

# THE PORTER BROOK, FULWOOD LANE, SOUTH YORKSHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



On behalf of:  
**Sheffield City Council and  
South Yorkshire Forest**

**CS Archaeology**  
July 2013

**On behalf of:** Sheffield City Council  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Howden House,  
Sheffield  
S1 2SH

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** SK 2800 8410

**Project Number:** 115

**OASIS ID:** csarchae1-154325

**Fieldwork, Report and illustrations by:** Chris Scurfield

**Timing:** Site Visits     June 2013  
Report             July 2013

**Enquiries to:** **CS Archaeology**  
Manor Farm House  
Manor Occupation Road  
Royston  
South Yorkshire  
S71 4SG

T: 01226 722571  
M: 07963 586767  
E: chrisscurfield@yahoo.com

*Frontispiece: view of exposed culvert looking west*

## CONTENTS

1	SUMMARY.....	2
2	INTRODUCTION.....	3
3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES .....	3
4	METHODOLOGY.....	3
5	RESULTS .....	4
5.1	Map Regression.....	4
5.2	Watching Brief .....	4
6	CONCLUSION .....	5
7	PROPOSED ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION .....	5
8	REFERENCES .....	6
8.1	Bibliographic References .....	6
8.2	Internet Sources .....	6
8.3	Cartographic Sources.....	6
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	6

## FIGURES

- 1 Location Map
- 2 Site Map
- 3 Ordnance Survey Map of 1854
- 4 Culvert Sections
- 5 Photographic Locations

## APPENDICES

- 1 Archive Inventory

## FEATURES

- [1] The stone culvert
- [2] The boulder alignment (lynchet?)

## 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report records the partial deconstruction of a stone culvert containing the head waters of Porter Brook and is in response to a request for archaeological monitoring by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service.
- 1.2 The work consisted of observing removal of the culvert's capstones and two breaches to the culvert which forms a sinuous course east of Brown Edge Farm and west of Clough Hollow.
- 1.3 Results of the watching brief revealed the culvert to be a continual structure with no tributaries and with walling details that reflect the local topography.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report has been commissioned by Sheffield City Council to record the partial destruction of a heritage asset (undesigned).
- 2.2 The Site lies to the southeast of Brown Edge Farm along the head waters of the Porter Brook, west of Sheffield (**Figure 1**). Historically the site lay towards the boundary of Hallamshire as denoted by the '*great heape of stones called Ringinglawe*' (Ringinglow), Stanage Pole, and Whirlow which means the boundary mound (Hey 1979, 27). The site sits astride the township's boundary between Eccleshall and Upper Hallam within the Strafforth and Tickhill (Upper Division) Wapentake. In 1832 the townships of Eccleshall and Upper Hallam were absorbed into the parish of Sheffield.
- 2.3 Exactly when the site was enclosed is unknown but 1000 acres of Ecceshall Commons were enclosed by an Act of Parliament in 1779. It is noted that the Earl of Surrey was entitled to all the tythes and two thirds of the small tythes arising out of such lands in Ecclesall that lay on both the north and south side of the Porter Brook (Paulus 1907). Hallam enclosure Act dates to between 1791-1805 (Mc Neil 2013). Certainly by the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey, enclosures around the site which were probably associated by Brown Edge Farmstead, had been established.
- 2.4 In 1868 Upper Hallam was described as being a recent wild place but was then (1868) densely populated. The manufacture of iron and steel was widespread with collieries and stone quarries for building (National Gazetteer 1868: Internet Source 3).

## 3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To record the existing and unknown archaeological resources, establishing form, function and date of any archaeological deposits within their rural context.

## 4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 This has been carried out according to CS Archaeology's standard recording format: 35mm SLR and digital cameras incorporating a photographic scale and using archivally stable film formats (Appendix 1). Photographs are listed in the appendix and are depicted in **Figure 5** and for section drawings of the culvert [1] see **figure 4**.
- 4.2 Upon completion of the project the archive will deposited with Sheffield Museum.

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Map Regression

5.1.1 A rapid map regression exercise was carried out prior to the project. This revealed that the present enclosure surrounding the site could still be recognized. The 1<sup>st</sup> Ed Ordnance Survey map (**Fig. 3**) depicts an additional stepped boundary within the enclosure which is now no longer extant. In addition to this now removed boundary is a trackway which correlates to the present footpath. No other features within the enclosure are depicted. West of the enclosure and Brown Edge Farmstead, is an extensive sandstone quarry 'Brown Edge Quarries'. In the later 19<sup>th</sup> century Ordnance Survey maps this quarry features an array of paths/trackways from Fulwood Lane and Ringinglow Road. Also within the enclosure later 19<sup>th</sup> century maps depict a footpath that bisects the enclosure, and correlates to the course of the stone culvert, which apparently leads to Brown Edge Farm.

### 5.2 Watching Brief

5.2.1 This took place along the course of the stone culvert [1] from points A to C. Work to remove the cap stones of the culvert started at point B and proceeded to point C, then the remaining section from [point B to a point approximately half way to point A was observed. The remaining section, to point A, had historically been removed and was an open culvert prior to the watching brief.

5.2.2 At point B (**Plate 1**, 1) the capstones of the culvert were visible and had been partially repaired with concrete beams used to cover the historic breach. The cover stones varied in size but were typically between 0.7-0.9m across, and were worn on the upper side (**Plate 2**, 5). The culvert measured 0.48m wide x 0.53m high (**Plate 3**, 6: **Fig. 4**) and this was consistent from points B-C. The culvert walls were of a dry or rather wet stone construction up to six courses high with occasional orthostats used for the lower course (**Plate 4**, 4). The bulk of the walling consisted of small tabular stone that had been rounded corners, probably post construction. The base consisted of flat abutting flagstones and these were imbricated on the down slope (**Plate 5**, 13).

5.2.3 The watching brief noted no side culverts so that reliance was made of the 'wet stone' walling allowing percolating water from the enclosure to filter into the culvert. Further more the course of the culvert did not form a direct line between points A-C, it curved with the local topography.

5.2.4 Just to the west of point B, the culvert appeared to pass beneath the linear boundary [2] (**Plates 6**, 21 & **7**, 13). As far as could be discerned boulders did cover the culvert, leading to the hypothesis that the linear feature [2] represents the remains of an enclosure boundary/wall. And it would suggest that the boundary post dates the culvert. Evidence of a boundary wall is depicted on the 1854 map (**Fig. 3**).

5.2.5 As the excavations moved to the west the culvert became deeper due to cutting through a high bluff. Because of the increase to the historic excavation depth, the use of orthostats to the lower walls was employed (**Plate 8**, 23: **Fig.4**) which facilitated

a deeper (0.6m) culvert. The use of base flagstones and capstones was similar to those employed between points B and C.

- 5.2.6 Furthermore when the culvert was being breached at point B, early nineteenth century pottery ('willow pattern': **Plate 9**) was recovered from infill material abutting the culvert walls.

## 6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 This work has been able to confirm the sinuous alignment of the culvert, which reflects the local topography. In addition it has confirmed the constructional arrangements and that there were no tributaries feeding into the culvert between points B and C.
- 6.2 Relative dates can be established, since the culvert would appear to predate the enclosure wall [2] and therefore may have been the first element of the land improvements undertaken as part of the enclosure of Eccleshall and Upper Hallam commons probably during the early nineteenth century as suggested by the pottery.

## 7 PROPOSED ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

- 7.1 No further mitigation is recommend other than the infilling of the asset and therefore its preservation largely in situ.

## 8 REFERENCES

### 8.1 Bibliographic References

Hey D. 1979, *The Making of South Yorkshire, Moorland*.

McNeil J 2013, *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring (Watching Brief)*

Paulus C 1907, '*Forgotten Facts in the History of Sheffield*' (Internet Source 1)

Wilson J M 1870-72, '*Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales*'

### 8.2 Internet Sources

1 [http://www.sheffieldindexers.com/Memories/CherishedMemories\\_InclosureAwards.htm](http://www.sheffieldindexers.com/Memories/CherishedMemories_InclosureAwards.htm)

2. <http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html>

3. <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS/WRY/Sheffield/Sheffield68.html>

### 8.3 Cartographic Sources

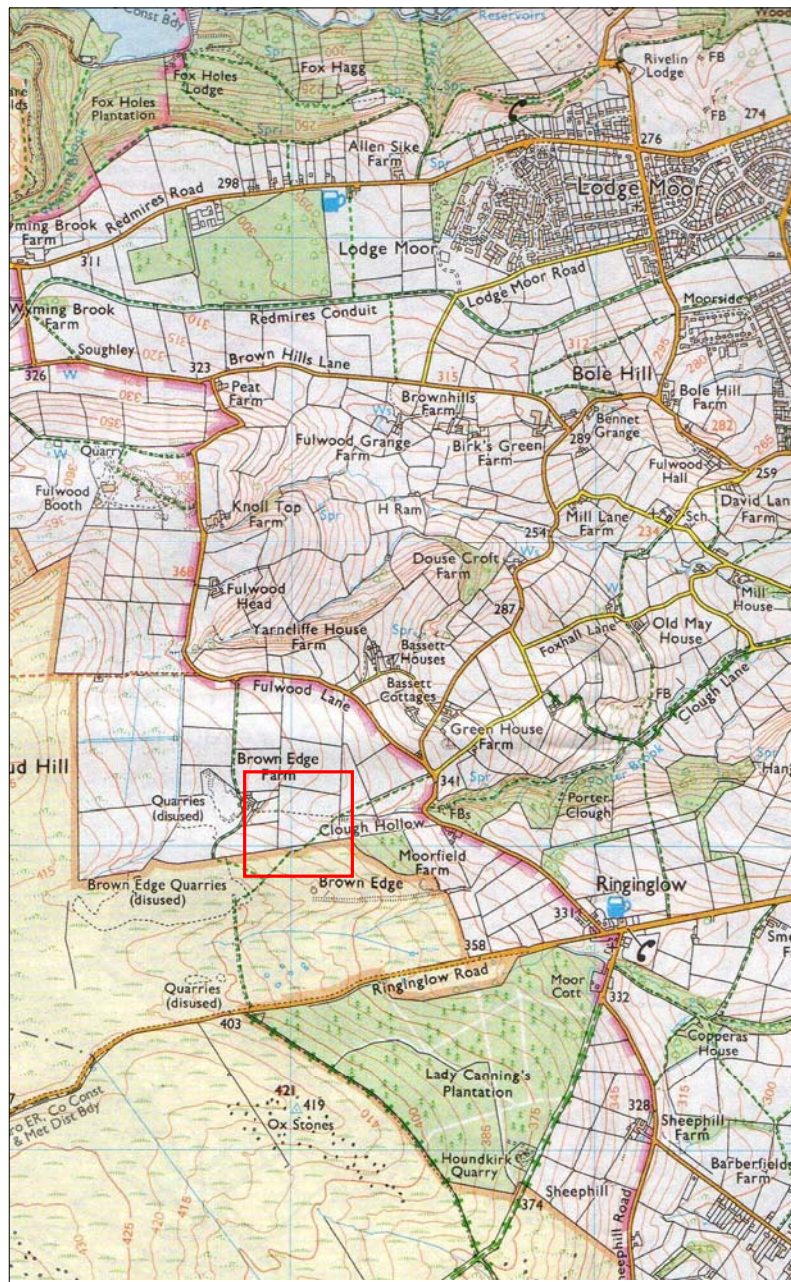
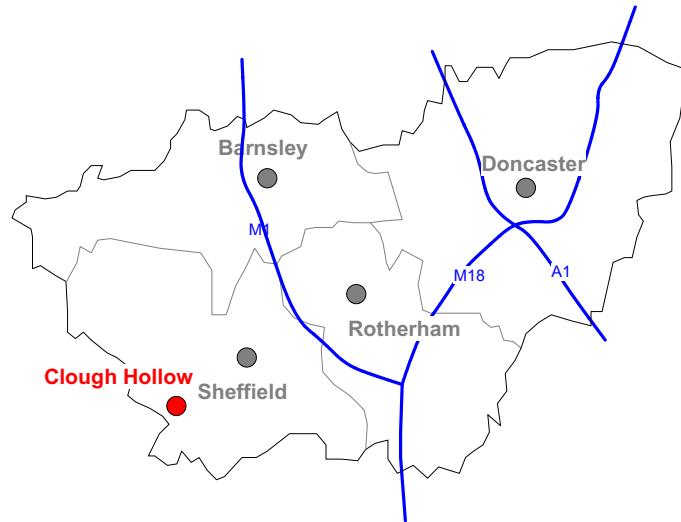
1854 1st Ed 6" Ordnance Survey Map

## 9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Sheffield City Council and South Yorkshire Forest for commissioning this report, and to Mr. J McNeil (SYAS) for the archaeological brief that has provided the background to the project.



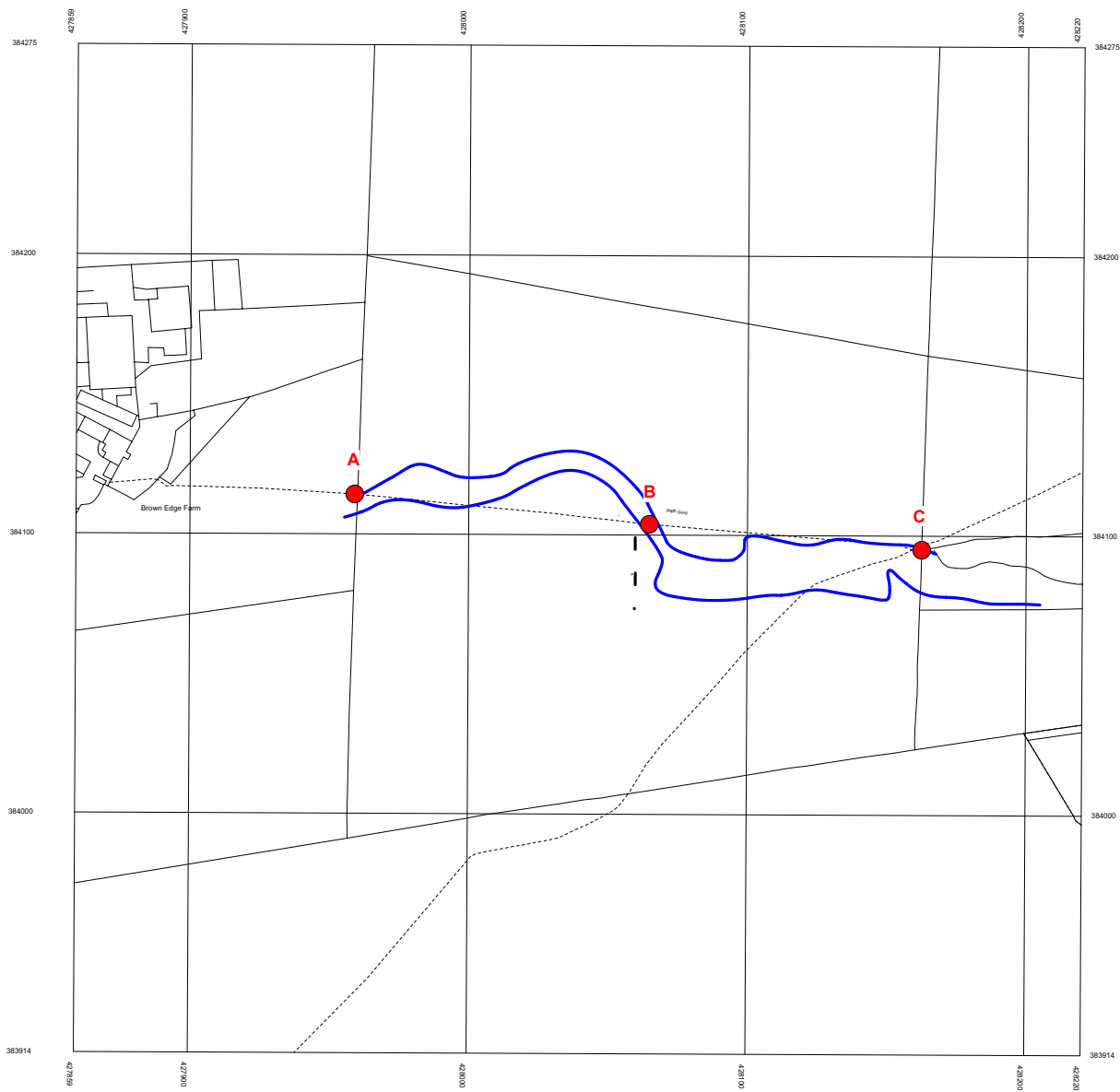
# FIGURES



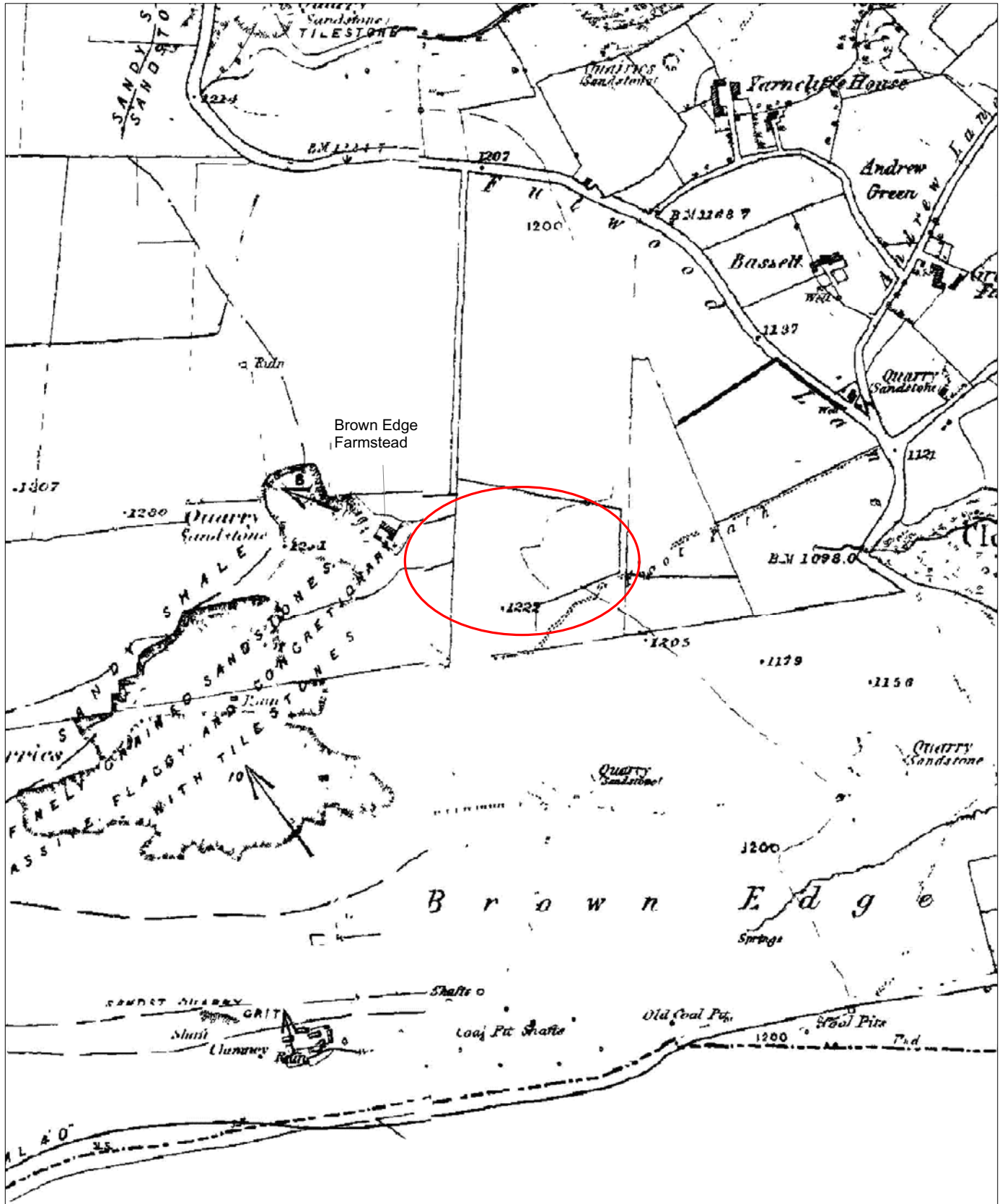
see fig 2

Key

- Location points
- ▬ Limits of relict stream course
- ▬ linear boulders (lynchet?)



(c) Crown Copyright 2013  
Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited  
without the prior permission of Ordnance Survey.



not to scale

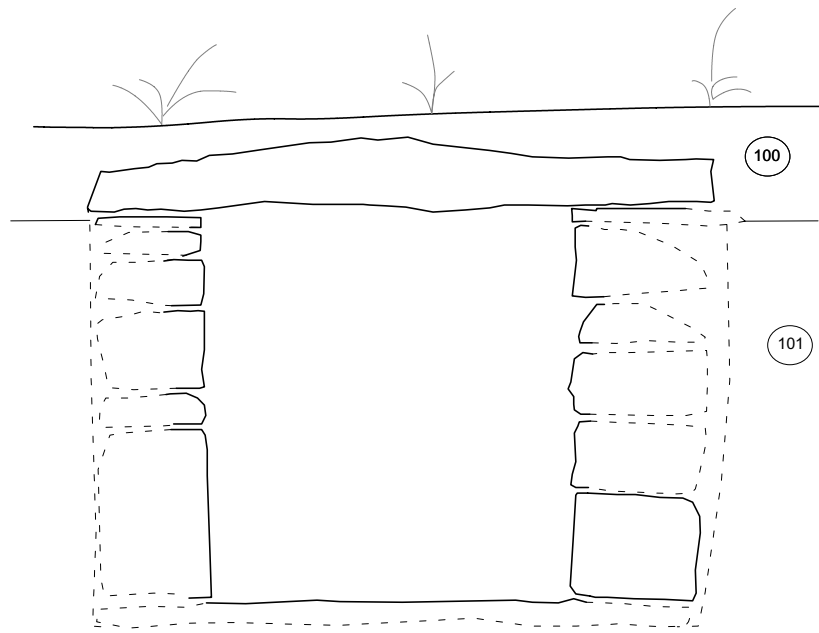
 Approximate area of the site

Porter Brook, Fulwood Lane,  
Sheffield: An Archaeological  
Watching Brief

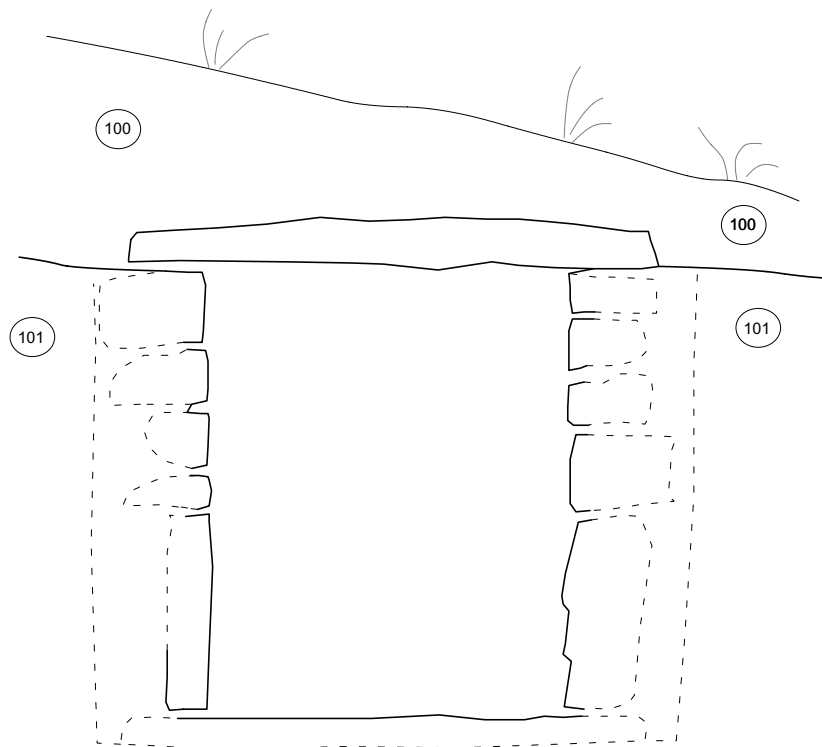
Figure 3: Ordnance Survey  
Map of c.1854

CS Archaeology  
July 2013

Section 2  
East Facing  
Section of Culvert

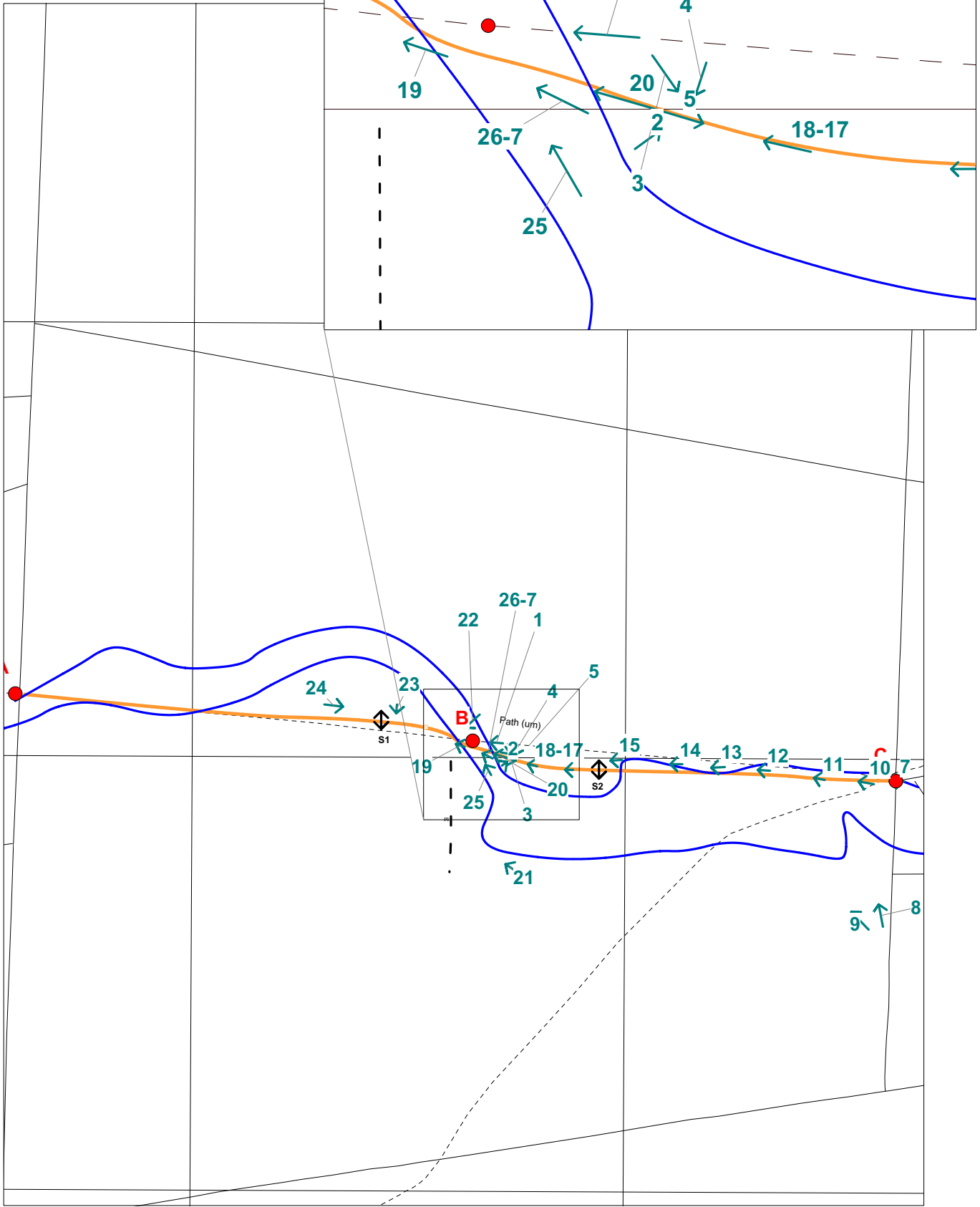


Section 1  
East Facing  
Section of Culvert



Key

- Location points
- Limits of relict stream course
- linear boulders (lynchet?)
- stone culvert





# PLATES

*With Photographic Position Numbers in italics*



**Plate 1, 1:** pre-excitation view of the exposed top of the stone culvert, from the east



**Plate 2, 5:** detail of the smooth capstone, from the west



**Plate 3, 6:** view down the culvert, from the west



**Plate 4, 4:** detail of wall construction, from the north



**Plate 5, 13:** detail of the exposed stepped (imbricate) culvert base, from the east





**Plate 6, 21:** view of the boulder line (lynchet?), from the south east



**Plate 7, 19:** view of the intersection with the linear boulders (lynchet?), from the east



Plate 8. 23: Detail of the culvert's north facing wall with orthostats, from the north



Plate 8: view of the pottery recovered from the back fill of the culvert [1]

## APPENDIX 1: THE ARCHIVE

### PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER B&W 35mm film, Ilford Delta Professional

Position No.	Film/ Frame Nos.	Plate	Description	From
1	1/36	<b>1</b>	Pre-excavation view of the exposed top of the stone culvert	E
2	1/35		View of the exposed south facing wall	SSW
3	1/34		View of the exposed north facing wall	NW
4	1/33	<b>4</b>	Detail of wall construction	N
5	1/32	<b>2</b>	Detail of the smooth capstone	W
6	1/31	<b>3</b>	View down the culvert	W
7	1/30		View of the exposed culvert	E
8	1/29		General view of the excavation	S
9	1/28		View of the field enclosure	SE
10	1/27		View of the exposed culvert (10-20m east of point C)	E
11	1/26		View of the exposed culvert (20-30m east of point C)	E
12	1/25		View of the exposed culvert (40-50m east of point C)	E
13	1/24	<b>5</b>	Detail of the exposed stepped (imbricate) culvert base	E
14	1/23		View of the exposed culvert (50-60m east of point C)	E
15	1/22		General view down the Porter Brook	W
16	1/21		View of the exposed culvert (70-80m east of point C)	E
17	1/20		View of the exposed culvert (90-100m east of point C)	E
18	1/19-18		View of the exposed culvert (110-120m east of point C)	E
19	1/17-16	<b>7</b>	View of the intersection with the linear boulders (lynchet?)	E
20	1/15		General view at point B	E
21	1/14	<b>6</b>	View of the boulder line (lynchet?)	SE
22	1/13		General view	ENE
23	1/12	<b>8</b>	Detail of the culvert's north facing wall with orthostats	N
24	1/11		General view down Porter Brook	W
25	1/10		View of the excavation through the culvert at point B	SE
26	1/9		View of the excavation through the culvert at point B	E
27	1/8		General view of the breaching at point B	N
28	-	<b>9</b>	View of the pottery sherd (early C19th)	-