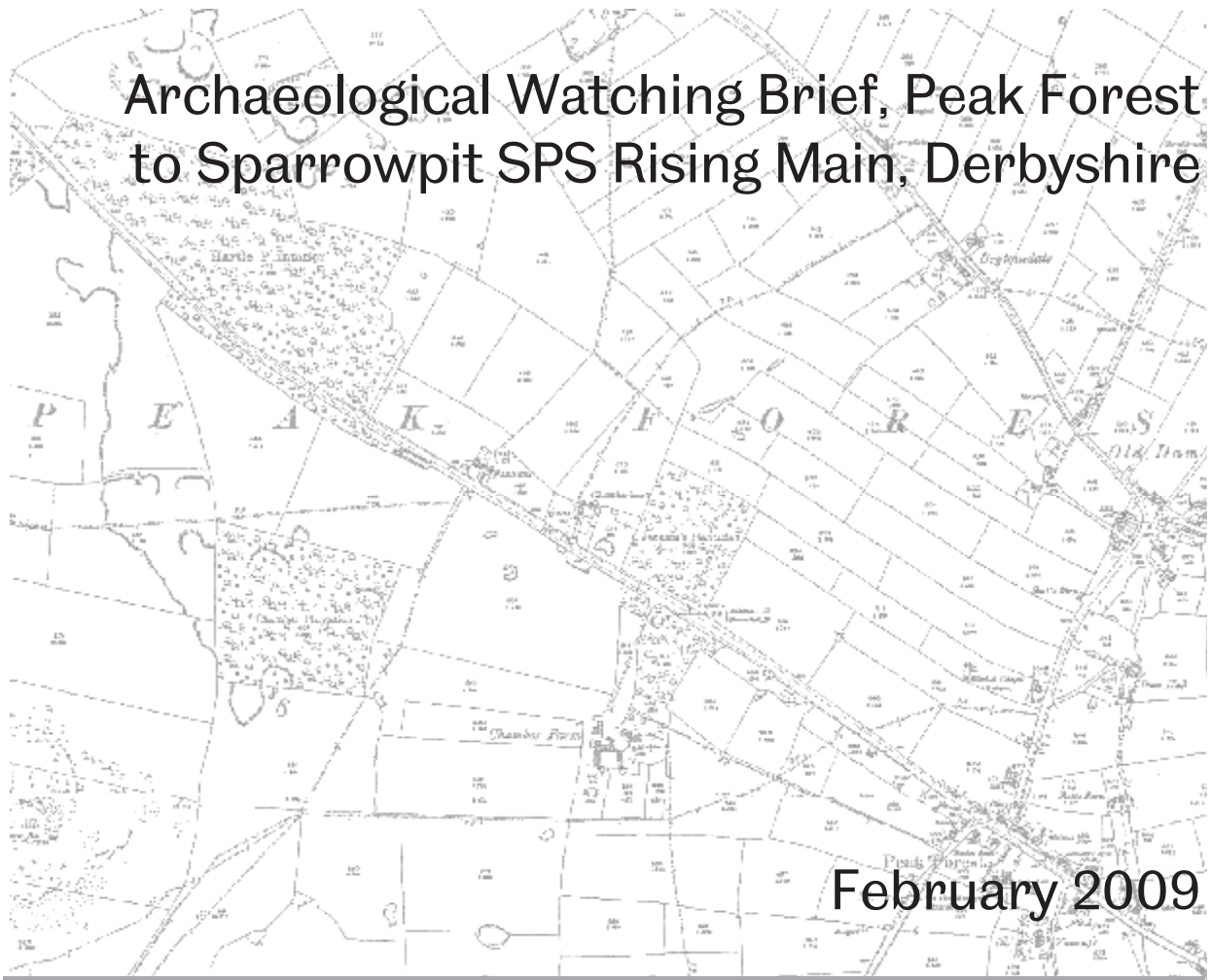




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Project Report 1078b.2 (1)

Archaeological Watching Brief, Peak Forest to Sparrowpit SPS Rising Main, Derbyshire



February 2009

By Richard Jackson

Prepared for:

Severn Trent Water
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Peak Forest to Sparrowpit pipeline, Derbyshire

National Grid Reference: 408979, 380581 to 411450, 379008
(SK 08979 80581 to SK 11450 379008)

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Fieldwork

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Archive

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Checked by:	Passed for submission to client:
Date:	Date:
Richard Jackson <i>Project Archaeologist</i>	Dr. Glyn Davies <i>Project Manager</i>

OASIS SUMMARY FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
OASIS identifier	Arcus2-55763	
Project title	Peak Forest	
Short description of the project	ARCUS was commissioned by Severn Trent Water plc to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a pipeline trench from Peak Forest to Sparrowpit, Derbyshire. As much of the pipeline was to be instated along the route of the A623, archaeological monitoring was only required on the final section of the route, where the pipeline crossed fields between the A623 and Sparrowpit. The desk-based assessment (ARCUS 2007) had already established the potential for impact upon buried archaeological features in this area. The archaeology in this case comprised lead-workings and associated features. No impact was made upon these features during the monitored excavations.	
Project dates	13-10-08 to 27-10-08	
Previous/future work	Desk-based assessment/none	
Monument type and period	Not applicable	
Significant finds (artefact type and period)	Post-medieval ceramic	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County/Parish	Derbyshire/High Peak	
Site address		
Site co-ordinates	SK 08979 80581 to SK11450 379008	
Site area	c. 5000m ²	
Height OD		
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	ARCUS	
Project brief originator	PDNPA	
Project design originator	ARCUS	
Project supervisor	Richard Jackson	
Project manager	Dr. Glyn Davies	
Sponsor or funding body	Severn Trent	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
Archive Type	Location/Accession no.	Content (e.g. pottery, metalwork, etc)
Physical	[Museum/Archive]	[material types to be deposited in archive]
Paper	[Museum/Archive/SMR]	[report, context sheets, plans, sections, etc]
Digital	[SMR]	[pdf copy of report?]
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief, Peak Forest to Sparrowpit SPS rising main, Derbyshire.	
Report no	1078b.2(1)	
Author	Richard Jackson	
Date	February 2009	

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

ARCUS was commissioned by Severn Trent Water plc to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a pipeline trench from Peak Forest to Sparrowpit, Derbyshire. As much of the pipeline was to be instated along the route of the A623, archaeological monitoring was only required on the final section of the route, where the pipeline crossed fields between the A623 and Sparrowpit.

The desk-based assessment (ARCUS 2007) had already established the potential for impact upon buried archaeological features in this area. The archaeology in this case comprised lead-workings and associated features. No impact was made upon these features during the monitored excavations.

1 INTRODUCTION

ARCUS was commissioned by Severn Trent Water plc to undertake an archaeological watching brief along the route of a sewerage pipeline running from Peak Forest to Sparrowpit, Derbyshire (**illustration 1**). Following the initial desk-based assessment (Stenton 2007), much of the route of the pipeline was moved to run along the course of the A623. As a result of this deviation, it was determined that an active archaeological watching brief would only be required on the section of pipeline which was to cross farm fields between the A623 and Sparrowpit (**illustration 2**). This report details the results of this watching brief.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to:

- identify any archaeological remains along the route of the pipeline;
- record all archaeological remains disturbed by the open cut;
- recover artefacts disturbed by the site works;
- produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report on the archaeology disturbed by the site works.

2.2 Methodology

The excavation of any modern pipeline is a two-stage process. In the first instance, it is necessary to excavate a 10m-wide easement along the whole route of the excavated pipeline. The easement is typically excavated to a depth of 0.2-0.3m, which is usually a sufficient depth to enable the monitoring archaeologist to undertake a preliminary visual inspection of the exposed interface between the topsoil and the subsoil, if any is present.

The second stage of the pipeline excavation entails the open cut, typically a machine-excavated trench down the centre of the easement. This enables the monitoring archaeologist the opportunity to further examine any area of interest characterised during the easement stripping, as well as the potential to monitor excavation of any buried soils or fissures in the bedrock.

2.3 Recording

A full written, drawn and photographic record of all uncovered archaeological features was made during the course of the works.

Each context was described in full on a pro forma context record sheet with each context given a unique number. These field records were checked and indexes compiled.

General shots, photographs of work in progress, and excavated features were taken. General area views and shots of features, sections etc. were also taken. The photographic record comprised 35mm format colour slides and black and white prints and included a graduated scale where appropriate.

Registers for contexts, drawings, samples, photographs, levels and recorded finds were kept.

2.4 Finds

Artefactual material was collected according to an explicit sampling strategy. Material which was obviously modern in date, and derived from unstratified contexts, was not kept. Preference was given to the collection and retention of stratified assemblages from *in-situ* deposits.

All other finds were cleaned, marked, catalogued and packed in materials suitable for long term storage in accordance with the UKIC's document *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage*. Appropriate tests and analyses were undertaken as necessary, by qualified archaeologists. All finds were treated in accordance with the English Heritage guidance document *A Strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds* (1995).

3 RESULTS

The easement excavation commenced from the east end of the section subject to archaeological monitoring (**Plate 1**). The topsoil was excavated using a tracked machine with a toothless bucket. Although the topsoil was excavated to a depth of 0.2-0.3m, the interface between topsoil and subsoil was not reached over much of the route of the easement.

A secondary issue lay with the topography of the landscape through which the easement was excavated. Although Field 1 was level and even in appearance, the second and third fields undulated considerably in comparison. This affected the excavation methodology for this area; instead of a straightforward excavation to a set depth, the mounds were levelled and backfilled into adjacent hollows (**Plate 2**). This activity was closely monitored and the mounds within the easement area were found to be archaeologically sterile, being composed solely of subsoil covered over with a thin layer of topsoil generated *in-situ* by natural pedogenic processes (**Plate 3**).

The results of the easement excavation through fields two and three were initially inconclusive, as the interface between topsoil and underlying deposits was difficult to inspect accurately due to the re-deposition of spoil necessary to create a level working environment.

The inconclusive early results of the easement required continued monitoring of the open cut pipe trench excavations. This stage of excavation commenced from the west end of the easement in Field 3. The topography of this area comprised a pronounced slope upwards from west to east. Excavation of the pipe trench almost immediately impacted upon solid deposits of bedrock closely underlying the dense natural clay subsoil. Much of the bedrock was insufficiently weathered for straightforward excavation, and had to be removed with a pneumatic breaker affixed to a tracked machine.

During the monitoring of the open cut in Field 3, a single isolated feature was observed in the north-facing section of the pipe trench (**Plate 4, illustration 3**). The feature was ascribed the context numbers [103] for the cut and [102] for the concomitant fill. The feature measured 0.45m in length and 0.2m in depth. The cut [103] had an approximately U-shaped profile, and fill [102] comprised a mid-brown clay silt with 5% inclusions of limestone flecks. As the feature had already been

compromised by excavation, the remainder of the feature was photographed and located on the site plan. One sherd of ceramic was recovered from the fill of the feature for subsequent analysis by a specialist. The sherd was identified as a piece of 18th-century slip-coated ware (see section 4).

Monitoring of the open cut in Field 3 found no further trace of any archaeological features. Working shots were taken as the excavations progressed through the field.

The excavation progressed into Field 2. Although the incline was not as pronounced as the landscape in Field 3, excavation of the pipe trench still frequently impacted upon outcroppings of the natural limestone bedrock. As with Field 3, the stratigraphical sequence in this field comprised a thin topsoil overlying 0.5-0.6m of subsoil, which in turn was found to overlay impacted grey clays, which sealed the limestone bedrock. The bedrock lay in a series of slightly inclined plates with occasional faults. None of the fissures were considered to be extensive enough to hold any palaeo-environmental potential.

As the excavation progressed further in to the second field, a large indistinct feature was observed in the south-facing section (**Plate 5**). The fill of the feature was ascribed the context number [104] and comprised a loose dark brown clay-silt with a high ash concentration. The cut of the feature [105] was broad in nature, with indistinct edges, which suggested that the feature was produced as a result of successive episodes of dumping and backfilling within a natural hollow in the landscape. The feature measured 1.67m in length. This feature was interpreted as the product of continued refuse dumping activities, due to the presence of modern (discarded) material and post-medieval ceramic. A representative sample of this material was retained for analysis. Any evidence of a relationship to mineworkings in the vicinity was not evident from the monitored excavations undertaken as part of this project.

Monitored excavation continued into Field 1. It became apparent that the level and even appearance of Field 1 (**Plate 6**) was due to the extensive agricultural use of the field over time. The subsoil underlying the topsoil was level and even in distribution. The underlying natural bedrock was considerably less frequent in comparison with Fields 3 and 2.

4 ARTEFACTS

4.1 Ceramic

By Dr C. G Cumberpatch

The pottery assemblage from the Peak Forest pipeline was examined by the author on 3rd December 2008. It consisted of 24 sherds of pottery weighing 1077 grams and represented a maximum of 20 vessels. The details of the assemblage are summarised in Table 1.

The greater part of the pottery assemblage was of 18th century date and consisted of a variety of vernacular tablewares (*Slipware, Late Blackware, Slip Coated ware and Mottled ware*) with two sherds of the first of the formal tablewares, *White Salt Glazed Stoneware*. Two sherds of *Type 1 Slipware* and a small sherd of *Redware* from context [100] may be slightly earlier, although this type of pottery most probably continued in production into the early 18th-century and may be contemporary with the more typical 18th-century wares. An unusual sherd from context [104] has been

classified as *Blackware type* and could be of 17th-century date, but it is not a typical Blackware and so might also be of 18th-century date.

Later pottery, dating for the most part to the mid-to late 19th-century (with two almost complete vessels dating to the later 19th to early 20th century), included plain and transfer printed *Whiteware*, *Colour Glazed ware* and *Stoneware*. Two sherds from a transfer printed plate bore part of a maker's mark, but while the pattern name (Asiatic Pheasants) was preserved, the maker's name (usually located below the pattern name) was missing, thus precluding a closer dating than that indicated in Table 1.

Contexts [100] and [102] produced small groups of 18th-century pottery without later elements, something which is unusual and possibly significant, given that 19th- and 20th- century material might have been expected to have been included amongst the topsoil group (context [100]). In contrast the group from context [104] was largely of later 19th- and 20th- century date with only one sherd which appeared to be of an earlier type. This would seem to indicate that the dump referred to in the notes on the site (ARCUS nd) was laid down in the very late 19th century or the early 20th century. It is unclear how this relates to the date of the mine workings suggested as the source of this material.

Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
100	Late Blackware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	Very thin walled vessel
100	Late Blackware	1	11	1	Base	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & partially ext	C18th	Red fabric with white streaks, containing moderate quantities of non-crystalline grit
100	Mottled ware	4	17	1	BS & handle	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext with raised ridges ext	C18th	Yellow-buff fabric
100	Mottled ware	2	3	2	BS	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
100	Mottled ware	1	32	1	Base	Hollow ware	Dark mottled glaze int & partially ext	C18th	Footed base
100	Redware	1	4	1	BS	Dish	Clear glaze int	C17th - EC18th	cf. Slipware Type 1
100	Slip Coated ware	1	6	1	BS	Hollow ware	Red slip int on a buff fabric	C18th	Buff vesicular fabric with occasional round red grit
100	Slipware	1	15	1	Rim	Dish	White on red slip int, feathered; pie-crust rim	C18th	Buff slightly streaky fabric
100	Slipware Type 1	2	6	2	BS	Dish	Trailed white slip int under clear glaze int only	C17th - EC18th	cf. Redware
100	White Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	5	1	Footring base	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1720 - c.1780	
100	White Salt Glazed Stoneware	1	3	1	BS	Hollow ware	U/Dec	c.1720 - c.1780	
102	Slip Coated ware	1	6	1	BS	Hollow ware	Black glaze int & ext	C18th	Very hard, dense buff fabric containing sparse non-crystalline grit
104	Blackware typeP	1	18	1	BS	Hollow ware	Dark brown glaze int & ext on a rilled body	C17th	A variant of Blackware with a hard dark red fabric which is somewhat coarser than normal
104	Colour Glazed ware	1	557	1	Profile	Teapot	All-over brown with broad green band around upper body	LC19th - EC20th	Complete except for a freshly broken spout
104	Stoneware	1	340	1	Complete	Jam jar	Widely spaced fluting ext	LC19th - EC20th	Stamped 'lighthouse' maker's mark on underside; Hartley's Jam & other products
104	TP Whiteware	2	22	1	Footring base	Plate	Asiatic Pheasants	M - LC19th	Part of a maker's mark on the underside but the maker's name is on the missing section
104	TP Whiteware	1	5	1	Rim	Dish	U/ID dark blue TP design int	M - LC19th	Secondarily burnt

Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
104	Whiteware	1	26	1	Rim	Bowl	Blue painted leaf motif on the rim	M - LC19th	Large kitchen bowl with folded clubbed rim with cavity
	Total	24	1077	20					

Table 1. Pottery from the Peak Forest pipeline (ARCUS 1078b)

5 CONCLUSION

The monitored excavations at Sparrowpit comprised approximately 500m of easement and associated open cut pipe trench. The archaeology observed comprised small isolated pit feature and a larger amorphous tipping feature. Both of these features were ascribed post-medieval dates due to the nature of the pottery recovered from the concomitant fills.

6 COPYRIGHT

ARCUS may assign copyright to the client upon request, and retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as specified in the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* (chapter IV, section 79).

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8 PLATES & ILLUSTRATIONS



Plate 1 – Easement excavation in Field 1



Plate 2 – Easement excavation in Field 2



Plate 3 – Close-up of excavated hummock in Field 2, viewed facing north.



Plate 4 – Feature [103]-[102], viewed facing north.



Plate 5 – Feature [105]-[104], viewed facing north.



Plate 6 – Field 1, viewed facing northwest.



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0 2500m

Project: Sparrowpit to Peak Forest
SPS Rising Main, Derbyshire

Title: Location Map

Scale: 1:50000

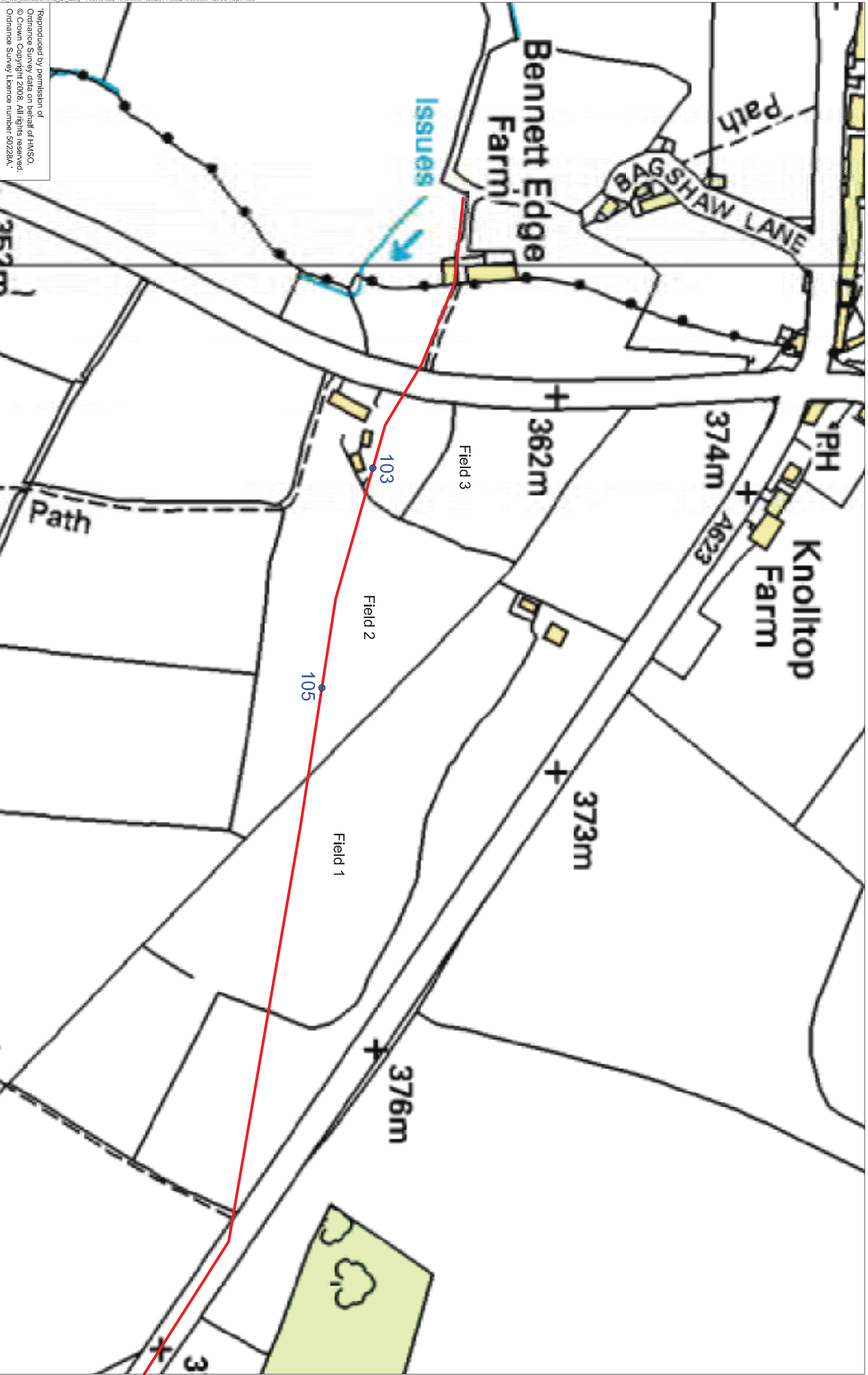
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(center)

Project No.: 1078b

Date: December 2008

Drawn: CS

Illustration No.: 1

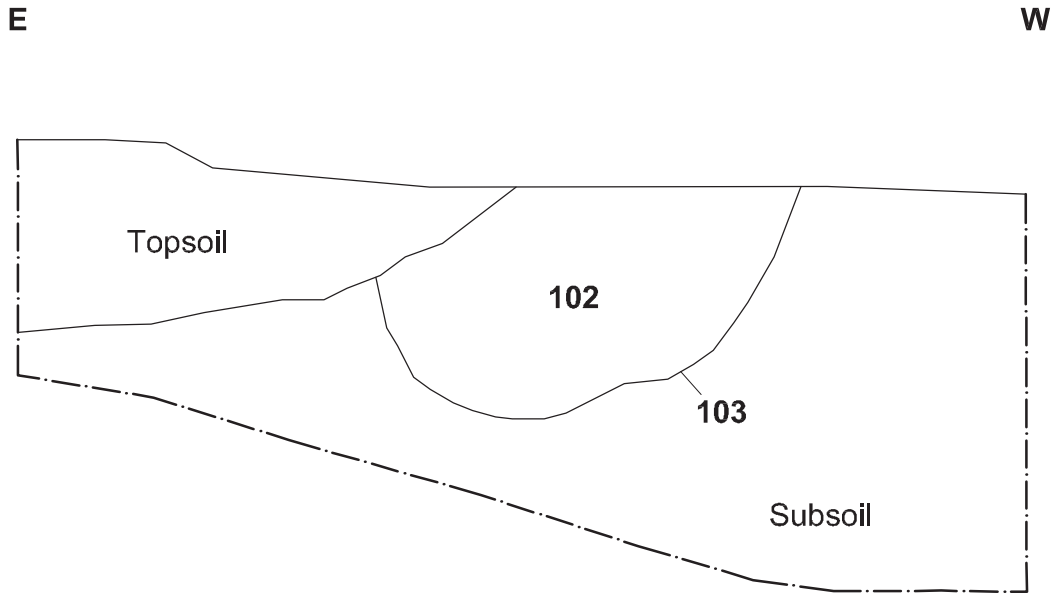


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0 200m



Project:		Scale:		Date:	
Sparrowpit to Peak Forest SPS Rising Main, Derbyshire		1:2000 @ A3		December 2008	
Title:	Location of features recorded during archaeological watching brief	NGR:	SK 08979 80581 to SK 11450 37908	Drawn:	CS
		Project No.:	1078b	Illustration No.:	2



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Project: Sparrowpit to Peak Forest SPS Rising Main, Derbyshire	Scale 1:10	Date December 2008
	NGR SK 10338 79109 (center)	Drawn CS
	Project No. 1078b	Illustration No. 3
Title North facing section of pit [103]		