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**Roddymoor Mill House  
Hassall  
Cheshire East**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Report No. Y350/18**

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## SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd on land at Roddymoor Mill House Site, Hassall, Cheshire East during April 2018. Four trenches were excavated across the site of a new dwelling in order to evaluate any potential surviving archaeological remains.

Evidence for the location of the former mill was identified within the trenches along with ditches and large-scale landscaping works associated with the use, disuse and redesign of the mill landscape.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) during April 2018 on land at Roddymoor Mill House, Hassall, Cheshire East (Fig. 1, NGR SJ 7856 5794). The work was commissioned by Lanpro Services on behalf of Fosters and Partners and was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Lanpro 2017a) agreed with the development management archaeologist for Cheshire Shared Services' Archaeology Planning Advisory Service.

#### 1.1 Site Location and Description

The site is situated c.700m to the east of the village of Day Green, Cheshire and c.15km to the north-west of Stoke on Trent (centred at SJ 7358 5793; Figure 1). The overall site covers approximately 21ha and is bounded by Roughwood Lane and Betchton Lane to the east and by farmland on all other sides.

The geology of the site, particularly the area subject to archaeological evaluation is Whilkesley Halite Member: halite of varied purity with mudstone partings; underlying alluvial deposits (BGS 2018) following the water course of Kidsgrove Stream which flows east to west to the south of the former residential property. The soils of the area are described as 'slowly permeable seasonally wet, slightly acidic but base-rich loamy and clay soil' (Landis 2018).

#### 1.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

For a full historical and archaeological background see archaeological desk-based assessment for this site (Lanpro 2017b). This should be read in conjunction with the historic building recording (Lanpro 2017c).

There is one record within the Cheshire Historic Environment Record which is considered to be of relevance to this evaluation, pertaining to the post-medieval period: Higher Roughwood Mill (HER7883). A summary of Roughwood Mill is provided below.

Higher Roughwood Mill was a water powered flour mill dating to the late 18th century. The former flour mill is sited in a small valley and aligned on an east-west axis, running parallel with a Kidsgrove Stream to the south that once would have fed a

large mill pond to the east. Overlooking the mill, to the north-west, the former Roughwood Mill House sits on the northern slope of the valley. The original brick built house has been extended during the late 20th century to form a large six bedroomed detached property. Surrounding the former Mill House and the mill were other late 20th century ancillary buildings some of which were depicted on the 1841 Betchton Tithe Map.

The mill may have been built due to increased opportunities for transportation of goods brought about by the construction of the Trent and Mersey Canal (constructed 1766-1777). It is first depicted on Burdett's 1777 map of Cheshire but other than marking a mill, no detail is given of the arrangement of buildings, mill pond etc. The earliest detailed mapping to show the mill (and the rest of the study site) is the Betchton tithe map of 1841. The map shows the mill at the western end of a large mill pond (the abrupt end to which implies the presence of a dam although this is not marked). The head race is assumed to be covered over as there is no channel marked between the mill pond and the mill building itself (which housed its wheel internally). The tail race is shown exiting the mill building to the west.

The 1876 edition of the Ordnance Survey shows little substantial change to the study site with the exception that the mill pool is shown as greatly reduced in size, fed by a canalised stream and with the former extent of the mill pond shown as marsh. The mill pond dam is more clearly marked from this point onwards. Several small quarries or marl pits are shown across the southern part of the study site and in surrounding fields.

By 1898 the Ordnance Survey 25 inch map (Fig. 3) shows Higher Roughwood Mill in detail. Sluice gates are marked at the northern and southern ends of the mill pond dam, and the tail race is depicted in its current location, appearing from the western end of the mill. There is a square building on the south side of the mill, and a small rectilinear pond to its west. The Mill House is shown with two small extensions to the north and one at the eastern end of the south-facing elevation. To the north-west, a building has been erected of similar proportions to the Mill House.

The run of historic OS mapping to 1962 show no change to the study site other than the removal of a few field boundaries and the construction of some barns/out buildings at Roughwood Hill Farm.

### **1.3 Project Aims and Objectives**

The overall aim of the programme of archaeological evaluation trenching was to obtain sufficient information as to the archaeological significance and potential of the site to allow reasoned and informed recommendations to be made on the application for development of the site.

This was achieved through the following objectives:

- determining the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any archaeological remains within the development site
- verifying the results of the geophysical survey
- excavating and recording identified archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance
- assessing vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains

- assessing the impact of previous land use on the site
- assessing the potential for survival of environmental evidence
- undertaking sufficient post-excavation assessment to confidently interpret identified archaeological features
- reporting the results of the evaluation and placing them in their local and regional context
- compiling and depositing a site archive with Cheshire HER.

## **1.4 Research Framework**

The programme of archaeological investigation was conducted within the general research parameters defined in *The Archaeology of North West England, An Archaeological Research Framework for the North West Region* (Brennand 2006), specifically those relating to post-medieval industrial and agricultural activities. The investigation also took account of the national research programmes outlined in English Heritage's *Strategic Framework for historic Environment Activities and Programmes in English Heritage* (SHAPE) first published in 2008.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

CFA Archaeology Ltd is a registered organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). CFA Archaeology follows all relevant CIfA and Historic England Standards and Guidance (CIfA 2014a-c and EH 2008b).

All mechanical excavation work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand. The trenching works encountered deep deposits of unstable made ground and most trenches suffered from water ingress, which placed limitations on the ability to expose and test features.

Archaeological remains were recorded by means of photographs, drawings and written records conforming to CIfA standards (CIfA 2014a) and CFA's quality manuals. All features were planned and drawn at appropriate scales. The trenches, section lines and drawing points were surveyed using an industry standard Trimble GPS. The same equipment was used to establish levels above Ordnance Datum for the trenches.

All finds were treated in accordance with relevant guidance (CIFA 2014b). Modern finds were recorded and then discarded.

### **2.2 Trial Trenching**

Prior to trial trenching the mill building had been demolished to slab level; the slab was broken up with a pneumatic pecker and removed by a tracked excavator equipped with a toothed bucket under constant supervision by the archaeologist in the location of Trenches 1 and 2. All further deposits were removed in even, shallow spits by a tracked excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide smooth-bladed ditching bucket. All trenches were stepped on at least one side, due to the depths of the deposits encountered.

Four trial trenches were excavated within the development site boundary (Fig. 1). The evaluation trenches were designed to target the mill power systems, the mill dam, the mill leat and the site of a now demolished building to the south of the mill.

Trench locations were provided to CFA by Lanpro as a georeferenced AutoCad file and this was used in the field to lay out the trenches using an industry standard Trimble GPS. There was a minor discrepancy between the trench plan as shown in the WSI and the trench plan provided in AutoCad.

Trenches 1 to 3 were proposed 10m in length. Trench 1 and 2 were shortened to 4m and 9m respectively due to the constraints of excavating within the slab footprint of the former mill building and its ancillary attachments. Trench 3 was extended to 13m to assess the changing deposits from the mill building face beyond the possible out building. Trench 4 was shortened to 14m due to the limitations presented by remaining tree stumps within the landscaped area.

The water table was breached in all trenches bar Trench 3. A water pump was utilised in Trench 1 to expose the surviving structural remains.

### 2.3 Archiving

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, will be deposited at a relevant museum within an agreed timescale. The archive will be ordered, indexed and conform to the requirements of that museum and to all relevant professional guidance (CIfA 2014c). An inventory of the primary archive is presented below.

Phase	File/Box No.	Description	Quantity
Evaluation	File no. 1	Context register sheets	2
		Context sheets	44
		Trench record sheets	4
		Digital photographic register sheets	2
		B&W photographic register sheets	1
		Drawing sheets	3
		Drawing register sheet	1

**Table 1: Inventory of Primary Archive**

A summary of the results of archaeological works will be submitted for inclusion in OASIS. The OASIS reference is *cfaarchal-321165*.

### **3. RESULTS**

#### **3.1 Trial Trenching**

Descriptions of the four trenches appear in Appendix 1. All contexts from the evaluation form Appendix 2. The following results should be read in conjunction with figures 1-4.

The existing surface across Trenches 1 and 2 consisted of a reinforced concrete slab (0.30m deep). Topsoil was identified in Trenches 3 and 4 and consisted of very dark grey-brown, silty clay (001) and varied in depth across the site from 0.25-0.4m. The natural substrate for the area was only identified in Trench 4 and consisted of blue-veined brown clay (000).

Each trench contained a number of features and deposits and are described below.

#### **3.2 Trench 1**

Trench 1 contained a flagstone floor (045) at 62.25m aOD, associated with a brick-repaired stone wall (046) and a brick wall (044).

The stone wall (046) was identified in the south-west corner of Trench 1, and survived to a height of 1.09m up from the flagstone floor (Fig. 4.1). It appeared that the stone wall formed the foundation for the brick walls of the mill. Abutting its north-facing elevation was the later concrete slab to support the swimming pool, as well as a flagstone floor (045) which lay buried under the sorted pebble hardcore onto which the concrete slab had been poured. These flagstones were only briefly visible as the hardcore was removed by the excavator, due to water ingress (Fig. 4.2). Each flagstone measured approximately 0.8m by 1m.

A brick wall (044) had been built on top of the flagstone floor and survived to 9 courses high (Fig. 4.3). It is unknown as to whether this is a brick support strut for the later construction of the swimming pool, or an alteration to the space defined by the stone-walled structure.

#### **3.3 Trench 2**

Trench 2 contained a single feature, a channel (033) that was both cut into and sealed by clays (030, 034, 036 and 043), with a further modern feature (039) for the insertion of a service also identified in the trench.

The base of Trench 2 was reached in a sondage at its southern end, which extended to 2.5m below the concrete slab (67.23m aOD) to reveal water-derived deposits consisting of thin layers of pale blue-grey silts and clays (043). This deposit was also identified at the northern end of Trench 2 at 1.87m below the concrete slab. It contained the remains of timbers (Fig. 4.4), which appeared to have been dumped.

Overlying Deposit 043 was Deposit 034 at the southern end of the trench and Deposit 036 at its northern end. Deposit 036 measured 0.6m in depth at the northern end of the



trench and consisted of mid grey sandy silty with very occasional small pebbles and pockets of clay throughout.

Deposit 034 measured 1.45m in depth, becoming shallower towards the north (Fig. 4.5). Its depth was recorded through the excavation of a sondage. It consisted of mid blue-black silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded stones. Towards the bottom of Deposit 034, at the interface with 043, were three substantial faced stone blocks (Fig. 4.6) with mason's drag, metal fittings and bolts. These were contained within deposit 034. Two of the recovered stones showed signs of later disturbance in the form of having been pecked in an attempt to break them up and remove them, possibly for the insertion of a modern service (039), with each block subsequently having had concrete poured on them.

Channel 033 was located towards the centre of the trench (Figs. 2.1 and 4.7). It was orientated north-west to south-east, had vertical sides and measured 1.4m wide, and cut through both 034 and 036. It was exposed to a depth of 0.6m, but further excavation to reveal its base was prevented due to health and safety concerns over the depth of the trench as a whole, and the presence of a single timber laying in the centre of the channel which continued into both edges of the excavation. The fill of this channel was mid grey, silty clay with abundant pebbles and brick fragments (032).

Overlying all these features and deposits was a deposit of mid blue-grey silty clay with pebble inclusions (030), recorded as having a maximum depth of 0.75m at the southern end and becoming shallower towards the north. This was overlain by hardcore for the concrete slab and modern breeze-block wall foundations.

### **3.4 Trench 3**

Trench 3 contained a single north to south orientated ditch (005) and a construction cut (007), possibly for the construction and/or modernisation of the mill. These features were cut into made ground (029), which was excavated to a depth of 0.72m and consisted of mid orange-brown, coarse sandy clay (Fig. 4.8). Its full depth was not identified in this trench due to health and safety concerns about the proximity of the spoil heaps and the ongoing demolition of the mill.

Ditch 005 was identifiable as 0.9m wide, continuing south beyond the limit of excavation and with a depth of 0.45m (Fig. 4.9). Further excavation at depth was not achievable due to the safety concerns mentioned above and because of the instability of the ground at the northern end of the trench due to the demolition of the mill wall. The ditch was filled with 19th century rubble (006).

Towards the northern end of the trench was a construction cut (007; Fig. 2.2). This feature extended 5.5m to the northern end of the trench and was recorded as having gently sloping sides towards the former mill building. Its full depth exceeded 3m as recorded in the north-facing section of this trench, which abutted the south-facing elevation of the former mill building. The material filling it (004) was dark black-brown silty clay with frequent brick fragments and stones.

Overlying 004 was a light brown sand deposit (003) which formed either the secondary fill of this construction cut or a later construction cut. Topsoil (001) overlay the whole trench.

### 3.5 Trench 4

Trench 4 contained dumped layers of backfill material within the former mill pond, and three cut features (015, 022, 024) (Fig. 2.3 and 4.10).

Natural clay (000) was recorded at the base of the trench, overlain by re-deposited natural (040/027). This appeared to be cut by a feature (022) at the eastern end of the trench, aligned north to south and continuing beyond the eastern end of the trench. It was recorded as being at least 0.2m deep, but further excavation beyond this depth was restricted due to water levels. It was filled by dark grey-brown, silty clay (021) with a red hue and some sand components. Deposits 017 and 016 also overlay or filled this feature, and were only visible at the very eastern limit of the trench, and here only in the section. Deposit 017 was a firm, mid-grey brown clay with very occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions, and Deposit 016 was a dark grey-brown silty clay with very thin iron-rich veins throughout, indicating a high concentration of water present.

A layer of bright orange and black silty clay (009, 011, 018) overlay the re-deposited natural (040/027) and the fill of (022). This deposit was 0.54m in depth and was a bright yellow-orange clay silt, which became very black and charcoal-rich towards the east (011) and west (018) (Fig. 4.10) and forms a thick layer of made ground.

A ditch (015) cut through deposits (009) and (018) as well as the re-deposited natural (040/027), orientated on a slight north-west to south-east axis, measuring 2.86m in width and 1m in depth. This ditch contained two fills. Its primary fill (014) consisted of a mid-dark brown grey sandy silt with evidence of iron oxidisation throughout as a result of the water content. Overlying this was the secondary fill (013), a much more mixed brown grey silt, with some slumping and mixing of deposits 009 and 018 in its lower horizon, implying there was a hiatus between the two phases of infilling.

Feature 024 was located at the western end of the trench and appeared to be on a north-south alignment, continuing in both directions beyond the edges of the trench. It measured 2.78m in depth, a depth determined by the excavation of a sondage at the end of the trench, but appeared to be getting deeper towards the west (Fig. 4.11). This feature consisted of fairly steep sloping sides and a concave base. This feature was initially filled by a compact layer of mid grey sandy clay (041) with very occasional small stone inclusions and was otherwise fairly sterile. Overlying this was the secondary fill (023); a layer of mid-light grey-brown sandy clay with a slight silt component and small pebble inclusions. A tertiary fill was also recorded, of mottled light orange-brown to light-mid grey silty clay (020).

The upper fills of (024) were cut through by a steep sided ditch with a concave base (026) filled by a mix of sandy and silty clay (025). It would appear that this ditch was orientated north-south.

The fills present in Trench 4 appear to primarily consist of the backfill of the mill pond in a sequence of dumped deposits and layers. A later cut (015) is likely to be 20<sup>th</sup>

century in date and certainly post-dates the infilling of the mill pond. The re-deposited material at the western end of the trench could have formed the bank of the mill dam.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

The evaluation on land at Roddymoor Mill House, Hassall, Cheshire East revealed the presence of structural remains of an earlier phase of the mill and previously unidentified features within the surrounding landscape.

Trench 1 contained a flagstone floor (045), associated with a brick-repaired stone wall (046) and a parallel brick wall (044). The space defined by these remains had been infilled with sorted pebble gravels to create a bed for the pouring and setting of concrete for the construction of the swimming pool. The stone wall is likely to be the foundation of the southern wall of the mill building. The stone blocks were not regular or dressed and appeared to have undergone some repair and infilling with brick. The flagstone floor may be a basement area below the mill.

The stones found in deposit 043 at the base of Trench 2 were dressed, designed for a purpose, most likely a machine base to anchor mechanisms within the mill. These dressed stone blocks were found within an alluvial-type deposit along with preserved wooden timbers. They were clearly not in situ and are likely to be from the original mill. Peck marks on one stone showed that there was an attempt to remove them from the deposit they were found in when a modern service was inserted, likely during the later refurbishment of Higher Roughwood Mill and installation of the swimming pool.

Trench 2 was located within the mill pond, parallel to the east wall of the mill (Fig. 3). It is likely that the alluvial or water derived deposits in Trench 2 formed after the mill fell out of use. The channel (033) found within this trench does not correspond to a possible inlet channel from the mill pond to the mill itself as it is orientated north-west to south-east, not east to west as would be expected, and is likely to be a later insertion; sealed, purposefully or otherwise, by deposit 030. It is possible that this later activity has removed the original inlet channel.

Trench 3 contained a possible construction cut associated with the later refurbishment of Higher Roughwood Mill and the installation of the swimming pool. This appeared to be cutting an earlier ditch (006), though in reference to the 1898 OS map, this trench is located on the western side of the dam of the mill pond, and it may therefore be that it did not represent a ditch cut, but rather the interface of a truncated slope of the dam, overlain with modern made-ground material as a levelling layer. No evidence for the earlier building to the south of the main mill building was identified; however, overlying the site detail and trench plan onto the earlier map suggests that the building lies further west than the trench. It also appears that the western half of that building lay where a later ramp had been constructed to access the basement level, which would have removed this building in part, if not entirely.

The layers and features identified in Trench 4 are all phases of modern landscaping associated with the infilling of the mill pond. Feature 024 to the west was originally interpreted as a cut for the western side of the mill pond dam. It may be that this is a

cut of a ditch along the eastern side of the dam, created by the extraction of material to create the dam, with the mill pond proper increasing in depth towards the east.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

The trenching evaluated the potential for surviving remains pertaining to the use, historic form and function of Higher Roughwood Mill and the ancillary buildings at the site. The location of a flagstone floor and stone walls within the footprint of the mill were identified and are likely synonymous with the original construction of the mill complex, most probably dating to the 18th century. It is noted that the mill has undergone significant changes since its original construction, and no traces of any of the mill's power mechanisms or machinery were uncovered.

One of the most significant changes was the infilling of the mill pond and subsequent landscaping of the grounds surrounding Higher Roughwood Mill and Mill House, evidence of which was seen in the other three trenches. However no relationships could be inferred between features and deposits that were present in different trenches due to the varying nature of the deposits and the truncation caused by later landscaping/demolition of features on the site.

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### Online Resources

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Landis, 2018, <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes> (Accessed 24/04/2018)

## **APPENDICES**

## Appendix 1: Trench Summary

Trench	Description
1	<p>The trench was orientated west to east through the flat surface of the tiled concrete base of the former swimming pool.</p> <p>Reinforced concrete in the trench measured c.0.20m in depth and overlay sorted, clean gravels measuring 1.09m in thickness. Underlying this were structural remains.</p> <p>The trench contained a flagstone stone floor (045), associated with a brick-repaired stone wall (046) and a brick wall (044).</p>
2	<p>The trench was orientated north to south through concrete pad for the ground floor of the eastern side of the Higher Roughwood Mill.</p> <p>Reinforced concrete in the trench measured 0.30m, underlying this was a deposit of mid blue-grey silty clay (030), measuring 0.75m in depth at the southern end, becoming shallower towards the north.</p> <p>The trench contained a single cut channel (033) that was both cut into and sealed by clay deposits (030, 034, 036 and 043).</p> <p>A modern service trench was also identified.</p>
3	<p>The trench was orientated north to south and on flat, short grass, landscaped area across the trench.</p> <p>Topsoil in the trench measured 0.26-0.40m in depth and overlay a band of orange-brown sandy clay subsoil measuring 0.58-0.60m in thickness. Underlying this was the natural substrate.</p> <p>One ceramic land drain was noted on a north-east to south-west orientation at the southern end of the trench.</p> <p>The trench contained a north to south orientated ditch (005) and a construction cut (007) for the construction and/or modernisation of Higher Roughwood Mill..</p>
4	<p>The trench was orientated west to east and had a slight slope downwards from west to east across the trench.</p> <p>Topsoil in the trench measured 0.42-0.48m in depth this overlay several made ground deposits and landscaping . Underlying this was the natural substrate.</p> <p>One ceramic land drain was noted on a north-west to south-east orientation at the western end of the trench.</p>

## Appendix 2: Context Summary

Context no.	Type	Trench No.	Fill of	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height/ Depth (m)	Description
000		-	-	-	-	-	Natural: Mid-dark blue-grey, compact, silty clay. Natural substrate for the site.
001		-	-	-	-	0.25-0.40	Topsoil: Very dark greyish brown, friable, silty clay with some modern inclusions. Topsoil for the whole site.
002							Subsoil
003	Fill	3	008	>2.00	>1.80	0.56	Light brown, loose-friable, sand with modern rubbish. A modern sand deposit
004	Fill	3	007	5.50	>1.80	0.90	Fill of Modern Deposit 007: Dark brown-black, friable, silty charcoal clay with frequent CBM and stones. A modern fill of cut 007 which has been cut into a modern pipe deposit (029).
005	Cut	3	-	>5.00	>0.90	>0.45	Cut of Small Linear: Linear in plan with very steep and straight sides orientated north to south. Cut of a small modern linear containing modern building materials. This has cut into deposit 004.
006	Fill	3	005	>5.00	>0.90	>0.45	Fill of Modern Linear 005: Mottled light and mid brown, friable, gritty sandy clay with some modern rubble inclusions. Fill of a modern drain/boundary.
007	Cut	3	-	5.50	>1.80	0.90	Cut of Modern Deposit: Roughly linear with a fairly gradual sloping side, orientated east to west. Cut containing a modern deposit 004. This has cut 029 and has been cut by 005. Possibly part of the construction of the swimming pool.
008							VOID
009	Fill	4	010	3.25	>1.80	0.54	Mid yellow red, friable, clay silt. A very bright orange deposit mineral rich in iron. Iron (burnt in appearance) and mottled. Does contain some black material very similar to 011. Possibly the same fill as 018, 011 and 016.
010							VOID
011	Fill	4	012	>2.00	>1.80	0.25	Dark black, friable/loose, clay silt. Infused with charcoal hence the black staining properties of the fill. Very



Context no.	Type	Trench No.	Fill of	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height/Depth (m)	Description
							homogenous.
012							VOID
013	Fill	4	015	2.86	>1.80	0.60	Secondary Fill of Ditch 015: Mid brown grey, moderately loose, silt. The base of this fill has had some slumping from 018. It is more mixed than 014 (the primary fill) with a mix of mid grey clay, silt and bands of pale orange-white sand with mottling and mixing throughout. This is particularly around the tree stump to the south-east with material similar to 009 mixed in as well.
014	Fill	4	015	2.15	>1.80	0.40	Primary Fill of Ditch 015: Mid-dark brown grey, moderately loose, sandy silt. Slightly mottled primary fill, though featuring evidence of grey iron panning - not solid but as sandy veins. It is much more uniform than 013 the secondary fill.
015	Cut	4	-	1.60	>1.80	0.58	Cut of Ditch: Linear in plan with gradually sloping sides and a concave base, orientated north-east to south-west. Cut of a large ditch identified as the latest feature in the trench. Possibly a drainage ditch or a field boundary. This ditch cuts 009 and 018.
016	Fill	4	-	>3.00	>1.80	0.18	Relict Topsoil: Mid-dark grey brown, firm silty clay with rare small sub-rounded stones. Possible relict topsoil in the east end of the trench. Very minor iron oxidation veins and water throughout. This might possibly be the same as contexts 009 and 018 although it is not clear.
017	Fill	4	-	>3.00	>1.80	0.16	Relict Subsoil: Mid grey brown, firm, silty clay with rare sub-rounded stone. Possible relict subsoil in the east of the trench. This might also be the same as 009 and 018 but is very unclear.
018	Fill	4	019	2.35	>1.80	0.48	Black - dark brown, friable-compact, very silty clay with some rooting inclusions. This has been cut by ditch 015 and a small amount has slumped into the ditch. This deposit has

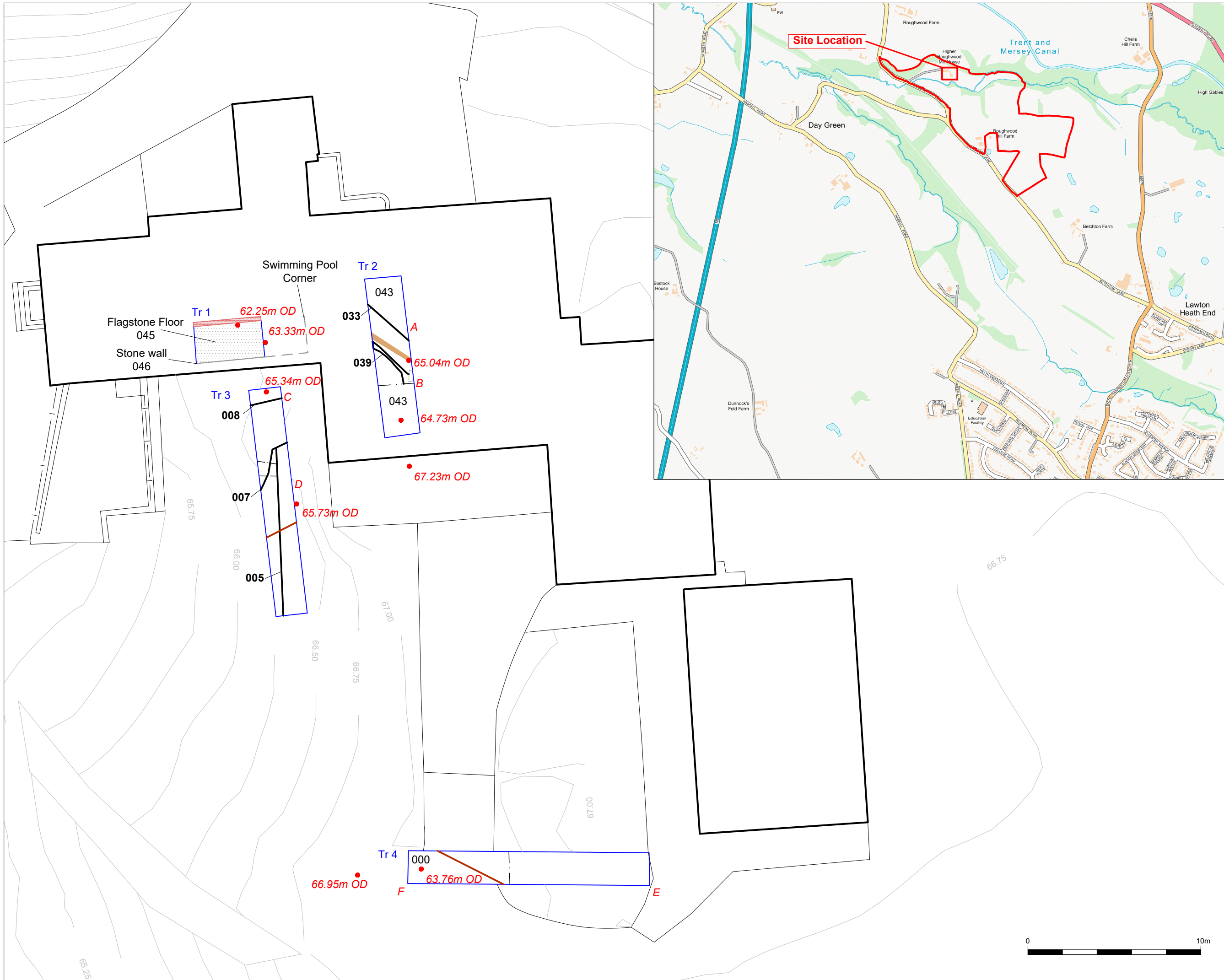
Context no.	Type	Trench No.	Fill of	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height/Depth (m)	Description
							also been cut by a modern field drain. This might well be the same as 009 as it contains very similar characteristics.
019							VOID
020	Fill	4	024	2.60	>1.80	0.38	Final Fill of Feature 024: Mottled light brown, light orange brown and a light-mid grey, friable-compact silty clay. Some small stone inclusions. The final fill of a large feature cut 024.
021	Fill	4	022	2.80	>1.80	0.20	Primary Fill of Feature 022: Dark reddish greyish brown, friable, gritty silty clay with some rooting inclusions.
022	Cut	4	-	2.80	>1.80	0.20	Cut of Linear: Linear in plan with rounded but steep sides and an unexcavated base, orientated east to west. A linear cut which contains three fills 021, 017 and 016. This feature cuts 040.
023	Fill	4	024	2.45	>1.80	0.27	Secondary Fill of large Feature 024: Mid-light grey brown, friable to compact, silty sandy clay with rare small-mid sized pebbles.
024	Cut	4	-	4.88	>1.80	0.94	Cut of Large Feature: Linear in plan with very steep and straight sides with a slightly concave base, orientated east to west. A very large cut feature containing fills 041, 023 and 020. The use of this is unknown. This feature has cut 042 and 000 and has been cut by a modern field drain to the east and may have been cut by ditch 026.
025	Fill	4	026	2.40	>1.80	0.73	Fill of Possible Ditch 026: Mottled mid-dark grey, orange brown and dark brown, friable - compact, sand and silty-clay with rare stones and CBM. Modern fill of a possible ditch to the west of the trench.
026	Cut	4	-	2.40	>1.80	0.73	Cut of Possible Ditch: Linear in plan with steep and straight sides and a near flat base, orientated north to south. Cut of a possible later ditch (possibly similar to 015).
027	Fill	4	028	2.40	>1.80	0.41	Mottled light brown-white, light blue-grey and a mid-light orange brown, friable-compact, sand and clay. Has

Context no.	Type	Trench No.	Fill of	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height/Depth (m)	Description
							been cut by large ditch 015. Same as 040
028							VOID
029	Fill	3	-	>10.00	>1.80	0.72	Large Modern Deposit: Mid orange-brown, compact, gritty silty sand with some pockets of clay and stone as well as some iron planning. A large modern deposit which has been cut by 007 and a modern plastic pipe.
030	Fill	2	031	>10.00	>1.80	0.75	Mid blue grey, firm, silty clay with pebble inclusions. Pure clay (pale grey brown) pockets towards the base but otherwise fairly uniform. Unclear horizon between it and 034 and 036 visually. The stone content of 032 distinguishes.
031							VOID
032	Fill	2	033	>2.30	1.40	>0.60	Fill of Channel 033: Mid grey, firm, silty clay with an abundance of small pebbles. This deposit contained a large timber beam in the centre, possibly dumped in rather than placed for a reason. Contained several bricks which were unfrogged, unmarked and some were vitrified.
033	Cut	2	-	>2.30	1.40	>0.60	Cut of Channel: Linear in plan with steep - near vertical sides and an unexcavated base, orientated north-west to south-east. A very linear channel through water borne deposits. The orientation does seem to be on par for the mill race however it is not conclusive.
034	Fill	2	035	>3.00	>1.80	1.45	Clay Deposit of Cut 035: Mid blue black, firm, silty clay with occasional small-mid sub-rounded stones. Fairly uniform with occasional rare pebble like stone. The horizon is unclear with 030 but clear with 043. At the base of the deposit was masonry from the mill - photographed but left on site.
035	Cut	2	-	>3.00	>1.80	1.45	Cut for Clay Deposit: Linear in plan with gentle sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Has been cut by 033 and cuts 043. Cut was not really definable within confines of

Context no.	Type	Trench No.	Fill of	Length (m)	Width (m)	Height/Depth (m)	Description
							the trench. The depth seems to increase towards the south.
036	Fill	2	037	>87	>1.80	0.60	Mid silvery grey, firm, sandy silt with very rare small pebbles. This deposit cuts 033. Clay deposit to the north. Clear horizon with the natural but not with 030 above. Small pockets of pure clay throughout (similar to 030). Very fine material.
037							VOID
038	Fill	2	039	1.95	>1.80	0.60	Fill of Modern Pit 039: Dark blue grey, very firm, silty clay with an abundance of gravels. Filled with gravels pebbles and tiles. Backfill for when services/cables were inserted. Heterogeneous mix of material.
039	Cut	2	-	1.95	>1.80	0.60	Cut of modern Pit: Sub circular in plan with steep sides. The base was not visible. Orientated east to west. Cut, presented in the west section of trench two as a semi-circular feature - most likely for the insertion of cable found concreted on to the masonry of 034 - and possibly other refurbishments on the mill building. This feature cuts 036 and 034.
040	Fill	4	-	3.00	>1.80	0.60	Possible Redeposited Natural: Light brown-white and light-mid grey, friable-compact, sand and clay. This deposit possibly sits on top of or cuts into the natural, although the full depth hasn't been excavated. This deposit has been cut by 022 and ditch 015.
041	Fill	4	024	3.60	>1.80	0.54	Primary Fill of 024: Mid grey, compact, sandy clay with some rare small stones. It is a very clear primary fill of a large cut feature.
042	Fill	4	-	0.33	>1.80	0.29	Sandy Deposit: Mid yellow brown, friable, silty sand. A small sandy layer which sits on top of the natural. This deposit has been cut by modern feature 024 and by a modern land drain.
043	Fill	2	-	>10.00	>1.80	-	Alluvium Deposit: Pale blue grey, moderately loose, silty clay. Thin layers of silts and

<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Trench No.</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Height/Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>
							sands implying water deposition and the deliberate manipulation of the land. Timbers have been found preserved within this deposit - Photographed but not retained. It does have some pale brown silts and sands.
044	Structure	1		>4	0.24	1.0	Brick wall orientated E-W. Double skin of 9 courses of stretcher bond
045	Structure	1		>4	>1.8	-	Flagstone floor underlying wall 044. Flags c. 0.8x1m
046	Structure	1		-	-	1.09	Rough cut stone wall with thinner packing stones between. Brick repair/remodelling visible. Mason's drag visible. Lowest visible course bulges outwards.

**FIGURES 1-4**



**Key:**

- Site Boundary
- Trench Location
- Archaeological Feature
- Field Drain
- Ridge and Furrow
- Wood
- Ridge and Furrow

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Title:  
**Site Location and Trench Plan**

Project:  
**Roddymoor Mill House, Hassall,  
 Cheshire East**

Client:  
**Lanpro**

Scale at A3:  
**1:200**

Drawn by: <b>SW</b>	Checked: <b>RH</b>	Date: <b>02/10/2018</b>
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Report No: <b>Y350/18</b>	Fig. No: <b>1</b>
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**Key:**

- Brick
- Clay
- Stone
- Wood

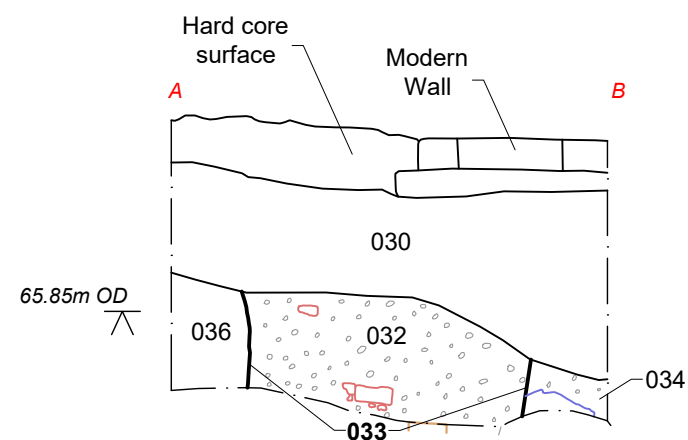


Figure 2.1 - West-facing section of Trench 2

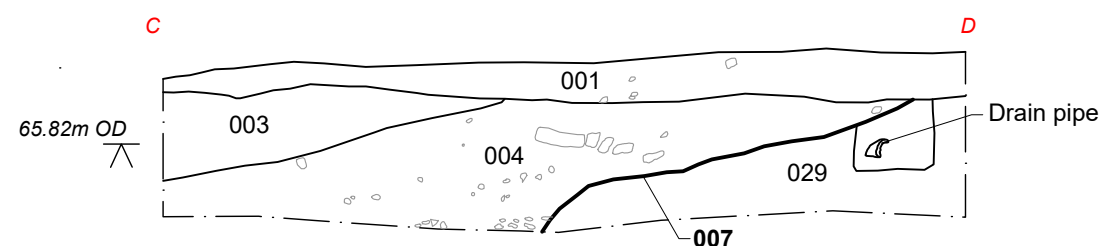


Figure 2.2 - West-facing section of Trench 3

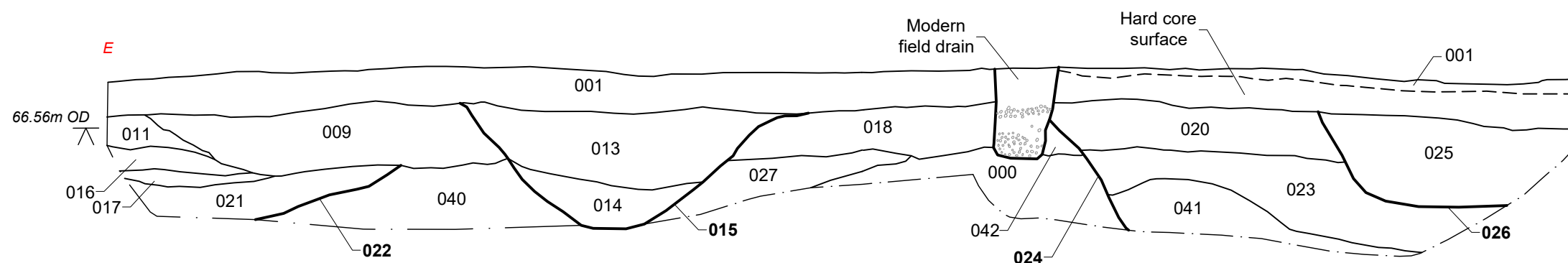


Figure 2.3 - North-facing section of Trench 4



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Title:  
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Project:  
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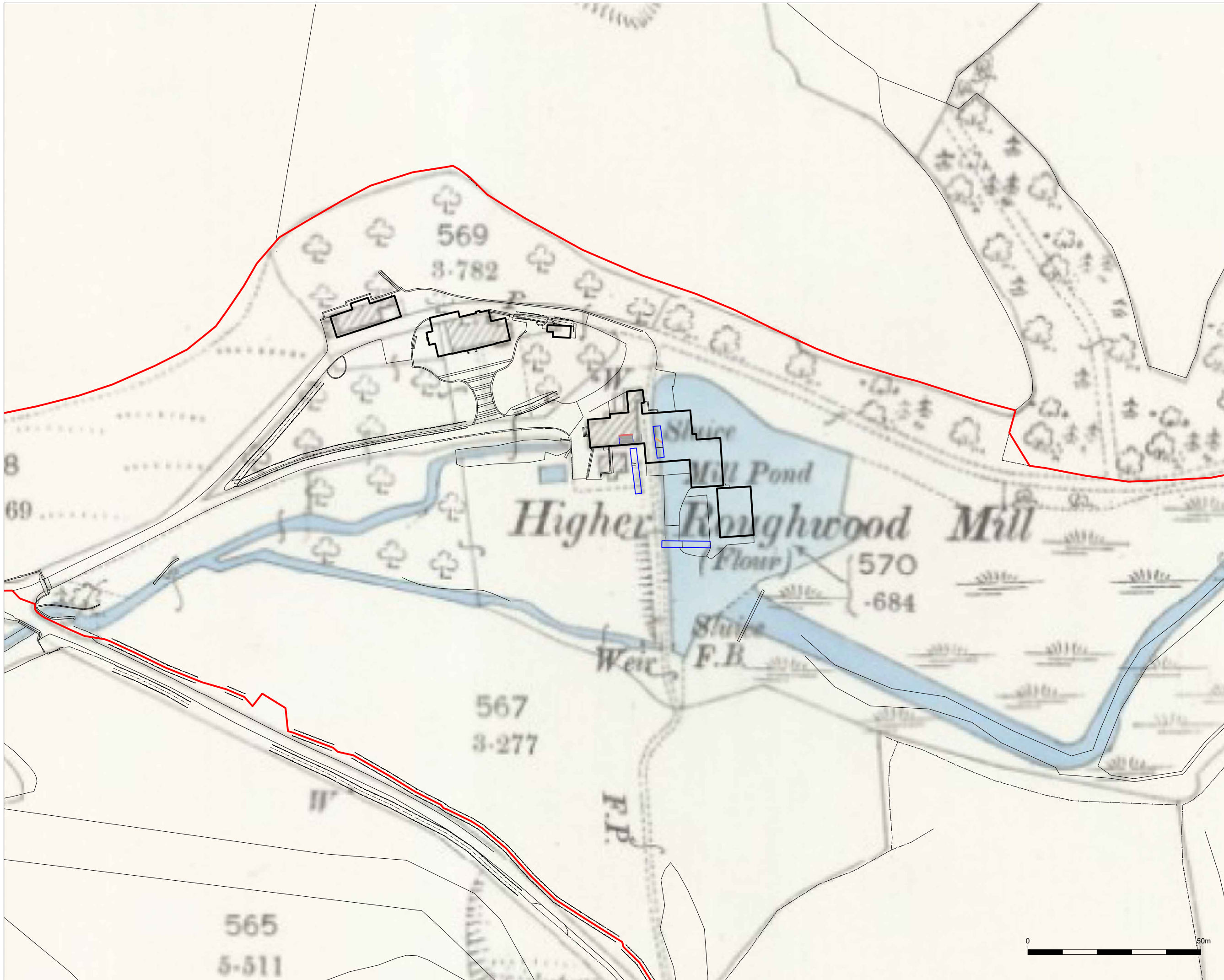
Client:  
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Scale at A3:  
**1:50**

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Report No: Y350/18	Fig. No: 2
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Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench Location



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Title:  
**Site Location and Trench Plan  
 Overlying 1898 OS Map**

Project:  
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Client:  
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Scale at A3:  
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Report No.: <b>Y350/18</b>	Fig. No.: <b>3</b>
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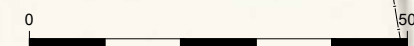




Fig. 4.1 - North-facing elevation of Wall 046, in Trench 1, facing south-west



Fig. 4.2 - Flagstone Floor 045 visible as the mechanical excavator agitated the overlying water

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Report No: <b>Y350/18</b>		Fig. No: <b>4.1-4.2</b>



Fig. 4.3 - South-facing elevation of Brick Wall 044, in Trench1, facing north-west.



Fig. 4.4 - Timber extracted from Deposit (043)

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Fig. 4.5 - West-facing section of south end of Trench 2 showing Deposits 036 with faced stone in section, overlying Deposit 043, and underlying Deposit 030



Fig. 4.6 - Faced stone with bearing attachments, extracted from Deposit (036)

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Fig. 4.7 - Trench 2, facing south, showing Channel 033



Fig. 4.8 - W-facing section of Trench 3

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Fig. 4.9 - Trench 3, N-facing section of 005



Fig. 4.10 - North-facing section of Trench 4, facing south-west

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Fig. 4.11 - North-facing section of Feature 024, Trench 4



Fig. 4.12 - Working shot

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