

Hazel Lane Quarry, Hampole, South Yorkshire

An Archaeological Excavation

A Fourth Interim Report

for Catplant Ltd

By Andy Taylor and Stephen Hammond

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HLH 02/04

May 2006

Summary

Site name: Hazel Lane Quarry, Hampole, South Yorkshire

Grid reference: SE 4987 1170

Site activity: Strip and Excavation

Date and duration of project: 14th February–10th March 2006

Project manager: Jo Pine

Site supervisor: Stephen Hammond

Site code: HLH 02/04

Area of site: 1.2ha

Summary of results: Three ditches, two gullies and 12 pits were observed, all probably Roman.

Monuments identified: Ditches, gullies and pits

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, RG1 5NR and will be deposited with Doncaster Museum in due course, with accession code DONMG:2002.3.

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| Report edited/checked by: | Steve Ford 29.05.06 Steve Preston✓ 25.05.06 |
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Hazel Lane Quarry, Hampole, South Yorkshire An Archaeological Excavation: fourth Interim Report

by Andy Taylor

Report 02/04h

Introduction

This report documents the results of the archaeological monitoring of a soil strip and excavation carried out at Hazel Lane Quarry, Hampole, South Yorkshire (SE 4987 1135) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ronnie Harrad of Catplant Limited, The Bungalow, Holmsley Lane, Brierley Gap, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 9EX.

Planning permission has been sought from Doncaster Borough Council for the extension of the limestone quarry, which lies to the south of the application area. Following the identification of various archaeological features, including the reburied remains of a Roman building, further stripping would require archaeological supervision and mapping of any archaeological features uncovered.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roy Sykes, Assistant Archaeologist, South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Stephen Hammond, Simon Cass and Jenny Ryder between 14th February and 10th March 2006 and the site is HLH 02/04. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Doncaster Museum in due course, with accession code DONMG:2002.3.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north side of an existing quarry just over 1km north-west of the village of Hampole. The site slopes gently from 60m above Ordnance Datum at the west to 55m AOD to the east, whilst the village of Hampole to the south-east lies at 25m AOD. The underlying geology is Permian Lower Magnesium Limestone (BGS 1993). This was encountered throughout the site but was capped intermittently by an orange brown silty clay.

Archaeological background

Numerous phases of previous work have already been carried out on various areas of the site, demonstrating the presence of Roman deposits, in the form of pits, ditches and hearths, as well as the remains of a Roman building (Hale and Noel 1994; Noel and Lambert 1994a and b; Brown 1997; Sidebottom 1999; Aitchison 2000; Lines 2001a, b and c; WYAS 2001; Pine 2002a and b; Pine and Taylor 2002; Taylor 2002 and 2003). In light of the discovery of the remains of a Roman building, it has become necessary to supervise the stripping of the site at all times, given the possibility of further building remains or associated significant archaeology being present

Results

A monitored strip of an area approximately 1.2 hectares (Fig. 2) was carried out next to the quarry face in Field F. This revealed a number of features.

A ditch was aligned approximately NW-SE. Three slots were excavated through it (802, 814, 819). It was found to be between 1.05m and 1.30m wide and between 0.45m and 0.73m deep. No finds were retrieved from its mid orange brown sandy silty clay fill. A further ditch was curving from this ditch but no relationship was evident between the two; they may be contemporary. This feature was curving northwards and a total of six slots were excavated through it (800, 810, 811, 812, 815, 816). At the northernmost exposed extent of the ditch it branched, with one branch coming to a terminal end (811) and the remainder continuing beyond the limits of excavation. It was found to measure between 1.60m and 2.10m wide and between 0.68m and 1.05m deep. A total of six pieces of Roman pottery were retrieved from this ditch. Slot 816 contained a concentration of animal bone, none of which was articulated. These ditches appeared to form the boundaries of an enclosure some 40m across, with several internal features also evident. However, until further work is carried out it is difficult to ascertain the full extent of the enclosure or to determine if the interior was occupied.

The internal features comprised a gully which terminated at its southern end (821) and measured 0.67m wide and 0.23m deep. No finds were recovered from its mid orange brown sandy silt fill (878). This joined into a further ditch, which also terminated at its southern end. A slot (827) was dug through it measuring 1.50m in length, 1.27m wide and 0.59m deep. Again no finds were recovered. Eleven pits (801, 804, 813, 817, 818, 820, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826) were also observed, all of which were half sectioned. Of these, pit 801 produced two pieces of iron bloom slag and pit 813 produced a small fragment of animal bone and a small sherd of Roman pottery. The remaining pits may all have been of the same date but no positive evidence was forthcoming. They

might equally form a recognized monument type known as a 'pit alignment', most examples of which are Iron Age in date.

A gully, parallel to ditch 800, east and south of the latter, also curving from south-west to north, and terminated at both ends. Four slots were dug through it (803, 805, 807, 808, 809). It was found to measure between 0.55m and 1.05m wide and between 0.16m and 0.45m deep. Two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from slot 803. The gully was found to be cutting a pit (806) which also contained a single sherd of Roman pottery.

Pottery by Andy Taylor

The pottery identified comprised a small assemblage of 10 sherds of pottery. All appears to be Roman in date and comprises nine undiagnostic body sherds of a black, shell tempered ware and a single rim sherd, which suggests a 2nd-century date, which would correlate with the pottery identified in earlier phases of work at the site.

Animal Bone by Andy Taylor

The bone recovered from the site mostly came from ditch slot 816. This comprised highly fragmentary and poorly preserved remains of what appeared to be, from identifiable teeth, cow bones. A single unidentifiable fragment came from pit 813.

Further work

No post-excavation processing has taken place at this stage for the material recovered during this phase, with the exception of cross-referencing of the written and drawn records.

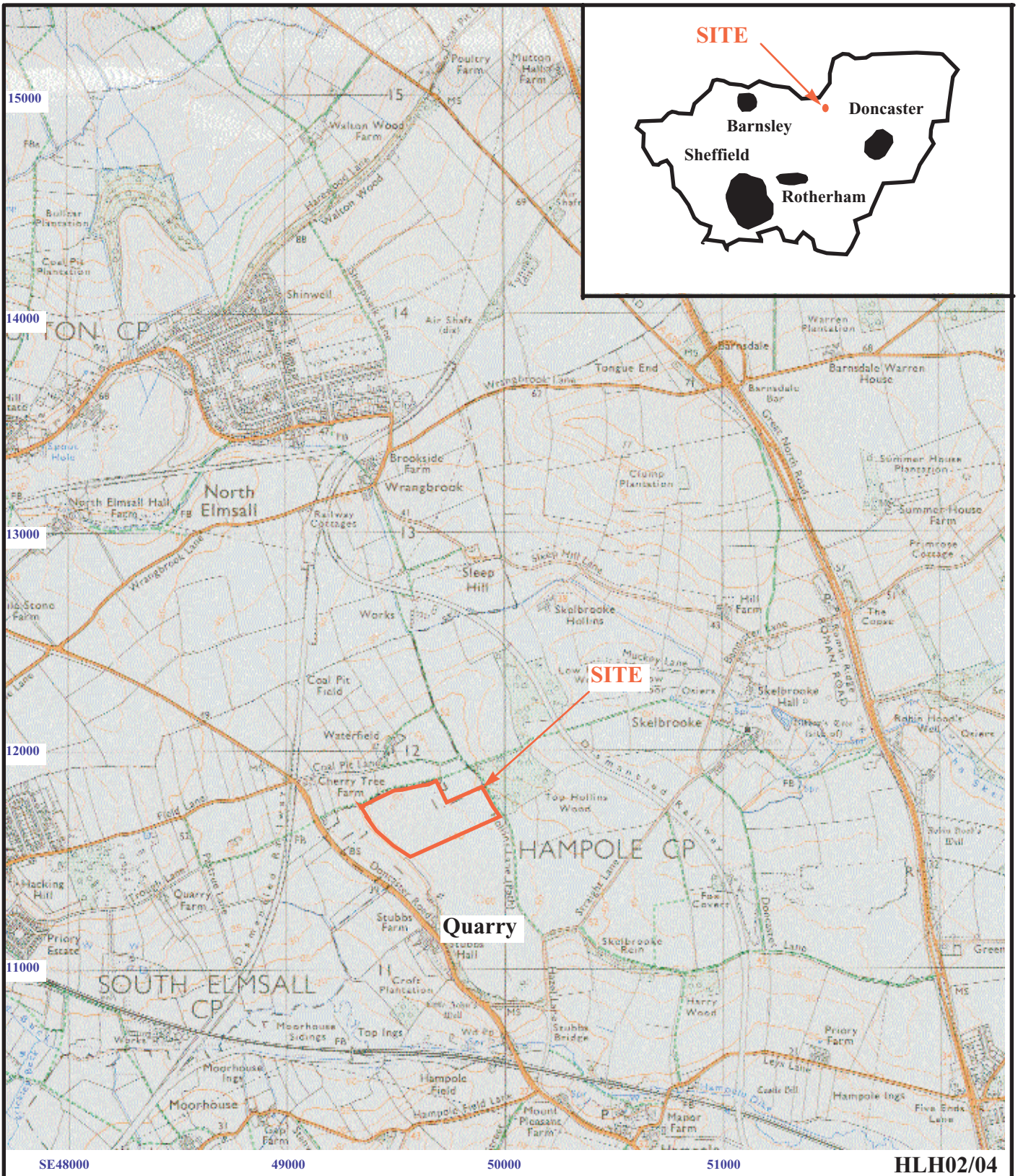
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APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of excavated features

| <i>Cut</i> | <i>Deposit</i> | <i>Type</i> |
|------------|----------------|-------------|
| 800 | 850 | Ditch |
| 801 | 851 | Pit |
| 802 | 852 | Ditch |
| 803 | 853 | Gully |
| 804 | 854, 855, 856 | Pit |
| 805 | 857 | Gully |
| 806 | 858 | Pit |
| 807 | 859 | Gully |
| 808 | 860 | Gully |
| 809 | 861 | Gully |
| 810 | 862, 863 | Ditch |
| 811 | 864 | Ditch |
| 812 | 865 | Ditch |
| 813 | 8, 87170 | Ditch |
| 814 | 866 | Ditch |
| 815 | 867 | Ditch |
| 816 | 868 | Ditch |
| 817 | 873, 874, 875 | Pit |
| 818 | 876 | Pit |
| 819 | 869 | Ditch |
| 820 | 877 | Pit |
| 821 | 878 | Gully |
| 822 | 879 | Pit |
| 823 | 880 | Pit |
| 824 | 881 | Pit |
| 825 | 882 | Pit |
| 826 | 883 | Pit |
| 827 | 884, 885 | Ditch |



**Hazel Lane Quarry, Hampole,
South Yorkshire, 2006.**

Archaeological excavation, Fourth Interim Report

Figure 1. Location of site within Hampole and South Yorkshire

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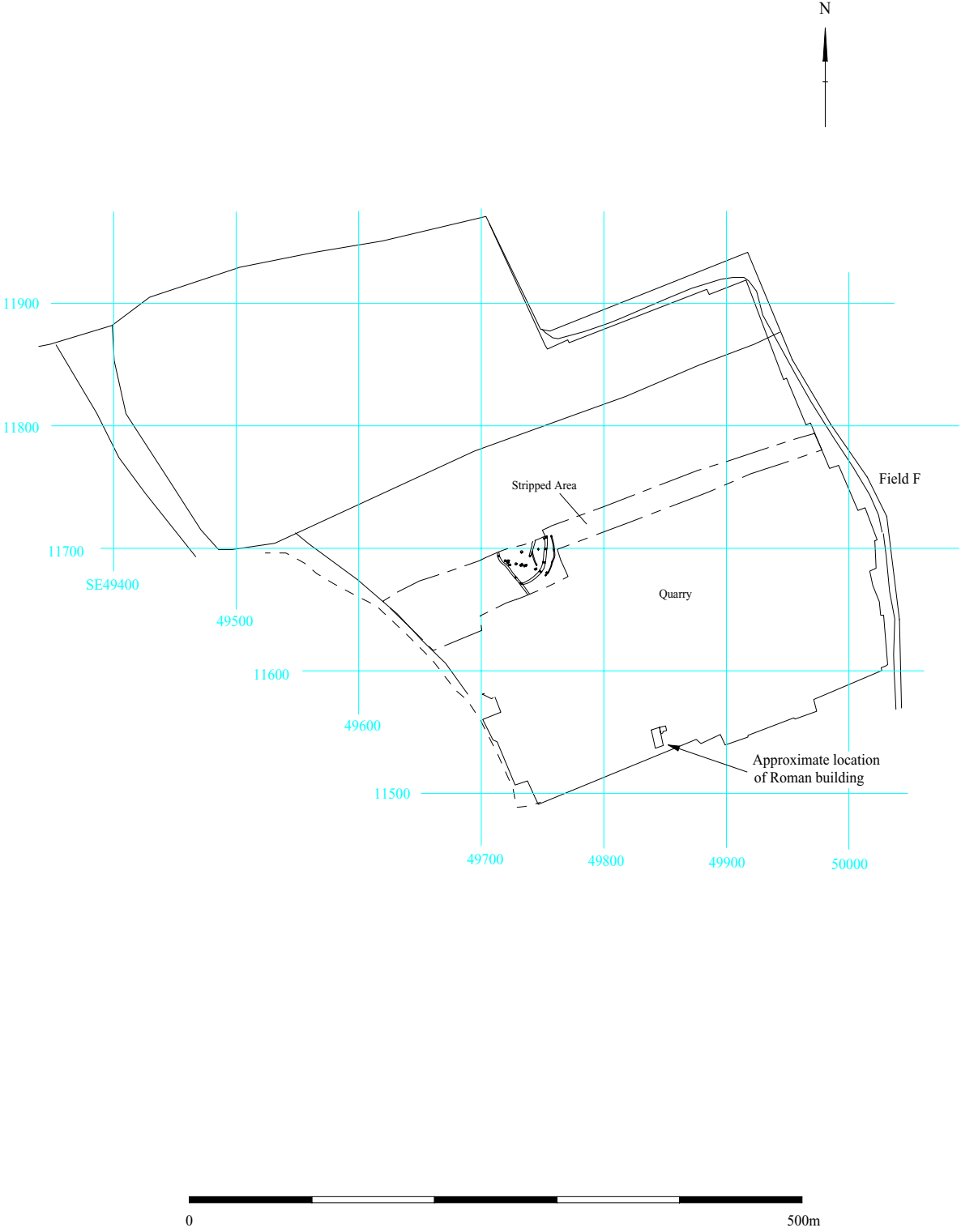


Figure 2: Location of stripped area showing all archaeological features

Hazel Lane Quarry, Hampole, South Yorkshire, 2006

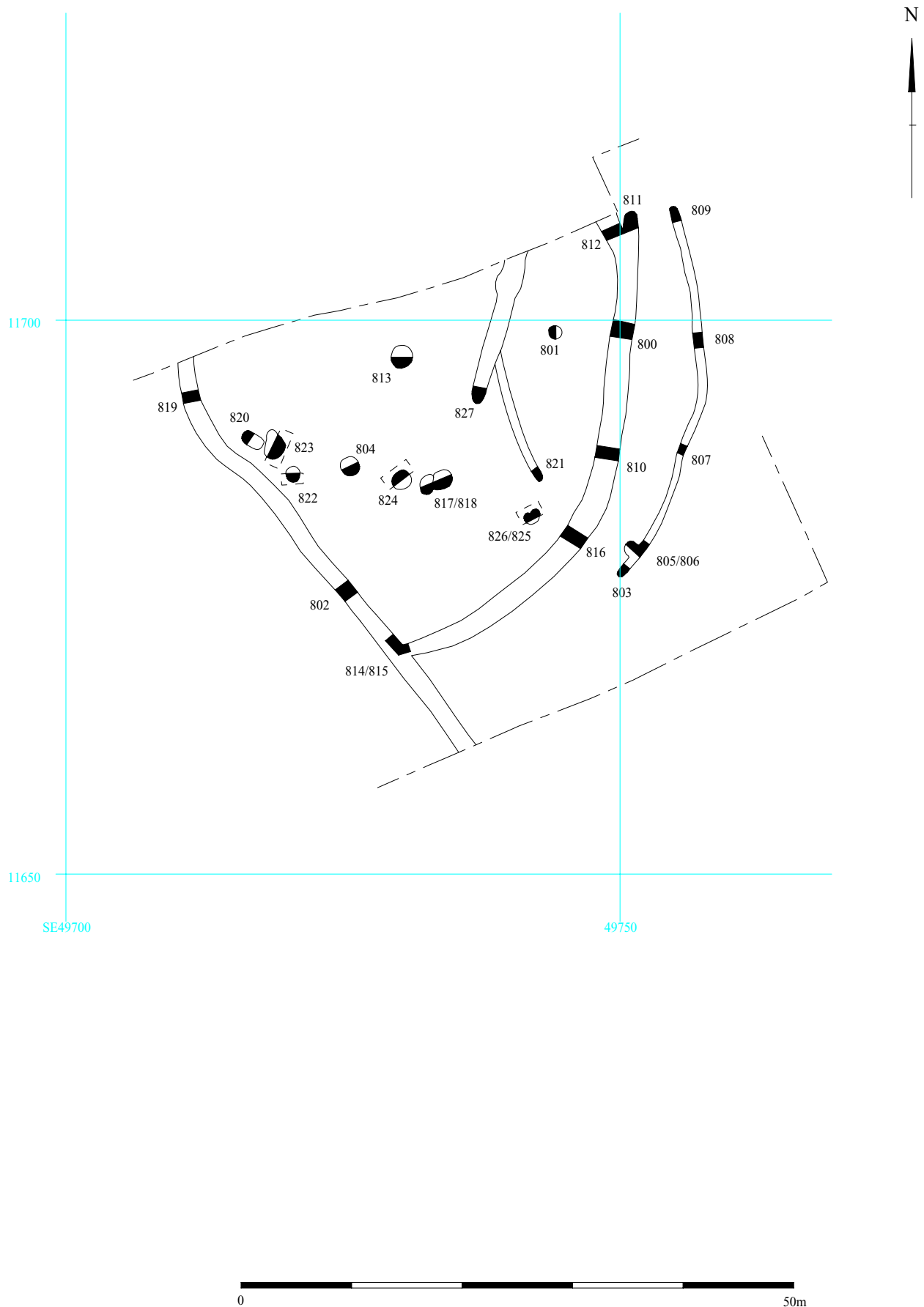


Figure 3: Plan of site showing all excavated features