

Gueswick Hills 2025 Trench 9 Report

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Introduction

The excavation was carried out between 17th August 2025 and 6th September 2025.

The method adopted for work within trench 9 was removal of turf by spade and wheelbarrow to a stack on the eastern side of the trench. Excavation was mainly with hand trowels (conventional and Japanese Weeding Tools due to hard dry soil/stone matrix) with occasional use of mattocks. All larger stones were separated into a pile and the remaining spoil taken in buckets / wheelbarrows to a spoil heap on the western side of the trench. Changing

Excavation was by following contexts or slots/sections to provide a profile of the material deposition.

Use of photogrammetry aided daily decision making and a changing interpretation throughout the time of the excavation.

The conclusions regarding the southern lower end of the excavation of trench 9 in 2024 are as follows:

“The lower (south) end of the trench was suspected to be the floor of a scoop, possibly the site of a building. It has yet to be excavated fully, so this is still uncertain. No postholes or gullies have been found: they may lie under a deposit, 9010, which shows much evidence of occupation (charcoal and butchered animal bones). No flagstone paving was present in this area, but there are spreads of rubble, some of which may be from demolition of structures higher up the slope. No material has been radiocarbon dated from this trench, but it seems likely that, as in Trench 2, the higher contexts are from the Roman Iron Age, with lower deposits, such as 9010, being from late in the pre-Roman Iron Age.”

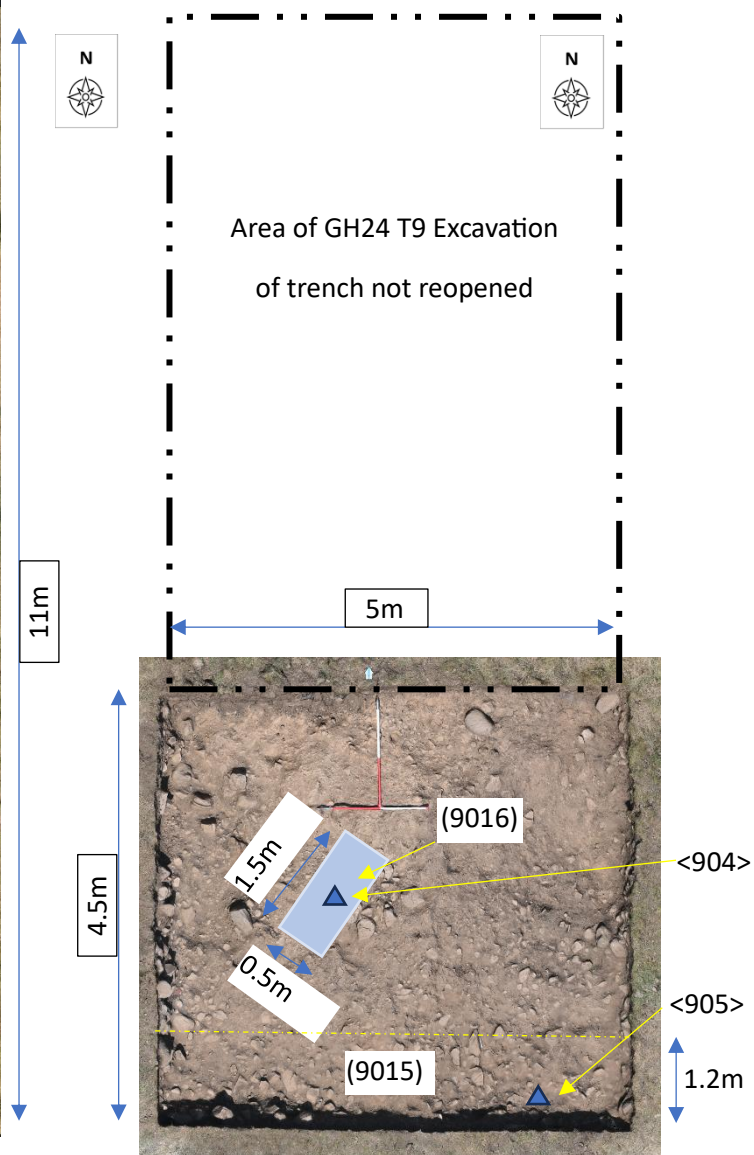
This suggested that a building might exist to the south of the trench and should therefore be excavated in 2025, which this report covers the excavation following the uncovering of the lower half of the 2024 excavated trench as starting point taking the layers down to natural. This philosophy was undertaken and followed to the point of re-evaluation based on observations after much of the soil had been excavated.

The photogrammetric record and commentary following shows the development of the trench and how the interpretation of the contexts developed the understanding of what we had uncovered and the change from a suspected building to another feature.

The Excavation



GH24 T9 - end day 30 August 2024 – photogrammetric Ortho Plan end day before placing Terram Geotextile over surface.



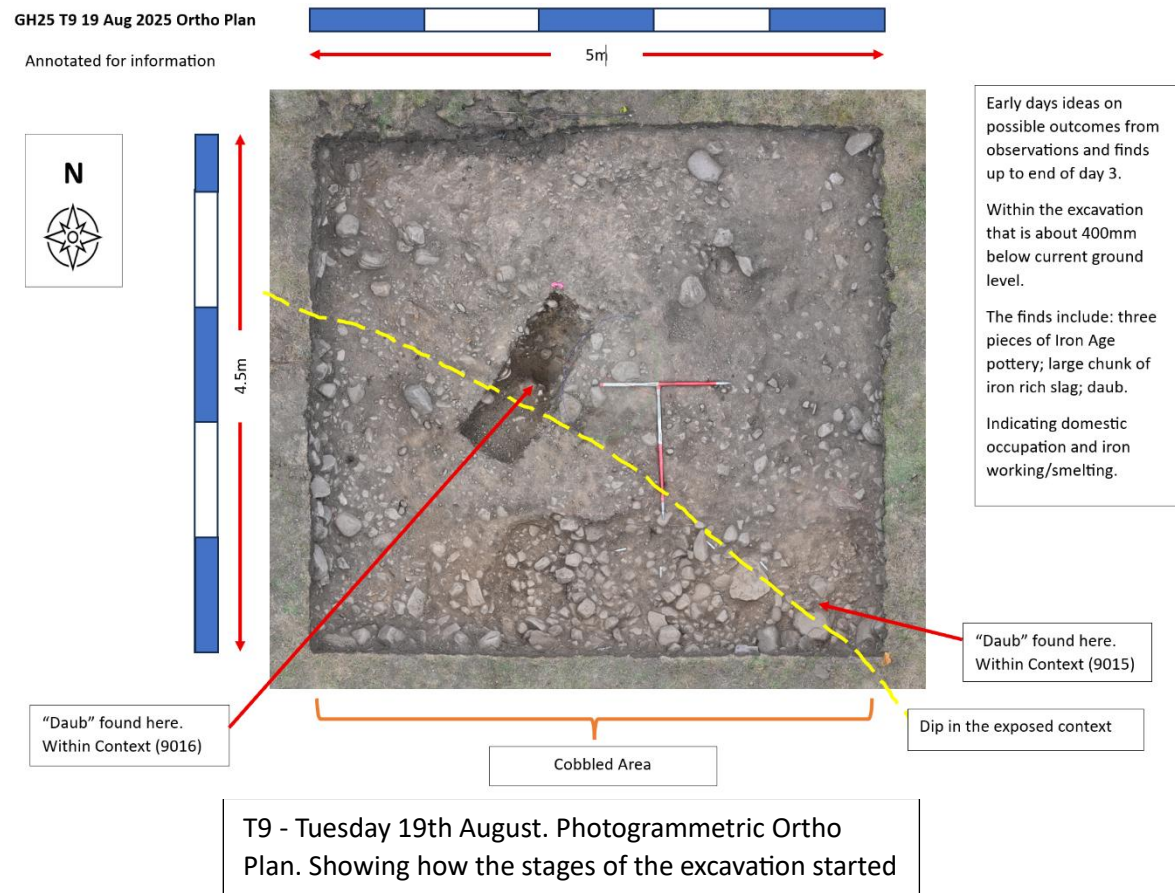
GH25 T9 – midday 17th August 2025 photogrammetric Ortho Plan after removal of Terram and surface cleaned by hand trowelling.

17th August after removing the backfill from 2024 excavation and under the geophysical membrane (terram), the surface was cleaned back. This revealed an apparent depression and to aid its interpretation of this a slot was opened up across part of the area (9016). A daub like material was unearthed ([analysis awaited](#)). Also an area across the southern end of the trench was trowelled back ((9015) revealing a shard of a pot.

The indications for the 2024 excavation and reasoning to excavate this season was the apparent belief that a stone built found house may have existed in this area. The depression was thus assumed

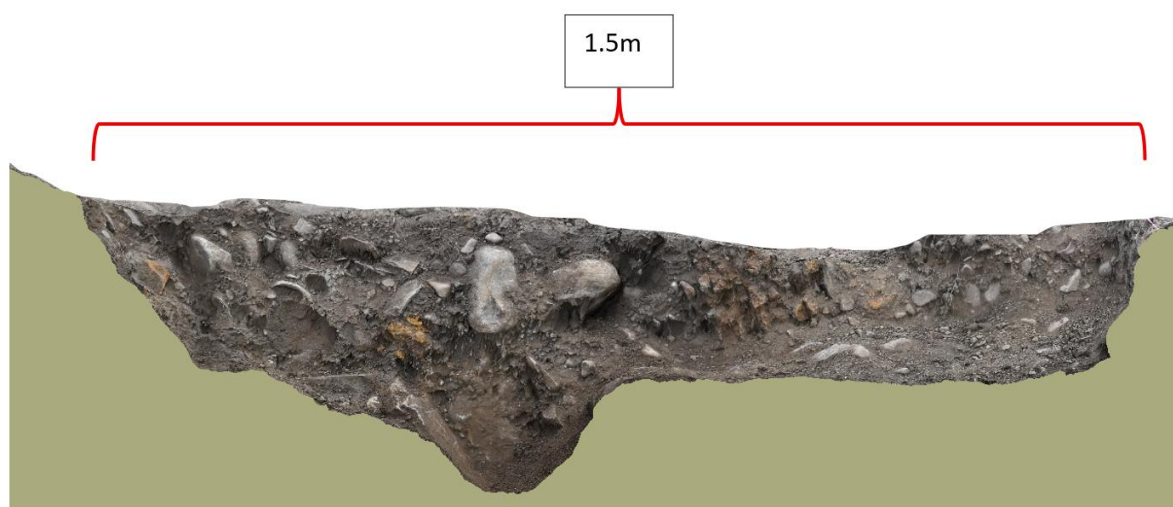
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to potentially be a drip gulley from a roundhouse. The diagram/picture below shows the development of the excavation at this time.



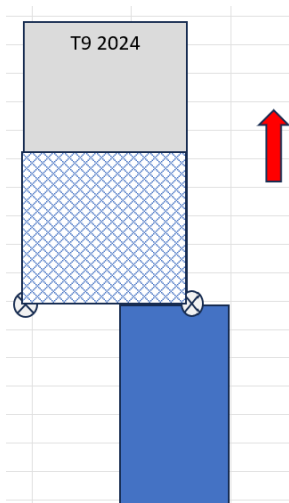
Observation of the section of the slot (9016), shown below, reinforced the thinking at the time that there was some form of gulley below rubble backfill. Thus worth continuing with careful excavation across the trench.

GH25 Trench 9 - Context (9016) – View on to the Eastern face

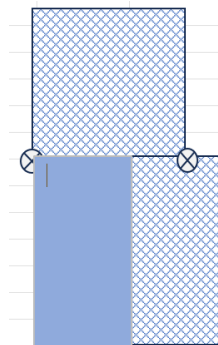


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Progress continued with enlarging the trench to the south in two 3 by 5 m areas as shown in the diagrams below.



21st August 2025 (9019) deturfed

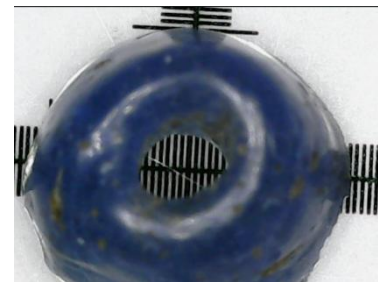


22nd August 2025 (9020) deturfed
,(9019) trowelling back

The topsoil in both of the 3m wide by 5m extension areas had a high proportion of clay in the matrix. Below the topsoil context (9019) a stoney surface was revealed in ((9021) similarly (9020) also revealed a stoney surface (9024).

By the 27th August allowed surface stones to be removed from (9024) and other contexts worked on.

The two areas had been cleaned down evenly in which a blue bead, SF <930> was found. This is a half a glass bead which is 4.4mm in diameter and 2.34mm thick as shown enlarged in the picture. The estimated blue colour (Munsell value 7.5PB 3/6).

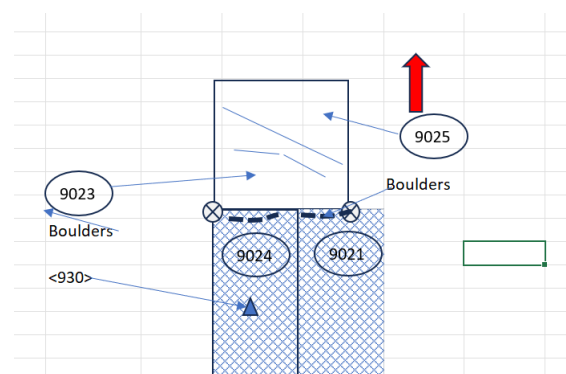


Blue Bead SF <930>

There is a similarity of this bead to an Iron Age Bead found on Orkney (ref <https://archaeologyorkney.com/2022/01/31/swartigill-blue-beads/>)

Also, there is some similarity to Late Bronze Age Glass Beads such as those found at Stotfold, Bedfordshire, (ref: <https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/id/eprint/185170/1/heritage-05-00035.pdf>)

However the shallow depth of the find (-1.03m with respect to the site TBM) to local ground level which gave approximately 100mm depth ground surface (-0.93m wrt site TBM) so this was subject to disturbance from animals and ploughing and not suitable for accurate dating.



Location of Blue Bead SF <930>

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Trench 9 mid-day 27th August 2025
Photogrammetric Ortho Plan.

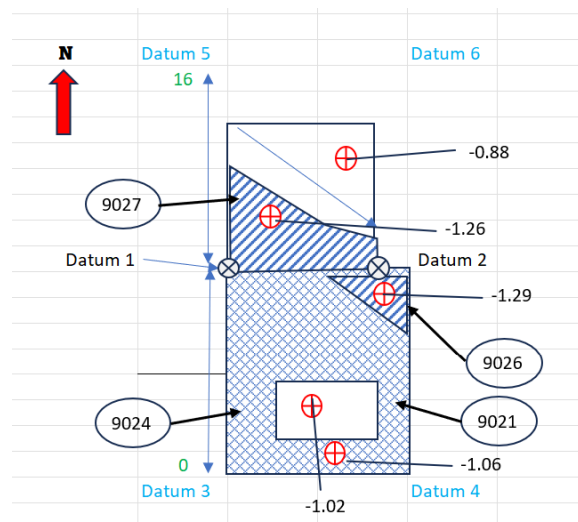
Trench extended South by 5m x 5m.



Trench 9 9am 29th August 2025
Photogrammetric Ortho Plan

Over the next few days activities on site were interrupted by training sessions for members looking at how to complete Context sheets and how to use the newly purchased Resistivity Meter.

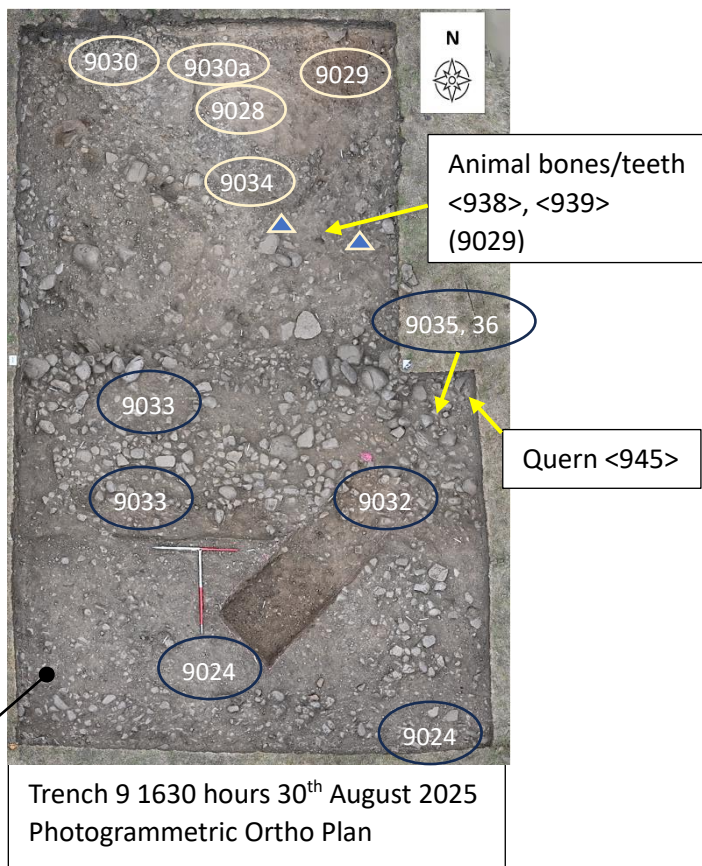
An open day on 30th August allowed participation by families with children to appreciate Archaeological excavations and trowelling.



Progress on 28th August

Elevation of context surfaces are shown as negative numbers (i.e. metres below site TBM)

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Family digging area

Parallel lines of stones now appeared as the context was removed and a slot (9032) [3m by 1m] was opened up at an angle to the trench to cut through one of the lines of stones and into the intermediate area to resolve any connectivity. Note also the large stones/boulders that emerged in a line across the middle of the trench.

The narrowness of the southern parallel line of stones implied it may be a wall base so it was given contexts cut (9039), fill (9040). No cut was subsequently observed with the lines of stones (9040) as they were lying on the exposed surface.

At the change of width of the trench another apparent wall was observed so this was given contexts (9035), (9036) and a broken fragment of a quern <945> was found at the corner, also an iron nail <950>.

On the 2nd September a north-south slot (9041) was laid out to cut across the two east-west lines of parallel stones and the intermediate zone. This would hopefully resolve any connectivity between the two lines of stones and if they were actually cut into the surrounding soil.



The section (9032) at elevation -1.29m did not resolve anything so a sondage [0.5m by 0.5m] was started at the southern end of the (9032). Finds in (9032) of Iron nail <942>, wet stone <947> charcoal <966>.

At the base of the sondage (9042) dark coloured material was exposed and gave the initial appearance of two buried wooden stakes <968>, <969> that may have been burnt so classed as charcoal < To expose these safely the sondage needed to be enlarged. Within the sondage a seam of small stones was exposed and slag was found.

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Exploration in the northern end of the trench (9028), (9029), (9030), (9030a) (9034) followed various depositions of soils . Finds of animal bones and teeth in (9029) were collected.



Trench 9 1630 hours 2nd September 2025
Photogrammetric Ortho Plan



Trench 9 16:15 5th September 2025
Photogrammetric Ortho Plan

The lines of stones (9038) and (9040) when looked at in section had a greater depth of stones in the middle of the section compared to the edges. This arrangement of parallel sets of stones now indicated that these were as a result of Rig and Furrow activities which had been observed in the section of other trenches exposed in earlier excavation seasons on the plateau within the palisaded enclosure area and particularly in [GH23-Trench 7].



Picture of the sondage as enlarged with <950> and <960> exposed in the base. The elevation of these is [-2.66] and [-2.65] [wrt site TBM].

Observations following the Excavation

Views of the trench sides are shown below



T9 perspective view on the Eastern trench side



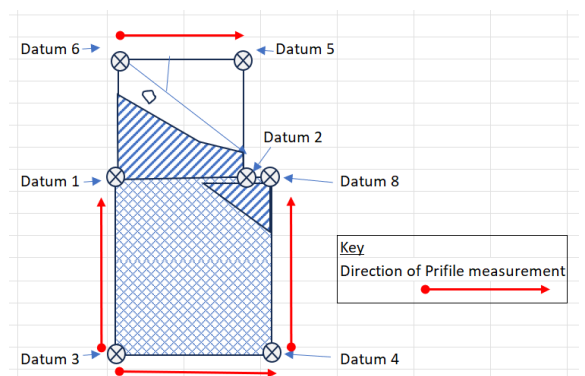
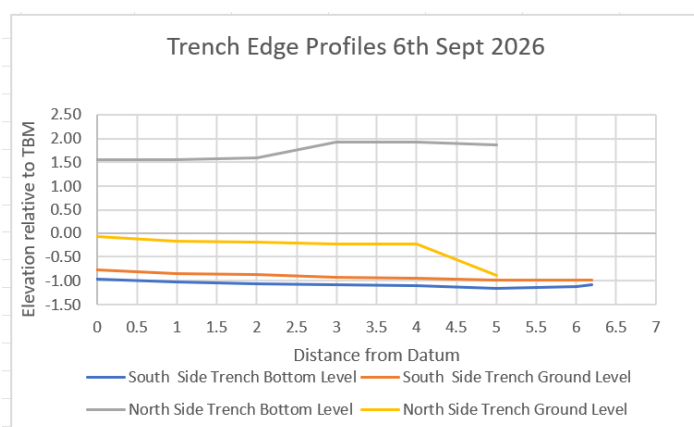
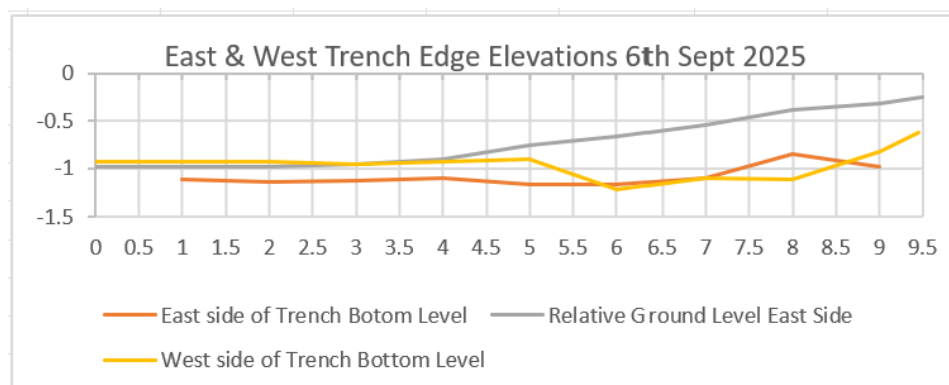
T9 perspective view southern side of trench

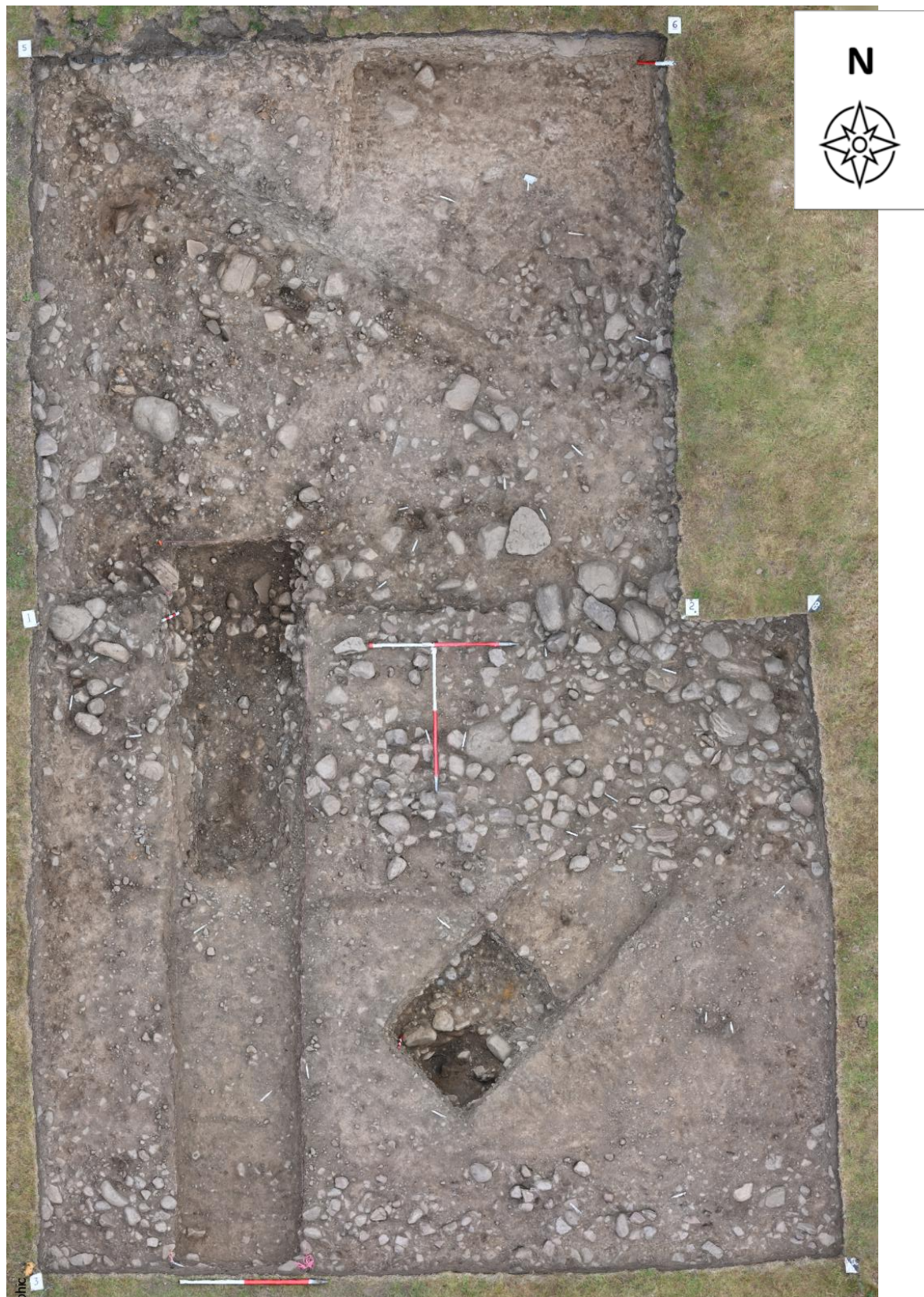


T9 perspective view on the Western trench side



T9 perspective view northern side of trench





Trench 9 8:50am Saturday 6th September 2025 Photogrammetric Ortho Plan



Trench 9 Photogrammetric perspective view looking west on slot (9041).



Enlargement of the northern end of the slot (9041) shown to the left.

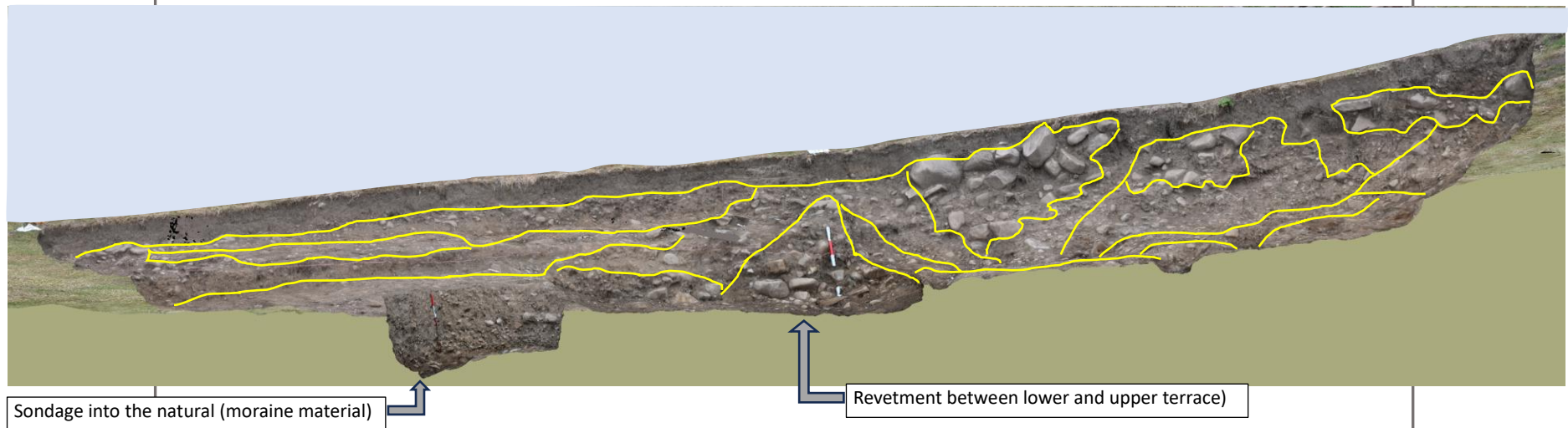
This shows the large stone cobbles laid as a revetment between upper and lower levels.

Following the removal of all the soils and stones within the trench and examining the sections in the North-south slot and trench edge sections it became apparent that in the central section part of which had been removed in 2024 excavations large cobbles had been placed to form a revetment. Looking at the west and east trench edge sections shown in the picture on the following page. This

indicates that the material deposited to the north of this revetment had been placed by discrete loads to level off this upper region. Used at some time to allow a structure to be located there as described in the 2024 reporting. The area to the south of the revetment contained some tumbled stones but mainly finer materials with small stones (i.e. hill wash). This is above a flatter area with the remains of ridge and furrow (lines of stones moved by the plough into ridges).

Post excavation observation of Lidar that is now available has also confirmed that a possible curved step in levels occurred around the excavated area. The geophysics give indication of such a revetment which may be due to the depth at which the cobbles had been placed.

Animal bones sent for analysis (see appendix for report details) indicate that the upper section mainly in the 2024 excavations were from cattle. The lower section of the excavation had mainly cattle and one from sheep. These bones found in the 2025 excavation were mainly deposited in material that was used to level the area north of the revetment or near to the base of the revetting stone cobbles.



Looking West on T9 using the combined profile from the photogrammetric model to illustrate the complexity of the processes of creation of the terrace. The profile of the deposition varied across the trench dipping to the east at the north end but generally level at the southern half below the revetment. Deposition bands shown with a yellow outline.



Conclusions

The excavation description preceding this demonstrates how the interpretation changed from the apparent remnants of a “scooped round house” which had been constructed into the sloping hillside close to the top of the Gueswick Hills and to the south and below the iron age enclosure.

Evidence of early ridge and furrow at depth below the current ground surface was evident. The construction of curved large cobble revetment was discovered. Discrete loads of fill could be discerned from the long east and west trench edge sections reinforced by careful excavation in the northern trench section. Flatter layering of deposits within the lower southern section of the trench also supports the construction of a terrace similar to those constructed on the slopes of Gueswick Hills to the South and West.

Material including slag and small amounts of charcoal were found sporadically within deposited material and in areas that would have seen hill wash all of which implied that they came from some form of activity higher up the hill.

Dating of the areas within trench 9 are awaited to confirm the period of construction but it is possible that this would have been concurrent with the other terraces on the hill.

Appendix

List of Contexts

Site_c ode	Excavat ion year	Tren ch No.	Area	Cont ext No.	Relati ve Level	Descrip tion	Content	Comment	
GH24	2024	T9		9001					
				9002					
				9003					
				9004					
				9005					
				9006					
				9007					
				9008					
				9009					
				9010					
				9011					
				9012					
				9013					
				9014					
GH25	2025	T9	below geotex tile	9015			Bulk finds	baked clay fragments (Daub) cbm cinder	
GH25	2025	T9	slot	9016			Bulk finds	charcoal, Daub, cobbles	
GH25	2025	T9		9017			Bulk finds	sand, clay , stones	
GH25	2025	T9		9018			Bulk finds	Cinder Pot sherds x 2 flint debitage	

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GH25	2025	T9	extension 1	9019			Bulk finds	Baked yellow clay body (not high temp firing) fragments Clog Iron (part of sole iron), pot (white glazed earthenware) cinder
GH25	2025	T9	extension 2	9020			Bulk finds	Iron Nail Pot sherds (4 modern, 1 possible medieval/IA)
GH25	2025	T9	below 9019	9021			as this area is just under the topsoil/turf only bulk finds listed	round pebbles, limestone fossils, 3 opaque blue/green glass shards, 1 brown glass shard, 1 piece melted glass, flint core, 5 x tapping slag, 2 x magnetic slag, 8 x cbm, 3x fire heated stone, 3x blue/white pot sherds, 2x cream pot sherds, 1x medieval pot sherd, 4x tobacco pipe stems fragments. coal, 4 x iron nail, 2 x clog iron fragments Cinder
GH25	2025	T9		9022			Bulk finds	Pot (possible IA) poor quality Black body, ceramic, glass, slag
GH25	2025	T9	below 9015	9023			Bulk finds	pebbles with non-magnetic concretions bulk finds: fire cracked stone, baked clay bone
GH25	2025	T9		9024			Bulk finds	baked clay, shale, 30% sub-rounded pebbles, & sub-angular pebbles, cinder, quartz pebbles. Fossil, 60% silty sands
GH25	2025	T9		9025				
GH25	2025	T9		9026				30% pebbles, 30% small cobbles, 10% grit,
GH25	2025	T9		9027				30% medium sized pebbles, 70% small pebbles
GH25	2025	T9		9028				distinctive orientation of cobbles transverse to slope

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GH25	2025	T9		9029				distinctive orientation of cobbles transverse to slope	
GH25	2025	T9		9030					
GH25	2025	T9		9031					
GH25	2025	T9	diagonal section	9032		1x3m	Bulk finds (diagonal slot)	coal, , cinder, charcoal	
GH25	2025	T9	E-W section	9033		1x4m	Bulk finds	lumps of lime, ironstone casing, baked clay, cinder,	
GH25	2025	T9		9034					
GH25	2025	T9	feature cut	9035		arcing boulder wall - cut		large cobbles, charcoal, fossil	
GH25	2025	T9	feature fill	9036		arcing boulder wall -fill			
GH25	2025	T9	feature cut	9037		parallel lines of cobbles -cut			
GH25	2025	T9	feature fill	9038		parallel lines of cobbles -fill		cbm charcoal	
GH25	2025	T9	feature cut	9039		parallel lines of cobbles -cut		possible ridge and furrow	

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GH25	2025	T9	feature fill	9040	parallel lines of cobbles -fill	Bulk finds	large sub-rounded pebble 50mmdia, cinder, coal, fossil 40mmdia (possible tube worms)
GH25	2025	T9	below 9024	9041		Bulk finds fill material	tapping slag, cinder, fossil (shell), baked clay, fire cracked stone baked clay sample of material from fill of sondage
GH25	2025	T9	sonda ge in 9032	9042		Bulk finds (sonda ge in diagonal slot)	pebbles with non-magnetic concretions bulk finds: fire cracked stone, baked clay
GH25	2025	T9	Perry	9043			deposits over cut surface
GH25	2025	T9	Perry	9044			deposits laid down slope
GH25	2025	T9	Perry	9045			
GH25	2025	T9	?	9046			distinctive zone of cobbles oriented in a southerly direction
GH25	2025	T9	base of sonda ge 9042	9047		Bulk sample	occasional small cobles with 2% pebbles 10% gravel remaining silty sand - supported by sample of material from fill of sondage settled in a flask .
			below 9038	9048	stone at base of boulder wall		
			below 90348	9049	below boulder wall		
			Gh24-T9 backfill	backfill	above geotextile in	unstratified backfill from GH24 above terram	firebrick/fired clay 45mm deep, cinder, half a firecracked stone cobble (90*55mm),

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GH24-
T9

Small Finds by Context

Context No.	SF_no															Elevation
9015	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910							-1.17
9016	911	912	913	914												
9016	912	913														
9017	914	915														
9019	916	917														
9021	918	919	920	921	922	923	924									-1.13
9024	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	971		-1.03
9026																-1.29
9027	972															-1.26
9029	973	974	975													
9030	976															
9032	977	978	979													-1.29
9033	980	981														
9036	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991						-1.25
9040	992	993	970													
9041	971	972														
9042	973	974	975	976												

List of Small Finds

Context-	SF_no	Elevation Relative to TBM (m)	Material	Object_simple _type	Condition	Description	Photo Ref No.	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Diameter (mm)	Weight (g)	Count
9015	902	-1.16	ceramic	pot	fair	200mm Dia IA pot rim shard	img012+0 13	40.00	20.50	9.00	200.00	9.00	1
9006	903		plant	wood (burnt) charcoal flecks too small for identification	not tested to float due to small size	charcoal flecks found in backfill of 2024-T9 after teram removal	img014					0.10	>10
9016	904		Earth mix	Daub	good	daub like material found near top of section						2719. 00	>40
9015	905		pot		fair	pot shard, one side reddish surface, other side yellowish surface	img016+0 19	25.50	12.85	13.66		3.50	1

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9015	906		plant	wood (burnt) charcoal Birchwood stemwood or large branchwood. Worked. Good Condition	good floated	found between stones	img020				0.80	>12
9015	907	-1.17	industrial debris	iron slag	good	iron rich slag, possible iron bloom	img021	87.73	79.70	64.70	369.5 0	1
9015	908	-1.21	?		good	Semi spherical Object. ? Stone ? Slingshot, ? Slag	img022	15.00	12.44	11.40	2.60	1
9015	909	-1.14	ceramic	pot	fair	pot rim shard, black outer surface, reddish body	img025+0 26	29.29	21.24	6.39	4.60	1
9016	910		industrial debris		fair	Broken shell of Iron nodule	img028	61.00	19.08	2.63	5.80	6

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9015	911	-1.17	ceramic	pot	fair	pot rim shard, blackish outer surface, reddish inner surface	img030+3 1	27.63	27.74	5.50	6.80	1
9015	912		stone artefact	worked chert ?	fair	roughout of a possible thumb scraper - not retouched	img032	29.13	25.72	8.20	5.90	1
9015	913		stone artefact	worked stone	good	stone stopper (sandstone)	img035	82.37	83.43	20.42 82.00	211.4 0	1
not used	914											
not used	915											
not used	916											

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9016	917		plant	wood (burnt) charcoal		small charcoal								
9019	918		metal ?	artifact		coated coiled paper disc with metal pin possible tag. Copper centre element with non- magnetic spike having iron corrosion products on surface	img036+3 7	29.58	19.53	5.96	19.96	2.10	1	
9021	919	-1.12	metal/animal	FORK (UTENSIL)	poor	2-pronged iron fork with bone handle	img039	105.43	15.38	13.21		13.10		
9024	920	-0.98	ceramic	pot	fair	curved IA pot shard	img042+4 3	55.15	31.90	22.10		32.00	1	
9021	921		industrial debris	glass	fair	fragment of greenish glass	img044	8.00	6.00	3.83		0.30	1	

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9024	922	-1.07	industrial debris	glass slag	fair	glass slag possible from glass working, partially clear glass	img045-48	26.55	10.29	10.70		3.20	1
9024	923	-0.91	ceramic	pot	good	260mm dia pot rim shard	img046-48	50.13	18.44	8.50	260.00	13.50	
9021	924	-1.06	metal	iron nail	poor, corroded	handmade Iron nail fragment	img049	28.54	12.41	4.81		3.30	1
9024	925	-0.90	ceramic	pot	good	pot rim shard, pinkish coloured body	img050-051	44.17	29.00	13.19	200.00	25.20	1
9021	926	-1.13	ceramic	CLAY PIPE (SMOKING)	fair	clay pipe stem fragment, large bore 3.08mm	img052	37.63			7.74	3.10	1
9024	927	-0.92	ceramic	pot	fair	IR pot rim buff coloured body	img053+054	44.66	30.15	8.26	260.00	18.00	1
9021	928	-1.21	ceramic	pot	fair	terracotta pot rim	img056+057	29.69	17.61	5.13	200.00	2.30	1

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9021	929	-1.11	plant	pea seed (burnt)	good	Spherical Object. ? Stone ? Seed (burnt pea), slag	img055	-	-	-	9.02	0.70	1
9024	930	-1.05	glass	glass bead	good	half blue glass bead, 2.02 bored hole	img060	-	-	2.34	4.40	<0.01	1
9024	931	-1.09	9	pot	fair	medieval green glazed pot shards with horizontal darker glazed band 7.2mm wide on larger piece. Unglazed interior surface	img062+0 66	47.69 19	25.17 13.38	8.42 5.68	250.00	9.5 0.9	2
9024	932	-1.19	industrial debris	iron slag		iron rich slag, weak magnetic attraction	img070	52.57	34.15	28.82		72.80	1

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9024	933	-1.18	plant	Plant remains (mineralised)	sank didn't float	(site identified as charcoal) following floatation the item sank on closer inspection thought to be coal/shale cinder	img071	19.73	9.60	8.52	1.00	1
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9024	934	stone	worked stone (wet stone)	good	wet stone/rubbing stone. Made of pinkish buff colour fine grained stone has a flat surface on one side. It fits well in the right hand with a depression for the thumb and a corner has been cleaved to sit against the palm.	img074+075	86.93	62.00	51.14	429.00	1
9024	935	ceramic	pot	fair	small flake of terracotta pot similar material to SF<928>	img075	16.28	11.21	2.85	0.30	1
9027	936	Animal	Vertebrate remains	poor	animal jaw (ruminant), with three loose teeth. Possibly from a Deer	img076-078	39.41	23.32	26.46	18.70	>10

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9033	937		ceramic, stone	pot, ironstone casing		small pot with rim, ironstone casing													
9029	938	-0.98	Animal	Vertebrate remains		? bone fragments within 1m of SF<937> possible charred fragments with larger piece	img082	17.85	7.00	1.19			0.40	>10					
9029	939		Animal	Vertebrate remains		part jawbone of an animal	img083- 086	48.27 23.07	23.78 25.63	18.86 11.38			16.00	>4					
9021	940		stone	worked stone	good	semi-circular stone with possible peck marks. possible worked stone/broke n large vessel stopper	img090	144.31	71.72	29.47	≈77		557.5 0	1					

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9033	941		glass	glass	fair	glass fragment, slight green tinge. One side is slightly dimpled. No bubbles within the glass shard.	img091	21.55	10.73	2.96	0.90	1
9032	942	-1.29	metal	iron		handmade square shank iron nail	img092	43.56	8.11	7.14	7.90	
9019	943		stone	worked stone	fair	segment of quern stone	dsc_6992-7005	218.00	190.00	60.00 ~440	?	1
9024	944		ceramic	pot	fair	Terracotta pot rim		33.55	21.59	12.38 230.00	9.50	1
9036	945		stone	worked stone	fair	segment of quern stone	dsc_6981-6991	220.00	170.00	80.00		1
9030	946		plant	wood (burnt) charcoal		charcoal flecks					134.00	

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9032	947		stone	worked stone		small wetstone/rubbing stone, trapezoidal section		60.00	30.00	30.00		39.70	1
9040	948		industrial debris	slag	good	possible slag from Furness base (previously thought to be stone or pot sherd)		44.37	29.38	19.13	250.00	16.10	1
9040	949		plant	wood (burnt) charcoal too small for identification	good too small for C14?	charcoal fragments	img095	6.27 7.97	3.73 3.56	1.89 1.68		<0.01	7
9036	950	-1.06	metal	6	good	iron nail with 20mm dia head, square shank		47.70	6.34	6.34	19 (head)	10.40	1
9024	951	-1.03	ceramic	pot	fair	late IR/RB pot rim shard		29.12	20.65	6.41	200.00	5.10	
9036	952	-1.12	ceramic	pot	poor	Terracotta pot shard		20.32	14.09	3.02		0.80	

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9036	953		plant	wood (burnt) charcoal Prunus (e.g. Blackthorn) branchwood. Good condition, 3 growth rings	floatated, good, possibly too small for C14	charcoal	img096	11.82 8.21 6.67	7.69 4.77 5.94	4.06 4.22 2.32	<0.01	3
9036	954	-1.33	Animal	Vertebrate remains	good for C14	bone	img093- 094	64.73 44.26	48.00 25.28	32.76 14.20	15.1 5.4	2
9036	955	-1.32	Animal	Vertebrate remains	fair	bone (various sized pieces, 3 largest shown)	img098- 099	66.3 51.63 36.49	39.20 38.30 32.93	27.71 23.39 19.44	9.05	36
9041	956		plant	wood (burnt) charcoal		charcoal	img102	14.67	10.91	7.28	0.40	1+
9041	957		plant	wood (burnt) charcoal flecks too small for identification	floatated, good too ?small for C14?	charcoal	img104	4.0 4.0 4.0 3.7 3.0 2.2	2.0 2.0 3.0 2.5 2.1 1.5	1.0 1.0 2.0 1.0 1.0 1.0	<0.01	6

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9036	958	-1.44	Animal	Vertebrate remains	poor/fragmented	bone fragments with earth	img105	1.5 +fragments	6.00	3.00	31.60	many >100
9042	959		plant	wood (burnt) charcoal	poor	charcoal covered earth from base of sondage in 2 bags	img106 (bag 1) img107 (bag 2)	not measured	"----- -----"	"----- -----"	16.5 19.9	Bag 1 Bag 2 multiple >10
9042	960		plant	wood (burnt) charcoal flecks too small for identification		charcoal covered stone at base of sondage	img109 (bag 2) img108 (bag 1)	37.06 not measured	31.22 ----- --	20.7 ----- --	16.0 38.6	Bag 2 multiple >10 Bag 1
9036	961		Animal	Vertebrate remains	poor	fragment of bone within cobble matrix about 300mm south of SF<958>	img110	22 17 18 17 16	12 7 8 10 7	1 1 1 1 1	2.60	5+ fragments
9036	962	?	Animal	Vertebrate remains	poor/fair for C14	larger piece of bone fragmented when lifted. In base of context	img 111,112	121 82 74 74 52	32.57 33 32 15 21	3 5 12 3 10	143.1 0	10+>20 fragments
9036	963	?	plant	wood (burnt) charcoal	poor	charcoal covered stone in base of context	img115	17.67	14.62	13.84	3.40	1

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9029	964		plant	wood (burnt) charcoal	poor	charcoal covered stone	img117	14.00	12.70	7.83	1.20	
9017	965		Animal	Vertebrate remains	fair	large animal tooth	img114	58.00	26.00	22.00	27.40	1
9032	966		plant	wood (burnt) charcoal	poor (too small)	charcoal fragments	img116	not measured	not measured	not measured	<0.01	
9017	967		Animal	Vertebrate remains Heather twig with bark present, good condition, 8 growth rings	good (floats)	charcoal	img113	13 13 10	6 4 6	3 3 4	0.30	3
9042	968	-1.72	stone	stone	fair	blackened stone at base of sondage <960> either covered in charcoal or ferromanganese		99.00	68.50	54.57	400.00	

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9042	969	-1.71	stone	stone	fair	blackened stone at base of sondage <960> either covered in charcoal or ferromanganese						
9040	970		metal	Iron nail	poor	5 fragments of iron nail with corrosion						
9024	971		ceramic	pot	fair	post medieval text on one side		15.00	7.00	3.00	0.40	

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Elevation of Small Find relative to site TBM

Context-SFNo	SF_no	Elevation Relative to TBM (m)
Backfill	901	
9015	902	-1.16
9006	903	
9015	904	
9015	905	
9015	906	-1.17
9015	907	-1.21
9015	908	-1.14
9015	909	-1.17
9015	910	
9015	911	
9016	912	
9016	913	
9016	914	
9017	915	
9017	916	
9019	917	
9019	918	
9021	919	-1.12
9021	920	
9021	921	-1.06
9021	922	-1.13
9021	923	-1.21
9021	924	-1.11
9021	925	
9022		
9023		
9024	926	-0.98
9024	927	-1.07
9024	928	-0.91
9024	929	-0.90
9024	930	-0.92
9024	931	-1.05
9024	932	-1.09
9024	933	-1.19
9024	934	-1.18
9024	935	
9024	936	
9024	937	
9024	938	-1.03

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9024	971	
9025		
9026		-1.29
9027	972	-1.26
9029	973	
9029	974	
9029	975	
9030	976	
9032	977	-1.29
9032	978	
9032	979	
9033	980	
9033	981	
9036	982	
9036	983	-1.06
9036	984	-1.12
9036	985	
9036	986	-1.33
9036	987	-1.32
9036	988	-1.44
9036	989	
9036	990	?
9036	991	?
9040	992	
9040	993	
9040	970	
9041	971	
9041	972	
9042	973	
9042	974	
9042	975	-1.72
9042	976	-1.71

GH 24-25 Gueswick Hills: The Animal Bones

Faunal remains were recovered from Trench 4 and Trench 9, examining the area inside the settlement. Preservation of the bones is poor with only teeth and robust cattle bones identifiable from Trench 9.

Trench 4

Finds of bones were concentrated in context 4007 which contained parts of the head and two hind limbs from a lamb, with a further bone from the same animal in the overlying context 4005. The epiphyses and the acetabulum are unfused, the deciduous premolars 4 have little wear and the first molars are starting to erupt, indicating an age at death about 3 months old. It is not clear whether this find is associated with the settlement or represents a later burial of a dead lamb. In favour of the latter interpretation are the size of the bones for an unimproved primitive lamb of this age and the survival of bones from such a young animal in an unsealed context possibly disturbed by plough action.

Trench 9

The majority of the identifiable fragments were from cattle, found in five contexts, with pig present in two contexts. There are no sheep/goat remains, in contrast to the partial body from Trench 4. This too could suggest that 4007 may not be contemporary with the settlement.

Context 9010 produced the remains of a cattle mandible from a mature animal with tooth wear at Grant Mandible Wear Stage 43, comparable to 8–9-year Dexter cows in my reference collection. The third molar lacks the hypoconulid, a common non metrical trait in the local archaeological cattle. Further permanent teeth in wear were found in 9003, 9010 and 9017. One tooth from 9036 has disintegrated into fragments of enamel. Younger animals, probably less than 3 years old, are indicated by a worn deciduous premolar 4 from 9029 and an unfused proximal tibia from 9036. The adverse soil preservation has resulted in

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brittle bones, with a cattle scapula blade from 9036 having fragmented on lifting but probably in one piece in the ground.

A gnawed distal metacarpal from 9010 is the only indirect evidence for the presence of dog.

The pig remains are from two different animals. A maxilla from 9027 is from an adult with molar 2 in full wear and molar 3 at early wear. A younger animal is indicated by a mandible from 9029 with molar 2 unerupted.

This area of the settlement appears not to have been conducive to the survival of faunal remains with a small collection of cattle and pig fragments found. In contrast to the Iron Age ditch, there were no remains from horse and there is a striking absence of sheep/goat fragments in Trench 9.

Table 1. The species represented

* = partial skeleton

	Trench 9						Trench 4			
	9003	9010	9017	9027	9029	9036		4005	4007	
Cattle	1	4	1		1	5				
Cattle size		1				1				
Sheep/goat								see 4007	*	
Pig				1	1					