

The background image shows an archaeological excavation site. In the foreground, two surveying tripods are set up on a grassy field. One tripod on the left has a white and blue surveying instrument mounted on it. Another tripod on the right has a yellow surveying instrument. In the middle ground, several people are working in a large, shallow excavation pit. They are wearing various casual clothing. There are blue buckets and other tools scattered around. The background features a line of trees under a cloudy sky. The overall scene is an active archaeological dig.

An Iron Age and Romano British agrarian landscape in the Southern Vale of York.

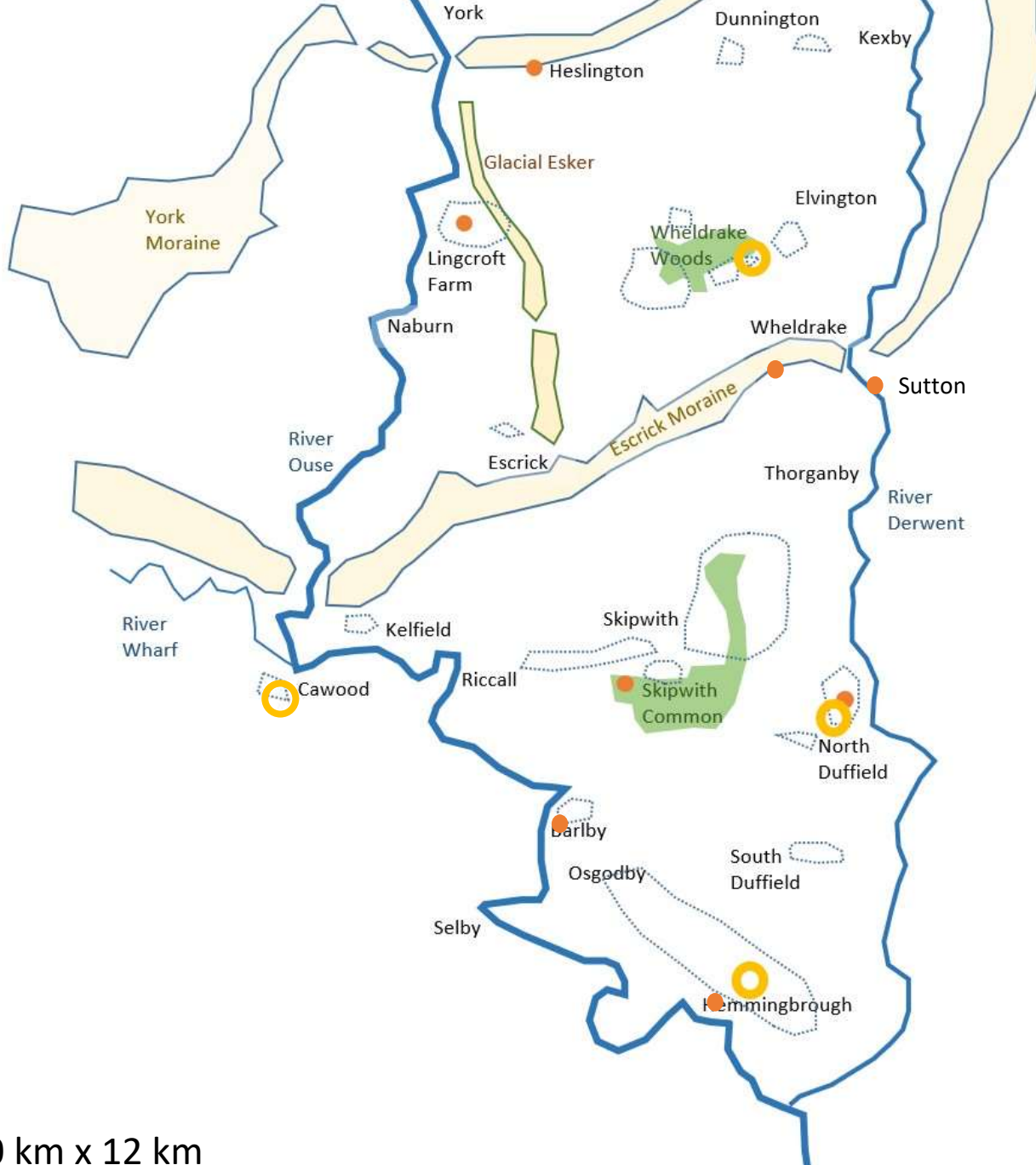
Dr Jon Kenny

Community Archaeologist

Community Research between the Ouse and Derwent.

- Working with community groups in North Duffield and Cawood over 10 years.
- Beginnings with Bradford University work at Lincroft Farm on the A19.
- Growing data set from commercial work near Wheldrake, Hemmingbrough, Barlby and of course Heslington.








Plan showing approximate sites from aerial survey, excavations and glacial moraines.



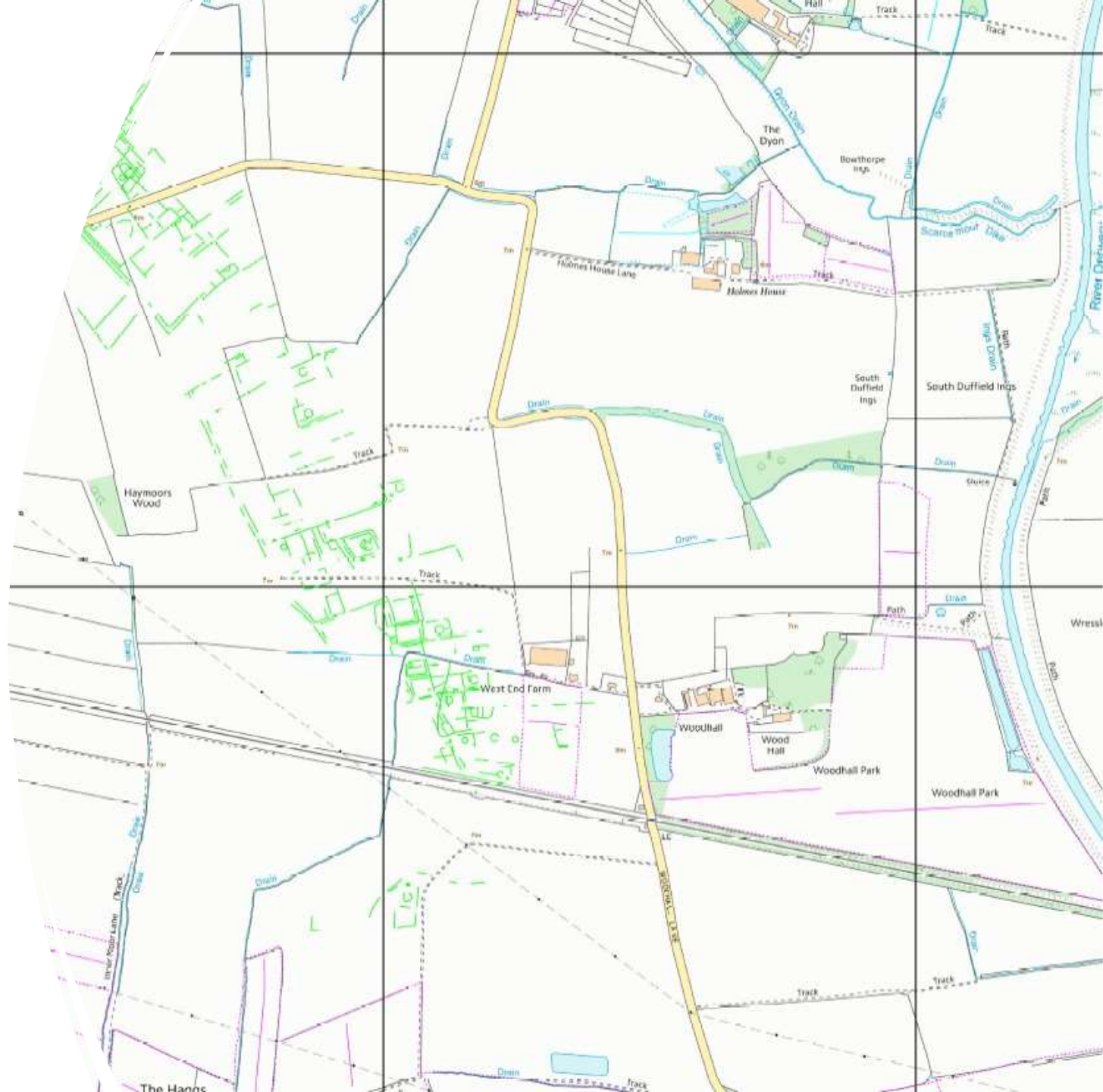
Key

-  Very approximate locations of sites noted from Vale of York Project and Historic Environment Records at City of York and North Yorkshire County Councils. Iron Age or Romano British.
-  Other recent excavations of IA or RB date.
-  Iron Age Ouse and Derwent Excavations.

Approx 20 km x 12 km

Interest Fired Up By Aerial Survey.

- Brian Elsey at North Duffield was shown aerial imagery by Dylwyn Jones.
- Margaret Brearley at Cawood was also getting interested thanks to North Yorkshire HER.
- Eventually published online as 'A Perfect Flat.. Understanding the archaeology of the Vale of York'.



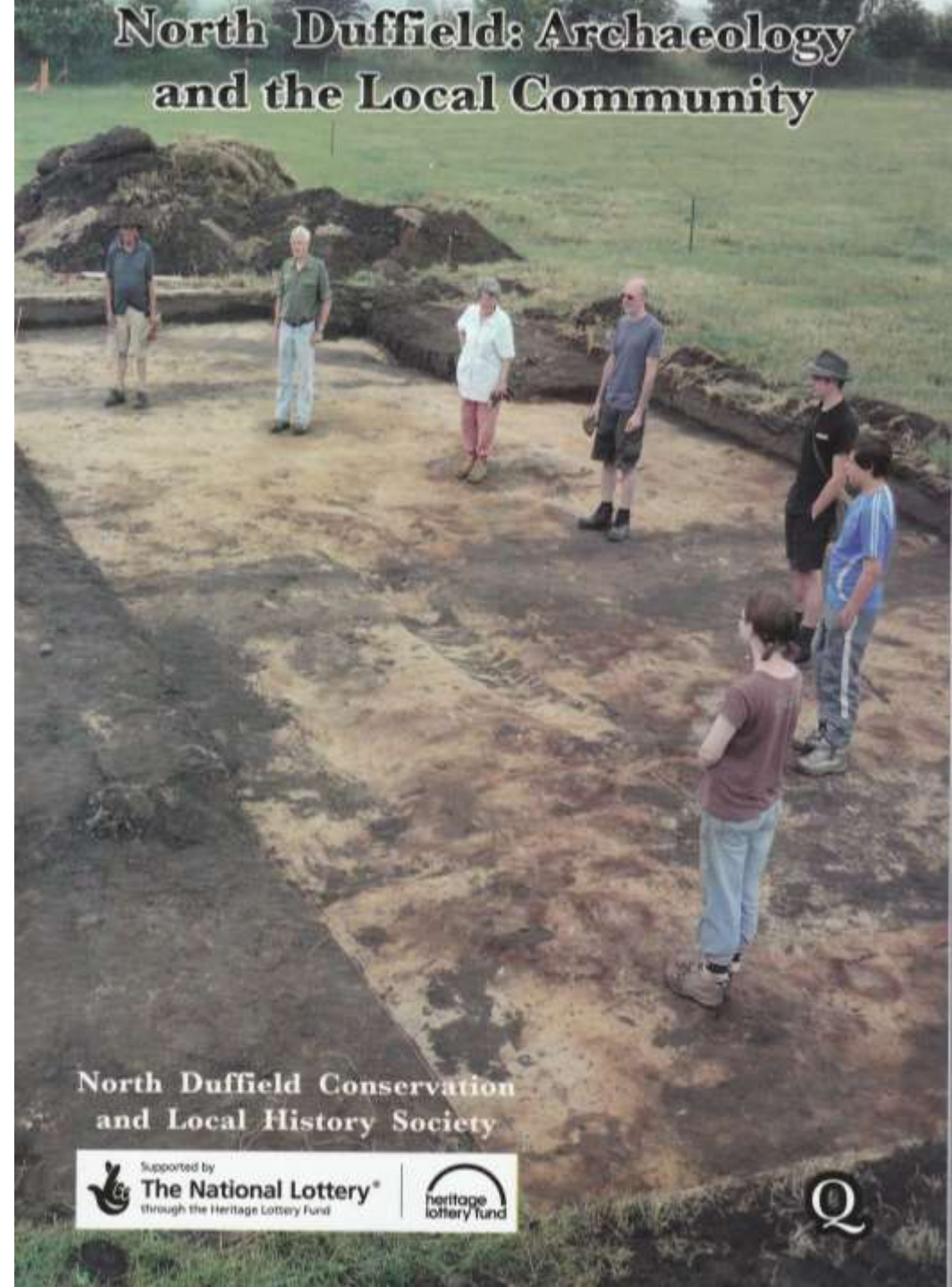
Community Projects... at North Duffield and Cawood

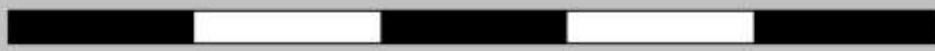
- Brian ran two HLF supported projects at North Duffield.
- These involved a lot of community engagement as well as the archaeological research.
- Margaret too ran a community project at Cawood supported by Selby Borough Council (as it was set up a few years ago)



Continuity from Iron Age into Romano British?

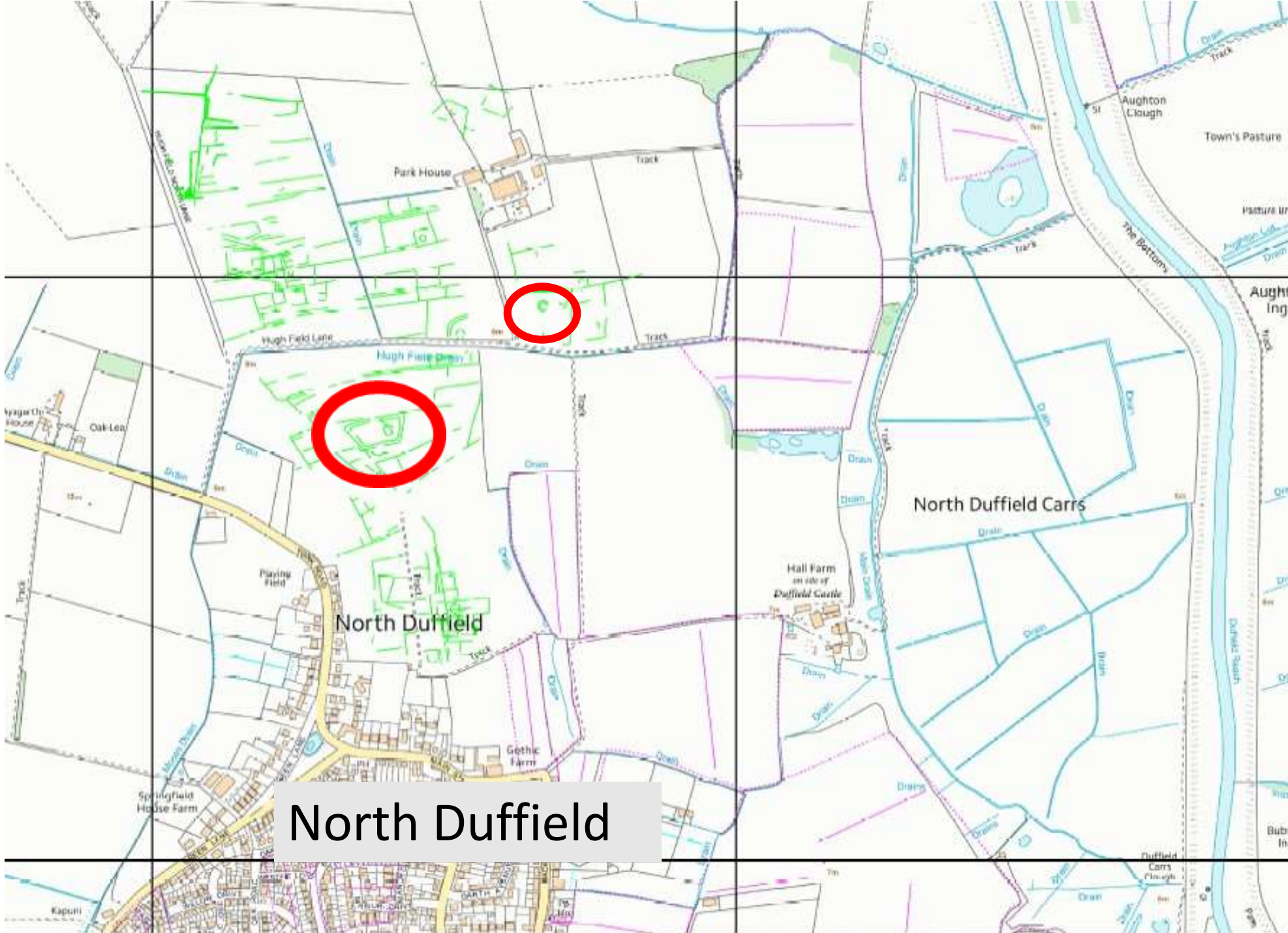
- In the Ouse and Derwent area we didn't identify high status activity.
- Middle Iron Age into Romano British sites at Hemmingbrough and North Duffield displayed intensive but scattered settlement.
- In the case of North Duffield displaying some quite large round houses set in enclosed field systems.
- Our Roundhouse went out of use before or at the time of the appearance of the Romans in the landscape.
- There was evidence for a realignment of some of these fields but not a revolution in rural activity.





1 cm





North Duffield

Enclosed Farm Stead Communities

- At North Duffield and Wheldrake we were also able to investigate more intensely occupied enclosures.
- These suggested many phased housing and possible storage.
- The example at North Duffield started in the Iron Age and continued into the Romano British. Only changing in the middle of the Romano British.
- We also observed but didn't excavate a similar enclosure at Cawood.



North Duffield
Enclosure

North Duffield Enclosure



1




2

Wheldrake Enclosure

- The enclosure at Wheldrake was dated from Romano British material only.
- Nearby scattered Iron Age settlement was present about 300m to the southwest.
- Very much like the North Duffield enclosure we found an assemblage of RB pottery that included some finer Samian wares.
- These are not large assemblages and may represent minor contact with Eboracum nearby.

Wheldrake Enclosure

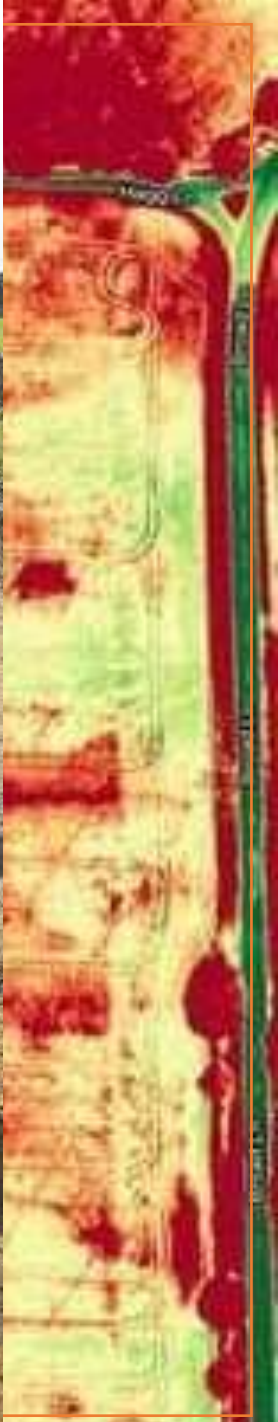
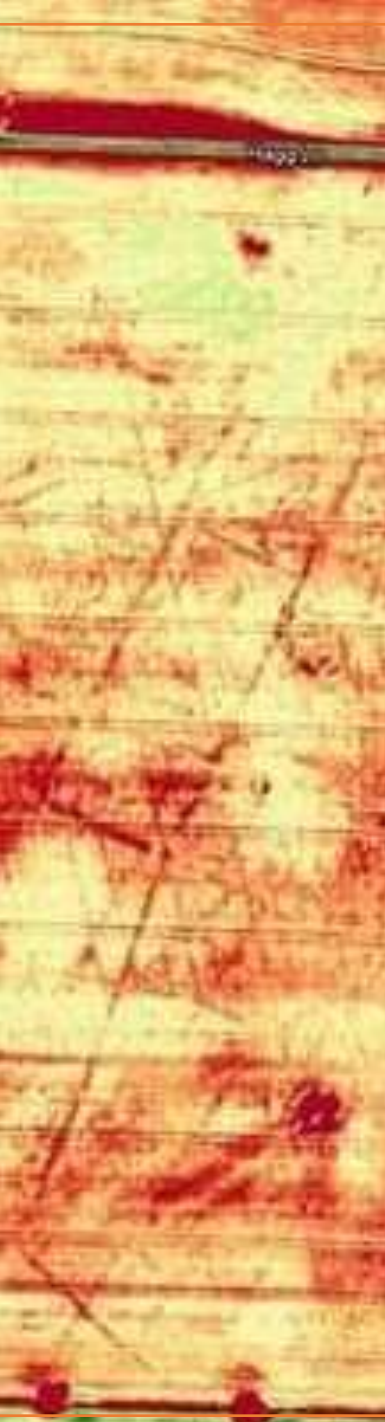
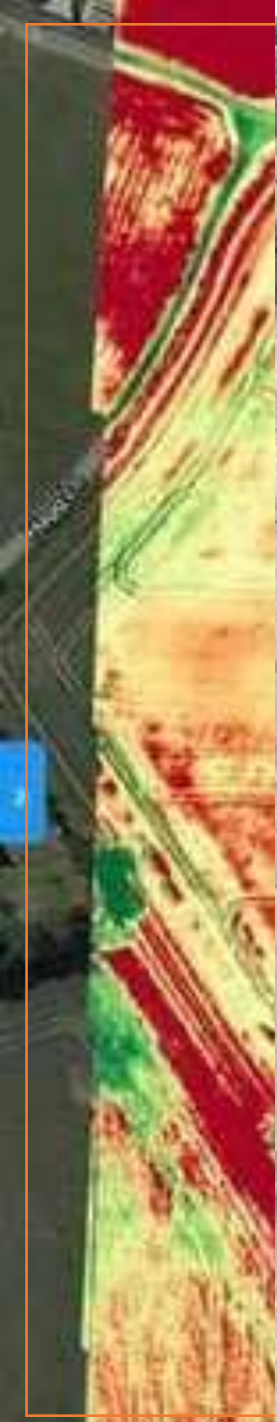


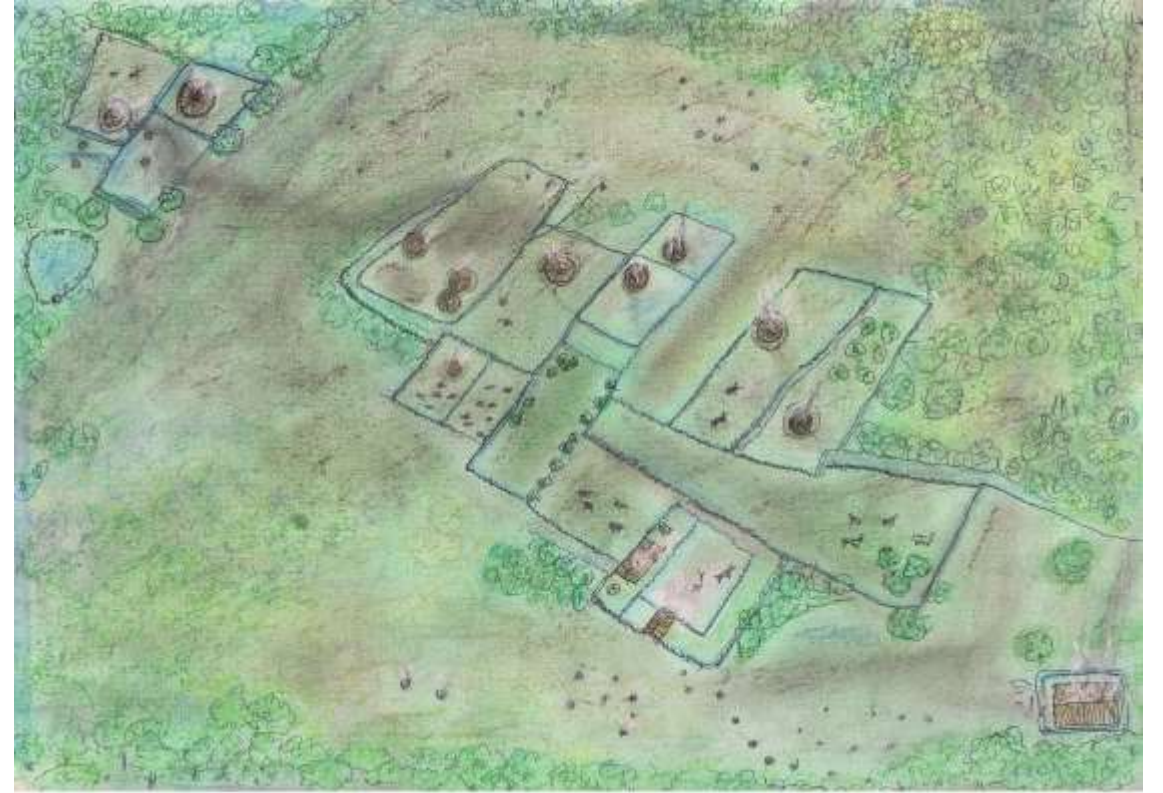
An aerial photograph of a Romano British settlement at Cawood. The image shows a large, roughly rectangular area with a grid-like pattern of earthworks, likely enclosures or fields. A river, the Ouse, is visible on the left side, flowing through the settlement. The terrain is a mix of green and brown, suggesting different types of vegetation or soil. The overall layout is organized and planned.

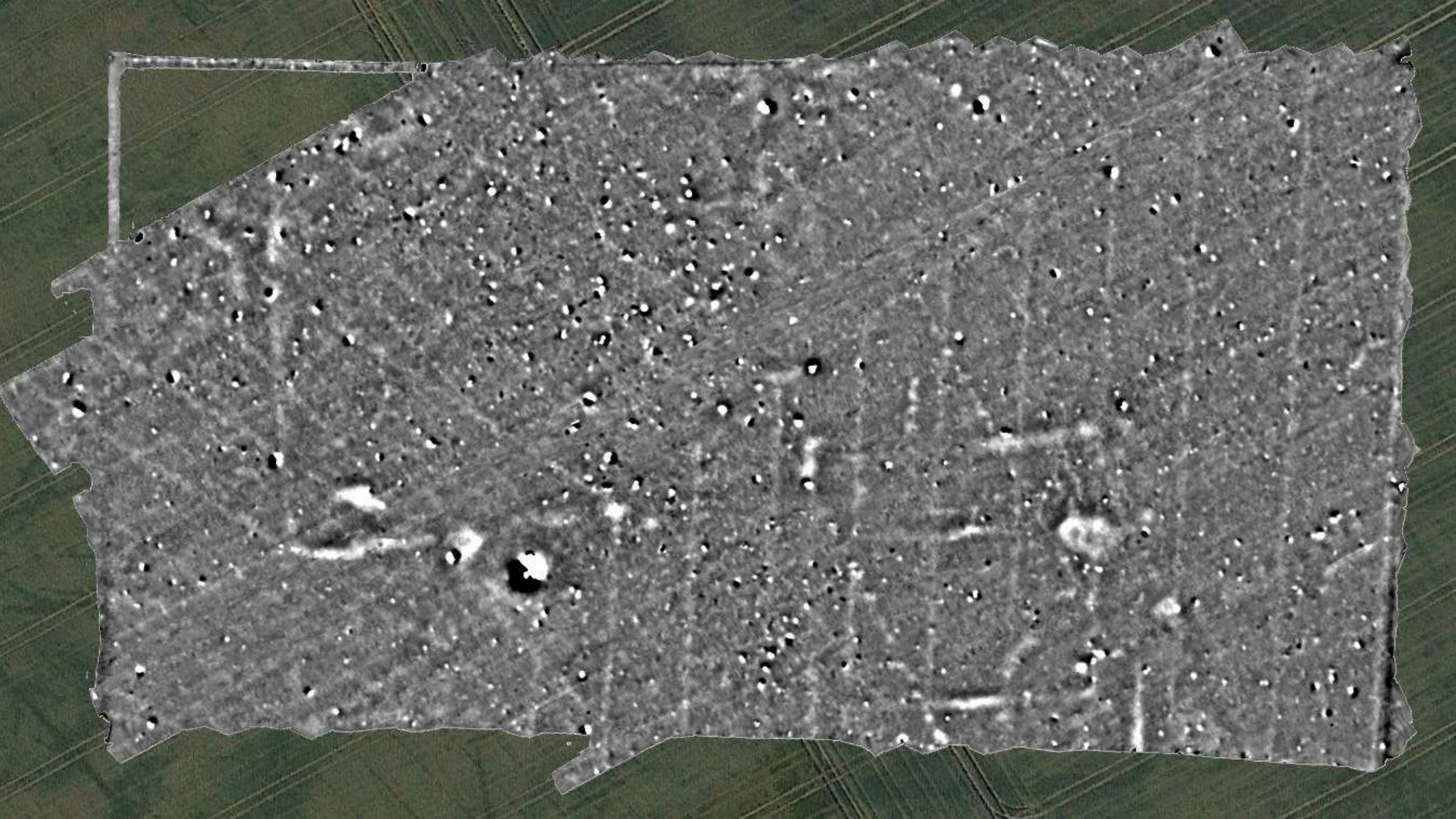
Romano British settlement at Cawood.

- Although we had another enclosed site near Cawood, we did not investigate this.
- We looked at the adjacent large complex of enclosures and round houses.
- The enclosures to the north of the site formed a ladder settlement like row.
- Other enclosures to the south may have been used for industrial processing.
- The site might represent processing of Iron to be used in a wider market.
- On this side of the Ouse, we are near to probable Villas on the river Wharf. Do we have a slightly different rural economy at work?









What about Villas between Ouse and Derwent?

- The aerial surveys and archaeological excavation have not encountered high status Romano British sites between the rivers.
- There are local tales of potential high-status sites that might suggest further investigation.
- Does this however, suggest the hand of control in this landscape from Eboracum? Is it a Territorium?



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Margaret Brearley and Dr Jon Kenny
2019

