Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

AT

STAR CARR FARM

SEAMER

NORTH YORKSHIRE

Humber Archaeology Report No.438

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April 2013

Planning Ref	**13/00137/FL**
NGR	**TA 0205 8110**
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1 Summary

This assessment report presents the results of a programme of archaeological trial work undertaken at Star Carr Farm, Malton Road, Seamer, North Yorkshire, in April and May 2013 in advance of the proposed construction of a portal-framed building.

The site is located within a Mesolithic wetland landscape of international importance, which includes the scheduled site of Star Carr, *c.* 750m to the east, and was considered likely from previous coring programmes to straddle the northern shoreline of a post-glacial lake, close to its western outflow. The trial excavations provided evidence to support this hypothesis to some extent. Three of the six trial pits (TPs 1, 2 and 6) encountered only proglacial clay gravels and/or post-glacial windblown sands. Two further pits (TPs 4 and 5) demonstrated the presence of a very thin (up to 0.04m) soil horizon, likely to be of prehistoric date, around the mid point of the proposed new building, at between 25.70m OD and 25.90m OD. The most southerly test pit (TP 3) recorded a probable prehistoric, possibly Mesolithic, buried soil horizon at around 25.40m OD, below 1.00m of modern ground make-up.

This report concludes that further work is required during construction, including excavation of the foundation pits for a portal-framed building and monitoring of any services.

2 Introduction

2.1 Site background

In April 2013, the excavation of six trial pits each measuring 2m x 2m was carried out by Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) on land at Star Carr Farm, Malton Road, Seamer, North Yorkshire (Site Code SCF 2013; National Grid Reference TA 0205 8110; see Fig 1, Plate 1). The work was commissioned by Edwardson Associates on behalf of their client, James Stockdale Ltd, in support of their proposals to extend premises at Star Carr Farm to provide additional storage and HGV parking, including the construction of a portal-framed building.

The proposed development site is currently occupied by storage sheds, offices and parking areas. The site as a whole is bounded to the north, south and east by fields and to the west by Malton Road. The canalised course of the River Hertford (Hertford Cut) passes a short distance to the south. Star Carr Mesolithic Scheduled Monument lies *c.* 750m to the east, on the south side of the Hertford.

Star Carr is of recognised international importance; it includes evidence for some of the earliest occupation in the country, and is one of only two Early Mesolithic sites in north-west Europe with significant organic preservation. For that reason, North Yorkshire Council Historic Environment Team proposed in a letter to the LPA, Scarborough Borough Council (letter dated 13/2/2013) that archaeological investigation should be undertaken prior to planning permission being awarded, in order to determine the potential impact of the proposed development on any archaeological resource, and develop a suitable mitigation strategy, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2012. This proposal was endorsed by the English Heritage Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

HFA, upon appointment, initially proposed a scheme of gridded coring as the first phase of a staged scheme of archaeological works, in order to determine the depth, nature and extent of deposits of potential archaeological and palaeoenvironmental significance and use this information to inform an impact assessment and propose a mitigation strategy. For various reasons, coring was not possible, and a programme of limited trial excavation was substituted. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced and issued to the LPA, NYCC and EH (Brigham 2013) describing a suitable methodology.

This report presents the results of the trial pit excavations, which took place in late April 2013.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

This short section is intended to summarise possible features of the site, and give a general context for the area.

There have been a large number of archaeological observations and investigations within 2–3km of the proposal site, accompanied by the recovery of many casual and fieldwalked artefacts. There is also a considerable corpus of published articles and volumes covering the area, particularly Star Carr, Seamer Carr and Flixton Carr, of which a selection is included in the Bibliography.

The site lies at the west end of the post-glacial basin of 'Lake Flixton', which occupied the flatlands (carrs) between the limestone hills of the North York Moors and the chalk uplands of the Yorkshire Wolds. Lake Flixton was originally the eastern end of a much larger meltwater lake which formed within the Vale of Pickering. After the original exit route for glacial meltwater near Filey was blocked around 12,000BC by morainic deposits flowing along the coastline, the trapped and rising waters eventually overflowed to the west, creating a new exit into the Derwent/Ouse river system, leaving what remained of 'Lake Pickering' as a chain of smaller lakes and marshland, of which 'Lake Flixton' was the reduced eastern end.

Within the lake, a series of natural lacustrine and organic deposits built up on the lakebed gravels, representing different stages in the post-glacial development of the area, and progressively infilling the lake basin as reedswamp and fen expanded from the shallowing lake fringes. A typical section of the lakebed deposits at Star Carr (Cloutman & Smith 1988, fig 3) is included here for reference (Fig 3).

The reconstruction of the shoreline using information derived from coring surveys and excavations (Cloutman 1989, fig 4) suggested that the projected line of the north shore of the lake passed through the centre of the proposal area, with the south bank not far to the south, midway between Starr Carr Farm and Carr House Farm. A reconstruction of the outline of Lake Flixton, based on the 24.5m contour (Mellars & Dark 1998, fig 1.8), indicates that this is the likely location of the western lake outflow into the Vale of Pickering.

The presence of early artefacts has proved that the area was attractive in the immediate post-glacial period to Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers exploiting herds of animals which roamed the area as the ice sheets retreated. As the climate improved and the earliest communities became more settled and less dependent solely on hunting, visiting bands would have become increasingly employed in fishing and wildfowling as well as the collection of plants for food, medicine, basketry and clothing, leading into the Early Mesolithic period. The area surrounding the lake was colonised by birch, willow and aspen supporting a wide range of animal species, including several species of deer, wild boar and aurochs, together with carnivorous predators and scavengers.

The area formed the heart of an important wetland landscape during the Early Mesolithic period, which has been extensively investigated on sites such as Star Carr (TA 2810 8100) and Flixton Carr (TA 0360 8119) to the east, Seamer Carr (TA 0353 8196) to the north-east, and also recorded at Flixton Ings to the south (TA 0210 7980). As such, it is possible that there was an early crossing point here at the narrowest point.

Star Carr is one of the few sites nationally which have revealed evidence for temporary or seasonal Mesolithic settlement, and one of the earliest in Northern

Europe to produce evidence for carpentry, demonstrating that Lake Flixton was capable of supporting local rather than nomadic populations by this time. Most significantly, a platform of worked and partly worked timber extended along the north shore, first found by Grahame Clark in the 1949–51 excavation seasons; other finds included many rare adzes and axes, indicating tree clearance and woodworking, ritual headdresses consisting of twenty-one deer skull sections with antlers still attached, a large number of harpoon points, highlighting the importance of fishing, antler mattocks, flints and other artefacts.

In 1985 and 1989, Smith and Cloutman recovered further evidence for a platform of split and worked timbers along the water's edge. Excavations since 2004 have continued to make important discoveries, including a 3.5m hollow surrounded by at least 18 posts identified as the country's oldest house, which was located in the dryland area in 2008 in the same topographic relationship to the lake as the north end of the proposal site. When considered alongside the rich scatters of artefacts, these structural remains clearly indicate the presence of a local population involved in seasonal activities, occupying shelters inland of the platform rather than using the platform for living purposes as Clark originally envisaged. It is more likely that the platforms were used as a base for fishing, either from the platform itself or from canoes. Radiocarbon dating suggested that the site was occupied between 8770–8460 BC, although there may have been a period when it was not frequented, between 8680–8580 BC.

In recent investigations, the deteriorating of organic remains and the demineralisation of bone indicate that the site is being seriously affected by environmental factors causing desiccation and acidification of the surrounding peats. By contrast, excavations in the field north of the Hertford in 2008, where the topsoil cover is much thinner, revealed damage through ploughing.

The Star Carr site was considered to be of sufficient importance to be scheduled in 2011, partly to draw attention to the state of the site and find means to protect it from further degradation. The centre of the site lies *c.* 800m from Star Carr Farm, the Scheduled Monument boundary *c.* 750m, but there is no reason to suppose that similar deposits and preservational conditions do not extend across large parts of the former lake area, and this is partly borne out by the widespread recovery of Mesolithic stone tools through fieldwalking and as casual finds. The concentration of sites such as Star Carr and Seamer Carr around the Mesolithic shoreline of Lake Flixton suggests that it was a highly attractive location; other sites appear to have been located on islands.

As the surface of the wetland area dried in the later Mesolithic, the pattern of activity is likely to have altered. The fertile peat soils became suitable for more permanent settlement, and the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods are represented in the local archaeological record, although actual settlements were probably mainly located along the foot of the Moors and Wolds, where funerary and ritual monuments are also located. Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement has been identified near East and West Heslerton, for example, and Iron Age square barrows at Sherburn.

Romano-British settlement has been recorded to the north-east in the Crossgates area (TA 0330 8330), and cropmarks of field systems and enclosures of probable Iron Age or Romano-British date have been identified across the carrs, including an undated

enclosure just north of Star Carr Farm (TA 1820 8130) shown on an 1821 map. A possible villa site has been located near Seamer (TA 0275 8350) and a late Roman building at Heslerton, identified as a shrine or religious centre.

The extensive remains of early Anglian settlement in the West Heslerton area indicate the continued importance of the carrlands, with an apparent overlap between the incoming settlers and the end of the Roman period. Medieval settlement has been excavated near Crossgates, but the Anglo-Saxon/early medieval period also saw the establishment of the present villages in the area, principally along the spring lines at the foot of the hills to the north and south rather than on the seasonally-flooded carrs.

The present landscape of rectangular and sub-rectangular fields and straight lanes is mainly the result of late 18th-/early 19th-century enclosure of the medieval/early post-medieval open fields, pastures and commons of the spring-line villages.

Finally, a watching brief undertaken at the farm itself in 1998 by MAP revealed nothing of interest, but may have been limited in scope to observations at or close to ground level.

3 The trial pit excavations

3.1 Methodology

Six 2m x 2m trial pits were excavated in the locations indicated on Figure 1. A single soil sample was retained for potential future assessment and/or specialist dating.

The on-site excavation and recording methodology employed was in accordance with procedures set out in a site-specific Written Scheme of Investigation (Brigham 2013).

Standard Humber Field Archaeology recording procedures were used throughout; each borehole was allocated a number, with written descriptions recorded on *pro forma* sheets. The trench positions were surveyed using a Trimble GeoExplorer XT handheld GPS, with belt-mounted GeoBeacon receiver, assisted by FastMap Mobile software, to give exact locations in the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Levels were taken at the site, though the nearest fixed height position of use within the vicinity of the site was a spot-height (27.20m OD) shown on the most recent Ordnance Survey map in the lay-by to the immediate west of the Star Carr Farm; therefore, all reduced level heights (m OD) given in the description of results below could have a maximum deviation of +/- 0.10m.

Finds recovered from each feature were to be labelled accordingly, with those of individual interest, other than pottery or animal bone, being allocated Recorded Find (RF) numbers. In the event, no artefact evidence was recovered but a single environmental sample was taken from Trial Pit No. 3

3.2 Results

Figs 4 and 5, Plates 2 to 7

The results of the trial pits have demonstrated the presence of at least 3 phases of activity:

Phase 1 – Proglacial lake deposition/formation of lake edge periphery
Phase 2 – Post-glacial deposition (?Mesolithic and later)
Phase 3 – Modern (20th-century)

TRIAL PIT 1

This pit was located at the eastern corner of the proposed site of the portal-framed building. The trench measured 2.20m north-west to south-east and 2.20m north-east to south-west. Ground level in this area was at 25.84m OD, the bottom of the trench, following excavation was at 25.04m OD. The presence of two possible live service pipes running diagonally across the trench prevented deeper excavation.

Phase 2
Pale buff yellow soft sands (103) were encountered at 25.14m O.D and continued below the level of the trench. They were sealed by a layer of mid orange clayey sands and medium sized gravels (102), up to 0.30m thick.

The sands may be windblown deposition, while the succeeding gravels are likely to have been deposited during a later flooding event.

Phase 3
Cutting into 103 were two service pipe trenches. The cut (107) for the first was located in the southern part of the trench, oriented west to east over a minimum distance of 1.50m. The cut was 0.30m wide and up to 0.30m deep with a 'V'-shaped profile (cutting from 25.44m OD), containing a single, black 30mm diameter plastic pipe (108) – probably a water pipe – encased in a dark grey silt and yellow sand mix backfill (109).

The second service trench cut (106) was on the same orientation, located 1m to the north of the first; the width and depth of the cut were both 0.30m and it also had a 'V'-shaped profile (cut from 25.44m OD). Like 107, it contained a 30mm diameter black plastic service pipe (105) and the backfill (104) was a similar dark silt and yellow sand mix.

Sealing these trenches was the current topsoil layer (101), a very dark grey black fine and crumbly silt, up to 0.40m thick, with little or no inclusions.

TRIAL PIT 2

This pit was located at the northern corner of the proposed site of the portal-framed building. The trench measured 2.30m north-west to south-east and 2.10m north-east to south-west. Ground level in this area was at 26.12m OD; the bottom of the trench, following excavation, was at 25.29m OD.

Phase 1
Mid to dark orange brown hard and compacted sandy clays and gravel (202) were encountered at 25.72m O.D and extended below the level of excavation.

Phase 3
Sealing the above was the current topsoil layer (201), a very dark grey black fine and crumbly silt, up to 0.40m thick, with little or no inclusions.

TRIAL PIT 3

This pit was located at the southern corner of the proposed site of the new building. The trench measured 2.25m north-west to south-east and 2.25m north-east to south-west. Ground level in this area was at 26.37m OD; the bottom of the trench, following excavation, was at 24.57m OD.

Phase 1
The basal layer recorded was mid grey hard and compacted clayey sands and medium sized gravels (308), encountered at 24.95m OD at the east of the trench, dipping slightly to 24.87m OD at the west. This deposit continued below the level of excavation. Layer 308 was sealed by waterlogged grey medium grained sands (307), up to 0.22m thick, which followed the same declination as the underlying deposit to the west; the top of the deposit lay at 25.17m OD.

Phase 2
Lying over the above was a waterlogged very dark grey black smooth, possibly organic, fine laminated silt (306), which contained no visible inclusions apart from some possible tiny rootlets in places. The surface of the deposit lay at 25.39m OD and ranged in thickness between 0.22m to the east, deepening to 0.40m to the west, following the same declination as the deposit described above in Phase 1. The deposit appears to represent a buried horizon associated with natural accumulation along the periphery of the Lake Pickering edge.

A 20 litre sample (SCF2013 Sample 1) was taken from this deposit. The sample was examined by John Carrott of Palaeoecology Research Services and described as follows:

> Just moist, very dark brown to black, indurated (crumbles but does not work) and very heavily humified, organic sediment, with a little sand and occasional small stones (to 8mm) ….100g [of the deposit was washed] to 300 microns and there was some uncharred organic detritus present but no identifiable macrofossil remains.
>
> In summary, a richly organic deposit but composed largely of more or less completely humified material with little or no potential for recovery of interpretatively valuable organic remains.

Phase 3
The subsequent layers are all associated with levelling up the yard from the mid 1990s to the present day.

Granular chalk hardcore levelling deposit (305) was recorded at 25.47m OD and was up to 0.10m thick. This was sealed by dark silt layer (304), encountered at 25.62m OD, and up to 0.15m thick; it is likely that 304 is a thin spread of redeposited topsoil taken from elsewhere on the site. Overlying this was compacted medium to large sized chalk rubble hardcore (303), lying at 25.92m OD, and up to 0.30m thick. The two latest layers were: mid brown clay and ceramic building material hardcore mix (302), at 26.27m OD, up to 0.35m thick; and, mid grey pebble-based hardcore (301), up to 0.10m thick, forming the current ground surface.

TRIAL PIT 4

This pit was located at the northern end of the proposed yard gully for a wash down and steam cleaning area. The trench measured 2.40m north-west to south-east and 2.15m north-east to south-west. Ground level in this area was at 26.31m OD; the bottom of the trench following excavation was at 24.41m OD.

Phase 2
Dark buff yellow windblown sands (406) were encountered at 24.66m OD and continued below the excavated level of the trench (at the maximum reach of the mechanical excavator). This was sealed by a 0.20m to 0.25m thick layer of mid to light orange sandy clays (405) with a moderate amount of small to medium sized gravel inclusions, the upper surface of which lay at 24.91m OD. Further windblown sands (404) lay above this, of a similar colour to 406; deposit 404 was up to 0.60m thick.

Sealing 404 was a very thin (around 40mm) band of highly degraded dark silt (403); this was possibly a former ground surface, lying at 25.71m OD. Above this lay windblown mid buff yellow sand (402), up to 0.20m thick, the upper limit of which layer was recorded at 25.91m OD.

Phase 3
The current ground was formed by modern topsoil (401) of dark black fine silts, up to 0.40m thick.

TRIAL PIT 5

This pit was located at the western corner of the proposed site of the portal-framed building. The trench measured 2.00m north-west to south-east and 2.15m north-east to south-west. Ground level in this area was at 26.67m OD; the bottom of the trench following excavation was at 25.37m OD.

Phase 1
The basal layer encountered was compact mid to dark orange brown clay sands and medium sized gravels (507); the layer was revealed at 25.92m OD and continued below the level of excavation.

Phase 2
Overlying 507 was a very thin band of much degraded dark silts (506). This band was up to 40mm thick and was initially encountered at 25.96m OD at the southern part of the trench, deepening slightly to 25.91m OD at the northern part of the trench.

Phase 3
A 0.15m-thick layer of mid to dark brown silt topsoil (505), at 26.09m OD, sealed Phase 2 layer 506. This deposit appears to have been truncated slightly during some levelling from the mid-1990s onwards, as sealing it was a mixed aggregate levelling horizon (504) at 26.27m OD Above this lay three further modern levelling layers: a 0.10m-thick mix of mid brown silts and broken ceramic land drains and brick material (503), highest at 26.37m OD; 0.27m-thick heavily compacted white chalk hardcore (502), highest at 26.57m OD; and, the uppermost deposit, 0.10m-thick dark grey gravel-based hardcore surfacing(501), forming current ground level.

TRIAL PIT 6

This pit was located at the proposed position of a rainwater harvesting tank. The trench measured 2.50m north-west to south-east and 2.20m north-east to south-west.

Ground level in this area was at 26.52m OD; the bottom of the trench, following excavation, was at 25.62m OD.

Phase 1
The basal layer encountered was compact mid to dark orange brown clay sands and medium sized gravels (602); the layer was revealed at 26.22m OD, continuing below the level of excavation.

Phase 2
Overlying the earlier natural ground was buff yellow brown sands (603), probably windblown, up to 0.40m thick in the eastern part of the trench, appearing to dive down to the east (see Trial Pit 4, above); the deposit lay at 26.22m OD at its highest.

Phase 3
The modern ground cover was the current topsoil layer, consisting of very dark grey silts (601), up to 0.30m thick.

4 Discussion and recommendations

4.1 Discussion of the site sequence

Phase 1
Four of the six trial pits (TPs 2, 3, 5 and 6) contained deposits in the base which appear to be of proglacial origin, deposited during the formation of Lake Pickering. The heights recorded, which were between 25.17m O.D at the south and 26.22m O.D towards the north and west, demonstrated a gentle rise towards the north as indicated by previous coring programmes (Cloutman *op cit*).

Phase 2
This phase is characterised by a layer of windblown sands, contrasted with the beginnings of a buried ground horizon which thickens as the underlying contours deepen to the south.

The windblown sands, especially as encountered in Trial Pit 4, show that greater than 2m of this material can survive, clearly located within deeper pockets of ground, likely deposited following the initial formation of Lake Pickering. The buried land surface above the sand proves interesting in this regard. It appears at its most northerly in Trial Pit 4 overlying varying levels of windblown sand, progressing southwards, appearing again in Trial Pit 5 to a similar thickness. However, the layer was higher to the south (at around 25.90m OD) than it was to the north (at 25.71m OD), presumably reflecting a localised undulation, despite the main underlying trend of the slope towards the south into Lake Pickering.

In Trial Pit 3, further to the south, a buried land surface (here seen at 25.39m OD) was at a markedly deeper level, confirming the underlying declination south to the lake shoreline, while the thickness of the deposit (up to 400mm) relates to increased survivability of below-ground deposits in this area; it is also possible that the layer had been truncated in the past 10 to 20 years during general levelling of the site and dumping of more modern materials to increase yard area space (see below).

It is probable that the buried land surface is contemporary with potential Mesolithic activity recorded in the surrounding area, although none was encountered during this particular programme of work. Furthermore, this deposit lies to the north of the projected *c.*24m OD shoreline (see 2.2, above) and possibly represents a buried topsoil remnant slightly further inland.

Phase 3
Towards the northern end of the site, Trial Pits 1, 2, 4 and 6 were all sealed by the modern topsoil and there was evidence of possibly active plastic water pipes. Towards the south, Trial Pits 3 and 5 demonstrated that an increasing amount of hardcore levelling had occurred in recent years. In Trial Pit 5, the levelling was up to 0.60m thick, slightly truncating the earlier modern topsoil. In Trial Pit 3, the levelling was up to 1.00m thick, truncating the earlier, probably prehistoric, ground horizon.

4.2 Impact assessment

The combined results of the field and documentary surveys will be studied in relation to the proposed development, with particular attention given to areas of known or potential intrusions or construction activities likely to cause damage or disturbance to the archaeological resource. Should it be the case that the proposal will have an impact on the archaeological deposits; an appropriate and agreed scheme of archaeological mitigation will be compiled and recommended.

Archaeological resource

- The projected depth of natural subsoil below the site is shown on Fig 2. This is thought likely to lie at *c.* 23m OD at the south end of the site, rising to *c.* 25.5m OD in the north, with the Mesolithic shoreline projected to pass broadly across the centre of the site at *c.* 24m OD. The current results suggest that possibly parts of a ?Mesolithic, or certainly, prehistoric, buried land horizon lie at 25.39m OD in the area of Trial Pit 3, while a thin band representing a probable buried land surface, lies at between 25.71m OD and 25.90m OD further north.

- The present ground level is at *c.* 27m OD.

- The archaeological deposits in this area are likely to consist of organic deposits immediately above the former gravel lake bed which may show similar characteristics to the Star Carr site, which occupies a similar topographical location in relation to the shoreline. The deposits are likely to include natural siltation within reedbeds around the lake fringe, followed by potential evidence for occupation, which could include artefacts and structures.

- Archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains preserved in wetland or waterlogged conditions are extremely vulnerable to changes in ground conditions; these can be caused by fluctuations in the water table and the introduction of aerobic bacteria as the result of natural variations in rainfall, drainage, exposure, disturbance, or nearby excavations.

- Sources of disturbance include agricultural practices, construction activities and intrusive archaeological interventions.

Impacts

- At present, it is understood that the principal construction impact will be from the construction of a portal-framed building. The six steel columns along either side will probably require individual concrete pads measuring 1200m x 1200m and 300mm deep, the tops of the pads being located 600mm below the present ground surface. The current archaeological site work has excavated, completely, the four outer corners of the position of the proposed portal framed building down to naturally occurring proglacial ground. Any other foundations pits for additional columns will require archaeological monitoring during excavation.

- The two gable infill columns at either end will be supported on 750 x 750 x 300mm pads, the tops being 600mm below ground level. These will require archaeological monitoring during excavation.

- The depth of the pad foundations will depend on the level, nature and bearing capacity of the underlying subsoil.

- Between the columns will be shallow concrete strip foundations for the concrete wall panels; these may be 300 x 150mm deep. It may not be necessary to require archaeological monitoring of these elements of the foundations due to their shallow depth.

- The weighbridge will be constructed 150–225mm above ground and will have minimum impact.

- The proposed fuel tanks will be constructed above ground level.

- There may be disturbance from pipes, sumps and drains.

- New areas of surfacing will be laid to HGV standard, extending the existing surfaces on site. These may be raised, and depth of general disturbance is therefore currently unknown.

- Archaeological and geotechnical investigation will constitute localised impact around the trial pits.

4.3 Recommendations

The views and recommendations expressed in this section are those of Humber Field Archaeology, and will not necessarily be those of the local authority.

In view of the results of this assessment, it is clear that deposits of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental importance are present on the site, and that the development will have some impact, particularly in the southern part of the area of the proposed portal-framed building, and in areas where deep services are envisaged, also to the south.

It is proposed that the individual pad foundation pits for the portal frame are excavated by machine to the base of recent deposits (topsoil and plough subsoil) and to the uppermost archaeological horizon, which are then hand cleaned, recorded and excavated to the natural surface. It will be noted that the current trial pits have been placed exactly in the position of the four corners of the proposed portal framed building and have been excavated fully down into naturally occurring proglacial material. In essence, therefore, monitoring will only be required for additional foundation pits associated with other columns supporting the building. If no archaeological material or deposits are encountered, the excavations should continue to the proposed depths under continuous archaeological supervision. Furthermore, a continuously-monitored watching brief should be maintained on deep linear services, foundation trenches and areas of site stripping where these potentially intrude into

archaeological strata. Examination of the soil sample examined following the current work does not suggest that the buried soil horizons encountered so far have significant palaeoenvironmental potential; this does not, however, rule out the taking of further samples during the archaeological monitoring should suitable deposits be encountered.

The results of all archaeological fieldwork should be incorporated into a detailed assessment report, including a summary of the trial pit programme, and any specialist assessments carried out as required.

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The on-site work was carried out by Doug Jobling of HFA in accordance with a site-specific project design. Thanks are also due to John Carrott of Palaeoecology Research Services Ltd for examining and providing comments on the environmental sample.

The account of the evaluation and the figures and plates reproduced in this report are the work of Doug Jobling. The report was edited by Trevor Brigham and Ken Steedman, who also contributed to the Discussion and Recommendations.

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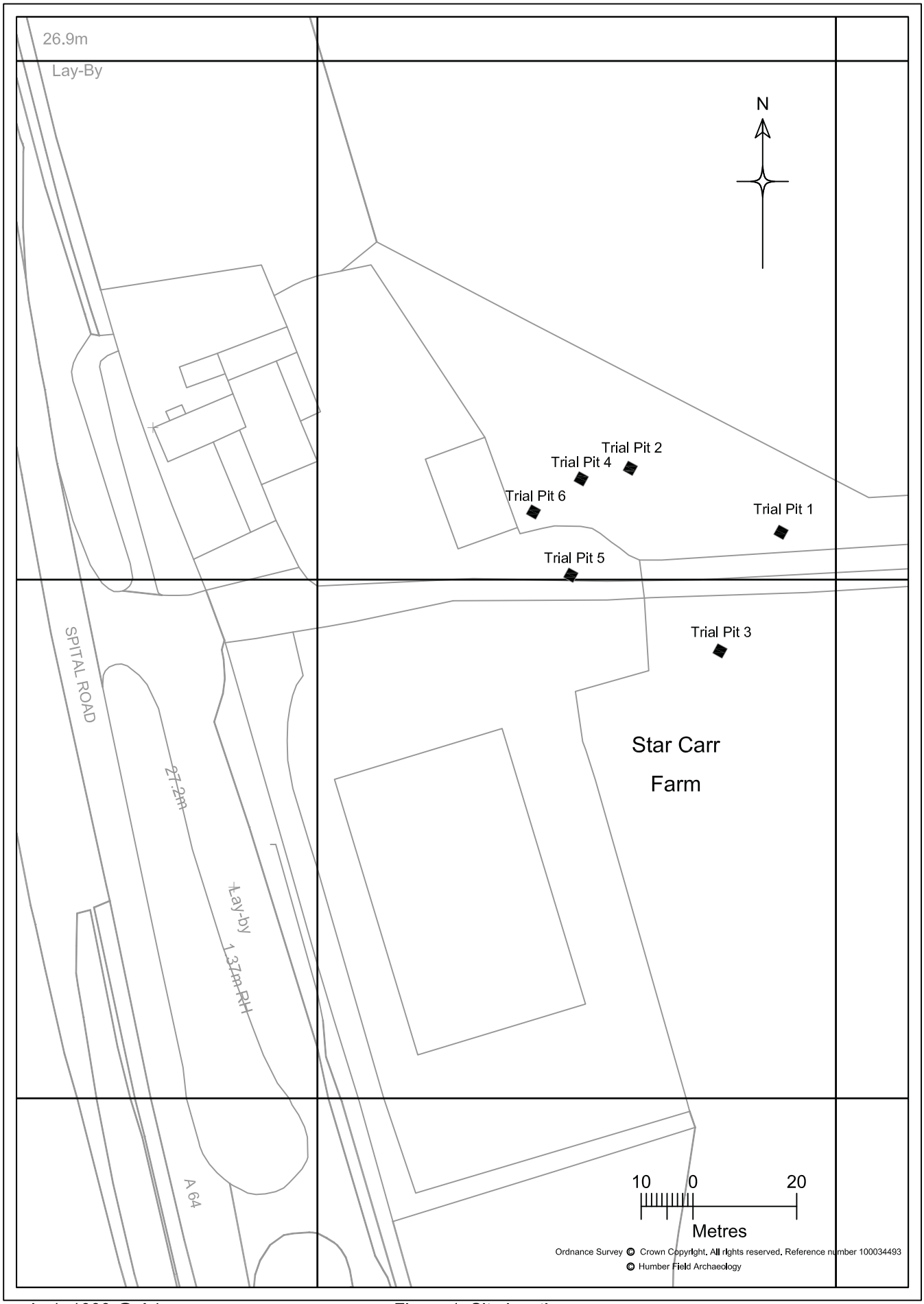

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Figure 1 Site location

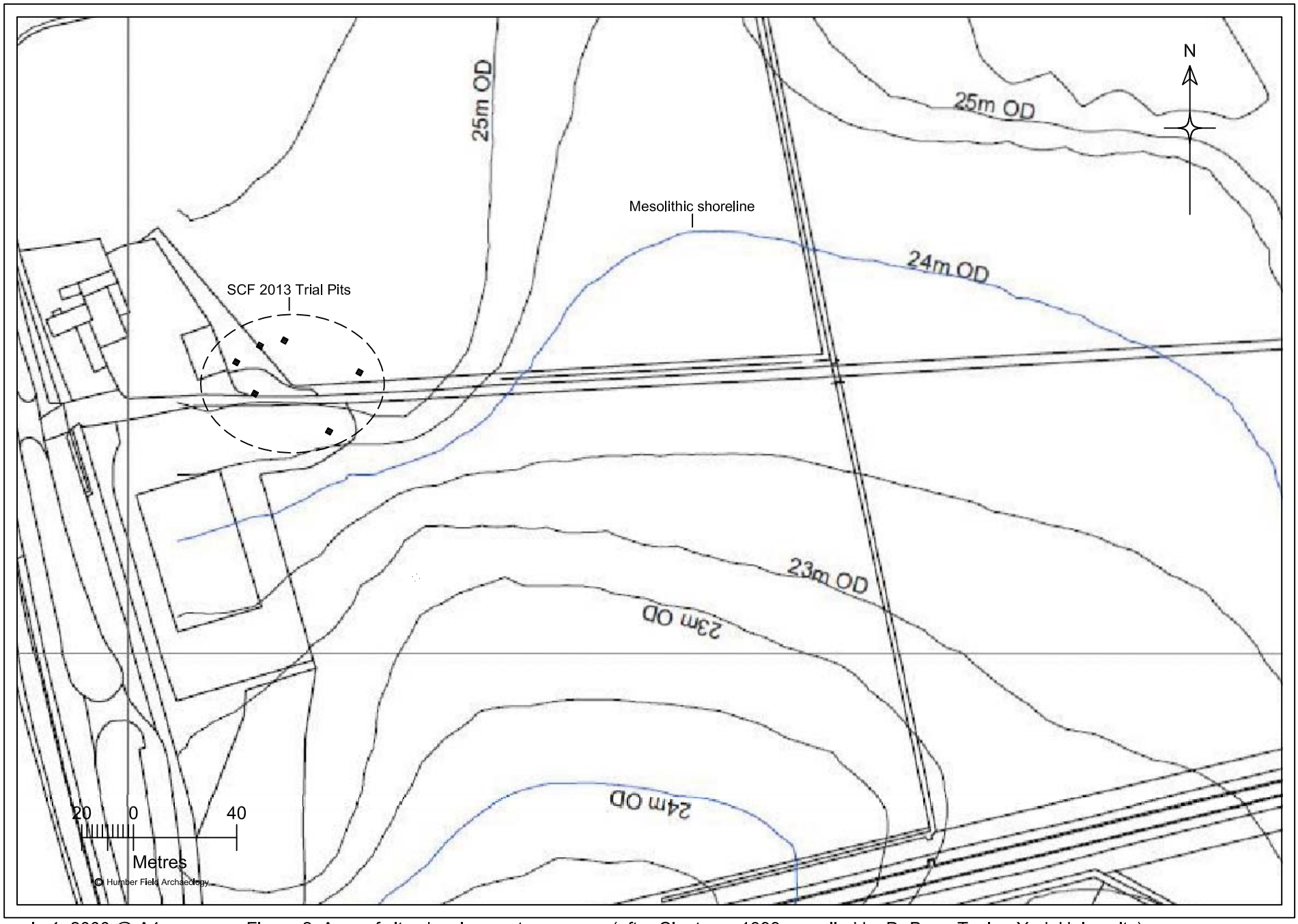

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Figure 2 Area of site showing contour survey (after Cloutman 1988, supplied by Dr Barry Taylor, York University) showing the Mesolithic shoreline (blue) at 24m OD in relation to the SCF 2013 Trial Pits

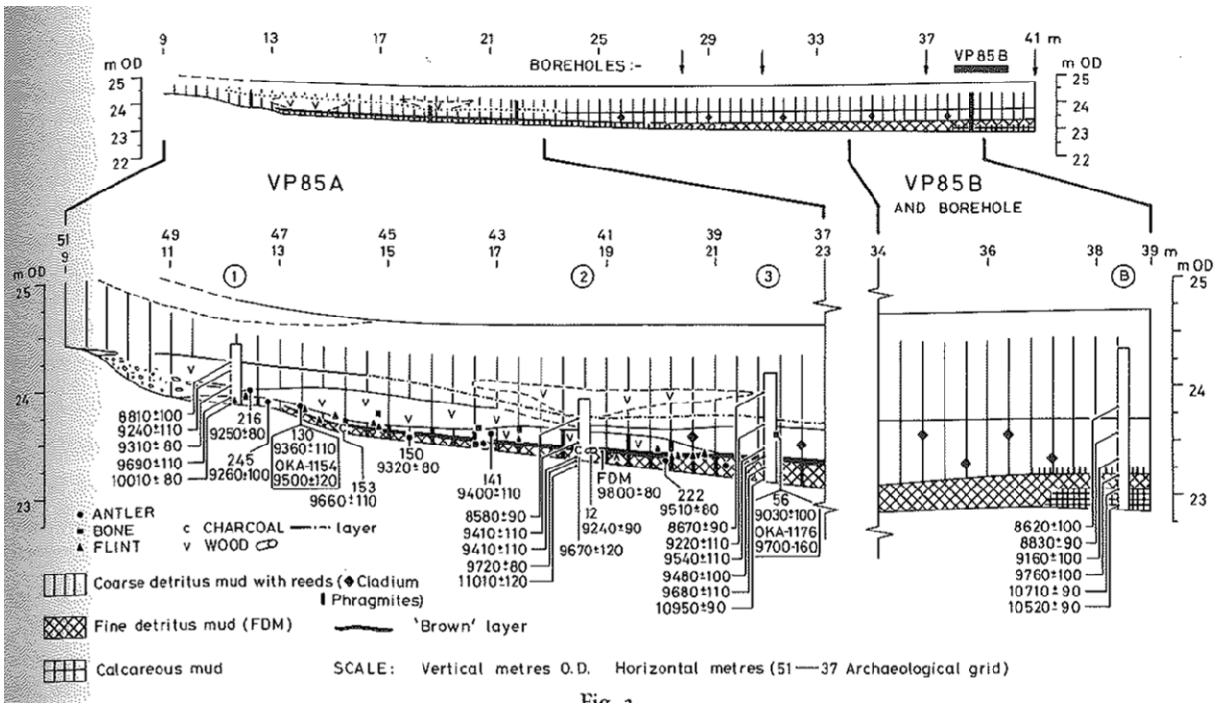
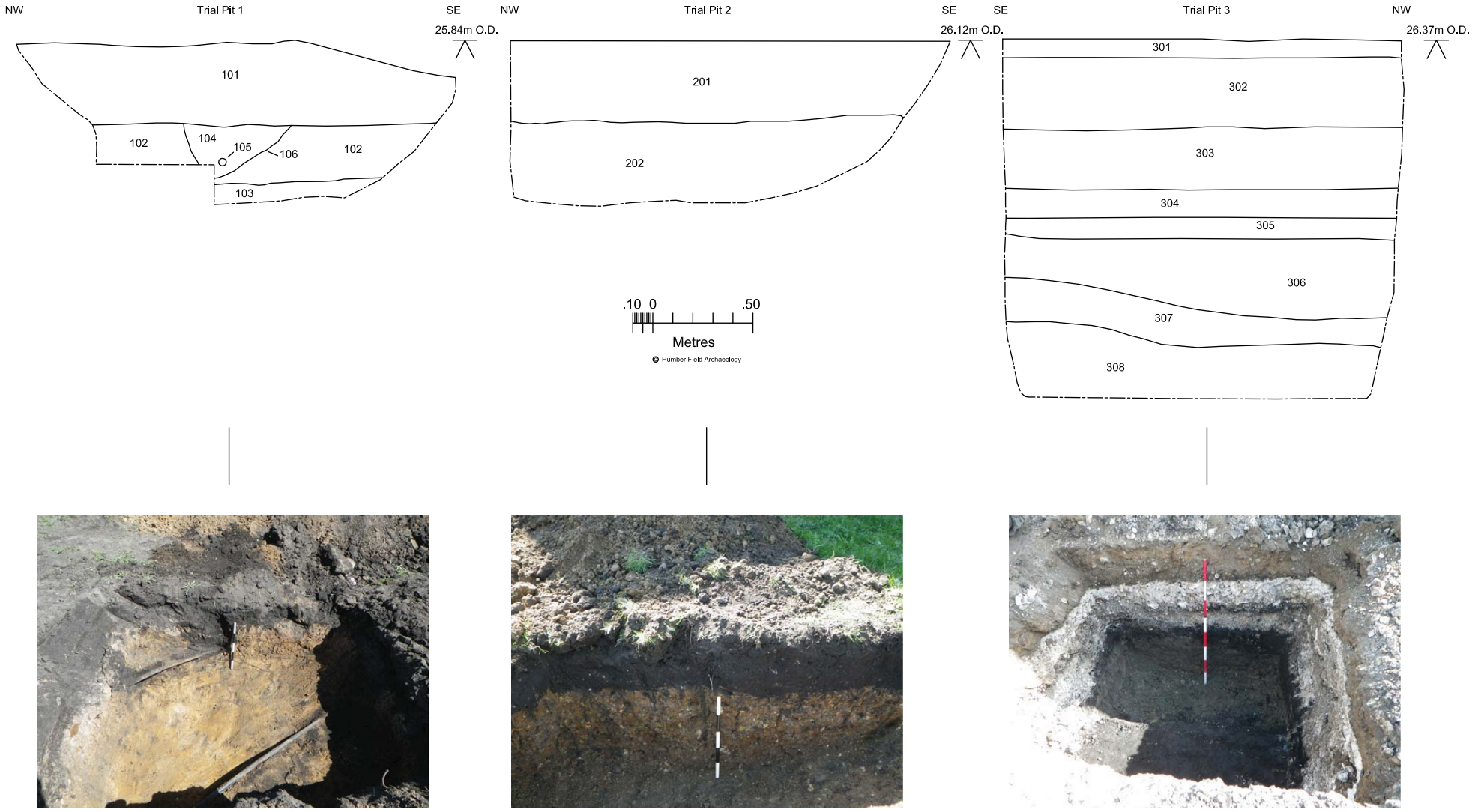
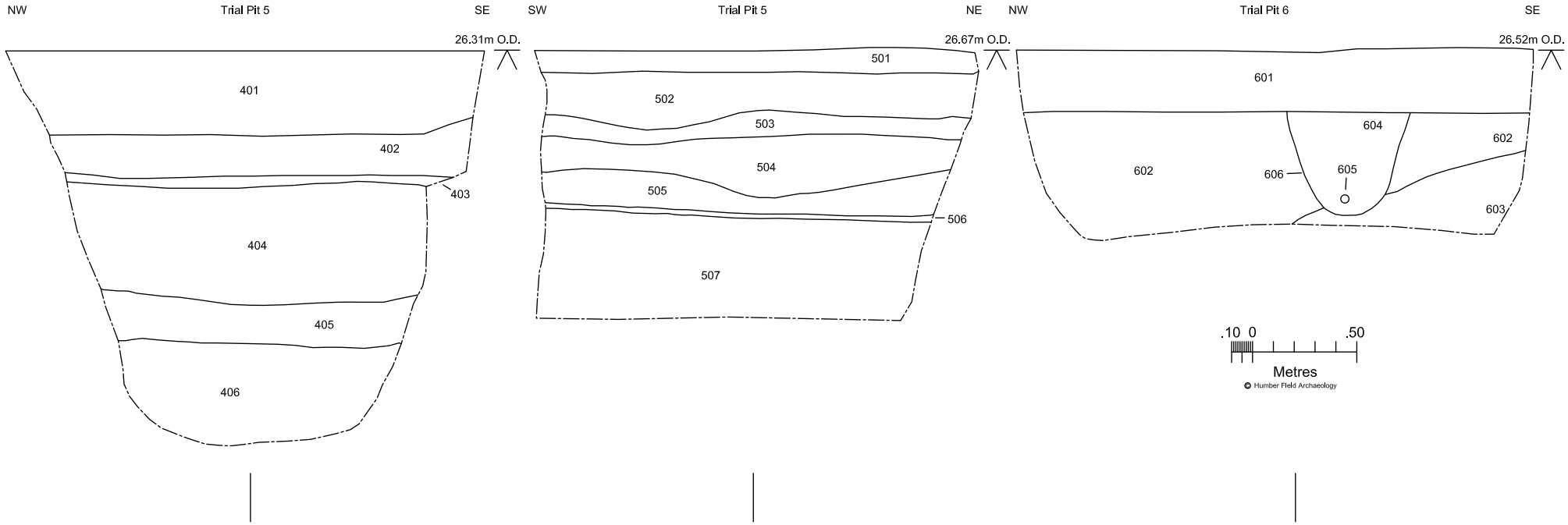


Figure 3 Vertically exaggerated detail of stratification from Star Carr excavations VP85a and B showing lake edge sequence (Cloutman & Smith 1988, fig 3)



illustrations scale 1: 20 @ A3, photographs not to scale

Figure 4 Trial Pits 1 to 3



illustrations scale 1: 20 @ A3, photographs not to scale

Figure 5 Trial Pits 4 to 6

Plate 1 The entrance to Star Carr Farm, looking north-east

Plate 2 Trial Pit 1 viewed from the south-west, 1m scale

Plate 3 Trial Pit 2 looking south-east, 1m scale

Plate 4 Trial Pit 3 under excavation, looking east

Plate 5 Trial Pit 4 as viewed from the north-west. 0.5m and 2m scales

Plate 6 Trial Pit 5, looking north-east, 1m scale

Plate 7 Trial Pit 6 viewed from the north-west, 1m scale

Humber Field Archaeology

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Project Management • Desk-based Assessment • Field Survey • Excavation
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