

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY TRIAL EXCAVATION
AT
SITE OF NEWHOUSE CASTLE
BROCKLESBY PARK
LINCOLNSHIRE**

June 2024

Humber Field Archaeology Report no. 2267



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*Work carried out for Dr Ryan Prescott
(with funding from the Castle Studies Trust)*

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1 SUMMARY

In June 2024 a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial excavation was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology, working in conjunction with Dr Ryan Prescott, in order to investigate the remaining earthworks at the possible site of Newhouse Castle, Lincolnshire. The work was carried out in order to determine and assess what remained of the castle. This work was grant funded by the Castle Studies Trust.

Following on from a geophysical survey carried out in 2023 two trenches were excavated across the earthworks which, although not finding conclusive evidence that this is the site of the castle constructed during 'the Anarchy', have provided evidence for longer use of the site. Over the course of these investigations a small assemblage of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery and flint was recovered from Trench 1; a potted cremation burial of Anglo-Saxon origin was also recovered from Trench 1; intact remains of an inhumation burial were identified in Trench 2 (and left in-situ); sections were excavated through the earthwork ditches; and a small dump of early modern brick was encountered in Trench 1. Additionally, a small assemblage of fragmentary leather and woven fabric were also found within a pit in close proximity to the cremation.

The overall impression revealed by the evaluation was one of a site with a long history of occupation and use in a strategically important part of the northern Lincolnshire landscape.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the fieldwork

- 1.1.1 The report presents the results of a programme of evaluation by trial excavation undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) in conjunction with Dr Ryan Prescott, with funding from the Castle Studies Trust, in order to assess and research the presumed site of Newhouse Castle, Brocklesby Road, Brocklesby, Lincolnshire (Figure 1). The work was carried out between the 17th and 21st of June 2024.
- 1.1.2 A geophysical survey was carried out in 2023 over the earthworks and the surrounding land which revealed the perimeter ditch along and additional areas of potential burning or ceramic debris within the confines of the earthworks. The wider area also exhibited potential archaeological features in the form of ditches, a possible small sub-circular ditch and additional isolated features possibly being buried pits or evidence for burning.

1.2 Site topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is gently undulating, occupying a slight south-eastern slope that descends from c. 15m OD in the north-west corner to c. 12m OD at the southern boundary. The site is bounded on all sides by agricultural land with a copse of trees present at the southwestern corner.
- 1.2.2 The underlying solid geology of the area consists of Welton Chalk Formation – sedimentary bedrock formed between 100.5 and 89.8 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period in a local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas (BGS, 2023). For the most part this is overlain by Devensian Till (Diamicton) – formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago in the Quaternary, with a pocket of similarly dated Devonian glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel in the eastern region (data from <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>).
- 1.2.3 Overlying soils are described as Soilscape 18: Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>).

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 This section references and includes information contained in a summary outline of the research project (Prescott, 2023).
- 1.3.2 Primary sources from the twelfth century refer to the existence of Newhouse Castle that is believed to have been built by Peter of Goxhill, a tenant of the Earl of Lincoln, during the conflict between King Stephen and the Empress Matilda.

- 1.3.3 Newhouse Castle was built by Peter of Goxhill, a tenant of the Earl of Lincoln during 'the Anarchy' (Dalton, 1994:187-88). Contemporary sources refer to the presence of the castle (Warner & Ellis, 1903:24): "*Know that we have confirmed the grant made by Peter de Golsa to the church of St Martial of Newhouse, ziv. a moiety which he had in Newhouse, with the chief court where his castle was, and of the fee which he holds of the earl.*"
- 1.3.4 Newhouse, or Newsham Abbey, was founded on, or close by, the site of the castle in 1143. Destroyed in the Dissolution, Newhouse was later incorporated into the designs of 'Capability Brown' during the eighteenth century. Newhouse has since featured in a small number of publications, including An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire (Bennett et al., 1993:40-1), but explanations about its surviving earthworks or buried deposits have seldom been offered.

2 THE EXCAVATIONS

2.1 Methodology

- 2.1.1 The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from HFA, in accordance with the written scheme of investigation for archaeological evaluation by trial excavation produced by HFA, (Atkinson, D. February 2024), with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 (a) Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation and (b) Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation.
- 2.1.2 The scheme of works comprised the mechanical excavation of two trenches across the present earthworks after the removal of the turf. Where necessary trench locations were adjusted from their original locations in order to accommodate on-site conditions, such as fences or other intrusions that were previously unknown. Additionally appropriate extensions of trenches were made so as to investigate possible features identified on the geophysical survey that would otherwise have been missed (Figure 2).
- 2.1.3 Standard Humber Field Archaeology recording procedures were used throughout; each identified feature was allocated a context number, with written descriptions recorded on *pro forma* sheets. Plans and sections were drawn to scale on pre-printed permatrace sheets. A digital photographic record was maintained. The locations of the trenches and the level of the features were surveyed relative to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Ordnance Datum respectively, using survey-grade GPS equipment. Finds encountered were recorded to professional standards using recognised procedures and numbering systems compatible with the accessioning system employed by the recipient museums service (in this case LCNCC).

2.2 Results

- 2.2.1 Context numbers allocated to archaeological deposits and features are referred to in the text below and Figures 2–4 show them as recorded in plan and in section. A selection of photographs has also been included (Plates 1–16).

TRENCH 1 (Figures 2–4, Plates 1–9)

- 2.2.2 Trench 1 was oriented roughly east to west with an additional run of the trench extending north to south at the eastern end. It was approximately 38m long east to west and an additional 8m north to south whilst maintaining a width of 1.50m throughout. The depth of the trench was consistently between 0.20m and 0.50m depending on the underlying ground level below the turf.
- 2.2.3 The lowest deposit present throughout Trench 1 was a natural mid orange clay substrate (1011) that was exposed to a depth of approximately 2.00m below the ground level on the southern limb of the trench where it continued beyond

the limit of excavation. Subsequent to this was the material forming the earthwork mound itself, a pale brown sandy gravel natural (1002) which was present to a depth of 0.85m.

- 2.2.4 Surrounding the mound and forming part of the visible ground level earthworks, was ditch (1009), which measured approximately 3.00m wide with a depth between 0.80m and 1.60m. A single fill of mid orange silty clay (1008) was identified as the only fill within the ditch.
- 2.2.5 A number of features were identified cut into the material forming the earthworks. Towards the eastern corner of Trench 1, a deposit of post-medieval building material (1009), consisting of bricks and fragments of limestone, was exposed directly beneath the topsoil (1001). An ovoid pit (1004) with a width of 1.40m and a depth of 0.10m contained a single fill of pale grey/brown silty sand (1003). Within this pit, what appeared to be an intact pottery vessel was found and, in order to be sampled and assessed as thoroughly as possible, was removed as a block with the surrounding material.
- 2.2.6 Approximately 1.00m west of pit (1004) another pit (1006) was present, which was also ovoid in form and measured 1.55m wide by 0.35m deep. At its base a deposit of black, seemingly organic material (1005) was present, measuring approximately 0.60m in length and 0.03m thick, which contained fragments of leather, as well as a larger piece of woven textile (RFs 1 and 2 respectively). Stratigraphically above this a mid-brown/grey silty sand deposit (1010) filled the rest of the pit.

TRENCH 2 (Figures 2–4, Plates 10–16)

- 2.2.7 Trench 2 was orientated north-east to south-west, measuring approximately 29m in length with a width of 1.50m. Throughout the trench an average depth between 0.20m and 0.50m was achieved varying with the natural lie of the land, as in Trench 1.
- 2.2.8 As with Trench 1, the lowest deposit was a mixed mid orange clay and gravel natural substrate (2002) which was exposed to a maximum depth of 0.65m; gravel banding was more apparent, with the orange clay continuing beyond this.
- 2.2.9 The ditch surrounding the entire mound was again identified within Trench 2 towards the eastern end, meaning that each limb of the square ditch had been sampled within the excavations. The ditch (2006) was 2.50m wide, 0.80m deep and contained a single fill of mid orange silty clay (2005).
- 2.2.10 Within Trench 2, two features were identified on the mound itself. Just west of the ditch was a posthole (2004), measuring 0.45m wide and 0.15m deep, containing a single mid grey/brown silty sand fill (2003). Adjacent to this was another possible posthole feature, though upon investigation it did not seem

distinct enough from the natural clay to be considered an archaeological feature.

2.2.11 Towards the western end of Trench 2, close to the middle of the earthwork feature itself, a burial was identified within the southern side of the trench. Visible in the section, the grave cut (2009) was 0.50m wide and 0.65m deep, as identified within the limits of excavation, and within this was exposed a skull as well as what appeared to be the upper left arm of the burial itself (2008). The single grave fill (2007) was composed of a mid-brown silty sand.

3 SPECIALIST REPORTS

3.1 Assessment of Anglo-Saxon cremation artefacts, other recorded finds, and other pottery

Lisa M. Wastling

INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 This report presents a preliminary assessment of the artefacts associated with the cremation burial, pottery and recorded finds recovered during the evaluation. The potential for further work on the assemblage will be discussed below.

THE ANGLO-SAXON CREMATION

NCB 2024 Burial Group 1

Context information: Urn (1014); urn fill (1012); human bone: SK(1013); pit cut (1004); pit fill (1003).

Human remains: Cremated bone was recovered by hand excavation and from sample <5> from the vessel fill (1012) (see report by Elina Petersone-Gordina and Malin Holst, Section 4.3).

The Urn: Type: plain, undecorated. Handmade vessel, globular with a slightly flaring rim and slightly flattened base. The fabric is sandy, with the addition of abundant rounded quartz sand temper and sparse black grains, possibly slag. The exterior is sooted and the interior has extensive carbonised residues. Date 5th - 6th century.

Height 145mm Rim diam. 153mm
Urn context (1014)

Grave goods: *Iron knife.* Whittle tanged.
L.112mm W.19mm Max. Th. 5mm
RF 3 Context (1012)

Glass bead. Elongated globular or cylindrical. Slightly heat distorted and burnt. Polychrome decoration. Opaque white with blue crossed waves (Decoration type: 3iiia, cf Guido 1999, 107 and Plate 3). Date range possibly mid-6th century to at least mid-7th century.

L. 16mm Max. diam. 14mm
RF 4 Context (1012)

Date: Possibly mid to later 6th century

DISCUSSION

3.1.2 Cremation urn (1014) was recovered from Trench 1. The urn was near upright, leaning over slightly so that plough or machine damage had removed

approximately one third of the rim and upper body. The remainder was intact except for two holes with missing sherds. The form of the handmade vessel is globular with a slightly everted rim and slightly flattened base. The fabric is sandy, with the addition of abundant round quartz sand temper and sparse black grains, possibly slag. The vessel appears to have been a re-purposed domestic cooking vessel, evidenced by the sooting on the exterior and extensive carbonized residues. A sample of the interior residue was taken prior to re-fitting the vessel for the photograph.

- 3.1.3 The urn is of 5th to 6th century date and the reuse of a domestic vessel, correlates well with the plain undecorated urns at the Cleatham cemetery, where 27 of the 35 sooted vessels were of plain undecorated type (Leahy 2007, 86). The bead is polychrome, with decoration of Guido Type 3iiia (1999, Map 11 and Plate 3). White beads with blue waves were common in the Rhineland, Netherlands, and northern France from the mid-6th to the mid-7th century. In Britain they are concentrated in the south of England, though they have been found as far north as Yorkshire (*ibid*, 32).
- 3.1.4 The grave goods are suggestive of a female cremation, with the knife being of relatively short length at 112mm, at the lower end of Härke's medium size group (1989, 144), however the osteological details suggest that the cremation is that of a male (see Section 4.3 below). The glass bead was clearly on the body at the time of cremation, as part has melted and distorted slightly. It is not possible to ascertain whether the knife was worn about the person, or has been subsequently placed within the urn as an offering.
- 3.1.5 An inhumation burial was also partially uncovered within Trench 2, although the burial position is not known as most of the burial lay outside the trench and associated artefacts consisted of just a small fragment of micaceous sandstone.

NON-FUNERARY RECORDED FINDS

- 3.1.6 The non-funerary recorded finds consisted of four objects of worked flint, leather and textile. The flint comprised two flint scrapers of Neolithic or Bronze Age date (RFs 5 and 6). Both were unstratified finds within Trench 1, which were probably within the topsoil. A waste flake and a part-worked piece was also present within the bulk finds assemblage (see section 4.2).
- 3.1.7 The leather (RF1) and textile (RF2) were recovered from a dark seemingly organic fill (1005) within pit (1006) in Trench 1. This layer had previously been waterlogged, but was dry on excavation, possibly due to changes in agricultural drainage or changes in water table levels.
- 3.1.8 The leather (RF1) consists of a folded fragment with torn and decayed edges. There appears to be no evidence of stitching or indication of use. The textile (RF2) is a loose, coarsely woven cloth, possibly of wool.

THE OTHER POTTERY

- 3.1.9 The other pottery consists of five sherds, weighing a total of 77 grams, four of which join. All were unstratified finds recovered from the area of Trench 1. There are two distinct fabrics. Both appear to be from handmade vessels, particularly the four joining sherds of H1, which are 10mm thick and derive from a large food or storage vessel. These sherds weigh 74 grams. The smaller sherd of H2 fabric is abraded and thinner walled, weighing 3 grams.
- 3.1.10 The H1 vessel has been used for food preparation and is sooted on the interior. This vessel is possibly prehistoric, of either Neolithic or Bronze Age date and has the abundant large quartz temper of the East Midlands fabrics and crushed rock common in eastern Lincolnshire material.
- 3.1.11 The H2 vessel is difficult to categorise due to its small size. This vessel may be prehistoric, though there is a possibility that it may be of Anglo-Saxon date.
- H1. Handmade pottery, clamp fired oxidised exterior, rest reduced to black. Hackly fabric with moderate fine sand and moderate larger crushed quartz and rock up to 4mm in length.
- H2. Frequent organic temper voids, vegetable matter including seeds, frequent quartz sand.
- 3.1.12 Unfortunately, these vessels cannot be ascribed to features, however the well-preserved comparatively large sherd of H1 suggests relatively little disturbance and/or movement of this sherd, which suggests that upon original deposition it has not travelled far.
- 3.1.13 One piece included with this unstratified pottery may be a small fragment of Roman ceramic building material, weighing 11 grams.

ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1.14 This near intact cremation may indicate the possible location of an hitherto unrecorded Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Although not directly associated with the objectives of the written scheme of investigation (Atkinson 2024, 4), the discovery of this burial group raises questions regarding the selection of geographic location for the 12th century Newhouse Castle and Abbey.
- 3.1.15 The textile would benefit from further specialist examination, as examination of form and weaving technique may reveal further information regarding chronology and possible usage. The pottery may also benefit from further investigation of both fabric and form, plus possible investigation of the burnt residues of the cremation urn. The flint is unstratified and represents residual redeposited material of Neolithic or Bronze Age date indicating some activity in the area. The flint is not recommended for publication unless requested by the client, though it should be retained.

- 3.1.16 It is suggested that the burial group is published within a relevant journal and that the location is added to the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record. The findspot may benefit from further work and research, particularly if threatened by ploughing activity.
- 3.1.17 The finds assemblage as a whole is of interest as it appears to suggest the multi-period use of the landscape, with the potential for preserved features stretching into pre-history, alongside known later activity such as the castle and abbey.

3.2 Bulk finds assessment

Pamela Cartwright

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

3.2.2 All artefacts from the NCB2024 excavation were recorded using the Humber Field Archaeology pro-forma 'Bulk finds' sheets and 'Context finds' sheets. Objects were packaged appropriately for long term storage, in accordance with conservation and museum guidelines.

BRICK

3.2.3 Eighteen bricks or fragments of brick were collected from deposit (1009), a spread of rubble, weighing 20,335grams. The fabric is consistent through all the fragments, dense but friable with occasional large grog and frequent cinder or industrial waste inclusions, utilizing a byproduct of industrial processes as a fine aggregate in the production of the bricks.

3.2.4 Eight of the bricks were fired to a deep red brown colour and the remaining ten to brick red. Five have sunken margins and sanded sides indicating they were mould made. All were poorly made. The bricks vary slightly in size (given in inches); length $8 \frac{1}{4}$ - $8 \frac{1}{2}$ width $3 \frac{3}{4}$ - $4 \frac{1}{4}$ and thickness $1 \frac{3}{4}$ - 2 but these are within parameters of firing abnormalities and abrasion action while within the ground. All these factors date the brick from the mid-17th to the late 18th century. Similar sized bricks had been used in the construction of St Georges Chapel, Goltho in Lincolnshire, which is dated from the 17th century.

3.2.5 None of the bricks had mortar adhesions indicating that they may never have been used in the construction of a building. It is possible the reason these were not used was that they were rejects.

MASONRY

3.2.6 Five fragments of masonry were collected and given masonry numbers from two contexts, context (1009), the spread of rubble, and context (2000) the upcast spoil from trench two. A further four fragments of chalk, weighing 6,350grams from (1009) were quantified as bulk finds as they were devoid of any tool marks or worked shaping due to their abraded condition. These fragments were probably fragments of building stone but without the tooling marks they cannot be identified as such.

- 3.2.7 M1, context (2000), was a block of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone, 445 x 180 x 115mm, with concave moulding to two opposing corners. No tool marks were visible due to the crumbly nature of the stone.
- 3.2.8 M2, context (2000), was a fragment of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone, 160 x 145 x 120mm, heavily broken and abraded but with a small area of striated tooling visible to one face from a hand chisel.
- 3.2.9 M3, context (2000), was a fragment of very abraded chalk, 200 x 120 x 90mm, with one area of possible faint claw tool marks.
- 3.2.10 M4, context (2000), was an irregular fragment of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone, 200 x 125 x 85mm, with no apparent tool marks but is the same lithology as M1 and M2.
- 3.2.11 M5, context (1009), was a fragment of chalk, 175 x 200 x 45mm heavily abraded but with one small area of claw or chisel tooling to the thin edge.

BURNT STONE

- 3.2.12 A single fragment of burnt stone was collected from the fill (1012) of the cremation pot, weighing 140grams. The extent of the burning suggests this was present during the cremation process and scooped up into the pot with the cremated remains.

STONE TILE

- 3.2.13 A single fragment of possible stone tile weighing 135grams was collected from context (2007). This 20mm thick laminate piece of micaceous sandstone was slightly worn or weathered to one area.

FLINT

- 3.2.14 Four pieces of flint were collected, two of which was deemed to be recorded finds, RF 5 and 6 (see section 4.1). The remaining two, one a possible flake which was unstratified and the second from a small pit fill 1003 and is an unfinished tool. It has at least three flakes removed but has no definitive retouch.

POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.2.15 The striated tooling observed on two of the fragments of masonry dates them as pre-13th century and are consistent with a 12th century date. The brick from the 17th - 18th century was mixed with one fragment of very abraded stone masonry from the 13th century.
- 3.2.16 There is potential for further work on the masonry, to determine the structural placement of masonry fragment 1, establish a comparative study of the lithology and to confirm the date.

3.2.17 The style of the flint flakes recovered indicate a possible earlier, prehistoric presence in the location. The flint is not recommended for further work unless requested by the client, though it should be retained.

3.2.18 No further work is recommended on the burnt stone and stone tile.

3.3 Human Remains

Elina Petersone-Gordina and Malin Holst (*York Osteoarchaeology Ltd.*)

INTRODUCTION

3.3.1 Most of the cremated bone (1013) was retrieved from an Anglo-Saxon urn located in Trench 1 (1014), which had been placed into a pit (1004). The urn was complete but broken, and the burial had been disturbed, by agricultural activity. Some cremated bone was also found in the fill of the pit (1003), which probably belonged to the same burial.

Aims and Objectives

3.3.2 The aim of the analysis was, where possible, to determine the age and sex of the individual represented within the cremation-related deposits, record evidence for pathology, and capture information relating to funerary practices.

Methodology

3.3.3 The cremated bone was analysed according to standard current guidelines (McKinley 2017). The bone was passed through a nest of sieves with mesh sizes of 10mm, 5mm and 2mm. The maximum fragment size was measured, bone colour was noted, and any identifiable fragments were recorded.

3.3.4 The identified fragments were divided into five broad categories: the skull; the axial skeleton, which included the spine, ribs, and shoulder and pelvic girdles; the upper limb (arms and hands); the lower limb (legs and feet); and long bone (fragments of long bones which could not be identified as to the limb). An attempt was made to determine age and sex, and any pathological lesions present were described.

OSTEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

3.3.5 Osteological analysis is concerned with the determination of the identity of a skeleton, by estimating its age, sex, and stature. Robusticity and non-metric traits can provide further information on the appearance and familial affinities of the individual studied. This information is essential to determine the prevalence of disease types and age-related changes. It is crucial for identifying sex dimorphism in occupation, lifestyle and diet, as well as the role of different age groups in society.

3.3.6 A summary of the cremated assemblages is given in Table 1, immediately below.

Table 1: Summary of cremated assemblage

Context	Strat'	Bone Colour	Preservation	Artefacts and Inclusions	MNI	Age	Sex	Weight	Weight as % of modern*	Longest Fragment
1003	External fill	Buff/White	Good	-	-	A?	-	4.0g	0.2%	36.3mm
1012	Internal fill	Buff	Moderate	-	-	Ind.	Ind.	1.2g	0.07%	8.0 mm
1013	SK within urn	Buff/White/grey	Moderate	Iron knife blade, white-blue glass bead	1	A	M?	225.8g	13.9%	47.3mm

Key: Age: A – adult, N– neonate, C- child, - – unknown; Sex: M – male, F – female, - – unknown; MNI – minimum number of individuals. * Weight of bone >2mm expressed as a percentage of the average weight of bone >2mm recovered from modern cremation burials (1625.9g, McKinley 1993)

Preservation

3.3.7 Skeletal preservation depends upon a number of factors, including the age and sex of the individual as well as the size, shape and robusticity of the bone. Burial environment, post-depositional disturbance and treatment following excavation can also have a considerable impact on bone condition (Henderson 1987, Garland and Janaway 1989, Janaway 1996, Spriggs 1989). Preservation of human skeletal remains are assessed subjectively, depending upon the severity of bone surface erosion and post-mortem breaks, but disregarding completeness. Preservation is important, as it can have a large impact on the quantity and quality of information that can be obtained from the skeletal remains.

Cremated bone preservation and pyre technology

3.3.8 Bone from the two contexts was good and moderately well preserved, respectively (see Table 1 above). Moderate warping and bone cracking, which occurs commonly during the cremation process, was evident in all the cremated bones. The moderate preservation of bone in Context 1013 is most likely due to the later disturbance of the site.

3.3.9 The weight of bone recovered from each context ranged from 1.2g (1012 – recovered during the sieving of the fill from within the cremation vessel) to 225.8g (1013 – skeleton number). The cremated remains covered by contexts (1012)/(1013) formed an urned Anglo-Saxon cremation burial (1014 – the number given to the burial vessel), while the bone from (1003) was likely derived from the urned burial (1014), as it was found in the external fill of the burial pit (1004) and was most likely displaced by later agricultural disturbance. However, since none of the fragments in the two deposits matched, they were analysed separately. The deposits contained only 0.07% (1012), 0.2% (1003) and almost 14% (1013) of the amount of bone expected from a modern adult cremation (1,001.5g to 2,422.5g, with an average of 1,625.9g; McKinley 1993). It is common for urns to protect the bone and thus urned burials often contain

better preserved bone compared to unurned cremation burials. In this case, the urn had been disturbed by ploughing and this may have led to the loss of an unknown quantity of bone. However, the small amount of bone recovered from the cremation burials could also have represented a token burial of a specially selected part of the original quantity of bone burnt following the cremation process. Despite the small proportion of bone, good preservation allowed for a comprehensive analysis of this assemblage.

3.3.10 The fragment size of cremated bone is frequently attributed to post-cremation processes. This is because skeletal elements retrieved from modern crematoria tend to be comparatively large before being ground down for scattering or deposition in the urn. Bone is also prone to fragmentation if it is moved while still hot (McKinley 1994, 340). It is possible that post-burning processes, such as raking of the pyre while the bone was still hot, influenced bone preservation. Both assemblages showed signs of post-depositional alteration to some extent and bone preservation was likely affected as a result. All bone fragments from (1003) were in the largest, 10mm sieve fraction, while most of the bone from (1013) was in the middle sieve fraction (5mm), followed by the 10mm and the 2mm fractions, respectively (Table 2).

Table 2: Summary of cremated bone fragment size

Context	Sieve Fractions						Total >2mm	<2mm	Total	Total as % of modern
	10mm		5mm		2mm					
	g	%	g	%	g	%	g	g	g	%
1003	4.0	100.0 %	-	-	-	-	4.0	-	4.0	0.2%
1012	-	-	-	-	1.2	100%	1.2	-	1.2	0.07%
1013	51.3	22.7 %	128.6	56.9 %	35.9	15.9 %	215.8	10.0	225.8	13.9%

3.3.11 The colour of cremated bone is connected to the temperature of the pyre, the amount of oxygen available during burning, and the duration of the cremation. High temperatures (c.600°C and over) and plentiful oxygen will result in fully oxidised white bone given adequate time, whereas temperatures between c.300-600°C and/or lack of oxygen will result in partially oxidised bone ranging in colour from dark to pale grey (McKinley 1989, 2004a). Temperatures below c.300°C and the absence of oxygen will lead to charring of the bone, expressed as brown and black colours (*ibid*).

3.3.12 The three contexts contained bone that was predominantly buff/white (see Table 1), with some pale to darker grey colouration in (1013). This indicated that in general, bone tended to be well burnt (i.e. had experienced high temperatures, plentiful oxygen supplies and burnt for a sufficient length of time to achieve full oxidation). The grey hues in (1013), especially in the long bones of the legs, suggest that some areas of the body were slightly less well burnt, perhaps through slightly lower temperatures, a shorter burning duration, or

inadequate oxygen supply, although pyre conditions were still sufficiently hot and oxygenated enough to allow most of the bone to achieve full oxidation.

3.3.13 The identification of bone from (1003) and (1013) was possible for some areas of the skeleton due to the presence of larger or characteristic fragments. Context (1012) contained mainly unidentifiable bone fragments. Cremated bone elements from particular areas of the skull, axial skeleton, and upper and lower limbs, as well as long bones that were unidentifiable as to the limb were present in the assemblage (Table 3). The proportion of identifiable bone in the assemblages was 4.0g (100% of 1003) 0.0g (0% of 1012) and 102.4g (45.3% of 1013). Lower limb bone fragments made up the greatest proportion of the identified bone by weight in (1003) and (1013) (4.0g, 100.0%; and 48.5g, 47.4%) followed by the skull and long bone fragments in (1013) (27.8g; 27.2% and 13.1g; 12.8%, respectively). The relatively high proportion of skull and long bone fragments can be explained by the fact that they are easy to identify even when highly fragmented (McKinley 2004b, 298-299).

Table 3: Summary of identifiable elements in the cremation burial

Context	Identified Bone										Total ID	Total ID
	Skull		Axial		Upper Limb		Lower Limb		Long bones			
	g	%	g	%	g	%	g	%	g	%	g	%
1003	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.0	100	-	-	4.0	100
1012	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	-
1013	27.8	27.2	5.9	5.8	7.1	6.9	48.5	47.4	13.1	12.8	102.4	45.3

3.3.14 Identified bone from the skull in (1013) included the occipital bone (back of the vault), right and left temporal bone (at the sides of the cranium supporting the ears), and generic vault fragments. The upper limb was represented by the humerus shaft and distal end, radius head and shafts, and ulna shafts. The axial skeleton was represented by the anterior portion of the atlas (the first cervical vertebra), vertebral body fragments, a thoracic vertebral facet, fragments of the pelvis, and scapular spine. Finally, the lower limb included shaft fragments from the femur, tibia and fibula. Generic long bone fragments included unidentified shaft fragments and epiphyses, including possible humerus and/or femoral head fragments.

Minimum number of individuals

3.3.15 A count of the 'minimum number of individuals' (MNI) recovered from a cemetery is carried out as standard procedure in osteological reports on inhumations in order to establish how many individuals are represented by the articulated and disarticulated human bones (without taking the archaeologically defined graves into account). The MNI is calculated by counting all long bone ends, as well as other larger skeletal elements recovered. The largest number

of these is then taken as the MNI. The MNI is likely to be lower than the actual number of skeletons, which would have been interred on the site, but represents the minimum number of individuals, which can be scientifically proven to be present.

- 3.3.16 The MNI could be established for (1013) based on the presence of an occipital crest, which means that at least one individual was present in this burial context. The MNI could not be established for (1003) and (1012) due to the fragmentation and/or absence of diagnostic elements.

Assessment of Age

- 3.3.17 Age is determined using standard ageing techniques, as specified in Scheuer and Black (2000a; 2000b) and Cox (2000). For non-adults age is estimated using the stage of dental development (Moorrees *et al.* 1963a; 1963b), dental eruption (Ubelaker 1989), measurements of long bones and other appropriate elements and the development and fusion of bones (Scheuer and Black 2000b). In adults, age is estimated from stages of bone development and degeneration in the pelvis (Brooks and Suchey 1990, Lovejoy *et al.* 1985) and ribs (modified version of methods developed by İşcan *et al.* 1984; 1985 and İşcan and Loth 1986 provided in Ubelaker 1989), supplemented through examination of patterns of dental wear (Brothwell 1981).
- 3.3.18 Individuals are divided into a number of age categories. Non-adults were subdivided into 'foetus' (f: where the age estimate clearly fell below 38-40 weeks in utero), 'perinate' (p: where the age estimates converged around birth), 'neonate' (n: where the age estimate suggested 0-1 month), 'infant' (i; 1-12 months), juvenile (j; 1-12 years) and adolescent (ad; 13-17 years). Adults are divided into 'young adult' (ya; 18-25 years), young middle adult (yma; 26-35 years), old middle adult (oma; 36-45 years) and mature adult (46+ years). A category of 'adult' (a) is used to designate those individuals whose age could not be determined beyond the fact that they were eighteen or older.
- 3.3.19 For each skeletal assemblage as many criteria as possible (preservation and completeness allowing) are used to estimate age. However, it is important to note that several studies (for example Molleson and Cox 1993, Molleson 1995, Miles *et al.* 2008) have highlighted the difficulty of accurately determining the age-at-death of adults from their skeletal remains, with age-at-death frequently being underestimated for older individuals. The categories defined here should be taken as a general guide to the relative physiological age of the adult, rather than being an accurate portrayal of the real chronological age.
- 3.3.20 Due to the general robusticity, size and morphology of the bone fragments, as well as completely fused epiphyses, it was established that the individual (1013) was likely an adult, although it was not possible to assign a more precise age category. Likewise, the general robusticity of the lower limb bones from (1003) also suggested the presence of an adult, most likely the same adult

defined as (1013). It was not possible to determine the age from (1012), as no relevant anatomical elements were present, however considering that this material was collected from the sieved soil (1012) from around (1013) it most likely belongs to the same adult .

Sex Determination

- 3.3.21 Sex determination was carried out using standard osteological techniques, such as those described by Mays and Cox (2000). Assessment of sex involves examination of the shape of the skull and the pelvis and can only be carried out once sexual characteristics have developed, during late puberty and early adulthood. Evidence from the pelvis is favoured as its shape is directly linked to biological sex (the requirements of childbirth in females) whereas the shape of the skull can be influenced by factors such as age (Walker 1995). Measurements of certain bones were used to supplement the morphological assessment.
- 3.3.22 Sex could be tentatively determined in (1013) due to the presence of the occipital crest, and based on its appearance, the individual was a possible male.

Non-metric Traits

- 3.3.23 Non-metric traits are additional sutures, facets, bony processes, canals and foramina, which occur in a minority of skeletons and are believed to suggest hereditary affiliation between skeletons (Saunders 1989). The origins of non-metric traits have been extensively discussed in the osteological literature and it is now thought that while most non-metric traits have genetic origins, some can be produced by factors such as mechanical stress (Kennedy 1989) or environment (Trinkhaus 1978).
- 3.3.24 A total of thirty cranial (skull) and thirty post-cranial (bones of the body and limbs) non-metric traits were selected from the osteological literature (Buikstra and Ubelaker 1994, Finnegan 1978, Berry and Berry 1967) and recorded. These were anomalies that would not have affected the individual.
- 3.3.25 Non-metric traits were not observed in any of the bone fragments from (1003), (1012) and (1013).

PATHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

- 3.3.26 Pathological conditions (disease) can manifest themselves on the skeleton, especially when these are chronic conditions or the result of trauma to the bone. The bone elements to which muscles attach can also provide information on muscle trauma and excessive use of muscles.
- 3.3.27 All bones from the two cremated deposits were examined macroscopically for evidence of pathological changes. However, there was no evidence of any form of disease present in (1003), (1012) and (1013). The absence of joint disease

in the vertebral bodies and facets, as well as the elbow joint in the possible male individual from (1013), might suggest that they were in the young to young middle adult age category when the wear and tear of joints is not yet evident in most individuals.

FUNERARY ARCHAEOLOGY

- 3.3.28 The cremation burial was found on its own, although due to the limits of the evaluation the likelihood of other burials surviving in the immediate surrounding area cannot be discounted, for example, an inhumation burial was found in Trench 2 during the excavation, although this was left in-situ and it is not known what date it belongs. The skeletal remains (1013) had been placed into an Anglo-Saxon urn before interment, which points to the date of the burial, and the human bone from (1003) and (1012) more than likely derive from the same burial. The urned burial also contained grave goods, including a white-blue glass bead, and an iron knife.
- 3.3.29 Burial traditions in Britain in the early medieval period show considerable variation, especially before the Christian burial rites were fully adopted. In some parts of Britain, people had given up on the late Roman Christian burial traditions and returned to pagan rituals, and this was especially true for lowland Britain (Roberts and Cox 2003, 165). Britain had adopted Christianity by the sixth century, and with it, inhumation burials replaced cremations, but the transition was slow and variable (Hills 1999). Pagan and Christian burial practices mainly differ in the presence and absence of grave goods, respectively (Roberts and Cox 2003, 165), although the absence or reduction of grave goods may also indicate social and economic change (Arnold 1982). Some recent excavations have demonstrated the variation in early and mid-Anglo-Saxon burial traditions. For example, ten Anglo-Saxon cremation burials, five of which were urned, were uncovered during archaeological excavations at Braybrooke Sub-Station in Northamptonshire, and these were dated to the early/mid-Anglo-Saxon period (5th – 9th centuries CE, Lake 2022).
- 3.3.30 The fact that the burial from Brocklesby contained grave goods and was a cremation, strongly suggests that similarly to the Braybrooke and Uttlesford burials, it also dates to the early Anglo-Saxon period, before Christianity was adopted by the people in this region.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY

- 3.3.31 During excavations at Brocklesby, an Anglo-Saxon cremation vessel produced 225.8g of human bone, representing almost 14% of the expected amount of bone following a modern cremation. A small amount of bone, likely from the same burial, was also found in the fill of the burial pit. Despite the relatively small quantity of bone, the good preservation meant that it could be identified that the urned burial contained at least one individual. Osteological analysis of the fragments present revealed that the individual was probably a male, and

an adult, while the lack of spinal and extraspinal joint disease suggested that the age of this individual probably fell into the younger adult age categories. The mostly white colour of the bone suggests that the person was mostly cremated at a minimum temperature of 600°C for over seven to eight hours (McKinley 1989, 2004a). The grey colour of some long bone fragments from legs pointed to areas of slightly lower temperature, a shorter burning duration, or inadequate oxygen supply, although pyre conditions were still sufficiently hot and oxygenated enough to allow most of the bone to achieve full oxidation.

3.4 Environmental Samples

Charlotte Lucy Molloy and Kris Poole (*York Archaeology*)

INTRODUCTION

3.4.1 Four bulk environmental samples were taken from an Anglo-Saxon urned cremation, the fill that surrounded it, and an undated pit that contained leather and textile. These samples were taken for the recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, faunal remains and molluscan remains, as well as to assist finds recovery. The following report discusses the contents of the environmental samples and the animal bone recovered from the fill of undated pit (1006).

3.4.2 Environmental tables 1-4 referred to below can be found in Appendix 2.

METHODOLOGY

3.4.3 Bulk samples <1>, <3>, <4>, and <5>, were 10 litres in volume, and were processed by flotation using a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue and a 250µm mesh for the retention of the flots before being air dried. The heavy residues were passed through geological sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm apertures and sorted by hand for environmental and artefactual remains with finds incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The residues were also scanned with a magnet to extract and quantify magnetic material. The ecofacts and artefacts from residues are tabulated (Tables 1 and 2). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 3). Spot sample <2>, although not waterlogged, was processed by wet sieving as the context was found to contain delicate textile and leather remains. The material was washed through geological sieves of 2mm and a 250 µm and the flots produced were retained wet. The contents of the flot are presented (Table 4). Charcoal was not present in sufficient quantities (>3g from the >4mm fraction of the heavy residue) to be submitted for identification.

RESULTS

Trench 1

3.4.4 Sample <5> was recovered from fill (1012) of the urn and sample <1> was taken from the fill that surrounded the urn (1003). The dried flots varied greatly in size but were dominated by fibrous root material. The sample of fill (1003) contained a worm capsule and unidentifiable insect fragment that were most likely intrusive. Charcoal was not present in either of the dried flots but very small quantities were present in both the heavy residues from these two samples. No charred or waterlogged plant remains were present in any of the flots or residues from the samples. A small quantity of burnt bone was found in

the heavy residue of the urn fill. With the permission of the client, this was passed to York Osteoarchaeology to be reported on in a separate section of this report (see Section 4.3). The magnetic material recovered from the heavy residues did not appear to be slag or hammer scale.

- 3.4.5 Sample <3> was taken from fill (1010) which lay above the leather and textile in this pit. The dried flot of this sample was very small and contained a large quantity of fibrous root material. The residue of the dried bulk sample contained a small quantity of microfauna bone. Eight bones of microfauna were found within the sample, of which one was an amphibian vertebra. The other bones were too fragmentary to identify to species. Again, a small quantity of charcoal was present in the residue of this sample, but it was present in insufficient quantity to be submitted for assessment. Following inspection, the magnetic material recovered from the heavy residue did not appear to be slag or hammer scale.

Trench 2

- 3.4.6 Sample <4> was recovered from fill (2007) of undated grave (2009). Again, this flot was small and dominated by fibrous root material. Charcoal was present in insufficient quantities to be submitted for assessment. Moreover, the magnetic residue did not appear to be slag or hammer scale.

SIGNIFICANCE AND POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.4.7 The four samples from this site exhibited a paucity of ecofactual material. This may partly be due to the sandy soil, which often leads to poor preservation of charred plant macrofossils due to the acidity. The dominance of fibrous root material can be indicative of the potential movement of items between contexts and contamination (Pelling et al 2015, 96). No further work is recommended on the dry or wet flots. This assessment and the data that accompanies it may be included in any future publication of this site.
- 3.4.8 The small quantity of microfauna bones, including an amphibian vertebra, were an interesting addition to the undated pit with preserved leather and textile in Trench 1 but they do not contribute very much to understanding the feature. No further work is recommended on the microfauna bones. They have been fully quantified and identified as part of this assessment and, therefore, this assessment and the data that accompanies it may be included in any future publication of this site.
- 3.4.9 The magnetic material recovered from the residue did not consist of slag or hammer scale. It contributes nothing to understanding the contexts it was recovered from.

3.5 Conservation Assessment

Sophie Courtiaud (York Archaeology)





Methodology					
<p>The iron small find (SF3) was X-radiographed using standard YA procedures and equipment. One plate was used, with each plate given a reference number in the YA conservation laboratory series (X10309). The X-ray number was clearly marked on the object's packaging and each image on the radiograph was labelled with its find number. The plates were packaged in archival paper pockets; suitable for long-term storage.</p> <p>All small finds were examined under a binocular microscope at x20 magnification. The material identifications were checked, with observations made about the condition and stability of the finds.</p>					
Treatment Requirements					
<p>Assessment of SF1, SF2, SF3, SF4 X-ray of SF3, Solvent dried treatment of (1005) waterlogged Leather and fibres, Stabilisation of SF1, SF2 and SF4</p>					
Recommended Storage Conditions					
Material	<	RH%	>	Temperature (°C)	Light (lux)
Iron	0		15	stable	300
Leather	50		55	stable	50
Textile	50		55	stable	50
Glass	50		55	stable	50

Object Identification:					
Museum Acc. No	Context No.	SF No.	Materials	Description	X-Ray
-	1005	1	Leather	Humid leather covered in soil	-
-	1005	2	Textile	Humid textiles fragments and fibres covered by soil	-
-	1012	3	Iron	Knife broken in numerous fragments	10309
-	1012	4	Glass	Glass bead covered in soil	-
-	1005	-	Leather and fibres	Waterlogged Leather and Fibres found in waterlogged samples	-

Material	Condition Assessment
Leather	<p>The artefact is confirmed to be a leather fragment. The leather is in fair condition. It appears folded and mostly hardened. One small fragment is detached from the bigger fragment. It is covered in soil, silt and roots. It is stable but slightly humid.</p> <p>Recommendation: Identification by a leather specialist. Store dry.</p>
Textile	<p>The fibres and textile fragments are fairly preserved and have a dark colour. The fibres are of animal origin and the weaving pattern can be observed. The wet soil covers the textile and has dark hue.</p> <p>Recommendation: Identification by a textile and fibre specialist required. Store dry.</p>
Iron	<p>Identified and confirmed as an Iron knife. Encrusted sand, silt and small stones inclusions cover the surface of the object overlying a layer of brown-yellow corrosion product. The artefact is broken into two main fragments and further small fragments. Active corrosion can be observed in the cracks of the biggest fragments. X-ray shows that the metal core is patchy but mostly preserved.</p> <p>Recommendation: Consolidate and Investigate to obtain object identification. Store dry.</p>
Glass	<p>The artefact is confirmed as a glass bead. The artefact has a white and blue pattern made by the mix of two different types of melted glass. It is 20mm long and 10mm width with one centred thread hole. The surface is stable and covered in soil while the hole is filled with soil, silt, small stones and roots. Bone fragments could be observed on one side of the thread hole.</p> <p>Recommendation: Identification of MPO by specialist. Store dry.</p>



Leather and fibres	<p>Waterlogged fibres and leather fragments found during sample processing. The material appears to correspond to the leather and textile mentioned above. They are both mixed with soil and roots. The leather will be solvent dried and the fibres will be air dried.</p> <p>Recommendation: Identification by a leather, textile and fibre specialists required. Store dry.</p>
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Material	Treatment
Leather	<p>The waterlogged leather fragments, found with the waterlogged fibres, were placed in three successive baths made with a solution of 30% and 60% IMS/Water and 100% IMS respectively before being air dried. Its surface was then cleaned with a soft brush and air blower. The loose fibres were placed in an acid free tissue before being placed in a label sealed perforated bag.</p> <p>The leather fragment (SF1) was first air dried before being cleaned with a soft brush and an air blower. The surface was then carefully cleaned with a cotton swab soaked in a solution of 50:50 IMS/RO Water. It was then repacked in a labelled box.</p>
Textile	<p>The textile (SF2) and soil were first air dried, before being lifted from the soil residue mixed with the fragments and mechanically cleaned.</p> <p>Dry cleaning of the surface was carried out with a soft brush for the outer soil layer, the soil on the weaving pattern was removed with a smaller brush, an entomological needle and an air blower under a stereomicroscope. After the removal of the soil, the diverse fragments and loose fibres were laid flat and air dried.</p> <p>The bigger weaved fragments were secured with a conservation grade nylon net and acid free board.</p> <p>The loose fibres were placed in acid free tissue before being placed in a sealed perforated bag. The soil was fully air dried before being placed in another sealed bag if further analysis is needed by specialist.</p> <p>The waterlogged fibres were separated from the waterlogged leather fragments and carefully air dried. The loose fibres were placed in an acid free tissue before being placed in a label sealed perforated bag.</p> <p>The textile is fragmented and some threads are loose. However, the fibres, threads and fragments are stable and do not require consolidation. This will also allow further study of the fibres. Weaving pattern can be clearly observed. The fibres appear similar to the ones found waterlogged with leather fragments.</p>
Glass	<p>The bead's (SF4) thread hole was cleaned mechanically with a porcupine quill, an entomological needle and an air blower. The surface was then cleaned with a cotton swab soaked in a solution of 50:50 IMS/RO water and, when needed, with a cotton swab soaked in a solution of 50:50 IMS/Acetone. The bead was repacked in a labelled sealed perforated bag with an ethafoam® backing and placed in its old box which was also cleaned. The soil and bone fragment removed from the thread hole was placed in another labelled sealed bag.</p>


Photography				
Museum Acc. No	Context No.	SF No.		
			Before	After
-	1005	1		
				

-	1005	2		
				

				
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-	1012	3		<p>No consolidation/treatment requested X-radiography</p> 
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-	1012	4		
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-	1005	-		
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4 DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Discussion of the results – At The Local Level

- 4.1.1 Over the course of this evaluation it has become clear that this site – believed to be associated with Newhouse Castle and subsequently Newsham Abbey – have a more complex history than first considered.
- 4.1.2 Both trenches appear to indicate that the mound itself is of a natural origin, while the addition of the ditch that encircles it may relate to the documented construction of Newhouse Castle. It is important to note here, however, that no artefactual evidence was found which confirms the cutting date and the infilling date of the ditch.
- 4.1.3 The recovery of two Neolithic/Bronze Age scrapers (RFs 5 and 6) and four joining sherds of Neolithic/Bronze Age pottery (H1, a food preparation vessel) during the machine opening of Trench 1 hints at the possible survival of Neolithic/Bronze Age archaeology in close vicinity to the location of Trench 1. Considering that the site occupies what appears to be a sandy/gravelly hillock overlying Till on the edge of a break of slope to the south, and holds a prominent view of land taken in as a sweep from the southeast to the southwest, it would have offered an advantageous position for Neolithic/Bronze Age exploitation.
- 4.1.4 While additional archaeological features were sparse throughout the excavations, the presence of a mid/late 6th century Anglo-Saxon cremation burial in Trench 1, makes it clear that this mound was the site of activity prior to its potential integration into the later castle and/or abbey complex. Additionally, an undated human inhumation burial partially exposed in Trench 2 (left in-situ to maintain preservation) is also most likely of an earlier period.
- 4.1.5 The excavated ditch sections revealed a sharply cut ditch up to 3m wide and over 1.6m deep in places. Although no artefacts were recovered from the ditch fills the plan form of the earthwork suggests a moated site of medieval origin. Two observations can be drawn from the sections. Firstly, considering the soft ground the ditch was cut into the ditch sections show very little signs of erosion and weathering, which suggests it wasn't open for long before being partially backfilled. Secondly the consistency and 'cleanness' (lack of material culture waste) of the fills suggests that the infilling was rapid and took place before the detritus of everyday medieval life could be incorporated into the fill (see Plates 3 and 12). Taking both observations together would suggest that this medieval moat ditch was rapidly partially backfilled not long after it had been cut.
- 4.1.6 The spread of post medieval building material (1009) that was partially sampled from Trench 1 was confirmed to contain bricks no earlier than the 17th century in its composition and may go some way to characterise some of the anomalies identified within the geophysical survey on top of the earthworks. This

assemblage of brick could be associated with the 'Capability Brown' landscaping of this terrain.

- 4.1.7 In contrast with what the geophysical survey had potentially identified, no remains of any upstanding castle structure, or anything superseding it for that matter, were identified. A single block of a faced stone was found and collected from Trench 2 and there was a geologically uncharacteristic presence of chalk across the mound identified within the topsoil layers, however there is not enough evidence to suggest a building was here for any prolonged period of time.

4.2 Discussion of the results – At The Regional Level

- 4.2.1 While direct evidence of a castle at Newhouse remains elusive, the broader historical and archaeological context suggests its importance within a dynamic and competitive landscape. Located near rival sites such as the castles at Barrow upon Humber and Barton upon Humber, Newhouse reflects the ambitions of emergent magnates navigating the socio-political environment of 'the Anarchy' (1135–1154). During this period, castles were as much symbols of power and authority as they were defensive structures, and even the suggestion of fortification could project influence.
- 4.2.2 Barrow upon Humber Castle, established on an Anglo-Saxon manorial site, served as a base for William of Aumale, strategically linking his estates through infrastructure such as ferry crossings on the Humber Estuary and the foundation of Thornton Abbey in 1139. Similarly, Barton upon Humber Castle, situated near St. Peter's Church (which also has Anglo-Saxon origins) and attributed to Gilbert de Gant, emphasises the interplay between secular and ecclesiastical power. Newhouse, whether as a planned or partially completed fortification, integrated itself into this network of regional rivalries.
- 4.2.3 Beyond its potential role as a castle, Newhouse demonstrates a continuity of activity that predates and transcends the mid-twelfth century civil war period. The Anglo-Saxon cremation burial uncovered in Trench 1 and the undated inhumation burial in Trench 2 point to a site of enduring significance. Grave goods, such as the polychrome glass bead and the iron knife, offer rare insights into the prominence of the landscape before Norman occupation, suggesting it was already a focal point for elite investment, power and status.
- 4.2.4 The presence of post-medieval bricks further underscores the site's sustained appeal, reflecting its continued importance. These findings highlight the adaptability of the landscape, which evolved and was modified by its occupants to accommodate these shifting socio-political priorities. Newhouse offers a compelling case study of how landscapes were shaped and reshaped to serve the ambitions of their occupants.

4.2.5 While firm evidence of a completed castle is absent, the site's documented transformation into England's first Premonstratensian monastery in 1143 underscores the opportunities sought by Peter of Goxhill. As an emerging lord, by synthesising religious patronage with territorial governance, Peter elevated his status and integrated himself into a broader network of influence, emulating the strategies of more established lords who were preoccupied by their own struggle for control.

4.3 Contributing To The East Midlands Research Framework

4.3.1 The data and the insights revealed by this project have the potential to contribute to the [East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework](#) High Medieval Research Agenda (1066–1485), Manors and manorial estates, 7.3.1: "*How can the classification of moated and non-moated manorial sites be improved?*" and 7.3.2: "*How did the medieval manor and manorial estates develop from the Anglo-Saxon period, and what was the impact of the Danelaw?*".

4.4 Conclusion

4.4.1 This project set out to investigate the potential site of Newhouse Castle, a potentially short lived 'the Anarchy' period fortification, and revealed a much greater depth of time for the site, covering millennia. The constant here is the landscape itself and what it has offered disparate groups of people separated in time by hundreds, if not thousands, of years. The concluding observation is that this site offers command of an important southwest-northeast gap in the Lincolnshire Wolds that gives access to the rich agricultural interior (towards Brigg) of the territory and the busy maritime seascape of the Humber estuary (towards South Killingholme Haven, now engulfed by Immingham Docks). It would not take a huge leap of faith to imagine that Peter of Goxhill knew this.

4.4.2 Newhouse's significance as a focal point for what could be described as "elite activity" —from its pre-Norman origins to its post-medieval usage—affirms its role in the evolving power dynamics of northern Lincolnshire. These excavations provide '*longue durée*' insights into the interplay of ambition, competition, and opportunity that defined the period known as 'the Anarchy.'

4.5 Recommendations

4.5.1 Given the nature of the information that has been produced by this project, and bearing in mind previous disturbances caused by quarrying and ploughing, it is recommended that the archaeology on this site be protected from further unrecorded damage.

4.5.2 The site has provided tantalising evidence for late Neolithic/early Bronze Age activity within the immediate area and direct evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity.

Non-intrusive, and potentially intrusive, work to attempt to map the extents of this activity would be highly recommended.

- 4.5.3 No direct evidence was produced during this project to conclude that this is the site of Newhouse castle, meaning that additional archaeological investigations would be required to confirm (or otherwise) the details outlined in the discussion above. As such, should the opportunity, or need arise, further archaeological works on the site would be highly recommended.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are accorded to Ryan Prescott and the Castle Studies Trust for their help and co-operation during this project. The Castle Studies Trust funded this project and it is to their credit that projects such as this happen.

Access to the site was granted by the Brocklesby Estate and thanks are accorded to the landowner and estate manager.

The site excavation and recording were undertaken by Bradley Eyre, Stephen Kennedy and Ryan Prescott.

Finds processing and reporting was undertaken by Lisa Wastling and Pamela Cartwright.

External specialist reports were produced by Elina Petersone-Gordina and Malin Holst (York Osteology), Charlotte Lucy Molloy and Kris Poole (York Archaeology - Environmental), and Sophie Courtiaud (York Archaeology - Conservation).

Report text, figures, and plates by Bradley Eyre, with contributions from Peter Connelly and Ryan Prescott.

The report was edited by Ken Smith and Peter Connelly

Administrative support was provided by Georgina Richardson.

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APPENDIX 1 – Context list

Key to Context Type: DEP – deposit; FIL – fill of cut feature; CUT – cut feature; LAY – layer; NAT – natural deposit; SKN – skeleton

Context	Phase	Trench/Area	Context Type	Fill Of	Interpretation
1000		1			Upcast spoil
1001		1	LAY		Mid brown sandy topsoil, abundant rootlets, on average 0.3m thick
1002		1	NAT		Pale brown sandy/gravel natural, internal to ditch
1003		1	FIL	1004	Pale grey/brown silty sand fill of pit
1004		1	CUT		Sub oval shallow pit, l-1.30, W-1.20, D-0.10m
1005		1	DEP	1006	Primary organic black/grey deposit within pit
1006		1	CUT		Ovoid pit, L - 1.55m, W-1m, 0.35m deep
1007		1	FIL	1008	Firm single mid orange/brown natural accumulated fill of western return of square enclosure ditch, no finds
1008		1	CUT		Western and southern return of square enclosure ditch, L-3m, W-1.50m, D- 0.8m
1009		1	DEP		Spread of post-med building rubble, brick and chalk, L-0.75m, W-0.35m
1010		1	FIL	1006	Secondary mid brown/grey silty sand fill of pit
1011		1	NAT		Natural clay substrate external to square enc ditch
1012		1	FIL	1014	Mid brown silty sand secondary natural accumulated fill within cremation pot
1013		1	SKN	1014	Cremated human bone, primary deposit within pot
1014		1	DEP		Cremation pot, complete
2000		2			Upcast spoil
2001		2	LAY		Mid brown sandy topsoil, abundant rootlets, on average 0.3m thick
2002		2	NAT		Yellow/brown clayey sand/gravel natural substrate
2003		2	FIL	2004	Mid grey/ brown silty sand fill of posthole
2004		2	CUT		Circular posthole, Dia - 0.45m, D- 0.15m. Possible palisade feature, internal to enc ditch, 1m
2005		2	FIL	2006	Single orange brown, silty clay, rootlets and natural stones throughout
2006		2	CUT		Square enclosure ditch, eastern N-S return,
2007		2	FIL	2009	Dark brown sandy silt fill of grave
2008		2	SKN		Inhumation of ?juvenile, partially excavated northern edge of trench 2
2009		2	CUT		Grave, L-unknown, W- 0.5m, D-0.65m

APPENDIX 2 – Environmental sample report tables

Table 1: Ecofacts from bulk environmental sample residues from the Newhouse Castle/Newsham Abbey, Brocklesby evaluation Trenches 1 and 2.

Quantification: * = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-150, **** = 151-250, ***** = >250.

Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type and Parent Context	Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Burnt Bone	Weight (g)	Fishbone and Microfauna	Weight (g)
Trench 1: Anglo Saxon urned cremation [1004]											
1	1003	Fill of pit containing urn	10	*	0.8	*	0.4				
5	1012	urn fill	10			*	0.4	**	1.3		
Trench 1: Undated pit [1006]											
3	1010	fill above textile in pit [1006]	10	**	1.8	**	1.3			*	0.5
Trench 1: Undated inhumation grave [2009]											
4	2007	grave fill	10	*	0.1						

Table 2: Artefacts from bulk environmental sample residues from the Newhouse Castle/Newsham Abbey, Brocklesby evaluation Trenches 1 and 2.

Quantification: * = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-150, **** = 151-250, ***** = >250.

Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type and Parent Context	Sample Volume (L)	Magnetic Material	Weight (g)	Other Artefacts (abundance)
Trench 1: Anglo Saxon urned cremation [1004]						
1	1003	Fill of pit containing urn	10	***	3.2	
5	1012	urn fill	10	**	1.2	
Trench 1: Undated pit [1006]						
3	1010	fill above textile in pit [1006]	10	**	1.5	
Trench 1: Undated inhumation grave [2009]						
4	2007	grave fill	10	*	0.3	

Table 3: Assessment of dried flots from bulk samples taken from the Newhouse Castle/Newsham Abbey, Brocklesby evaluation Trenches 1 and 2. Quantification: * = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-150, **** = 151-250, ***** = >250.

Sample Number	Context	Context/ Deposit Type and Parent Context	Sample Volume (L)	Flot Weight (g)	Flot Volume (ml)	Uncharred (%)	Sediment (%)	Modern Roots	Insects, Fly Pupae etc.	Fishbone & Microfauna	Potential	Further work
Trench 1: Anglo Saxon urned cremation [1004]												
1	1003	Fill of pit containing urn	10	10	100	90	5	*****	*		None	No
5	1012	urn fill	10	1.5	5	90	10	*****			None	No
Trench 1: Undated pit [1006]												
3	1010	fill above textile in pit [1006]	10	1.5	5	70	20	*****		*	None	No
Trench 1: Undated inhumation grave [2009]												
4	2007	grave fill	10	<1	<1	100		*****			None	No

Table 4: Assessment of the waterlogged flot from sample <2> of Trench 1, Newhouse Castle/Newsham Abbey, Brocklesby evaluation. Quantification: * = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-150, **** = 151-250, ***** = >250.

Sample Number	Context	Context/ Deposit Type and Parent Context	Sample Volume	Fraction Size	Other Finds	Potential	Further work
Trench 1: Undated pit [1006]							
2	1005	Black deposit around textile	1	>2mm	Mineralised leather fragments and twisted fibres (**)	Some	Leather and textiles analysis

APPENDIX 3 – Archive listing

Archive

Project Details: Archaeological evaluation by trial excavation at the site of Newhouse Castle, Brocklesby Park, Lincolnshire

Site Code: NCB2024

National Grid Reference: TA 12691 13218

Museum Reference or Accession Number: LCNCC:2024.53

Author B Eyre

Date of fieldwork 17th and 21st June 2024

Report Number. Humber Field Archaeology Report Number 2267

Quantity

The digital archive is stored on Hull City Council Servers.

Summary of work.

In June 2024 a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial excavation was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology, working in conjunction with Dr Ryan Prescott, in order to investigate the remaining earthworks at the possible site of Newhouse Castle, Lincolnshire. The work was carried out in order to determine and assess what remained of the castle. This work was grant funded by the Castle Studies Trust.

Following on from a geophysical survey carried out in 2023 two trenches were excavated across the earthworks which, although not finding conclusive evidence that this is the site of the castle constructed during ‘the Anarchy’, have provided evidence for longer use of the site. Over the course of these investigations a small assemblage of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery and flint was recovered from Trench 1; a potted cremation burial of Anglo-Saxon origin was also recovered from Trench 1; intact remains of an inhumation burial were identified in Trench 2 (and left in-situ); sections were excavated through the earthwork ditches; and a small dump of early modern brick was encountered in Trench 1. Additionally, a small assemblage of fragmentary leather and woven fabric were also found within a pit in close proximity to the cremation.

The overall impression revealed by the evaluation was one of a site with a long history of occupation and use in a strategically important part of the northern Lincolnshire landscape.

Index to Archive

Archive component	Hard Copy	Digital Copy	Notes
1.1 Site Summary/ Abstract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
1.2 Archive Index	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
1.3 Guide to Elements of the Archaeological Archive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. Project Planning			
2.1 Planning Documentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.2 Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design/ Project Specification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.3 Risk Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.4 Correspondence (date order)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.5 Miscellaneous documentation (flow charts, bills, receipts, administration, staffing etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Initial Survey and Documentary Research			
3.1 HER Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.2 Historic Maps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3.3 Documentary Research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3.4 Desk-Based Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.5 Geophysical Survey Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3.6 Aerial Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.7 Other Survey material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4 Site Fieldwork Data			
4.1 Site notes and diaries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.2 Context Index and Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4.3 Level Books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.4 Plan Index and Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4.5 Section Index and Section Drawings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
4.6 Survey and Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5 Photographic Record:			
5.1 Photographic Site Record Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.2 Photographic Concordance Table (database printout)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5.3 Contact Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5.4 Negatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.5 Colour Transparencies (slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.6 Prints	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.7 Digital Images (computer printout)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
6 Post-excavation Fieldwork Data:			
6.1 Matrices and Phasing Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.2 AutoCAD Site Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.3 Site Structural Report Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7 Digital Archive			
7.1 Digital Archive Storage Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

7.2 Contents of digital archive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.3 CD / DVDs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.4 Other Discs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.5 Metadata for Digital Record (data about data, e.g. what the codes mean)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8 Material Archive Record			
8.1 Post-excavation Finds Progress Checklist Sheet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.2 Recorded Finds Index and Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.3 Context Finds Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.4 Bulk Finds Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.5 Recorded Finds Assessment Draft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8.6 Recorded Finds Database Copy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8.7 Recorded Finds Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.8 Bulk Finds Assessment Draft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8.9 Bulk finds Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.10 Pottery Database Copy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8.11 Spot Dating Record	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.12 Pottery Assessment Report Draft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8.13 Pottery Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.14 Ceramic Building Materials Assessment Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.15 Industrial Residues Assessment Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.16 Scientific Analysis and Dating Reports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
8.17 Finds Digital Photographs Index	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.18 Finds Digital Images (computer printout)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.19 Box Index	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.20 Material Archive Rationalisation Sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.21 Finds Archive Contents Sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9 Conservation Record			
9.1 Conservation Assessment Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.2 X-rays	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.3 Conservation Record Sheets for Individual Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.4 Further conservation Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10 Biological Material Record			
10.1 Sample Index and Sample Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10.2 Biological Material Data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10.3 Biological Material Assessment Report Draft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10.4 Animal Bone Assessment (if a separate report)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.5 Shell Assessment (if a separate report)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10.6 Human Bone Data	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
10.7 Human Bone Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

11-13 Dissemination			
11. Publicity: Press releases, paper cuttings, recordings of interviews both on the radio and T.V.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Final Assessment Report: The complete Assessment Report. Including illustrations and plates, as sent to the client and Historic Environment Record	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HFA Report 2267
13. Additional Reports: Interim Statements, watching brief report copy, papers and articles written for journals or other publications.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14 Watching Brief Archive			
14. Watching Brief Archive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Publication Archive		<input type="checkbox"/> Did this site proceed to publication after assessment?	

FIGURES

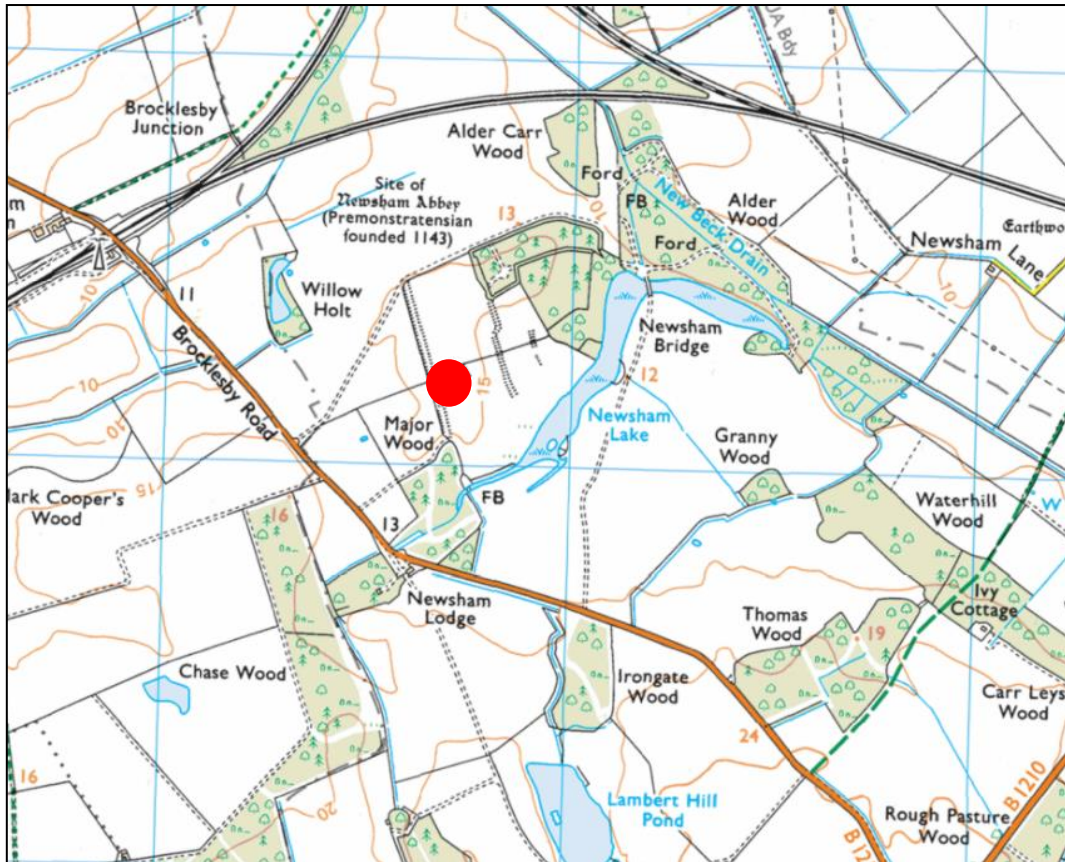


Figure 1: Site location plan (red oval)

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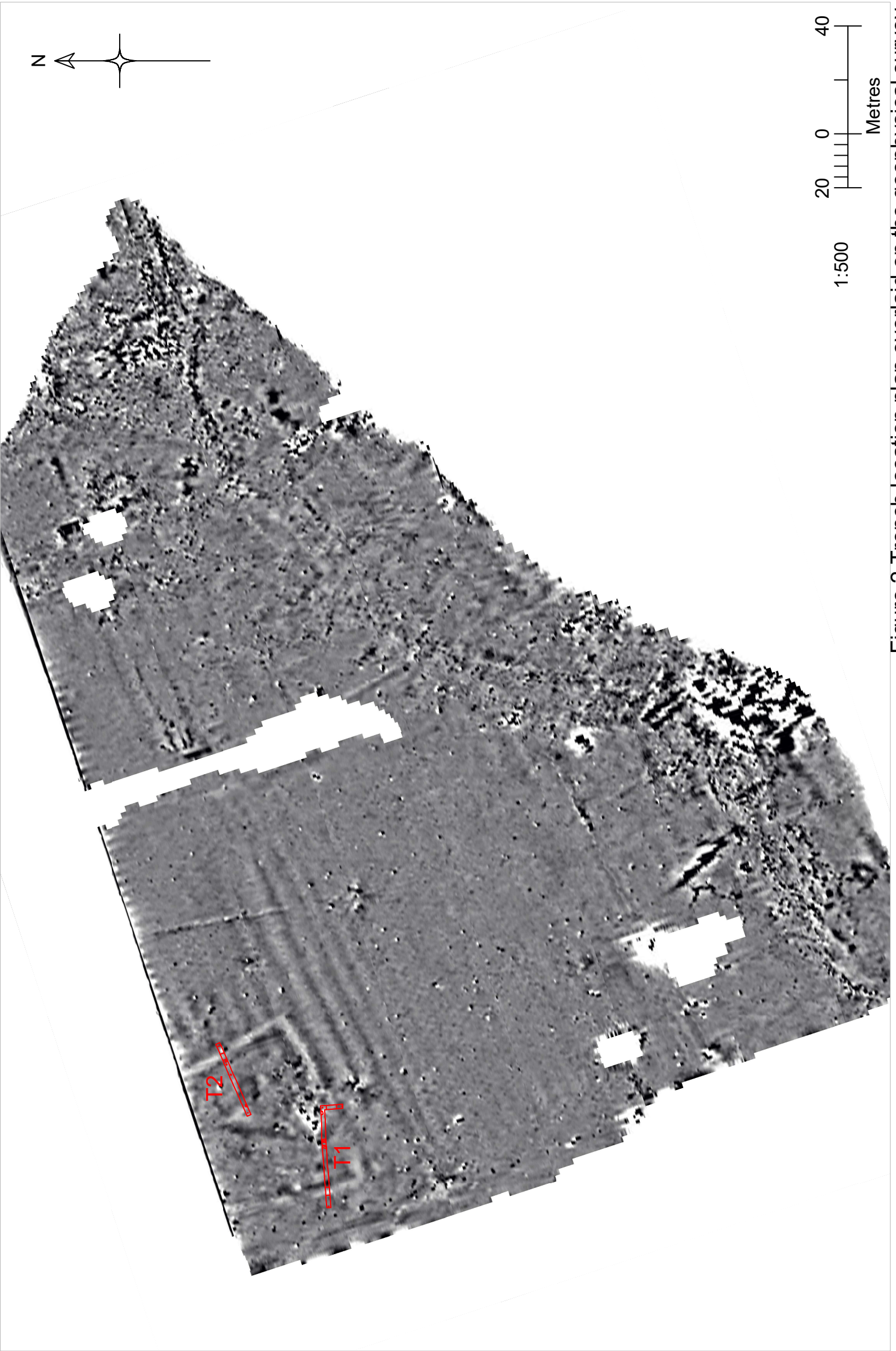


Figure 2 Trench location plan overlaid on the geophysical survey

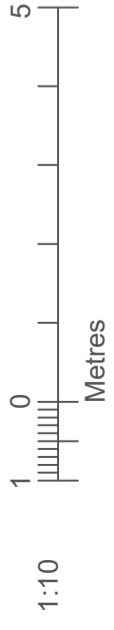
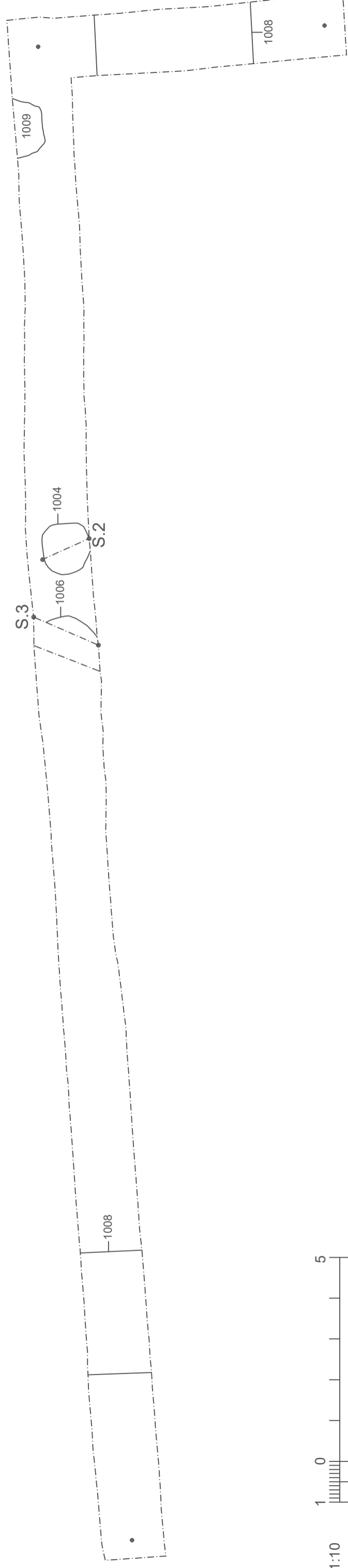
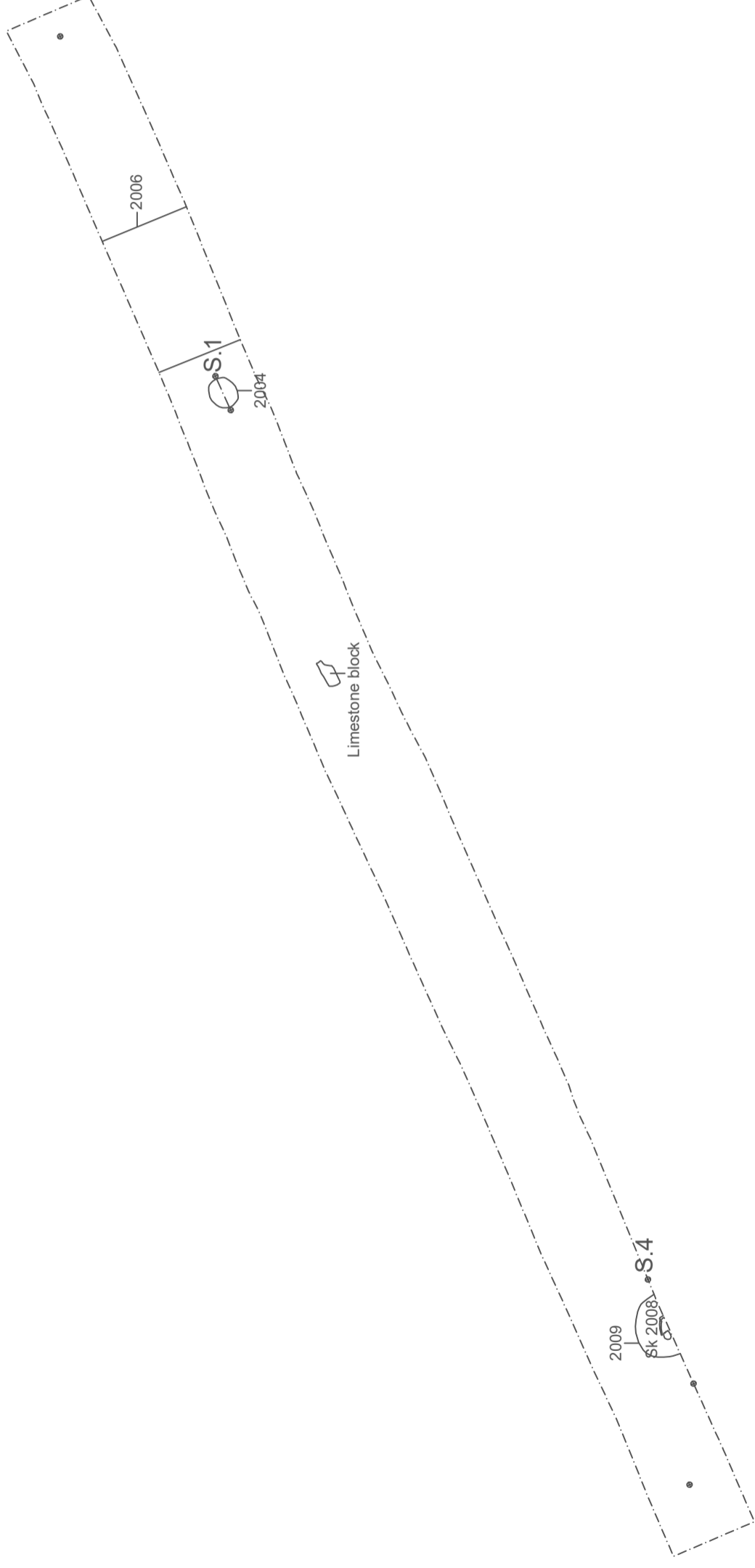
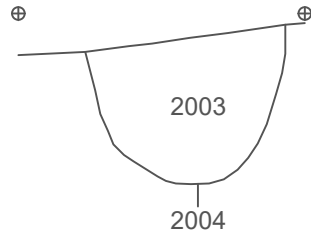
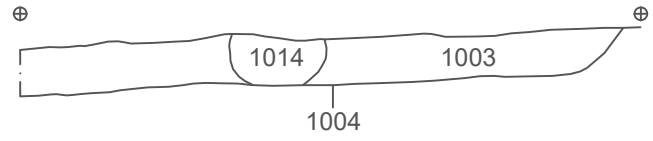


Figure 3 Features in plan (Trench locations not relative to each other)

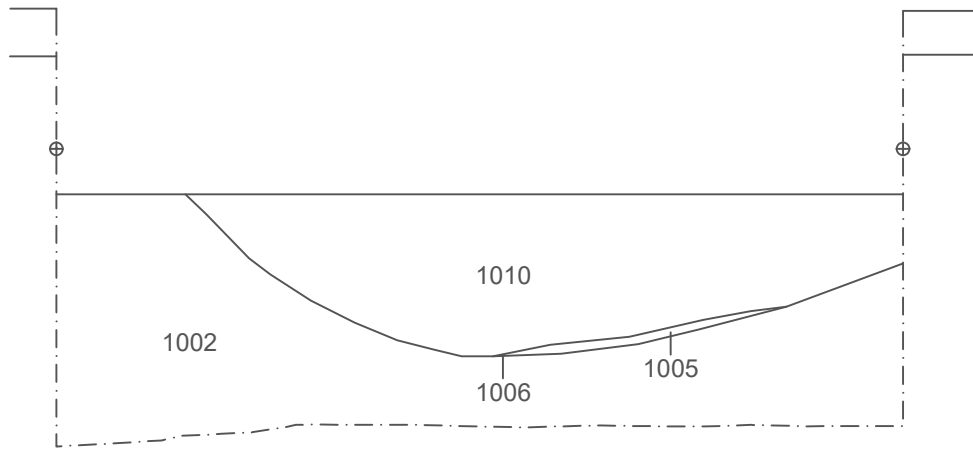
S.1



S.2



S.3



S.4

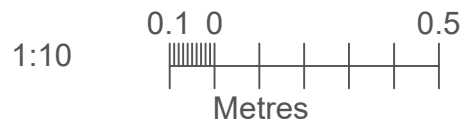
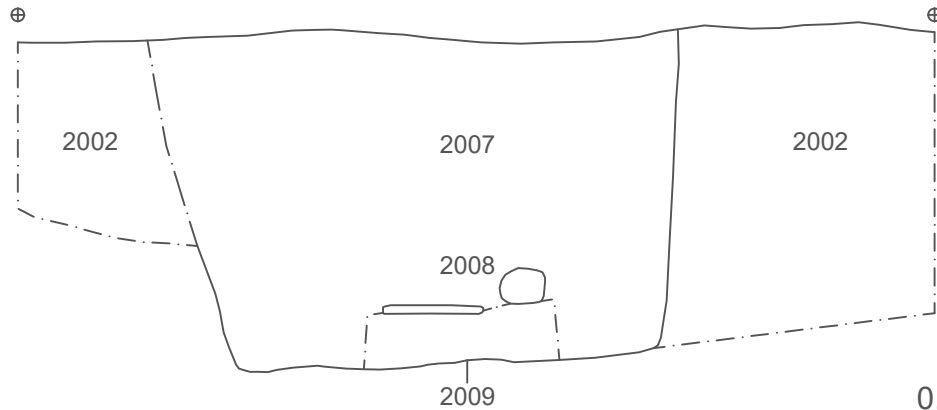


Figure 4 Sections of features

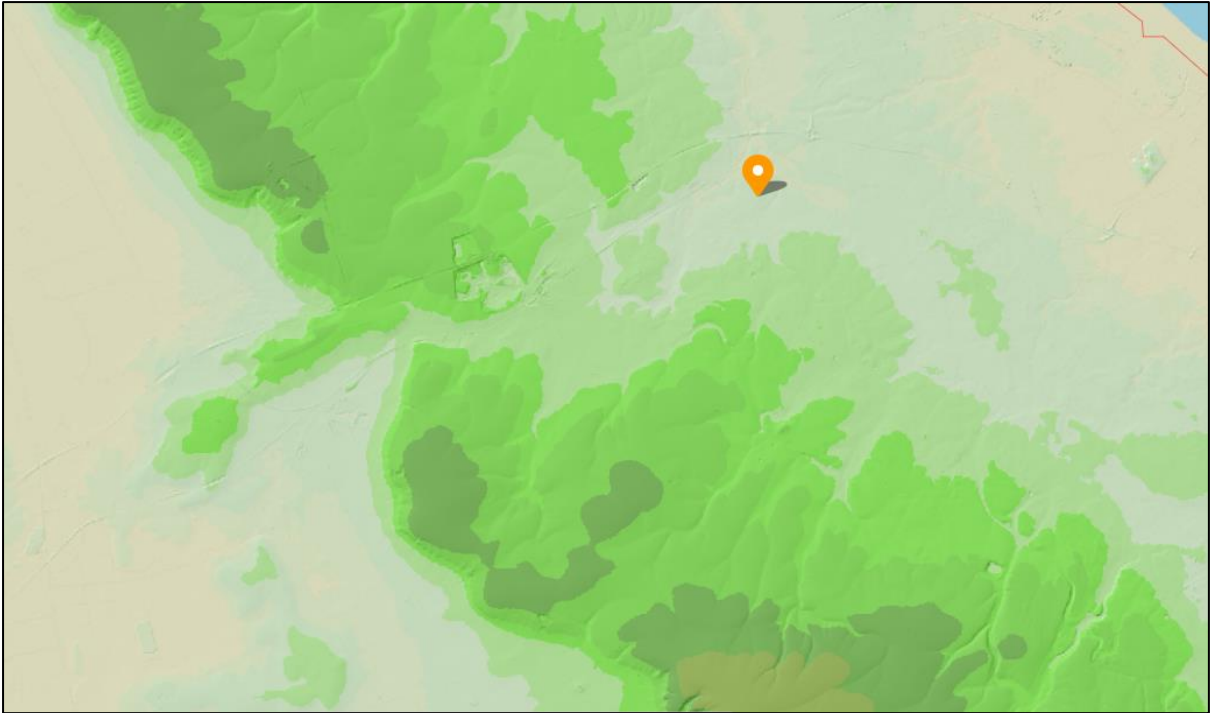


Figure 5: Site Location overlaid onto LiDAR DTM 1m (WMS) mapping (as available on the [Georeferenced Maps viewer - Map images - National Library of Scotland](#) website – accessed 09.12.24) for northern Lincolnshire. This mapping clearly shows the location of the site at the mouth of a SW-NE gap through the Lincolnshire Wolds.



Plate 1 Overview of Trench 1, looking west (1.00m scale).



Plate 2 Overview of Trench 1 extension, looking north (1.00m scale).



Plate 3 Section of ditch (1009) at western end of Trench 1, looking north (1.00m scales).



Plate 4 Overview of post medieval building material deposit (1009), looking east (1.00m scale).



Plate 5 Section through pit (1004) with cremation pot (1014) within the section, looking southwest (1.00m scale).



Plate 6 Profile of intact cremation pot (1014) within pit (1004), looking northwest (0.20m scale).



Plate 7 Overview of leather (RF1) and textile (RF2) within pit (1006) prior to excavation, looking east (1.00m scale).



Plate 8 Detailed view of leather (RF1) and textile (RF2) prior to excavation (0.20m scale).



Plate 9 Sondage through pit (1006) and the underlying natural mound deposits (1002), looking east (0.50m scale).



Plate 10 Overview of Trench 2, looking east (1.00m scale).



Plate 11 Overview of Trench 2, looking west (1.00m scale).



Plate 12 Section through ditch (2006) at the eastern end of Trench 2, looking south (1.00m scale).



Plate 13 Section of posthole (2004), looking south (0.20m scale).



Plate 14 Location of masonry piece within Trench 2, looking north (0.20m scale).



Plate 15 Section of intact skeletal remains (2008) with associated grave cut (2009) and fill (2007), looking south (1.00m scale).



Plate 16 Skull and presumed left humerus of skeleton (2008), looking south (0.50m scale).



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