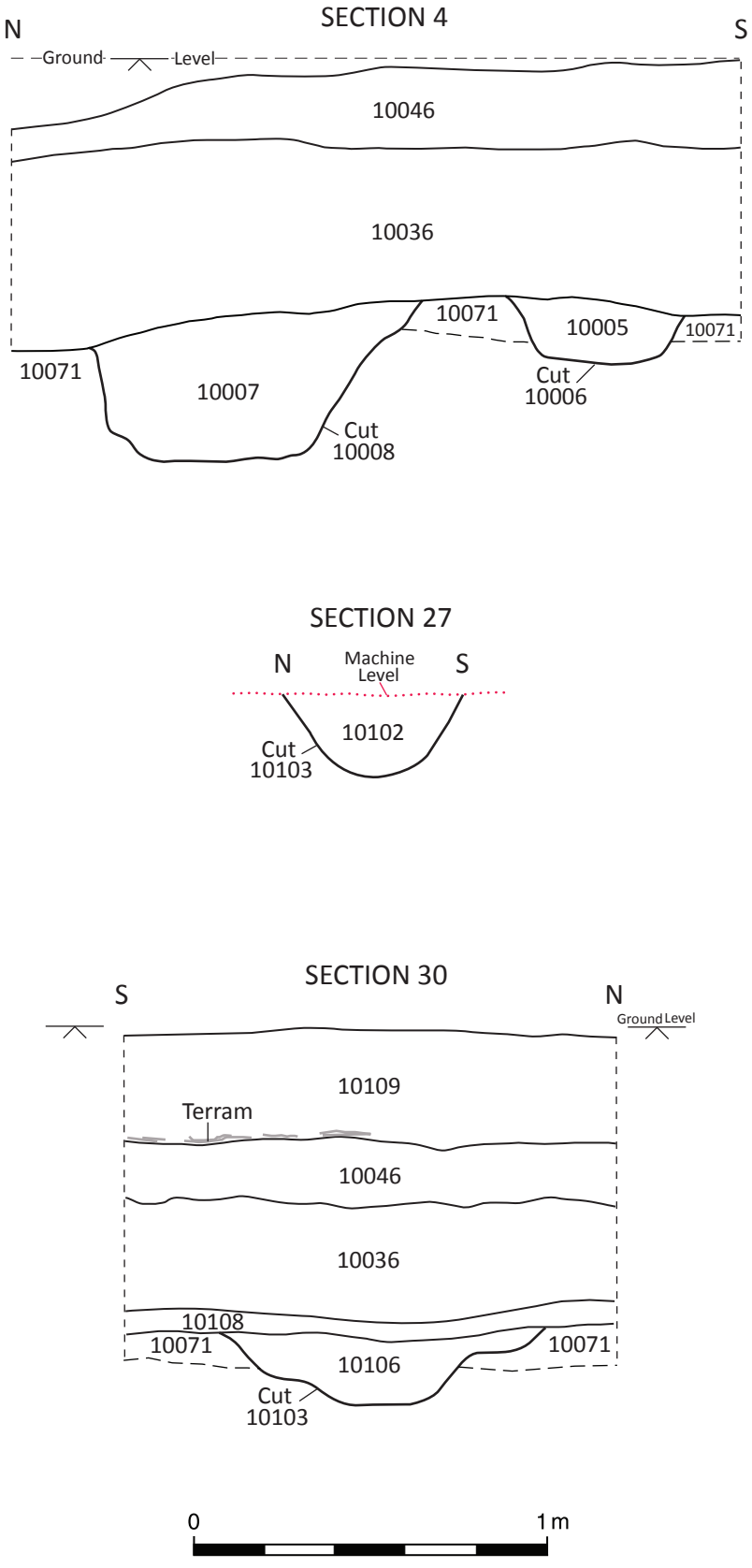

Figure 5: Sections 4, 27 and 30