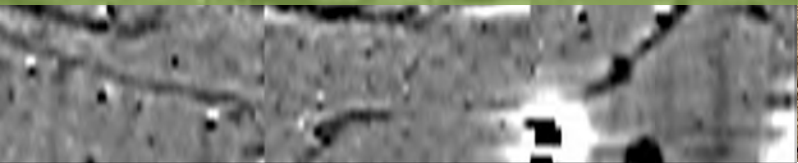


New Hall Farm, Darfield, South Yorkshire  
Archaeological evaluation

ArcHeritage 2019





New Hall Farm, Darfield, South Yorkshire  
Archaeological Trenching

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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a community excavation at New Hall Farm, Darfield, South Yorkshire. The work was carried out as part of the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP), a HLF-funded, five-year programme of projects focussing on the historic buildings and landscapes of the Dearne Valley. By working with local communities, the Partnership aims to protect, preserve and enhance the area. Established as part of the DVLP, the Archaeology and Geology Project will enable more of the Dearne Valley's historic environment to be surveyed through the archaeological investigation of ten sites, of which New Hall Farm is one. The project aims to enhance the understanding of the heritage of the area and develop skills, knowledge and capacity within local communities.

The site is focused on two fields, where cropmarks in the form of ditched enclosures have long been known to exist: 13 Acre Field, approximately 0.25km to the north-east of New Hall Farm, and Far Dry Field, approximately 0.40km to the south of the farm. The cropmarks prompted a geophysical survey (TPA 2017) in February 2017, as an earlier stage of this project. The survey revealed a number of archaeologically-significant anomalies and confirmed the presence of the two ditched enclosures, while accurately mapping their location and extent. The two enclosures were differed in scale, with the one in 13 Acre being nearly twice the area of the one in Far Dry. Otherwise, the results of the geophysical survey showed that the two enclosures share a number of distinctive attributes, with both appearing to have only a single entrance set centrally in a straighter eastern side. In both cases, external ditches around the south and east sides appear to respect these entrances, possibly forming an approach.

In order to further investigate these enclosures, two trenches were excavated, one through each enclosure ditch. Trench 1, located in 13 Acre, contained one stone feature of uncertain function, with ephemeral traces of the enclosure ditch. No dating material was recovered. Trench 2, located in Far Dry, revealed a well-defined enclosure ditch with numerous sherds of Romano-British pottery, along with an undated burnt feature located within the enclosure.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a community excavation at New Hall Farm, Darfield, South Yorkshire. The work was carried out as part of the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP), a HLF-funded, five-year programme of projects focussing on the historic buildings and landscapes of the Dearne Valley. The project aims to enhance understanding of the heritage of the area as well as developing skills, knowledge and capacity within local communities. The work followed on from a geophysical survey which identified the presence of two enclosure ditches on the site. A trench was excavated through each enclosure ditch in order to confirm the presence, character and date of these features.

The work was undertaken following a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Appendix 7), approved by the DVLP, Natural England, and the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS). All work was undertaken with adherence to relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) guidelines.

## 2. LOCATION, TOPOLOGY AND GEOLOGY

The site is located off the A635 Doncaster Road (centred on NGR SE 39428 05204), between Stairfoot and Darfield, approximately three miles to the south-east of Barnsley town centre (Figure 1). The trenches were located in two fields where cropmark evidence and subsequent geophysical survey (Figure 2) indicates the presence of ditched enclosures: 13 Acre, approximately 0.25km to the north-east of New Hall Farm, and Far Dry, approximately 0.40km to the south of the farm (Figures 3, 4 and 5).

13 Acre lies above New Hall Farm, at approximately 85m AOD. The centre of the field is generally level, but slopes south and east towards the southern edge. Far Dry lies at approximately 50m AOD, on a gentle south-facing slope.

The underlying geology in 13 Acre is mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation, while that in Far Dry is Pennine Coal Measure Sandstone, both sedimentary rocks of the Carboniferous Period. No superficial deposits are mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2017).

## 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

In March 2017, a non-intrusive geophysical survey (magnetometry) was conducted at 13 Acre and Far Dry in order to determine the credibility of cropmarks which showed the potential prehistoric features. The results of the survey were good, with the sub-surface remains of curvilinear enclosure ditches being located and identified in both fields (Figure 2). These, along with several further linear and discrete responses, were expressed within the survey results as linear positive anomalies with high potential for an archaeological origin.

The South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds a record for a collection of Mesolithic flints (00584/01), reportedly collected from a field immediately adjacent to 13 Acre.



## 4. AIMS

The aims of the archaeological excavation were:

- to engage and upskill members of the local community;
- to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any below-ground archaeological remains present;
- to date the enclosures;
- to assess the state of preservation of the enclosures;
- to provide information that will enable the remains to be placed within their local, regional, and national context;
- to assess the significance of the enclosures to be investigated;
- to provide information which will inform and guide further work at the site.

The specific aim of each trench is outlined in the table, below:

Trench No.	Dimensions (m)	Rationale
1	15x3	To investigate the terminus of the enclosure ditch at the entranceway and a nearby linear feature/trackway in 13 Acre
2	15x3	To investigate the terminus of the enclosure ditch at the entranceway and a nearby linear feature/trackway in Far Dry

## 5 METHODOLOGY

The trench locations, as determined by the geophysical survey results, were loaded into a survey-grade GPS and plotted in the fields. Prior to opening the trenches, the footprints of the trenches were scanned with a metal detector and rapidly field-walked in order to collect any surface finds. The trenches were opened by machine with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. Once opened, the trenches were hand-cleaned and any archaeological features were investigated via the methods set out in the WSI (Appendix 7).

## 6 RESULTS

### 6.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 (Plates 1-6; Figures 6 and 7) was located at the eastern side of the enclosure ditch in 13 Acre, close to the possible entrance. The trench was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 15m in length by 3m in width (Plates 1 and 2).

The topsoil (101) in Trench 1 comprised dark brown loose sandy silt and contained frequent rootlets and occasional sub-angular sandstone pebbles. The topsoil was present across the entire trench, with a fairly consistent thickness of between 0.20-0.25m. Seven fragments of pottery, two clay pipe stem fragments, one fragment of slag, one small glass fragment and two fragments of indeterminate bone were recovered from the topsoil deposit. These were all fairly modern in date (Appendices 4 and 5). Immediately beneath the topsoil was dark brown sandy silt subsoil (106), with occasional sandstone inclusions. This deposit was absent at the north-west end of the trench and was only intermittently present throughout the remainder. Its

similarity to the loose nature of the bedrock geology (107) made it difficult to distinguish between the two. The subsoil measured 0.10m in depth and displayed a clear upper boundary with the topsoil (101). The sandstone geology (107) was present directly beneath the subsoil (106) or, where the subsoil was absent, directly beneath the topsoil. The bedrock geology comprised fairly soft and loose sand, with outcropping patches of brashy and weathered laminated solid bedrock towards the west end of the trench. Two features, [102] and [104], were cut into the bedrock (107).

At the south-east end of the trench, linear feature [102] was aligned north-east to south-west across the trench (Plate 2) and was defined in plan by its single fill (103). The latter comprised orange brown slightly silty sand, which was very slightly darker than the surrounding bedrock (107) (Plate 3). The edges of the cut [102] were extremely difficult to define, due to the fill (103) being very closely similar to the bedrock and the soft and loose nature of the underlying bedrock (107). These factors resulted in an ephemeral and conjectural ditch profile, which ultimately measured 4.6m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.68m (Plate 4). No finds or other dateable material were recovered from the ditch fill (103).

A sub-ovoid stone feature [104] was present at the approximate mid-point of the length of the trench (Plates 5 and 6). This feature was cut through both the subsoil (106) and bedrock geology (107). The cut [104] for the stone feature was irregular and ovoid, and measured approximately 1.60m in length by 1.15m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.30m. The sides were steeply cut and slightly convex, with an irregular and flattish base. The single fill (105) comprised unworked gritstone and sandstone boulders, sub-rounded to angular, with some rare, round cobbles. The stones were loosely arranged. While bonding material was not present between them, the stones were located within a sandy matrix, most likely to have been derived from the bedrock material. Some of the stones appeared to be cracked and burnt, although there was no charcoal or other material within the fill to indicate *in situ* burning. No dating material or other finds were recovered from this feature and its function and date remain unclear.

## 6.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 (Plates 7-12; Figures 8 and 9) was located in the north-west corner of the enclosure ditch in Far Dry. The trench was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 15m in length by 3m in width (Plates 7 and 8).

The topsoil (201) in Trench 2 comprised loose sandy silt and contained frequent rootlets and occasional sub-angular sandstone pebbles. The topsoil was present across the entire trench, with a fairly consistent thickness of between 0.20-0.30m. One clay pipe stem fragment and four fragments of pottery (Appendices 4 and 5) were recovered from the topsoil deposit, all of which were post-medieval in date. At the south-east end of the trench, immediately beneath the topsoil, was a dark brown sandy silt subsoil (206) with occasional sandstone inclusions. The subsoil measured 0.10m in depth and displayed a clear upper boundary with the topsoil (101). The subsoil was absent from the north-west part of the trench and was present only intermittently in the south-east half. The sandstone geology (207) was present directly beneath the subsoil (106) or, where the subsoil was absent, directly beneath the topsoil. The bedrock geology comprised solid weathered laminated sandstone.

Near the centre of the trench, slightly towards the north-west end, was a ditch aligned north-east to south-west [202] (Plates 9 and 10). The cut [202] of the ditch was asymmetric, with the slope on the western edge steeper than that on the eastern side and the small, rounded base located closer to the western edge. The ditch measured 3.1m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.9m. The single fill (203) comprised mid-brown sandy clay silt, with occasional patches of charcoal and frequent small sandstone fragments; the latter became more common towards the base. Twenty-one fragments of pottery were recovered from the fill (Appendix 3), together with a representative collection of the charcoal fragments. Eighteen of the pottery sherds have been dated to the Romano-British period, while three medieval sherds appear to be residual.

A shallow sub-ovoid feature was present at the south-west end of the trench [204] (Plates 11 and 12). This extended beyond the north-east edge of the trench and measured 0.70m in width by 0.90m in visible length, with a maximum depth of 0.10m. The sub-ovoid feature was cut directly into the bedrock geology (207) and filled with a single deposit (205) of dark grey-brown clay silt. Very frequent and tightly-packed, fire-cracked, pink-hued sandstone was present throughout the fill, together with frequent charcoal fragments. Occasional small fragments of burnt bone were also present. The presence of the fire-cracked stone, charcoal and burnt bone is indicative of *in situ* burning. No dateable material was recovered from this feature.

## 5. DISCUSSION

Both trenches contained evidence for the remains of the enclosure ditches that were identified from the geophysical survey, with the ditch in Trench 2 being more clearly-defined than that in Trench 1. The ditch in Trench 1 [102] was very ephemeral, with both the fill and the bedrock geology (107) into which the ditch had been cut being very similar in nature. This made it difficult to determine the outline of the feature. In addition, the soft nature of the bedrock in Trench 1 meant that the edges of the excavation were highly unstable and prone to subsidence. With this in mind, it seems likely that the ditch would have been regularly inundated with aeolian deposits and was probably re-cut several times. This would also have made the trace of the cut difficult to determine. No finds or dateable material were recovered from ditch feature [102]. Similarly, the stone-filled pit feature [104] in Trench 1 lacked any dateable material and it cannot be determined whether this is contemporary with, or unrelated to, the enclosure. If it is contemporary, its presence within the enclosure suggests that other such features may also be present across the site. In that case, such features may help to determine the date and function of the enclosure and any related activity that occurred within its vicinity.

The enclosure ditch [202] in Trench 2 contained numerous sherds of Romano-British pottery. This pottery dates the ditch to between the early to mid-2<sup>nd</sup> century AD and the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. The pottery assemblage was heavily abraded and also contained three sherds of medieval pottery, indicating that the deposit had been heavily disturbed following the final silting-up of the ditch, most likely due to later agricultural activity. The burnt feature [204] did not contain any dateable material and it is not known if it is contemporary with, or unrelated to, the enclosure ditch. As with feature (104) in Trench 1, the location of the burnt feature (204) may indicate activity within the enclosure and further work at the site may yield dating evidence to support this.



The geology within the two trenches was notably different. While the bedrock in both trenches was sand, in Trench 1 it was predominantly very loose and soft, while being solid and arranged in clear laminations in Trench 2. This resulted in the enclosure ditch [202] in Trench 2 being much clearer to identify and excavate than that in Trench 1 [102]. While it seems likely that the enclosure ditch [102] in Trench 1 had undergone a series of re-cuts, there was no evidence of this in the enclosure ditch [202] in Trench 2, where the bedrock was much more stable.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological excavation at New Hall Farm identified the remains of enclosure ditches in both trenches, thereby successfully establishing the integrity of the geophysical survey results.

While the enclosure ditch in Trench 1 did not contain any dateable material, the pottery recovered from the enclosure ditch in Trench 2 indicates that this feature dates from the Romano-British period. Although features were recorded in the interior of both enclosures, none of these yielded any dateable material. Further archaeological works may identify evidence for the purpose of the enclosure ditches, the period in which they were in use and contemporary activity in their immediate vicinity.

Further work at the site could comprise further trenches in 13 Acre, perhaps at the opposite end of the enclosure from Trench 1, in an attempt to obtain some dateable material for this feature and to determine whether the enclosure ditch is more distinct in this area. Although sufficient dateable material has been recovered from the Trench 2 enclosure in Far Dry, further investigation could determine whether the enclosure ditch retains the same form/profile throughout.

In the case of both Far Dry and 13 Acre, further archaeological investigation within the enclosures could be merited in an attempt to determine their function and the activities that took place within them. On a related note, radiocarbon-dating of the charcoal from the burnt feature [204] in Trench 2 would be useful in ascertaining a date for the feature and determining whether this feature provides evidence of associated activity within the ditched enclosure or is unrelated to it.

## 7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ArcHeritage would like to thank the DVLP for commissioning the work and providing ongoing support; the owner of New Hall Farm for all the guidance, support, enthusiasm and hospitality; and all of the volunteers.

## 8. REFERENCES

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<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Accessed: 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

TPA. 2017. New Hall Farm, Darfield. South Yorkshire. Report on Archaeological Geophysical Survey. Unpublished Trent and Peak Archaeology report.

## PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, prior to excavation of the features. Note the darker band of [102] in the foreground of the trench. Looking north-west, scales 2x1m



Plate 2: Trench 1, prior to excavation of the features. Looking south-east, scale 2x1m





Plate 3: Ditch [102], Trench 1, pre-excitation. Looking south-west, scale 1m



Plate 4: Ditch [102], Trench 1, post-excitation. Looking north-east, scale 1m





Plate 5: Feature [104], Trench 1, pre-excitation. Looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 6: Feature [104], Trench 1, post-excitation. Looking north-west, scale 1m





Plate 7: Trench 2, prior to excavating the features. Looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 8: Trench 2, prior to excavating the features. Looking north-west, scale 1m





Plate 9: Ditch [202], post excavation. Looking north, scale 1m



Plate 10: Ditch [202], post-excitation. Looking north-east, scale 1m





Plate 11: Burnt feature [204], post excavation. Looking north-east, scale 0.5m



Plate 12: Burnt feature [204], post-excitation. Looking north-east, scale 0.5m

## FIGURES



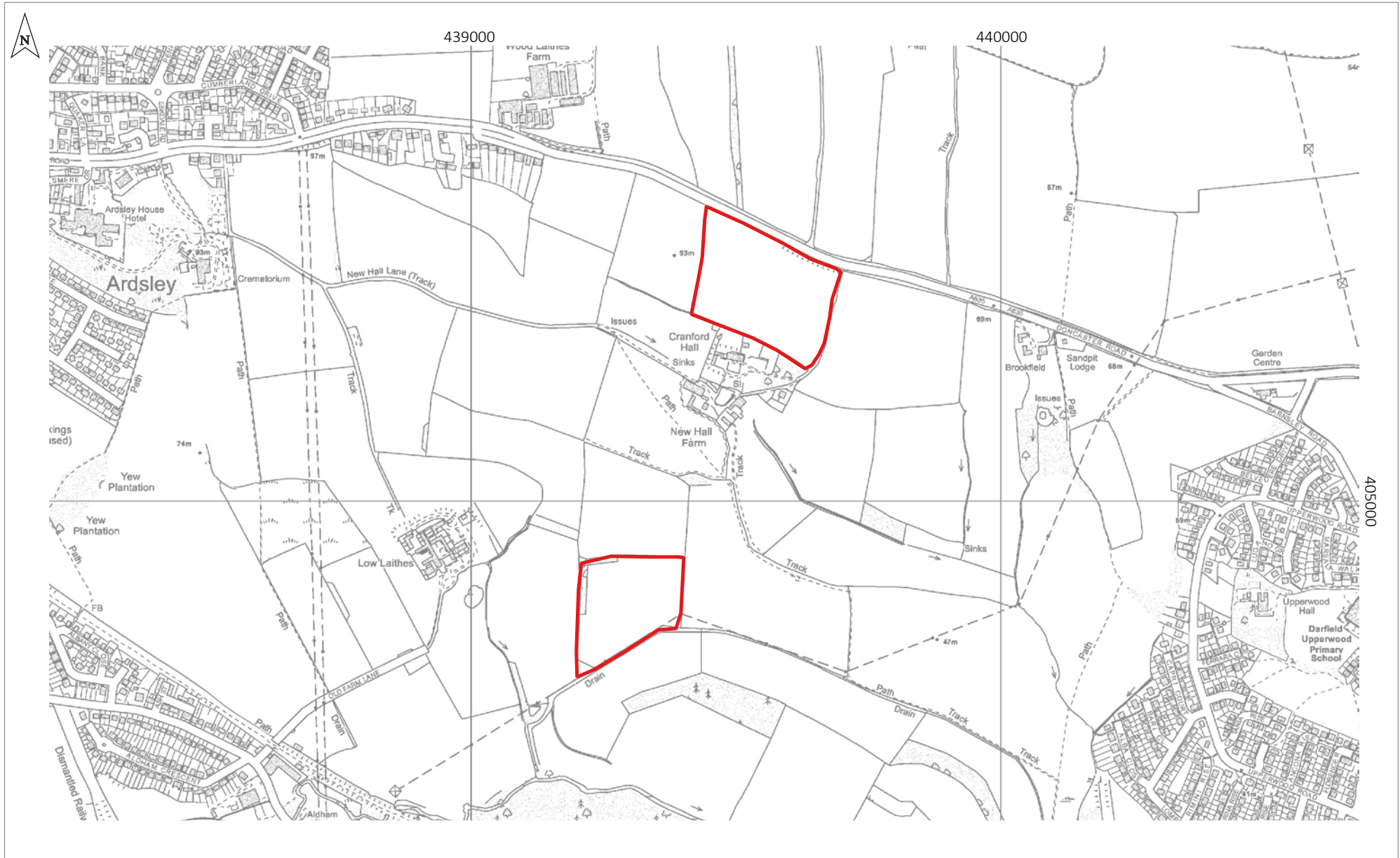


Figure 1: Site location



**Figure 2:** Results of the geophysical survey (TPA 2017)



**Figure 3:** Trench locations over the geophysical survey results



**Figure 4:** Trench 1 location







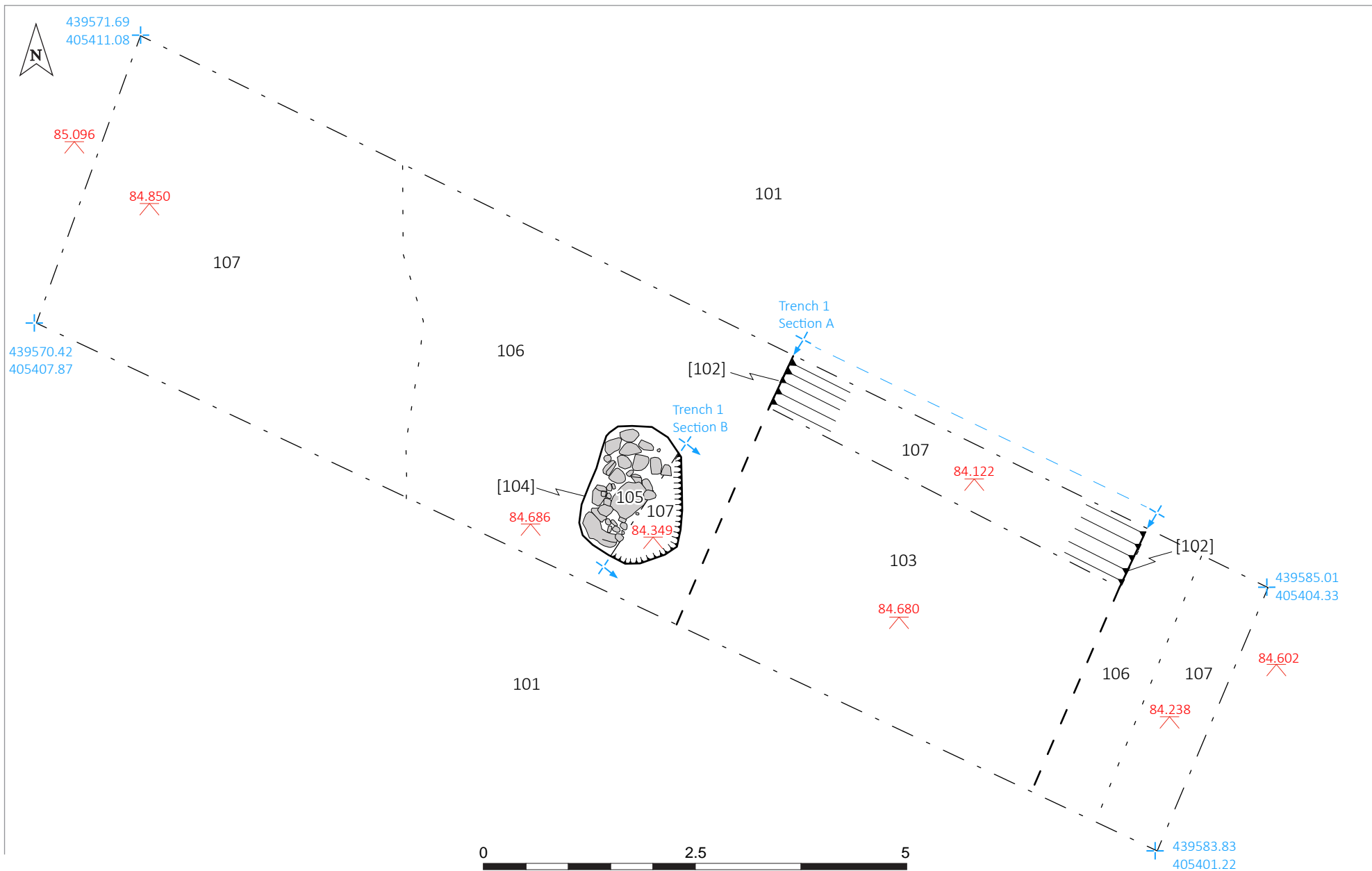
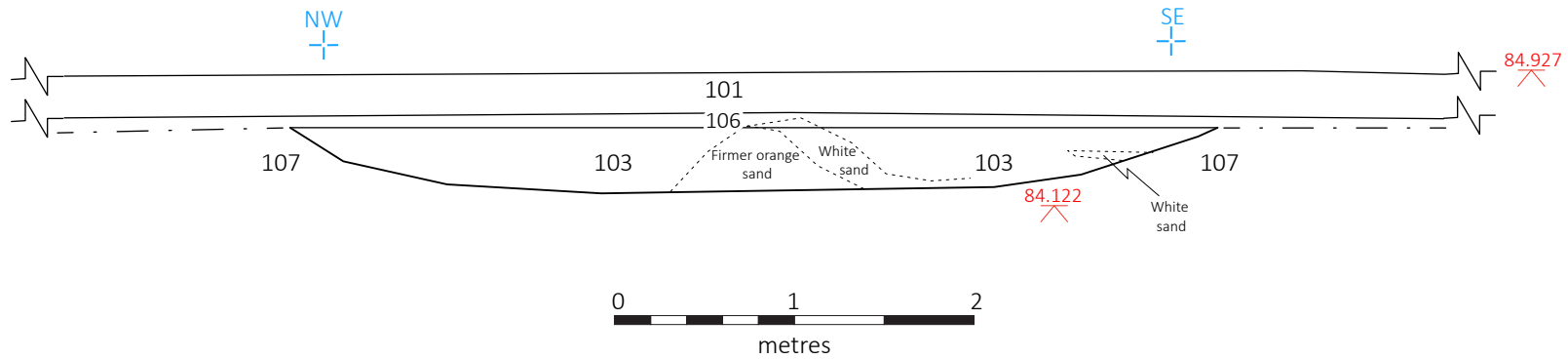
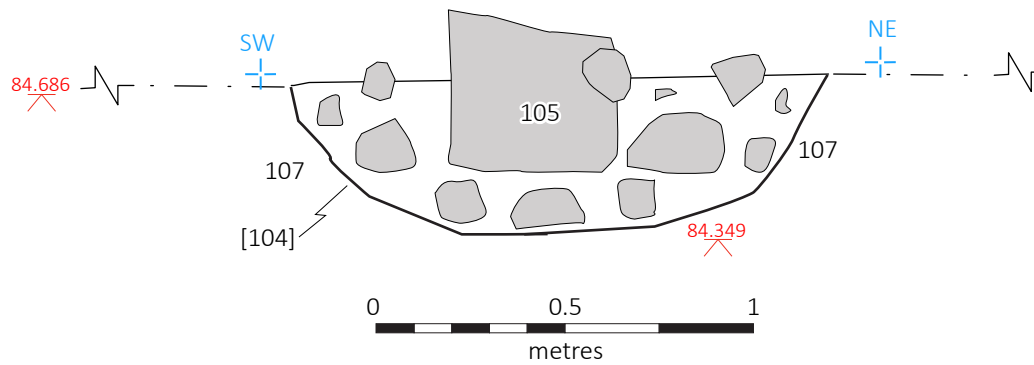


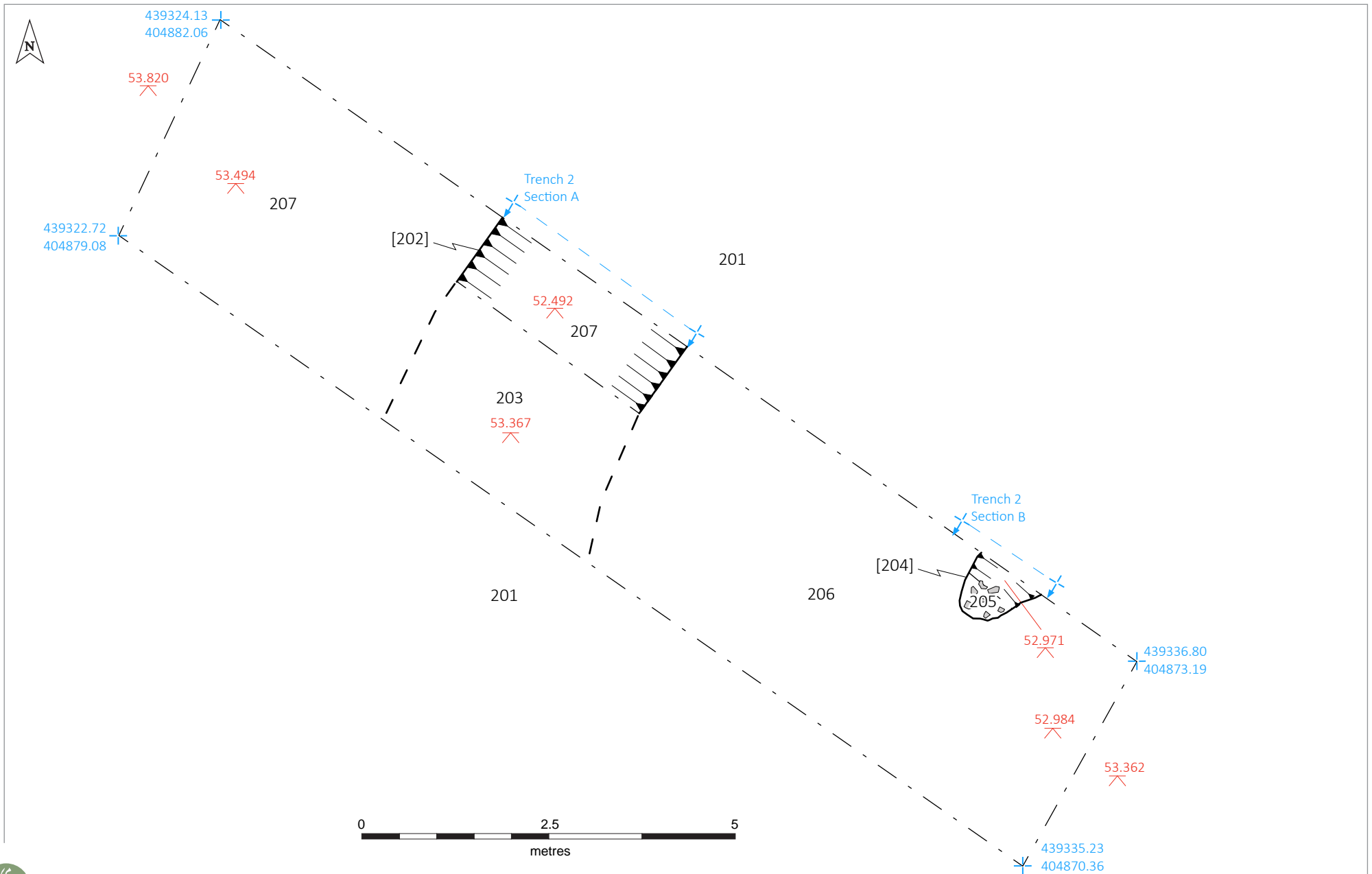
Figure 6: Post-excavation plan of Trench 1

Trench 1 Section A  
Scale: 1:40



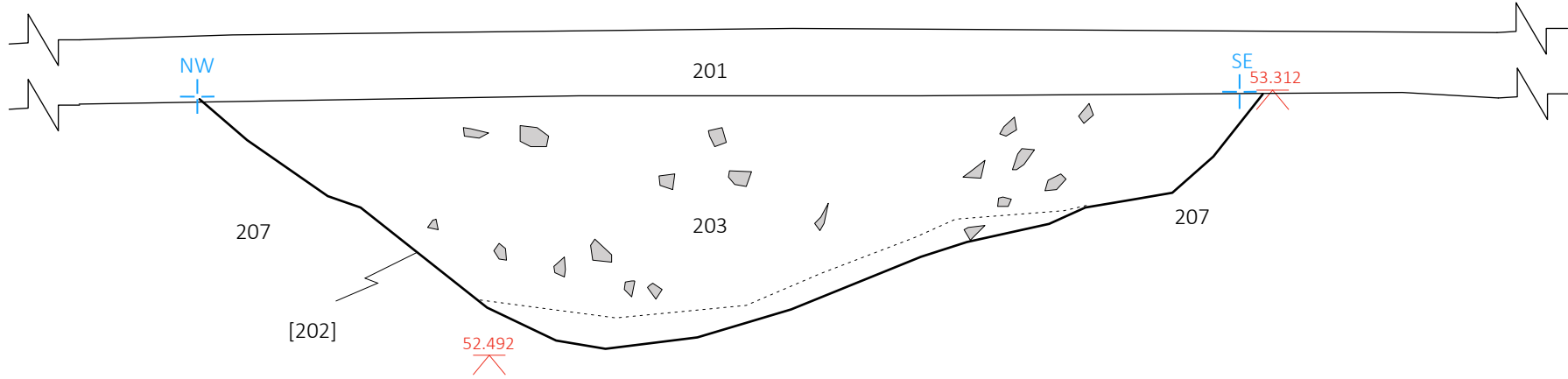
Trench 1 Section B  
Scale: 1:10





**Figure 8:** Post-excavation plan of Trench 2

Trench 2 Section A  
Scale 1:20



Trench 2 Section B  
Scale 1:20

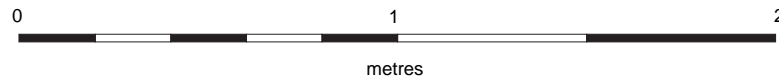
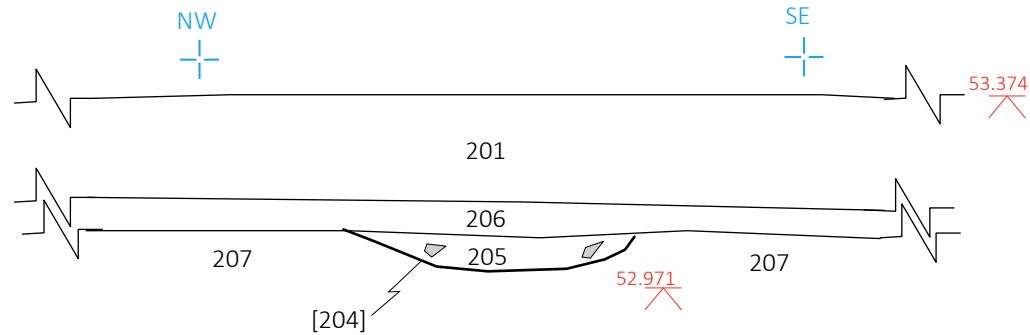


Figure 9: Sections of features within Trench 2

## APPENDIX 1: INDEX TO ARCHIVE

The site archive is held at Barnsley Museum. The paper archive contents are listed below. The entire pottery assemblage, the undated charcoal and the undated cremated bone (Appendices 3 to 6) have been retained in the archive. All of the miscellaneous finds (Appendix 5) with the exception of the cremated bone have been offered back to the landowner for retention.

### Barnsley Museum. Accession number BMBC.TH.2379

Item	Quantity
Context registers	2
Context sheets	11
Black and white film photo register	1
Black and white photographs	1 disc
Black and white negatives	1 sheet
Digital film register	1
Digital photographs	1 disc
Original drawings	1
Report	2



## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST

Trench no.	Context no.	Description
1	101	Topsoil
1	102	Cut of enclosure ditch
1	103	Fill of ditch cut [102]
1	104	Cut of ovoid stone-filled feature
1	105	Fill of cut [104]
1	106	Subsoil
1	107	Sandy bedrock geology
2	201	Topsoil
2	202	Cut of enclosure ditch
2	203	Fill of ditch cut [202]
2	204	Cut of ovoid burnt feature
2	205	Fill of cut [204]
2	206	Subsoil
2	207	Sandy bedrock geology

## APPENDIX 3: ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY ASSESSMENT

*Dr David Griffiths, Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd*

### Introduction

A total of 18 sherds (148.1g) of Romano-British pottery were recovered from a single deposit (203) during archaeological excavations at New Hall Farm, Darfield, South Yorkshire, conducted by ArchHeritage. In addition to the 18 Romano-British sherds, three sherds of medieval pottery were extracted from the material and are not reported on here. This report presents the results of the assessment of material examined, in accordance with *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* (Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study for Roman Pottery and Medieval Pottery Research Group, Barclay *et al.* 2016).

### Method

All pottery was assessed visually (by eye) and sorted into broad ware classes on the basis of colour, hardness, fracture, and inclusion composition, as outlined in Tomber and Dore (1998, 6-8). Pottery from each ware class was quantified by count and weight, with rim diameter and percentage recorded, if present. Where possible, regional and nationally-distributed products were identified, along with broad date-ranges for their manufacture. See the table, below, for details of all material.

### Results

The Romano-British pottery recovered from New Hall Farm was a heavily abraded and small assemblage. The presence of three sherds of medieval pottery suggests that the deposit had been heavily disturbed. The material dates broadly from the early to mid-2nd to the 4th century AD. There were body sherds from at least three South Yorkshire greyware vessels, but accurate dating was difficult due to few diagnostic features. The presence of a Black-burnished jar with a splayed rim provides a date from the mid-3rd to the 4th century AD (Gillam 1976, 63, no.8). Finally, the presence of eight sherds (most likely from the same vessel) of an East Yorkshire calcite-gritted ware, pre-Huntcliffe type jar (e.g. Swan 2002, 67, no's 239-240) provides an even later date for the group, from the late 3rd century AD onwards.

This small group of pottery does little to inform on-site function and status. However, given that no finewares were present, the narrow range of local and regional coarsewares tentatively suggests relatively low-status for the occupants of the site, with the products domestic in nature and primarily for storage and food preparation. The presence of the Black-burnished ware splayed-rim jar and the pre-Huntcliffe jar suggests a date range for the group between the late 3rd and 4th centuries AD.

### Statement of potential & recommendations

Due to the small size of the pottery assemblages, no robust statistical analysis was possible. The assemblage is characteristic of a rural, low-status domestic site of the region. The material assessed is in poor condition, but should be retained and deposited with the site archive at the appropriate repository. The author recommends that the Black-burnished ware splayed-rim jar and the pre-Huntcliffe jar be illustrated for inclusion in the overall site report or publication, if this is planned. No further analysis is recommended.



The Romano-British and medieval pottery assemblage from (203)

#### References

Barclay, A., Knight, D., Booth, P., Evans, J., Brown, D. H. and I. Wood. 2016. *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology*. Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group, Study Group for Roman Pottery & Medieval Pottery Research Group.

Gillam, J. P. 1976. 'Coarse fumed ware in northern Britain and beyond,' *Glasgow Archaeological Journal* 4, 57-89.

Swan, V. G. 2002. 'The Roman Pottery of Yorkshire in its Wider Context.' In Wilson, P. R. and Price, J. (eds) *Aspects of industry in Roman Yorkshire and the North*. Oxbow: Oxford.

Tomber, R. and Dore, J. 1998. *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection. A Handbook*. MoLAS Monograph 2.

*Catalogue of Romano-British pottery*

Description	Fabric type	Fabric descriptions	Count	Weight (grams)	Abrasion	Part	Form	Rim d	Rim %
Handmade pre-Huntcliffe East Yorkshire calcite-gritted ware jar with everted and squared rim, shallow lid seat. AD 275-400.	EYCT	Dark brown to grey; soft, rough fabric with irregular fracture. Ill-sorted, abundant calcite (completely burnt-out to surface), common rounded and sub-rounded fine to medium quartz, and common voids.	8	80	H	RIM+BDY	Jar	180	20
Black-burnished ware jar with splayed rim. Gillam 1976, no. 8. AD 250-400.	BB1	Tomber and Dore 1998, 127, DOR BB1.	1	10.8	A	RIM	Jar	160	6
South Yorkshire greyware. AD 150-400.	RE1	Dark brown to grey; hard, rough fabric with irregular fracture. Well-sorted, abundant rounded and sub-rounded medium quartz, sparse red-brown (iron).	3	12.2	A	BDY			
South Yorkshire greyware. AD 150-400.	RE2	Medium grey; hard, rough fabrics with irregular fracture. Well-sorted, abundant rounded and sub-rounded medium to coarse quartz, sparse black/brown, and sparse white inclusions.	4	7	A	BDY			
South Yorkshire greyware. AD 150-400.	RE3	Pale grey surface with dark grey core; very hard with laminar fracture. Well-sorted, abundant angular fine to medium quartz, common white, sparse black inclusions, and common rounded voids.	1	29.4	U	BDY			
Black-burnished ware. AD 100(?)-400.	BB1	Tomber and Dore 1998, 127, DOR BB1.	1	8.7	H	BDY	Jar?		
		<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>148.1</b>					



## APPENDIX 4: MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

*Richard Jackson and Laura Strafford*

Three fragments of medieval pottery were recovered from the ditch fill (203) in Trench 2. As these were within the same context as the larger quantity of Romano-British pottery (Appendix 3), these are likely to have been residual sherds that found their way into the feature by later ploughing or other agricultural activity. These sherds were also highly abraded, again indicating disturbance.

The three fragments of medieval pottery could be analysed by a relevant specialist in order to narrow down the date range. The value of such assessment would be low, however, as the fragments are likely to be residual and therefore unrelated to the period in which the ditch was in use.

The post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil deposits within the two trenches. These sherds were all residual material and ranged from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in date. No further work is recommended for the post-medieval sherds and all of this material could be discarded, subject to the agreement of relevant parties.

Context	Fabric	Form	Comments	Date (C)
101	Coarse Earthenware	u/d	Clear glaze int.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
101	Salt-glazed Stoneware	u/d	Rouletted decoration	19 <sup>th</sup>
101	Slipware	u/d	Clear glaze over white slip	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>
101	Whiteware	1 x Flatware, 1 TP dec	abraded	19 <sup>th</sup>
101	Misc	2 u/d	Poss brick fragment	?19 <sup>th</sup>
201	Coarse Earthenware	Bowl or similar	Oxide wash ext, thick black glaze int.	18 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup>
201	Late Blackware	u/d		18 <sup>th</sup>
201	Whiteware	u/d, possibly flatware		19 <sup>th</sup>
201	? Earthenware fabric, partial clear glaze, frequent small angular inclusions.	Large vessel	Heavily abraded	18 <sup>th</sup>
204	Coarse grained rim sherd	u/d	Heavily abraded	Medieval
204	Fine-grained	u/d	Heavily abraded	Medieval
204	Fine-grained	u/d	Heavily abraded	Medieval

## APPENDIX 5: MISCELLANEOUS FINDS ASSESSMENT

*Laura Strafford and Richard Jackson*

The majority of miscellaneous finds were recovered from topsoil and include clay pipe, bone slag and glass. Where a date could be discerned, these are all post-medieval. The material that was recovered from the topsoil was residual and therefore offered little further information regarding the site's use and development.

Only one miscellaneous find was recovered from a secure feature: burnt bone from the fill (205) of burnt feature [204]. The burnt bone is generally all <10mm, although there are rare fragments >10mm. Species ID was not possible due to the small nature of the bone fragments.

No further work is recommended and all of this material could be discarded, subject to the agreement of relevant parties.

Trench	Context no.	Item	Quantity	Total weight (g)	Description
1	101	Clay pipe	2	5	Two fragments of clay pipe stem; one 30mm length x 10mm width x 3.5mm bore $\varnothing$ ; one 22mm length x 11.5,, width x 2mm bore $\varnothing$ . Unglazed, no hint of bowl on either. Undiagnostic. C18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> .
1	101	Bone	2	10	Two fragments of abraded mammal bone. 1 longbone, 1 rib of indeterminate species.
1	101	Slag	1	5	Metalliferous slag.
1	101	Glass	1	<5	Small round glass fragment. 5mm diameter, flat-base. Bead? Cosmetic. C20 <sup>th</sup> .
2	201	Clay pipe	1	<5	Stem fragment, unglazed. 32mm length x 7.5mm width x 2mm bore $\varnothing$ . C19 <sup>th</sup> .
2	205	Burnt bone	48	5	Highly fragmented: largest fragment 15mm in length, but most much smaller.

## APPENDIX 6: CHARCOAL ASSESSMENT

Laura Strafford

Charcoal was hand-collected from two deposits: fill (203) of enclosure ditch [202] and fill [205] of burnt feature [204].

Several fragments of charcoal were collected from fill (203). These were all highly fragmented, although some items may be suitable for C14-dating, if required. Further analysis of the charcoal could offer species identification. However, given that the charcoal appears to be residual rather than an *in situ* artefact or burning deposit, species ID could offer little in terms of revealing more about the feature or the site as a whole.

The charcoal recovered from fill (205) contained notably larger charcoal fragments than that from ditch fill (203). As (205) may represent an *in situ* burning deposit, species ID on this charcoal may identify the species of wood that was being used as fuel.

The charcoal from both features could be suitable for C14-dating. While the pottery that was recovered from ditch fill (203) provides a broad Romano British date, the range could be narrowed through C14-dating on the charcoal. A C14 date from the charcoal found in fill (205) would determine whether the feature is contemporary with, or unrelated to, the enclosure ditch.

Trench	Context no.	Item	Quantity	Total weight (g)	Description
2	203	Charcoal	>100	10	Highly fragmented and fragile charcoal, some examples 10mm but most much smaller.
2	205	Charcoal	>50	15	Fragmented, but one noticeably large example >20mm in diameter.

## APPENDIX 7: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

**Project Design for Archaeological Trenching at  
New Hall Farm, Ardsley, South Yorkshire**

<b>Site Location:</b>	New Hall Farm, Ardsley, S71 5ER
<b>NGR:</b>	SE 39428 05204
<b>HLS agreement no.:</b>	AG00248448
<b>Land parcels:</b>	13 acre (grass), parcel number SE39055541 Far Dry (arable), parcel number SE39042981
<b>Prepared for:</b>	Natural England; Helen Rhodes; DVLP; South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS)

## **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This project design has been prepared for a community archaeological excavation (trenching) at New Hall Farm, Ardsley, South Yorkshire. The purpose of this document is as supporting evidence for the application of derogation from Natural England to undertake the work, due to the site currently being in Higher Level Stewardship (HLS). The HLS agreement number for the site is AG00248448.
- 1.2 The work will be carried out in accordance with this Project Design, and according to the principles of the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Code of Conduct and all relevant standards and guidance.
- 1.3 This work is being carried out as part of the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP), a HLF-funded 5-year programme of projects focussing on the historic buildings and landscapes of the Dearne Valley. By working with local communities, the Partnership aims to protect, preserve and enhance the area. As part of the DVLP, the Archaeology and Geology Project has been established which will enable more of the historic environment of the Dearne Valley to be surveyed through the archaeological investigation of ten sites, of which New Hall Farm is one. The project will enhance understanding of the heritage of the area as well as developing skills, knowledge and capacity within local communities.
- 1.4 Local volunteers will play an integral part in this project and will have input at each stage.

## **2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION**

- 2.1 The site is located off the A635 Doncaster Road (centred NGR: SE 39428 05204), in between the small settlements of Stairfoot and Darfield, approximately 3 miles to the south-east of Barnsley town centre (Figure 1).



- 2.2 The proposed excavation areas involve two fields. Approximately 250m north-east of the farm is 13 Acre (grass), parcel number SE39055541. Approximately 400m to the south of the New Hall farmhouse is Far Dry (arable), parcel number SE39042981.
- 2.3 13 Acre lies somewhat above New Hall Farm at c. 85m AOD, the centre of the field being fairly flat but sloping south and east towards the southern edge. Far Dry lies at c. 50m AOD on a gentle south-facing slope.
- 2.4 The underlying geology in 13 Acre is Mexborough Rock Sandstone; in Far Dry, Pennine Coal Measure Sandstone, both sedimentary rocks of the Carboniferous Period (British Geological Survey).

### **3 SITE HISTORY**

- 3.1 Whilst much of the history of the site is well documented from the late medieval period onwards, of particular interest to the landowner are the intermittent visibility of crop marks within the surrounding fields, most notably in 13 Acre and Far Dry, which correlate with similar crop marks of known prehistoric date in South Yorkshire, representing enclosures and field boundaries.

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST**

- 4.1 In March 2017, a non-intrusive geophysical survey (magnetometry) was conducted at 13 Acre and Far Dry, to determine the credibility of the aerial photographs and crop marks showing the perceived prehistoric features. The results of the survey were good, showing strong responses (Figure 2); in both fields the survey successfully located and identified curvilinear enclosure ditches expressed as linear positive anomalies, along with a number of other linear and discrete responses with high potential for an archaeological origin.
- 4.2 Based on the results of the geophysical survey, a small-scale archaeological trenching exercise is proposed to investigate the features identified on aerial photographs and in the geophysical survey. The trenching will be undertaken to confirm the character, presence and date of these features.

### **5 AIMS**

- 5.1 The aims of the archaeological excavation are:
- to engage and upskill members of the local community
  - to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any below-ground archaeological remains present
  - to date the enclosures
  - to assess the state of preservation of the enclosures
  - to provide information that will enable the remains to be placed within their local, regional, and national context
  - to assess the significance of the enclosures to be investigated.
  - to provide information which will inform and guide further work at the site.

## 6 TRENCH RATIONALE

6.1 It is proposed that 2 trenches are excavated (Figure 3-5), described in the table below.

Trench No.	Dimensions (m)	Rationale
1	15x3	To investigate the terminus of the enclosure ditch at the entranceway, and a nearby linear feature/trackway in 13 Acre
2	15x3	To investigate the terminus of the enclosure ditch at the entranceway, and a nearby linear feature/trackway in Far Dry

## 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 Prior to opening the trenches, the area of the trenches, with a buffer of at least 20m, will be surveyed with a metal detector (Appendix 1), subject to consent from the landowner. Fieldwalking will also be undertaken in the same area. The fieldwalking will be undertaken in 5m transects by volunteers under constant archaeological supervision. All finds collected from the fieldwalking will have their position surveyed in with a survey-grade GPS. The fieldwalking methodology will adhere to that set out in the BAJR Practical Guide 15 (2008).
- 7.2 Trenches will be excavated in predetermined locations, identified in Figures 3-5 and outlined in the above table.
- 7.3 The trenches will not exceed those dimensions set out in this Project Design, nor will their locations be altered without prior consent from Natural England and in agreement with the landowner.
- 7.4 The trench locations will be accurately plotted using a survey grade GPS. This will provide sub 0.5m accuracy or sub 20mm accuracy if mobile phone signals are available. All trenches will be locatable on a 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map. This is to ensure that the trenches can be independently relocated in the event of future work.
- 7.5 Following the fieldwalking and metal detecting survey over the area of the trenches, the trenches will be opened by a mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. The turf will be removed and set to one side and deposits will be stored separately. Overburden will be removed by machine until the first archaeological layer is encountered, or the natural geology, whichever comes first.
- 7.6 All identified archaeological features will be entirely dug by hand. A minimum of 1m sections will be excavated across linears, with pit/circular features half-sectioned.
- 7.7 Each trench will be photographed. If a trench is archaeologically sterile, the relative depths below ground level of each soil layer will be recorded. Any archaeological features will be drawn, following standard conventions. Context numbers will be assigned to each identifiable soil layer.
- 7.8 Any artefacts will be recorded by context and dept and will be bagged and recorded by context.

## 8 RECORDING METHODOLOGY FOR EXCAVATION

- 8.1 All archaeological contexts and soil horizons will be recorded using standardised pro forma record sheets. Plans, sections and elevations will be drawn as appropriate and a comprehensive photographic record will be made
- 8.2 Each context will be described in full on a pro forma context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions. Each context will be given a unique number. These field records will be checked and indexes compiled.
- 8.3 Photographs of work in progress and post-excavation of the trenches. This will include general views and detailed views. The photographic record will comprise 35mm format black and white film. Digital photography may be used in addition, but will not form any part of the formal site archive. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.
- 8.4 All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication *First Aid for Finds*, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. All finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act, after discussion with the client and the local authority.
- 8.5 An environmental sampling programme will be undertaken for the recovery and identification of charred and/or waterlogged remains where suitable deposits are identified. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2011). Environmental and soil specialists will be consulted during the course of the excavation with regard to the implementation of this sampling programme. The sampling regime will include samples of the two types of deposit sample as appropriate. These are described below:
- **Bulk-sieved Sample (BS).** Sample size will depend upon the context/feature size, but should be up to 40-60 litres in size (if the context size allows). They are taken for the recovery of charcoal, burnt seeds, bone and artefacts. The samples will be processed (flotation) on site where possible with 1mm and 500micron sieves on a rack to collect the carbonised washover. The retents and flots will then be dried, sorted and assessed to advise the potential for further analysis.
  - **General Biological Sample (GBA):** These are only taken if a deposit is waterlogged. A 10 litre sample size will be used (if the context size allows). These samples will be processed in the laboratory, to recover macrofossils and microscopic remains such as pollen and insects.
- 8.6 Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with ArcHeritage specialists and the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor, as appropriate (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc.). Samples will be taken for scientific dating where necessary for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies. Material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments.
- 8.7 In the event of human remains being discovered during the evaluation these will be left *in-*

*situ*, covered and protected, in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of, the Secretary of State.

## **9 SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS**

- 9.1 The stratigraphic information, artefacts, soil samples, and residues will be assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis and study. The material will be quantified (counted and weighted). Specialists will undertake a rapid scan of all excavated material. Appropriately detailed specialist reports will be included in the report.
- 9.2 Materials considered vulnerable should be selected for stabilisation after specialist recording. Where intervention is necessary, consideration must be given to possible investigative procedures. Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and stabilization of all objects and a written assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs will be produced. Once assessed, all material will be packed and stored in optimum conditions, in accordance with Watkinson and Neal (1998), ClfA (2007) and Museums and Galleries (1992).
- 9.3 All finds will be cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate, prior to assessment. For ceramic assemblages, any recognised local pottery reference collections and relevant fabric Codes will be used.
- 9.4 Allowance will be made for the recovery of material suitable for scientific dating and contingency sums will be made available to undertake such dating, if necessary. This will be decided in consultation with the local curatorial archaeologist.
- 9.5 If any finds or assemblages are of sufficient interest specialist analysis of the finds will be undertaken.

## **10 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- 10.1 One of the main outputs of this project is to engage and upskill members of the local community. Numbers as yet are not finalised – it is hoped to include one year group from a local primary school, in addition to a handful of adult volunteers (not more than 10 individuals) from local community groups.
- 10.2 The involvement of members of the local community will allow numerous engagement and upskilling opportunities within the community. The methods below were identified within the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership Community Engagement Plan and Delivery Statement (ArcHeritage 2016) as the main means by which communities could be engaged and benefit from this project, and which are relevant to this project. Educational research has shown that people learn best through hands-on activities, and wherever possible skills training will be delivered on site in this way. A Skills Passport will be offered to all adults individual involved in the project, should they wish to maintain a formal log of the training they receive.
- 10.3 **Research skills**  
Knowing how to target certain types of information is an important skill which is also



extremely transferable. Training workshops in research skills have already successfully been delivered at Barnsley Archives, training community groups in the use of archive and library resources as well as the use of relevant online resources. New Hall was used as a case study for these sessions, and participants studied a range of sources related to the site.

#### 10.4 **Theoretical skills**

Understanding who holds information on the historic environment, and how to get it, is an essential tool for community groups. A project design workshop has already been held in which volunteers were introduced to the use of HERs, SMRs, Historic England, English Heritage and other organisations that have some kind of custodianship over historic environment data. Equally important is understanding the different designations that may apply to sites (Listing, Scheduling, etc.) and the legal and logistical obligations that would be involved in gaining the appropriate consents. As such, a talk by Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments Neil Redfern was successfully delivered to community volunteers regarding the role of Historic England and the meaning of heritage designations to sites.

#### 10.5 **Fieldwork and survey skills**

The project will engage a wide demographic, including school children. Skills participants are expected to be taught during the test-pitting excavation include:

- the principles of stratigraphy
- excavation techniques
- context recording
- drawing (plans and sections)
- soil sampling and processing
- photography
- artefact retrieval and handling

#### 10.6 **Post-excavation skills**

The post-excavation process is a crucial part of any project. Should site logistics allow, the post-excavation processes will be embedded into the excavation, aiming to wash, catalogue and package artefacts on site, and if possible process samples on site too. The advantage of this is that participants who do not wish to excavate still feel included in the excavation process, and the excavators can see the artefacts they have recovered. An understanding of the processes and level of documentation required during the post-excavation process also greatly improves excavation skills.

#### 10.7 **Archiving**

The importance of the 'primary archive' cannot be understated. Basic archive preparation will be included as part of the excavation, so the participants are aware of the importance of recording the excavation in detail, and why.

## 11 REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

- 11.1 Upon completion of the site work, a report will be prepared by ArcHeritage to include the following:
- a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
  - b) An introduction which will include the grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.
  - c) An account of the methodology and detailed results of the operation.
  - d) A brief description of each trench, archaeological features, associated finds and environmental data, and a conclusion and discussion.
  - e) illustrations showing the location of each trench
  - f) distribution maps showing the quantity, date and type of artefacts
  - g) A selection of photographs and drawings, including a detailed plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored, trench locations, selected feature drawings, and selected artefacts, and phased feature plans where appropriate.
  - h) Specialist artefact and environmental reports where undertaken, and a context list/index.
  - i) Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a context list and catalogue of what is contained in that archive.
  - j) A copy of the key OASIS form details
  - k) Copies of the Brief and WSI
  - l) Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report
- 11.2 Two copies of the report will be submitted to the DVLP, with additional copies offered to the participating primary school and other community groups involved in the project. A bound and digital copy of the report will be submitted to SYAS for inclusion into the SMR.
- 11.3 A field archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs. Catalogues of contexts, finds, soil samples, plans, sections and photographs will be produced. ArcHeritage will liaise with the depository museum (in this case Barnsley Museum) prior to the commencement of fieldwork to establish the detailed curatorial requirements of the museum and discuss archive transfer and to complete the relevant museum forms.
- 11.4 The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the Local Authority and the museum accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), such documentation is required to be made available to enquirers if it meets the test of public interest. Any information disclosure issues would be resolved between the client and the archaeological contractor before completion of the work. EIR requirements do not affect IPR.
- 11.5 Upon completion of the project an OASIS form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>.

## **12 POST EXCAVATION ANALYSIS & PUBLICATION**

- 12.1 The information contained in the report will enable decisions to be taken regarding the future treatment of the archaeology of the site and any material recovered during the test pitting.
- 12.2 If significant results are recovered from the works the results of the work will be publicised through publication in an appropriate journal.

## **13 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 13.1 Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.
- 13.2 A Risk Assessment has been prepared and will be provided to the client prior to the start of site works.

## **14 PRE-START REQUIREMENTS**

- 14.1 The landowner will be responsible for securing access. A plan of proposed access routes from the farm house to the investigation areas is detailed in Figure 3. ArcHeritage will ensure that the trenches remain suitably fenced off at all times.

## **15 REINSTATEMENT**

- 15.1 During excavation, if different deposits are encountered these will be stored separately. The trenches will be backfilled with the spoil excavated from the trenches, and the spoil will be backfilled in reverse order to re-establish the soil profile.
- 15.2 The turf will be re-laid and watered in. If the weather is particularly hot, or it seems likely that the turf will not re-take, the area will be seeded using the correct seed mix for each field.

## **16 TIMETABLE & STAFFING**

- 16.1 In consideration of logistics with the associated working farm, and with the wish to involve local schools, it is not envisaged that the work will commence before September 2017. The exact dates of work will be determined at a later date following discussions with the participating schools and landowner, however, it is envisaged that the work will be completed before the end of October 2017, and will not exceed five days in total.
- 16.2 Specialist staff available for this work are as follows:
- Human Remains - Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology Ltd)
  - Palaeoenvironmental remains – Ellen Simmons (University of Sheffield)
  - Head of Curatorial Services - Christine McDonnell
  - Finds Researcher – Nienke van Doorn
  - Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery – Ann Jenner
  - Roman/ Iron Age pottery -David Griffiths (Northern Archaeological Associates)
  - Conservation - Ian Panter

## 17 MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

- 17.1 SYAS will be given a minimum of one week's notice of work commencing on site, and will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site during and prior to completion of the on-site works so that the general stratigraphy of the site can be assessed and to discuss the requirement any further phases of archaeological work. ArcHeritage will notify the curator of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary.

## 18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 ArcHeritage retain the copyright on this document. It has been prepared expressly for the named client, and may not be passed to third parties for use or for the purpose of gathering quotations.

## 19 KEY REFERENCES

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See also the website of the ClfA for all Guidance and Standards documentation. <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

See also the Historic England website for a full list of guidance documents. <http://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/recording-heritage/>

FIGURES



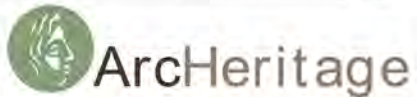
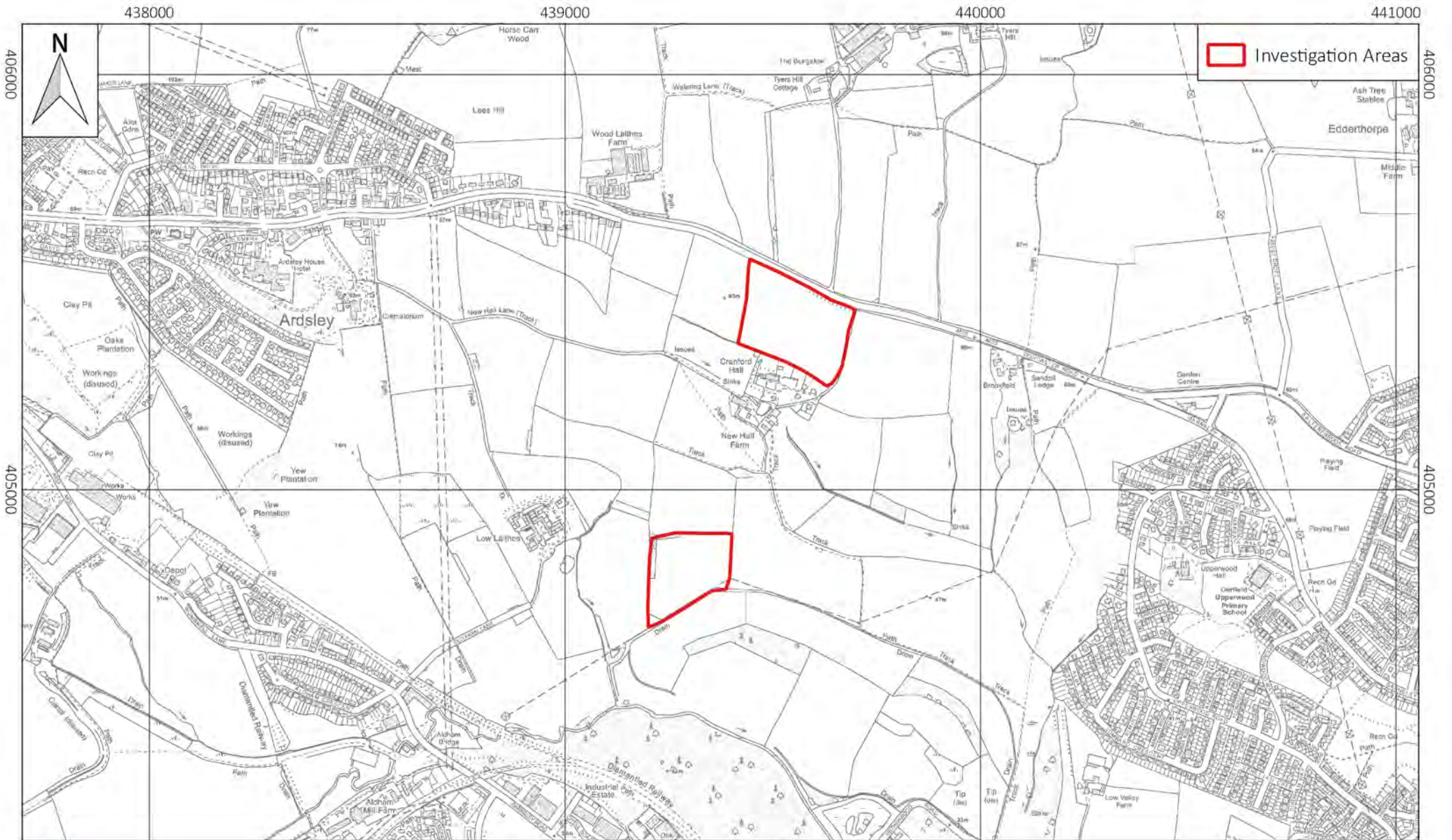
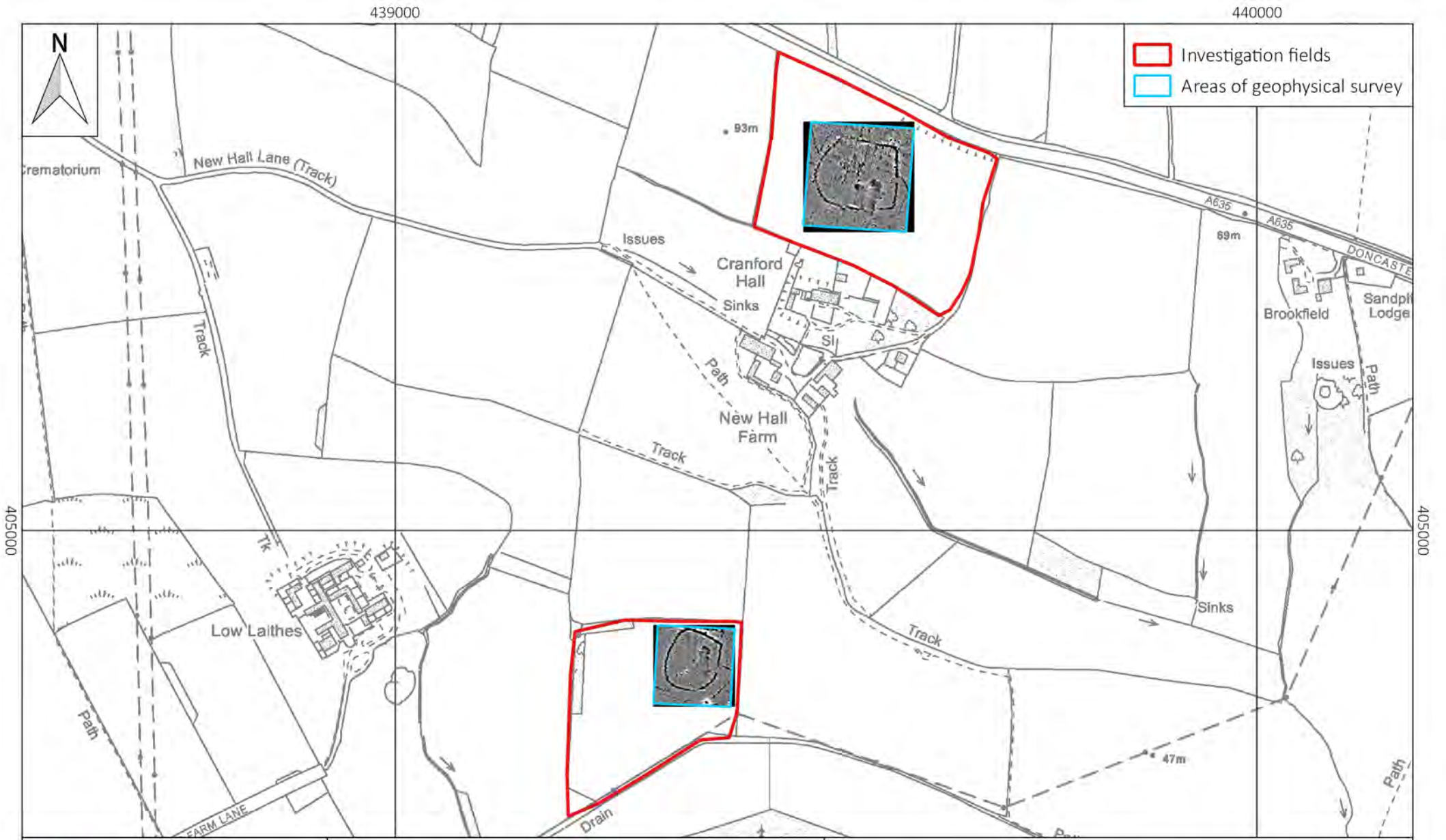


Figure 1: Site location





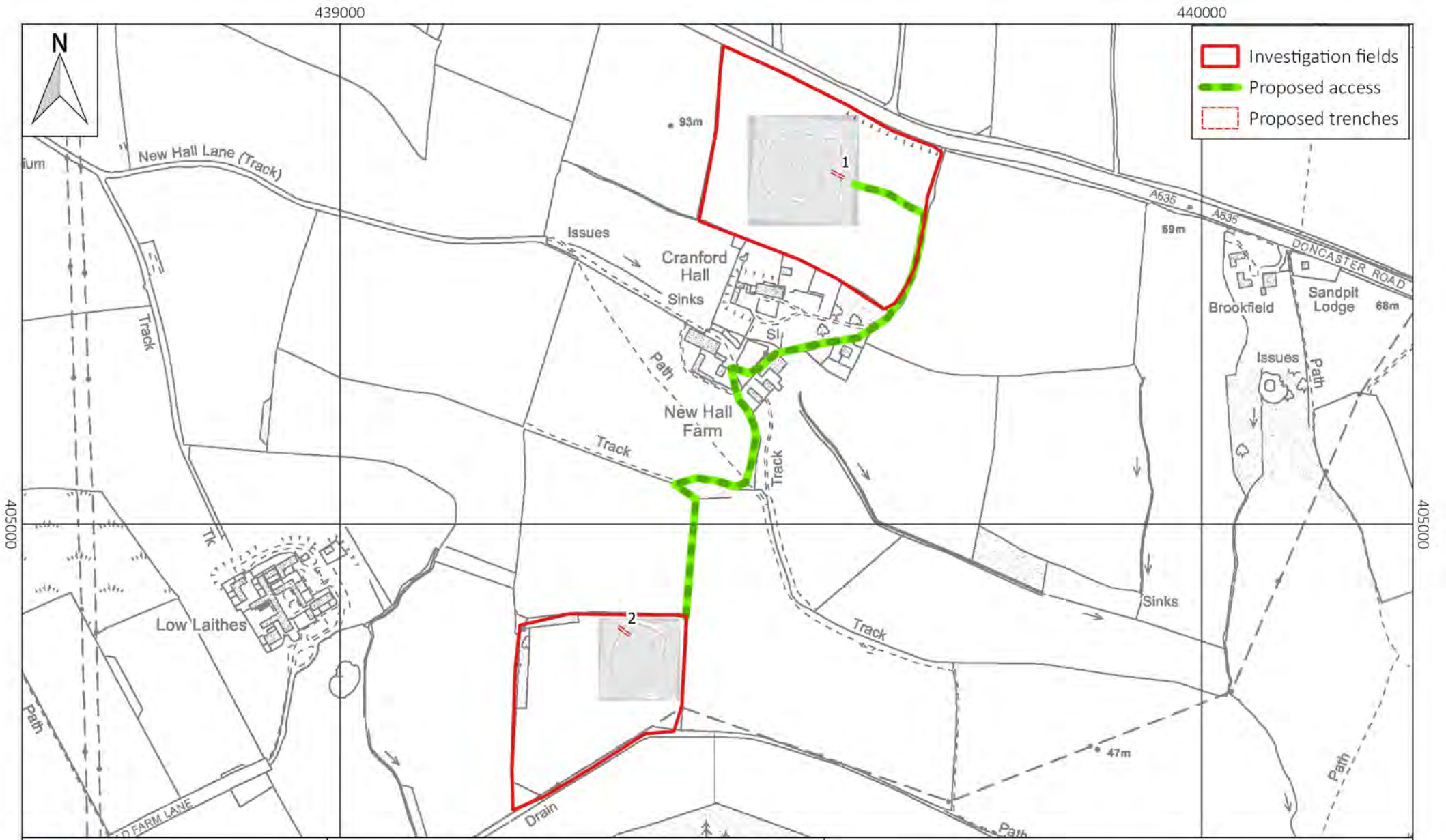




Figure 4: Detail of proposed trench locations in 13 Acre





## APPENDIX 1: METHODOLOGY FOR METAL DETECTING

The recent Roman rural settlement project by Cotswold Archaeology suggested that fieldwalking and metal detecting should be carried out ahead of and even during soil stripping because “systematic surface artefact collection (especially where this also involves the controlled use of a metal detector) has the potential to yield significant information about sites: for instance it is conceivable that the latest artefacts on a heavily plough damaged site may largely exist in the topsoil, and analysis of the proportions of finds from stratified contexts/surface cleaning will underestimate the prevalence of late material” (Holbrook 2016).

With this in mind, the area of the trenches will be surveyed with a metal detector, subject to consent from the landowner, prior to opening the trenches with a machine. The survey area will include the footprint of each trench with a buffer of 20m. This area will be undertaken as a minimum, although the search area may be widened, in agreement with the landowner.

The area will be surveyed in transects of 5m. The survey will comprise a GPS located survey, as detailed in BAJR Practical Guide Series 15 (2008), using a survey-grade GPS to plot all recovered finds. All recovered finds will be recorded individually on pro forma metal detecting record sheets.

The volunteers undertaking the metal detecting survey will agree in advance that they will not have a claim on any finds recovered and that all finds will be incorporated into the site archive for deposition.

All finds will be reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) within one month of the completed survey. Any finds which are thought to represent treasure under the Treasure Act will be immediately report to the PAS, for further advice.

The survey will adhere to the National Council for Metal Detecting (NCMD) Code of Conduct (NCMD 2012), as reproduced below:

1. Do not trespass. Obtain permission before venturing on to any land.
2. Respect the Country Code, leave gates and property as you find them and do not damage crops, frighten animals or disturb nesting birds.
3. Wherever the site, do not leave a mess or an unsafe surface for those who may follow. It is perfectly simple to extract a coin or other small object buried a few inches below the ground without digging a great hole. Use a suitable digging implement to cut a neat flap (do not remove the plug of earth entirely from the ground), extract the object, reinstate the grass, sand or soil carefully, and even you will have difficulty in locating the find spot again.
4. If you discover any live ammunition or any lethal object such as an unexploded bomb or mine, do not disturb it. Mark the site carefully and report the find to the local police and landowner.
5. Help keep Britain tidy. Safely dispose of refuse you come across.
6. Report all unusual historical finds to the landowner, and acquaint yourself with current NCMD policy relating to the Voluntary Reporting of Portable Antiquities in England and Wales and the mandatory reporting requirements in Scotland.
7. Remember it is illegal for anyone to use a metal detector on a designated area (e.g. Scheduled Monuments (SM), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), or Ministry of Defence property) without permission from the appropriate authority. It is also a condition of most agri-environment agreements that metal detecting access is subject to certain rules and regulations including mandatory finds recording. Details of these agreements and the access conditions they impose are detailed on the NCMD website.
8. Acquaint yourself with the terms and definitions used in the following documents:

- 'Treasure' contained in the Treasure Act 1996 and its associated Code of Practice, making sure you understand your responsibilities.
- Advice for Finders of Archaeological Objects including Treasure 2006.
- The voluntary Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting to which the NCMD is an endorsee.
- Advice for finders in Scotland:  
Remember that when you are out with your metal detector you are an ambassador for our hobby. Do nothing that might give it a bad name.

Never miss an opportunity to explain your hobby to anyone who asks about it.

## References

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