LANCASTER
UNIVERSITY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
UNIT
(on behalf of Oxford
Archaeological Unit)

February 2001

STATION ROAD, THIRSK, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation

Commissioned by: Development Planning Partnership

STATION ROAD, THIRSK, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Report no 2000-2001/(041)/AUA 8084

Checked by Project Manager. A. Lupton Date 5/2/2001
Passed for submission to client. Date 6/02/01

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

February 2001

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY

The Development Planning Partnership, acting on behalf of Tesco Stores Ltd, has submitted a planning application to Hambleton District Council for the development of a petrol filling station at Station Road, Thirsk, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 4272 8194) (Fig 1). Part of the site is included within the Thirsk Conservation Area, and the north-eastern border of the application site lies adjacent to Thirsk Castle, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 20454). Consequently, the North Yorkshire County Council Archaeologist recommended that an archaeological evaluation was undertaken to inform further the planning process. The client requested that the evaluation should consider the footprint of the proposed petrol filling station, but also land immediately to the north-west, which may become part of a future development.

The evaluation was undertaken by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, on behalf of the Oxford Archaeological Unit, between 11th and 15th December 2000. It provided good coverage of those parts of the study area which were available for investigation; other areas could not be investigated because of the presence of standing buildings, or the proximity of underground fuel tanks and an associated zone of hydrocarbon contamination.

Trenches 1 and 2 have demonstrated that undated archaeological features are present in the northern part of the site. However, the features identified during this evaluation were protected by at least 0.8m of modern hardcore and accumulated silty sand of unknown date. In view of these considerations, it is recommended that any soil strip or significant groundworks involving disturbance below a depth of 0.8m should be accompanied by appropriate archaeological recording.

Trenches 3, 4, and 5 represent a thorough evaluation of the footprint of the proposed petrol filling station, taking into consideration those areas already disturbed by fuel tanks or contaminated by fuel spillage. Construction of the new tank farm will cause extensive ground disturbance here, but no archaeological remains were identified, and no further archaeological investigation is recommended in this part of the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) would like to thank the Development Planning Partnership (DPP) for commissioning the work, on behalf of Tesco Stores Ltd. In particular, Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU), who undertook the evaluation on behalf of OAU, would like to extend their thanks to Nigel Cussen of DPP for arranging for survey information to be sent on and to Kenny Blackwood of Goodson Associates for providing service and geotechnical information relating to the site. LUAU would like to thank Gail Falkingham of North Yorkshire County Council for her assistance during the course of the evaluation.

The evaluation was undertaken by Richard Heawood, Leslie Mitchell and Julian Sleep. The report was written by Richard Heawood and Andrea Scott produced the drawings.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 The Development Planning Partnership, acting on behalf of Tesco Stores Ltd, has submitted a planning application to Hambleton District Council for the development of a petrol filling station at Station Road, Thirsk, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 4272 8194) (Fig 1). Part of the site is included within the Thirsk Conservation Area, and the north-eastern border of the application site lies adjacent to Thirsk Castle, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 20454). Consequently, the North Yorkshire County Council Archaeologist recommended that an archaeological evaluation was undertaken to inform further the planning process. The client requested that the evaluation should consider the footprint of the proposed petrol filling station, but also land immediately to the north-west, which may become part of a future development.

1.2 SITE LOCATION, GEOLOGY, AND TOPOGRAPHY

1.2.1 Thirsk is a small town lying between Northallerton and York in the Vale of York, an area of relatively low-lying, flat land. The south-eastern part of the town stands on glacial lake deposits (alluvium) comprising sand and gravel with bands of laminated clays and silts, overlying grey to reddish brown glacial till (boulder clay), with mudstones below (Goodson Associates 2000, 3; British Geological Survey 1977; 1979). The study area, comprising both the proposed petrol filling station and development plot to the north-west, covers 0.37ha of land fronting onto Station Road, and lies approximately 200m south-east of the Market Place. It is bounded immediately to the north-east by earthworks marking the western defenses of the castle bailey, an area known as Castle Garth, which is presently under grass. Station Road and a supermarket carpark lie to the south-west, the ground sloping away very gently in this direction. At the time of the evaluation, the site was surfaced with concrete and tarmac, with standing buildings relating to a former car show room, garage, and petrol station covering roughly a third of its area.

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.3.1 The light sandy soils of the Thirsk area suggest an environment which would have been attractive to prehistoric farmers, and limited evidence of prehistoric activity is starting to be recovered. A hoard of Bronze Age bronzes was unearthed on a housing development south of Station Road, and fragments of residual worked flint were found during archaeological excavations within the bailey of Thirsk Castle, immediately north of the present study area, in 1994

(MAP 1995). The one upstanding prehistoric monument in the vicinity is a Bronze Age round barrow, Pudding Pie Hill, *c* 1.3km to the south-east of the study area (NGR SE 4370 8103); aerial photographs of the Thirsk vicinity also show crop and soil marks indicative of small enclosures and fields of prehistoric date (Tyler 1976, 3).

1.3.2 Two Roman roads have been identified in the vicinity of Thirsk, a main routeway now known as 'The Street', and another road, now 'Saxty Way', considered to have been of lesser importance (*ibid*). The Street ran parallel with Dere Street to the west, and may have crossed Cod Beck close to present day Thirsk. Some settlement might be expected close to the crossing point: a few Roman pottery sherds were found during a recent evaluation behind 33 Market Place, *c* 130m north-east of the study area (MAP 2000).

1.3.3 A small pagan Anglo-Saxon cemetery containing at least 10 burials was found unexpectedly during archaeological excavation within the castle bailey in 1994, within 50m of the present study area (MAP 1995, fig 3). The cemetery was dated to the first half of the sixth century on the basis of the grave goods found with several of the skeletons; these artefacts included a complete pottery vessel, iron blades, wrist clasps, a cruciform brooch, and a strap end. The cemetery is suggestive of early Anglian settlement in the vicinity of modern Thirsk. By the eleventh century, there were two manors at Thirsk, sited on either side of the beck (Tyler 1976, 4). This was clearly an area which had seen significant Scandinavian influence, and this is reflected both by the name 'Thirsk' itself (derived from the Old Swedish *thraesk* (*ibid*)), and by the names of the individuals who held the two manors in 1086, Orm and Tor.

1.3.4 The eastern manor passed to the crown after the Norman Conquest, that to the west being confiscated by the king from Robert de Stuteville in the early twelfth century (*ibid*). It has been suggested that at this time, when Thirsk was in royal hands, a borough was established to the east of Cod Beck, and that settlement continuing to the west around the church, the castle being built towards the middle of the twelfth century by Roger de Mowbray (*ibid*). However, the more recent schedule description for the castle (*see 1.3.5 below*) states that it was probably built by Robert de Stuteville around 1092. The castle was destroyed by royal command in 1176 having been held against the crown by de Mowbray; whenever it was constructed, it seems likely to have been the focus which led to the establishment of the present market place.

1.3.5 The surviving elements of the castle, consisting of the western rampart, the undeveloped area of the Bailey, and part of the motte, are protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 20454). The bailey rampart survives as an earthen bank 1.5m-2.5m high, the southern end of which is immediately adjacent to the north-east boundary of the development area. An external ditch has become infilled over the years, but survives at the northern end of this boundary;

further south, it must have passed through the eastern corner of the development site, but has now been levelled. Low rectangular earthworks indicating the layout of building plots and gardens remain within the bailey (NMR schedule description). To the east, a ditch about 20m in width separates the bailey from the site of the motte, now partly disturbed by buildings and gardens. It is estimated that the castle would originally have occupied the area bounded by Westgate, Castlegate, Kirkgate, and Masonic Lane, with roughly half that area now having been built on. Thirsk Castle is recognised as being of some considerable importance as an example of an early motte and bailey castle which has partially escaped both medieval modification and subsequent disturbance (*ibid*).

1.3.6 Thirsk is considered to have flourished as a route centre in the thirteenth century, before declining later in the fourteenth century (Tyler 1976, 6). It remained a local market town in the post–medieval period; a scheme to make the Cod Beck navigable failed in the eighteenth century, but in the nineteenth century a railway station was built on the main line to the north.

1.4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

1.4.1 A section was recorded through the bank of the castle's western rampart in the 1960s, and a cobbled surface sealed by the bank was observed; the precise location of the trench is uncertain (NMR schedule description). More recently, 16 small trenches (14 lying within the bailey), were examined immediately north-east of the development area in 1994 (MAP 1995), during the installation of new electrical cables and equipment. Some were excavated by workmen under archaeological supervision, often with little scope for useful observations to be made, but in others full archaeological excavation was conducted. As was noted above (*Section 1.3.3*), a small Anglo-Saxon cemetery was revealed, within 50m of the present development site, and about 0.8m below ground level. The burials were sealed by thick clay deposits considered to represent the castle rampart; as in the 1960s, cobbles were found beneath the bank; one phase of cobbling may have predated the Anglo-Saxon cemetery whilst another may have been contemporary with it. A separate watching brief being carried out at the same time, south of Masonic Lane, revealed one or possibly two phases of earth bank, perhaps the part of the northern defences of the bailey, and an underlying 'occupation layer' at the same depth as ninth to tenth century deposits revealed in the MAP excavation (Clarke 1995).

1.4.2 Further south-east, a watching brief conducted in 1991 provided information about deposits abutting the eastern corner of the development area (Clarke 1991). Here, the creation of a car park in the 1970s had reduced ground levels by 2m, destroying the upstanding portion of the south-east corner of the bailey bank, but a layer of yellow clay perhaps relating to the base of the bank survived *c* 0.7m

below the reduced ground level. Inspection of the site in December 2000 suggested that the ground level in the development area equated roughly to that within the car park to the north-east.

1.4.3 An evaluation was conducted in July 2000 on the putative castle motte, behind 33 Market Place, and *c* 130m north-east of the study area (MAP 2000). As well as the Roman pottery referred to above (*Section 1.3.1*), five sherds of Anglian pottery were recovered from possible buried cultivation soils or hillwash. However, no major structures relating to the castle were identified. Medieval and post-medieval remains appeared to be the product of the development of the site as a domestic plot, and had been heavily truncated by later building. Evaluation work has also been taking place at Royal Oak Yard, immediately to the south, during recent months, but reports are not yet available (G Falkingham pers comm).

1.4.4 Away from the castle, an evaluation at Finkle Street, which opens off the eastern end of the Market Place, has produced evidence for a large clay bank and ditch constructed in the late twelfth or early thirteenth centuries (FAS 2000). This may have defined the edge of an enclosed settlement associated with the castle, in the area of the present Market Place. The ditch had been used as a midden, and provided the largest assemblage of medieval pottery recovered in Thirsk.

1.4.5 There have been a number of other small scale archaeological interventions in Thirsk in the 1990s, but these are of less relevance to the present development area, and appear not to have shed significant light on the history of the town as a whole (eg York Archaeological Trust 1998, Clarke 1996).

1.5 EVIDENCE FOR PREVIOUS LANDUSE WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT AREA

1.5.1 As has been noted, the south-eastern end of the castle's western rampart passes adjacent to the north-eastern boundary of the development area, and the edge of the rampart and external ditch seem formerly to have extended into the site.

1.5.2 The earliest detailed map of Thirsk, dating from 1796, shows the development area as an empty field, but with properties fronting onto Westgate adjacent to the south-east; nothing had changed when the tithe map was drawn in 1843 (Map of Thirsk, 1796; Thirsk Tithe Map). The 1856 First Edition six inch map shows the New Inn extending into the southern corner of the area, but elsewhere, it appears to have been empty (Ordnance Survey 1856). By 1912, a large building had been constructed in the north-west of the site (Ordnance Survey 1912). Later in the twentieth century, the site housed pens and buildings associated with Thirsk Auction Mart, but was latterly used as an agricultural service station, and then as a car showroom and petrol station.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 Further to the client's request for an archaeological evaluation, a project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU), acting on behalf of Oxford Archaeological Unit. Following formal acceptance of the project design by North Yorkshire County Council, LUAU undertook the fieldwork between 11th and 15th December 2000. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 EVALUATION

2.2.1 Five evaluation trenches were excavated using a JCB excavator, fitted with a 1.55m wide toothless ditching bucket, working under full archaeological supervision. The placement of the trenches was necessarily influenced by the disused standing buildings still present when the evaluation was conducted, and by the need to avoid underground fuel tanks which had not been decommissioned, together with an area of known hydrocarbon contamination to the north-east of the tanks.

2.2.2 Mechanical excavation continued down to the level of the first potentially significant archaeological deposit, or the upper surface of the natural subsoil, or the maximum unshored depth of 1.2m, depending on the deposits revealed in each trench. All subsequent excavation of archaeological features was by hand. The trenches were cleaned by hand, using either hoes and trowels, and the excavation spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts and other potentially significant materials.

2.2.3 Recording was by means of LUAU's standard context recording system, based on that used by the Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage, with context records and supporting registers and indices. A photographic record in colour slide and monochrome formats was compiled, and section drawings were made of relevant areas of the trenches at appropriate scales. All planning was undertaken manually on drafting film.

2.2.4 The evaluation was undertaken in adverse weather conditions, with heavy rainfall causing the sides of some trenches to collapse soon after excavation. In view of these conditions, the trenches were photographed immediately after machining and, in some instances, large scale subsidence occurred before they could be re-

photographed. Section drawing was prioritised, and all significant sections were drawn.

2.2.5 On completion of the site works, the trenches were backfilled, but were not otherwise reinstated.

2.3 HEALTH AND SAFETY

2.3.1 Full regard was given to all health and safety constraints, as well as to all Health and Safety regulations. A risk assessment was carried out in advance of work commencing; LUAU provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the *Health and Safety Manual* compiled by the Standing Conference of Unit Managers (rev. 1999).

2.4 ARCHIVE

2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition 1991).

2.4.2 The paper archive will be deposited in Thirsk Museum; no finds were recovered.

3. RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 Summary results of the evaluation trenching are presented below. The context list is reproduced in *Appendix 2*, with Figure 2 showing the Trench locations.

3.2 TRENCH 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was positioned in the northern corner of the study area, between a disused garage building, and the earthwork remains of the castle bailey defences, which lay immediately north-east of the site boundary; it was considered possible that the south-western edge of the outer bailey ditch might be found within this trench. Trench 1 was aligned north-north-west / south-south-east, measured 3.9m x 2.6m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.25m. It lay north-west of the proposed filling station footprint, in the area designated a proposed future development plot.

3.2.2 The trench was cut through a concrete surface, laid on a thin bedding layer of dark grey sandy silt with tile. This sealed a deep deposit of homogeneous mid brown silty sand 0.76 – 0.98m thick, [101], which covered the whole area of the trench. It was removed by machine, to reveal the south-eastern edge of a wide shallow cut feature, [103], aligned north-east / south-west, at least 2.5m in extent (Fig 3). The cut was filled by deposit [102], consisting of very loose coarse brownish yellow sand mottled with brown silty sand similar to [101]. A section was excavated across the cut by hand. The north-east side was relatively straight, angled at a gentle gradient of *c* 2:1 (x:y), and the base was flat. It is uncertain whether the cut was a wide flat-bottomed ditch or pit, or whether it might represent the terracing down of the underlying deposit.

3.2.3 Cut [103] had been dug into a deposit of light brownish yellow sand and gravel with 50% small, medium, and large subangular fragments of stone, [104], encountered at a depth of 34.52m OD. The upper surface of the deposit was mixed, suggesting the possibility that it might be redeposited; in order to test this, the machine was used to excavated a sondage through it (Pl 1). This demonstrated that the deposit was at least 1.2m deep, becoming increasingly clean, indicating that it had almost certainly been laid by natural processes.

3.3 TRENCH 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 was sited 35m to the south-west of Trench 1, towards the frontage of Station Rôad, and just to the south-west of the disused car showroom. It was

aligned east-north-east / west-south-west, measured 5m x 1.55m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.28m. As with Trench 1, Trench 2 lay in the area designated by the client as a proposed future development plot.

3.3.2 In the upper 0.5m of excavation, deposits of concrete, hardcore, and grey levelling sand were encountered. Below, a thick deposit of mid brown sandy silt, [201], 0.7 – 0.8m deep, was also removed by machine. It contained 2% small rounded pebbles, as well as occasional large, well-rounded pebbles concentrated towards the north-east, and was very similar to, but slightly darker than, layer [101] in Trench 1. After the removal of [201], a narrow ditch [203] was visible in the base of the trench, aligned approximately east / west, and extending beyond both sides of Trench 2 (Fig 3, Pl 2). The matrix of the fill, [202], appeared identical to that of the overlying deposit, but contained a higher proportion of large pebbles. The cut was 0.28m deep, *c* 0.75m wide, with relatively straight edges; the southern side was concave with a gradient of *c* 1:1, the northern side slightly stepped, but steeper overall, and the base was flat. No edge was visible between fill [202] and [201] above, but neither was there any evidence in section that [203] had been cut through [201]. The similarity of fill [202] with the overlying deposit may suggest that the ditch was open when [201] began to be deposited, or that it was cut and became infilled during the deposition of [201].

3.3.3 Ditch [203] was cut through a deposit of rather mixed brownish yellow sand and gravel, similar to that recorded as of natural origin in Trench 1. Its surface lay at 34.54m OD.

3.4 TRENCH 3

3.4.1 Trench 3 was positioned at the south-western end of the Station Road frontage, parallel to the south-western boundary of the study area, 28m south of Trench 2. It was aligned north-west / south-east, measured 7.3m x 1.5m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m. The trench lay within the footprint of the proposed new filling station, in an area designated for use as a tanker lay-by.

3.4.2 Modern layers of tarmac, hardcore, and greyish brown sandy silt were encountered in the upper 0.6m of the Trench 3. The cut for a disconnected electricity cable within a ceramic duct was also found, running at an oblique angle to the trench, aligned roughly north-east / south-west. Below, a deposit of sticky mixed brownish yellow silty clay with yellowish brown mottles and 5% coarse rounded pebbles, [301], was exposed and removed by machine. At its south-eastern end, the deposit was found to lie within a possible cut, aligned north-east / south-west, 0.6m deep and at least 5.8m wide, with an irregular side angled at a gentle gradient of *c* 2:1 (x:y). Elsewhere, the deposit continued beyond the limits of the trench, so its full extent is not known. Although no artefactual dating evidence of any kind was recovered, the consistency and mixed

nature of the deposit suggested that it had been exposed and 'puddled', even if not necessarily redeposited by human agency (see *Section 4, Discussion*, below).

3.4.3 Below [301], a deposit of reddish brown clayey sand, with large mottles of yellowish grey silty clay, [302], was exposed in the base of the trench. At the southern end of the trench, where [301] was not present, [302] was dirty and mixed, and here the upper part of the deposit was removed by machine to reveal cleaner sediment below. The disturbed upper surface of [302] at the southern end of the trench lay at *c* 35.12m OD; further north, where sealed by [301], it lay at 34.52 – 34.62m OD. Horizon [302] had the appearance of naturally deposited sediment, and no further excavation was undertaken. Hand cleaning of the upper surface revealed no features or finds.

3.5 TRENCH 4

3.5.1 Trench 4 was sited 14m east-north-east of Trench 3, was aligned north-east / south-west, and measured 3.8m x 3.5m (Fig 2). The trench was recorded to a maximum depth of 1.65m; it had been excavated to a slightly greater depth, but rapidly filled with wet clay which slumped from the stepped sides. The trench was positioned within the forecourt of the proposed filling station, 0.5m from the proposed excavation area for the construction of new petrol tanks; it was not sited further north because of the danger posed by the existing tank farm, which had not been decommissioned at the time of the evaluation.

3.5.2 A maximum depth of 0.65m of tarmac and hardcore was removed by machine from the top of Trench 4. Immediately below lay a deposit of brownish yellow silty clay with large greenish grey silty clay mottles, [401], *c* 0.3m thick. The deposit was sticky in consistency, and of mixed appearance, suggesting the possibility that it might have been redeposited; it was therefore removed by machine to reveal the surface of a deposit of friable brownish red sand with greenish grey mottles, [402], lying at 34.87m OD. Horizon [402] was cleaned by hand, but no archaeological features or finds were visible. Although almost certainly a waterlain deposit of natural origin, this sediment could not be dated, and a sondage was cut through it by machine in the centre of the trench, revealing a thick layer of soft mid grey silty clay below, [403], at least 0.36m thick. Again, no finds or features were revealed.

3.6 TRENCH 5

3.6.1 Trench 5 was positioned 6m east-north-east of Trench 4, as near to the castle bailey defences adjoining the eastern site boundary as was possible, given the need to avoid the roots of a tree growing just inside the study area. It was aligned east-north-east / west-south-west, measured 9.85m x 1.6m with the exception of stepping at the eastern end, and was excavated to a maximum depth

of 1.52m. The trench investigated part of the footprint of the proposed filling station's kiosk building.

3.6.2 Deposits of modern tarmac and hardcore typically 0.65m thick were removed from the upper part of the trench. Below, a possible palaeochannel was tentatively identified at the eastern end of the trench, at least 2.5m wide x 0.5m deep, extending beyond the eastern limit of excavation. It was filled by successive deposits of soft yellow silty clay, mid brown sand, mid brown silty clay, and yellowish brown silty clay, all with diffuse interfaces. The 'cut', [505], appeared to be aligned north-west / south-east, was at least 1.9m wide, and had a straight south-western side, angled at a gentle gradient of 3:1 (x:y), with a roughly flat but irregular base. Again, the 'cut' was extremely diffuse, and barely discernible (Pl 3). However, whilst the presence of the feature must be regarded as uncertain, its profile and character clearly suggested a possible palaeochannel rather than a cut feature of anthropogenic origin.

3.6.3 In the western half of the trench, demonstrably modern deposits sealed a layer of soft 'dirty' yellow and greenish yellow clay, [506], very similar to [401] in Trench 4. Both this clay deposit and the possible palaeochannel were stratified above a deposit of mid yellow silty sand with black mineral staining, [507], which also occurred directly under modern hardcore in the central part of the trench. It resembled yellow clay [506], and also clay [401] in Trench 4, in that it was again of a dirty, mixed appearance, suggesting that it had been disturbed, even if not redeposited. It was removed by machine to reveal a layer of yellowish grey sandy silt, [508], the upper surface of which sloped downwards to the south-west, from 35.18m OD to 34.78m OD. Hand cleaning of this surface revealed no archaeological features or finds, and a sondage was excavated through it by hand, down to a depth of 1.20m. Stepping of the trench and further hand excavation at its eastern end revealed an underlying mottled deposit of blue and yellowish grey sandy silt with frequent black flecks of organic staining, [509], and then thin deposits of clay silt and brown silty sand, [510] and [511]. The earliest deposit in the stratigraphic sequence was a layer of stiff blue grey clay with 20% rounded pebbles, [512], found at 34.96m OD; this appears to resemble the boulder clay underlying the site, although the limited number of boreholes drilled suggest that undisturbed glacial till lies at depths in excess of 4m (Goodson Associates 2000, 3-4).

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 INTERPRETATION

4.1.1 The only archaeological features revealed by the evaluation were found in Trenches 1 and 2, excavated in the northern part of the study area, where an unspecified future development may take place. Here, demonstrably modern surfaces and hardcore overlaid a homogeneous deposit of brown silty sand, up to 0.98m thick, which differed little between the trenches. The looseness of the deposit at first suggested that it might represent modern dumping to raise and level the entire northern portion of the site, but this suggestion must be discounted because of a lens of gravel found within the deposit in Trench 1, and because of the relatively diffuse interface with the coarse sands and gravels below. Rather, this thick deposit appears to be the product of natural processes; it resembled topsoil more than alluvium, and may have formed *in situ*.

4.1.2 The wide, shallow cut feature [103] identified in Trench 1 was clearly sealed below this accumulation of silty sand. It remains an undated feature; whilst the extremely loose, mixed nature of the fill was reminiscent of a recent deposit, its stratigraphic position indicated an earlier origin. The form of the cut is not known because it extended beyond the limit of excavation on three sides, but it may have been a shallow ditch. It is tempting to suggest that the feature might relate to the outer bailey ditch, which runs at right angles to it, immediately to the north, but there is no specific evidence for this. Despite these uncertainties, Trench 1 demonstrates that the outer bailey ditch was not as large as might have been imagined, and did not extend into the proposed development site.

4.1.3 The narrow ditch recorded in Trench 2, [203], was first identified after the removal of the overlying silty sand, but the similarity between fill [202] and overlying deposit [201] suggest either that the ditch was open as the silty sand began to form, or that it was cut during the deposit's formation; on this basis, the ditch may be later than the feature identified in Trench 1. Its north-west / south-east alignment differs from that of both Station Road and the castle bailey earthworks, perhaps suggesting that it might date from an earlier period.

4.1.4 No archaeological features were found in Trenches 3 – 5, and the deposits encountered were radically different to those recorded further to the north-west. Each trench produced a similar deposit sequence, consisting of modern metalling and overburden, overlying mixed yellow clay of uncertain date, overlying waterlain sediments, predominantly of clay and sand. The rather mixed and sticky yellowish clay, varying between 0.3m and 0.4m in thickness, was considered initially to have been dumped on the site in the twentieth century to raise and level the ground surface. However, a similar sequence of deposits was

also recorded during a watching brief conducted a short distance to the north of the site boundary, a thick band of yellow clay being found overlying dark red silty sand (Clarke 1991). Whilst it is possible that the yellow clay further north was related to the castle bailey bank, as suggested by Clarke, the yellow clay within the present study area is perhaps best interpreted as a layer deposited by natural processes, but disturbed and 'puddled' before or during the laying of hardcore and tarmac.

4.1.5 Below the layer of yellow clay, undisturbed deposits of sand and clay were encountered which were more easily interpreted as waterlain sediments; in Trenches 3 and 4, the uppermost of these deposits were predominantly brownish red in colour, compared with yellow and yellowish grey in Trench 5. No finds or other fragments of man-made materials were observed in any of these sediments, despite hand cleaning and the digging of some sondages by hand, and it seems certain that these layers can be equated with the glacial lake deposits known to exist in the locality (Goodson Associates 2000, 3). A feature tentatively identified at the top of the sequence in Trench 5 may represent a palaeochannel, but is not considered to be a man-made cut.

4.2 CONCLUSION

4.2.1 Although undated features have been found in Trenches 1 and 2, the complete absence of finds from the site strongly suggests a lack of settlement or intensive occupation in this area from the medieval period until the twentieth century. The ground falls away gradually to the south-west of the castle bailey defences, and this may indeed have been damp, marginal ground. In contrast, the Market Place is believed to have been established by the twelfth or thirteenth centuries (see *1.3.4* above), and to have been a focus for settlement and economic activity. However, this does not mean that the study area was not more heavily utilised in earlier periods; the small Anglo-Saxon cemetery immediately to the north-east demonstrates that this had formerly been a highly significant part of the landscape (see *1.3.3* and *1.4.1* above), and the features in Trenches 1 and 2 may attest to pre-medieval activity.

5. THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

5.1 The evaluation has provided good coverage of those parts of the study area which were available for investigation; other areas could not be investigated because of the presence of standing buildings, or the proximity of underground fuel tanks and an associated zone of hydrocarbon contamination.

5.2 Trenches 1 and 2 have demonstrated that archaeological features are present in the northern part of the site, where an unspecified development is proposed, but because standing buildings occupied most of this plot, it was only possible to investigate a small sample of this area. However, the features identified during this evaluation were protected by at least 0.8m of modern hardcore and accumulated silty sand of unknown date. In view of these considerations, it is recommended that any soil strip or significant groundworks involving disturbance below a depth of 0.8m should be accompanied by appropriate archaeological recording.

5.3 Trenches 3, 4, and 5 represent a thorough evaluation of the footprint of the proposed petrol filling station, taking into consideration those areas already disturbed by fuel tanks or contaminated by fuel spillage. Construction of the new tank farm will cause extensive ground disturbance here, but no archaeological remains were identified, and no further archaeological investigation is recommended in this part of the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey 1977 *Geological survey ten mile map, south sheet (quaternary)*

British Geological Survey 1979 *Geological survey ten mile map, south sheet (solid)*

Clarke, A, 1991 *Development at Calvert's Yard, Thirsk*, unpubl rep

Clarke, A, 1995 *Archaeological watching brief at former doctor's surgery, Picks Lane, Thirsk*, unpubl rep

Clarke, A, 1996 *Evaluation and scheme of archaeological work at 2a and 4 Castlegare, Thirsk*, unpubl rep

FAS, 2000 *Archaeological evaluation, Finkle Street, Thirsk, North Yorkshire*, unpubl rep

Goodson Associates, 2000 *Proposed Tesco foodstore and petrol filling station, Station Road, Thirsk; foundation report*, unpubl rep

MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 1995 *Thirsk Castle, Thirsk, North Yorkshire; archaeological excavation and watching brief*, unpubl rep

MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 2000 *33 Market Place, Thirsk, North Yorkshire; archaeological evaluation*, unpubl rep

Tyler, A, 1976 *North Yorkshire historic town studies; priorities and needs*, NYCC unpubl rep

York Archaeological Trust, 1998 *23-25 Kirkgate, Thirsk, North Yorkshire; report on an archaeological evaluation*, 1998 Field Rep **9**, unpubl rep

York Archaeological Trust, 2000 *Masonic Lane, Thirsk, North Yorkshire; report on an archaeological desk-top study*, 2000 Field Rep **54**, unpubl rep

All unpublished reports are held by the North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

MAPS HELD AT THE NORTH YORKSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Map of Thirsk, 1796, by J Cobeck for J Bell

Thirsk Tithe Map, 1843

Ordnance Survey, 1856 First edition 6" map, sheet 87

Ordnance Survey, 1912 Second edition 25" map, sheet 87/11

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

December 2000

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (on behalf of Oxford Archaeological Unit)

STATION ROAD, THIRSK,

NORTH YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Project Design

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request from Mr Nigel Cussen, of the Development Planning Partnership, for an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed new filling station at Station Road, Thirsk, North Yorkshire.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Development Planning Partnership (hereafter the 'client'), acting on behalf of Tesco Stores Ltd, has submitted a planning application to Hambleton District Council for the development of a petrol filling station at Station Road, Thirsk, North Yorkshire. Part of the site is included within the Thirsk Conservation Area and the eastern border of the application site lies adjacent to Thirsk Castle Scheduled Ancient Monument (NMR no 20454). Consequently, the North Yorkshire County Council Archaeologist has recommended that an archaeological evaluation is undertaken to inform further the planning process; the following document represents a project design to undertake the evaluation.

1.2 LUAU has considerable experience of the assessment and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small- and large-scale projects during the past 20 years. Evaluations and assessment have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. The Unit has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. LUAU is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 27, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The light sandy soils of the Thirsk area suggest an environment which would have been attractive to prehistoric farmers, and limited evidence of prehistoric activity is starting to be recovered. A hoard of Bronze Age bronzes was unearthed on a housing development south of Station road, and fragments of residual worked flint were found during archaeological excavations within the bailey of Thirsk Castle, immediately north of the present study area, in 1995 (MAP 1995). The one upstanding pre-historic monument in the vicinity is a Bronze Age round barrow, Pudding Pie Hill, *c* 1.3km to the south-east of the study area (NGR SE 4370 8103); aerial photographs of the Thirsk vicinity also show crop and soil marks indicative of small enclosures and fields of prehistoric date (Tyler 1976, 3).

2.2 Two Roman roads have been identified in the vicinity of Thirsk, a main routeway now known as 'The Street', and another road, now 'Saxty Way', considered to have been of lesser importance (*ibid*). The Street ran parallel with Dere Street to the west, and may have croosed Cod Beck close to present day Thirsk. Some settlement might be expected close to the crossing point, a small number of Roman pottery sherds was found during a recent evaluation behind 33 Market Place, *c* 130m north-east of the study area (MAP 2000).

2.3 A small pagan Anglo-Saxon cemetery containing at least 10 burials was found unexpectedly during archaeological excavation within the castle bailey in 1995, within 50m of the present study area (MAP 1995, fig 3). The cemetery was dated to the first half of the sixth century on the basis of the grave goods found with several of the skeletons; these artefacts included a complete pottery vessel, iron blades, wrist clasps, a cruciform brooch, and a strap end. The cemetery is suggestive of early Anglian settlement in the vicinity of modern Thirsk. By the eleventh century, there were two manors at Thirsk, sited on either side of the beck (Tyler 1976, 4). This was clearly an area which had seen significant Scandinavian influence, and this is reflected both by the name 'Thirsk' itself (derived from the Old Swedish *thraesk* (*ibid*)), and by the names of the individuals who held the two manors in 1086, Orm and Tor.

2.4 The eastern manor passed to the crown after the conquest, that to the west being confiscated by the king from Robert de Stuteville in the early twelfth century. It has been suggested that at this time, when Thirsk was in royal hands, a borough was established to the east of Cod Beck, and that settlement continuing to the west around the church, the castle being built towards the middle of the twelfth century by Roger de Mowbray (*ibid*). However, the more recent schedule description for the castle (*see below*) states that it was probably built by Robert de Stuteville around 1092. The castle was destroyed by royal command in 1176 having been held against the crown by de Mowbray; whenever it was constructed, it seems likely to have been the focus which led to the eatablishment of the present market place.

2.5 The surviving elements of the castle, consisting of the western rampart, the undeveloped area of the Bailey, and part of the motte, are protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (NMR 20454). The bailey rampart survives as an earthen bank 1.5m-2.5m high, the southern end of which is immediately adjacent to the north-east boundary of the development area. An external ditch has become infilled over the years, but survives at the northern end of this boundary; further south, it must have passed through the eastern corner of the development site, but has now been levelled. Low rectangular earthworks indicating the layout of building plots and gardens remain within the bailey (NMR shedule description). To the east, a ditch about 20m in width separates the bailey from the site of the motte, now partly disturbed by buildings and gardens. It is estimated that the castle would originally have occupied the area bounded by Westgate, Castlegate, Kirkgate, and Masonic Lane, with roughly half that area now having been built on. Thirsk Castle is recognised as being of some importance as an example of an early motte and bailey castle which has partially escaped both medieval modification and subsequent disturbance (*ibid*).

2.6 Thirsk is considered to have flourished as a route centre in the thirteenth century, before declining later in the fourteenth cemtury (Tyler 1976, 6). It remained a local market town in the post–medieval period; a scheme to make

the Cod Beck navigable failed in the eighteenth century, but in the nineteenth century a railway station was built on the main line to the north.

3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

3.1 A section was recorded through the bank of the castle's western rampart in the 1960s, and a cobbled surface sealed by the bank was observed; the precise location of the trench is uncertain (NMR shedule description). More recently, 16 small trenches (14 lying within the bailey), were examined immediately north-east of the development area in 1995 (MAP 1995), during the installation of new electrical cables and equipment. Some were excavated by workmen under archaeological supervision, often with little scope for useful observations to be made, but in others full archaeological excavation was conducted. As was noted above (*Historical background*), a small Anglo-Saxon cemetery was revealed, within 50m of the present development site, and about 0.8m below ground level. The burials were sealed by thick clay deposits considered to represent the castle rampart; as in the 1960s, cobbles were found beneath the bank; one phase of cobbling may have predated the Anglo-Saxon cemetery whilst another may have been contemporary with it. A separate watching brief being carried out at the same time, south of Masonic Lane, revealed one or possibly two phases of earth bank, perhaps the part of the northern defences of the bailey, and an underlying 'occupation layer' at the same depth as ninth to tenth century deposits revealed in the MAP excavation (Clarke 1995).

3.2 Further south-east, a watching brief conducted in 1991 provided information about deposits abuting the eastern corner of the development area (Clarke 1991). Here, the creation of a car park in the 1970s had reduced ground levels by 2m, destroying the upstanding portion of the south-east corner of the bailey bank, but a layer of yellow clay relating to the base of the bank survived *c* 0.7m below the reduced ground level. Inspection of the site in December 2000 suggested that the ground level in the development area equated roughly to that within the car park to the north-east.

3.3 An evaluation was conducted in July 2000 on the putative castle motte, behind 33 Market Place, and *c* 130m north-east of the study area (MAP 2000). As well as the Roman pottery referred to above (see *Historical background*), five sherds of Anglian pottery were recovered from possible buried cultivation soils or hillwash. However, no major structures relating to the castle were identified. Medieval and post-medieval remains appeared to be the product of the development of the site as a domestic plot, and had been heavily truncated by later building. Evaluation work has also been taking place at Royal Oak Yard, immediately to the south, during recent months, but reports are not yet available (G Falkingham pers comm).

3.4 Away from the castle, an evaluation at Finkle Street, which opens off the eastern end of the Market Place, has produced evidence for a large clay bank and ditch constructed in the late twelfth or early thirteenth centuries (FAS 2000). This may have defined the edge of an enclosed settlement associated with the castle, in the area of the present Market Place. The ditch had been used as a midden, and provided the largest assemblage of medieval pottery recovered in Thirsk.

3.5 There have been a number of other small scale archaeological interventions in Thirsk in the 1990s, but these are of less relevance to the present development area, and appear not to have shed significant light on the history of the town as a whole (eg York Archaeological Trust 1998, Clarke 1996).

4. OBJECTIVES

4.1 The following programme has been designed to provide an accurate archaeological assessment of the designated area within its broader context. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

4.2 ***Archaeological Evaluation***
An area of *c* 60m² will be subject to evaluation trenching to determine the quality, extent and importance of any archaeological remains on the site of the proposed development.

4.3 ***Post-Excavation and Report Production***
A detailed evaluation report will be produced for the client within approximately three weeks of completion of the fieldwork. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

5. METHODS STATEMENT

5.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the stages and objectives of the archaeological work summarised above.

5.2 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

5.2.1 An area of *c* 60m² will be subject to evaluation trenching. Following preliminary discussions with the North Yorkshire County Council Archaeologist and discussions with the client regarding health and safety issues, it is suggested that if the area is shown to be clear of services a 2m x 5m trench will be excavated to the north of the car show room adjacent to the alley leading to Thirsk Castle. A second 10m x 1.5m trench will be sited in the southern part

of the site to the south-west of the car wash, and a third 8m x 1.5m trench to the south-east of the petrol station adjacent to Station Road. In addition, a 4m x 4m trench will be excavated towards the middle of the site between the previous two trenches and to the south-west of the estimated location of the tank farm. A fifth 6m x 1.5m trench will be excavated in the western part of the site between the existing garage showroom and the existing petrol filling station. In each trench, the uppermost modern surface will be removed by machine (fitted with a toothless ditching bucket) under archaeological supervision to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit. The trenches will subsequently be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and where appropriate sections will be studied and drawn. Thereafter all excavation will proceed by hand in a stratigraphic manner.

5.2.2 Any investigation of intact archaeological deposits will be exclusively manual. Selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal. It is hoped that in terms of the vertical stratigraphy, maximum information retrieval will be achieved through the examination of sections of cut features. All excavation will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features which appear worthy of preservation *in situ*.

5.2.3 All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, using a system, adapted from that used by the Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.

5.2.4 Results of all field investigations will be recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. The site archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20 and 1:10). It should be noted that LUAU practice is to record only one representative section per trench unless the stratigraphic information in each section is sufficiently different. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded on *pro forma* sheets, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines and as detailed in Watkinson and Neal 1998) in order to minimise deterioration.

5.2.5 The deposition and disposal of any artefacts recovered in the evaluation will be agreed with the legal owner and an appropriate recipient museum prior to the work taking place.

5.2.6 Environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from suitable deposits where appropriate (i.e. the

deposits are reasonably well dated and are from contexts the derivation of which can be understood with a degree of confidence). Where such deposits are encountered, an appropriate sampling strategy will be agreed with the North Yorkshire County Archaeologist.

5.2.7 Samples will also be collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. If necessary, access to conservation advice and facilities can be made available. LUAU maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeoecology specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation. Where appropriate, the advice of the Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (Yorkshire) at English Heritage, may be called upon.

5.2.8 Should any evidence of human remains be encountered then, following standard practice for archaeological evaluations, they will be left *in situ.*

5.2.9 ***Health and Safety***: LUAU provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.

5.2.10 The client is requested to provide information relating to services in the vicinity of the trenches, though LUAU will undertake a Cat scan in advance of site commencement.

5.2.11 In the first instance the trenches will be excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. If the archaeological deposits are deeper than the health and safety limit of 1.2m then the trench will be expanded and stepped in, if this is possible given the constriants of services, location of nearby buildings etc. Any requirement for deeper excavation beyond a depth of 1.2m which would necessitate the use of shoring would require a variation to the contract sum. The trenches will be backfilled on completion of the evaluation using the material removed in their excavation. Any other form of land restoration will be the responsibility of the Client.

5.2.12 All excavated areas will be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings and roads.

5.2.13 LUAU has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

5.2.14 Normal LUAU working hours are between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Friday, though adjustments to hours may be made to maximise daylight working time in winter and to meet travel requirements. It is not normal practice for LUAU staff to be asked to work weekends or bank holidays and should the client require such time to be worked during the course of a project a contract variation to cover additional costs will be necessary.

5.3 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT PRODUCTION

5.3.1 ***Archive:*** The results of Stage 3.2.1-3.2.12 will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects,* 2nd edition, 1991) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct. Archive deposition will be undertaken with reference to the County Council's *Guidelines on the Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives.*

5.3.2 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCii files (as appropriate). The paper and material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) will be deposited together with an appropriate museum (either Thirsk Museum or the Yorkshire Museum) following agreement with the client. A synthesis of the archive will also be available for deposition in the National Monuments Record.

5.3.3 ***Report:*** two copies of a detailed evaluation report will be sent to the client within three weeks following completion of the fieldwork. In addition, a copy of the final report will be submitted to the County SMR within six months of the completion of the fieldwork, a copy will be sent to the museum accepting the archive, a copy to English Heritage Yorkshire region, and a copy to the National Monuments Record, Swindon. The final report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above, identifying the archaeological potetnial of the site, the research questions applicable to the site, and will include recommendations for any further mitigation works and details of the final deposition of the project archive.

5.3.4 ***Confidentiality:*** the final report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other

explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

6. WORK TIMETABLE

6.1 ***Archaeological Evaluation***
A five day period is required to excavate, clean, record and backfill five evaluation trenches equivalent to 60m^2.

6.2 ***Post-Excavation and Report Production***
A detailed evaluation report will be sent to the client within three weeks following completion of the fieldwork.

6.3 LUAU can execute projects at very short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client. Two weeks notice would be sufficient to allow the necessary arrangements to be made to commence the task.

7. STAFFING PROPOSALS

7.1 Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing exactly who will be carrying out each specific task, but excavation of the evaluation trenching is likely to be supervised by **Richard Heawood MA MIFA** (LUAU project officer). Richard is an experienced field archaeologist who has undertaken supervision of numerous small and large scale evaluation projects throughout the north of England and other parts of the country.

7.2 Assessment of the finds from the evaluation will be undertaken by LUAU's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis BA MIFA** (LUAU project officer). Christine acts as LUAU's in-house finds specialist and has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England. As well as specialist knowledge regarding Roman glass, metalwork, and leather, the recording and management of waterlogged wood, and most aspects of wetland and environmental archaeology, she is a prehistorian of considerable experience.

7.3 Assessment of any palaeoenvironmental samples which may be taken will be undertaken by **Elizabeth Huckerby MSc** (LUAU project officer). Elizabeth has extensive knowledge of the palaeoecology of the North West through her work on the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey.

7.4 The project will be managed by **Alan Lupton, PhD MIFA** (LUAU Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

8. MONITORING

8.1 Monitoring of the project will be undertaken by the North Yorkshire County Archaeologist.

8.2 A preliminary meeting to discuss the evaluation took place between Richard Heawood and the North Yorkshire County Archaeologist on 1st December 2000.

8.3 Access to the site for monitoring purposes during the fieldwork phase of the project will be afforded to the North Yorkshire County Archaeologist at all times.

8.4 A draft report will be sent to the North Yorkshire County Archaeologist for comment before submission of a completed report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Clarke, A, 1991 *Development at Calvert's Yard, Thirsk*, unpubl rep

Clarke, A, 1995 *Archaeological watching brief at former doctor's surgery, Picks Lane, Thirsk*, unpubl rep

Clarke, A, 1996 *Evaluation and scheme of archaeological work at 2a and 4 Castlegare, Thirsk*, unpubl rep

English Heritage 1991, Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edn, London

FAS, 2000 *Archaeological evaluation, Finkle Street, Thirsk, North Yorkshire*, unpubl rep

MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 1995 *Thirsk Castle, Thirsk, North Yorkshire; archaeological excavation and watching brief*, unpubl rep

MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, 2000 *33 Market Place, Thirsk, North Yorkshire; archaeological evaluation*, unpubl rep

Tyler, A, 1976 *North Yorkshire historic town studies; priorities and needs*, NYCC unpubl rep

Watkinson, D and Neal, V, 1998 First Aid for Finds 3rd edn. RESCUE and the Archaeological section of the UK Institute for Conservation

York Archaeological Trust, 1998 *23-25 Kirkgate, Thirsk, North Yorkshire; report on an archaeological evaluation*, 1998 Field Report **9**, unpubl rep

York Archaeological Trust, 2000 *Masonic Lane, Thirsk, North Yorkshire; report on an archaeological desk-top study*, 2000 Field Report **54**, unpubl rep

All unpublished reports are held by the North Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Trench	Description
100	1	modern overburden
101	1	thick deposit
102	1	fill of ditch [103]
103	1	wide, shallow cut
104	1	natural sand / gravel
200	2	modern overburden
201	2	thick deposit
202	2	fill of ditch [203]
203	2	cut of ditch
204	2	natural sand / gravel
300	3	modern overburden
301	3	deposit
302	3	waterlain deposit
400	4	modern overburden
401	4	deposit
402	4	waterlain deposit
403	4	waterlain deposit
500	5	modern overburden
501	5	fill of ?palaeochannel [505]
502	5	fill of ?palaeochannel [505]
503	5	fill of ?palaeochannel [505]
504	5	fill of ?palaeochannel [505]
505	5	'cut' of possible palaeochannel
506	5	deposit
507	5	waterlain deposit
508	5	waterlain deposit
509	5	waterlain deposit
510	5	waterlain deposit
511	5	waterlain deposit
512	5	boulder clay

ILLUSTRATIONS

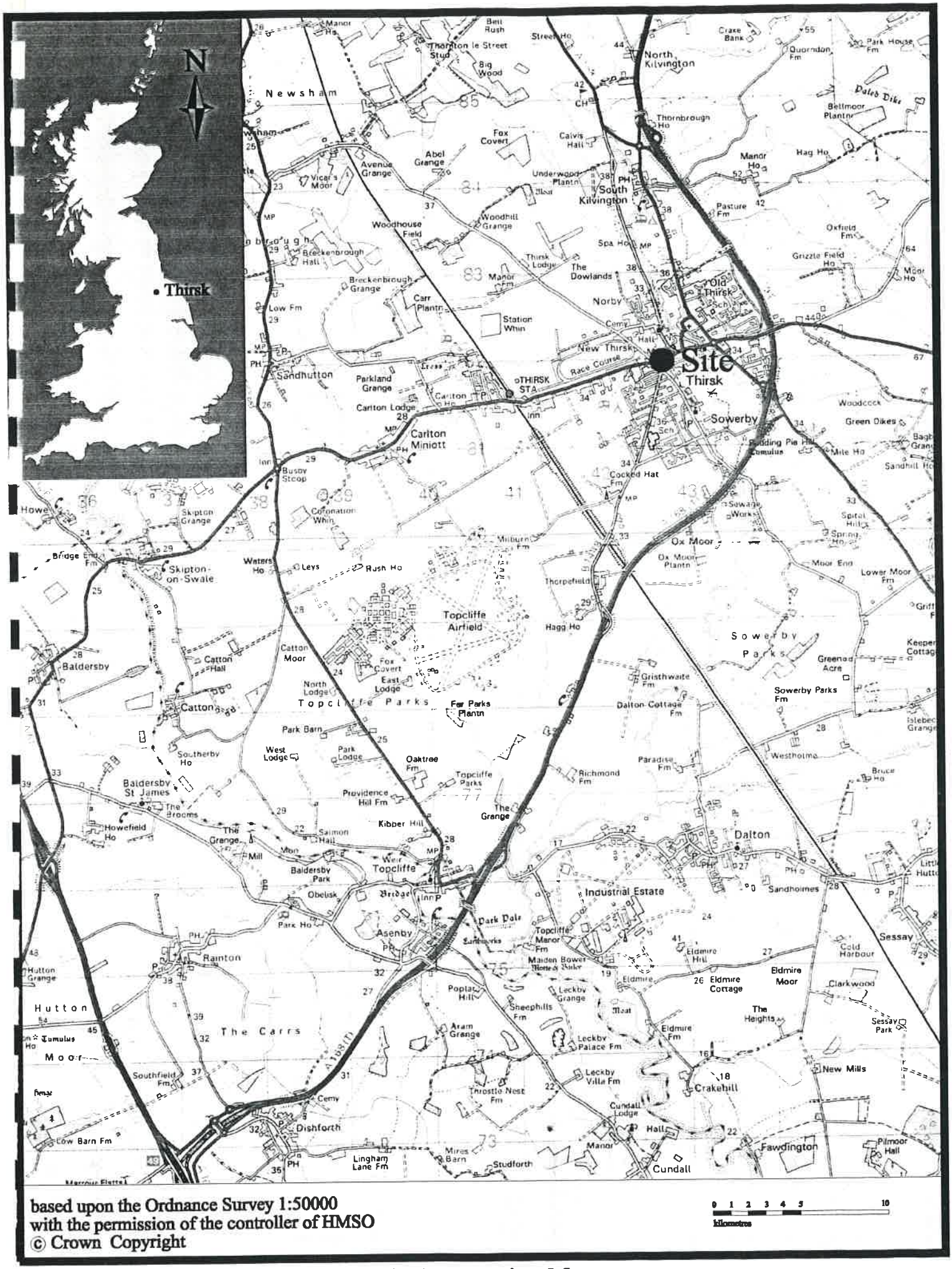


Fig 1 : Location Map

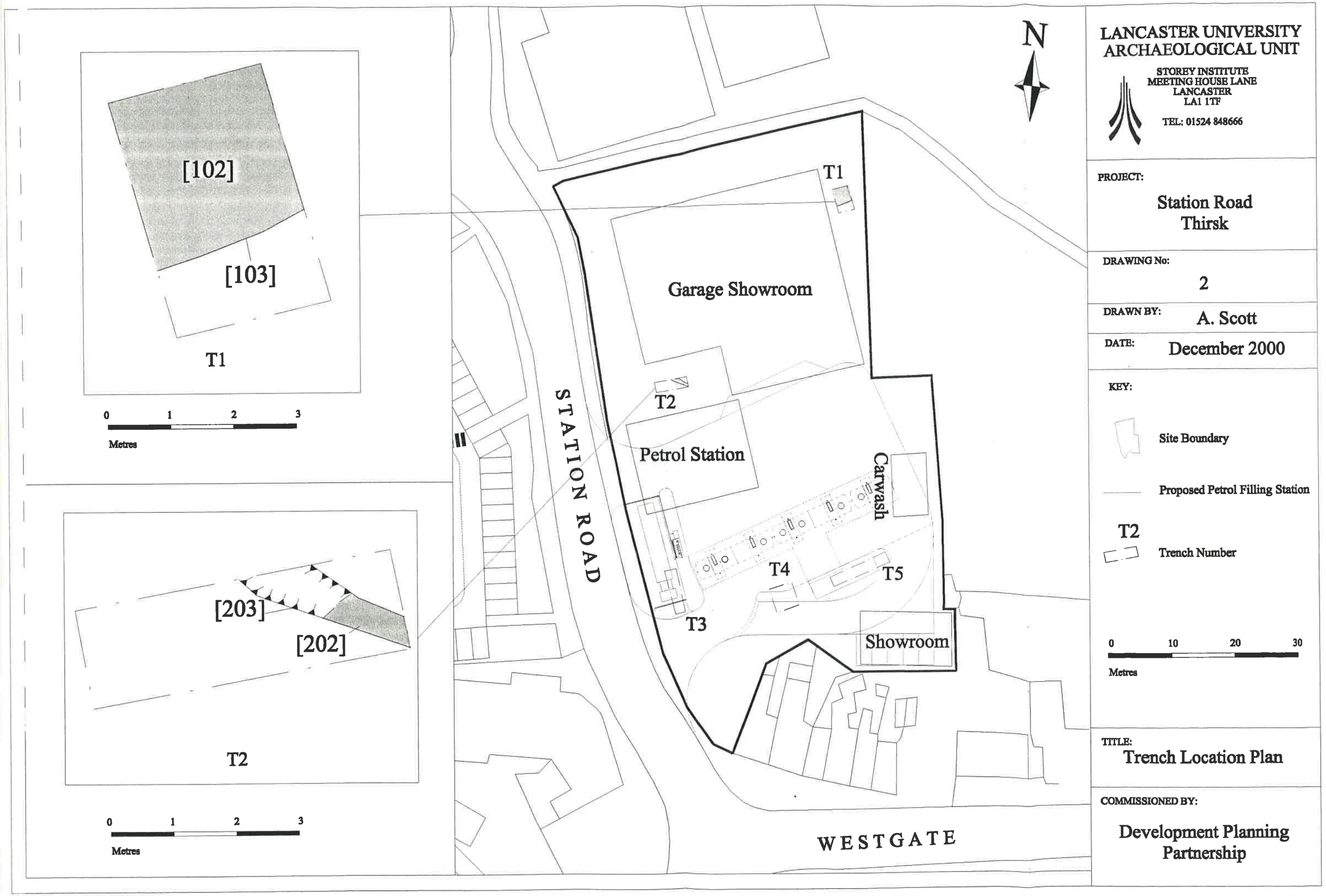
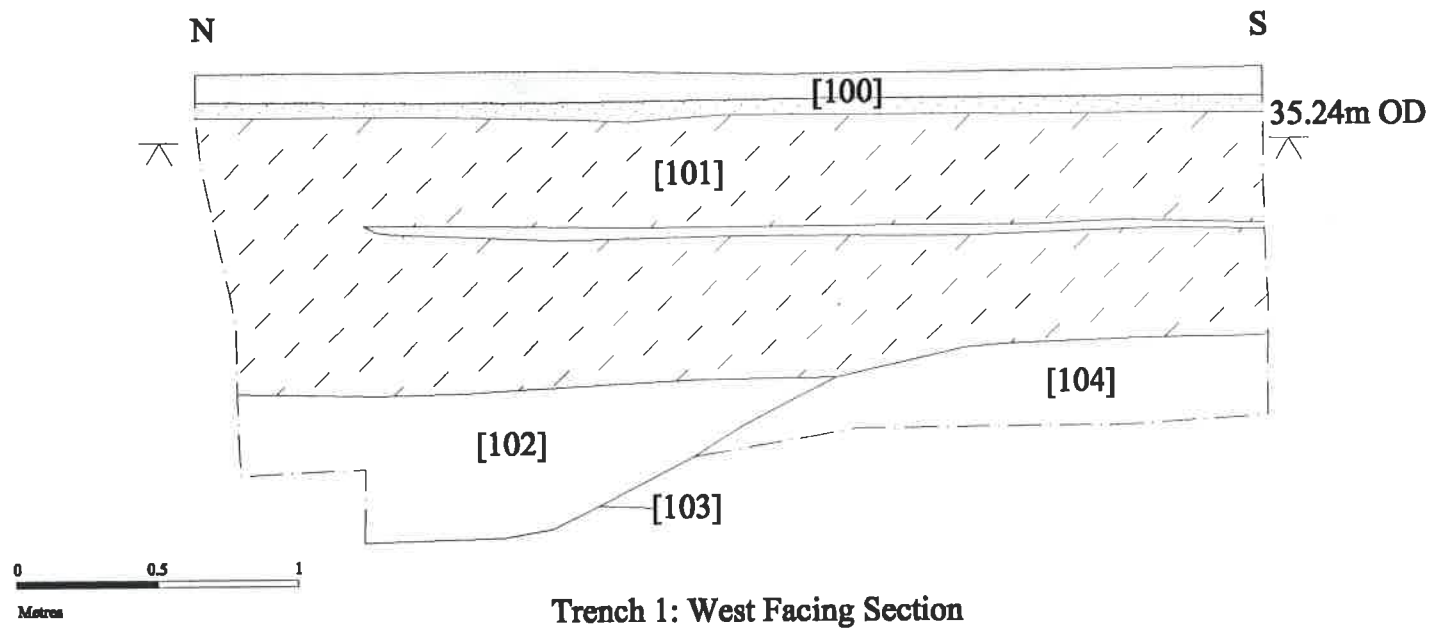
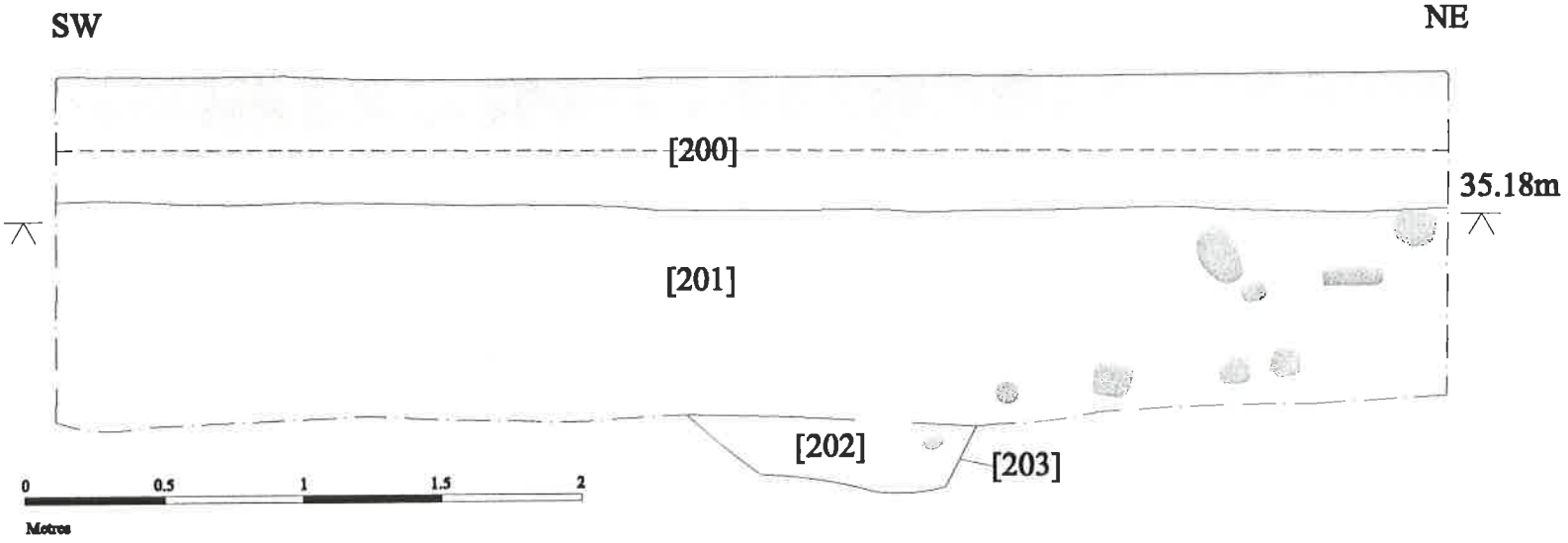


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan



Trench 1: West Facing Section



Trench 2: South Facing Section

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

STOREY INSTITUTE
MEETING HOUSE LANE
LANCASTER
LA1 1TF

TEL: 01524 848666

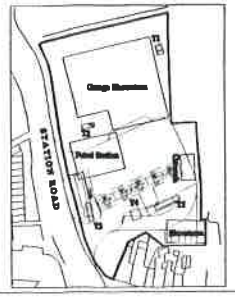
PROJECT: Station Road Thirsk

DRAWING No: 3

DRAWN BY: A. Scott

DATE: December 2000

LOCATION:



KEY:

- Concrete
- Sand
- Silty Sand
- Sandstone

TITLE: Sections from Trenches 1 and 2

COMMISSIONED BY: Development Planning Partnership

Figure 3: Sections from Trenches 1 and 2

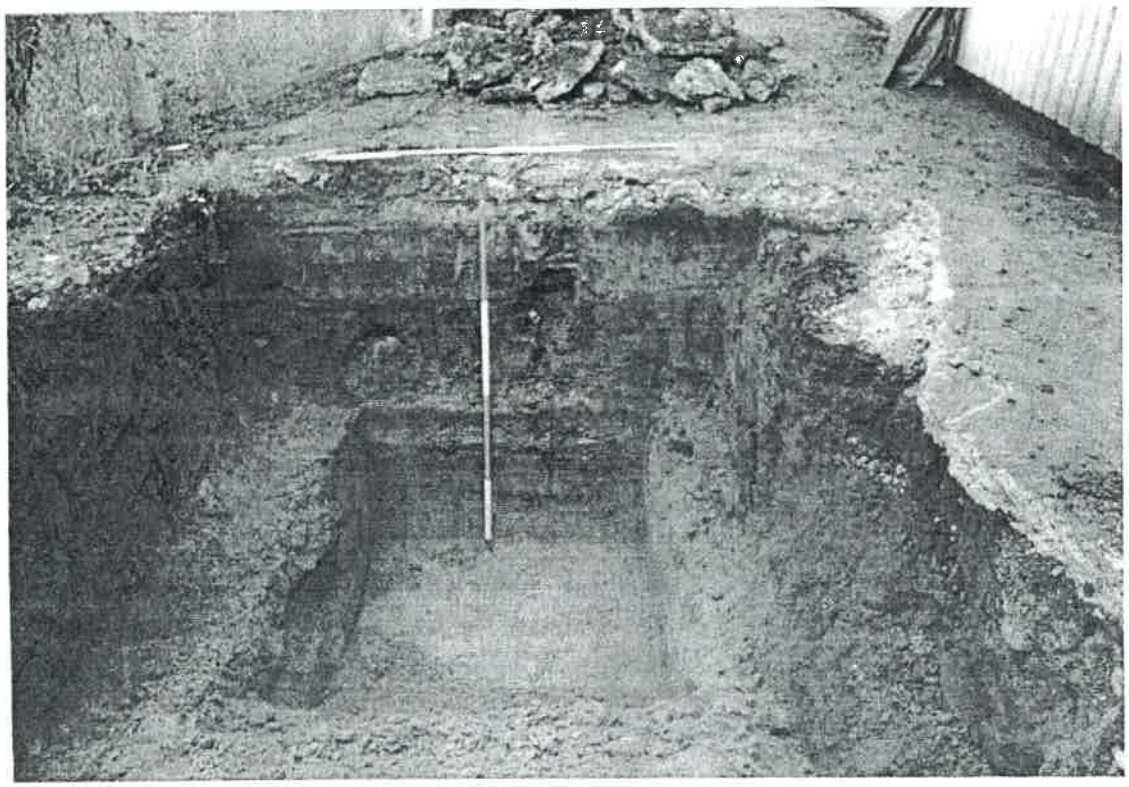


Plate 1 North-west facing section, Trench 1, showing sondage through natural sand/gravel

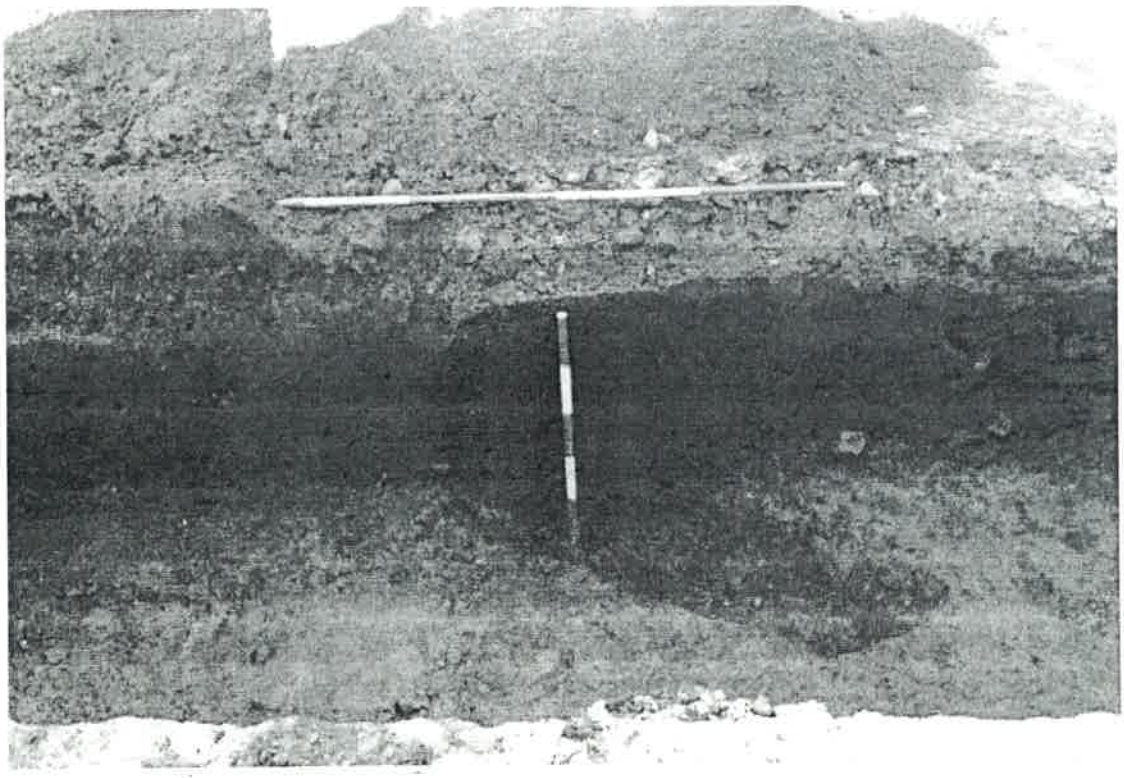


Plate 2 South-south-east facing section, Trench 2, showing deposit [201] and ditch [203]

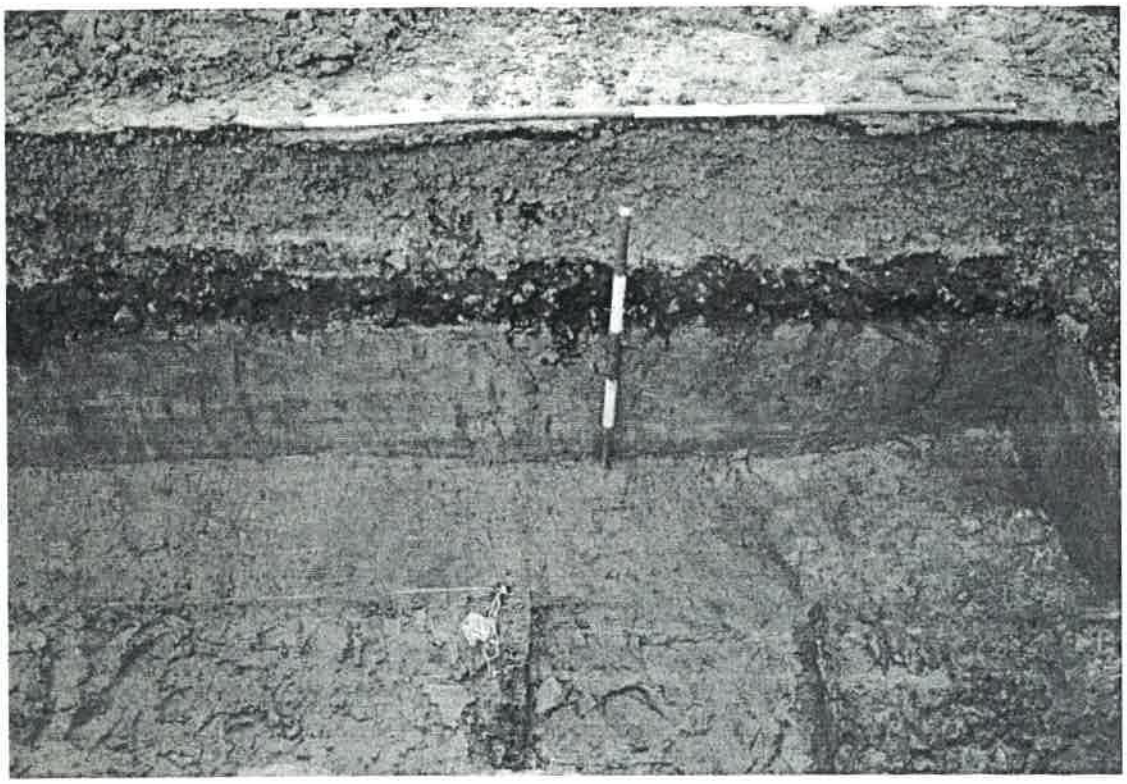


Plate 3 South-south-east facing section, Trench 5, showing waterlain sediments below modern hardcore