

# **Humber Field Archaeology**

*Archaeological Consultants and Contractors*



Archaeological  
Metal Detecting Survey  
and  
Watching Brief  
at  
Hill Top Farm  
Hodgson Lane  
Birkenshaw

Site Code: WB2016.003

National Grid Reference: SE 2119 2861 to SE 2110 2872

for

Northern Powergrid  
and  
John Hall

Watching Brief Report Number: 1468  
May 2016

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D. P. Rawson, May 2016

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## Summary

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A programme of archaeological metal detection, observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) during groundwork associated with the excavation of trenches for electricity cables at Hill Top Farm, Hodgson Lane, Birkenshaw, West Yorkshire.

An area of burnt material and clay at least 5.50m in diameter was observed immediately beneath the topsoil during the excavation of the main trench, but this was most likely modern in origin. Several corroded ferrous objects were found during metal detecting, but all seemed most likely to have been associated with recent farming activity.

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## **1. Introduction**

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This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological metal detection and observation, investigation and recording undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology (HFA), on behalf of Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Ltd and Mr J. Hall during groundwork associated with the excavation of trenches for electricity cables at Hill Top Farm, Hodgson Lane, Birkenshaw, West Yorkshire (Figure 1, Plate 1).

Site Code: WB2016.003  
National Grid Reference: SE 2119 2861 to SE 2110 2872

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## **2. Archaeological Background**

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The background reproduced here is taken from the specification prepared on behalf of Kirklees Council at the request of Northern Power Grid.

The application site is located on the south-western edge of the Adwalton Moor Registered Battlefield (National Heritage List for England No. 1000000 and West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record PRN 4059). The projected course of a north-east to south-west Roman road lies parallel with Hodgson Lane to the east and partly under the farm (WY HER PRN 3476) and crosses the line of the York to Manchester Roman Road c. 300m to the south.

The site of the Battle of Adwalton Moor, which was fought on 30th June 1643, is a designated heritage asset and one of only 43 important English Battlefields on the Register. Adwalton Moor, which culminated in the victory of a larger Royalist army over a Parliamentarian force from Bradford, was fought in a landscape of small fields and closes interspersed with coal mines and is second only in importance to the Battle of Marston Moor in the northern campaign fought during the First Civil War.

Whilst the application site is likely to be peripheral to the main action any evidence of the Battle of Adwalton Moor would be of national importance.

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## **3. Methodology**

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The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from Humber Field Archaeology (HFA), in accordance with the specification for a preliminary metal detector survey and archaeological watching brief produced by the West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service (WYAAS) in February 2016 on behalf of Kirklees Council at the request of Northern Powergrid.

The scheme of works comprised the supervision of the excavation of the cable trenches. Two visits were made to the site on the 7th and the 8th March 2016.

Any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits. The excavated dimensions of the foundation trenches were

recorded, as were the depth sequences of any exposed stratigraphy. Where archaeological deposits/features were identified, context numbers were assigned and detailed descriptions were made, plans were drawn and a photographic record was maintained.

The trenches were located using a Leica GS08 plus GPS GLONSS SmartAr Unit with the resultant data being converted to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and displayed on a mapbase in AutoCAD.

A 5m corridor including the cable trenches was metal detected for both ferrous and non-ferrous metal finds using a Garrett Ace 250 detector.

Archaeological artefacts found during the fieldwork were bagged according to their context, and returned to Humber Field Archaeology for further specialist analysis.

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## **4. Results**

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### **Area of excavation to the east of the southern access road**

This marked the very eastern end of the cable trench excavation (Figure 2). The area excavated measured up to 2m from east to west by up to 1.70m from north to south (Plate 2). The easternmost point of the excavated area was at SE 2120 2861, 190.260m AOD. It was up to 0.80m deep and throughout its base there was a layer at least 0.50m thick of dark orange brown natural clay containing very few inclusions (1002) above which there was a 0.30m thick layer of very dark grey brown topsoil (1001). No archaeological features were observed in the excavated area.

### **Moling**

The previously described area of excavation was connected to the main cable trench (below) by means of moling the electricity cable underneath the southern access road to the farm, which was on a slight embankment. The moling is indicated on the plan by a dashed line (Figure 2)

### **The main cable trench**

This ran along the southern edge of the area containing the buildings of Hill Top Farm before turning to the north (Figure 2, Plates 3, 5 and 7). It was around 188m long and generally of a width of 0.70m, save at its easternmost end where it measured 2.50m x 2.50m. The trench ran from SE 2119 2861 (187.970m AOD) to SE 2110 2872 (191.870m AOD). The depth of the trench varied from 0.50m to 0.70m. Throughout the base of the trench there a layer of (1002) at least 0.40m thick though here it was a dark yellow brown colour (Plate 4).

In the central portion of the trench an area of ash and burnt clay (1003) at least 0.20m thick was observed in its base covering an area measuring around 5.50m by at least 0.70m (Figure 2, Plate 6). The (1003) extended from SE 2112 2864 (189.150m AOD) to SE 2113 2864 (188.390m AOD). Above it the (1001) was 0.30m thick.

### **Cable stay trench**

This measured 2.70m by 1.30m and was 3m deep (Figure 2, Plate 8) being centred on SE 2110 2871 (191.980m AOD). The (1003) appeared to be at least 2.70m thick and contained at a depth of around 1m to 1.20m a lens of broken limestone.

### **Spur trench**

This ran north from the main trench (SE 2115 2827, 188.100m AOD) for around 17m and terminated close to the farm buildings (SE 2115 2864, 192.020m AOD). The topsoil (1001) here was far thicker than observed elsewhere on site, being at least 0.50m thick (Plate 9). No archaeological features were observed in the trench.

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## **5. The Finds**

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*Pamela Cartwright*

### **Aims and objectives**

The following report will assess the potential of the recorded finds assemblage from the fieldwork for further analysis. This report aims to meet the requirements of MAP2, Phase 3, 'Assessment of potential for analysis' (English Heritage 1991). For the sake of expediency, and due to the small assemblage of material recovered, the artefacts will be quantified and discussed by Recorded Find Number. All artefacts were recovered during metal detecting and were retrieved from the topsoil (1001).

### **Artefacts by Recorded Find Number**

#### *RF 1*

Slightly encrusted iron staple with circular shank. Total length 90mm and 5 mm thick, this would have been machine made after the 1850's and likely rather modern in date.

#### *RF 2*

A large heavily encrusted iron nail or brad with a square shank. Its length is 66m, shank 10mm square and head 12x 17mm. The item is blacksmith made and has no dateable characteristics.

#### *RF 3*

This is an encrusted fragment of iron, possibly a joint or mount. The shaft is crafted on an angle with a 90° turn to one end where it has broken. The length is 52mm, 10 x 20mm thick, is blacksmith made and with no dateable characteristics

#### *RF 4*

This item is an encrusted length of iron rod with a square profile. Length 64mm and 10 x 8mm thick. This is blacksmith made with no dateable characteristics.

## **Assessment of potential and recommendations**

This small artefact assemblage from the watching brief is as a result of metal detecting in advance of the excavation of a trench for the laying of electricity cables. The items were found in the topsoil at the base of a large berm which surrounds the farmhouse and is constructed from many years of dumped farm waste.

The items collected can be described as farm waste, fragments of farm machinery and fence repair. The area in which they were found in has been contaminated by the dumping of this farm waste which would suggest they are not in their original context and not archaeologically significant. No further work is therefore required on the assemblage.

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## **6. Discussion**

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The following is solely the opinion of Humber Field Archaeology, and may not reflect that of Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office, archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

The layer of burnt material (1003) was very likely modern in origin. Metal detecting for any pre-modern finds was hampered by the proximity of the excavations to the modern complex of farm buildings and the spread of ferrous waste usually associated with such sites.

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## **7. Acknowledgements**

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Thanks are accorded to Northern Powergrid and the owner of Hill Top Farm, John Hall for their kind assistance and co-operation during the course of this project.

The work was carried out in accordance with a specification for a preliminary metal detector survey and archaeological watching brief produced by WYAAS. Site work was carried by Neil Adamson and David Rawson. Finds were processed by Pamela Cartwright, whilst the report was edited by David Atkinson and administrative support was provided by Georgina Richardson.

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## 8. References

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Guidelines for Finds Work The Institute of Field Archaeologists Finds Group First Draft, 1991.

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2008 Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (October 1994, revised September 2001 and October 2008)

Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2), English Heritage, 1991.

West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS) 2016. Specification for a Preliminary Archaeological Metal Detector Survey and Archaeological Watching Brief during Electricity Supply Works at Hill Top Farm, Hodgson Lane, Birkenshaw



## 10. Appendices

### Appendix 1 Photographic Concordance Table

| Photograph | Site Code                                 | Grid reference  | Date & Name             | Film No | Frame | Digital ref | Direction of view | Description   |
|------------|---|-----------------|-------------------------|---------|-------|-------------|-------------------|---|
| 1          | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 | 1       | 1     | 1           | NW                | Easternmost part of main cable trench                 |
| 2          | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 | 1       | 3     | 2           | SW                | Contexts 1001 & 1002 in main cable trench             |
| 3          | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 |         |       | 3           | SW                | Contexts 1001 & 1002 in main cable trench             |
| 4          | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 |         |       | 4           | N                 | Excavation to E of S access road to farm              |
| 5          | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 | 1       | 7     | 5           | NE                | Excavation to E of S access road to farm              |
| 6          | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 | 1       | 8     | 6           | NW                | General view of the site                              |
| 7          | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 |         |       | 7           | NW                | View towards central part of the main cable trench    |
| 8          | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 |         |       | 8           | NW                | Easternmost part of main cable trench                 |
| 9          | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 | 1       | 10    | 9           | NW                | Easternmost part of main cable trench                 |
| 10         | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 |         |       | 10          | N/A               | Leica GPS system surveying trenches                   |
| 11         | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 | 1       | 11    | 11          | SE                | Central part of main cable trench                     |
| 12         | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 |         |       | 12          | SE                | Central part of main cable trench                     |
| 13         | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 | 1       | 13    | 13          | NW                | Area of trench containing context 1003                |
| 14         | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 | 1       | 14    | 14          | NE                | Context 1003 in main cable trench                     |
| 15         | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 |         |       | 15          | NE                | Context 1003 in main cable trench                     |
| 16         | WB2016.003<br>Hill Top Farm<br>Birkenshaw | SE 2111<br>2870 | D. Rawson<br>22/05/2016 | 1       | 15    | 16          | W                 | Westernmost part of main cable trench being excavated |
| 17         | WB2016.003                                | SE 2111         | D. Rawson               | 1       | 16    | 17          | W                 | Westernmost   |

| Photograph | Site Code                           | Grid reference | Date & Name          | Film No | Frame | Digital ref | Direction of view | Description                                  |
|------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------|-------|-------------|-------------------|--|
|            | Hill Top Farm Birkenshaw            | 2870           | 22/05/2016           |         |       |             |                   | part of main cable trench being excavated    |
| 18         | WB2016.003 Hill Top Farm Birkenshaw | SE 2111 2870   | D. Rawson 22/05/2016 | 1       | 17    | 18          | E                 | Pole stay trench                             |
| 19         | WB2016.003 Hill Top Farm Birkenshaw | SE 2111 2870   | D. Rawson 22/05/2016 | 1       | 18    | 19          | SW                | Pole stay trench                             |
| 20         | WB2016.003 Hill Top Farm Birkenshaw | SE 2111 2870   | D. Rawson 22/05/2016 | 1       | 19    | 20          | W                 | Pole stay trench                             |
| 21         | WB2016.003 Hill Top Farm Birkenshaw | SE 2111 2870   | D. Rawson 22/05/2016 | 1       | 20    | 21          | W                 | Westernmost portion of main cable trench     |
| 22         | WB2016.003 Hill Top Farm Birkenshaw | SE 2111 2870   | D. Rawson 22/05/2016 | 1       | 21    | 22          | SW                | Westernmost portion of main cable trench     |
| 23         | WB2016.003 Hill Top Farm Birkenshaw | SE 2111 2870   | D. Rawson 22/05/2016 | 1       | 23    | 23          | SW                | Contexts 1001 & 1002 in main cable trench    |
| 24         | WB2016.003 Hill Top Farm Birkenshaw | SE 2111 2870   | D. Rawson 22/05/2016 | 1       | 25    | 24          | NE                | View of the farm buildings from distance     |
| 25         | WB2016.003 Hill Top Farm Birkenshaw | SE 2111 2870   | D. Rawson 22/05/2016 | 1       | 26    | 25          | SE                | Cable trench spur                            |
| 26         | WB2016.003 Hill Top Farm Birkenshaw | SE 2111 2870   | D. Rawson 22/05/2016 | 1       | 27    | 26          | NW                | Cable trench spur                            |
| 27         | WB2016.003 Hill Top Farm Birkenshaw | SE 2111 2870   | D. Rawson 22/05/2016 |         |       | 27          | E                 | Distant view of cable trench spur excavation |
| 28         | WB2016.003 Hill Top Farm Birkenshaw | SE 2111 2870   | D. Rawson 22/05/2016 |         |       | 28          | S                 | Cable trench spur                            |

**Appendix 2**  
**Context list**

- (1001) Very dark grey brown topsoil at least 0.50m thick at maximum
- (1002) Dark yellow brown to dark orange brown clay containing few inclusions at least 2.70m thick
- (1003) Layer of ash and burnt clay at least 0.20m thick, covering area measuring 5.50m x at least 0.70m

## **Appendix 3**

### **Archive**

#### **Project Details:**

Archaeological metal detection and observation, investigation and recording undertaken during groundwork associated with the excavation of trenches for electricity cables at Hill Top Farm, Hodgson Lane, Birkenshaw, West Yorkshire

**Site Code:** WB2016.003

**National Grid Reference:** SE 2119 2861 to SE 2110 2872

**Accession Number or Museum Reference:** N/A

**Author:** D. P. Rawson

**Date of fieldwork:** 7th and the 8th March 2016

**Report Number.** 1486

#### **Quantity**

The finds were not retained.

1x A4 ring binder contains the paper archive

#### **Summary of work**

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) during groundwork associated with the excavation of trenches for electricity cables at Hill Top Farm, Hodgson Lane, Birkenshaw, West Yorkshire.

An area of burnt material and clay at least 5.50m in diameter was observed immediately beneath the topsoil during the excavation of the main trench, but this was most likely modern in origin. Several corroded ferrous objects were found during metal detecting, but all seemed most likely to have been associated with recent farming activity.

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- 4.3 Digital Prints
- 4.4 Monochrome Prints
- 4.5 Negatives

##### **5 Final Report:**

Archaeological Metal Detecting and Watching Brief at Hill Top Farm, Hodgson Lane, Birkenshaw.  
Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report 1468, May 2016

## Appendix 4 Oasis Form

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

### Printable version

**OASIS ID: humberfi2-251770**

#### Project details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Project name                           | Hill Top Farm Birkenshaw  |
| Short description of the project       | A programme of archaeological metal detection, observation, investigation and recording was undertaken during groundwork associated with the excavation of trenches for electricity cables at Hill Top Farm, Hodgson Lane, Birkenshaw, West Yorkshire. An area of burnt material and clay at least 5.50m in diameter was observed immediately beneath the topsoil during the excavation of the main trench, but this was most likely modern in origin. Several corroded ferrous objects were found during metal detecting, but all seemed most likely to have been associated with recent farming activity. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 07-03-2016 End: 08-03-2016   |
| Previous/future work                   | Not known / Not known   |
| Any associated project reference codes | WB2016.003 - Sitecode   |
| Type of project                        | Recording project   |
| Site status                            | English Heritage Historic Battlefields Register   |
| Current Land use                       | Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation   |
| Monument type                          | NONE None   |
| Significant Finds                      | NONE None   |
| Investigation type                     | ""Systematic Metal Detector Survey"", ""Watching Brief""  |
| Prompt                                 | Electricity Act 1989 Section 36   |

#### Project location

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Country          | England   |
| Site location    | WEST YORKSHIRE KIRKLEES KIRKLEES Hill Top Farm Birkenshaw                   |
| Postcode         | BD11 2JG  |
| Study area       | 0.2 Kilometres  |
| Site coordinates | SE 21097 28717 53.754169799998 -1.680002639469 53 45 15 N 001 40 48 W Point |
| Site coordinates | SE 21203 28610 53.753203680789 -1.678402215674 53 45 11 N 001 40 42 W       |

Point  
Height OD / Min: 187.67m Max: 191.57m  
Depth

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation Humber Field Archaeology  
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body  
Project design originator West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service  
Project director/manager David Atkinson  
Project supervisor D. Rawson  
Type of sponsor/funding body Electricity Authority/Company

#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
Digital Archive recipient Humber Field Archaeology  
Digital Archive ID WB2016.003  
Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"  
Paper Archive recipient West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record  
Paper Archive ID WB2016.003  
Paper Media available "Correspondence","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey","Unspecified Archive"

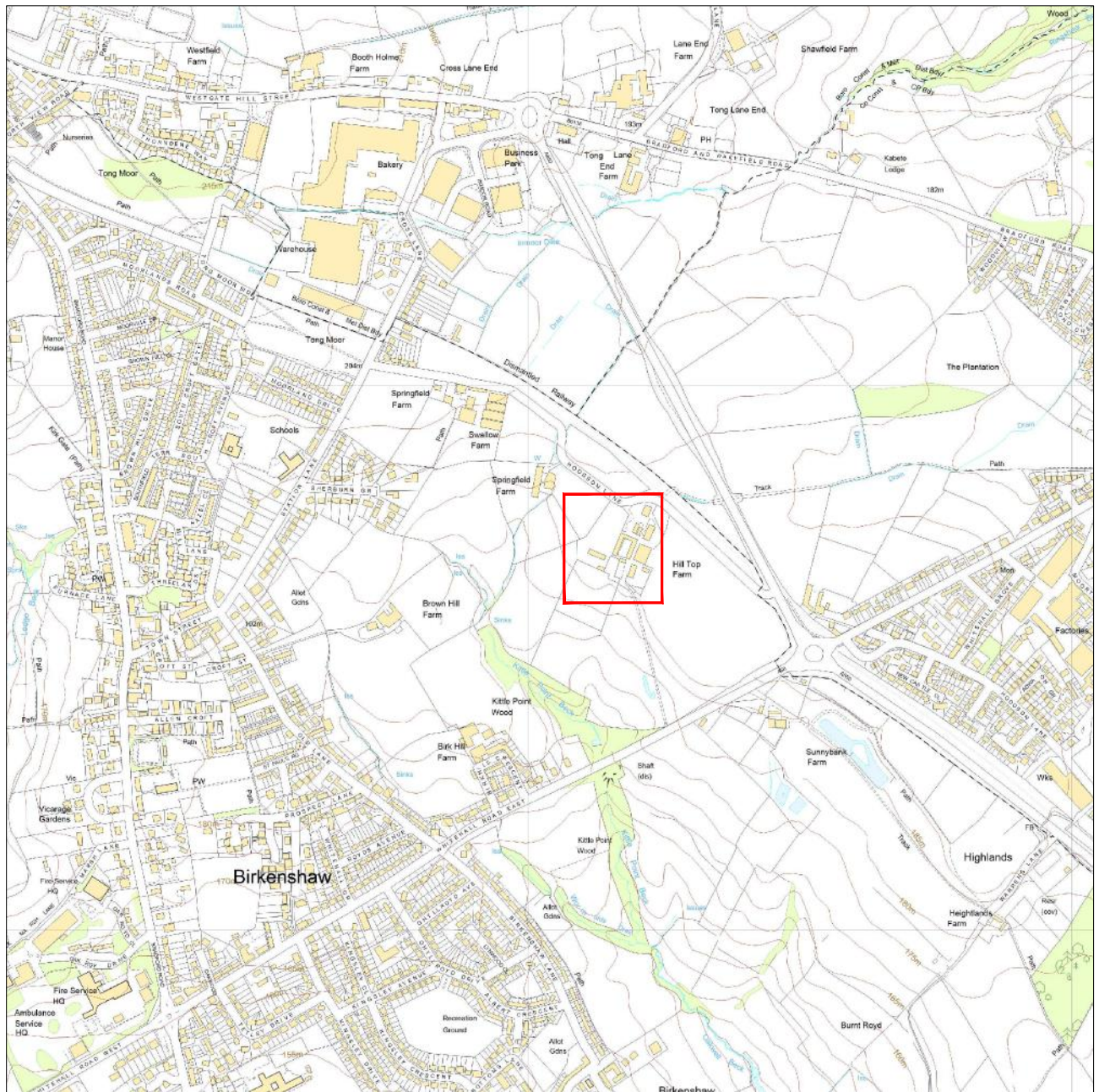
#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Archaeological Metal Detecting Survey and Watching Brief at Hill Top Farm Hodgson Lane Birkenshaw  
Author(s)/Editor(s) 'Rawson, D.'  
Other bibliographic details HFA Watching Brief Report No.1468  
Date 2016  
Issuer or publisher Humber Field Archaeology  
Place of issue or publication Hull  
Description A4  
Entered by David Atkinson (dave.atkinson@hullcc.gov.uk)

Entered on 3 June 2016

## OASIS:

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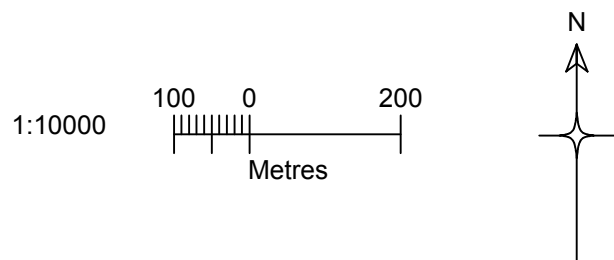


Figure 1 Site location plan



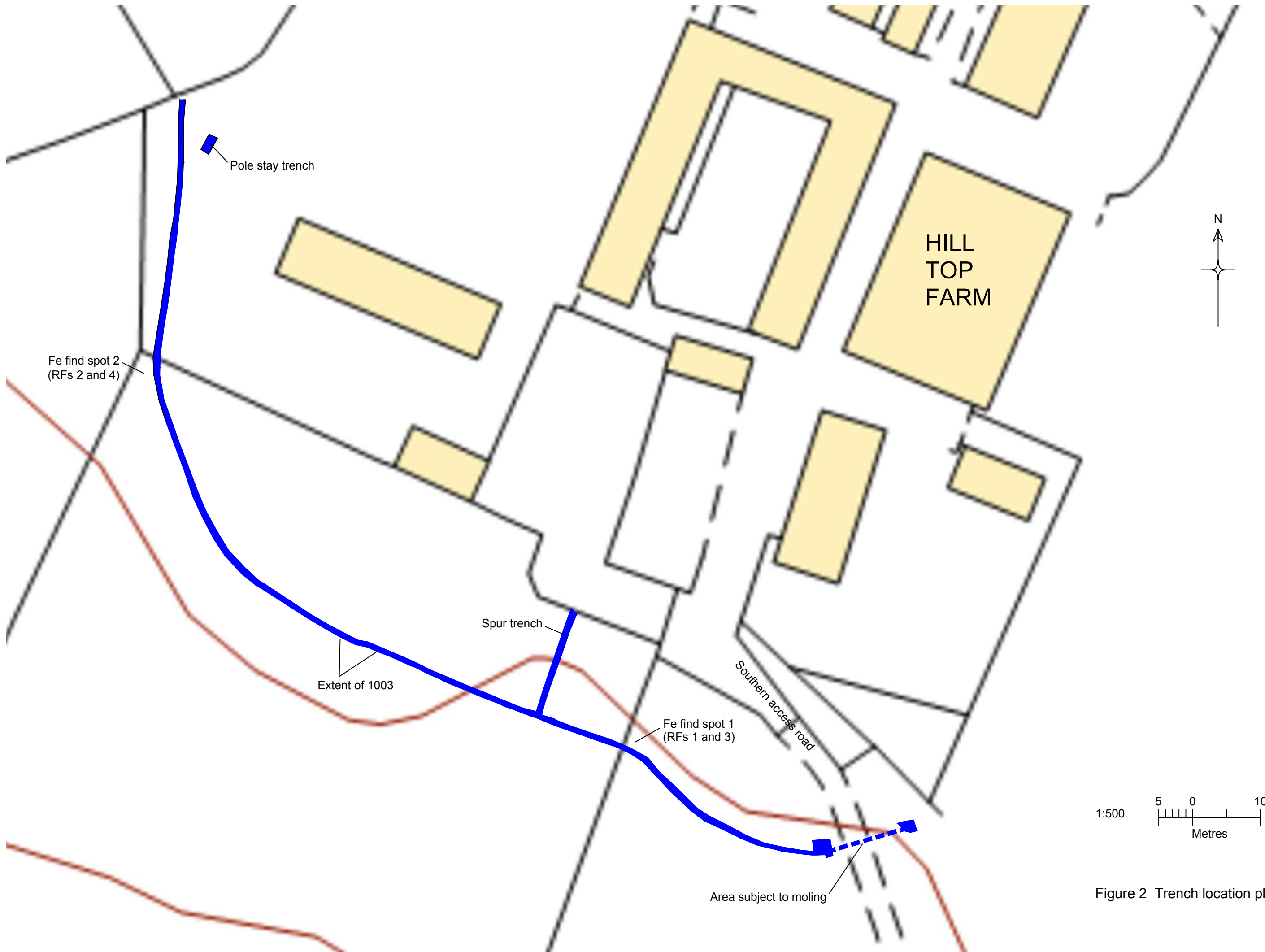


Figure 2 Trench location plan



Plate 1 General view of the site from the south-east



Plate 2 Portion of excavation to the east of the southern access road to Hill Top Farm, as viewed from the south-west and showing contexts 1001 and 1002 (0.5m scale)



Plate 3 Easternmost portion of the main cable trench viewed from the south-east



Plate 4 Contexts 1001 and 1002 in the cable trench (0.5m scale)



Plate 5 The central portion of the cable trench viewed from the north-west



Plate 6 Layer of charcoal and burnt clay 1003 beneath the 1001 in the central portion of the cable trench (0.5m scale)



Plate 7 The western portion of the cable trench viewed from the east



Plate 8 The pole stay trench viewed from the east



Plate 9 The cable trench spur viewed from the north

# Humber Field Archaeology

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Project Management • Desk-based Assessment • Field Survey • Fieldwork • Finds Research  
• Post-excavation Analysis • Inter-tidal Work

Humber Field Archaeology is an independently-funded part of the Humber Archaeology Partnership, a partnership serving The East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council