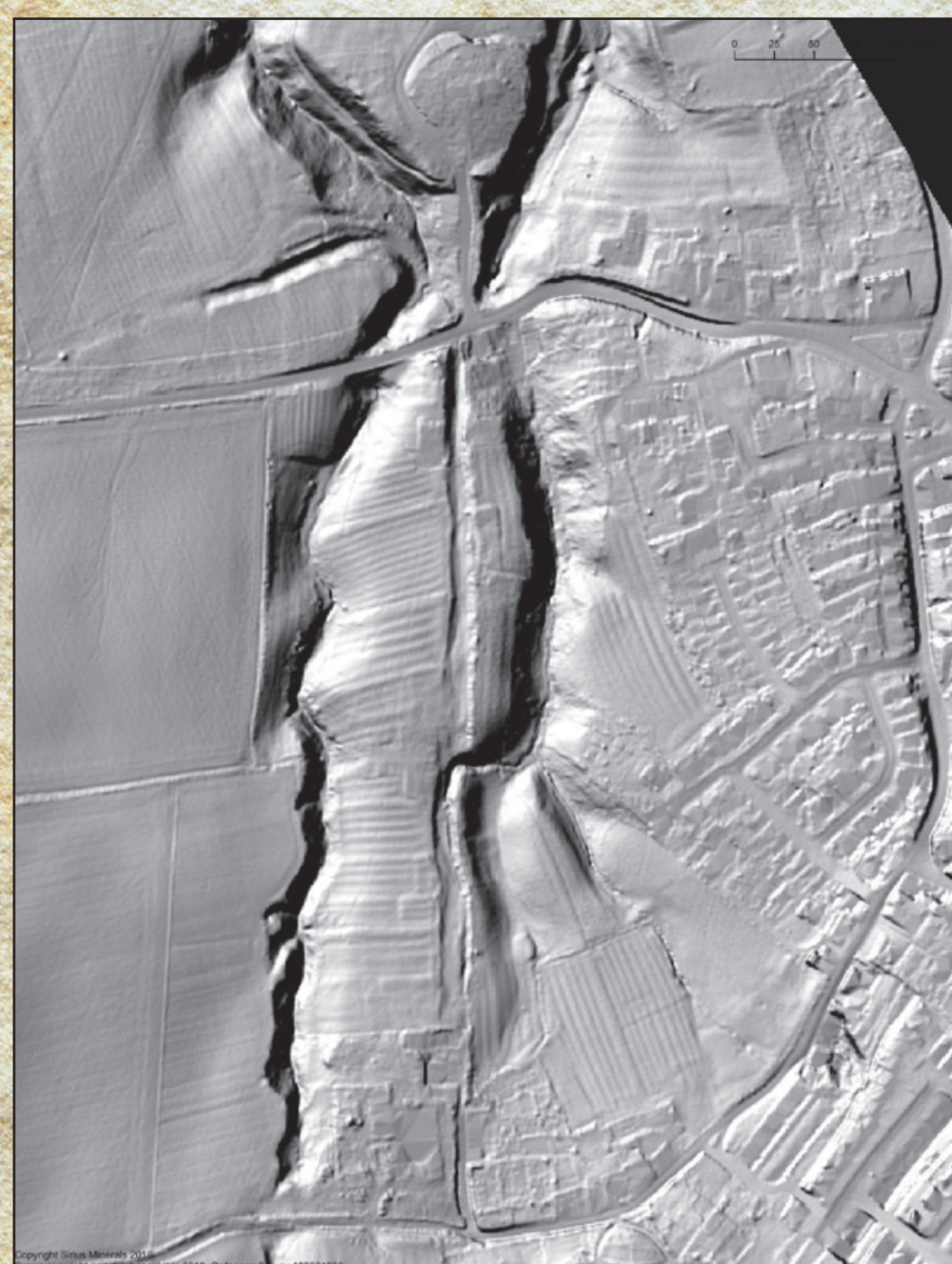


BOROUGHGATE, SKELTON

The name 'Boroughgate' means 'Town Street' and the settlement was established to meet the needs of the de Brus family, Lords of Skelton (and later Kings of Scotland). The earliest reference to Boroughgate is in 1240 AD, but it was probably here before that. People had however stopped living here by 1550 AD, probably because the castle no longer provided enough trade for people to earn a living.



LIDAR image of Boroughgate, created by bouncing laser beams off the ground.
Image courtesy of Sirius Minerals.

If you look down the slope, the castle and church are hidden in the trees at the bottom, while the street led straight from the settlement to the castle.

Boroughgate was probably set out in two stages with the properties closer to the castle being established before those at the top of the hill.



Medieval pot being excavated.
Image courtesy of Peter Appleton.



Excavated remains of medieval building.
Image courtesy of Peter Appleton.



A few of the many volunteers who took part in the project.



Archaeology Resources

More information about Boroughgate can be found at
www.teesarchaeology.com

<https://skeltonhistorygroup.wordpress.com/>



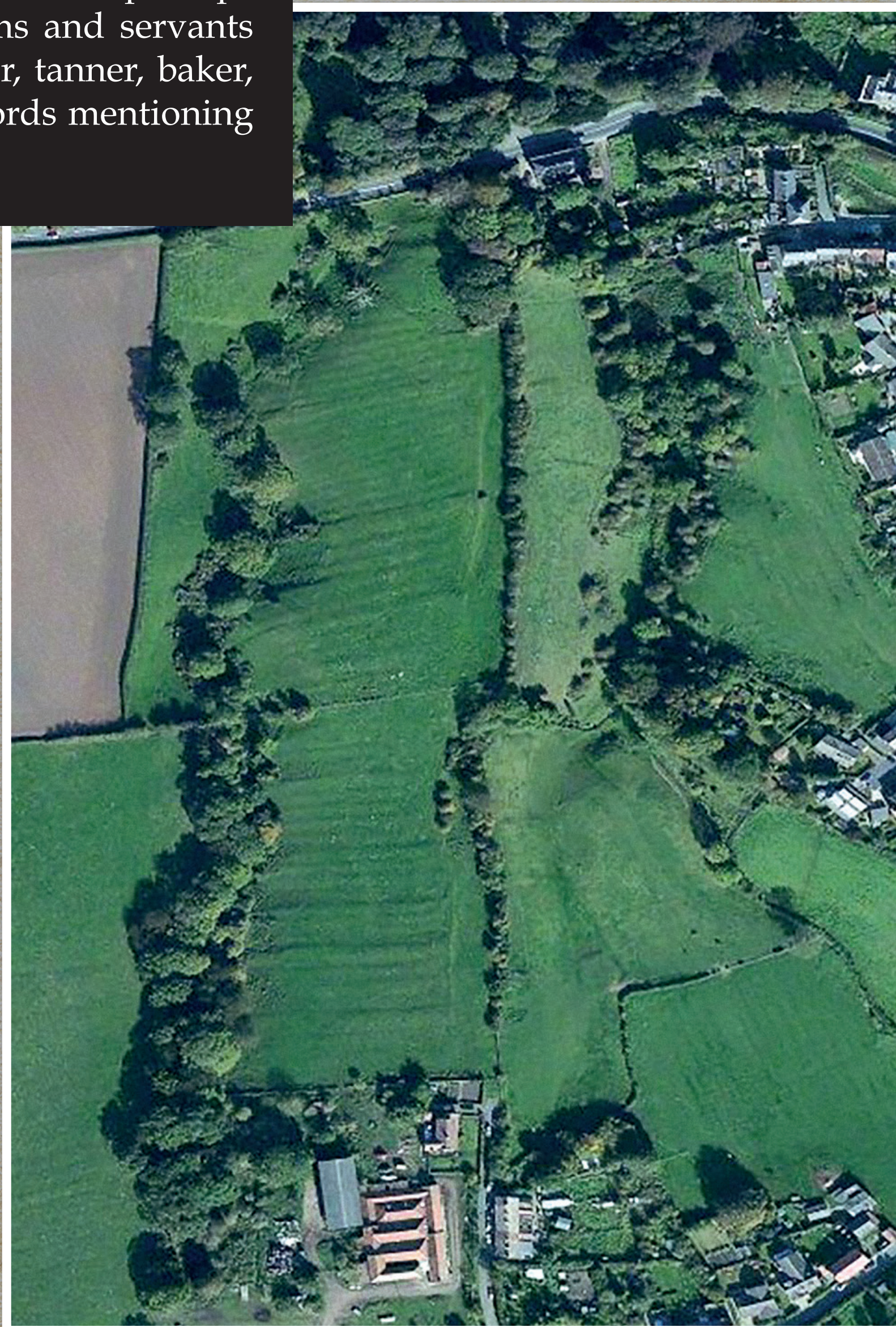
A medieval scene on Boroughgate about 1300AD.

BOROUGHGATE, SKELTON

You are standing in what was once a bustling street with merchants and tradesmen going about their business alongside local farmers and perhaps the occasional canon from Gisborough Priory, man at arms and servants from the castle. In 1301 a merchant, a fuller, weaver, potter, tanner, baker, carpenter and three carriers lived in Skelton with later records mentioning an Inn Keeper and a Gold Beater.



Life on Boroughgate was probably a combination of farming and commercial or craft activities, but it was never prosperous enough to be purely commercial.



If you walk up the field, notice how use over time has created a sunken track where the street was. The houses were at the front of the properties and the boundaries between them can be clearly seen on the aerial photograph. You can also see the closely spaced ridges of medieval ploughing that took place after the properties were abandoned.

Excavations have revealed that properties were first marked out with ditches and these were replaced by the banks you can see today. Most of the site went out of use in the medieval period and was ploughed. This has destroyed most of the evidence of buildings, but the locally made medieval pottery people used was left behind.



Decorated 13th century East Cleveland Ware.



Small medieval stone vessel.



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