making sense of heritage

Thewlis Lane, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Ref: 102890.02
February 2014

archaeology

Thewlis Lane,
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Quality Assurance

Project Code	102890	**Accession Code**	TBC	**Client Ref.**	
Planning Application Ref.	2013/90793	**Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)**	NGR 412042 414467		

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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commisioned by Silkstone Environmental Ltd (hereafter the 'Client') to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching on land adjacent to Thewlis Lane, Huddersfield, centred on NGR 412042 414467.

A geophysical survey carried out by Wessex Archaeology (2014) identified anomalies that were considered to be of possible archaeological interest.

The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 23 trenches targeted over anomalies identified by the geophysical survey, and to test 'blank' areas.

The evaluation revealed one posthole of unknown date and demonstrated that the other anomalies were variations in the natural geology.

Thewlis Lane, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Silkstone Environmental Ltd and Wessex Archaeology are grateful to Philip Sharland in this regard. Rebecca Remmer of WYAAS produced the written brief and Wessex Archaeology are grateful for her assistance.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Sam Fairhead and Matt Weightman with the assistance of Johnathon Buttery and Martina Tenzer. This report was compiled by Sam Fairhead with Illustrations by Chris Swales

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Chris Swales.

Thewlis Lane, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commisioned by Silkstone Environmental Ltd. (hereafter the 'Client') to undertake a programme of archaeological trial trenching on land adjacent to Thewlis Lane, Huddersfield (hereafter 'the Site').

1.1.2 A geophysical survey carried out by Wessex Archaeology (2014) identified some anomalies that were considered likely to be of archaeological interest (**Figure 1**).

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site was located in fields immediately east of Thewlis Lane, opposite Johnsons Wellfield Quarry, centred on NGR 412042 414467, and bordered to the east, south and north by residential properties. The fields are currently pastureland.

1.2.2 The Site covered approximately 11 ha at 207m aOD. The underlying geology consisted of Crossland Hill Hard York Stone.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following background is summarised from the specification prepared by West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS, 2013).

2.1.2 The Site lies in an area of archaeological potential. 400m to the south of the Site, two enclosures were recorded in 1775. One of these enclosures is depicted on the 1st edition OS 6 inch map (1854) as a 'camp'. The enclosures were built over in the 1920s but it is possible that they were prehistoric in date, with remains of a similar date located in the area. To the west of the enclosures were further earthworks, thought to represent medieval agricultural features.

2.1.3 The Site was marginal moorland until the 19th century, when it was subdivided into fields and a farmhouse and associated farm buildings (now in ruins) were constructed. The Farm is marked and shown on the OS 1st edition 1854 map when it was known as 'Barley Misery'. By 1892, the farm had changed name and is labelled on the OS 25 inch 1892 map as 'Thewlis Lane Farm'. The farmhouse was designated as a Grade II Listed Building in 1978, however, it was delisted in June 2013. The farmhouse has undergone dramatic deterioration in the last 25 years. Photographs of the farmhouse taken in 1987 show the building in a ruinous condition, however it retained walls to roof height and approximately

a third of the roof structure. The farmhouse was delisted on the grounds that so little of the structure remained.

2.2 Recent investigations in the area

2.2.1 A previous desk based assessment for the Site concluded that it did have potential to contain archaeological remains despite no known archaeological finds or features being located within the Site itself. The desk based assessment noted the presence of Mesolithic and Neolithic finds in the area, as well as the enclosures noted above.

2.2.2 A geophysical survey carried out by Wessex Archaeology (2014) identified some anomalies that were considered to be of possible archaeological interest.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

The general aims of the project were:

- *to identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits within the Site;*
- *to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;*
- *to accurately record any revealed archaeological deposits;*
- *to recover artefacts disturbed by the Site works;*
- *to prepare a comprehensive archive, record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the Site works;*
- *to aid the production of a mitigation strategy for the Site (if necessary).*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of 23 trenches (**Figure 1**). The trenches were located by means of a RTK GPS system and tied into the OS grid (within 0.1m). All trenches measured 40m by 1.8m except for two which both measured 20m by 1.8m (**Trenches 11** and **12**).

3.2.2 Trenches were targeted over geophysical anomalies and to test ‘blank’ areas.

3.2.3 All excavation and recording was undertaken by qualified archaeologists employed by Wessex Archaeology. Archaeological remains encountered were recorded, and where necessary excavated in accordance with current industry best practice (IfA 2008). Features of whatever origin requiring clarification were cleaned by hand and recorded in plan at an appropriate scale.

3.3 Recording

3.3.1 All archaeological features and deposits encountered were recorded using Wessex Archaeology pro forma recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits (including those within ‘blank’ trenches).

3.3.2 All trenches were located in relation to the OS grid, and other plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate. All drawings were made in pencil on permanent drafting film.

3.3.3 The spot height of all principal features and levels was calculated in metres relative to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places. Plans, sections and elevations were annotated with spot heights as appropriate.

3.3.4 Photographs were taken of archaeological features to produce a photographic record consisting of 35mm monochrome prints and digital images (at least 10 megapixel) to supplement the photographic record.

3.4 Specialist strategies

Artefact

3.4.1 Finds were treated in accordance with the relevant guidance (UKIC 2001; English Heritage 2005).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Only one feature was revealed by the evaluation, a small posthole in Trench 19. Other geophysical anomalies were shown to be variations in the natural geology.

4.2 Summary

4.2.1 The topsoil across the Site was a very dark grey silty sand, typically 0.25-0.3m in depth. Where subsoil was encountered it consisted of dark greyish-brown silty sand and typically existed between 0.25m and 0.35m below ground level. The natural geology consisted of mid brownish-yellow sand with common large cobble inclusions (**Plates 1 and 2**).

4.2.2 The posthole, **1903**, was located at the north end of Trench 19 (**Figure 2**). It was 0.42m in diameter and 0.15m in depth, filled by **1904**, a greyish-brown silty sand secondary fill. No dateable material was recovered from the fill.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small amount of post-medieval ceramic and clay pipe stem fragments were recovered from the topsoil. No further assessment is recommended.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Summary

6.1.1 The evaluation found little evidence for archaeological remains within the proposed development area. Post-medieval finds were recovered from the topsoil and a single shallow posthole was observed in Trench 19.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Kirklees Museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

7.2 Archive

7.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Kirklees Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (MGC 1991; SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared.

7.3 Discard policy

7.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

7.4 Security Copy

7.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. 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 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliography

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9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1: Context descriptions

	Trench 1	Max depth:0.48m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
100	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.25m
101	Subsoil, dark greyish-brown silty sand	0.25-0.37m
102	Natural, mid yellowish-orange sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.37m+

	Trench 2	Max depth:0.5m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
201	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.38m
202	Natural, mid brownish-yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.38m+

	Trench 3	Max depth:0.0.34m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
301	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.25m
302	Natural, mid brownish-yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.25m+

	Trench 4	Max depth:0.45m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
401	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.31m
402	Subsoil, dark greyish-brown silty sand	0.31-0.45m
403	Natural, mid brownish-yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.45m+

	Trench 5	Max depth:0.4m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
500	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.22m
501	Subsoil, mid greyish-brown silty sand	0.22-0.3m
502	Natural, mid brownish-yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.3m+

	Trench 6	**Max depth:0.48m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
600	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.28m
601	Subsoil, mid greyish-brown silty sand	0.28-0.38m
602	Natural, mid brownish-yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.38m+

	Trench 7	**Max depth:0.4m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
700	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.25m
701	Subsoil, mid greyish-yellow silty sand	0.25-0.35m
702	Natural, mid brownish-yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.35m+

	Trench 8	**Max depth:0.37m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
800	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0.0.2m
801	Subsoil, mid greyish-brown silty sand	0.2-0.3m
802	Natural, mid brownish-yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.3m+

	Trench 9	**Max depth:0.39m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
900	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.31m
901	Natural, dark orangey-brown and brownish-yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.31m+

	Trench 10	**Max depth:0.4m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1000	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.35m
1001	Subsoil, mid greyish-brown silty sand	0.35-0.4m
1002	Natural, dark orangey-brown and brownish-yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.4m+

	Trench 11	**Max depth:0.3m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1100	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.25m
1101	Subsoil, dark greyish-brown silty sand	0.25-0.3m
1102	Natural, mid yellowish-orange sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.3m+

	Trench 12	**Max depth:0.4m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1200	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.25m
1201	Subsoil, dark greyish-brown silty sand	0.25-0.4m
1202	Natural, mid yellowish-orange sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.4m+

	Trench 13	**Max depth:0.45m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1300	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.25m
1301	Subsoil, mid greyish-brown silty sand	0.25-0.35m
1302	Natural, mid yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.35m+

	Trench 14	**Max depth:0.5m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1400	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.25m
1401	Subsoil, mid greyish-brown silty sand	0-0.25m
1402	Natural, mid yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.35m+

	Trench 15	**Max depth:0.45m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1500	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.25m
1501	Subsoil, mid greyish-brown silty sand	0-0.25m
1502	Natural, mid yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.35m+

	Trench 16	**Max depth:0.42m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1600	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.23m
1601	Subsoil, mid greyish-brown silty sand	0.23-0.3m
1602	Natural, mid yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.3m+

	Trench 17	**Max depth:0.48m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1700	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.28m
1701	Subsoil, mid greyish-brown silty sand	0.28-0.35m
1702	Natural, mid yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.35m+

	Trench 18	**Max depth:0.45m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1800	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.25m
1801	Subsoil, mid greyish-brown silty sand	0.25-0.32m
1802	Natural, mid yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.32m+

	Trench 19	**Max depth:0.42m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
1900	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.22m
1901	Subsoil, mid yellowish-grey silty sand	0.22-0.3m
1902	Natural, mid yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.3m+
1903	Cut of posthole	0.15m
1904	Secondary fill of posthole **1903**	0.15m

	Trench 20	**Max depth:0.45m**
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2000	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.25m
2001	Subsoil, mid yellowish-grey silty sand	0.25-0.35m
2002	Natural, mid yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.35m+

	Trench 21	Max depth:0.4m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2100	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.22m
2101	Subsoil, mid yellowish-grey silty sand	0.22-0.3m
2102	Natural, mid yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.3m+

	Trench 22	Max depth:0.36m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2200	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.26m
2201	Subsoil, mid yellowish-grey silty sand	0.26-0.36m
2202	Natural, mid yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.36m+

	Trench 23	Max depth:0.5m
Context	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
2300	Topsoil, very dark grey silty sand	0-0.25m
2301	Subsoil, mid yellowish-grey silty sand	0.25-0.35m
2302	Natural, mid yellow sand, common sandstone cobbles	0.35m+

9.2 Appendix 3: OASIS form

OASIS ID: wessexar1-172555

Project details
Project name Thewlis Lane, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire
Short description of the project Excavation of 23 evaluation trenches targeted over geophysical anomalies and to test 'blank' areas.
Project dates Start: 28-01-2014 End: 05-02-2014
Previous/future work Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes 102890 - Sitecode
Type of project Field evaluation
Site status None
Current Land use Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type POST HOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques "Targeted Trenches"
Development type Mineral extraction (e.g. sand, gravel, stone, coal, ore, etc.)

Project location
Country England
Site location WEST YORKSHIRE KIRKLEES KIRKLEES Thewlis Lane, Huddersfield
Postcode HD4 7AB
Study area 11.00 Hectares

Site coordinates Point SE 12042 14467 53.6263626678 -1.81790056064 53 37 34 N 001 49 04 W

Project creators
Name of Organisation Wessex Archaeology
Project design originator Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager Chris Swales
Project supervisor Sam Fairhead

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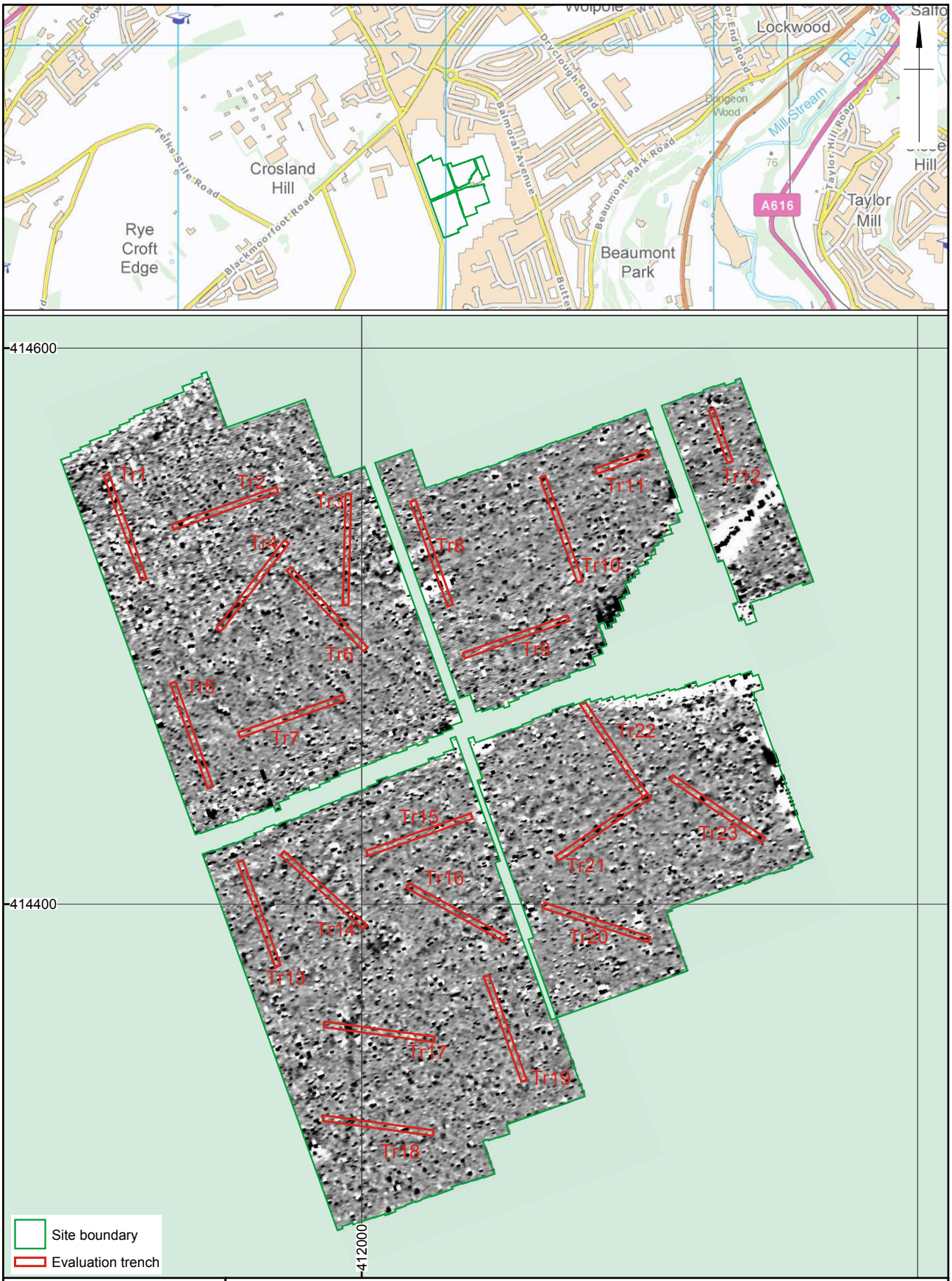

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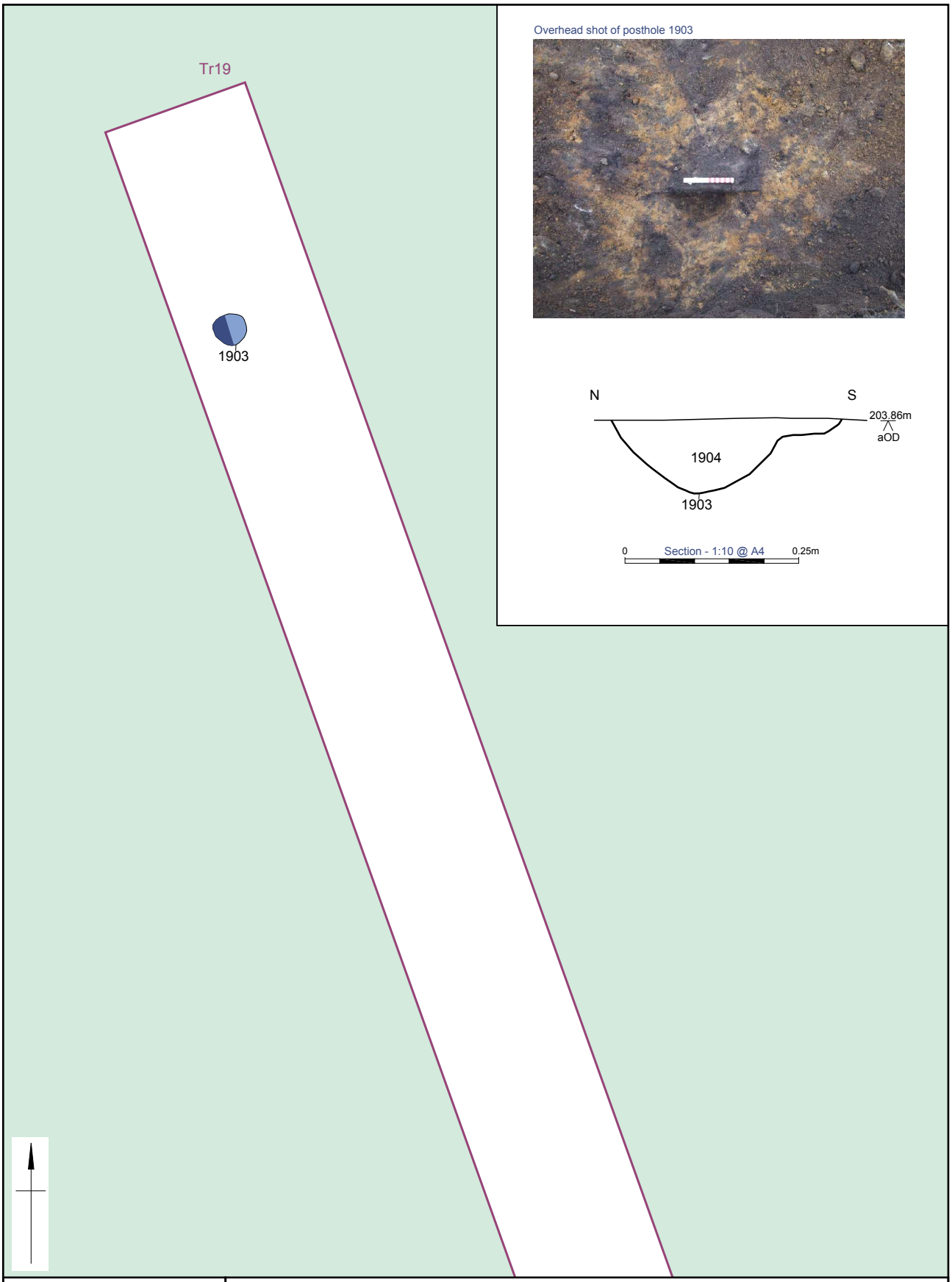
Site location and trench plan on greyscale

Figure 1



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Trench 19: Plan and section of posthole 1903

Figure 2

Plate 1: **Trench 8**, general shot. Facing south

Plate 2: **Trench 8**, representative section

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