



# Cuthbright Wood, Harthill South Yorkshire

Community Archaeological Evaluation



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## Summary

Wessex Archaeology was approached by Harthill with Woodall Archaeology Group to carry out an archaeological evaluation in Cuthbright Wood, which is located approximately 1 km east of the village of Harthill in South Yorkshire. The work was a community project proposed by Harthill resident Paul Rowland and Wessex Archaeology project manager Milica Rajic. The evaluation was undertaken in June 2018 by a mixed team of staff from Wessex Archaeology and local volunteers working under the direction of Wessex Archaeology.

A total of 10 trenches was excavated across the wood's 10.4 hectares. Three trenches targeted visible earthworks, whilst two others targeted cropmarks seen extending into the wood from the west on aerial photographs. All other trenches were dug in 'blank' areas. There were two excavation areas: trenches 1–8 lay in the west of the wood and trenches 9 and 10 were located in its southeastern corner.

The earliest material encountered was medieval pottery found redeposited alongside later wares, and there is no evidence for any earlier activity. No features obviously associated with the cropmark features visible to the west of the wood were revealed. Excavated features comprise potential stone surfaces, a bomb crater or quarry pit, and a possible World War II Home Guard defensive emplacement, although the function and formation process of most features could not be securely established.

The discovery of a likely lynchet within the wood and the recovery from the trenches of a medieval/post-medieval artefact scatter typical of manuring suggest that the wood was once cultivated, with cartographic evidence indicating that the change of use pre-dates 1854.

The finds assemblage is fairly modest, with a limited range of materials present. Aside from three medieval sherds, all of the ceramic material retrieved was post-medieval or modern, and the majority of the artefacts were recovered from topsoil and subsoil deposits.

Overall, the evaluation was successful in meeting its aims and objectives. Although questions remain regarding the interpretation of most features, there is so far little indication that the site is of a significantly elevated archaeological potential. During the fieldwork, staff of Wessex Archaeology were able to pass on excavation and recording skills to local volunteers (since coalesced into the Harthill with Woodall Archaeology Group), and the two parties exchanged many ideas and insights regarding the archaeology of the area. Such fruitful collaboration was perhaps the greatest success of the project.



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This report was written by Amy Derrick and edited by Patrick Daniel. The figures were produced by Paul Rowland and Ian Atkins; Lorraine Mephram assessed the finds. The project was managed by Milica Rajic on behalf of Wessex Archaeology.



# Cuthbright Wood, Harthill, South Yorkshire

## Community Archaeological Evaluation

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was approached by Harthill with Woodall Archaeology Group to undertake the archaeological evaluation of a 10.4 ha site at Cuthbright Wood, Harthill, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, centred on NGR 450477 381039 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2018).
- 1.1.3 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 10 trenches and was undertaken 4th–22nd June 2018. The evaluation focussed on two areas: trenches 1–8 in the west of the wood and trenches 9 and 10 in its southeastern corner.

#### 1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

#### 1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area is located in Cuthbright Wood (S Yorks), which lies 1 km ENE of the village Harthill (S Yorks) and 8.6 km west of Worksop (Notts).
- 1.3.2 Existing ground levels lie at approximately 125 m above Ordnance Datum (OD).
- 1.3.3 The bedrock geology is mapped as Mudstone of the Cadeby Formation. with no superficial deposits recorded. The site lies close to a geological boundary: sedimentary rocks of the Pennine Coal Measures Formation lie immediately west of Cuthbright Wood (British Geological Survey online viewer).

### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following section summarises information presented within reports relating to nearby projects undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2013 and 2017, the latter of which drew on a pre-existing desk-based assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2013b & 2017b; ERM 2017).





## **2.2 Prehistoric**

- 2.2.1 Numerous findspots of surface-collected flint are known from the vicinity of the site, including near Bondhay Dike (Thorpe Common), the site of the Loscar Farm wind turbine development (Oxford Archaeology North 2005), and from a field west of Thorpe Salvin (Wessex Archaeology 2019).

## **2.3 Romano-British**

- 2.3.1 An archaeological evaluation 650 m to the south of the site recovered Romano-British pottery from a pit and a ditch thought to relate to a ditched field system (Wessex Archaeology 2017b)
- 2.3.2 Roman metalwork including coins and jewellery has been found to the north of Thorpe Salvin, approximately 2 km to the north-east of the site.
- 2.3.3 The wood is adjacent to Hunger Hill where cropmarks of a potential sub-rectangular enclosure are visible on aerial photographic imagery. The feature has not been investigated, but an Iron Age or Romano-British date is feasible on morphological grounds.

## **2.4 Medieval to post-medieval**

- 2.4.1 Harthill enters the historical record in the *Domesday* survey of 1086. The 13th-century All Hallows Church (restored during the 19th century) lies approximately 1 km west of the site. The remains of a possible medieval market cross have also been identified nearby.
- 2.4.2 Medieval burgage plots are still well represented throughout the village, with numerous timber-framed buildings dating from the 14th to 18th centuries, as well as vernacular buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 2.4.3 The remains of a quarry lie in the field to the east of the site, with a well and pond also marked on early Ordnance Survey mapping in the field to the west.

## **2.5 Previous investigations**

- 2.5.1 There have been no previous archaeological excavations carried out within the site. The nearest intrusive investigations were carried out 650 m south of the site and are described below.

### *Walkover survey 2005*

- 2.5.2 Finds dating from the Mesolithic to the post-medieval periods were identified during a walkover survey in advance of the Loscar Farm wind farm development, 1 km south-east of the site (Oxford Archaeology North 2005).

### *Watching brief, Harthill 2013*

- 2.5.3 No archaeological features were encountered during an archaeological watching brief carried out by Wessex Archaeology during development at 4 Union Street, Harthill (Wessex Archaeology 2013b).

### *Fieldwalking survey 2016*

- 2.5.4 Fieldwalking of an arable field to the east of Thorpe Salvin recovered a small assemblage of post-medieval to modern artefacts, and a plano-convex knife of probable Early Bronze Age date (Wessex Archaeology 2019). The fieldwalked area lies approximately 500m north-east of the site.



#### *Gradiometer survey 2017*

- 2.5.5 A detailed gradiometer survey of land to the north of Common Road (650 m south of the site) demonstrated the presence of a number of anomalies of possible archaeological origin (Wessex Archaeology 2017a). This included a substantial number of ditch-like features potentially forming a network of Iron Age or Romano-British enclosures. However, the anomalies were consistent with geological responses found on similar dolostone geology at Clowne (Wessex Archaeology 2013a) making a conclusion as to their origin difficult. A circular anomaly representing a potential small enclosure or Bronze Age round barrow was present in the north-west of the surveyed area.

#### *Archaeological evaluation 2017*

- 2.5.6 In 2017 Wessex Archaeology conducted archaeological evaluation trenching at the site that had been subject to gradiometer survey (detailed above; Wessex Archaeology 2017b). Four sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from two different features. One late medieval sherd was also recovered.

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 General aims**

- 3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in compliance with the ClfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a), were:

- to provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- to inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be carried on.

#### **3.2 General objectives**

- 3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were:

- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- to establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- to place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- to make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

#### **3.3 Site-specific objectives**

- 3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site the site-specific objectives defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) were:

- to determine the presence, extent, condition, character, significance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;
- to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated;



- to prepare a comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits or structures or artefacts identified;
- to put the results of the excavation in context by comparing it with similar/related sites within the local area as well as its regional and national contexts; and
- to disseminate the results, should archaeological deposits be encountered.

## 4 METHODS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

### 4.2 Fieldwork methods

#### *General*

- 4.2.1 All 10 trenches were excavated by hand using the single context recording methodology.
- 4.2.2 All potential features were investigated, but those which proved to be of natural/geological origin were not recorded.
- 4.2.3 Spoil derived from hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval, and where appropriate was also metal-detected and sieved using a 10 mm hand sieve. Where found, artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained.
- 4.2.4 Trenches were backfilled using excavated materials in reverse order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.
- 4.2.5 The locations of the trenches were surveyed using Leica dGPS survey equipment, but due to dense tree cover, the equipment was not in RTK (real-time kinematic) mode, leading to a greater than usual margin of error with regard to the trenches' recorded location (typically +/- c. 2.2 m). Levels were taken using an optical level and level staff, with a TBM (temporary bench mark) transited from a TBM located in open ground, whose position had been calculated using dGPS in RTK mode. The trenches and the features within them were planned by hand in relation to a local grid, with site north lying 29° west of magnetic north.

#### *Recording*

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A Harris matrix was compiled to record the relationships between stratigraphic units.
- 4.2.7 As per standard practice, excavated stratigraphic units were individually numbered and recorded, with the trench number forming the prefix for the context number. Hence, contexts 100–199 were reserved for use within trench 1 etc. Similarly, a drawing register was allocated to each trench with the trench number forming the prefix for the drawing number.
- 4.2.8 A complete drawn record of excavated features and deposits was made including both plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 for plans and 1:10 for sections), and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.



4.2.9 The OD heights of all principal features were calculated (as defined by OSGM15 and OSTN15) and the levels added to the drawings.

4.2.10 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

### **4.3 Artefactual and environmental strategies**

4.3.1 Appropriate strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2018). The treatment of artefacts was in general accordance with *Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

5.1.1 The following section provides a summary of information held in the site archive, with a full list of context numbers and context descriptions contained in Appendix 1. Archaeological features and deposits will be discussed by related trenches.

5.1.2 Nine of the trenches (90%) contained finds in various quantities and four (40%) contained potential archaeological features.

5.1.3 Excavated features comprise a likely lynchet, a potential stone surface, a bomb crater or quarry pit, and a possible World War II Home Guard defensive emplacement, although the function and formation process of most features could not be securely established. Apart from three residual medieval potsherds, all dateable finds derive from the post-medieval or modern period.

### **5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits**

5.2.1 The natural geology typically presented as a compact light brownish yellow silty sand overlying mudstone bedrock, with little variation in the trenches in the western part of the wood. There were two distinct subsoils present in trenches 1 to 6 with the earliest light brownish yellow subsoil typically between 0.30 m and 0.45 m below the modern topsoil ground surface overlaid with mid-yellowish brown subsoil from 0.20 m from the modern ground surface (Plates 1–7). This mid-yellowish brown subsoil was also present in trenches 9 and 10 and was the only subsoil in these trenches, which were located in the southeastern corner of the wood (Plates 10–11). The change in subsoil identified in trenches 1 to 6 was the result of extensive root intrusion creating a geological horizon visible in the sections of the trenches. This formation matches the difference in vegetation density between the two sets of trenches, with trenches 9 and 10 being the least vegetated.

5.2.2 The topsoil throughout the site was a largely uniform friable mid-greyish brown silty sand with frequent rooting and rare (<5%) poorly sorted subcircular and subangular stone inclusions.

5.2.3 Trenches 7 and 8 were excavated to the level of the most recent subsoil, due to deadline constraints and the specific objectives of the respective trenches.

### 5.3 Archaeological features

#### *Trenches 1 and 6*

- 5.3.1 Trenches 1 and 6 targeted the extension of a proposed feature identified on aerial photography. The feature was thought to be a linear ditch running on a ESE–WNW orientation from Hunger Hill (whose summit lies immediately west of the wood) into Cuthbright Wood. Trench 1 was irregular in plan, due to the presence of trees (Plate 12).
- 5.3.2 No traces of the targeted feature, or any other remains, were present, despite extension of trench 1. A fragment of post-medieval pottery and a clay pipe stem were present in the subsoil, 1002, indicating a fairly recent date for the formation or disturbance of this deposit.
- 5.3.3 A sondage was dug into the subsoil layer (1002) to reach the natural substrate (1003).

#### *Trenches 2, 3 and 5*

- 5.3.4 Trenches 2, 3 and 5 were dug to prospect for any further archaeological features in the wood (Plate 13–15). None of these trenches contained any archaeological features.
- 5.3.5 Post-medieval pottery and an iron nail were identified in the topsoil 2001; there were rare (<5%) charcoal flecks at the interface of deposits 2001 and 2002. Two pieces of slag were recovered: one from 2004, the fill of a tree-throw hole, and one from subsoil 3002 in trench 3. Neither appears to be *in situ* as there was no other evidence for metallurgical processes. Rare (<3%) unsorted scattered pieces of charcoal were noted in trench 5 (layers 5001 and 5002).

#### *Trenches 4 and 8*

- 5.3.6 A c. 5 m-long north–south linear depression with an accompanying deliberately made bank on its eastern side was the target of investigation. A slot was excavated through this feature, identifying a trench-like feature (4007: 1.8 x 1 x 0.7 m) cutting the subsoil. Feature 4007 had a steeply flared ‘U’-shaped profile and contained two fills (Plate 16). The earliest fill (4006: a light brownish yellow silty clay) contained post-medieval pottery. The latest fill (4005: a mid-yellowish grey silty clay) also contained post-medieval pottery, along with an iron object. Modern glass and post-medieval pottery were collected from the topsoil above the feature, similar to that found in fill 4006. In subsoils 4002 and 4003 a clay pipe stem and bowl were identified, both near the interface between the two layers. It is therefore likely that these pipe fragments were deposited within a short time period of one another.
- 5.3.7 On the eastern side of 4007 was a vague bank comprising a layer of redeposited upcast: 4008. This merged with fill 4005, and appeared to be 2.5 m wide by 0.15 m high (Figure 3). An additional trench, trench 8, positioned approximately 1.5 m south of trench 4 found the probable southern terminal of feature 4007 (Plate 17). It is possible that this feature represents a defensive position constructed by the Home Guard in the 1940s; this is discussed further below.

#### *Trench 7*

- 5.3.8 A further trench was opened to intercept the possible linear feature targeted by trenches 1 and 6. This trench was reduced to subsoil level where two spreads of angular stone fragments were exposed (Figure 4; Plate 18). The largest, 7003, comprised a subrectangular single course of sandstone and limestone. The feature measured 2.15 m long by 1.50 m wide with a height between 0.03 m and 0.07 m, and continued into the southern trench section. The second stone spread, 7004, was found to the west of 7003 and measured 0.8 x 0.8 m, and appeared more disordered than its neighbour. There were

no toolmarks or signs of re-use on any of the stones, and no artefacts were recovered from amongst them.

5.3.9 It was not possible to establish whether the stone spreads were natural features, or if they had been deliberately made, what their function may have been.

5.3.10 The targeted linear feature was not visible in this trench.

#### *Trench 9*

5.3.11 Trench 9 targeted a raised linear earthwork running north-east to south-west in the southern area of the wood. The earthwork extended 20 m within the limits of the site but may continue further. The earthwork had a reasonably well-defined west-facing side (gaining 0.5 m in height over a 3 m horizontal distance), but merged with the existing ground surface to the east. Excavation revealed that, below the topsoil, the bank consisted of an accumulation of artefactually sterile subsoil (9002 = 9003; Figure 5; Plate 19).

5.3.12 The form of the feature suggests a possible lynchet (terrace formed by ploughing). The presence of a lynchet would indicate that the site was once cultivated land.

#### *Trench 10*

5.3.13 A bowl-shaped depression located in the south-east corner of the wood with a diameter of 7 m and depth of 1.2 m was targeted in the final trench opened. 'L'-shaped slots measuring 1 m wide were excavated in the northeastern and southwestern quadrants of the depression (Figure 6; Plate 20–22). These revealed a subcircular flat-based pit cut into subsoil in the centre of the depression, 1.95 m in diameter and 1.06 m deep. The pit contained two fills: the earlier (10007: a mid-red brown silty sand) lay directly above the bedrock. The later (10006: a mid-orange brown sandy silt comprising 35% limestone and sandstone rocks <200 mm) was interpreted as deliberate backfill of pit 10005.

5.3.14 Surrounding this feature was a layer of compact sandstone and limestone fragments 100 mm–200 mm in size, from 0.15 m up to 0.8 m deep. This layer was interpreted as a natural geological substrate, although it appeared disturbed following the opening of the pit.

5.3.15 An iron nail retrieved from fill 10006 suggests this was a modern feature. It is conceivable that the pit was a bomb crater, a result of World War II bombs being dropped over the region, or a possible quarry pit. A local resident recollected the presence of a bomb disposal team entering the wood after bombs were dropped, however it is not possible to corroborate this statement.

## **6 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE**

### **6.1 Introduction**

6.1.1 The excavation yielded a small assemblage of finds, mostly of post-medieval/modern date, with a very small medieval component. Most finds were from topsoil or subsoil contexts.

6.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in Table 1.

### **6.2 Pottery**

6.2.1 The pottery assemblage amounts to 49 sherds, weighing 1024 g. There is a small proportion of medieval material, but the majority is of post-medieval/modern date. Condition ranges from fair to good; the assemblage is fragmentary, but levels of surface and edge abrasion



are relatively low. The assemblage has been quantified (sherd count and weight) by ware type within each context, with the presence of diagnostic forms noted. This information is presented in Table 2.

#### *Medieval*

- 6.2.2 All three medieval sherds were residual finds in post-medieval/modern subsoil contexts. Two sherds are Midland Purple ware from subsoil contexts 1002 and 3002, these are undiagnostic and could date anywhere between the 14th and 16th centuries. The other sherd is possibly Chilvers Coton ware (13/14th century), but was found in the subsoil amongst a larger assemblage of black glazed coarseware dating to the 17/18th century.

#### *Post-medieval/modern*

- 6.2.3 The remaining 46 sherds belong to this chronological group. There is a large coarseware component, comprising mostly black-glazed earthenware, some over an iron-rich slip (late 17th to 18th century). Diagnostic forms include jar bases and a tea pot handle. There are also two sherds of a trailed slipware jar base and one sherd of mottled earthenware. These wares are dated broadly as 17th/18th century or later.

### **6.3 Ceramic building material (CBM)**

- 6.3.1 This category comprises one undiagnostic fragment from context 4006 (fill of ditch), probably brick and of post medieval date.

### **6.4 Clay tobacco pipe**

- 6.4.1 Of the three fragments of clay pipe recovered, two are plain stem fragments from contexts 1002 and 4005. One complete bowl was found from colluvium layer 4003, this looks to be a forward drooping bowl with a smaller spur dating to around 1840–80 (Oswald 1975, fig 3, G).

### **6.5 Glass**

- 6.5.1 The glass assemblage of 8 fragments (53 g) consists of only vessel glass, green wine bottle undiagnostic body sherds. These were from contexts 4001, 4005 and 10006, topsoil, ditch fill and deliberate backfill.

### **6.6 Animal bone**

- 6.6.1 A total of 14 fragments (or 19 g) of animal bone was recovered from three topsoil/subsoil contexts 1002, 3001 and 7002. All the bones have been identified as rabbit, there are two skulls with fragments, one distal humerus, a radius, ulna and half of a pelvis. The condition of the bone is fairly good, the humerus has signs of tooth/gnawing marks along it.

### **6.7 Other finds**

- 6.7.1 Other finds comprise four fragments of abraded mortar, seven corroded iron objects; various parts of 7.5 lead shot gun casing fragments (most commonly used for small birds and animals); and 843 g of iron slag.

**Table 1** All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal bone	CBM	Clay pipe	Glass	Pottery	Other finds
1001						2 synthetics
1002	5/9		1/3		1/23	



2001					1/9	1 iron
2004						1 slag
3001	1/3					
3002					1/4	3 slag
4001				1/1	9/85	
4003			1/7			1 synthetic; 1 slag
4005			1/3	6/51	9/84	1 iron
4006		1/15			10/107	
6001						1 stone
6002						1 iron
7002	8/7					4 mortar; 1 metal; 1 slag
10001					1/48	
10002					17/664	
10006				1/1		2 iron
Unstrat						1 slag
<i>Total</i>	<i>14/19</i>	<i>1/15</i>	<i>3/13</i>	<i>8/53</i>	<i>49/1024</i>	

**Table 2** Pottery by context

Context	Ware	No. Sherds	Wt (g)	Comments	Date
1002	Midland Purple ware	1	23		C14-C16
2001	Mottled earthenware	1	9		Post med
3002	Midland Purple ware	1	4		C14-16
4001	Black-glazed coarseware	7	37		C17/C18
4001	Staffs-type slipware	2	49	Jar base	LC17/18
4005	Black-glazed fineware	9	84	Tea pot handle	C17/C18
4006	Black-glazed coarseware	10	107	Jar base	C17/18
10001	Black-glazed coarseware	1	48		C17/C18
10002	Black-glazed coarseware	16	633	Jar rim	C17/C18
10002	Chilvers Coton ware (?)	1	31		C13/14

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

### 7.1 Discussion

7.1.1 The wood has not been the subject of geophysical survey, and so it is not possible to know how the overall density of archaeological features within it compares with the results of the trenching. Trenches 1 and 6 targeted the extension of a proposed feature identified on aerial photography, whilst trenches 4, 9 and 10 targeted earthworks or other changes in topography. All other trenches were dug to evaluate the potential for further archaeological investigation.

7.1.2 The earliest material encountered was medieval pottery found redeposited alongside later wares, and there is no evidence for any earlier activity. No features obviously associated with the large rectangular enclosure visible to the west of the wood on aerial photographs



were revealed, despite positioning six trenches as close to the enclosure as possible within the area available for excavation and extending two of those trenches. However, with little regional use of pottery in the Iron Age, and the fragility of the material that was produced, the absence of prehistoric ceramics need not correlate with an absence of activity in the wider area during that period.

- 7.1.3 The presence of the possible lynchet suggests that at least part of the wood was cultivated land in the past. This interpretation is supported by the finds assemblage, which has the characteristics of domestic waste having been spread on the land during manuring to improve soil fertility. According to a local resident who visited the site, some local field practices involved scattering slag over the plough soil to re-oxidise it. This could provide an alternative explanation for the presence of the slag discovered in trenches 2, 3, 4 and 7. The extent of Cuthbright Wood has changed little since 1854 (Figure 7) and so such remains would pre-date this time, at least.
- 7.1.4 The undated stone spreads in trench 7 were anomalous within the results overall, but it was not possible to determine their function or formation process.
- 7.1.5 A 1940s map showing the deployment of Home Guard headquarters and emplacements in the Rotherham area records a 'defensive position' on the northern edge of Cuthbright Wood (Figure 2), probably placed to monitor control movement along Thorpe Road (which links Harthill to Thorpe Salvin). Although trench 4 lay in a different part of wood, it is possible that feature 4007 is associated with similar activity. The steep, slit-trench-like profile of the feature supports such an interpretation, and the recovery of post-medieval finds evidence is not at odds with it. However, positioned within and facing east across woodland, visibility and fields of fire from the trench would have been very much restricted, and the feature may have been dug as a practise exercise. Overall, we must remain circumspect about the interpretation of this feature. A second potential World War II feature was present in the form of the possible bomb crater in trench 10, but again, it was not possible to establish beyond doubt such a function, and with quarrying recorded near the wood on historic maps (Figure 7), a similar function is perhaps more likely.
- 7.1.6 Overall, the evaluation was successful in meeting its aims and objectives. Although questions remain regarding the interpretation of some features, there is so far little indication that the site is of a significantly elevated archaeological potential. During the fieldwork, staff of Wessex Archaeology were able to pass on excavation and recording skills to local volunteers (since coalesced into the Harthill with Woodall Archaeology Group), and the two parties exchanged many ideas and insights regarding the archaeology of the area. Such fruitful collaboration was perhaps the most significant success of the project.

## 7.2 Constraints

- 7.2.1 The locations of the trenches were surveyed using Leica dGPS survey equipment, but due to dense tree cover, the equipment was not in RTK mode, leading to a greater than usual margin of error with regard to the trenches' recorded location (typically +/- c. 2.2 m). Levels were taken using an optical level.
- 7.2.2 Trees and their extensive rooting also partially dictated the location of trenches and restricted the extension of some of them.



### **7.3 Recommendations for further work**

- 7.3.1 A geophysical survey of Hunger Hill would help to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains in the vicinity of Cuthbright Wood. Following this, trench evaluation area may be appropriate to further investigate the results of the geophysical data.

## **8 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION**

### **8.1 General**

- 8.1.1 All archive elements are marked with the site code (208120) and currently comprises the following:

- 1 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type;
- 1 files of paper records and A3/A4 graphics.

- 8.1.2 The archive resulting from the evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, and will be delivered to the Harthill with Woodall Archaeology Group in due course.

- 8.1.3 Retention or disposal of the artefactual assemblage should only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner, and is under the purview of the Harthill with Woodall Archaeology Group.

- 8.1.4 The site lies within the collecting area of Clifton Park Museum, Rotherham, although it is considered unlikely that that body will be willing to accept the artefactual archive.

### **8.2 Security copy**

- 8.2.1 In line with current best practice (eg, Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

### **8.3 OASIS/SMR**

- 8.3.1 An OASIS online record (<http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>) has been initiated (wessexar1-343308).

- 8.3.2 A copy of this report will be submitted to OASIS, as well as the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record, and the results will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

## **9 COPYRIGHT**

### **9.1 Archive and report copyright**

- 9.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and*



*Related Rights Regulations* 2003. In some instances, certain regional museums may require absolute transfer of copyright, rather than a licence; this should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

- 9.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

## **9.2 Third party data copyright**

- 9.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (eg, Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.



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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Trench summaries

Trench 1				
Fill	Cut	Interpretive Category	Fill	Cut Interpretation
1001		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty loam with dense rooting	
1002		Subsoil	Light orange brown sandy silt. Root disturbance between interfaces. Fragment of post-Medieval ceramic and clay pipe recovered.	
1003		Natural	Light yellow brown silty sand with sparse mudstone inclusions.	

Trench 2				
Fill	Cut	Interpretive Category	Fill	Cut Interpretation
2001		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy silt. Frequent rooting. Rare stones.	
2002		Subsoil	Light Yellowish Brown silty sand. Rooting very rare. Stones <10mm	
2004	2003	Natural	Mid orangish brown silty clay. Secondary fill of root bowl	Cut of shrub-bowl hole
2006	2005	Secondary fill	Dark orange/brown silty clay. Rooting disturbed layer. Fill of shrub bowl	Cut of shrub-bowl hole
2007		Natural	Light brownish yellow silty clay.	

Trench 3				
Fill	Cut	Interpretive Category	Fill	Cut Interpretation
3001		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Rare stone inclusions 0.01–0.04 cm diameter. Some charcoal and animal bone.	
3002		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown mottled silty sand. Very Rare stone inclusions. Some slag, charcoal and ochre found	
3003		Subsoil	Light brownish yellow silty sand. Rare mudstone inclusions.	



3004		Natural	Light brownish yellow sandy clay. Compressed mostly .75% of densely packed mudstone.	
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Trench 4				
Fill	Cut	Interpretive Category	Fill	Cut Interpretation
4001		Topsoil	Mid Brownish grey. Moderate compact silty clay (40/60) Frequent rooting and sparse small angular stones.	
4002		Subsoil	Light yellowish grey. Soft silty clay (30/70). Frequent tree roots and charcoal.	
4003		Colluvium	Mid brown/yellow moderately compact silty clay (30/70). Degraded sandstone and frequent rooting. Probable hillwash running down south slope. possible hillwash	
4004		Natural	Light brown yellow compact sandy silt. Frequent sandy stones.	
4005	4007	Fill	Mid yellowish grey moderately compact silty clay (20/80). Frequent rooting and charcoal flecking Upper fill of modern ditch, some 19th century pottery.	Modern north-south linear filled with contents of 4005 and 4006. Ground had formed a hollow from backfill and subsidence. Charcoal lens in ditch only visible to southern edge of ditch. Possibly a 1939-45 Home Guard excavation.
4006	4007	Fill	Light brown yellow moderately compact silty clay (40/60). Sparse small sub-angular stones. Fill of modern ditch, containing some post-Medieval ceramic and CBM	Modern North/south linear filled with contents of 4005 and 4006. Ground had formed a hollow from backfill and subsidence. Charcoal lens in ditch only visible to southern edge of ditch. Possibly a 1939-45 Home Guard excavation.
4008		Redeposited Natural	Moderate firm compaction. Heterogenous. Rooting near surface, mixed at interface with topsoil. possibly a man-made bank to the east of pit 4007.	

Trench 5				
Fill	Cut	Interpretive Category	Fill	Cut Interpretation
5001		Topsoil	Mid brownish dark grey silty sand. Very common roots >50%. Occasional some small sandstone <20cm and mudstones.	
5002		Subsoil	Mid orange light brown silty sand. Common rooting >30% occasionally sandstones <10%	
5003		Natural	Yellowish light brown silty sand. Common mudstones and sandstones. Very rare roots.	
5004		Natural	Very compact sandstone bedrock in area 5	

Trench 6				
Fill	Cut	Interpretive Category	Fill	Cut Interpretation
6001		Topsoil	Dark brown with greyish hue silty loam. Significant rooting is visible in photographs.	
6002		Subsoil	Mid brown with yellowish hue silty clay. Rooting frequent.	
6003		Natural	Yellowish brown with beige hue silty sandy clay. Rooting frequent.	

Trench 7				
Fill	Cut	Interpretive Category	Fill	Cut Interpretation
7001		Topsoil	Dark Brown silty sand.	
7002		Subsoil	Dark brownish yellow silty sand. Sparse (3%) angular and very angular mid-stones (5-12cm)	
7003		Surface	Single layer/course of sandstone. Rests upon surface of 7004. No foundation cut present. No coherent form to the feature/rubble. possible stone surface	
7004		Surface	Limestone/Sandstone. No Foundation cut. No core and no clear relationship to between 7003 limestone/ sandstone installation to the west of 7003	





Trench 8				
Fill	Cut	Interpretive Category	Fill	Cut Interpretation
8001		Topsoil	Mid grey/brown silty sand. Rare <5% stone inclusions unsorted throughout.	
8002		Subsoil	Mid yellow/brown, mottled with darker brown, silty clay. Rare stone inclusions	
8003		Layer	Mid greyish yellow silty clay. Rare stone inclusions.	

Trench 9				
Fill	Cut	Interpretive Category	Fill	Cut Interpretation
9001		Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand. Common sub-angular gravel	
9002		Subsoil	Dark orange/red sandy silt. Very common sub-angular gravel, rare sub-angular cobbles bank of subsoil. possible lynchet running 20m+	
9003		Subsoil	Mid orange/red sandy silt. Common sub-angular gravel.	
9004		Natural	Light yellow brown sandy silt. Very common sub-angular gravel and cobbles.	

Trench 10				
Fill	Cut	Interpretive Category	Fill	Cut Interpretation
10001		Topsoil	Frequent sub-angular gravel, rare sub-angular cobbles	
10002		Subsoil	Mid yellow brown sandy silt. Frequent sub-angular gravel	
10003		Natural	Light greyish yellow sandy silt >50% abundant degraded and fragmented limestone/ sandstone.	
10004		redeposited natural	Light yellow to brown sandy silt. Very common sub angular gravel	
10006	10005	deliberate backfill	Mid Orange brown sandy silt 35% common limestone and sandstone rocks <200mm	Pit dug into limestone/ sandstone bedrock possibly for the removal of sandstone. Circular in shape with irregular steep sides and a flat base.



10007	10005	Fill	<i>Mid red-brown silty sand composed of frequent small sandy stones sized between 5cm and 10cm possibly remains of bank or spoil from the excavation of the pit. Visible in plan as a semicircle around the cut feature.</i>	Pit dug into limestone/ sandstone bedrock possibly for the removal of sandstone. Circular in shape with irregular steep sides and a flat base.
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## Appendix 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

**OASIS ID: wessexar1-343308**

### Project details

Project name	Cuthbright Wood, Harthill, South Yorkshire. Community Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was approached by Harthill Community Group to carry out an archaeological evaluation in Cuthbright Wood, located east of the village of Harthill in South Yorkshire. The evaluation was undertaken in June 2018 by a mixed team of staff from Wessex Archaeology and local volunteers, working under the direction of Wessex Archaeology. A total of 10 trenches were excavated across the wood's 10.4 hectares. Two trenches targeted visible earthworks, whilst three others targeted cropmarks seen extending into the wood from the west on aerial photographs. All other trenches were dug in 'blank' areas. The earliest material encountered was medieval pottery found redeposited alongside later wares, and there is no evidence for any earlier activity. No features obviously associated with the cropmark features visible to the west of the wood were revealed. Excavated features comprise potential stone surfaces, a bomb crater or quarry pit, and a possible World War II Home Guard defensive emplacement, although the function and formation process of most features could not be securely established. The discovery of a likely lynchet within the wood, and the recovery of a medieval/post-medieval artefact scatter typical of manuring across it, suggest that the wood was once cultivated, with cartographic evidence indicating that the change of use pre-dates 1854. The finds assemblage is fairly modest, with a limited range of materials present. Aside from three medieval sherds, all of the ceramic material retrieved was post-medieval or modern, and the majority of the artefacts were recovered from topsoil and subsoil deposits.
Project dates	Start: 04-06-2018 End: 22-06-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	208120 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Woodland 1 - Deciduous native
Monument type	LYNCHET Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Research
Prompt	Research



Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

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### Project location

Country England  
Site location SOUTH YORKSHIRE ROTHERHAM HARTHILL WITH WOODALL Cuthbright Wood  
Postcode S26 7XH  
Study area 10.4 Hectares  
Site coordinates SK 50400 81000 53.323249485231 -1.243255699825 53 19 23 N 001 14 35 W Point  
Height OD / Depth Min: 120m Max: 130m

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology  
Project brief originator Wessex Archaeology  
Project design originator Wessex Archaeology  
Project director/manager Milica Rajic  
Project supervisor Hannah Dabill  
Type of sponsor/funding body Voluntary  
Name of sponsor/funding body Wessex Archaeology

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### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Unknown  
Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics"  
Digital Archive recipient Unknown  
Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"  
Paper Archive recipient Unknown  
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Miscellaneous Material", "Plan", "Section"

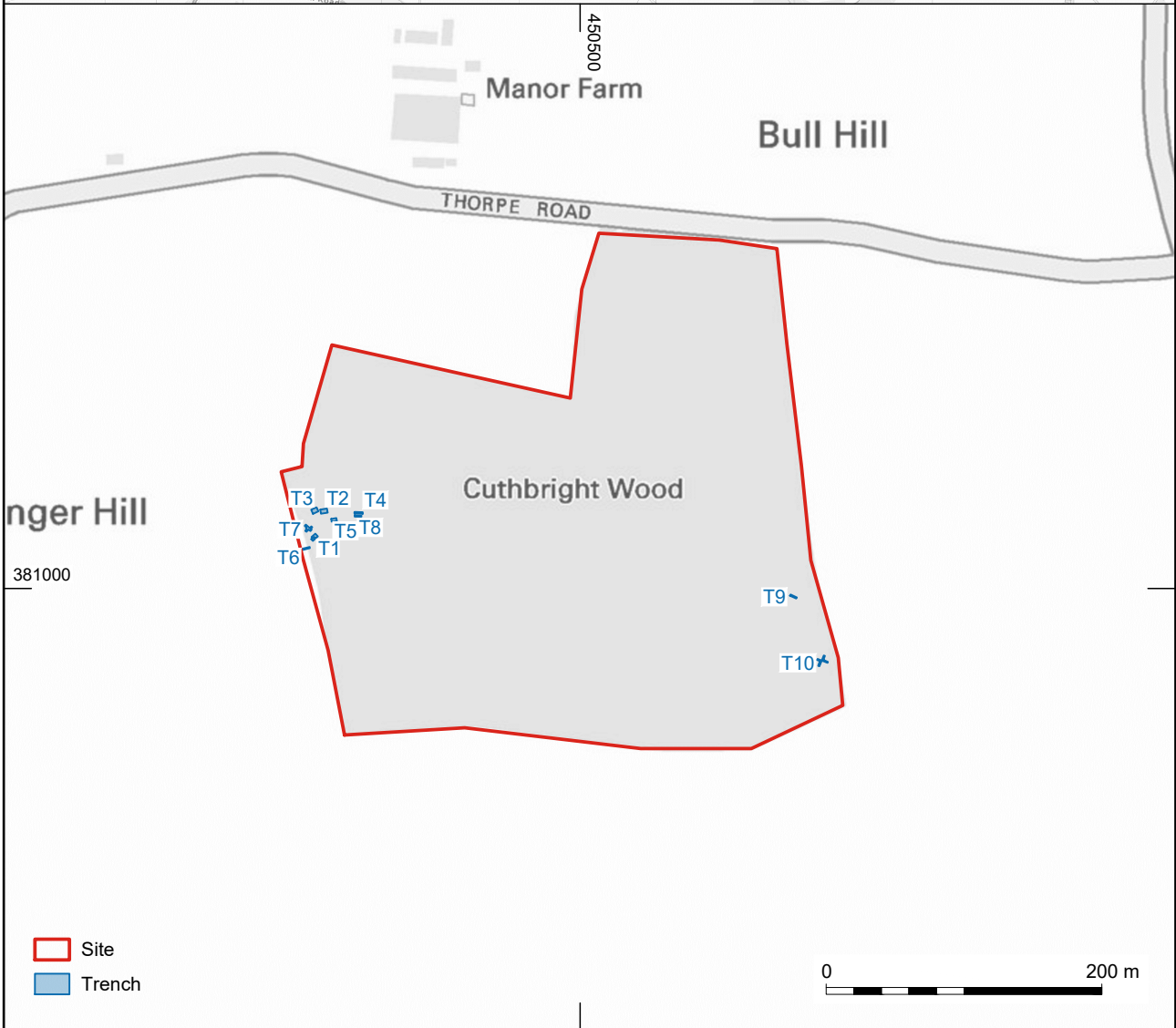
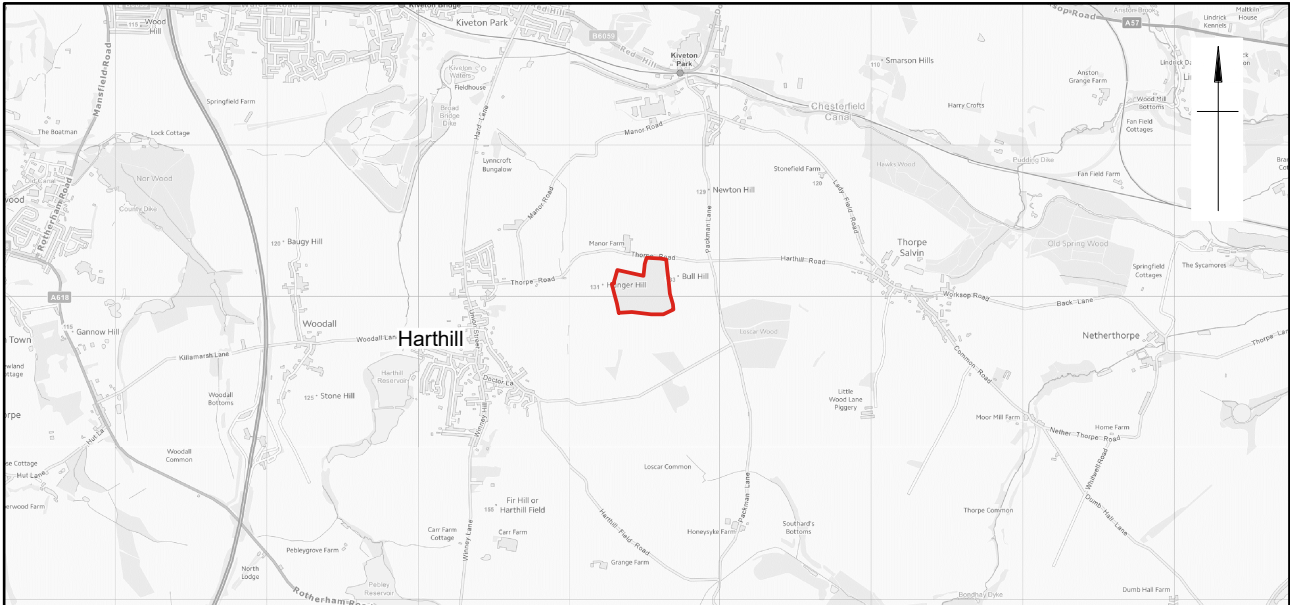
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**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Cuthbright Wood, Harthill, South Yorkshire. Community Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Derrick, A
Other bibliographic details	208120.3
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Sheffield
Description	c. 35 page comb-bound A4 report with colour plates and figures
Entered by	Patrick Daniel (p.daniel@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	20 February 2019

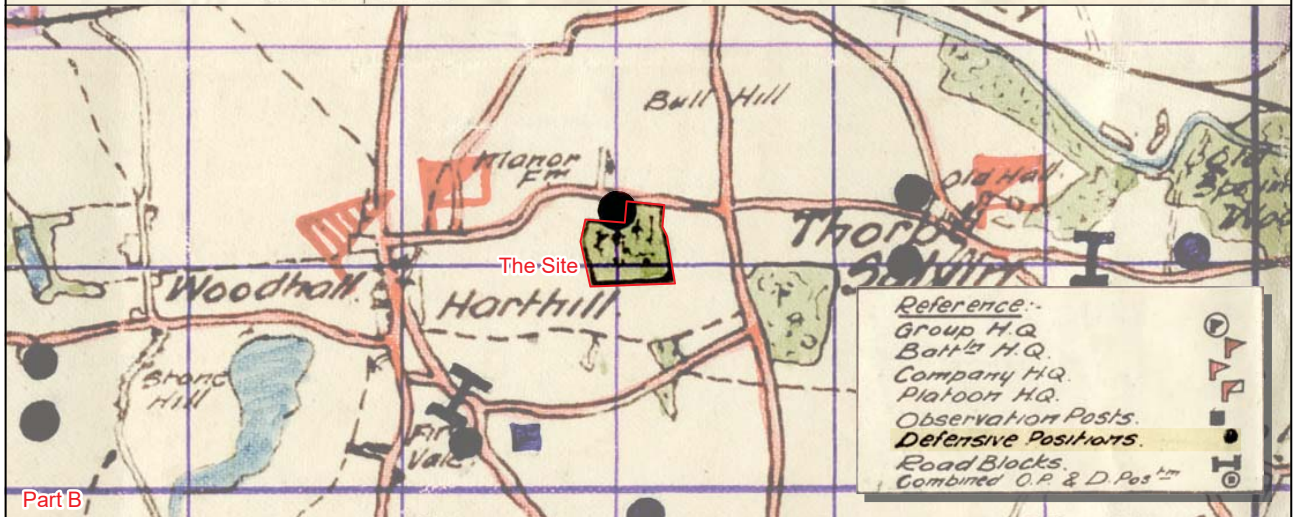
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Site location and trench locations

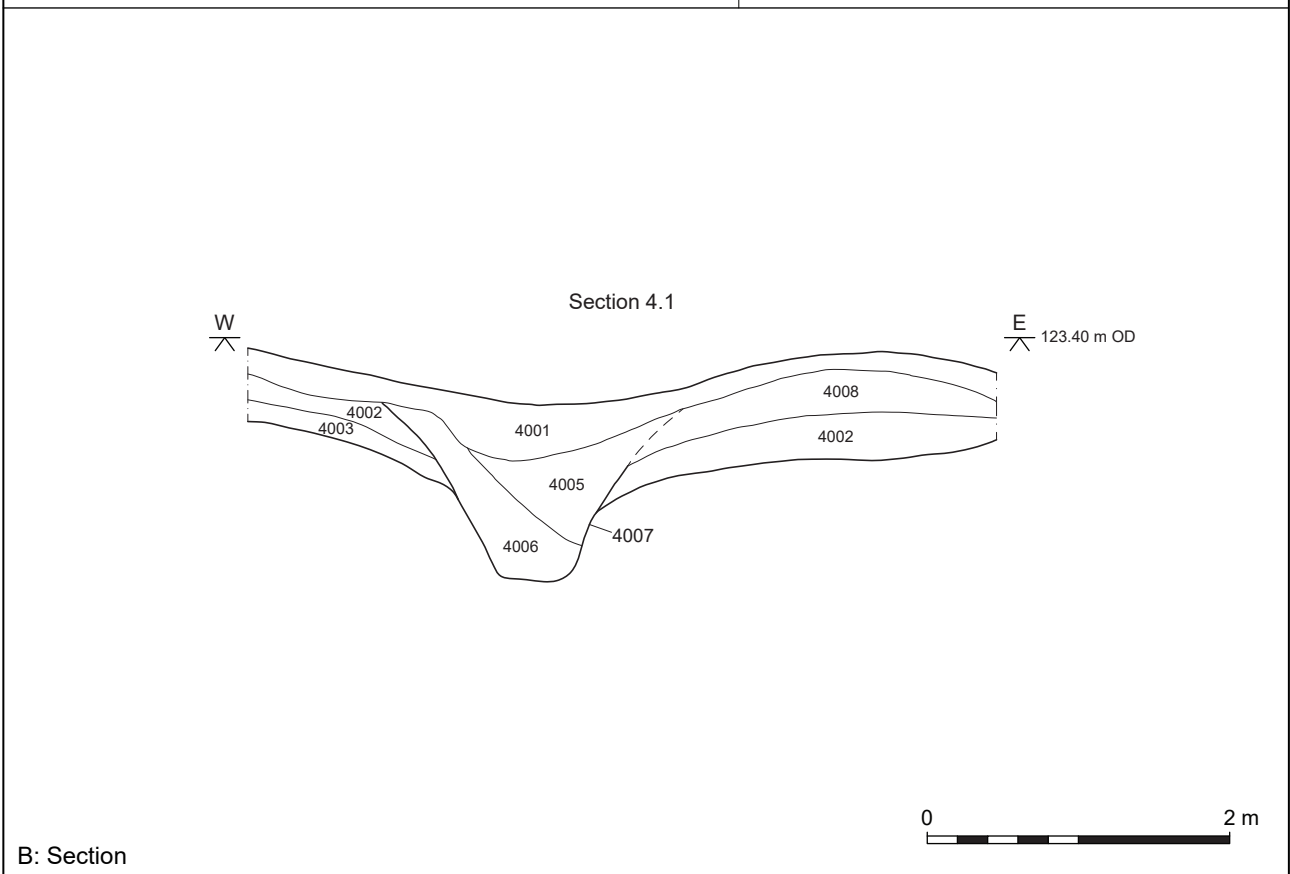
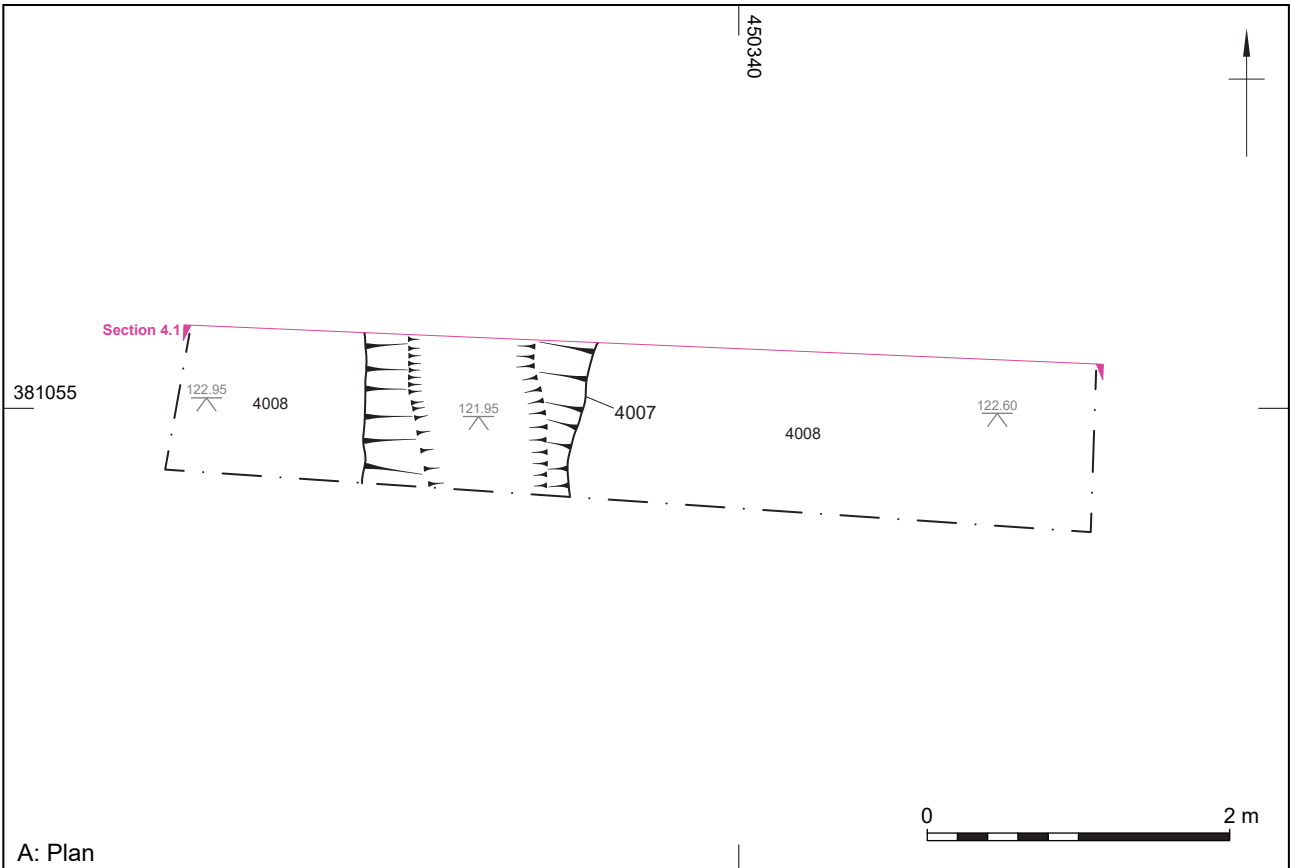
Figure 1




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1941 Map of Home Guard in Rotherham

Figure 2

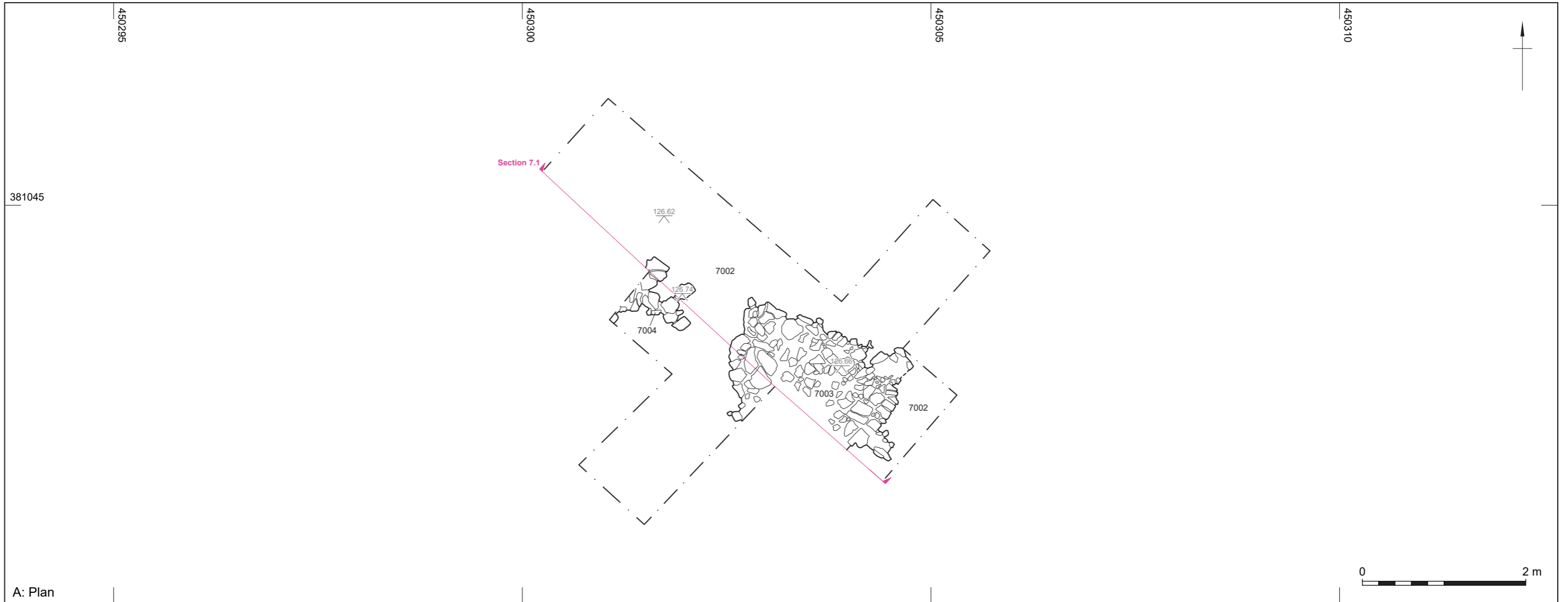


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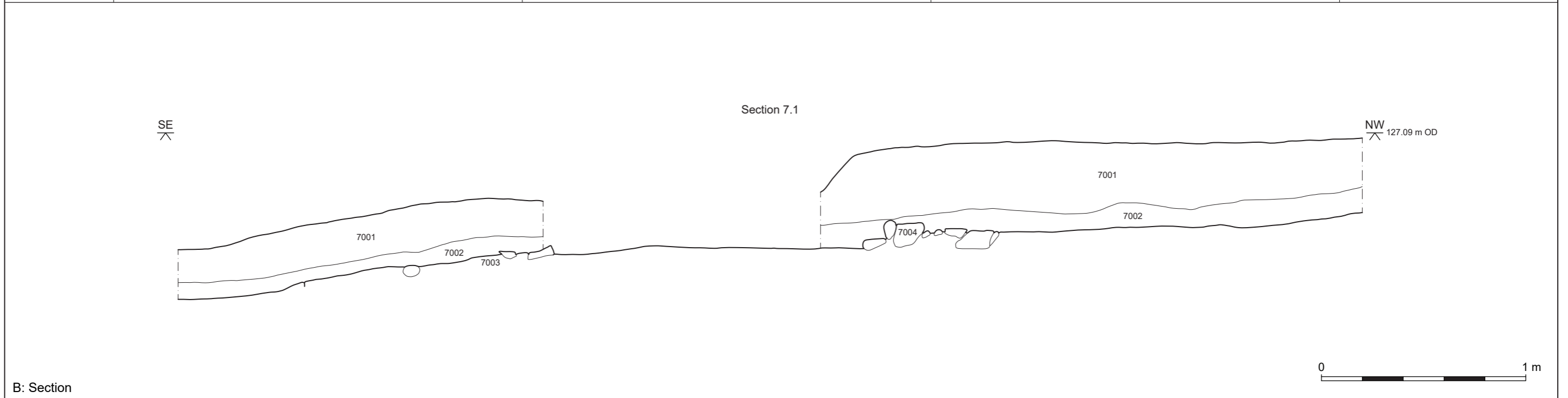
Trench 4 – plan and section

Figure 3






A: Plan

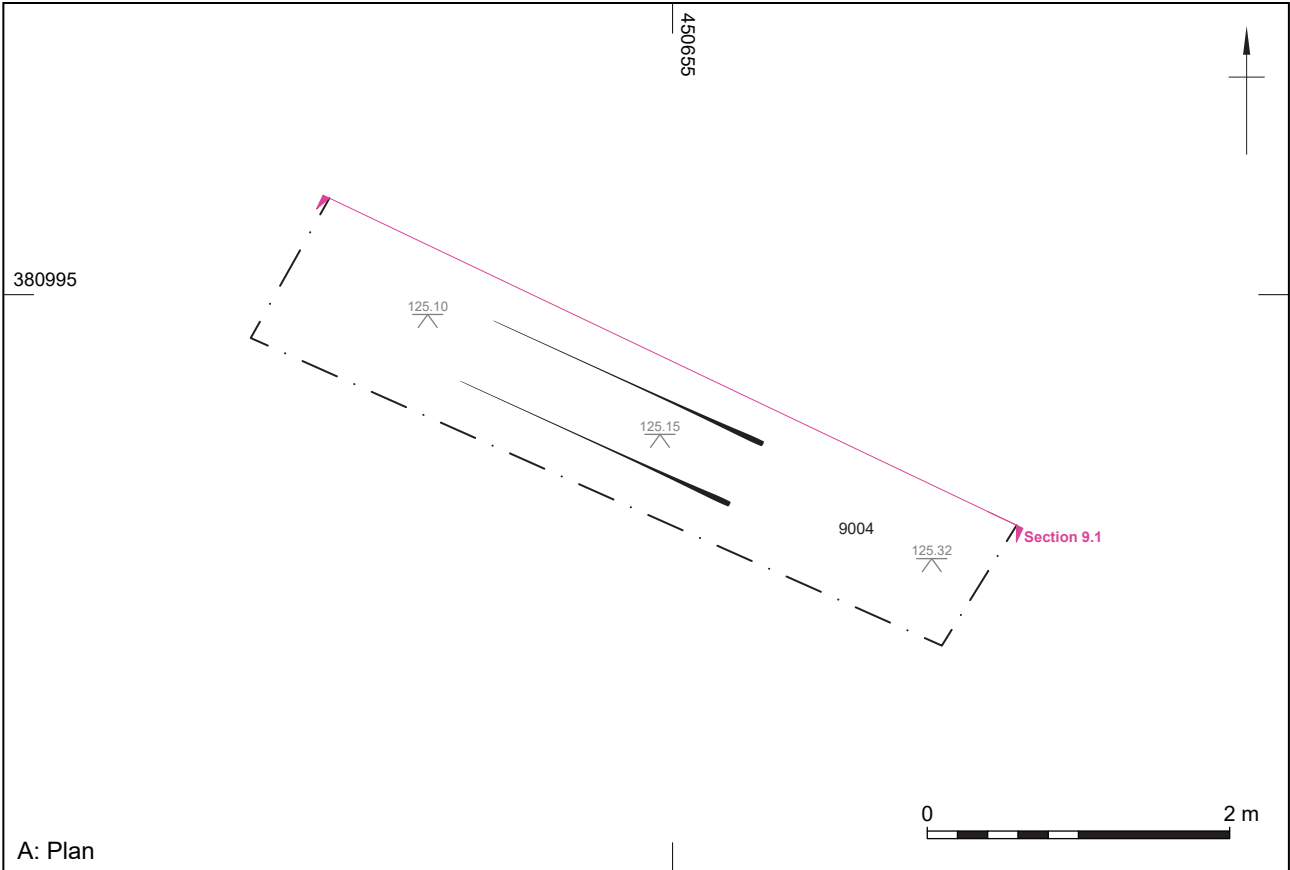


B: Section

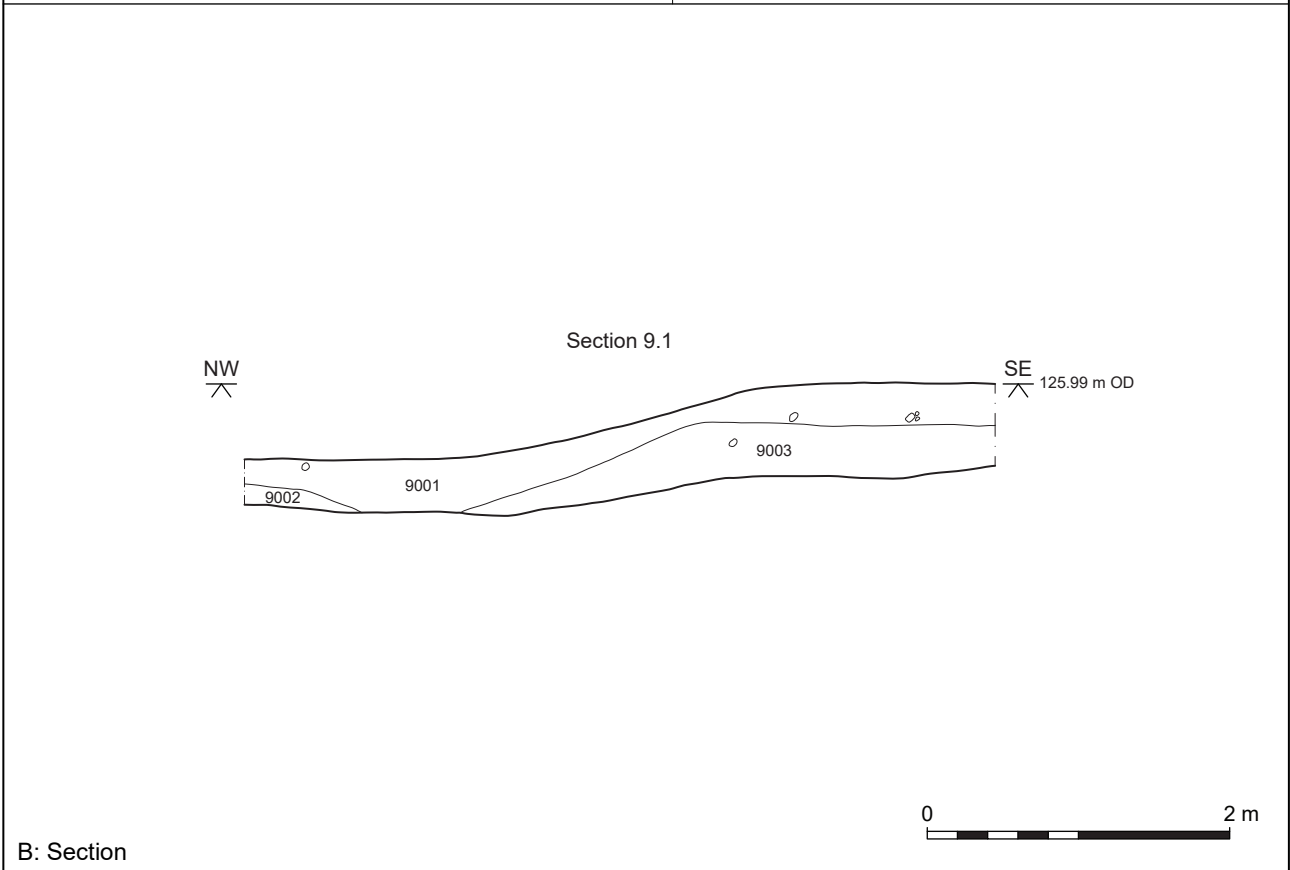
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Trench 7 – plan and section


Figure 4



A: Plan

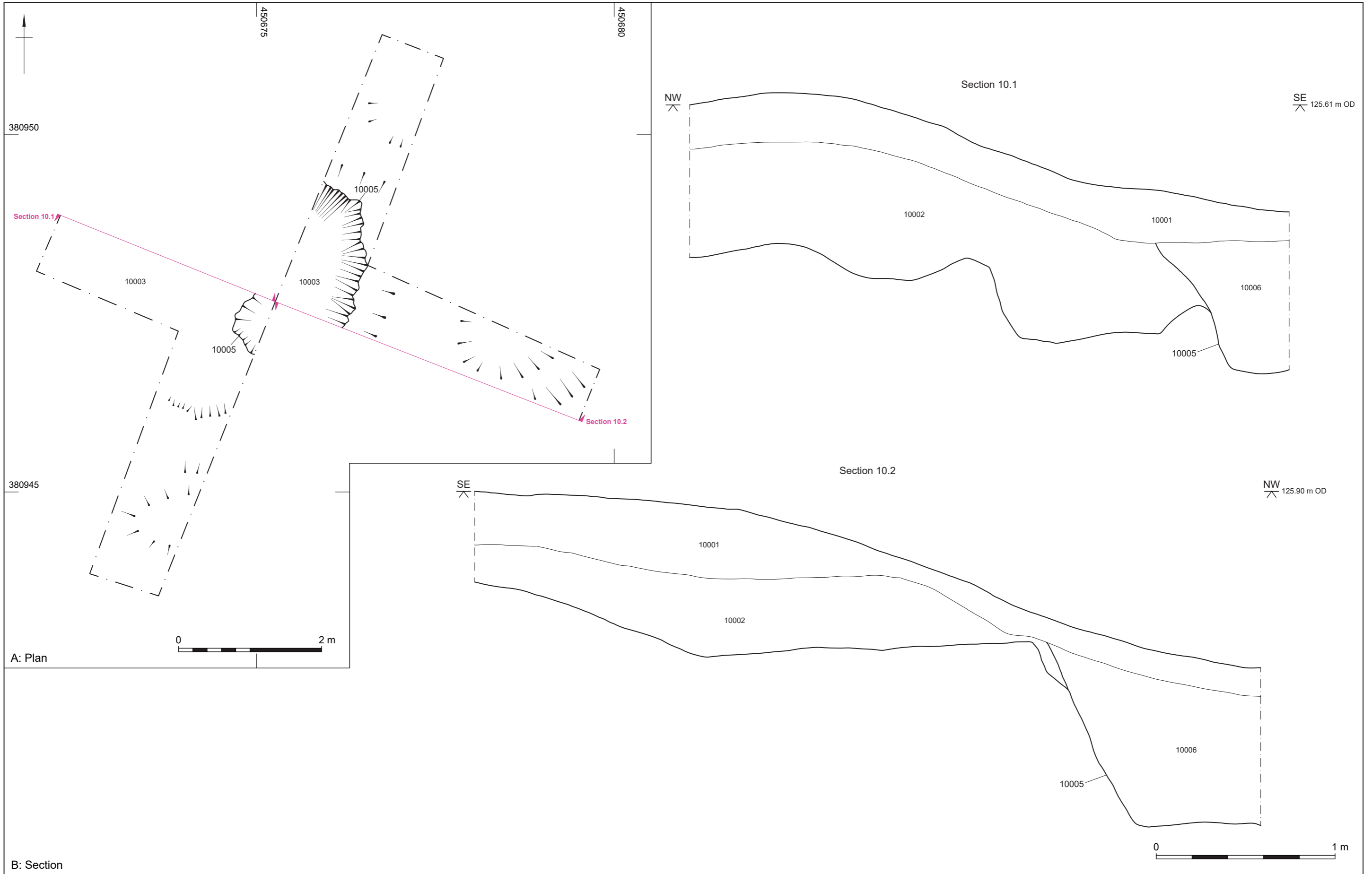



B: Section

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Trench 9 – plan and section

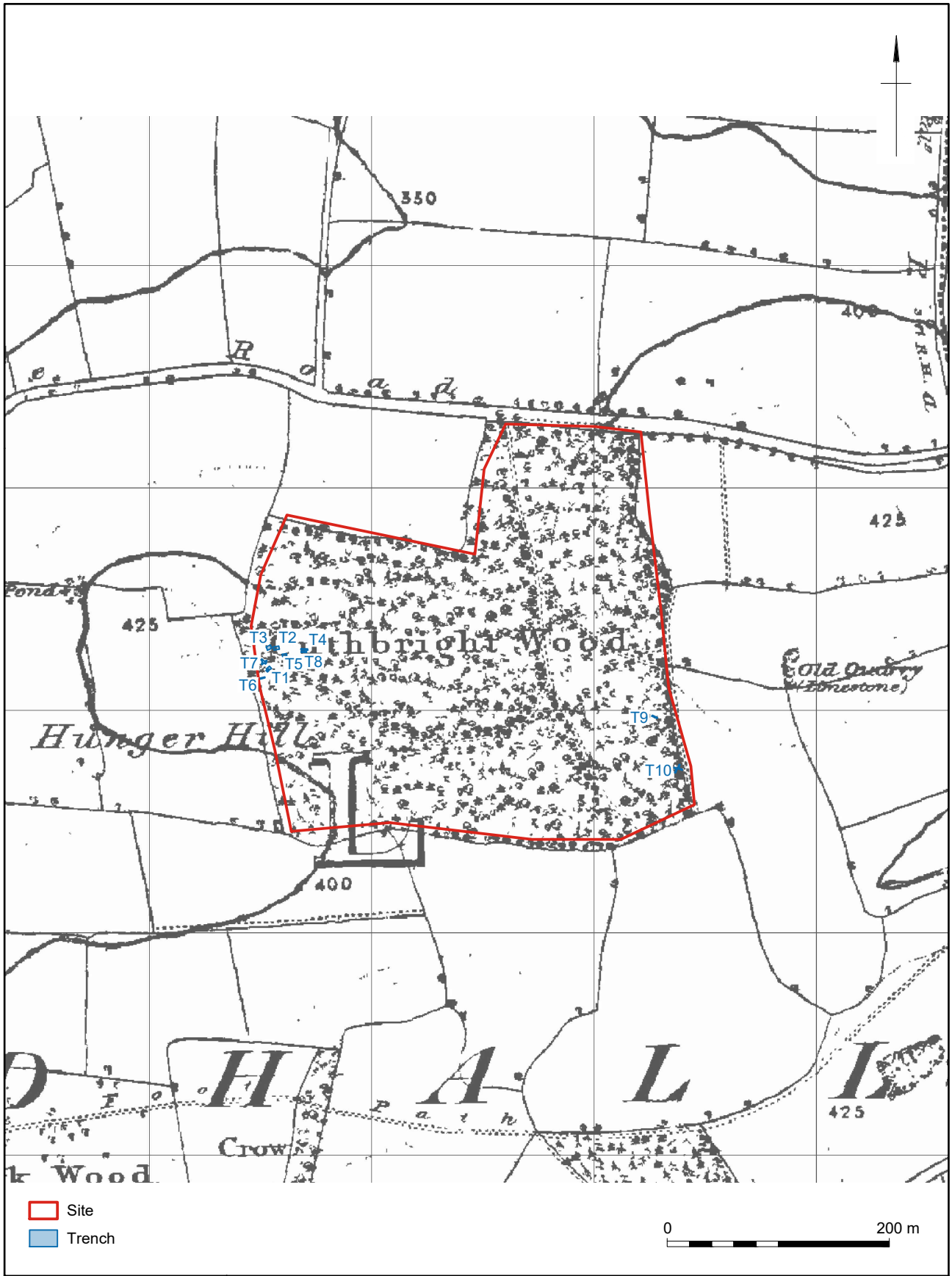
Figure 5




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Trench 10 – plan and section

Figure 6



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Trench overlain on the Ordnance Survey map of 1854

Figure 7



Plate 1: Trench 5 showing typical natural substrate, view from east



Plate 2: Trench 1 east facing section showing deposit sequence


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Plate 3: Trench 2 south facing section showing deposit sequence



Plate 4: Trench 3 north-east facing section showing deposit sequence


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Plate 5: Oblique shot of trench 4 showing deposit sequence, view from south-west



Plate 6: Trench 5 west facing section showing deposit sequence


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Plate 7: Trench 6 south facing section showing deposit sequence



Plate 8: Trench 7 north-east facing section showing topsoil and stone spread 7003


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Plate 9: Trench 8 north facing section showing topsoil



Plate 10: Trench 9 south-west facing section showing deposit sequence


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Plate 11: Trench 10 south-east facing section showing deposit sequence



Plate 12: Shot of sondage in trench 1, view from north-east


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Plate 13: Plan of trench 2, view from west



Plate 14: Plan of trench 3, view from north-east


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Plate 15: Plan of trench 5, view from west



Plate 16: South facing section of trench 4 showing feature 4007


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Plate 17: Plan of trench 8 revealing southern extent of 4007, view from north



Plate 18: Oblique shot of trench 7 with stone spreads 7003 and 7004, view from east


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Plate 19: Oblique shot of trench 9 with lynchet, view from north-east



Plate 20: Working shot of trench 10, view from south-east



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Plate 21: North-east facing section of possible quarry pit 10005



Plate 22: Plan of quarry pit 10005 in the north-eastern excavated quadrant

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