

HOLLY BUSH FARM

Pikehall, Derbyshire



Archaeological Watching Brief

September 2018
Final

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SUMMARY OF PROJECT DETAILS

OASIS ID: thejesso1-320392

Planning Reference: NP/DDD/1117/1146

TJC Project Code: B6

Project Type(s): Archaeological Watching Brief

National Grid Reference: SK 19304 59094

County: Derbyshire

District/Unitary Authority: Derbyshire Dales District Council

Parish: Hartington Nether Quarter

Elevation (above sea level): c.287m OD

Designation Status(s): Grade II Listed (NHLE ref: 1109349)

HER Record No(s): MPD1431 (PDNPA SMR)

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Reviewed by: Oliver Jessop MCI(A)

Date: September 2018

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	1
1 INTRODUCTION.....	2
2 AIMS AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS	3
3 SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY.....	5
4 METHODOLOGY	6
5 RESULTS.....	7
6 MATERIAL CULTURE.....	10
7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION	12
8 SUPPORTING INFORMATION.....	13

Appendix 1 – Context Record

Appendix 2 – Photographs

Appendix 3 – Fieldwork Record

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief maintained during works in the cellar of Holly Bush Farm, Pikehall, Derbyshire, centred on National Grid Reference SK 19304 59094.

Holly Bush Farmhouse is a Grade II Listed (NHLE ref: 1109349) farmhouse is of 18th century origin. The farm is recorded in the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record and the Peak District National Park Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record (MPD1431) and was deemed to be of high heritage potential following the recently completed Historic England Historic Farmsteads Project.

The monitored works comprised the taking up of an existing gritstone flag floor within the cellar of the farmhouse, and the reduction in ground surface by approximately 30cm to enable the laying of a dampproof membrane and insulation.

The watching brief at Holly Bush Farm has confirmed that the cellar appears to have been constructed in a single phase, with two sherds of pottery from beneath the floor slabs and within a small pit cut into levelling deposits, providing a terminus post quem of the 18th century: a date contemporary with the construction of the house.

I INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief maintained during works to the cellar of Holly Bush Farm, Pikehall, Derbyshire (**Figure I**), centred on National Grid Reference SK 19304 59094.

Holly Bush Farmhouse is a Grade II Listed (NHLE ref: 1109349) farmhouse is of 18th century origin. The farm is recorded in the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record and the Peak District National Park Historic Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record (MPDI431).

The monitored works comprised the taking up of an existing gritstone flag floor within the cellar of the farmhouse, and the reduction in ground surface by approximately 30cm to enable the laying of a dampproof membrane and insulation. The original gritstone flags were to be re-laid on completion.

Monitoring was undertaken on the 8th March 2018 by James Thomson MCIfA.

MONITORING AND CONSULTATION

The programme of archaeological monitoring (watching brief) during the course of works to Holly Bush Farm was requested by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) as a conditioned of planning permission for the works to be undertaken (ref: NP/DDD/1117/1146).

A written scheme of investigation for the archaeological monitoring was produced and approved by the PDNPA archaeologist (The JESSOP Consultancy 2018).

DISSEMINATION

Copies of this report will be distributed to the Client, and the Peak District National Park Sites and Monuments Record. In addition, a digital copy will be uploaded to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS) with the reference number: **thejesso I-320392**.

A copy of the report and digital copies of the photography will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service.

2 AIMS AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS

AIMS

The principal aim of the archaeological watching brief was to record archaeological remains within the site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality), to make a permanent record in advance of its destruction, and to contribute to the understanding of the origin and development of Holly Bush Farm.

The specific objectives of the evaluation were:

- to identify and record any archaeological deposits, structures or built fabric within the cellar;
- to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any encountered or exposed archaeological remains;
- to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated;
- to recover artefacts;
- to recover samples from appropriate contexts, if present for environmental processing and/or industrial process residues;

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Based on the assessment of available evidence, the following research questions were proposed:

1. What phases of construction and development are evident from archaeological remains within the cellar, and what does this tell us of the development of Holly Bush Farmhouse?
2. Is it possible to determine what historic function/s the cellar has had?

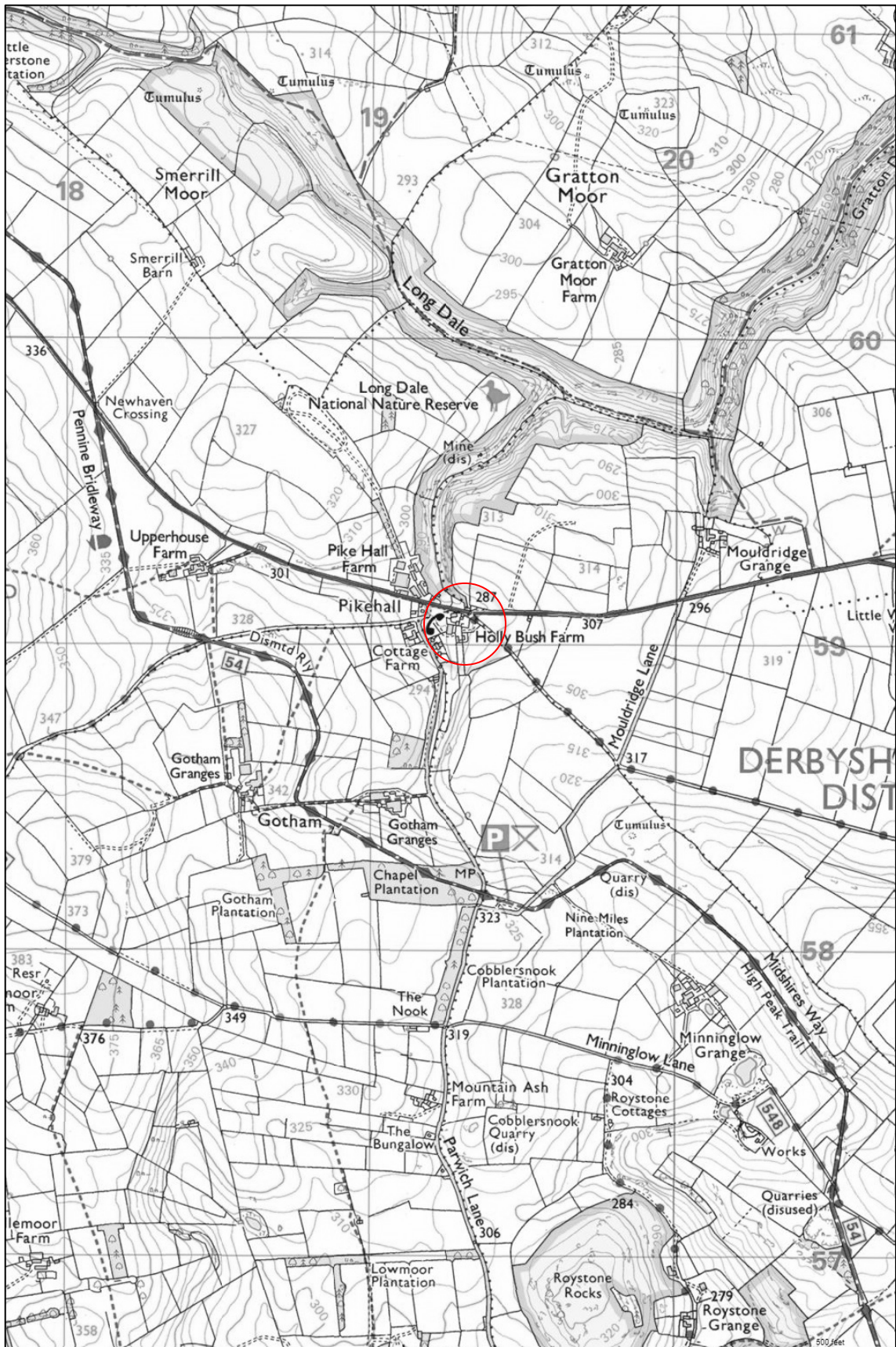


Figure 1: Site Location

OS map reproduced under Licence No.BLK4450021. Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright ©.

3 SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

LOCATION OF SITE

Holly Bush Farm is located on the eastern side of the small agricultural hamlet of Pikehall, which consists of a handful of farm holdings and a small number of residential properties located some 100m to the southwest of the site (**Figure 1**). Archaeological monitoring took place within a cellar located within Holly Bush Farmhouse (**Figure 2**).

GEOLOGY

The underlying geology at the site is limestone of the Monsal Dale Limestone Formation, overlain by superficial head deposits of clay silt, sand and gravel (BGS 2018).

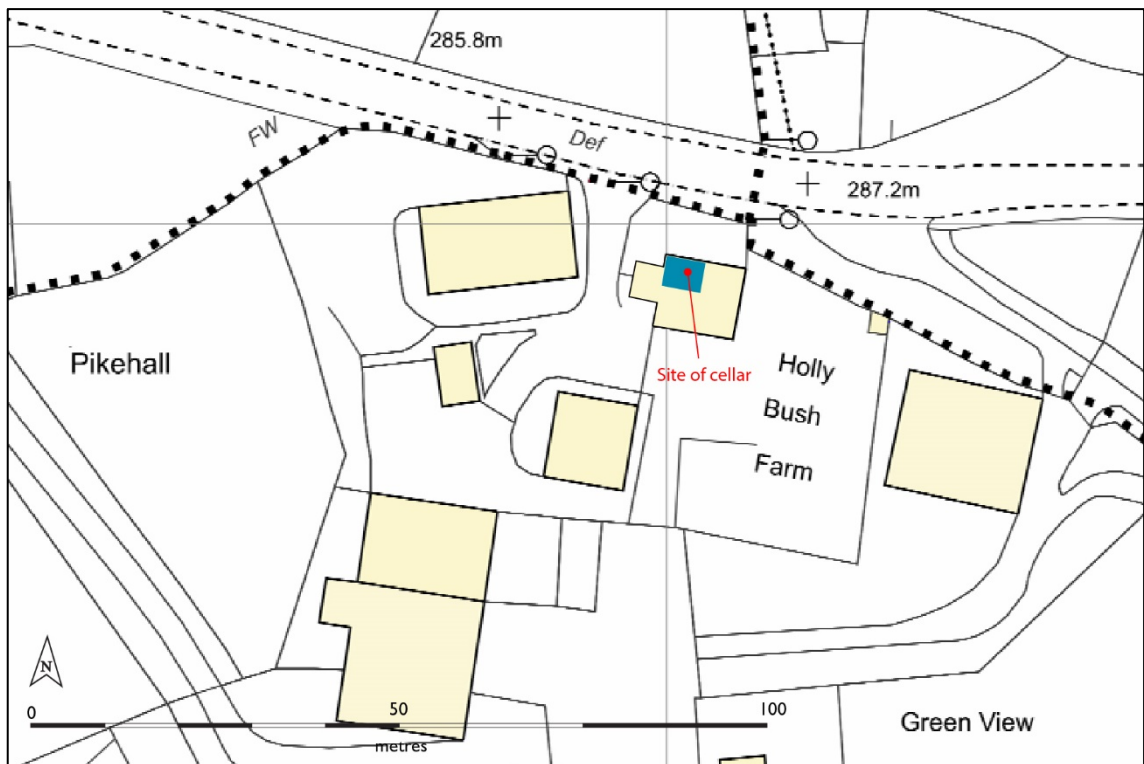


Figure 2: Site Layout

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4 METHODOLOGY

STANDARDS

The project was undertaken in accordance with national guidelines as set out in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (ClfA 2014a); Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b); and Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (ClfA 2014d).

METHODOLOGY

The floor slabs were lifted by the developer prior to commencement of the watching brief, following which the exposed surface was cleaned back by a suitably qualified archaeologist and inspected for archaeological remains. Slots were excavated to determine the makeup of the floor

Recording

All potential archaeological remains were cleaned and recorded by hand. The extent of the excavated area and the location of any archaeological features and deposits was recorded in plan.

A standard single context recording system was used to keep a documentary record of all archaeological remains that were encountered.

All archaeological features were drawn in plan and section at 1:50, or 1:20 scale as appropriate on permatrace.

Photography

All archaeological features of significance were photographed with digital photography using a 8 megapixel digital camera (Jpeg and RAW files). All photographs include a graduated metric scale of an appropriate size to capture scale and recorded on a pro-forma register.

Artefacts

A small assemblage of archaeological material was recovered. Spot dating on ceramics was provided by Dr Chris Cumberpatch. All artefacts were recorded by context, and an assessment is presented in section 6 of this report.

5 RESULTS

INTRODUCTION

Monitoring was undertaken during a single visit made on the 8th March 2018 at which time the stone flag floor of the cellar had been lifted, revealing the underlying deposits.

A plan of the monitored area, and sections illustrating identified contexts, are reproduced as **Figure 3**.

DESCRIPTION OF FINDINGS

The cellar is located beneath the northwest corner of Holly Bush Farm (**Appendix 2.1**) and is accessed via a stairwell along the exterior of its southern wall (**Appendix 2.2**). Internally, the cellar measures 4.2 x 3.5m, formed with limewashed rubble-built walls and refaced at the western end of the room in blockwork (**Appendices 2.3-2.4**). The entrance to the stairwell is situated within the southwest of the room, whilst a secondary opening in the centre of the west wall had been converted to a doorway for new access.

The floor surface within the cellar comprised of squared sandstone paving slabs, of varying thickness between 0.12 and 0.25 cm (**Appendix 2.5**). Underlying the floor was a levelling deposit of mid-brown sandy clay (**100**) with frequent inclusions of limestone gravel and occasional burnt lime. It varied in depth from 11cm towards the edge of the walls and 18cm towards the centre of the room (**Appendix 2.6**). A small assemblage of finds was recovered from this deposit, discussed below. Deposit (**100**) was formed directly onto limestone bedrock (**103**).

Adjacent to the southern wall the floor slabs overlay a small (0.8 x 0.6m) area of fragmentary irregularly shaped limestone slabs [**101**] which did not demonstrate evidence of having been worked (**Appendix 2.7**). The western slab overlay a small linear cut [**106**], measuring (0.5 x 0.2m), along the southern edge of the cellar. The cut (**Appendix 2.8**) had a concave side with rounded bottom, and was filled by burnt, charcoal rich, deposit (**102**) which extended under slabs [**101**] outside of the cut. A solitary fragment of pottery was recovered from the base of deposit (**102**), discussed below.

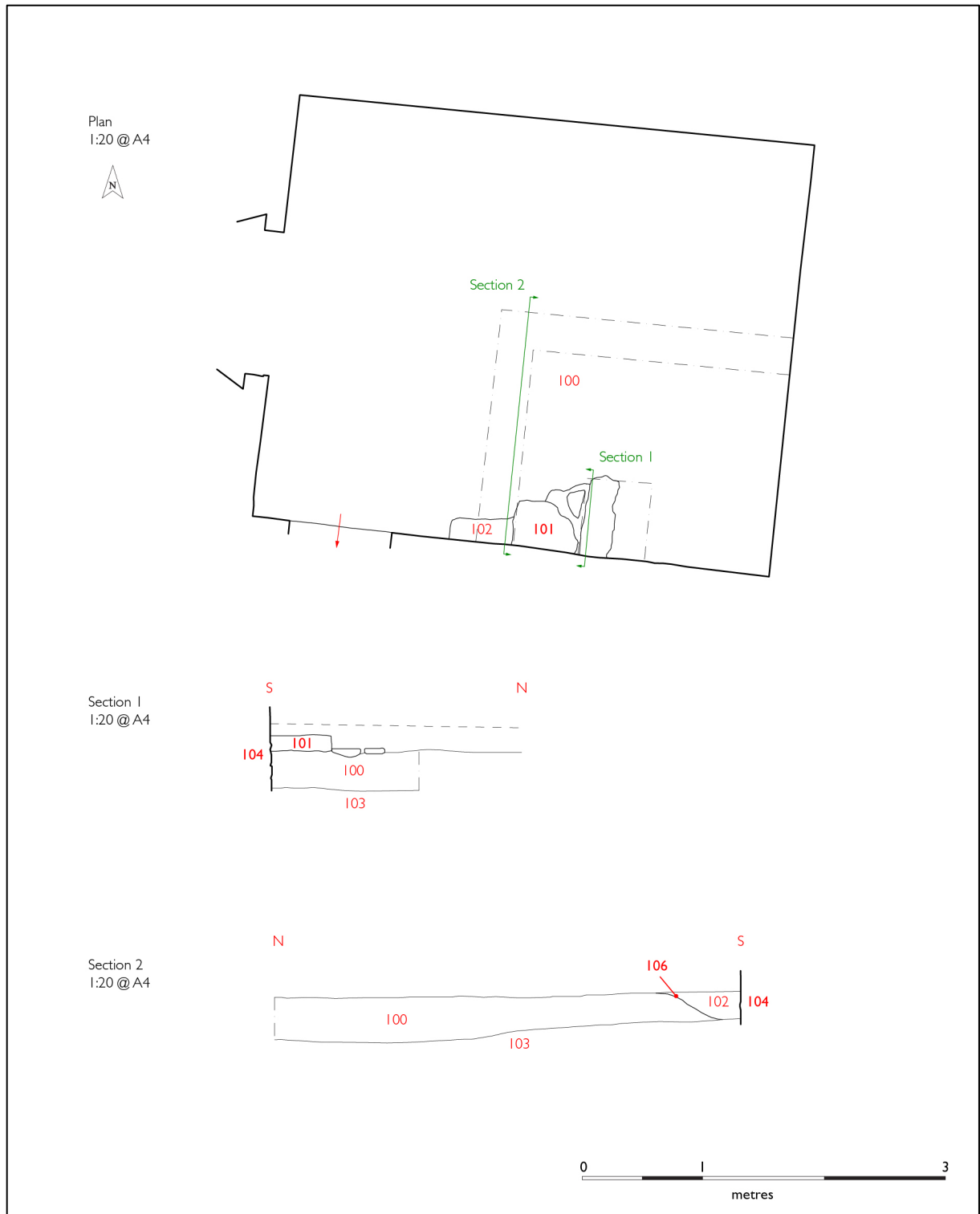


Figure 3: Plan and Sections of monitored works within the cellar of Holly Bush Farm

6 MATERIAL CULTURE

INTRODUCTION

A small assemblage of material was recovered during the watching brief from levelling deposit (100), and from the base of the fill of cut [106]. A catalogue of the material is provided in **Table 1** below. An image of the pottery recovered from the site is included in **Appendix 2.7**.

CERAMICS (BY C.G. CUMBERPATCH BA PHD)

Context 100 - A small body sherd of Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware (4 grams); undecorated with brown salt glaze internally and externally; probably mid-18th to early 19th century.

Context 102 - the pie-crust rim of a press-moulded dish (14 grams) with embossed decoration and white slip internally. The embossed decoration defines areas which were infilled with dark red and light red slip to form a more complex design. The fabric is white in colour and contains moderate, well-sorted white rock fragments up to 1mm in size with rarer and finer red rock fragments. Slipwares of this type appeared first in Staffordshire in the mid-17th century and production appears to have spread rapidly across the country. They were manufactured widely in Yorkshire throughout the 18th century (Cumberpatch, 2014). To date there have been few detailed studies of the fabrics and it is not yet possible to ascribe individual sherds to specific sources. This precludes a close dating of the sherd but a later 17th to 18th century date is probable.

OTHER MATERIAL (BY JAMES THOMSON)

Clay Pipe

Context 100 – four non-joining fragments of clay pipe stem were recovered. The broken ends were abraded, potentially indicating they had been imported into the site with the deposit. No bowl or heel fragments were recovered which would provide accurate dating evidence.

Animal Bone

Context 100 – a single bone was recovered against the southern wall of the cellar, comprising a fractured left distal femur of a moderate size bird, probably a chicken.

Glass

Context 100 – two fragments of glass were recovered, both of distinct body. The first comprised a blue hued glass fragment (<3cm) with a rounded edge along one site. The fragment is slightly misshapen, possibly from having been heated. Most likely post-medieval window glass.

The second fragment was of clear glass (<2cm), very thin sectioned, with a small area of adhesive on its reverse. The character of the glass and adhesive is modern, and it is therefore likely that this find is invasive.

DISCUSSION

The assemblage of material recovered from context **(100)** is illustrative of a made ground deposit, containing fragments of abraded material and one intrusive glass fragment.

The flatware sherd provides a *terminus post quem* for the backfill of cut **[106]** of the 18th century which places it at a time when the existing building is believed to have been constructed.

Based on the size and content of the assemblage, and nature of the deposits, it is considered that the material has no potential to provide any additional insights into the date of deposit or nature of activities. It is recommended that the assemblage is discarded.

Table 1: Finds Catalogue

Context	Material	Count (no.)	Weight (g)	Assessment
100	Clay pipe stem	4	6	Post-medieval pipe stems.
100	Animal Bone	1	2	Undated chicken bone.
100	Glass	1	<1	Shard of post-medieval windows glass.
100	Glass	1	<1	Shard of modern glass.
100	Pottery	1	4	Probably mid-18th to early 19th century salt glaze stoneware vessel
102	Pottery	1	14	Later 17th to 18th century slip decorated flatware.

7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

DISCUSSION

Prior to works commencing the PDNPA determined that there was a high potential for deposits and remains resulting from the use and development of the house to survive beneath present floor surfaces. Anticipated remains included evidence of earlier floor levels, partitions, wells, domestic activities or industries (e.g. washing, cooking, brewing etc.) and lost or discarded artefacts. In addition, as cellars were often reused when above ground buildings were rebuilt, there was the added potential the cellar could retain evidence of earlier phases of development. This informed the formation of the following two research questions in the WSI, which are addressed below.

What phases of construction and development are evident from archaeological remains within the cellar; and what does this tell us of the development of Holly Bush Farmhouse?

Revealed deposits within the cellar of Holly Bush Farm identified that the floor of the cellar was constructed in one principal phase of construction. The bedrock was cut back, and a levelling deposit was laid down prior to the laying of thick sandstone slabs.

A secondary alteration was apparent adjacent to the south wall of the cellar, the purpose of which is uncertain. The floor slabs appear to have been removed in this area, and a small pit cut into the levelling deposit. This was later backfilled, and limestone slabs laid across the area, before stone floor slabs were replaced.

Is it possible to determine what historic function/s the cellar has had?

There was no evidence of previous activities within the cellar.

CONCLUSION

The watching brief at Holly Bush Farm has confirmed that the cellar appears to have been constructed in a single phase, with material culture from beneath the floor slabs, and within a small pit cut into levelling deposits, providing a *terminus post quem* of the 18th century: a date contemporary with the construction of the house.

8 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

AUTHORSHIP

This report has been prepared by James Thomson MClfA. Editing has been provided by Oliver Jessop MClfA. Fieldwork was undertaken by James Thomson MClfA.

An assessment of the pottery was undertaken by Dr C.G. Cumberpatch.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nick Marriott and JT Venues Ltd are thanked for commissioning the project, and for enabling the watching brief to take place.

Thanks also go to Natalie Ward of the Peak District National Park Authority for providing monitoring of the archaeological works of behalf of the Planning Authority.

ARCHIVE

The project archive has been compiled in accordance with standard guidance (ClfA 2014c; Walker 1990) and will be deposited with the archaeological archive held at Buxton Museum and Art Gallery upon agreement of the final report.

The archive comprises:

- Copy of the Written Scheme of Investigation
- Copy of this report
- 1 no. Trench record sheet
- 2 no. A4 permatrace drawing sheets
- 1 no. Photographic register
- 17 no. Photographic prints

SOURCES AND REFERENCES CONSULTED

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) 2014a. *Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching brief.*

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) 2014b. *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*

The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014c. *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.*

Cumberpatch, C.G. 2014. Tradition and Change: the production and consumption of early modern pottery in South and West Yorkshire, in C. Cumberpatch and P.W. Blinkhorn (Eds) *The Chiming of Crack'd Bells: current approaches to artefacts in archaeology.* British Archaeological Reports International Series 2677 Archaeopress, p.p. 73-97

The JESSOP Consultancy, 2018. *Holly Bush Farm, Pikehall, Derbyshire: Written Scheme of Investigation.* Report ref TJC2018.10.

Walker, K. 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage.* United Kingdom Institute of Conservation

APPENDIX I:

CONTEXT DISCRIPTIONS

Appendix I.I: Table of excavated contexts

No.	Type	Description	Depth below floor level (m)
100	Layer	Mid brown sandy clay with frequent limestone <1cm, moderate limestone <5cm and occasional burnt lime <1cm.	0.12-0.26
101	Structure	Irregularly shaped limestone slabs, underlying 105.	0.05-0.12
102	Fill of 106	Burnt charcoal rich deposit	0.12-0.22
103	Natural	Limestone bedrock	0.26+
104	Structure	Cellar foundation, clay bound limestone gravel <15cm	0.25+
105	Structure	Sandstone floor slabs	0.00-0.20
106	Cut		0.12-0.22

APPENDIX 2:

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Appendix 2.1: Holly Bush Farmhouse, looking south-east



Appendix 2.2: View showing access to cellar within Holy Bush Farmhouse, looking east



Appendix 2.3: View of cellar following removal of flagstones, looking south-west (scale 1m)



Appendix 2.4: General view of cellar, looking east (scale 1m)



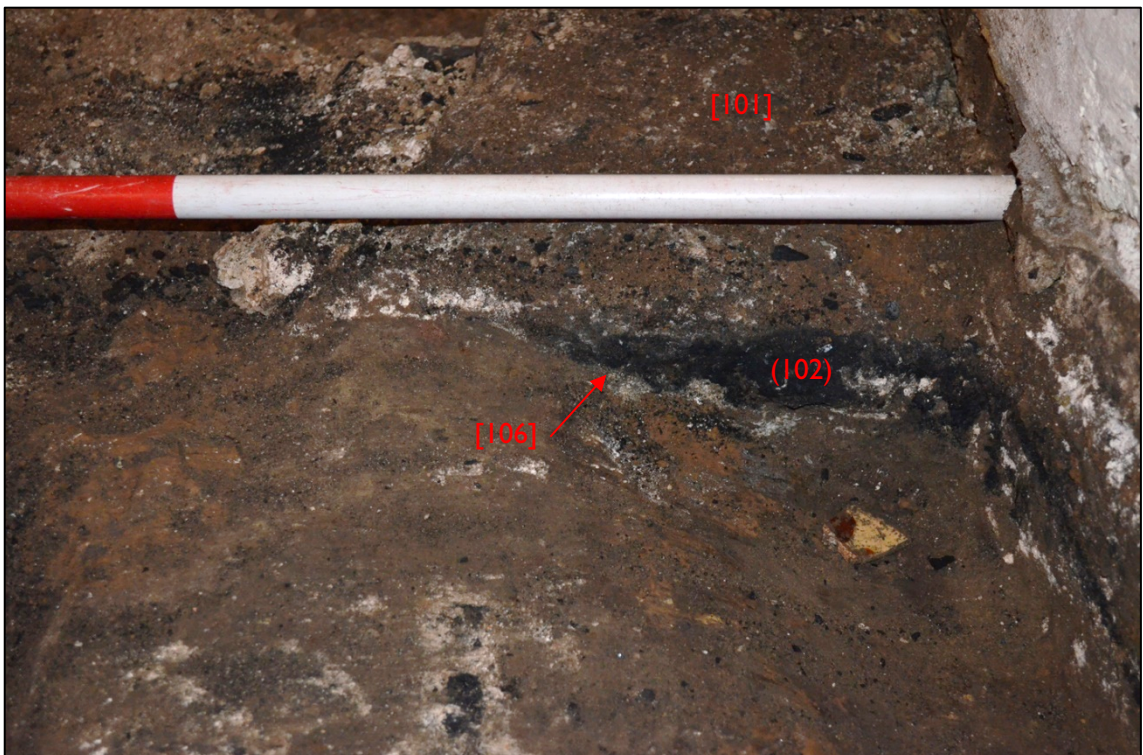
Appendix 2.5: Detail of stone floor slab in south-west corner (scale 1m)



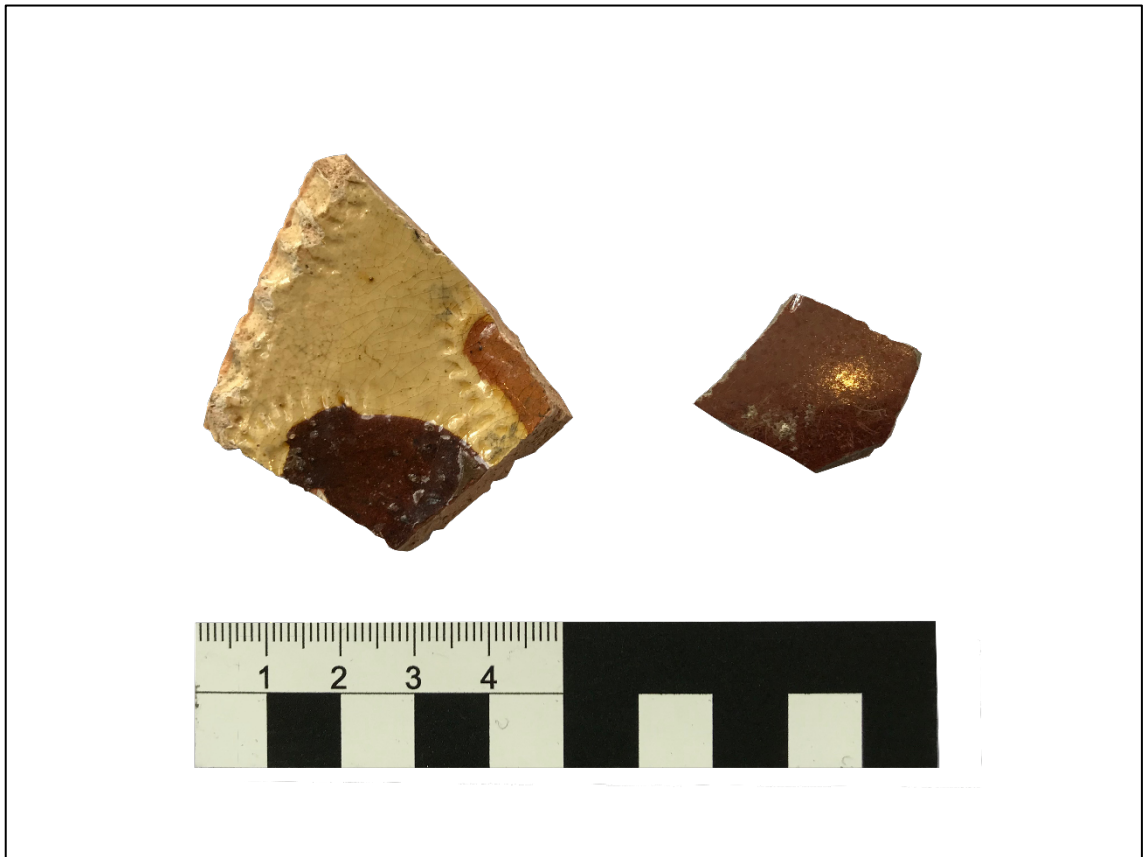
Appendix 2.6: Slot through (100), showing bedrock (103) (scale 1m)



Appendix 2.7: Detail of stone slabs [101], cut [106] and fill (102) (scale 1m)



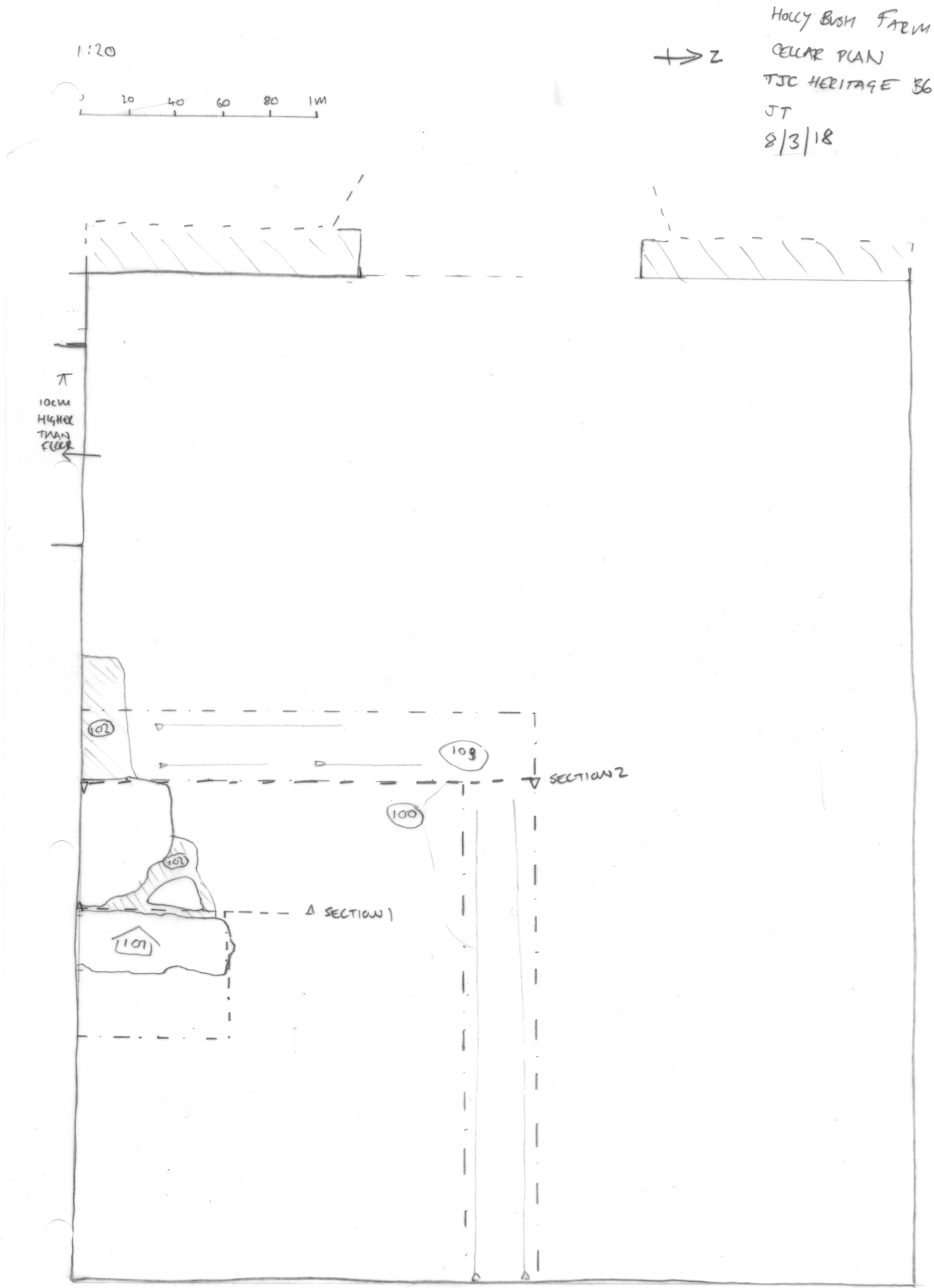
Appendix 2.8: Detail of section showing stone slabs [101], cut [106] and fill (102) (scale 0.5m)



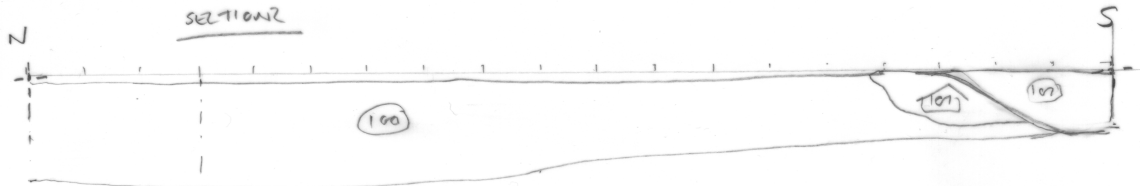
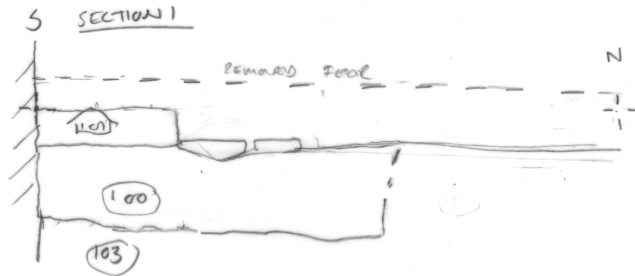
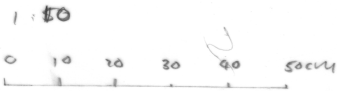
Appendix 2.9: Slip decorated flatware from (102) (left) and saltglaze stoneware from (100) (right)
(Scale 10cm)

APPENDIX 3:

FIELDWORK RECORD

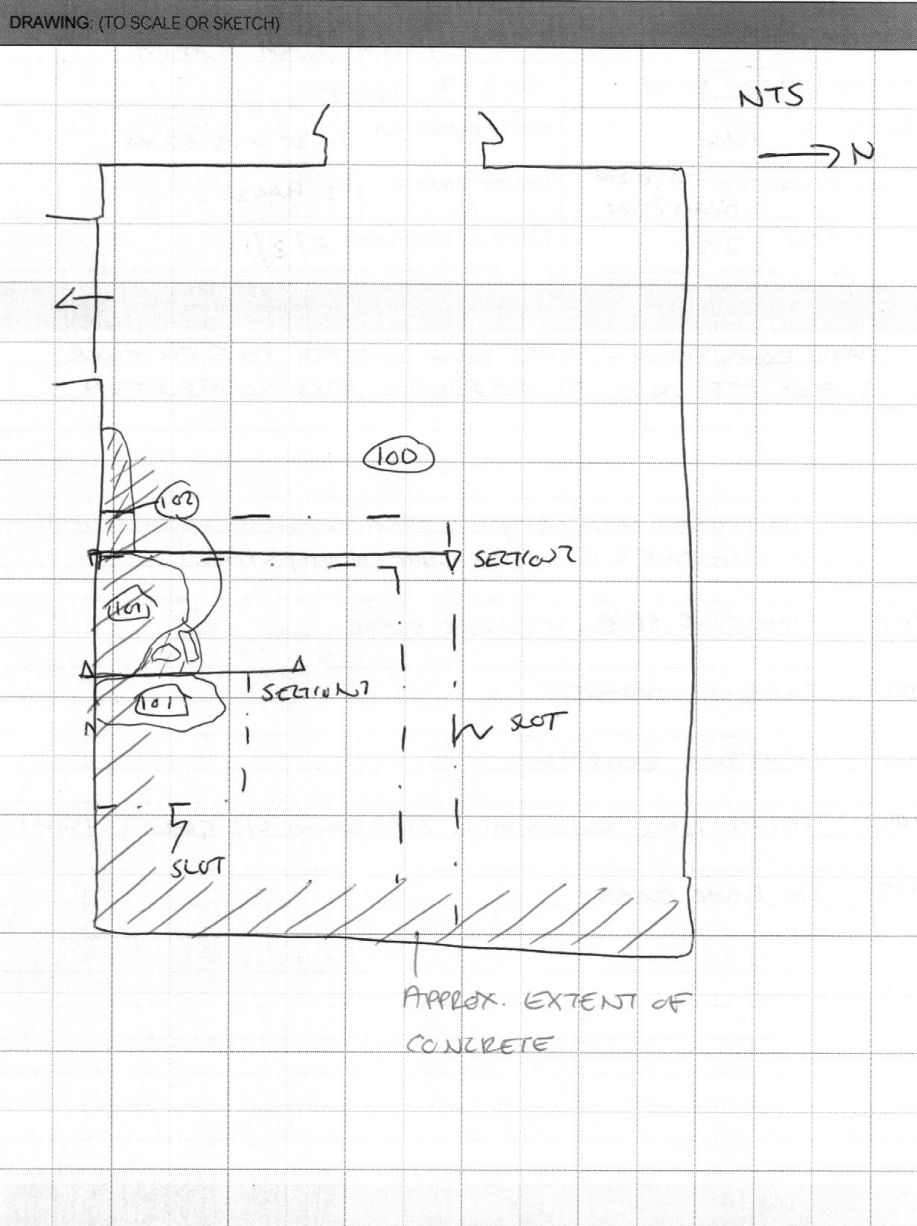


HOLLY BUSH FARM
SECTIONS 1 & 2
TJC HERITAGE 86
JT
8/3/18



TRIAL PIT / TRENCH RECORD SHEET

sheet 1 of 1



ADDITIONAL NOTES: (CONTINUATION)

The JESSOP Consultancy
Archaeological Watching Briefs and Excavations

TJC TRIAL HOLE RECORD.DOCX