

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Historic Building Recording*

*Site & Landscape Survey*

*Interpretation, Design & Display*

**The Laithe', 38 Haigh Lane  
Hoylandswaine  
South Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. Y061/12**

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## **Summary**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during topsoil stripping prior to the installation of a 'subterranean living space' below the garden of a converted barn, at 'The Laithe', 38 Haigh Lane, Hoylandswaine, South Yorkshire. The site was adjacent to a rebuilt and converted barn, also a listed building. No archaeological remains were recorded and no finds were recovered.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on 20 August 2012. The work was commissioned by Andrew Brown of Design Space Architecture on behalf of Greg and Heather Parkin, in order to fulfil planning permission (ref. 2012/0322). The CFA code and number for the project is HOYL/2066.

All work was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) and a CFA written scheme of investigation (WSI). The work was intended to mitigate the destruction of buried archaeological remains through 'preservation by record' should they be encountered.

### **1.2 Site Location and Description**

The site was to the south-east of 'The Laithe', 38 Haigh Lane, Hoylandswaine, South Yorkshire, S36 7LJ (Fig. 1, NGR SE 2612 0493). The development area covered approximately 132m<sup>2</sup> and lay at approximately 228m above the Ordnance Datum (AOD).

The geology of the area consists of 'Pennine Lower Coal Measures, undifferentiated Mudstone, Siltstone, Sandstone, Coal, Ironstone and Ferricrete' (BGS 2012). Soils of the area are described as 'Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils, neutral and acid pastures and deciduous woodlands; acid communities such as bracken and gorse in the uplands (Landis 2012).

### **1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background**

The principal interest in the site is its proximity to a grade II listed barn (UID 334043, List Entry 1191725). The listed building description is as follows

'...Cruck barn, probably 16th century, encased 17th century with 18th-century addition... coursed rubble, stone slate roof. Three internal bays plus additional bay to right...Central square-headed cart entrance with oak lintel and quoined surround. Rear: opposing square-headed cart entrance. Interior: two cruck-trusses (Ryder 1979)'

Given the date and name of the building it is possible that it was a former 'laithe house'; a stone built building housing stock and a family in the same range (EH

2007). Since the listing in 1988, the barn has been entirely rebuilt and converted to a dwelling (Plate 1).

#### **1.4 Previous Archaeological work**

No previous archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the development area prior to this watching brief.

#### **1.5 Objectives**

The general objectives were to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains; assess their character, interpret them in terms of their significance and produce a report on the results.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 Watching Brief**

Excavation of the development area was monitored down to the natural clay. The area was inspected for evidence of archaeological features and the resulting spoil was visually inspected for finds. Appropriate recording forms were completed and photographs were taken of the excavated area.

### **2.2 Standards and Guidance**

CFA Archaeology is a registered organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All work was conducted in accordance with relevant IfA Standards and Guidance documents (IfA 1994, 2001), English Heritage guidance (EH 2008 and 2011), and CFA's standard methodology.

### **2.3 Monitoring**

The project was monitored by Andrew Lines of SYAS who was informed in advance of the works taking place.

### **2.4 Archiving**

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, will be deposited with Weston Park Museum according to an agreed timescale, and will be ordered according to current guidelines and to nationally recognised standards (IfA 2001, Brown 2011 and Turnpenny 2012).

### **3. RESULTS**

The entire footprint for the subterranean extension was stripped by a 9 tonne tracked back-acting excavator. Other than a soak away and the footing for a modern barn that had previously been on the site, there were no archaeological features and, apart from modern detritus, no finds were recorded.

The topsoil was entirely dark-brown clay 0.25 – 0.30m thick, sterile but for occasional bits of wood, brick and other modern detritus. Below this was orange-brown sandy clay made ground about 0.20 – 0.30m thick with brick flecks and occasional stones, with natural clay below that.

### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

The ground had been heavily disturbed by the construction and later demolition of the barn that had previously stood on the site and by the rebuilding and conversion of the listed 'lath house'. The natural clay had been disturbed and redeposited in places and the topsoil, though containing some modern detritus, was fairly sterile and had been imported to the site along with new turf for the landscaping of the area. The ground investigation also identified thick deposits of made ground (MSS 2012). Archaeological remains, had they existed within the development area, are very likely to have been removed as a consequence of this modern activity on the site.

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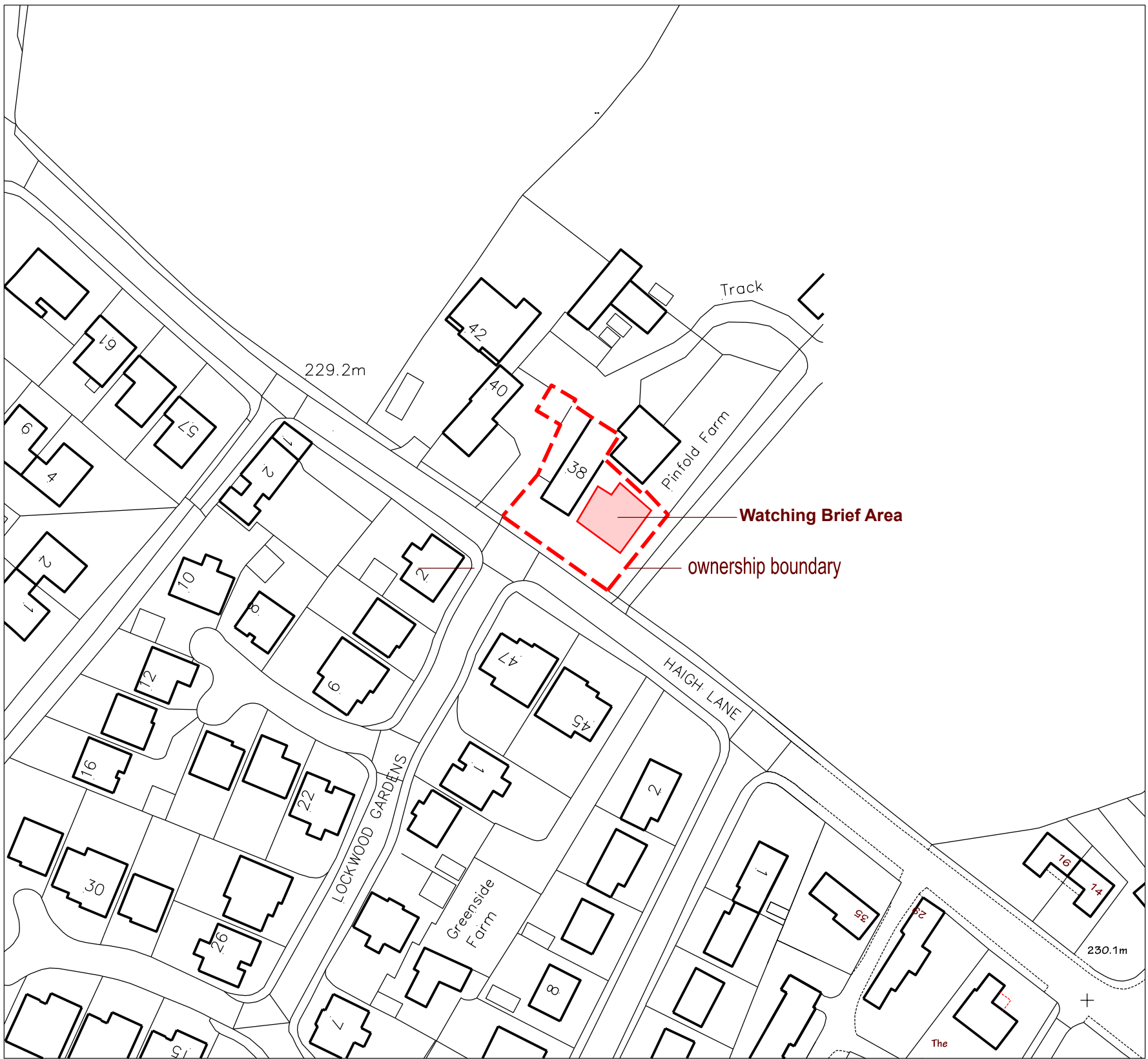
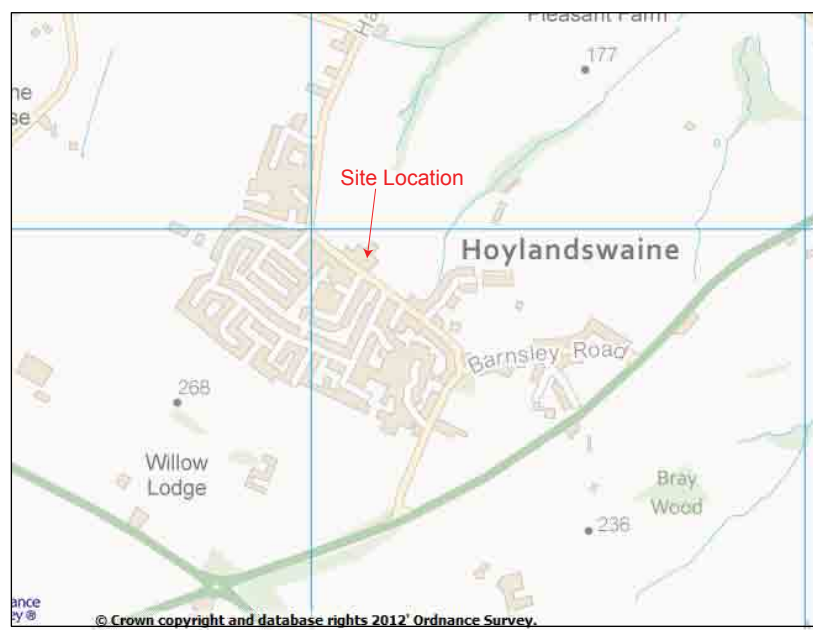
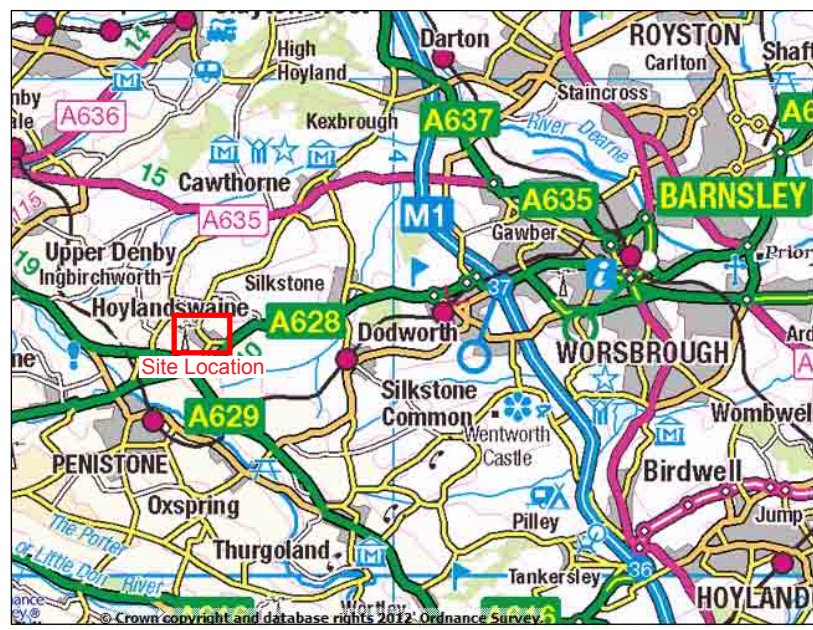
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**Figure 1**



Key:



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Title:  
 Site Location and watching brief area (after Design Space Architects)

Project:  
 The Laith, 38 Haigh Lane, Hoylandswaine, South Yorkshire. Archaeological Watching Brief

Scale at A3:  
 1:1000

Client:  
 Greg and Heather Parkin

|           |             |             |
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| Drawn by: | Checked by: | Report No.: |
| SW        | SW          | Y066_12     |

## **Plates 1-3**





Plate 1: 'The Laithe' looking north



Plate 2: Working shot showing the watching brief area, looking north-east



Plate 3: The watching brief area, looking north-east