

# Whaley Moor Farm, Derbyshire Results of an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation



**Produced for: Chatsworth Settlement Trustees (CST)**

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Report Number: 059/2018

TPA Project Code: WHA

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**Client Name:** Chatsworth Settlement Trustees

**Document Title:** Whaley Moor Farm, Derbyshire: Results of an Archaeological Trial Trenching Evaluation



**Document Type:** Report

**Issue/Version Number:** V1

**Grid Reference:** SK 5143 7158

**Planning Reference:** 17/00546/OUT

**Report No.** 059/2018

<b>Issue Number</b>	V1
<b>Prepared by</b>	Victoria Owen, Senior Project Archaeologist
<b>Date</b>	11/04/2018
<b>Checked by</b> <b>Signed</b> <b>Date</b>	Tom Hooley (Assistant Project Manager)  12/04/2018
<b>Approved by</b> <b>Signed</b> <b>Date</b>	Dr. Gareth Davies MClfA  12/04/2018
<b>Status</b>	Evaluation Report

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## Summary

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- In April 2018, Trent and Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Chatsworth Settlement Trustees to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land at Whaley Moor Farm (SK 5143 7158), prior to residential redevelopment.
- The archaeological mitigation works were requested by the County Archaeologist in his response to a consultation on an outline application for 10 dwellings (planning ref 17/00546/OUT).
- The investigation involved the excavation of three 8m x 2m trenches and one 16m x 2m trench.
- No archaeological finds features or deposits were located during this trial trench investigation.
- Probable recent truncation evidenced by the presence of crushed limestone and demolition rubble during construction works in an adjacent field may have removed sub-surface archaeological deposits.
- Intact deposits associated with a waterlogged palaeochannel located to the edge of the current stream may contain intact geoarchaeological deposits.

# Contents

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Summary .....	4
Contents .....	5
List of Plates .....	6
List of Figures .....	6
1 Introduction .....	7
2 Site Background .....	7
Prehistoric - Romano-British.....	7
Early Mediaeval - Mediaeval .....	8
Post-Medieval .....	8
Modern.....	8
3 Aims and Objectives.....	9
4 Methodology .....	10
Excavation .....	10
Recording .....	10
5 Results .....	11
6 Discussion .....	12
7 References .....	13
Appendix 1: Trench Logs.....	14
Appendix 2: Plates.....	16
Appendix 3: Figures.....	23
Appendix 4: OASIS Data Collection Form.....	30

## List of Plates

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Plate 1: General site photograph of paddock. No scale.

Plate 2: Trench 01 overview; looking northwest. Scale 1m x 1m.

Plate 3: Natural limestone outcrop within trench 01; looking south-east. Scale 1m.

Plate 4: Ditch [1007] within trench 01; looking north-west. Scale 1m.

Plate 5: Trench 2 overview; looking north-west. Scale 1m.

Plate 6: Trench 02; west facing section. Scale 1m.

Plate 7: Trench 03 overview; looking north. Scale 1m x 1m.

Plate 8: Trench 03; south-east facing section. Scale 1m.

Plate 9: Trench 04 overview; looking south-east. Scale 1m.

## List of Figures

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Figure 1: Location Map

Figure 2: Site Plan

Figure 3: Section drawing 01

Figure 4: Section drawings 02-03

Figure 5: Section drawing 04

Figure 6: Section drawing 05

Figure 7: Section drawing 06

# 1 Introduction

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## 1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Trent and Peak Archaeology were commissioned by the Chatsworth Settlement Trustees to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land at Whaley Moor Farm (Bottom Yard), prior to redevelopment. This report concerns the results of this trial trench evaluation, centred on SK 5143 7158 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The evaluation took place in April 2018 and involved the excavation, monitoring and recording of four trial trenches. Trench 01 measured c.16m x 2m, whilst trenches 02, 03, and 04 measured c.8m x 2m.
- 1.1.3 An earlier desk-based assessment (FAS 2017) was unable to quantify the potential for surviving archaeological deposits in the area, which recommended liaison with the Derbyshire Development Control Archaeologist, Stephen Baker, who requested an archaeological trial trench evaluation in response to consultation on the outline planning application for 10 dwellings (planning reference: 17/00546/OUT).
- 1.1.4 The evaluation described herein was conducted in line with the methodology proscribed in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation produced by FAS Heritage (2017).

## 2 Site Background

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### 2.1 Geology and Topography

- 2.1.1 The site lies centrally within the village of Whaley, adjacent to Whaley road within the administrative district of Bolsover (SK 5143 7158). The site of Whaley Moor Farm- Bottom Yard comprises a 0.58 ha area of open paddock demarcated for residential redevelopment.
- 2.1.2 The underlying bedrock geology of the site consists of Cadeby formation Dolostone formed during the Permian period c.272-252Ma. No superficial geological deposits are recorded for the site (British Geological Survey).
- 2.1.3 The overlying soils of the site consist of freely draining lime-rich loamy soils ([www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes](http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes)).
- 2.1.4 The site is located on an area of sloping land which falls from a shallow ridge towards a stream which runs from the north-west to the south-east (where it joins the River Poulter) south of the application site.

### 2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 A comprehensive Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (hereafter DBA) of the development area has been produced by FAS Heritage, (Toop 2017). The archaeological and historical background is therefore only briefly summarised here by period. The scope of the DBA covered not only the current proposal area, but also land falling within a 1km radius, where significant archaeological features or deposits have been noted.
- 2.2.2 No previous archaeological investigation has been undertaken on land at Whaley Moor Farm.

#### *Prehistoric - Romano-British*

- 2.2.3 Whaley Moor Farm sits within the Creswell Limestone Heritage Area, with several caves and rock shelters recorded in the Elmtun and Whaley valleys (Arcus 2004, 51 onwards). Several rock shelters within a 1km radius of the area (see Toop 2017), excavated between c.1930-1966, contained evidence of Prehistoric - Romano-British pottery, flint and human remains. Further rock shelters to the south of the site have produced fragments of flint scrapers associated with Neolithic and Bronze Age activity. Further rock shelters which may have supported occupational activity have been identified, though not yet investigated.

- 2.2.4 North of Whaley, an investigation in 1966 encountered over 100 flint artefacts, including material of late Neolithic and Bronze Age date. Fieldwalking south of the village by the North Derbyshire Archaeological Trust between 1976-1978 revealed evidence suggesting an open Palaeolithic site in the area above Mill Farm, located approximately 500m to the south of Whaley village. Surface collection encountered Mesolithic to Romano-British flint and pottery, suggestive of long term prehistoric and later occupation, surrounding the village.

#### *Early Mediaeval - Mediaeval*

- 2.2.5 Evidence for early mediaeval activity is scarce in the area. By Domesday, the magnesian limestone ridge was a relatively sparsely populated area, and large tracts of woodland are recorded.
- 2.2.6 The earliest known settlement at Whaley is described as having been established by colonists from Bolsover in the late c.12<sup>th</sup>, in a densely wooded area (BDC 2008). It has been suggested that this forms part of a relatively late settlement, possibly preceded by settlements at Oxcroft and Brockley Wood.
- 2.2.7 The settlement is recorded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century as *Wallie*, or *Walley(E)*, which refers to the sites location, with *wall* 'meaning spring or stream', and *leah* 'meaning clearing in a wood'. The clearing in an otherwise densely wooded landscape would have been a suitable choice for occupation. The settlement pattern indicates piecemeal development from a small nucleated centre, with HER recording areas of ridge and furrow in the surrounding landscape. Later finds of medieval ceramics indicate a relatively densely settled area by the high mediaeval period.
- 2.2.8 Scarcliffe Park, situated to the south of Whaley, represents a medieval deer park. The entire park pale is traceable, and primarily in the form of a bank with an inner ditch. The park has been related to the 14<sup>th</sup> century park document of the Prior of Newstead.
- 2.2.9 Whaley Mill, south of the village, may also have medieval origins. The mill is depicted in a plan of c.1682, and although the mill has since been demolished, the pond survives.

#### *Post-Medieval*

- 2.2.10 An enclosure map of c.1780 shows that the current settlement pattern of the sweeping road, with lanes forming an enclosed area to the east, had already been established by this time. The western boundaries of the properties are still well defined by the stream which runs through the village and which once supplied the mill pond.
- 2.2.11 The presence of post-medieval ridge and furrow attest to a continued focus on agricultural activity within the rural landscape.

#### *Modern*

- 2.2.12 Many of the extant buildings within the village date to a later c.18<sup>th</sup> period of architectural development and extension associated with farms and farmsteads. Construction of several small cottages, a school and a mission church surrounding Whaley Moor Farm is well documented, but fell out of use and were closed down towards the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.



### 3 Aims and Objectives

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- 3.1.1 The overall aim of the programme of archaeological works was to obtain sufficient information as to the archaeological significance and potential of the site to allow reasoned and informed recommendations to be made on the application for the development.
- 3.1.2 General objectives were
- To determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development site
  - To assess the vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains
  - To assess the impact of previous land use on the site
  - To assess the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
  - To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
  - To produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum, and to provide information for accession to the Derbyshire HER.
- 3.1.3 The programme of archaeological works was conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by Knight *et al.* (2012) and hosted by ADS as part of the East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF) Interactive Digital Resource (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/Main>)

## 4 Methodology

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### *Excavation*

- 4.1.1 The excavations were conducted in accordance with the ClfA *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014b).
- 4.1.2 Four trenches were excavated using a 3/4 tonne mini-digger with a wide toothless ditching bucket in locations agreed by Derbyshire County Council's Principle Archaeologist and FAS Heritage (Figure 2).
- 4.1.3 The agreed trenches were to have dimensions of 8m x 2m in three locations, with the fourth and northern most trench measuring 16m x 2m.
- 4.1.4 The interventions were located using GPS, with slight adjustments to position made to account for existing garden features. Prior to investigation the excavation was scanned using a CAT scan.
- 4.1.5 Trenches were excavated to the depth of the archaeological horizon.
- 4.1.6 Identified features were hand-cleaned and then sample excavated to an extent sufficient to determine their plan and form, and to recover any datable artefacts.
- 4.1.7 Feature fills were removed by contextual change (the smallest usefully definable unit of stratification) and/or in spits no greater than 100mm.

### *Recording*

- 4.1.8 Trenches were hand cleaned and a minimum of one representative section of each trench was photographed, and drawn at 1:20. The position of each trench is located with reference to the OS grid (Figure 1).
- 4.1.9 Plans of all contexts including features (Figure 2) were drawn on drafting film in pencil at a scale of 1:20/1:50, and show: context numbers, principal slopes represented as hachures, levels expressed as O.D. values and sufficient details to locate the subject in relation to OS 1:2500 mapping.
- 4.1.10 Sections (Figures 3 & 4) show the same information, but levelling information is given in the form of a datum line with O.D./arbitrary value. The locations of all sections are shown on plan.
- 4.1.11 Digital images of each context were taken together with general views illustrating the principal features of the excavations.
- 4.1.12 Written records were maintained as laid down in the TPA recording manual.
- 4.1.13 All finds were recorded either three dimensionally or by context/spit.
- 4.1.14 Soil samples were retrieved in order to undertake palaeoenvironmental sampling. The sampling of features followed procedures set out within the English Heritage (now Historic England) guidelines in *Environmental Archaeology* (Campbell, Moffett & Straker 2011).

## 5 Results

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5.1.1 In general, removal of topsoil (3001) exposed an upper subsoil of dark reddish brown silty clay which varied in thickness between 0.40 – 0.25m. In all instances it was necessary to remove the majority of this layer in order to enable the definition of potential features.

5.2 **Trench 01 (14.06m x 1.7m).** Linear trench aligned north-west by south-east, situated within the northern most area of the site. The trench was positioned to locate a potential building foundation visible in earlier map regression (Toop 2017), which had been demolished by c.1918. Excavation revealed no *in-situ* archaeological or structural remains.

5.2.1 Machine excavation of the trench revealed a stratigraphic sequence consistent with modern demolition/ dumping material which consisted of [1001] limestone bedrock, overlain by (1002) and (1003), which represent a combined 0.65m thick deposit of modern demolition rubble, and mid brown-orange silty clay. No *in-situ* structural remains were observed, but it is possible that this deposit is related to the demolition of a cottage in this area around c.1918. Ditch feature [1007] was observed cut into the (1003) demolition layer.

### *Ditch [1007]*

5.2.2 Positioned within the southeastern edge of the trench, ditch [1007] consisted of a rounded profiled ditch, oriented east by west and measured 2.4m wide x 0.24m deep. This was infilled by a homogenous deposit of mid brown-orange silty clay which contained fragments of limestone and possible demolition rubble (1008) which is visible as an earthwork on the surface. Its precise function remains unclear, though discussion with the land owner offered a possible use as a former coal bunker subsequent to the demolition of the cottage.

5.2.3 All deposits were sealed by a layer of subsoil (1004) and topsoil (1005) to a combined thickness of c.0.4m.

5.3 **Trench 02 (7.2m x 1.75m)** Linear trench oriented north-east by south-west, positioned within the western-central portion of the site to assess the propensity for structural remains to be located within an earlier building footprint. Removal of upper subsoil (2002) and topsoil (2001) to a combined thickness of c.0.65m revealed a deposit of firm mid reddish-brown colluvial clay (2003) at a depth of 0.55m. No archaeological finds, features, or deposits were observed.

5.4 **Trench 03 (7.9m x 1.7m)** Linear trench oriented north-east by south-west, positioned within the eastern-central portion of the site, parallel to trench 02. Machine excavation of the trench revealed a stratigraphic sequence consistent with modern ground disturbance. Geological substratum was not observed within this trench. The basal layer revealed by machine excavation (3004) represents a deposit of dumped/ buried topsoil, which was sealed by a c.0.4m thick deposit of crushed limestone gravel (3003). This was capped by upper subsoil (3002) and topsoil (3001) to a combined thickness of 0.38m.

5.4.1 Deposits (3004) and (3003) appear to represent a modern disturbance associated with a period of associated construction of a compound for waterworks management in the nearby field. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

5.5 **Trench 04 (9.3m x 1.7m)** Linear trench oriented north-west by south-east located to the south of the site. Machine excavation in this area was limited by ground water infilling from the nearby stream. Geological substratum was not observed. Excavation of the trench revealed a similar stratigraphic sequence to trench 03, but revealed a waterlogged probable palaeochannel deposit (4003) comprised of organic dark bluish black silt to the base of the trench; resultant of south-westerly shifting of the current stream. Trench 04 was sealed by a layer of disturbed ground/ demolition rubble to a depth of c.0.8m, which was capped by crushed limestone gravel (4002) and topsoil (4001) to a combined thickness of c.0.3m. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed.

## 6 Discussion

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- 6.1.1 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were observed during this trial trench evaluation.
- 6.1.2 Excavation was not able to determine the presence of a former building or cottage located in c.20<sup>th</sup> map regression (Toop 2017). It is possible that this structure, if indeed it existed, was not a habited cottage, but a temporary agricultural building. Recent ground levelling, evidenced by the extensive deposits of crushed limestone and demolition rubble may indicate that any sub-surface archaeology has been truncated by recent construction activity associated with ongoing waterworks in the adjacent field. The land was previously used as the principal contractor's compound during this phase of work.
- 6.1.3 Evidence of a possible palaeochannel deposit located within trench 04 may warrant further investigation. The stream is notably of some antiquity, referenced by the village place-name, which has functioned as the western boundary of the village since approximately the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The stream forms part of a well managed medieval watercourse, which supported water mills to the north and south of the current village boundaries (see 2.2.9).
- 6.1.4 Excavation was unable to characterise the potential for preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains. If indeed deposits within trench 04 are related to a possible south-western shifting of this stream, this may mask potential geoarchaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits.
- 6.1.5 Should redevelopment impact on the hydrology of the existing stream, further work would be required to assess the potential for significant geoarchaeological deposits (K. Krawiec *Pers Comms* 2018).

## 7 References

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## Appendix 1: Trench Logs

Trench 01					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	14.06m x 1.7m	Trench Alignment	NW-SE	Trench Depth	1.2m
Context	Type	Description			Thickness
(1001)	Layer	Limestone outcrop – Bedrock geology			N/A
(1002)	Deposit	Mixed demolition material, overlying (1001)			0.24m
(1003)	Deposit	Demolition rubble			N/A
(1004)	Layer	Subsoil			0.22m
(1005)	Layer	Topsoil			0.19m
(1006)	Layer	Natural limestone bedrock with yellow clay			N/A
[1007]	Cut	Modern coal bunker ditch			N/A
(1008)	Fill	Of [1007]			0.24m
[1009]	Cut	Cut for ceramic drain			N/A
(1010)	Fill	Fill of [1009]			N/A

Trench 02					
Trench Dimensions (LxW)	7.2m x 1.75m	Trench Alignment	NE-SW	Trench Depth	1.2m
Context	Type	Description			Thickness
(2001)	Layer	Topsoil			0.25m
(2002)	Layer	Subsoil			0.4m
(2003)	Layer	Colluvium			N/A
(2004)	Layer	Natural			N/A

<b>Trench 03</b>					
<b>Trench Dimensions (LxW)</b>	7.9m x 1.7m	<b>Trench Alignment</b>	NE-SW	<b>Trench Depth</b>	1.2m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Thickness</b>
(3001)	Layer	Topsoil			0.25m
(3002)	Layer	Subsoil			0.25m
(3003)	Deposit	Modern crushed limestone gravel			N/A
(3004)	Deposit	Modern dumped/ buried topsoil			N/A
[3005]	Cut	Modern ceramic drain			-
[3006]	Cut	Modern plastic pipe			-
(3007)	Fill	Of [3005]			-
(3008)	Fill	Of [3006]			-

<b>Trench 04</b>					
<b>Trench Dimensions (LxW)</b>	9.8m x 1.9m	<b>Trench Alignment</b>	NW-SE	<b>Trench Depth</b>	1.2m
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Thickness</b>
(4001)	Layer	Topsoil			0.15m
(4002)	Deposit	Crushed limestone gravel			-
(4003)	Layer	Palaeochannel/ organic deposit			N/A
(4004)	Deposit	Modern disturbed ground			0.8m

## Appendix 2: Plates

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Plate 1: General site photograph of paddock. No scale.





Plate 2: Trench 01 overview; looking northwest. Scale 1m x 1m.



Plate 3: Natural limestone outcrop within trench 01; looking south-east. Scale 1m.



Plate 4: Ditch [1007] within trench 01; looking north-west. Scale 1m.



Plate 5: Trench 2 overview; looking north-west. Scale 1m.



Plate 6: Trench 02; west facing section. Scale 1m.



Plate 7: Trench 03 overview; looking north. Scale 1m x 1m.



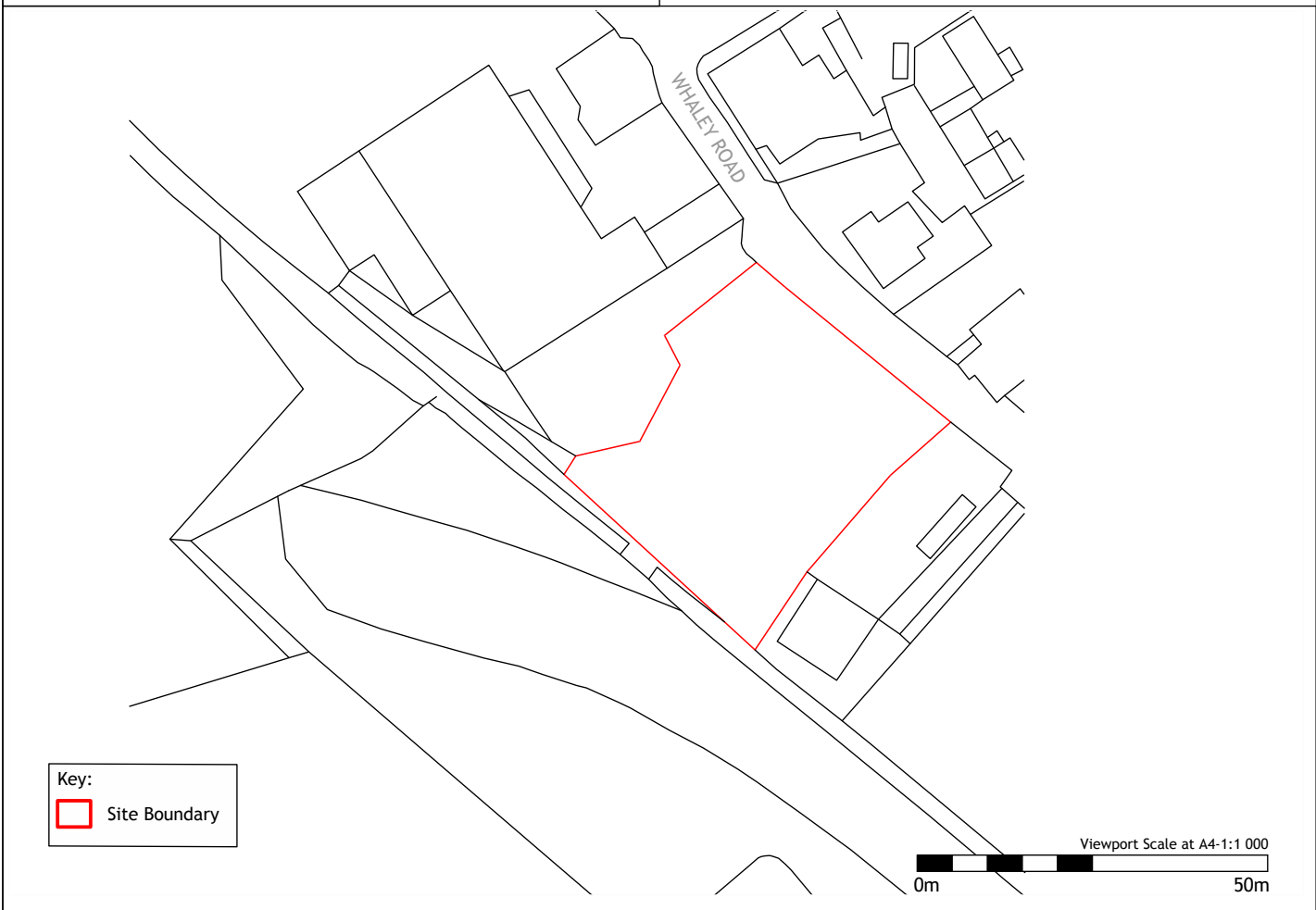
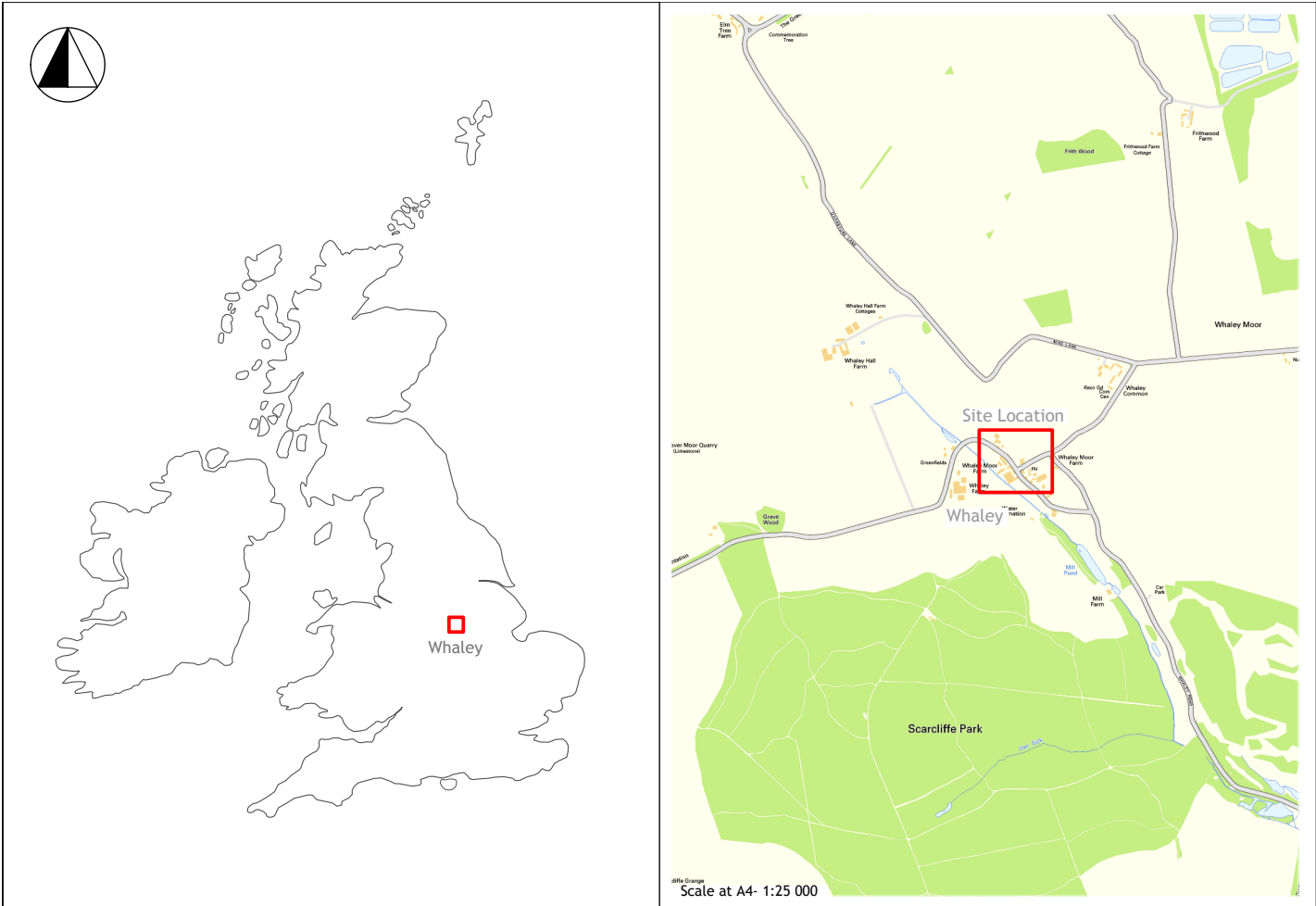
Plate 8: Trench 03; south-east facing section. Scale 1m.



Plate 9: Trench 04 overview; looking south-east. Scale 1m.

## Appendix 3: Figures

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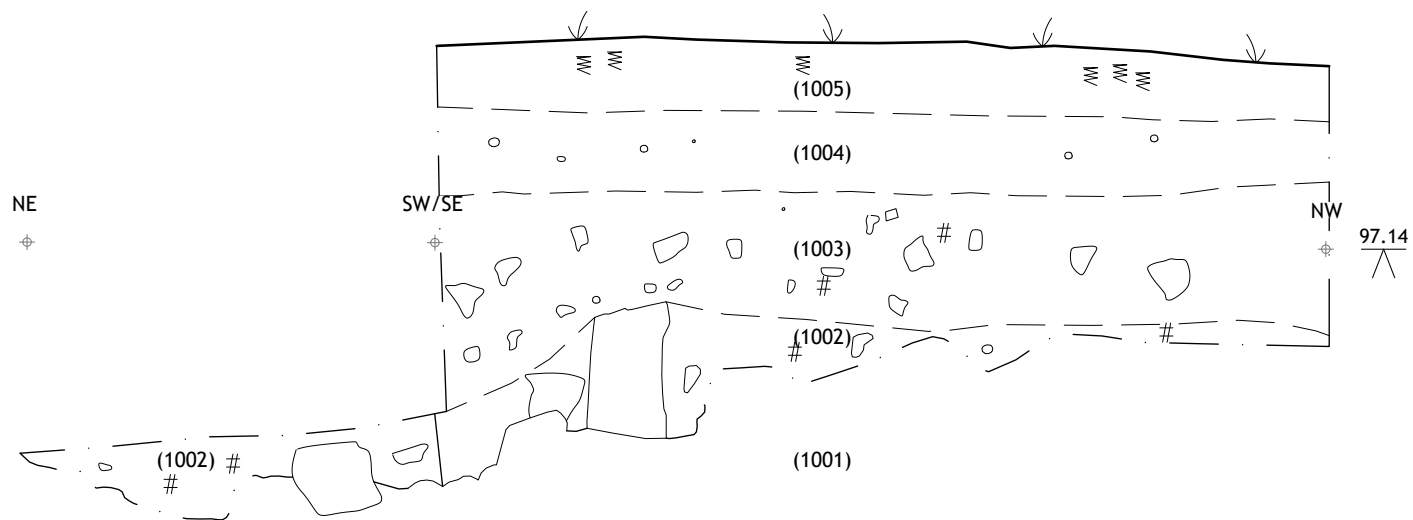


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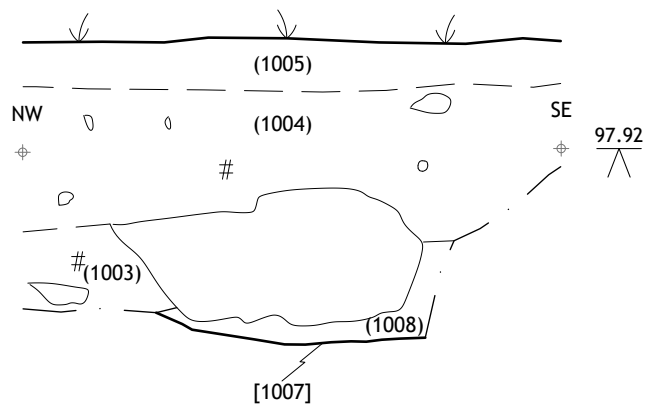




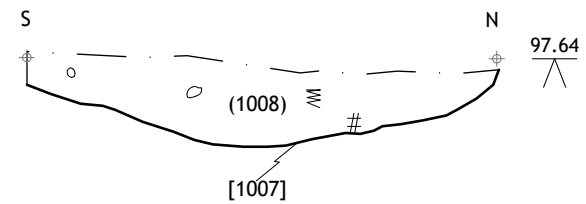
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South East and South West Facing Sections Of Trench 1



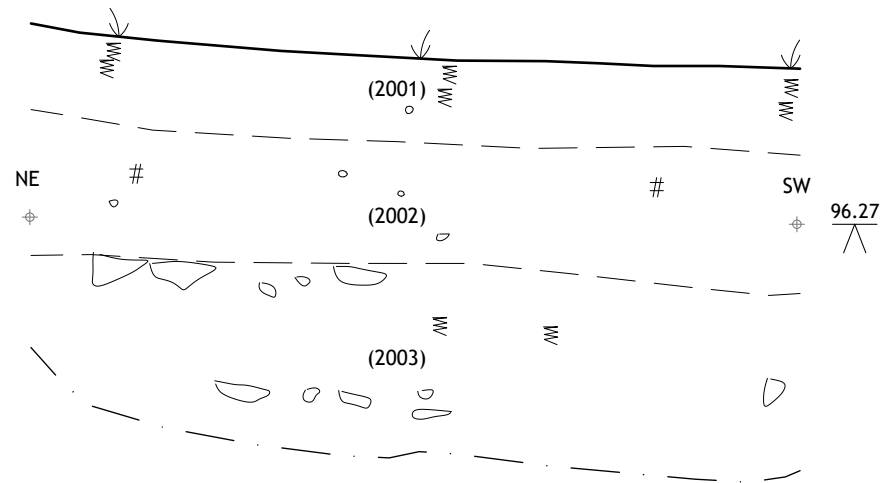
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South West Facing Section Of [1007]



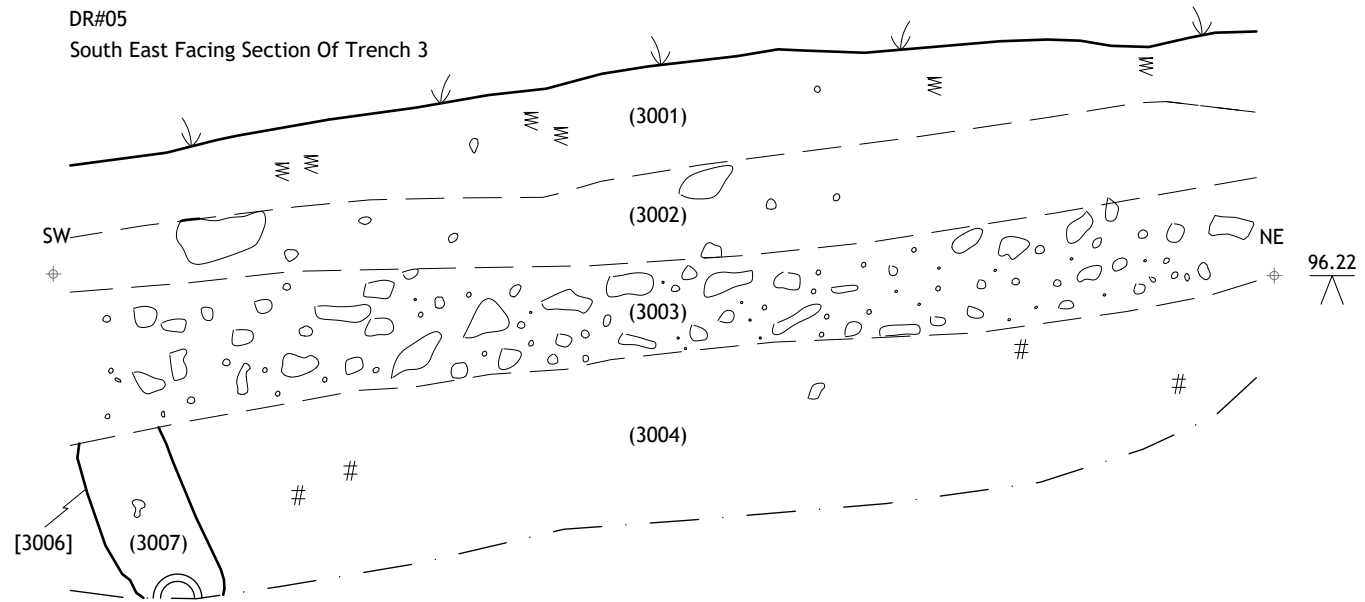
DR#03  
East Facing Section Of [1007]



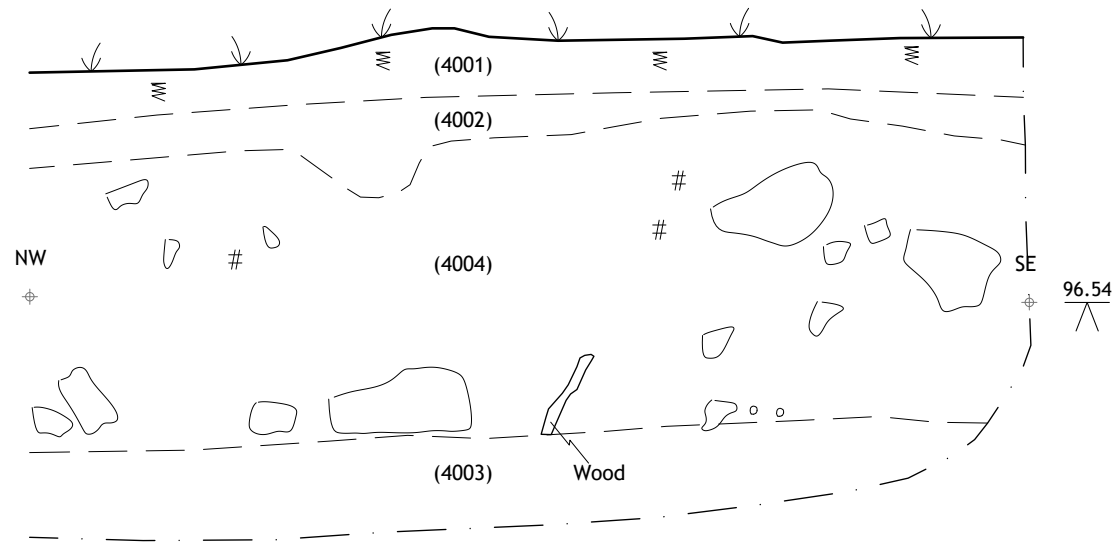
DR#04  
North West Facing Section Of Trench 2



DR#05  
South East Facing Section Of Trench 3



DR#06  
South West Facing Section Of Trench 4



## Appendix 4: OASIS Data Collection Form

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# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: trentpea1-314550**

### Project details

Project name	Whaley Moor Farm Trial Trench Evaluation
Short description of the project	In April 2018, Trent and Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Chatsworth Settlement Trustees to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land at Whaley Moor Farm (SK 5143 7158), prior to residential redevelopment. The archaeological mitigation works were necessitated by an archaeological condition attached to the planning permission for the construction of c.10 residential buildings (planning ref 17/00546/OUT). The investigation involved the excavation of three 8m x 2m trenches and one 16m x 2m trench. No archaeological finds features or deposits were located during this trial trench investigation. Probable recent truncation evidenced by the presence of crushed limestone and demolition rubble during construction works in an adjacent field may have removed sub-surface archaeological deposits. Intact deposits associated with a waterlogged palaeochannel located to the edge of the current stream may contain intact geoarchaeological deposits.
Project dates	Start: 06-04-2018 End: 11-04-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WHA - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	DERBYSHIRE BOLSOVER OLD BOLSOVER Whaley Moor Farm
Postcode	NG20 9HU
Study area	100 Square metres
Site coordinates	SK 451470 371616 52.929642798875 -1.328294795335 52 55 46 N 001 19 41 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown



Height OD / Depth Min: 0m Max: 49m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Trent and Peak Archaeology

Project brief originator FAS Heritage

Project design originator FAS Heritage

Project director/manager Tom Hooley

Project supervisor Tina Roushannafas

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Trent and Peak Archaeology

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Trent and Peak Archaeology

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Whaley Moor Farm, Derbyshire: Results of an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Owen, V

Other bibliographic details Report no:059/2018

Date 2018

Issuer or publisher Trent and Peak Archaeology

Place of issue or publication Trent and Peak Archaeology

Description Grey literature, PDF

Entered by V. Owen (vowen@yorkat.co.uk)

Entered on 16 April 2018

# OASIS:

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