

## Wilberforce College Archaeological Report

Over the last 30 years, there have been a total of six separate interventions at Wilberforce College. These excavations took place between 1962 and 2013 and were carried out by Humber Field Archaeology except for the 1962 excavation being carried out by East Riding Archaeological Society. Throughout these excavations, a range of finds were discovered. From all of these excavations it is evident that Wilberforce College is built upon an Iron Age settlement.

In 1962, the site was excavated for the first time by the East Riding Archaeological Society. This revealed the location of the late Iron Age settlement which consisted of three circular



huts, field boundaries and enclosure ditches. As shown in the picture on the left, which is an ariel photograph of the site stripped back, the darker lines show the outlines of the huts and boundaries on the settlement. The finds also included pottery and animal bone. Amongst the animal bone found there were fragments of cattle, sheep, pig and horse. This particular excavation produced a total of 119 sherds of pottery which represented 89 vessels. The pottery was predominantly post-medieval with the most recent sherds dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some other finds include a button and small buckle

amongst the more modern finds but in terms of post medieval finds, four handmade nails were found along with a fragment of a horseshoe and a whittle-tang knife.

The site was then revisited in the September of 1991 by Humber Field Archaeology. This excavation was not done directly on the site of the college but done on the south side of Salthouse Road between Wilberforce College and Holderness drain. Samples of natural peat were radiocarbon dated and were found to be late Neolithic or early Bronze Age.

In May 2010, Humber Field Archaeology were once again called back to Wilberforce College to do some archaeological work. The earliest features that were recorded from this site were two narrow north to south gullies and one east to west gully which are believed to be three sides of a small rectangular enclosure or pen. 612 sherds of pottery were discovered and some of these made up near entire pots as seen in the photo on the right.



An archaeological evaluation was then undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology in February 2011. This was only a relatively small excavation, so no other features or artefacts were discovered. It was solely an evaluation of the examined exposed surfaces. In July 2011,

an archaeological observation was then conducted but no artefacts were recovered in this investigation either.

In July 2012, Humber Field Archaeology then did another excavation, recovering a few interesting finds. Firstly, a total of 82 sherds of pottery was recovered from the site as well as a range of flints being found. Four pieces of flint show signs of being used which clearly indicates to archaeologists that there was a use for flint in this area. Fragments of animal bones and vertebrate were also found but this was only in small amounts. Nevertheless, they were identified to be relating to horse, cattle, sheep, and goat. Small angular vertebrate remains indicate either dog gnawing, butchery or fresh breakage.

The final and most recent archaeological observation investigation that took place was in November 2013 by Humber Field Archaeology. This included the monitoring of ground reduction and the excavation of foundation pits. This revealed the natural clay below the construction debris. No artefacts were recovered at this site however.

The site location plan (Figure 1) shows the locations of a few of the excavations that took place. It also shows the layout of the features of the 1962 excavation.

Overall, the excavations undertaken at Wilberforce College revealed an Iron Age settlement which then revealed signs of people living on the site from finds ranging from pottery sherds and animal bone fragments to fragments of horseshoes and handmade nails.

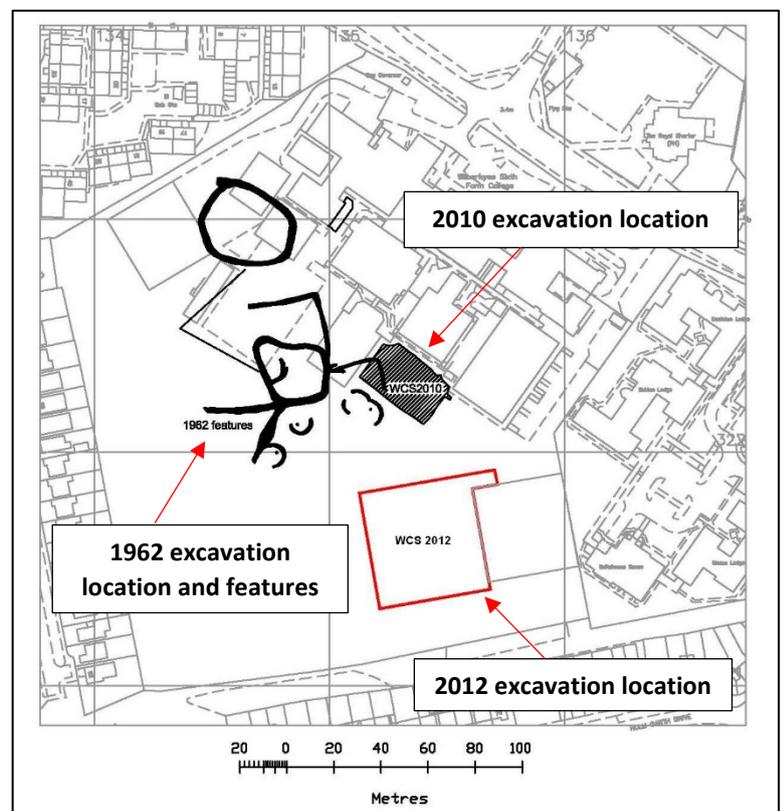


Figure 1