

Archaeological Investigation of a Cropmark Site at Brompton-by-Sawdon, Scarborough 2023

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Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society
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Scarborough, North Yorkshire
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Summary

This report presents the results of a small evaluation excavation in 2023 of part of a cropmark site to the east of the village of Brompton-by-Sawdon, on the north side of the Vale of Pickering. The excavation consisted of three hand-excavated trenches at the north-west corner of a complex of cropmarks which are the remains of a probable late Iron Age and Roman settlement. The report additionally presents the results from fieldwalking the east side of the cropmark area. The excavation investigated two boundary ditches but found little evidence of any associated features and few finds were recovered. The report concludes by considering what is known about the site and compares it with several other settlements of similar date and form in the immediate area that are known through excavation or have been recorded as cropmarks.



View south over the three fields containing the settlement cropmark. The white vehicle indicates the position of the 2023 excavation in the East Field. Drone photography by Simon Temlett.

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1. Introduction

This report brings together a range of archaeological evidence relating to a cropmark site occupying several fields to the east of the village of Brompton-by-Sawdon (Figure 1). It includes the results of the first evaluation excavation to have taken place at the site which was undertaken by the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society (SAHS) over six days between 30 September and 8 October 2023.

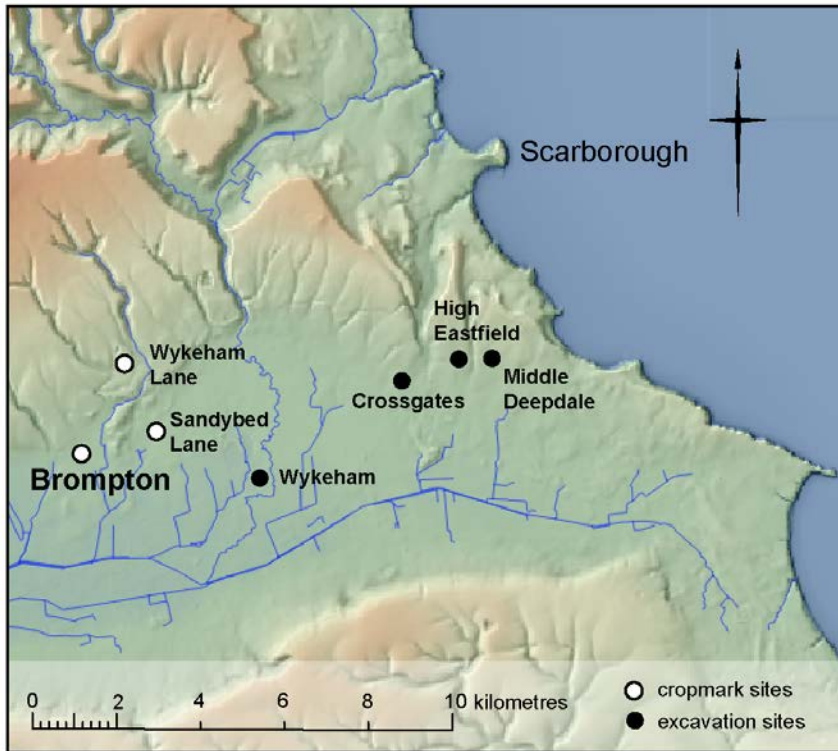


Figure 1.
Location of Brompton and of other sites mentioned in the text.

2. Background

Brompton is situated on the north side of the Vale of Pickering around 10km west of the seaside town of Scarborough. The cropmark complex begins around 300m east of the village and extends across parts of three fields to the south of the A170 road to Scarborough (Figure 2). For clarity of description in this report, the fields are hereafter referred to as West, Middle and East. The cropmarks also extend for a short distance across the road into the field bordering the north side of the A170. The cropmarks constitute the probable remains of a settlement dating to the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods extending across an area of 2.7ha. The site was first recorded by aerial archaeologist Derrick Riley in 1974 and photographed several times subsequently with the evidence brought together in a report by English Heritage as part of the North York Moors National Mapping and Assessment Project (Knight 2011). This concluded that the site comprises elements of an Iron Age settlement and a group of Roman stone buildings arranged either side of a north-south trackway defined by ditches. Other features, including a large sub-circular enclosure, may indicate Bronze Age activity on the same site. The site occupies a gentle south facing slope at an elevation of between 37m and 30m above sea level. The part of the site within the East Field and eastern side of the Middle Field are on glacial sands and gravel while the remainder, including the excavation area, sits directly over limestone bedrock (Geological Survey 1998).

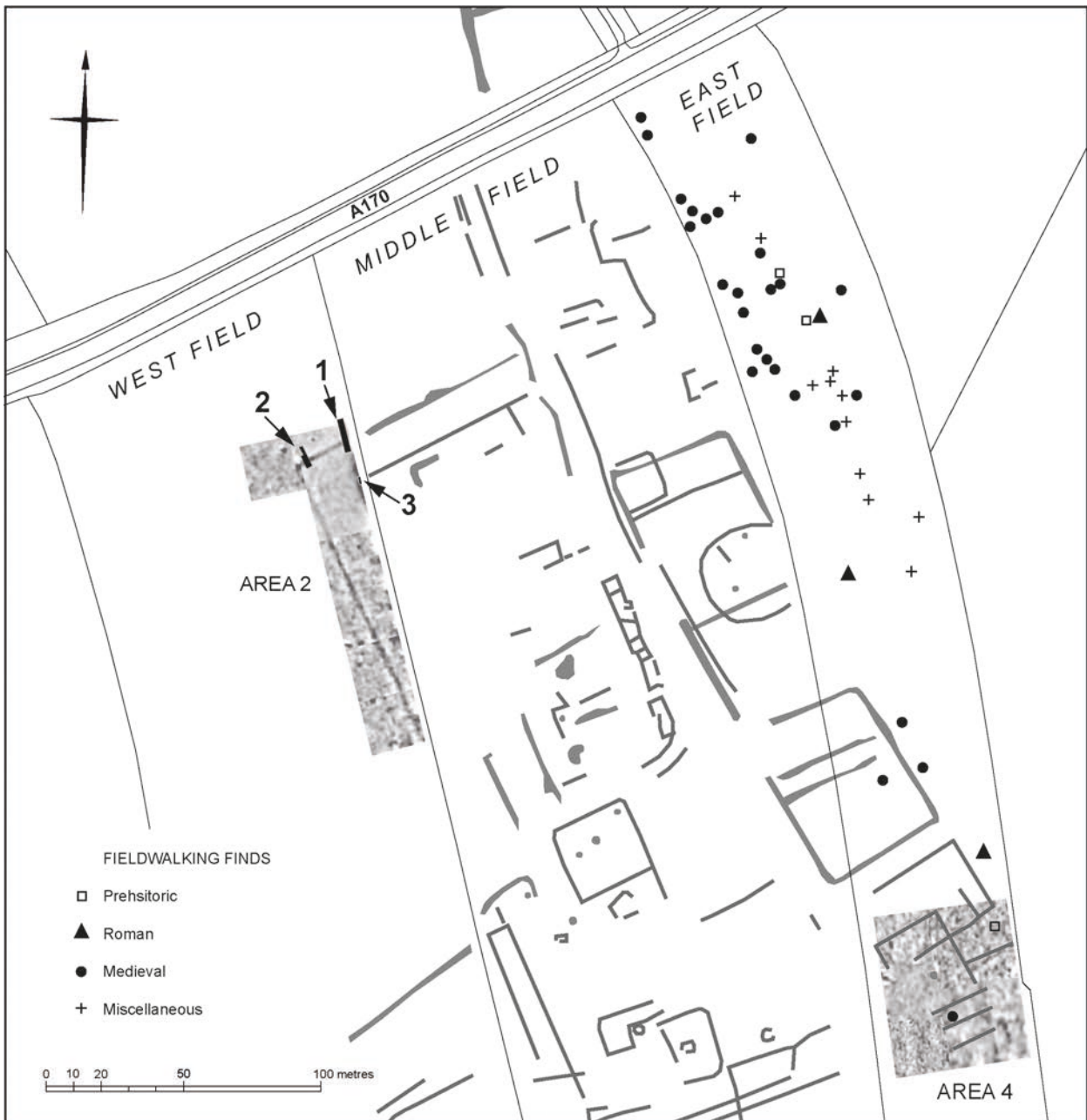


Figure 2. Map showing the cropmark complex as digitised from Google Earth imagery dated July 2018 along with the location of the 2022 geophysical survey Areas 2 and 4, the location of the 2023 excavation Trenches 1-3 and the findspots of the catalogued finds from fieldwalking of the East Field.

The settlement forms one component of a complex late Iron Age and Roman landscape gradually being revealed by aerial survey and developer-led excavations along the north side of the Vale of Pickering. Groups of small rectilinear enclosures associated with trackways and areas of larger fields are quite common as cropmarks indicating that at these periods the landscape was dominated by a pattern of small agricultural settlements with the nearest large centre of population on the south side of the Vale at Malton. In the late Roman period several of the farmsteads grew in wealth and status to become villas.

The three fields fall within an area named Eastanby on various editions of Ordnance Survey mapping up to the present day, beginning with the first edition of the 1:10560 scale map (six inches to the mile) surveyed in 1850 (Ordnance Survey 1854). There is no medieval reference to Eastanby though several individuals with the surname 'Estiby' and 'Esteby' appear in the lay subsidy returns for Snainton (the next village to the west of Brompton) in 1301 and 1334 (Brown 1897, 57; Turton 1897, 157). The adoption by these individuals of a locative surname may be evidence that medieval settlement occurred somewhere in the Eastanby area and so in the vicinity of the cropmark site. The 'by' element of the name associates Eastanby with the period of Scandinavian settlement of Yorkshire in the 9th-11th century. More generally, the area to the east of Brompton formed part of the open field ploughland of the medieval village characterised by long and slightly curved blocks (furlongs) of ridge and furrow. The former presence of ridge and furrow in this area is indicated by the slightly curved alignment of the existing field boundaries where they perpetuate the alignment of medieval plough ridges. Areas of ridge and furrow adopting this alignment survive as earthworks further west towards Brompton and were also recorded at the cropmark site (Knight 2011, 3). Ploughing may also account for the fact that in the area of the excavation, the ground is 0.4-0.6m higher on the West Field side of the boundary compared to on the Middle Field side.

In recent years the reporting of artefacts to the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) has greatly extended understanding of the site. As well as metal artefacts, the surface finds recorded include Roman roof tile, flue tile and tesserae, painted wall plaster and quantities of shell and animal bone. The dateable finds are dominated by those of the Roman period while the range of finds of this period point to a site of some status. It is also evident from the amount of material recorded, including over 1500 individual pieces of tesserae and surface spreads of ceramic building material that archaeological elements are present within and below the plough soil. It is notable that a significant number of tesserae appear to have been in the plough soil for a long time since there is no mortar attached to these pieces, nor do they conjoin (Siddle *pers. comm.*). The greatest concentration of finds is in the Middle Field coinciding with the main complex of cropmarks.

For the past decade the Society has been undertaking archaeological research focussed on Brompton. To date this has resulted in the identification of a major medieval manorial complex on the east side of the village at Castle Hill through a programme of excavation and survey undertaken between 2014 and 2021. In July 2023, the work in the village was taken forward by the start of a campaign of test-pit excavations in gardens, with the aim of identifying different periods of occupation through the recovery of pottery and other dateable artefacts.

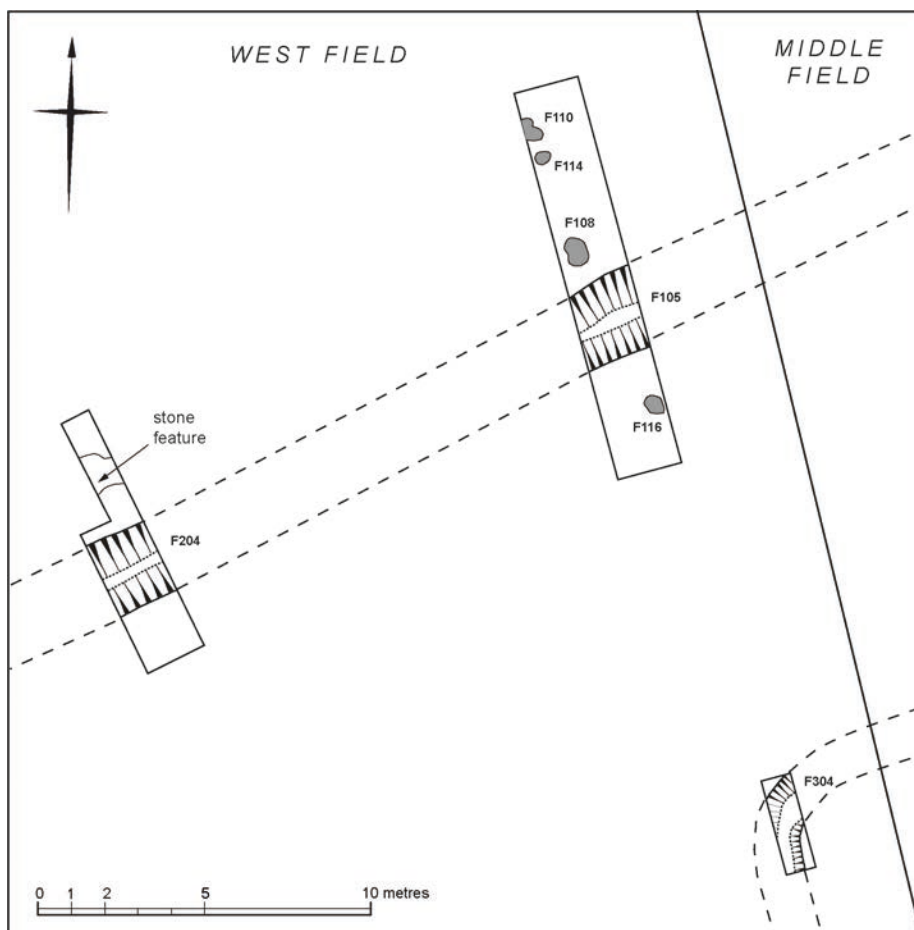
Fieldwork Results

While the cropmark site is some distance outside Brompton, it is recognisably a significant element of the pre-medieval landscape and therefore key to understanding the settlement pattern of the area before the growth of the village. The Society therefore developed plans to investigate the site beginning with geophysical survey in the summer of 2022. This investigated four areas, of which two were within the cropmark complex. Growing crops prevented access to the Middle Field so Area 2 was surveyed in the East Field and Area 4 in the West Field (Figure 2). The dry ground conditions at the time of the survey favoured the use of magnetometry. This technique clearly defined the position of a linear feature showing as a cropmark in Area 2 and more minor features in Area 4 not previously noted (Normandale 2022). The geophysical survey was followed in autumn 2023 by the exploratory excavation and half-day fieldwalking survey reported on here.

3. The Excavation

The objectives for the excavation outlined in the project design were:

- establish the character and level of preservation of buried archaeological features.
- obtain dating evidence from in-situ archaeological contexts to compare with the date range indicated by the surface finds.
- provide information as to the status of the site to set alongside the evidence indicated by the surface finds

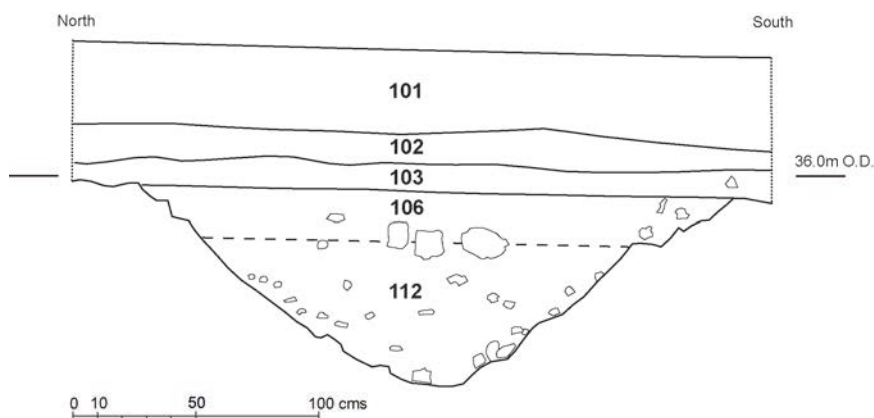


*Figure 3.
Plan showing the
location of the
excavation trenches and
associated features.*

Cultivation requirements meant that the Middle Field with the greatest concentration of cropmarks was unavailable in the autumn period proposed for the excavation, restricting the investigation to the East and West Fields. The excavation took place towards the north end of the West Field and involved opening two trenches across an east-west linear feature recorded as a cropmark in 2011 (Knight 2011, Figure 3 Feature G) and by the geophysical survey in 2022. The feature is at the north-west corner of the settlement where it may have formed the outer boundary of the site. A third trench was opened across a second, parallel boundary 9.5m to the south (Figure 3). The feature is not visible as a cropmark or on the geophysical survey in the West Field but its alignment could be confidently projected from the plot of its position in the Middle Field. A catalogue of finds of particular note from the excavation (special finds) is to be found in Appendix 1.

3.1 Trench One (Figures 4, 5 and 6)

Trench One measured 12m x 2m and was orientated north-south, parallel to, and 4m from, the east boundary of the field (Figure 3). The trench was one of two positioned to intersect the outer boundary mentioned above. The feature (F105) proved to be a ditch with a maximum width at the top of 2.5m and depth of 0.8m cut into natural limestone rock. It was filled with a friable dark, reddish-brown sandy soil with occasional angular stones and several small boulders towards the base. Although a single deposit, the lower part of the fill was numbered layer 112 while the uppermost 0.2m was numbered layer 106. The only find was a single piece of a Roman tegula roof tile towards the base of the ditch in layer 112 (Special Find no. 6).



*Figure 4 (top).
Vertical view of Trench One on completion of the excavation.
North is to the left.
Photography by Gareth Davies.*

*Figure 5 (bottom).
West-facing section of F105 in Trench One.*



Figures 6.
West-facing section of F105 in Trench One.

The uniform nature of the fill suggested the ditch had been kept clean and then rapidly backfilled. It is possible that this material came from levelling an adjacent bank which may also explain the origin of the stones and small boulders towards the base of the ditch.

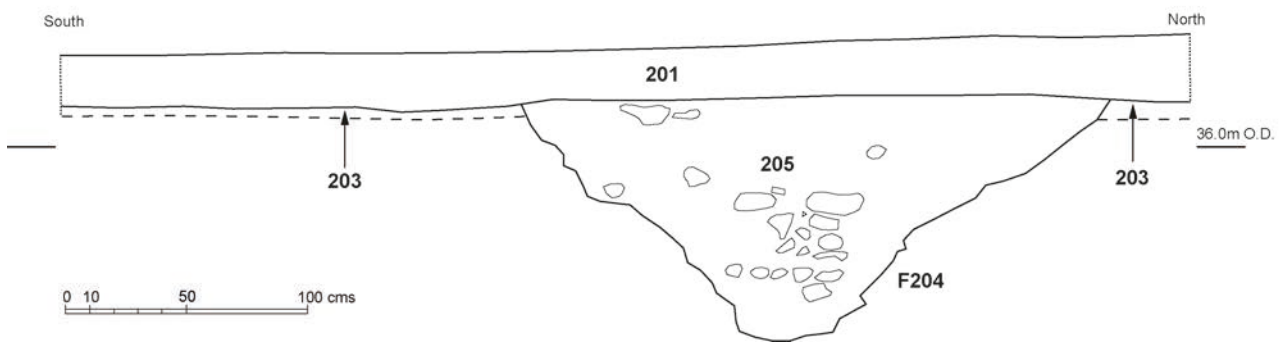
The upper part of the natural bedrock exposed to the north and south of the ditch was broken and fractured by weathering giving an uneven top surface with many loose angular stones. Four small sub-circular features were noted apparently cutting this surface, each around 0.3-0.4m deep. Of these, postholes F108, F110 and F114 were on the north of ditch F105, and posthole F116 was to the south. They resembled the bottoms of shallow postholes but equally could be entirely natural features resulting from the weathering of the bedrock. However, the features are on the same north-south alignment at right angles to F105 so may indicate the position of a fence. This would have crossed the line of the ditch, however the chronological relationship between the fence and the ditch is uncertain. The character of the bedrock surface made it impossible to determine if a kerb of four or five small boulders along the north edge of F105 had been deliberately laid (perhaps as the inner edge of the putative levelled bank) or was entirely natural. The ditch and bedrock lay below a subsoil layer of orange/brown clayey soil excavated in two 10cm deep spits (layers 102 and 103) itself overlain by a mid-brown top soil up to 0.35m thick.

3.2 Trench Two (Figures 7, 8 and 9)

Trench Two was excavated 14m to the west of Trench One in order to intersect the continuation to the west of the boundary ditch. The trench was orientated north-south measuring 8m x 1m initially but was widened to 2m where it intersected with the continuation of the boundary ditch. The ditch (F204) had a maximum depth of 1m and width at the top of 2.2m and was cut into bedrock. The sides were angled slightly more steeply than in Trench One while the ditch had the same uniform fill of reddish-brown sandy soil with occasional angular stones (layer 205). This deposit contained a single flint flake (Special Find no. 9) and small quantities of animal bone. On the north side of the ditch, the naturally-weathered surface of broken rock included several patches of tightly packed small stones (Figure 7). These could be natural given the broken nature of the upper part of the bedrock, but if deliberately laid, the stone patches may represent the damaged remains of a cobble floor or yard surface on the north side of the boundary ditch.



Figure 7. Vertical view of Trench Two on completion of the excavation. North is to the left.



Figures 8 (top) and 9 (bottom). East-facing section of F204 in Trench Two.

The ditch and natural bedrock were overlain by an orange/brown clayey soil excavated in two levels (layers 202 and 203). The overlying dark grey topsoil was notably thinner than in Trench One with a maximum thickness of 0.25m. The difference in thickness is a consequence of differential depths of ploughing, perhaps a relic of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation.

3.3 Trench Three (Figures 10 and 11)

Trench Three was positioned 9.5m to the south of Trench One in order to intersect a second east-west boundary visible as a cropmark in the Middle Field up to the boundary with the West Field, so as close as 4m from this trench. Trench Three was aligned north-south measuring 3m long by 1m wide. The excavation established that the east-west feature continued from the Middle Field into the West Field and was a flat-bottomed ditch. It survives to a maximum depth of 0.6m cut into the natural bedrock with a width of about 1.4m. The trench was positioned over the point where the east-west ditch turned to the south.

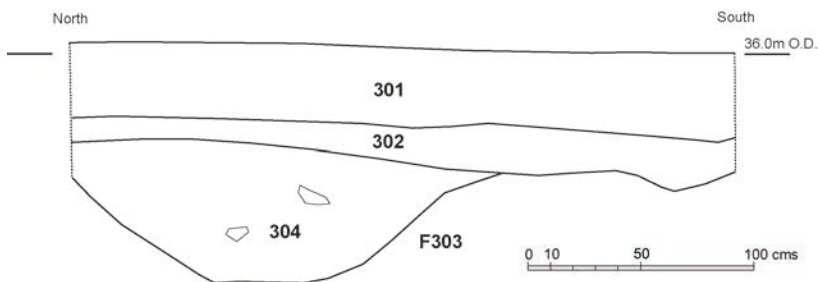


Figure 10.
West-facing section of F303 in
Trench Three.

The fill was a uniform, and quite friable, grey-brown sandy soil containing occasional stone fragments, suggesting the ditch had been kept clean up until the point it had been rapidly backfilled. One small pottery fragment in a hard, grey fabric that is probably Roman in date was recovered from adjacent to the ditch and a second sherd of unknown type from the fill (respectively Special Finds nos. 7 and 8). The ditch corner in Trench Three is a further component of the settlement but its chronological relationship to the boundary to the north is uncertain.

The natural rock exhibited the same broken and pitted upper surface as in the other two trenches. The ditch and bedrock were overlain by a mid-brown coloured subsoil up to 0.2m thick (layer 302) covered by a mid-brown topsoil up to 0.3m thick (layer 301).



Figure 11.
View of the corner of ditch F303
in Trench Three looking south.

4. The Fieldwalking Survey

A fieldwalking survey was undertaken in order to determine the presence and dating (if possible) of material from the plough-soil of the East Field, known locally as Long Field. The aim of the exercise was to see if collected artefacts were representative of known cropmarks in the local landscape and if the unstratified surface material collected at a basic level could add to further understanding of activity in the area.

The survey area was divided from north to south into four zones of approximately 100m in length by 56m in width. The survey zone closest to the main road was named A, with B, C and D following this in logical order. The weather conditions were dry and slightly overcast and the field was in stubble (Siddle 2023).

Each zone was surveyed by a small team spending one hour in each zone, systematically walking evenly spaced lines collecting any evident anthropogenic material. It is acknowledged that the sample of material recovered is biased for a number of reasons such as experience of the field-walker and condition of the field surface. A training evening was provided prior to the fieldwalk to provide familiarisation of locally found pottery and ceramic building material to help partly counter this bias.

The survey team were asked to 'bag and tag' any material they considered special finds (i.e. finds that were particularly interesting or could be used to aid dating). These find spots were marked with a flag and the positions recorded with a Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) to an accuracy of 1-2cm (Figure 2 and Appendix 1).

A non-structured metal detecting survey was undertaken in zone A during the fieldwalking activity.

4.1 Zone A

Within Zone A, a total of 127 items were recovered from the field's surface. The most abundant material collected was of post-medieval to modern date accounting for 64 of the finds. The post-medieval and modern finds were mainly pottery sherds, brick & field-drain fragments with the addition of three broken clay pipe fragments and a vulcanite Scarborough & Whitby Brewery bottle stopper dating to post 1897. No material of clearly defined Iron Age, Roman or early-medieval date was collected by the fieldwalking team in this zone. A significant amount of medieval pottery was however encountered, featuring examples such as a green glaze and sandy wares dating between 1066-1500.

Four flint debitage flakes were recovered from Zone A. None showed signs of re-touch working or modification into tools. Both conchoidal fractures and bulbs of percussion are evident on the flakes. Due to their ubiquitous nature dating is extremely difficult and could range from the Mesolithic to Bronze age.

4.2 Zone B

Within Zone B, a total of 147 items were recovered by the fieldwalking team. The majority of pottery sherds recovered date to the medieval period, totalling 47 items. Eight of the sherds contain green glaze, one of which clearly being reduced green-ware of c.13th to 14th century date.

A fruitful amount (65 items) of post-medieval to modern pottery along with other modern material such as four metal items including a horse shoe and a handmade nail as well as four clay pipe fragments were collected. Interestingly two sherds of Roman pottery were found, one of which being a standard greyware pottery of 1st to 4th century date along with a small fragment of decorated Samian ware of 1st to mid-3rd century date.

4.3 Zone C

Within Zone C, a total of 72 items were recovered. Post-medieval and modern pottery along with other modern material such as brick and drain fragments, glass and artefacts accounted for 34 of the items recovered. Four flint debitage flakes were recovered; none has signs of re-touch working or modification into tools. However, one flake has a clear bulb of percussion and strike platform. As with the flint debitage found in Zone A, due to their ubiquitous nature dating is extremely difficult and could range from the Mesolithic to Bronze age. A total of 14 medieval pottery sherds were collected which was significantly less than in Zones A and B.

4.4 Zone D

Nearly half of all items collected in Zone D were undated ceramic building material. It must be noted however, that some of these are very small fragments compared to what was collected in other zones. Only nine sherds of medieval pottery and five sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery were found in this zone.

4.5 Special Finds

A total of 45 special find spots location were recorded by the DGPS, however a couple of the find bags contained more than one special find, so in total 56 items were collected. The table (Appendix One) provides further details on the special finds giving an indication of what period they are likely to be from, their weight and what the item/items are, if known.

When material from all four zones and the special finds are combined, the most abundant single type of material recovered is medieval pottery sherds, with 137 items. There was very little clearly identifiable Roman material recovered, however a single tegula fragment and a single imbrex tile fragment were found. It is also possible that some of the material within the undated ceramic building material may be of Roman date, but it is not possible to clearly identify any obvious characteristics of the fragments.

Thirteen flint flakes some being just debitage, but others showing working into tools were recovered, which is a higher amount than was expected. That said, this type of find is known to have been found previously in the local landscape.

4.6 Summary and conclusion

The collection of fieldwalking material from the survey of the East Field has proved to be quite bountiful, with several hundred items recovered. The most common pottery type amassed was of medieval date, which probably correlates to secondary deposition of material through manuring practices. The fields current shape has a distinct curve in it, which is likely to have been formed by medieval ploughing activity turning the plough at the end of the ridge. It is to be noted, that within

some aerial photography shots, it is possible to identify medieval ridge and furrow in the crop marks.

It is also highly likely that the post-medieval and modern material recovered from the field was also the product of secondary deposition, with some material being from manuring and others from 'night soil.' The presence of modern field drain fragments is likely the outcome of activity undertaken in the 19th and 20th century to better drain the local landscape. Many of these older field drains have been damaged over time by modern deep ploughing activity.

It is notable that the amount of finds recovered reduces the further away from the main road you get, towards the centre of the field.

A sizeable number of prehistoric flint debitage and worked tools were recovered including special find number 40, which is likely to be small scraper tool of Mesolithic to Neolithic date, demonstrating that the local landscape was used in pre-history.

Given the known crop marks in the field and local area a surprisingly small amount of Roman material was recovered. This said three to four of the five Roman items found are indicative of high status Roman activity, including Roman roof tile in the form of Imbrex & Tegula and a fragment of decorated Roman Samian-ware pottery.

No material of Iron Age or early-medieval date was recovered from the survey of the field, this does not mean its not there, but only that we have not found any evidence as yet to support activity occurring in, or within this field in these periods.

The report and analysis would benefit greatly from additional identification work undertaken by a specialist on medieval pottery in the North Yorkshire region. If the medieval pottery could be classified into ware types more defined dating could be achieved. Additional data on where pottery was being supplied from and then used in local area would be revealed and realised.

Should a fieldwalking survey be undertaken in this area again it is recommended that additional training and instruction is provided to field-walkers on what material is to be classed as special finds. Given the amount of finds recovered it is not impossible but probably more impractical to DGPS every find found, it may be more practical to split the field in to smaller survey areas to aid analysis and the production of 'heat' maps to show where there are particularly dense concentrations of material.

5. Summary and discussion

The primary aim of the excavation was to investigate the level of archaeological preservation in the area investigated. The excavation results strongly indicate that preservation of archaeological remains across the north-west corner of the cropmark complex is likely to be restricted to features cut into the natural bedrock. The overlying subsoil and topsoil may offer a degree of protection to upstanding features such as wall foundations or archaeological deposits elsewhere on the site but in the area investigated, the subsoil was directly above the bedrock. Such is the fragmented and pitted nature of the bedrock, shallow cut features are difficult to define with any confidence. The line of postholes identified in Trench One and the area of laid stones in Trench Two may have an entirely natural origin.

The aims of establishing the date range and status of the site were not met due to the limited range of archaeological features encountered and the paucity of finds. The work did confirm that the cropmark features are fairly substantial ditches as also suggested by the positive responses recorded during the 2022 magnetometer survey. The lack of finds and uniformity of the fill suggests both ditches were kept clean of silt and refuse up until the point they were deliberately backfilled, indicating that some effort was expended to maintain them as visible boundaries. The cropmark evidence, and the turn of the ditch in Trench Three, indicate that the boundaries defined the north-west corner of the settlement.

The fieldwalking survey in the East Field recovered a high proportion of medieval pottery, particularly towards the north end of the field, near to the main road. It is likely that the concentration is due to the practice of dumping refuse on to the fields in the medieval period in an effort to improve soil fertility. The location towards the north end of the field implies that access to the area was primarily from the north along the forerunner of the present A170, with the refuse being unloaded on the ground closest to this route purely out of expediency. Alternatively, the pottery finds may indicate that the putative medieval settlement of Eastanby was somewhere in this area. The paucity of Roman finds from the fieldwalking reinforces the excavation evidence that the areas of the present East and West Fields were on the periphery of the main area of occupation, represented by the cropmarks in the Middle Field.

While the recent fieldwork has not added greatly to understanding of the site, it is an opportunity to briefly review the range of evidence and to consider the wider associations of the settlement. A number of open-area excavations of settlements and enclosure systems have taken place in recent years in the vale to the south of Scarborough which are broadly comparable to the Brompton site. Of particular relevance are:

- Three phases of excavation at Crab Lane, Crossgates in the 1990s and early 2000s (MAP 1999; 2001).

- Evaluation excavations ahead of an extension to sand and gravel quarrying at Wykeham in 2009 (MAP 2009).
- Two open area excavations at High Eastfield and Middle Deepdale beginning with evaluation trenches in 2009 and the subsequent discovery of a high-status Roman building complex in 2021 (Ware 2021).

In addition, several cropmark sites broadly comparable to the Brompton settlement have been recorded in the vicinity of Brompton as part of the North York Moors National Mapping and Assessment Project (Knight *et. al.* 2011).

It is evident from the cropmarks that the site belongs to a broad category of late Iron Age and Roman linear settlement characterised by a number of small enclosures arranged either side of a track. Mostly identified through aerial survey, well over a hundred have been recorded on the Yorkshire Wolds (Stoertz 1997, 52-3), while several examples have been plotted to the east of Brompton on the north side of the Vale. At many of these sites the central track can often be traced well beyond the confines of the settlement. For example, at the Wykeham Lane cropmark site 2km to the north-east of Brompton, the track is traceable north beyond the enclosure complex for 1.5km and quite plausibly functioned as a droveway leading to grazing on higher ground (Knight *et. al.* 2011 fig 10). The cropmark site at Sandybed Lane, Hutton Buscel, 2km to the east of Brompton, was plausibly a livestock corral where five droveway converged (ibid). The cropmark of the north-south track through the centre of the Brompton settlement is not traceable for any great distance. On the south it may have continued for 300m to meet an east-west route that is in part perpetuated by the present-day Acres Lane. The lane forms the south boundary of the three fields containing the cropmarks and is on broadly the same alignment as an east-west track visible for 1.2km as a cropmark to the west of Brompton village (Figure 12). These two elements may have formed part of a much longer east-west route dating to the Roman period or earlier passing along the north side of the vale. The route perhaps functioned as both a droveway and a track linking settlements together, essentially a precursor to the modern A170.

Excavation has shown that individual enclosures within linear settlements of this period had a variety of uses. The linear settlement at Middle Deepdale towards the east end of the vale was extensively excavated in the 2010s ahead of a housing development. Here, the Roman period enclosures were variously used for rubbish disposal, for settlement and to hold livestock. The boundary ditches were regularly cleaned, as also appears to have occurred at Brompton, and eventually backfilled with domestic refuse. In contrast, at Brompton the homogenous nature of the fill, along with the concentration of stones and small boulders in F105, suggests the material infilling the northern of the two ditches may have come from an adjacent bank. Presumably this would have been an internal bank, so on the south side of the ditch.

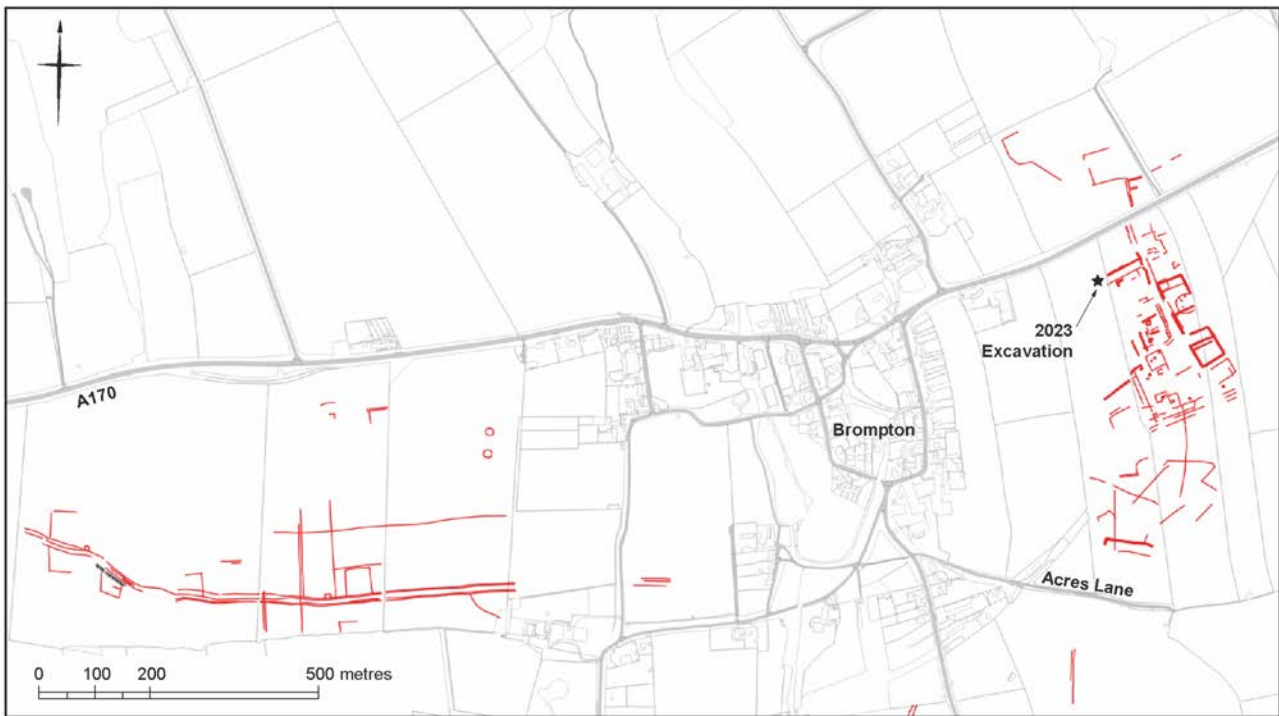


Figure 12. Cropmarks of the east-west track at Brompton in relation to Acres Lane with the cropmarks of the settlement to its north. Digitised from Google Earth imagery dated July 2018 supplemented by drone photography taken by Simon Temlett.

The excavated settlements mentioned above appear to begin in the late Iron Age and to have continued without obvious breaks in occupation into the Roman period. Based on the evidence of the published summary reports, the sites appear to have broadly evolved in one of three ways:

- (1) They did not continue in use beyond the 2nd century AD (as evidenced at Phase Three excavations at Crab Lane, Crossgates and at Wykeham)
- (2) They continued in use as agricultural settlements into the 3rd and 4th century (as evidenced at High Deepdale and Phase Two excavations at Crab Lane, Crossgates).
- (3) They increased in status to become villa sites in the late Roman period (as seen at Beadlam, near Helmsley (Neal 1996) and High Eastfield)

Without extensive excavation it is impossible to be certain of the development sequence at Brompton. Based on current evidence, it appears likely that the site evolved to become a high-status complex, if not attaining the size and architectural embellishments of the villas at Beadlam and High Eastfield. Analysis of the cropmarks identified two probable ranges of stone buildings at Brompton, one with perhaps as many as six rooms aligned parallel to the central trackway and the second at right angles (Knight 2011, 5). Surface finds of flue tiles, roof tiles, painted wall plaster and tesserae suggest the interior of some rooms must have been lavishly appointed. As at Beadlam and High Eastfield, the coin evidence suggests occupation continued into the late Roman period with an abrupt termination at Brompton at the end of the House of Valentinian (AD 378). Intriguingly, there is a complete lack of coinage evidence for a 34 year period at Brompton between AD 296-330. This does not follow coin-loss means recorded by the PAS, or Reece's 'British mean'

but matches the very small number (6 out of 331 coins) lost in this period at Beadlam. At Beadlam, however, there is a resurgence of coin loss during the rule of Theodosian II which does occur at Brompton (Siddle *pers. comm.*). The origin of the Brompton settlement is less securely dated. In common with the other sites discussed above, it is plausible that the settlement began as a series of late Iron Age enclosures, though no finds from this period have been reported.

The quantity and range of Roman surface finds recovered from the Brompton site appears to be exceptional when compared to the other sites discussed above. For example, fieldwalking across the late Iron Age and early Roman settlements at Wykeham and at the Phase Three Crab Lane, Crossgates site produced no finds of these periods. Similarly, 'several pieces of opus signinum' was reportedly the only indication of a Roman site at Beadlam when the area was field walked in the year prior to the start of the excavation (Neal 1996, 1). Undoubtedly, the large quantity and range of finds recovered from the Brompton site is in no small part due to the dedicated effort of a single individual who has collected and mapped finds from the three fields starting in 2008. However, it probably also indicates that the buried remains have been disturbed, though the possible extent and cause of this need more investigation.

6. Acknowledgements

The farmers, Richard and Tom Pateman are thanked for giving permission for the excavation in their West Field and for allowing access to their East Field for the fieldwalk survey. The work was undertaken by the following members and friends of the SAHS field team: Rebecca Abberstein, Martin and Jan Bland, Craig Bridgewood, Margaret Carey, Peter Chaplin, Ann and Nigel Clarke, Stephen Clothier, Gareth Davies, Mark Franklin, Stephen Gandolfi, Dawn Haida, Chris Hall, Phil Hibbard, Siriol and John Hinchcliffe, Gillian Hodgson, Elaine Jamieson, Mike Lawson, Alison Mason, Mick Panton, Trevor Pearson, Jane Peutrell, Jen Ryan, Robin Siddle, Alison Spencer and Simon Temlett. Chloe Pearson-Jones and Robyn Andrews from Historic England and Sam Owen and Katie Shehan from the University of York also participated in the excavation. Several members of the team helped with washing the finds from the fieldwalking survey and provided information to assist with identification. Their combined efforts meant that the analysis of the results and the final report were both speedily completed.

Chris Hall, Siriol and John Hinchcliffe and Elaine Jamieson shouldered additional supervisory and operational duties. Trevor Pearson took overall responsibility for the excavation and for compiling and illustrating this report apart from the fieldwalking survey report (Section 4) and related catalogue entries in Appendix 1 which is by Robin Siddle, who also took the photographs of the fieldwalking finds. Chris Hall, Elaine Jamieson and Robin Siddle commented on a draft of the report. The excavation photographs are by Chris Hall unless otherwise credited. Particular thanks go to Robin Siddle for obtaining permission for the excavation and for organising the use of Brompton Cricket Club during the course of the fieldwork. Gareth Davies is thanked for transporting the tools and Will Smith for the loan of the vehicle.

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8. Appendix 1: Catalogue of Special Finds




Figure 13.
Map showing the location of special finds from the fieldwalking survey (left) and the excavation (above).


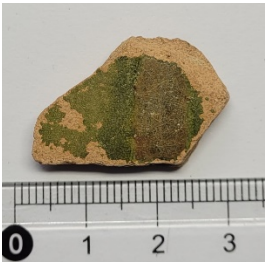

Excavation Special Finds





| SF no: | Item Description (with layer and height O.D.) | Weight: | Image: if captured. |
|--------|---|---------|--|
| 1 | Layer 102 (36.17m O.D.): copper alloy strap fragment - possibly medieval. | 1g |  |




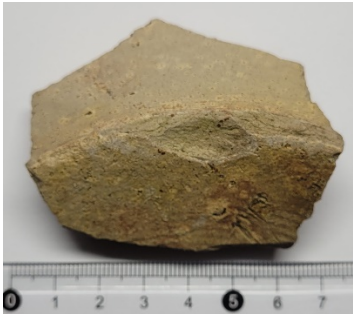
| | | | |
|---|---|------|--|
| 2 | Layer 102 (36.29m O.D.): lead-possible off-cut. Slight scratches on surface - possible decoration. | 1g |  |
| 3 | Layer 104 (35.89m O.D.): flint flake | 1g |  |
| 4 | Layer 104 (35.87m O.D.): iron nail | 12g |  |
| 5 | Layer 107 (35.97m O.D.): stone cylindrical object. Smooth surface with a white core - possibly drilled. | 5g |  |
| 6 | Layer 112 (35.54m O.D.): Roman tegula fragment. | 197g |  |
| 7 | Layer 301 (35.64m O.D.): Roman grey ware rim sherd. | 8g |  |
| 8 | Layer 302 (35.25m O.D.): pottery body sherd - wheel thrown. Undated. | 24g |  |




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|---|--|----|--|
| 9 | Layer 205 (35.69m O.D.): flint - part of a broken blade. | 1g |  |
|---|--|----|--|


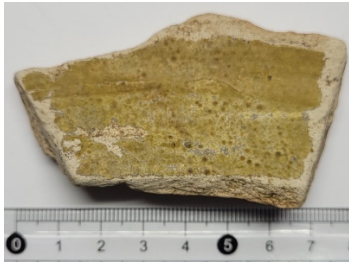

Fieldwalking Special Finds





| SF no: | Item Description | Weight: | Image: if captured. |
|--------|---|---------|--|
| 1 | Medieval Pottery: Body sherd: Pink/white fabric. Possibly Brandsby-ware (13 th -14 th century or York glazed-ware 12 th -13 th century. | 5.28g |  |
| 2 | A medieval rim sherd. It has multiple sandy inclusions, a salmon pink fabric and a grey core. | 5.91g | No Image |
| 3 | A fragment of ceramic building material of unknown date. It is red to orange in colour and has a grey core. | 12.02g | No Image |
| 4 | Medieval pottery: Body sherd: Salmon pink fabric with green glaze: probably Scarborough-ware 13 th to 14 th century. | 3.20g |  |
| 5 | Medieval pottery: Body sherd: Thick fabric (1cm) dull orange with a slightly yellow core. Dull green glaze. | 19.91g |  |
| 6 | A natural piece of grey flint, with some cortex. | 1.02g | No Image |



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|----|---|------------------------------|--|
| 7 | Medieval pottery: Body sherd: Unglazed: Orange on outer side, grey on insideside. Possible Staxton-ware 12th to 15th Century. | 30.86g |  |
| 8 | Medieval pottery: Rim sherd: Salmon pink fabric with grey core. Dark green glaze. | 29.30g |  |
| 9 | Two items: A: Medieval rim sherd, with a salmon pink fabric and grey core with a green glaze. B: Medieval rim sherd with a dull orange fabric, a grey core and sparkly inclusions, possibly Staxton-ware 12th to 15th Century. | A: 14.94g B: 10.66g |  |
| 10 | A fragment of modern field drain with a consistent dark orange colour and fabric. Dating to the 20th century. | 108.85g | No image |
| 11 | Medieval rim sherd with green glazing, possibly signs of burning. Orange fabric. | 13.88g |  |
| 12 | A Medieval body sherd. It is unglazed with signs of black fire damage on one side. It has a brown to grey fabric with a few sandy inclusions. Possibly Staxton Ware dating to the 12th to 15th century. | 12.69g | No image |
| 13 | A Medieval green glazed body sherd. Glazed on both sides with a pink fabric. Possibly Scarborough Ware dating to the 13th to 14th century. | 13.98g | No image |

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|----|---|--|--|
| 14 | A Medieval unglazed body sherd with a thin orange surface on one side. The core and other side are grey. There are many small inclusions in the fabric. There are also ripples in the sherd, possibly a design feature. | 11.24g | No image |
| 15 | Three Items. A: undated CBM. B: Medieval handle sherd, with a clear glaze. C: Medieval body sherd: possibly Pimply-ware 12th to 14th century. | A: 44.88g B: 17.56g C: 2.27g |  |
| 16 | Two Items. A: Medieval body sherd with the base of a handle. Salmon pink fabric with a whitey-green glaze. B: Flint flake debris with strike platform, Mesolithic to Bronze age. | A: 36.49g B: 4.75g |  |
| 17 | A Medieval body sherd with a small amount of green glaze remaining over a very rough light orange fabric with multiple inclusions. It has a grey core. | 15.75g | No image |
| 18 | Two items. A: Medieval body sherd with a white fabric and thin green glaze. Possibly York glazed-ware 12th to 13th century. B: Medieval base sherd, unglazed, with grey core. Probably Staxton-ware 12th to 15th Century. | A: 10.25g B: 9.55g |  |
| 19 | Two items. A: A Medieval reduced green glazed rim sherd with a pale pink to white fabric. B: A Medieval green glazed body sherd, with a grey core and pale orange fabric. | A: 10.20g B: 3.33g | No image |
| 20 | A Medieval thick base sherd with a very thin light green glaze. The fabric is grey and pink. | 71.59g |  |

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| 21 | A body sherd of unglazed Medieval pottery. It has an orange fabric with a small amount of inclusions and a grey core with clear signs of being wheel made. | 36.51g | No image |
| 22 | A probable Medieval rim sherd with an orange fabric. It has a yellow and light brown glaze. | 13.45g |  |
| 23 | A undated possible rim or curved/convex roof tile with central lug. It has an orange fabric. | 98.69g |  |
| 24 | A natural piece of grey flint, with some cortex. | 13.76g | No image |
| 25 | A body fragment of a Post Medieval pottery, glazed on both sides with a honey almost clear glaze. It has a dull orange fabric. | 7.23g | No image |
| 26 | A small body fragment of modern white glazed (both sides) pottery dating to probably the 20th century. | 0.70g | No image |
| 27 | A modern brick or roof tile fragment with a consistent and smooth orange fabric. | 6.10g | No image |
| 28 | Medieval body sherd with a grey unglazed fabric with sparkly inclusions. Possibly Staxton-ware 12th to 15th century. | 16.44g |  |
| 29 | A modern brick fragment, with a grey poorly fired core and outer pink/red fabric. | 15.56g | No image |

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|----|---|--------|--|
| 30 | A Medieval green glaze jug handle (glazed on both sides) with a grey core. Possibly Humber-ware 13th to 16th century | 43.47g |  |
| 31 | Two pieces of the same fractured piece of ceramic building material. The fabric is a consistent and smooth to the touch and is light orange. The item is possible part of a modern roof tile. | 19.72g | No image |
| 32 | An undated fragment of ceramic building material with an orange fabric. | 22.33g | No image |
| 33 | A Modern to Post Medieval black glazed shiny handle, with a dark consistent orange fabric. Probably 18th to 19th century in date. | 33.05g | No image |
| 34 | Modern drain fragment. It has a peach coloured fabric, is curved and smooth to the touch. Dating to the 19th-20th century. | 44.64g | No image |
| 35 | A medieval base sherd with a ribbed inner light olive green lead glaze. It has a pale peach to off white fabric. | 44.58g |  |
| 36 | A medieval thick rim sherd with a dark green glaze on both sides. It has a light orange fabric. | 27.57g | No image |
| 37 | A fragment of Roman Imbex (roof tile). It is slightly convex and has an orange fabric. | 174g |  |

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| 38 | Grey flint flake, possibly used as a scraper as there is evidence of invasive retouch to one side. Probably Neolithic to bronze age in date. | 10.27g |  |
| 39 | Two pieces of the same medieval jug handle, which have fractured apart. The handle has a dull orange fabric with a grey inner core. A small section of reduced green glaze remains. Probably dating to the late 13 th to 14 th century. | 59.86g |  |
| 40 | A small flint flake with abrupt retouch along one edge. Conchoidal fractures are present. The item is likely to be a small scraper tool of Mesolithic to Neolithic date. | 0.98g |  |
| 41 | Two Items. A: A medieval base sherd with a light green/clear glaze on the inner surface. It has a light orange fabric on the outer surface but under the glaze it is grey. B: A medieval unglazed rim sherd with a rough texture and a salmon pink on the inside but a mix of grey, salmon pink and light orange on the outer side. | A: 43.53g B: 24.98g | No image |
| 42 | A fragment of Roman Tegula (Roof tile), orange fabric with a small grey core. A few areas of mortar remaining. | 270g |  |

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| 43 | An incomplete copper-alloy ring of Roman date, probably dating to the 3rd-4th century. The glass paste intaglio is missing. The ring is likely to be type VII, similar to Henig type V. This item was found via metal detecting at a depth of less than 10cm. | 2.48g |  |
| 44 | Four items. A: A medieval reduced green-glaze rim sherd, possibly Brandsby-ware. B: A Medieval green glaze body sherd. C: A medieval unglazed body sherd with a grey fabric. D: an unglazed Medieval body sherd with a grey and orange fabric that is rough to the touch. | A: 13.37g B: 7.70g C: 5.32g D: 3.29g |  |
| 45 | Two items. A: fragment of thick iridescent bottle glass, probably modern to late post-medieval in date. B: A flint flake fragment with no signs of working, probably natural. | A: 5.57g B: 3.22g | No image |

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