

**Report on an
Archaeological Investigation at
Fold Farm, Taddington, Derbyshire.**



Trench location prior to excavation. Facing west.

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ARS Ltd Report 2010/21

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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Executive Summary

Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned to undertake an archaeological investigation on the site of a proposed 15m parking/ access area, situated to the south of existing barns due to be converted to 5 dwellings at Fold Farm Taddington, Derbyshire on behalf of Mr Mark Allen.

An archaeological survey undertaken in 1995 within a paddock which encompasses the above area suggested the remains of features which related to boundaries of a medieval village layout.

A single evaluation trench was targeted on one of these features, with the intention of establishing the presence, extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological features revealed.

Excavation of the trench revealed the linear feature to be a foundation wall running north and south and probably related to a former boundary wall. No buried land surfaces, deposits or material culture suggesting Medieval activity were identified.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document reports the findings of an archaeological field investigation undertaken by Alvaro Mora-Ottomano and Brian Marshall of Archaeological Research Services Ltd on behalf of Mr Mark Allen of Fold Farm, Taddington. It was recommended by the Peak District National Park Authority that an investigation be undertaken as it was believed that the proposed development could impact on archaeological remains associated with the shrunken medieval village which may be present on the site. The investigation took the form of a targeted trench which aimed to determine the presence and nature of any archaeological remains which may be disturbed or destroyed by the development.

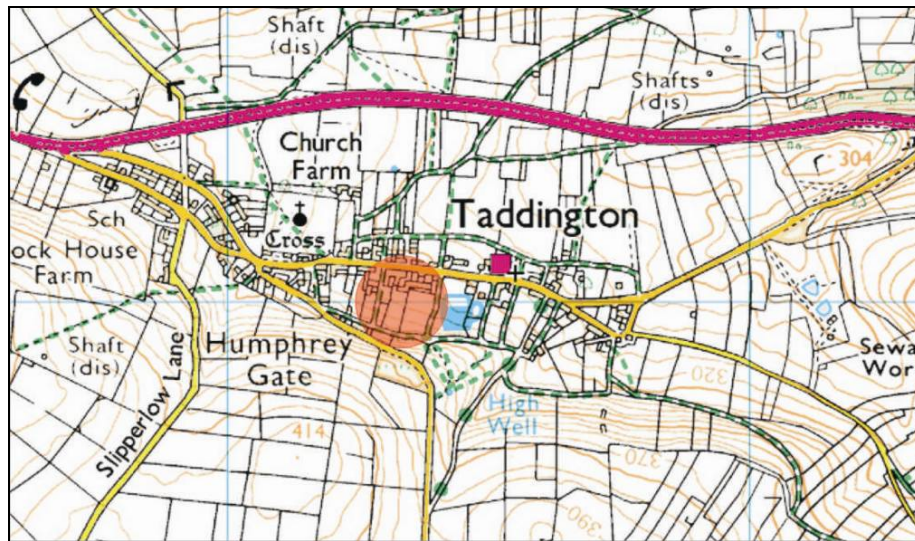


Fig. 1: Location map showing the general position of the development site.

2. Location and Geology

- 2.1 Taddington is located alongside the A6 between Ashford-in-the-Water and Buxton and within the boundaries of the Peak District National Park (Fig 1). The site is situated to the south of Main Road within a paddock of coarse grassland, to the rear the Slipperlow Buildings centred upon grid reference SK 14314 71003 (Fig. 2)
- 2.2 Taddington is situated on the central limestone plateau of the White Peak, with the underlying bedrock consisting of the Bee Low Limestone Formation (BGS 2009).

3. Background

- 3.1 In the immediate surroundings of the village of Taddington are a number of important Prehistoric monuments. The Neolithic chambered passage tomb Five Wells lies 2km to the west of the village and there is evidence of a possible Neolithic occupation site in the form of stone axes, scrapers and knives found

within 1km of the village (www.pastscape.org.uk). There are also a number of Bronze Age barrows, including Slipper Low and Priestcliffe, which also lie within 1km of the site. Medieval and Post-Medieval cultivation terraces, lynchets, lime kilns, quarries and lead rakes are present in the surrounding landscape suggesting extended occupation at Taddington. The church is 14th century in date and has a decorated shaft, believed to be of Norman origin, in the churchyard.


- 3.2 The site of the proposed development corresponds to an area of land within Taddington village which was the subject of a rapid archaeological survey in 1995. This work was undertaken by John Barnatt, Survey Archaeologist with the Peak District National Park Authority. At the time of the survey earthworks within the paddock to the rear of the barns were described as follows:

‘This paddock has extensive earthwork remains indicating previous subdivision and there are potential building platforms. Some of the boundaries may relate to the medieval village layout, reflecting the original crofts and tofts. As such they indicate that Taddington, while still a large settlement, is in fact a shrunken medieval village. At A are the footings of a small stone shed, this is not shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1879 and has been added subsequently. At B is a disused dew pond, lined with concrete. This is shown on maps from the 1848 Tithe map onwards, the date of the earliest available detailed map of the village. The old boundaries comprise banks, lynchets and a broad gully, some more pronounced than others. Areas at C, D and E are flat-topped which may indicate they are building platforms. In 1795, 1848 and 1879 the area was much as today, except that the small close at F existed in 1879 but had been created subsequent to 1848 (anon. 1795, 1848, Ordnance Survey 1879). All the features in the southern half of the close had been abandoned prior to 1795. The broad gully may indicate that there was a medieval croft boundary here, with a path between the two holdings, a feature which is distinctive of Taddington, there being several surviving examples. All three potential building platforms look reasonably convincing, but other explanations such as garden plots should also be considered. That at E may have been a building designed to be accessed from the back lane.’

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aim of the investigation was to gather sufficient information to establish the presence, extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological features and deposits within the area of proposed development. This included the detailed recording and assessment of the exposed deposits to inform the decision as to whether further archaeological intervention was required prior to, or during, the main construction phase of both the current application site and wider development area.



<p>Archaeological Research Services Ltd Daysb Building University of Newcastle upon Tyne Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU</p>	<p>Figure 2 Site Plan</p>	<p>Key:</p> <p> Investigation Trench</p>	<p>Copyright/Licencing: This drawing © A.R.S. Ltd</p> <p>Ordnance Survey data if applicable © Crown Copyright, all rights reserved reproduced with permission. Licence No. 100045420</p>
<p>Site Code: Fold 10 Drawing Date: 23-03-2010 Drawn: BM Scale: 1:500 at A4</p>	<p>Notes:</p>		

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The trench location was accurately plotted by measurement to local permanent features shown on published Ordnance Survey maps in a location which had previously been agreed with the Senior Conservation Archaeologist of the peak District National Park Authority.
- 5.2 The trench was opened in a controlled manner, using an appropriate mechanical excavator equipped with a wide, toothless ditching blade and operated by an experienced sub-contractor. Excavation was under direct archaeological supervision from a qualified and experienced member of staff from Archaeological Research Services Ltd, and undertaken in a series of level horizontal spits, each no greater than 100mm deep. The mechanical excavation was undertaken down to the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology.
- 5.3 Following excavation of the trench to the prescribed level, the trench was hand cleaned and examined to determine the presence of any archaeological features.
- 5.4 A full written, drawn, electronic and photographic record, as appropriate, was made of all material revealed during the course of the excavation. Plans were completed at a scale of 1:50 with section. A minimum 35mm format for photography was required (in monochrome and colour); two cameras were available on site. The stratigraphy of the trench was to be recorded even where no archaeological deposits were identified. All archaeological deposits and features were recorded with above Ordnance Datum (AOD) levels.
- 5.5 Mechanically excavated spoil was monitored in order to recover artefacts to assist in the spatial distribution of finds

6. Assessment Results

- 6.1 The trench was located along an east to west axis close to the western boundary of the paddock in a position intended to examine a north to south aligned linear feature identified on the 1995 survey of John Barnatt (Fig. 7). The trench measured 10m x 2m and was located within the proposed 15m parking/access area to the south of the existing barns at Slipperlow Buildings (Fig. 2).
- 6.2 Removal of the overlaying turf revealed homogeneous dark greyish brown coloured topsoil (001), with a firm silty clay texture and moderate root penetration. Excavated to a depth of between 0.2m and 0.3m, (001) directly overlay the natural substratum of limestone brash (003). A small assemblage of pottery sherds retrieved from (001) were identified as modern in date.
- 6.3 Approximately 4.1m from the western extent of the trench, excavation was carefully undertaken as contact was made with a north to south orientated stone feature (002) previously identified through surface remains.
 - 6.3.1 When fully cleaned back by hand (002) was identified as a foundation wall which extended to the north and south beyond the limits of the trench. The foundation wall was constructed using angular limestone random rubble with a width of

0.8m to 0.9m and a maximum height of 0.4m (Fig. 3). Extant to three courses in height the random rubble was laid onto natural bedrock and bonded intermittently by brown clay.



Fig. 3: Remains of foundation wall (002). Facing east. Scale 1m.

- 6.4 At a point 1m east of (002) redeposited topsoil was encountered which when excavated to a depth of 0.26m revealed skeletal remains of an animal, these were further uncovered by hand (Figs. 4 & 5). Examination of the skeleton which measured approximately 0.8m head to tail revealed the joints to be in an un-fused state. Deposited in a shallow pit, it was concluded that the remains were of animal origin, probably a lamb. The content of the redeposited topsoil included a grey gravel matrix and small sherds of modern pottery.
- 6.5 Further excavation to the east which completed the excavation of the trench, revealed the stratigraphy to be consistent with that encountered at the western extent, consisting of topsoil overlaying natural bedrock (Fig. 6). No further archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds were encountered.



Fig. 4: Skeletal remains exposed. Facing west. Scale 1m



Fig. 5: Excavating the skeletal remains



Fig. 6: Post-excitation condition of the trench. Facing west. Scale 1m.

7. Discussion

- 7.1 A survey undertaken in 1995 by John Barnatt, Survey Archaeologist with the Peak District National Park Authority recorded the footings of a small stone shed positioned at the southern extent of a north to south aligned linear feature (Fig.7). The linear feature is also evident on the 1st edition OS map of 1879, but the area of the stone shed is not apparent on this map, suggesting construction of the shed at a later date.
- 7.2 Specifically positioned to target the alignment of the linear feature, excavation of the trench has identified the feature to be the foundations of a probable boundary wall. The wall can be detected running south with a possible return wall aligned west after approximately 20m. The continuation of the foundation wall to the north and south of the trench, suggest it probably follows the alignment of the linear feature mapped on the survey of 1995 and OS map of 1879 (Figs. 7 & 8, Appendix 1).

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The archaeological survey referred to in the brief supplied by the senior archaeologist of the PDNPA suggested there may be boundaries within the paddock which relate to a medieval layout of the village. The wall foundations are mapped on the 1st Edition OS map but from the limited excavation undertaken there were no buried land surfaces, deposits or material culture which could secure a Medieval date to this wall.

9. Archive Statement

- 9.1 Within two months of the completion of the project the site archive will be deposited in accordance with the procedures set-out in “Procedures for the Transfer of Archaeological Archives” (2003) with the relevant Museum, which in this instance is;

Buxton Museum and Art Gallery

Terrace Road

Buxton

Derbyshire

SK17 6DA

01298 24658

The accession number for this archive is DERSB 2010.18

10. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

- 10.1. Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 10.2. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

11. Statement of Indemnity

- 11.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

12. Acknowledgements

- 12.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those who contributed to the outcome of this project, in particular the Allen family and Sarah Whitely, Senior Archaeologist of the Peak District National Park Authority.

13. References

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English Heritage, *Archaeological Science at PPG16 interventions: Best Practice Guidance for Curators and Commissioning Archaeologists*. 2003 updated November 2006

IfA, *Code of Conduct*, Revised edition, October 2009

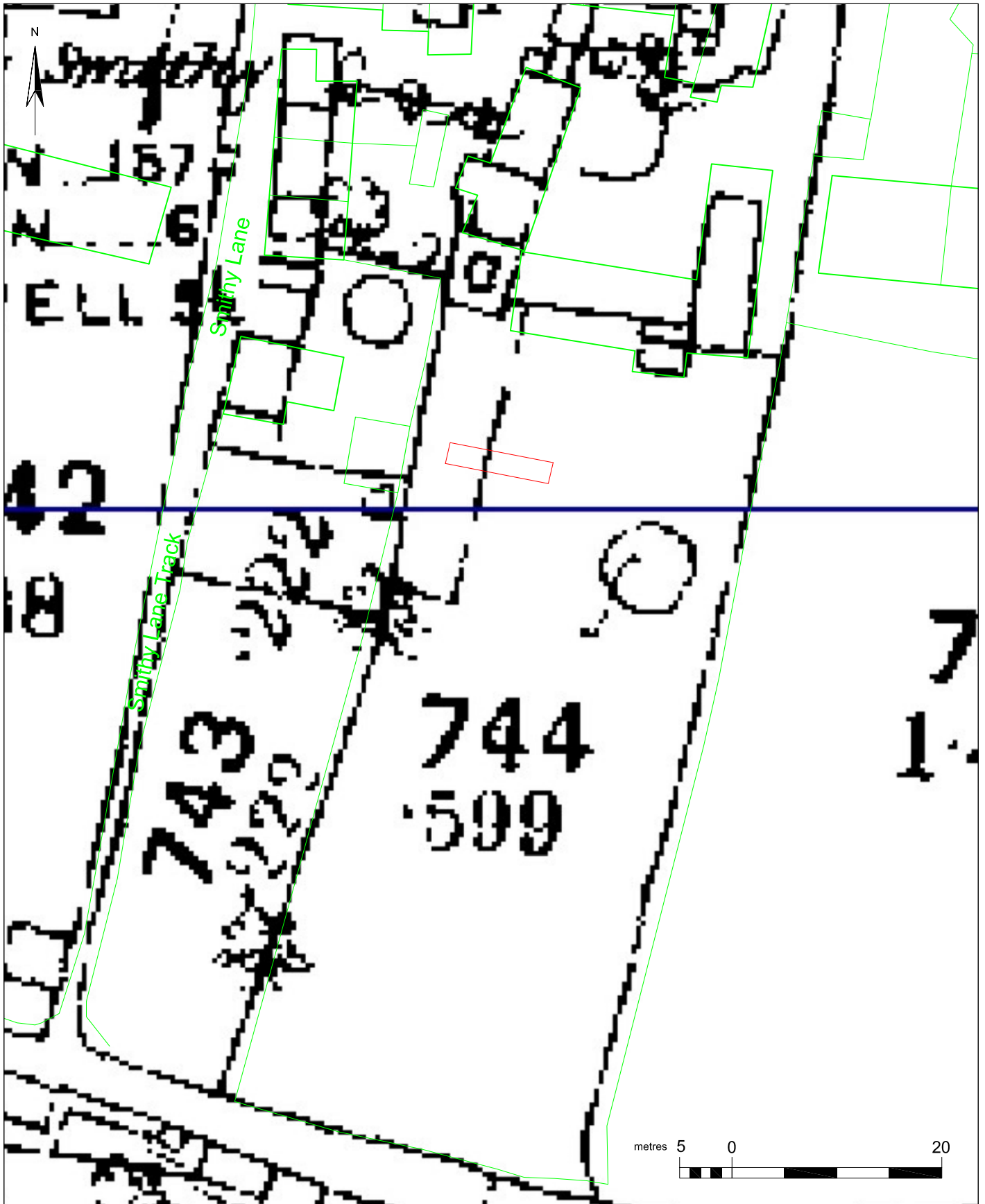
Websites

British Geological Survey www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/index.htm

Appendix One: Maps and Plans




Archaeological Research Services Ltd Angel House Portland Square Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1HB	<p align="center">Figure 7</p> <p align="center">1995 survey with site plan overlay</p>	<p>Key:</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid red; width: 40px; height: 15px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> Investigation Trench </div>	<p>Copyright/Licencing: This drawing © A.R.S., Ltd</p> <p><small>Ordnance Survey data if applicable © Crown Copyright, all rights reserved reproduced with permission. Licence No. 100045420</small></p>
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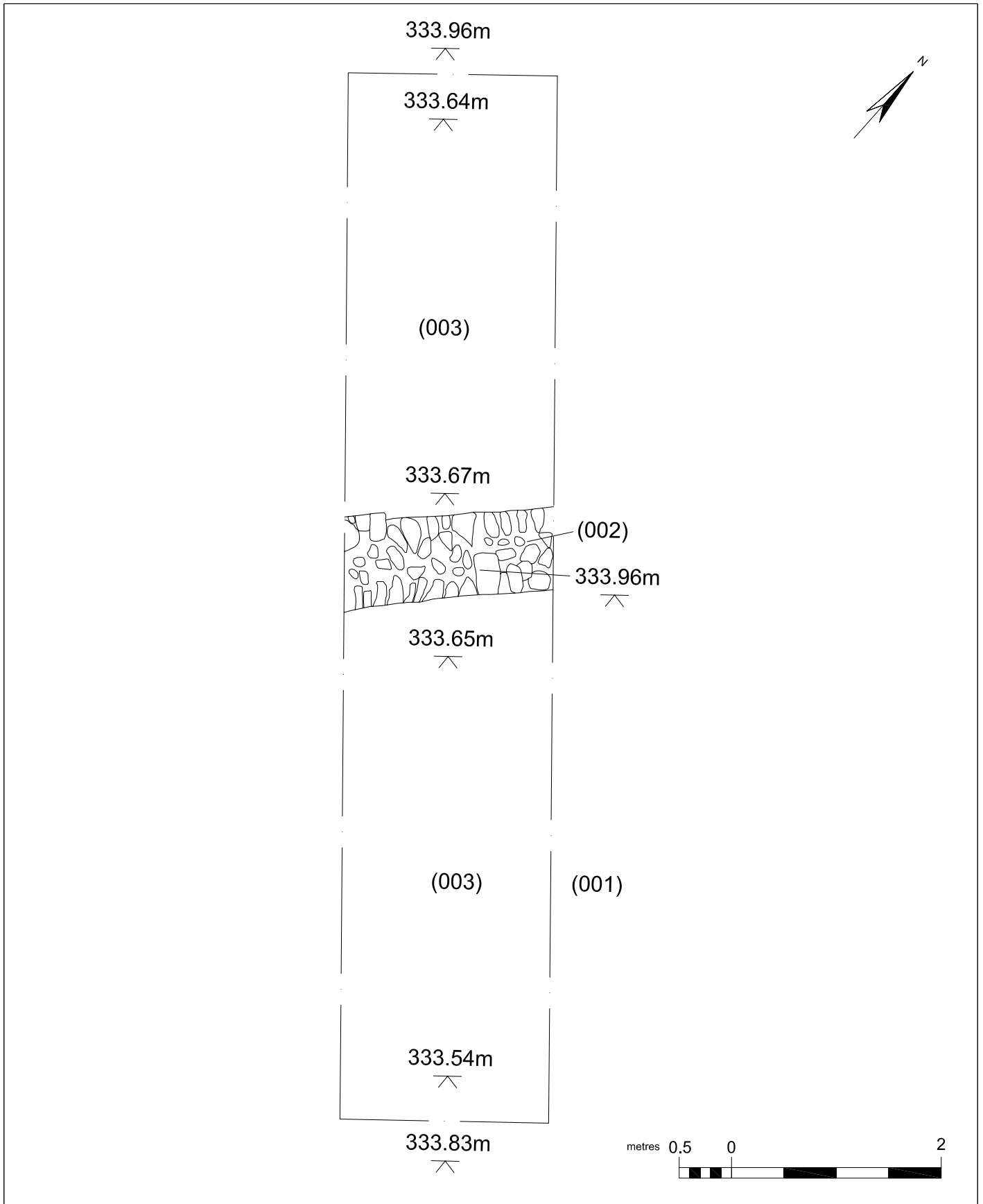
Figure 8
 1879 1st Edition OS map
 with site plan overlay

Key:
 Investigation Trench

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 Date: 23-03-2010
 Drawn: BM
 Scale: 1:500 at A4

Notes:



Archaeological Research Services Ltd Angel House Portland Square Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1HB	<p style="text-align: center;">Figure 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Investigation trench plan</p>	Key:	<p>Copyright/Licencing:</p> <p>This drawing © A.R.S. Ltd</p> <p>Ordnance Survey data if applicable © Crown Copyright, all rights reserved reproduced with permission. Licence No. 100045420</p>
Site Code: Fold 10 Drawing Ref: Date: 23-03-2010 Drawn: BM Scale: 1:50 at A4	Notes:		

Appendix Two: Context Register

Feature Number	Description
001	Homogeneous dark greyish brown coloured topsoil , with a firm silty clay texture and moderate root penetration. Excavated to a depth of between 0.2m and 0.3m, it directly overlay the natural substratum of limestone brash (003) and extended across the trench.
002	Wall foundations constructed with un-coarsed angular limestone random rubble, three courses high and bonded with a brown clay, extent to a width of 0.8m to 0.9m and a maximum height of 0.4m
003	Natural deposit of limestone brash, across the extent of the trench