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**Thornhill Hall Moated Site Project
Rectory Park, Thornhill
West Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report no. 2570

January 2014

Client: Kirklees Council



Thornhill Hall Moated Site
Rectory Park, Thornhill
West Yorkshire
Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during de-silting works of the moat surrounding the scheduled site of Thornhill Hall. Finds, including architectural stonework associated with the Hall and later structures, were recovered from the silt and assessed on site. Approximate locations of all significant finds were recorded in plan.



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Report Information

Client:	Kirklees Council
Address:	Investment and Regeneration Service, 1st Floor, Civic Centre III, Huddersfield, HD1 2EY
Report Type:	Archaeological watching brief
Location:	Rectory Park, Thornhill
County:	West Yorkshire
Grid Reference:	SE 256 189
Period(s) of activity: represented	Medieval and post-medieval
Report Number:	2570
Project Number:	4155
Site Code:	RPT13
OASIS ID:	archaeol11-169016
Planning Application No.:	N/A
Scheduled Monument: consent	S00057821
Museum Accession No.:	not yet assigned
Date of fieldwork:	November-December 2013
Date of report:	January 2014
Project Management:	Jane Richardson BSc MSc PhD MifA
Fieldwork:	Maria Calderon, Hannah Clay, Steffan Golby , Debora Moretti, Jon Prudhoe, Alex Schmidt
Report:	Jane Richardson
Specialists:	Chris Cumberpatch (pottery) Gail Drinkall metal and other finds) Jon Prudhoe (architectural stone)
Illustrations:	Jon Prudhoe and Jane Richardson
Photography:	ASWYAS site staff
Authorisation for distribution:	-----

© Archaeological Services WYAS 2014
PO Box 30, Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 0UG
Telephone: 0113 383 7500.
Email: admin@aswyas.com

Contents

Report information	ii
Contents.....	iii
List of Figures	iv
List of Plates	iv
List of Tables	iv
1 Introduction	1
Site location, topography and land-use.....	1
Geology and soils.....	1
2 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	1
3 Aims and Objectives	3
4 Methodology	3
5 Results	3
6 Artefact Record.....	4
Architectural stone	4
Pottery.....	6
Metal and other objects.....	6
7 Conclusions.....	8

Figures

Plates

Appendices

Appendix 1: Specification

Appendix 2: Inventory of primary archive

Appendix 3: Concordance of contexts

Bibliography

List of Figures

- 1 Site location
- 2 Location of slots, architectural stone and other finds (1:500 @ A3)
- 3 Plan of the archaeological excavations undertaken at Thornhill Hall moat between 1964 and 1972 (reproduced from Webster and Cherry 1975)
- 4 Extract from Christopher Saxton's map of Thornhill of about 1602, showing access across the moat from the south and north-east (reproduced from Nuttall 1987)
- 5 Sandstone architectural fragments (Cat. Nos 1-6)
- 6 Sandstone architectural fragments (Cat. Nos 7-12)

List of Plates

- 1 Moat dredging in slot H, looking north-east
- 2 Inspecting silt 1000 from the moat
- 3 Selected architectural stonework
- 4 Coping stone with roll apex (Cat. No. 1)
- 5 Window tracery with cusp (Cat. No. 2)
- 6 Hood mould with hollow chamfer (Cat. No. 3)
- 7 Plinth with a plain chamfer (Cat. No. 4)
- 8 Possible garden feature with a central drain hole (Cat. No. 5)
- 9 Moulded voussoir with small bar mortice (Cat. No. 6)
- 10 Fragment of a possible moulded voussoir (Cat. No. 7)
- 11 Cornice with dressed and chamfered faces (Cat. No. 8)
- 12 Inverted 'V' shaped ridge piece (Cat. No. 9)
- 13 Splayed window sill (Cat. No. 10)
- 14 Window reveal with glazing frame rebate (Cat. No. 11)
- 15 Chamfered and splayed door jamb (Cat. No. 12)
- 16 Stone-built phase of the Hall, with moulded window tracery, hood mould and reveals. The moulded stonework could be a match to some of the recorded stonework from the moat (see Cat. Nos 2, 3 and 11)
- 17 The Victorian bridge and gateway. The moulded parapet coping and arch appear to match some of the recorded stonework (see Cat. Nos 1 and 6)

List of Tables

- 1 Pottery catalogue
- 2 Finds catalogue

1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Debbie Bates, Senior Development Officer at Kirklees Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with de-silting the moat about the former site of Thornhill Hall (Fig. 1). The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no. 13289) and scheduled monument consent was granted by English Heritage (reference S00057821). The work was undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (Appendix 1) and current best practice, between 13th November and 9th December 2013.

Site location, topography and land-use

Thornhill Rectory Park covers an area of approximately 11.2 hectares to the immediate east of Thornhill, about 3km to the south of Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, and is centred at SE 255 187. The park is bounded to the west by Church Lane, which becomes Four Lane Ends and then Hostingley Lane as the road curves towards the east, forming the southern edge of the park. The northern side of the park is bounded by Hall Lane. Thornhill Hall Farm is situated adjacent to the park's north-eastern corner, and its eastern edge is defined by a field boundary. The moated site is located at the northern end of the park (see Figs 1 and 2) and is occupied by grass, trees and the ruined remains of the Hall.

The northern end of the park slopes gradually from west to east, towards its north-eastern corner where Thornhill Hall moat is situated at about 60m aOD.

Geology and soils

The solid geology of the area consists of Thornhill Rock (sandstone). No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2014). The soils are classified in the Rivington 1 association, which are described as well-drained, coarse loams (SSEW 1983).

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

A comprehensive overview of the archaeological and historical background of Thornhill Rectory Park and its immediate environs was undertaken by Pollington and Horn (2010), followed by a detailed building recording of the remains of Thornhill Hall (Gwilliam and Grassam 2012) and geophysical survey of the island and part of the surrounding park (Harrison and Webb 2012). These have been used to provide the archaeological background given here.

The Domesday Survey confirms that there was a settlement at Thornhill prior to the Norman Conquest and records that the area was held by a Gerneber (an Anglo-Saxon name) (Nuttall 1987). Following the Conquest, Thornhill formed part of the lands granted to Ilbert de Lacy, the Lord of Pontefract (Nuttall 1987). By the mid-12th century, Thornhill was held by Ásúlfr, whose name suggests that he was of Anglo-Scandinavian descent. In 1195 Ásúlfr's son, Richard de Tong, granted Thornhill to his brother Jordan, and Jordan's son Richard de

Thornhill (Michelmores 1981, 244-245). By 1317, Thornhill was held by Sir John Thornhill, who also held substantial lands in the Halifax area and in Lincolnshire. The first house on the site of Thornhill Hall was built by at least 1300 (Webster and Cherry 1975, 252) while court rolls from 1303-5 and 1348 record the existence of private parkland at Thornhill (Nuttall 1987).

In 1370 the heir to the Thornhill lands was Elizabeth Thornhill, then just two years old. She was later married to Henry Savile, bringing the Thornhill lands came under the control of the Savile family (Dodds 2002, 6). Following this, there appears to have been a phase of major rebuilding and alteration on the site of Thornhill Hall. The first map to show Thornhill Hall in detail was produced by Christopher Saxton in around 1602. The island on which Thornhill Hall stood was densely filled with buildings, with the house itself at its centre, perhaps forming the southern side of a courtyard around which a range of other buildings were situated. At the time Saxton produced his plan, the house had only recently been rebuilt again and modernised, with the addition of a new paved floor, plaster walls and a chimney (Wilson and Hurst 1965, 206).

During The Civil War, Thornhill Hall was besieged by Parliamentary forces in July 1648. The hall was held by Captain Charles Paulden at this time, on behalf of Lady Jane Savile, who refused requests from Fairfax to surrender. The besiegers subsequently cut the water supply to the hall and drained the moat, at which point Paulden agreed to lay down arms. As the garrison left the hall, however, a fire broke out which destroyed much of the house and caused a fire which spread through the remaining buildings (see Dodds 2002; Peel 1884; Nuttall 1987). Following this, Thornhill Hall was abandoned. Over the following centuries the remains of the buildings were destroyed as they were quarried for stone, probably taken for construction of buildings and walls in the surrounding area. By the middle of the 19th century the island appears to have been laid out as part of an area of gardens which covered the northern side of the modern park.

The site of Thornhill Hall moat was excavated and surveyed between 1964 and 1972 by T.G. Manby on behalf of the Tolson Museum, Huddersfield (Wilson and Hurst 1965, 206; Webster and Cherry 1975, 252; Fig. 7). The earliest phase of occupation on the site was represented by post-hole structures of early 14th-century date, and before the moat was established. The estate became part of the lands held by the Savile family in the later 14th century and by the middle of the 15th century the earlier house had been replaced by a new H-shaped house, aligned east to west with a central hall, two side wings and surrounded by a substantial moat (Webster and Cherry 1975, 252). Survey and excavation have shown the island was surrounded by a perimeter wall of sandstone blocks along its southern and eastern sides, and that a rectangular tower jutted out into the moat on the south-eastern side of the island (Wilson and Hurst 1965, 206). The main access to the island was from the south, where the remains of a gatehouse have been excavated in the centre of the southern edge of the island, although another access point existed on the north-eastern side of the moat where

a bridge abutment has been identified. The house was substantially rebuilt and modernised by the early 17th century (Wilson and Hurst 1965, 206).

3 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features, deposits or finds which were disturbed or exposed as a result of de-silting works within the moat.

The objectives were to monitor excavations and record any archaeological finds present, retain any non-modern artefacts and to ensure that the sides of the moat were not damaged. Dissemination of the investigations would outline the areas monitored and any discoveries made.

4 Methodology

All excavation was undertaken in accordance with IfA guidelines *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2008), and in compliance with English Heritage MoRPHE PPN3: Archaeological Excavation (2008).

All excavations were monitored by a qualified and experienced archaeologist, and were carried out using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothed ditching bucket. Around the south-western, western and north-western limits of the moat, deposits up to a metre in depth were excavated from the full width of moat. Elsewhere a 1m-wide trench was proposed.

A full written, drawn and photographic record was made. Tie-in information was undertaken during the course of the watching brief and was fixed in relation to nearby permanent structures and roads and to the National Grid. The position of artefacts was recording using hand tapes, and fixed with reference to permanent structures.

The site archive contains all the information gathered during the archaeological watching brief and it is listed in Appendix 2. A concordance of contexts is given in Appendix 3. The archive is currently held at ASWYAS headquarters but archive deposition will be arranged shortly with Tolson Memorial Museum.

5 Results

Dredging of the moat began in the access area to the south-east of the site, using a machine floating on a pontoon (Fig. 2; Plate 1). A grey-black silt (1000) was extracted and deposited into a pan floating in front of the pontoon. Excavation occurred to a depth of no greater than 1m. Once the pan was filled, a drag boat pulled the pan to the access area and the material

was transferred to a dumper truck positioned on the bank. The silt was then spread out for inspection adjacent to a purpose-built lagoon. Each dumper truck of silt was examined visually and scanned with a metal detector (Plate 2). Once examined, the silt was placed in the lagoon for storage and drying.

It became apparent immediately that visibility during dredging was so poor that any finds, other than larger masonry pieces, were unlikely to be identified at the excavation stage. In order to record the position of smaller items found during the scanning, albeit imprecisely, it was decided to divide the moat into slots, A through P. The slots, and any associated finds or architectural masonry, were recorded in plan (Fig. 2). Poor visibility, in addition to the uniformity of the moat's fill and the large quantity of material removed with each bucket, precluded the recording of the depths at which artefacts were encountered.

Slots C-L were excavated across the full width of the moat, to a depth of approximately 1m, while a trench approximately 1m wide was excavated around the remainder of the moat. Excavations occurred from the pontoon except for slots O and P where the moat was too narrow for the pontoon to pass. Here the dredging had to be carried out from the outer edge of the moat using a machine with a longer arm. For slot P, close to the modern bridge, the machine driver had to be guided by the attending archaeologist due to reduced visibility. A uniform sticky grey-black silt (1000) was recorded from each slot, although the quantity of metal objects and stone fragments varied.

The majority of metal objects came from slots A and D along the southern boundary, with all artefacts recovered during the scanning of the silt with a metal detector. Modern objects (including drinks can, bicycles, golf clubs, a cake slice, a 1925 half penny and parts of a pay phone) were also concentrated in this area, but were not retained. Their concentration here is probably due to easy access for discard, and also due to the large access area (slot A) that was excavated in order for the pontoon to be positioned within the moat.

The masonry was concentrated on slots A and G, presumably associated with the former tower in this area, slots C, D and E, associated with the former gatehouse (Fig. 3), slots K and L, associated with an access point contemporary with the hall (Fig. 4) and slot F associated with the Victorian bridge and gateway. In contrast the north-western corner of the moat (slots M-P) were devoid of stonework. Approximately 80 stone fragments were recovered from the moat, although only a minority were diagnostic (Prudhoe, below). It is understood that architectural fragments identified and recorded by the archaeologists on site will be retained (and stored by Kirklees Council), while undiagnostic fragments will be recycled.

6 Artefact Record

Architectural stone by J. Prudhoe

Stonework removed during the dredging of the moat was stored for inspection. Due to the dark sticky nature of the silt, the stones required cleaning with a hand trowel and pressure

washer. If of architectural or historic value, they were recorded photographically using both 35mm black and white film and colour digital photography (Plate 3). If the stonework appeared to be of diagnostic value to the former hall or bridge, measured scale (1:10) drawings were produced of descriptive views of the stonework (Figs 5 and 6). Any plain ashlar masonry or rubble stonework was examined but not recorded.

The illustrated stone is listed below, with a brief description of the stonework, any moulded or chamfered surfaces and its likely source, whether the hall, bridge or gateway. The maximum dimensions of the stonework in length, width and height are also listed.

Catalogue of illustrated pieces (Figs 5-6)

- 1 Incomplete triangular sandstone coping with broken roll apex. Formerly part of the Victorian bridge parapet over the moat (Plate 4). L. 420mm; w. 235mm; h. 200mm.
- 2 Incomplete moulded sandstone window tracery with cusp and glazing bar rebate. Formerly part of the stone-built hall (Plate 5). H. 390mm; w. 220mm.
- 3 Incomplete sandstone hood mould with hollow (cavetto) chamfer. Formerly part of the stone-built hall (Plate 6). L. 540mm; w. 270mm; h. 145mm.
- 4 Incomplete sandstone plinth corner with plain chamfer. Formerly part of the stone-built hall (Plate 7). L. 680mm; w. 210mm; h. 220mm.
- 5 Complete sandstone block with stopped chamfers to the corners and roughly circular large radius (240 mm) central hole with a smaller radius drain hole (40mm). Formerly part of the stone-built hall, possibly a garden feature (Plate 8). L. 390mm; w. 390mm; h. 425mm.
- 6 Incomplete sandstone voussoir with roll and quadrant mouldings. Small rectangular mortice in face probably housed metal bar. Formerly part of the Victorian bridge gate arch (Plate 9). L. 520mm; w. 280mm; h. 230mm.
- 7 Incomplete sandstone voussoir with roll and quadrant mouldings. Could be from the bridge or the hall (Plate 10). L. 405mm; w. 210mm; h. 160mm.
- 8 Incomplete sandstone cornice with four finely dressed faces to the front one of which is chamfered. The remainder of the substantial block is roughly tooled. Formerly part of the stone-built hall (Plate 11). L. 630mm; w. 630mm; h. 155mm.
- 9 Complete sandstone ridge piece. Inverted V shaped masonry. Formerly part of the stone-built hall (Plate 12). L. 325mm; w. 140mm; h. 080mm.
- 10 Incomplete sandstone splayed sill. Formerly part of the stone-built hall (Plate 13). L. 360mm; w. 185mm; h. 165mm.
- 11 Complete splayed and chamfered sandstone window reveal with glazing frame rebate and glazing bar mortices. Formerly part of the stone-built hall (Plate 14). L. 740mm; w. 325mm; h. 405mm.
- 12 Complete splayed and chamfered sandstone door jamb. Formerly part of the stone-built hall (Plate 15). L. 570mm; w. 220mm; h. 330mm.

The stonework appears to originate from two sources, the stone-built hall and the Victorian bridge and gateway. The hall masonry is represented by Cat. Nos 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and possibly Cat. No. 7. This masonry consists of various architectural pieces ranging from window reveals and window tracery to ridge pieces and door jambs. The window tracery (Fig. 5, Cat. No. 2) and the window reveal (Fig. 6, Cat. No. 11) appear to correspond to the masonry as shown in Plate 16. The door jamb (Fig. 6, Cat. No. 12) with an inner splay and plain outer chamfer is a typical 16th to 17th-century style.

Cat. Nos 1, 6 and possibly Cat. No. 7 appear to be from the bridge and gateway. The triangular coping with the roll apex (Fig. 5, Cat. No. 1) and the moulded voussoir are similar in style to the masonry as shown in Plate 17. The arch voussoir with the roll moulding (Fig. 6, Cat. No. 7) could be either from the bridge or hall.

The large architectural stonework (Fig. 5, Cat. No. 5) is something of an oddity. This piece does not conform to any architectural masonry. The substantial stone is decorated with stopped chamfered corners. There is large roughly circular tapering central hole (240mm radius) leading to smaller roughly circular drain hole (40mm radius). This may have been used as a planter in the garden to the hall.

Pottery by C. Cumberpatch

The pottery assemblage consisted of five sherds of pottery weighing 396g. The details are summarised in Table 1.

With the exception of a single sherd which, by its nature, is difficult to date accurately, all of the pottery is of 19th-century date and of domestic character. The transfer printed bone china bowl base is the only item of tableware present as all the other sherds are of kitchenware type with bowls or large dishes being the predominant vessel form. The Unglazed Red Earthenware handle is most probably from a large jar or pancheon and could be classed as utilitarian ware. The production of such wares was a significant industry in the 18th and 19th centuries but has been little studied.

Although the pottery is of a relatively late date, its association with a scheduled monument implies that it was in some way connected with the use of that monument and it should be deposited in the appropriate local museum.

Table 1. Pottery catalogue

Context	Slot	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range
1000	H	TP Bone China	1	32	1	Ring foot base	Bowl	Two Temples	C19th
1000	H	Unglazed Red Earthenware	1	135	1	Strap handle	Handled jar	Unglazed handle w/ two prominent grooves	C18th – C19th
1000	H	Cane Coloured ware	1	69	1	Ring foot base	Bowl	Yellow/cane-coloured finish	C19th
1000	H	Cane Coloured ware	1	50	1	Ring foot base	Bowl	Pale cane coloured finish	C19th
1000	H	Colour Glazed ware	1	110	1	Rim	Bowl	Shiny brown Rockingham-style glaze int & ext and a moulded rim	C19th

Metal and other objects by G. Drinkall

An assemblage of 27 objects was retrieved from the fill (1000) of the moat. Following cleaning, a number of obviously modern items were discarded, and the remaining sixteen objects were submitted for further reporting. These finds are presented in Table 2. A conservation assessment was not required. The following analysis report has been prepared following MAP 2 guidelines (English Heritage 1991).

The majority of the assemblage consists of iron objects. These take the form of substantial door fittings, in the form of a lift-off hinge and strap fitting from similar, though not the same hinge, and a mortise lock. A mass-produced poker and a large spike are of recent manufacture and probably represent rubbish disposal. An anchor-shaped object is of interest: too light to have served as a method of securement, it could have been used as a dredging implement in an attempt to keep the moat free of vegetation and rubbish. A weighty set of chain links with suspension loops could have served a similar purpose though its construction appears to be relatively recent, from the 19th century onwards. The exact purpose of hand tool with serrated edge could not be determined.

A pipe tobacco tin lid from the 1970s and a copper alloy circular metric weight are modern finds. A fragment from a pressed glass vase is also of recent manufacture.

None of the assemblage relates to the medieval phase of activity at this site. No further work is recommended and the finds can be discarded.

Table 2. Finds catalogue

Context	Slot	Material	ID	Description	Date
1000	G	Fe	Hinge	Substantial lift-off hinge; rectangular plate with six countersunk screw holes. L 255mm, W 60mm	19th-20th C
1000	G	Fe	Strap fitting	Strap hinge with loop for attachment to a lift-off hinge; decorative terminal. Two coach bolts present, indicating that it was attached to wood 55mm thick. L of strap 47mm	19th-20th C

Context	Slot	Material	ID	Description	Date
1000	A	Fe	Poker	Complete, mass-produced, knobbed handle. L 500mm	Recent
1000	A	Fe	Object	Anchor-shaped fitting with flattened terminals to both arms. Suspension ring present. Blacksmith forged. Possibly for dredging. L 250mm, W 130mm max.	18th-19th C
1000	A	Fe	Plate	Rectangular plate with rounded corners, pointed at the short ends; slightly dished; possible cover/lid. L 220mm, W 150mm	Recent
1000	A	Cu alloy	Fitting	Cross-shaped fitting with countersunk screw holes at the end of each "arm"; brass bush or ferrule on reverse. Longest arm bent over and attached to a channelled strip.	19th-20th C
1000	A	Fe	Spike	Near complete spike with flattened, hammered head; bent end	Recent
1000	A	Stone	Marker	Incomplete; curved top fragment. Carved: "M 312 HAIG---". W 150mm, Th 50mm, H 135mm+	Recent
1000	D	Fe	Lock fitting	Mortise lock, complete; cu alloy key hole and mount for door knob. L 205mm, W 125mm, Th 25mm.	Post 1930
1000	D	Fe	Chain	2.40m length of chain, made up of oval links L 37mm, W 25mm. Weight 2.25kg	
1000	D	Glass	Vase	Pressed glass base. D 65mm	Recent
1000	D	Non-ferrous	Tin lid	Tobacco tin lid; W. O. Biggs and co., Exmoor Hunt Mixture, medium cut; maroon and cream/white, stag motif. Rusty, incomplete.	c. 1970s
1000	D	Cu alloy	Strip	Complete and irregular strip; stamped "PAUL BARLOW". L 172mm, W 32mm	Recent
1000	D	Cu alloy	Weight	Complete; 50g	Post 1973
1000	H	Fe	Tool	Narrow blade, 95mm in length and 15mm in depth, with serrated edge. Lugs with rivets at either end to secure a handle or for attachment to plate metal sheet, remains of which survive. Function uncertain.	Post 19th C
1000	H	Fe	Tool?	Highly corroded strip, slight groove at one end. L 160mm+, W 10-20mm	Not determined

7 Conclusions

De-silting of the moat surrounding the site of Thornhill Hall resulted in the recovery of architectural stonework associated with the hall and the Victorian bridge and gateway. No *in-situ* structural features (e.g. revetment walls) were exposed during the excavations and no stratified deposits were encountered. All pottery, metal and glass objects retrieved were of likely 19th-century date or later, and relate to the use of the site as parkland.

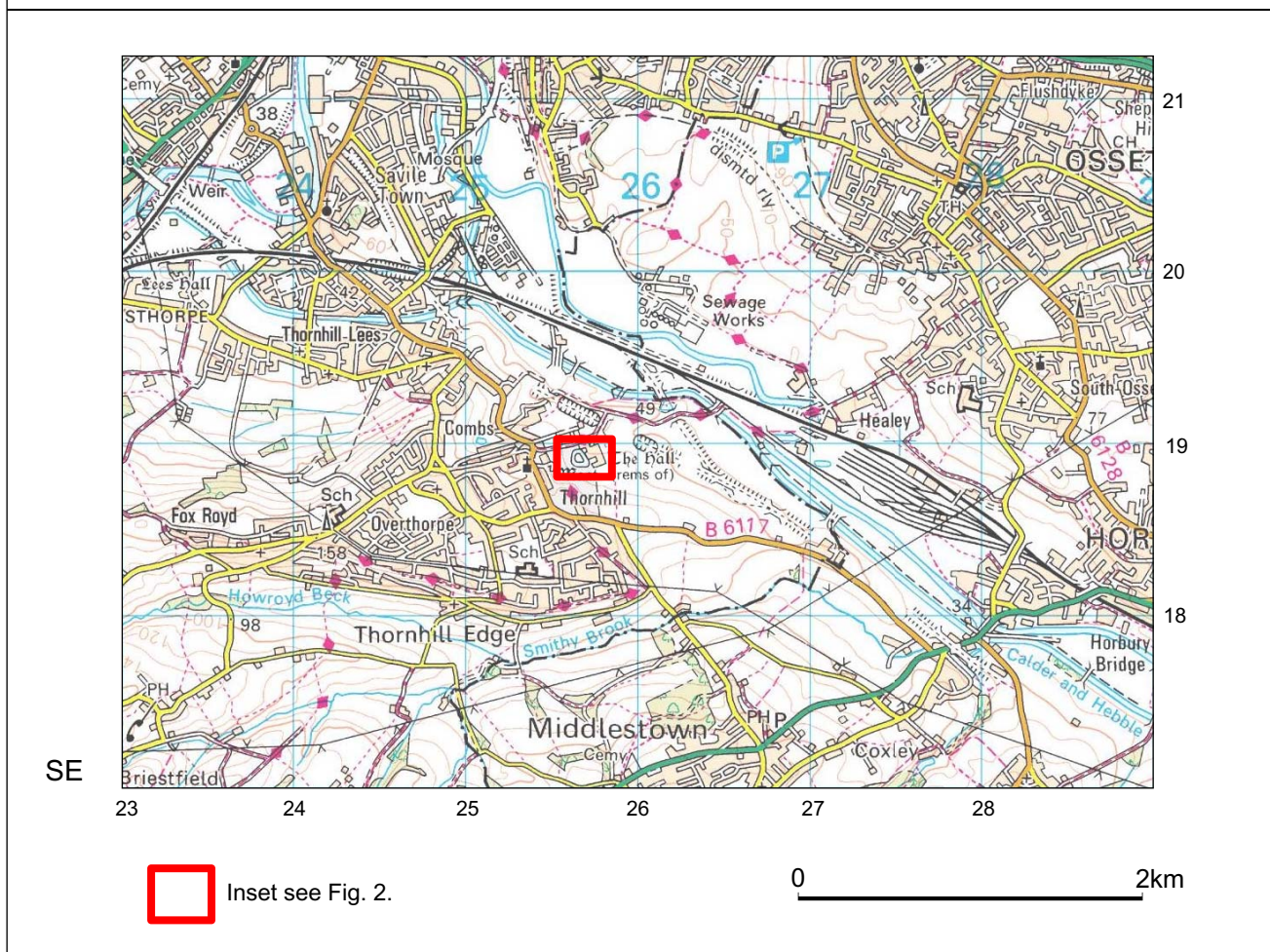
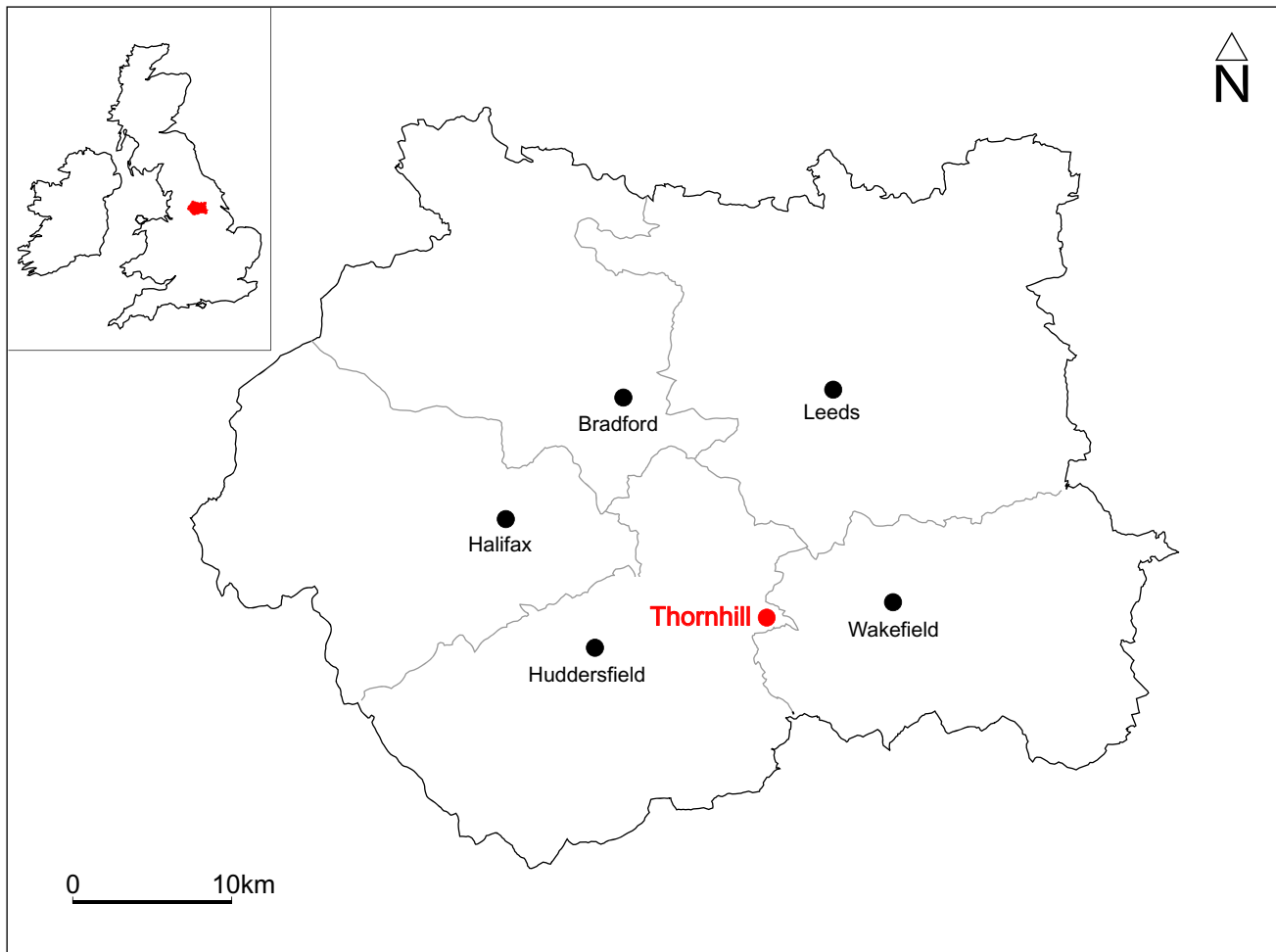


Fig. 1. Site location

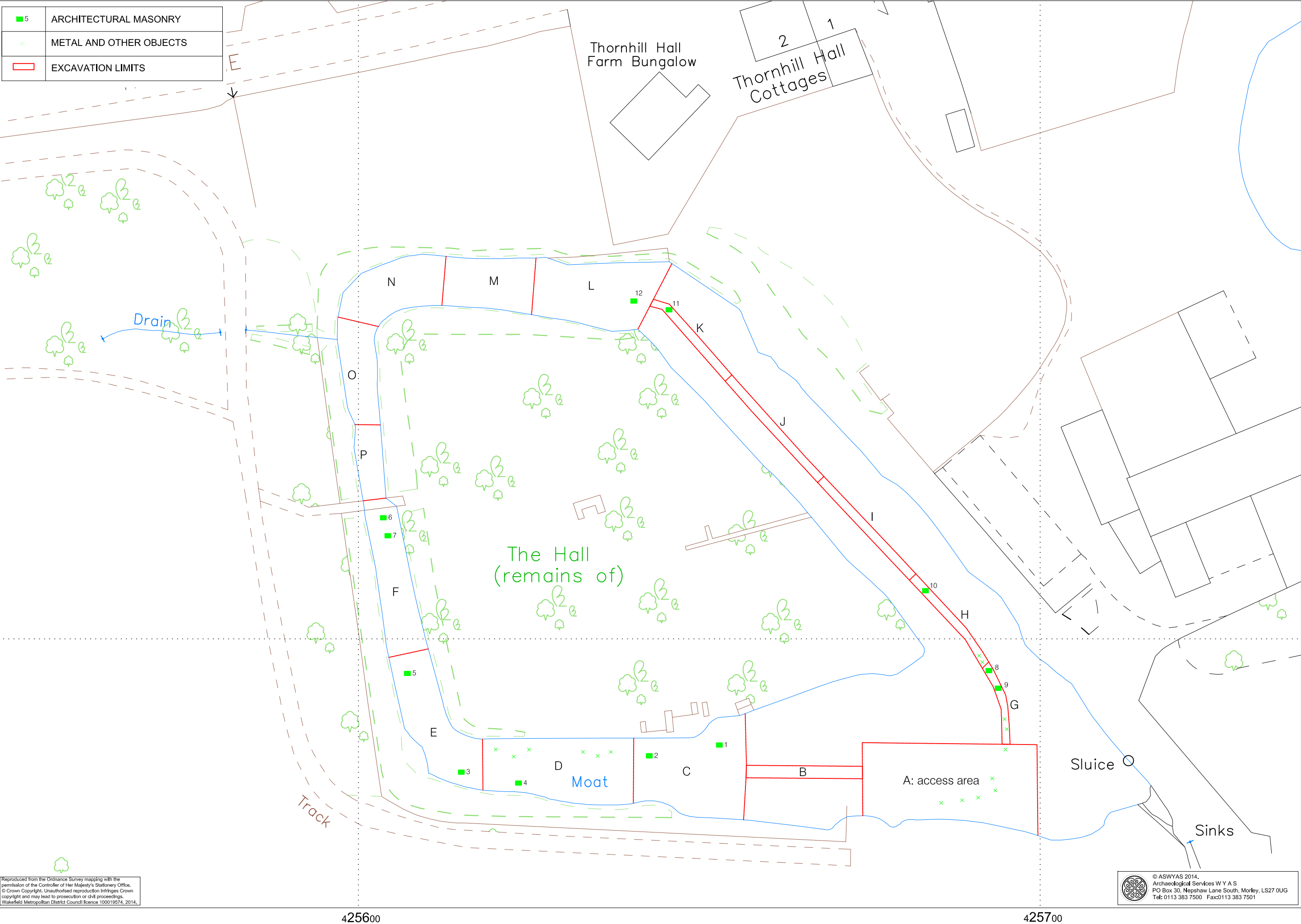


Fig. 2. Location of slots, architectural stonework and other finds (1:500 @ A3)

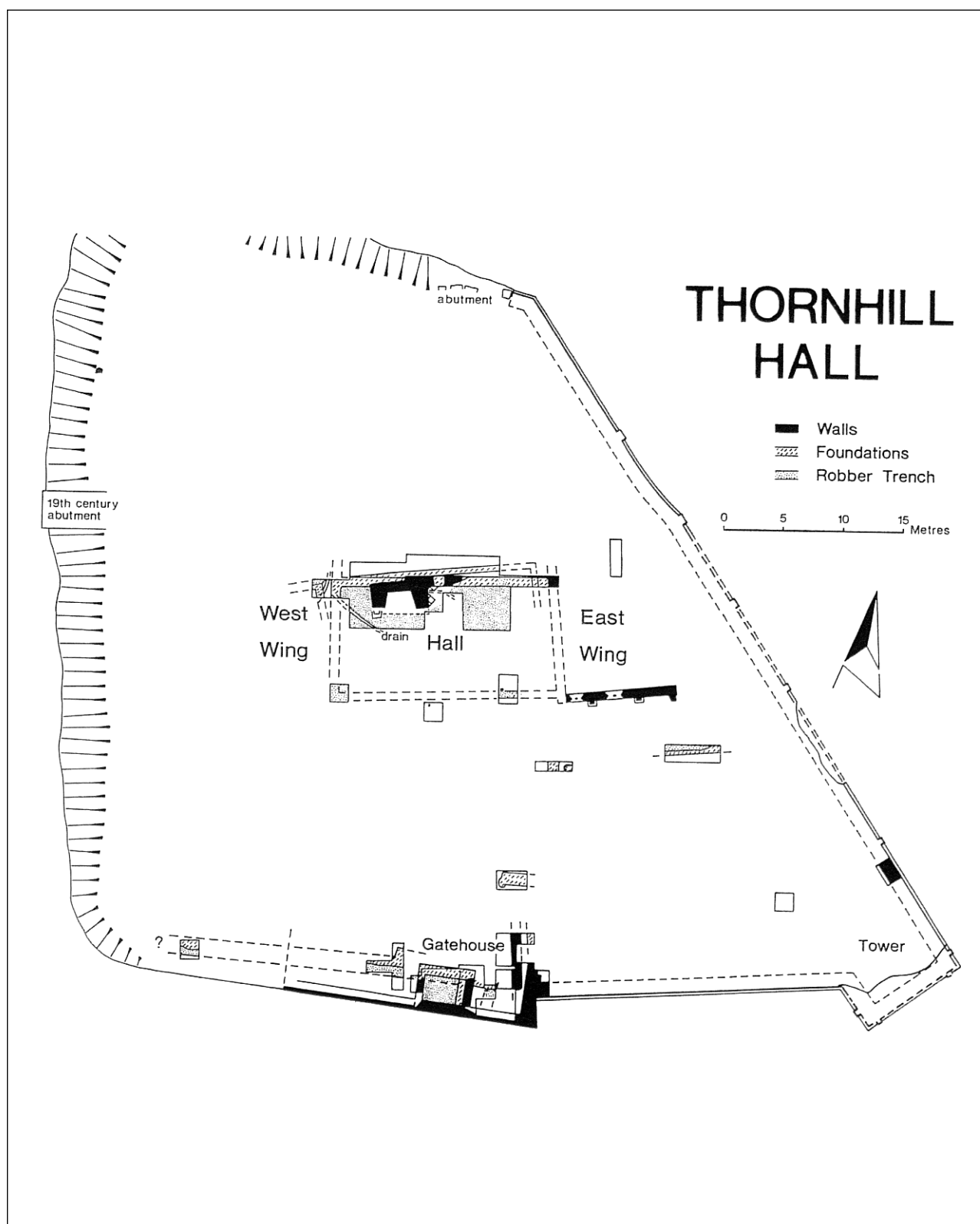


Fig. 3. Plan of the archaeological excavations undertaken at Thornhill Hall moat between 1964 and 1972 (reproduced from Webster and Cherry 1975)

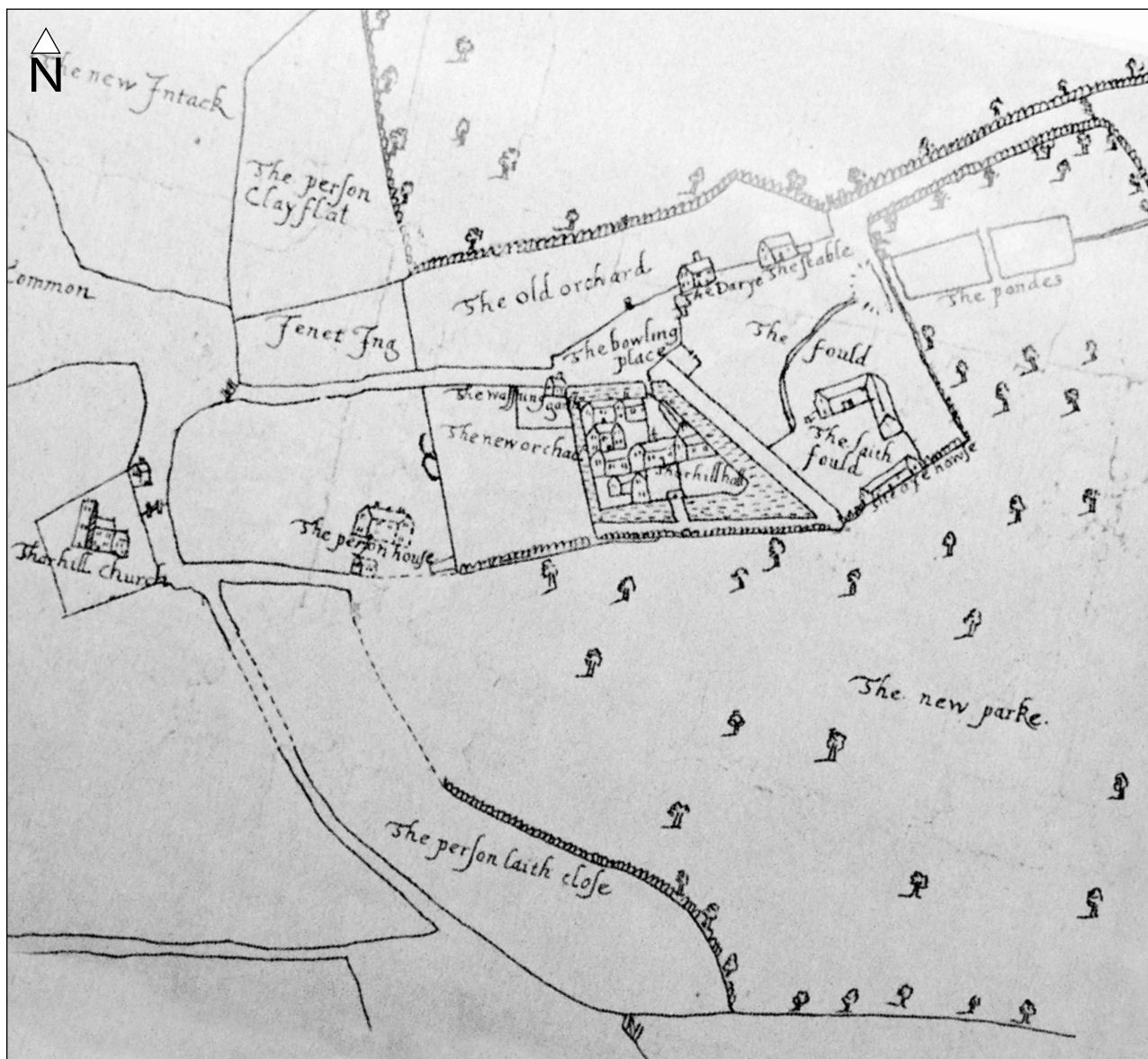


Fig. 4. Extract from Christopher Saxton's map of Thornhill of about 1602, showing access across the moat from the south and north-east (reproduced from Nuttall 1987)

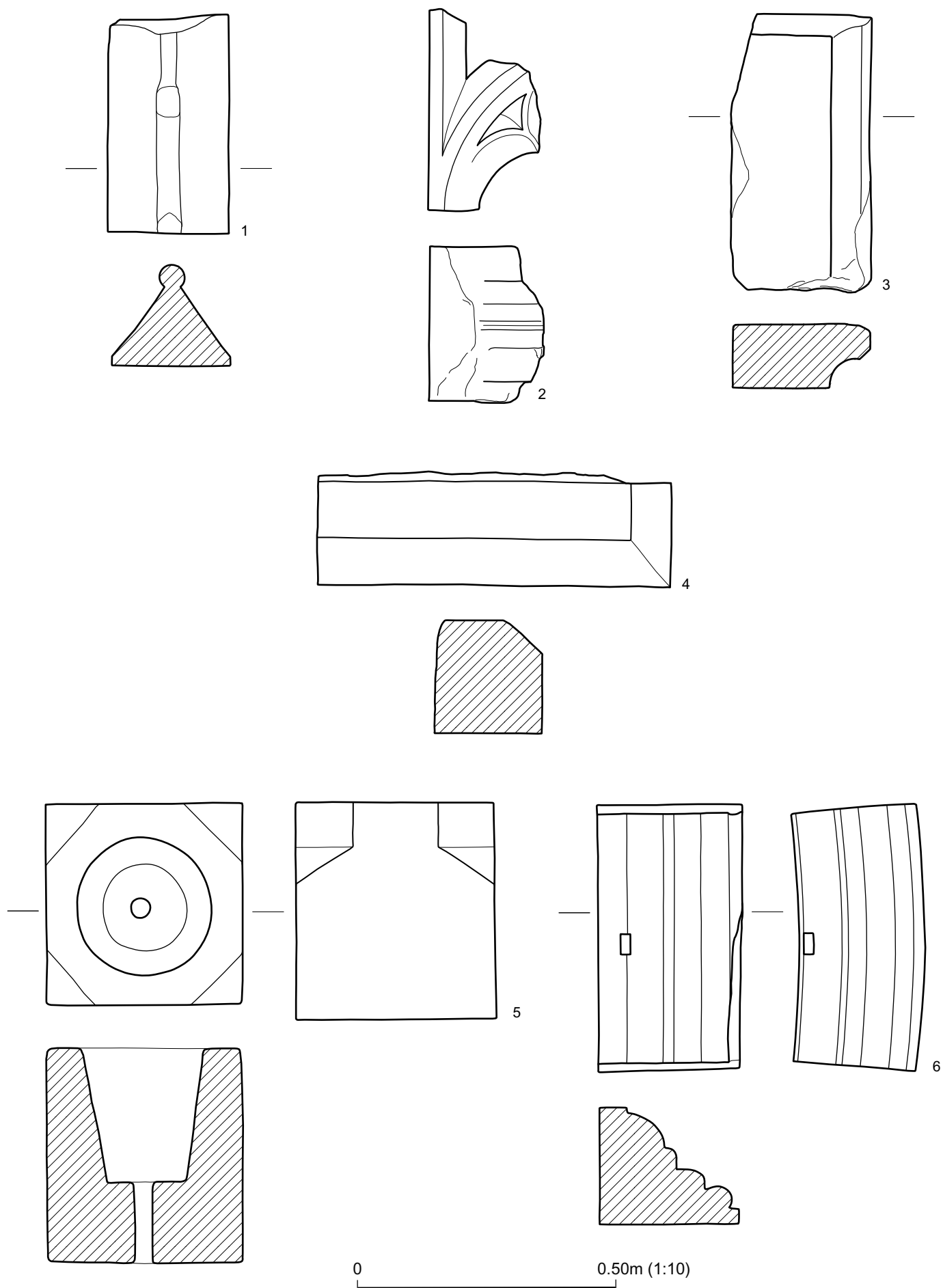


Fig. 5. Sandstone architectural fragments (Cat. Nos 1-6)

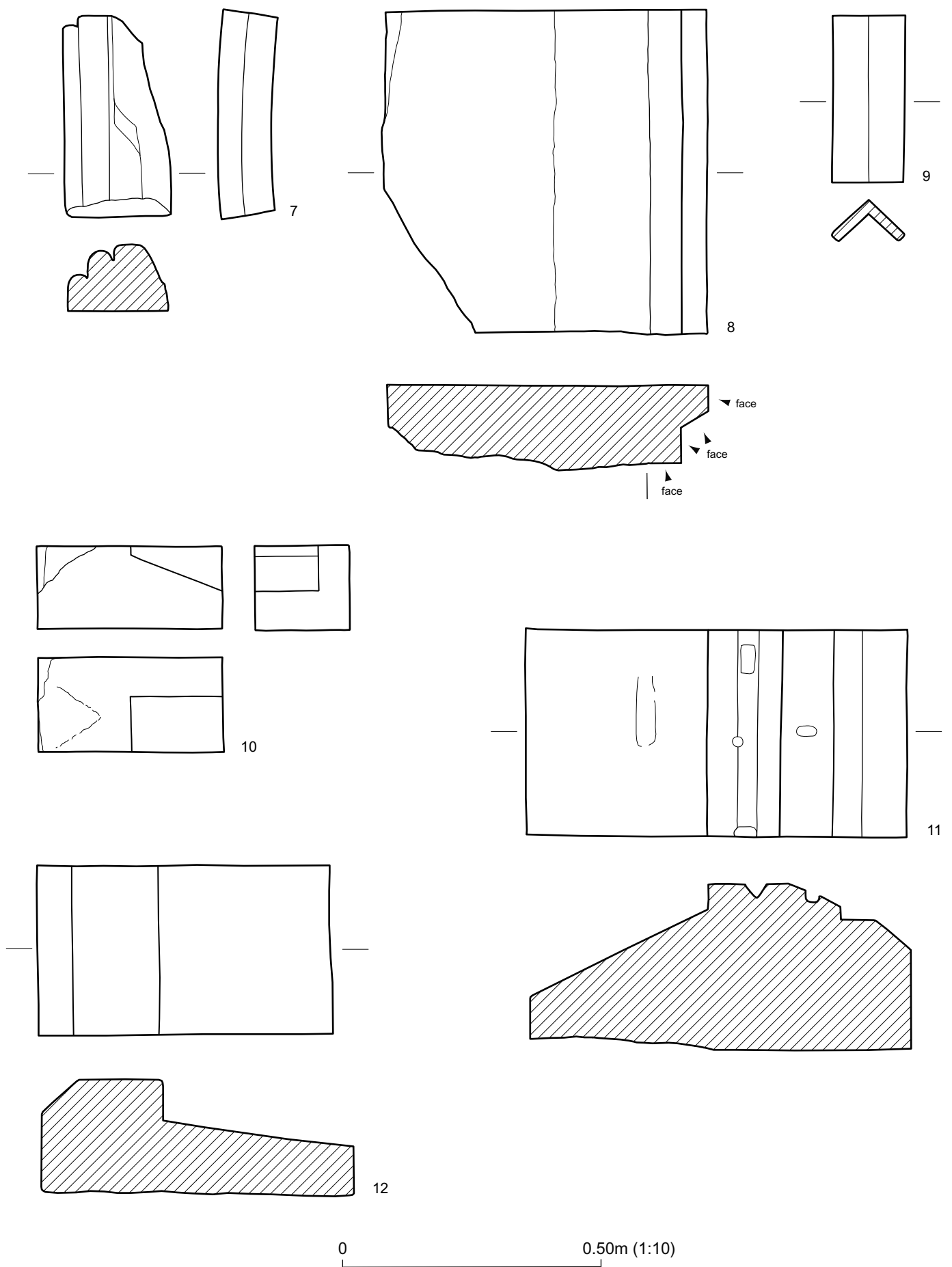


Fig. 6. Sandstone architectural fragments (Cat. Nos 7-12)



Plate 1. Moat dredging in slot H, looking north-east



Plate 2. Inspecting silt 1000 from the moat



Plate 3. Selected architectural stonework



Plate 4. Coping stone with roll apex (Cat. No. 1)



Plate 5. Window tracery with cusp (Cat. No. 2)



Plate 6. Hood mould with hollow chamfer (Cat. No. 3)



Plate 7. Plinth with a plain chamfer (Cat. No. 4)



Plate 8. Possible garden feature with a central drain hole (Cat. No. 5)



Plate 9. Moulded voussoir with small bar mortice (Cat. No. 6)



Plate 10. Fragment of a possible moulded voussoir (Cat. No. 7)



Plate 11. Cornice with dressed and chamfered faces (Cat. No. 8)



Plate 12. Inverted 'V' shaped ridge piece (Cat. No. 9)

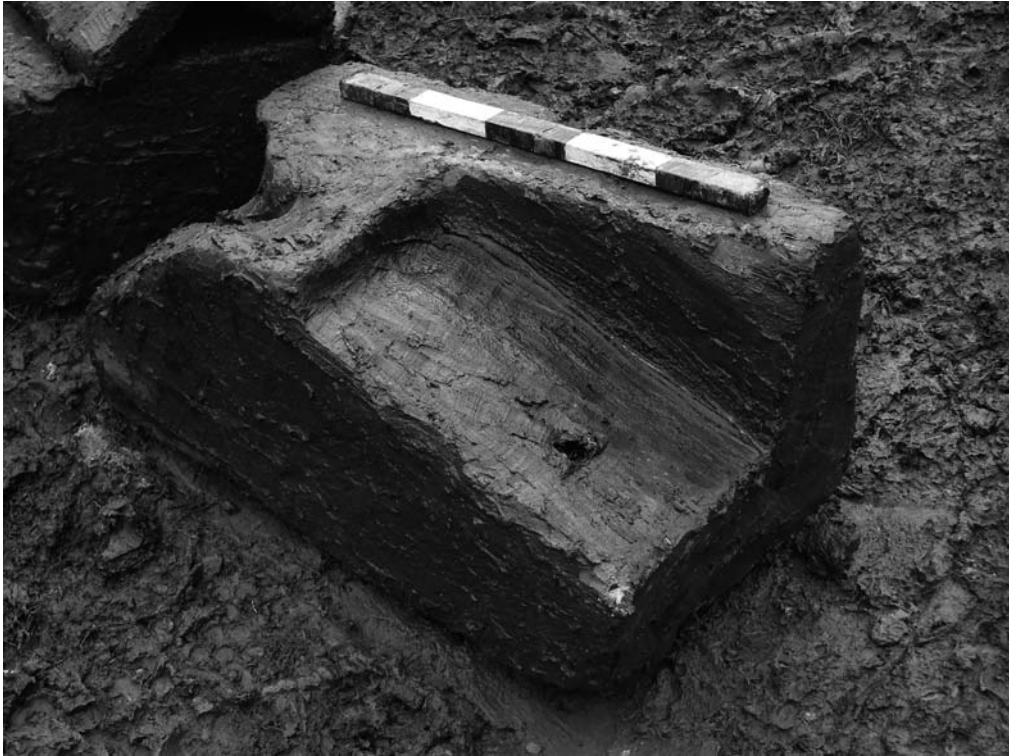


Plate 13. Splayed window sill (Cat. No. 10)



Plate 14. Window reveal with glazing frame rebate (Cat. No. 11)



Plate 15. Chamfered and splayed door jamb (Cat. No. 12)



Plate 16. Stone-built phase of the Hall, with moulded window tracery, hood mould and reveals. The moulded stonework could be a match to some of the recorded stone work (see Cat. Nos 2, 3 and 11)



Plate 17. The Victorian bridge and gateway. The moulded parapet coping and arch appear to match some of the recorded stonework (See Cat. Nos 1 and 6)

Appendix 1: Specification

WEST YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY SERVICE: SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT THORNHILL MOATED SITE, THORNHILL

Specification prepared on behalf of Kirklees Council, at the request of Debbie Bates of Kirklees Council

1. Summary

1.1 A limited amount of archaeological work consisting of a watching brief is proposed to identify and record any archaeological remains which are revealed and/or disturbed during de-silting works in the moat. This specification has been written by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS), the holders of the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record. The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no. 13289) and scheduled monument consent has already been granted by English Heritage (reference S00057821)

NOTE: The requirements detailed in paragraphs 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 11.1 are to be carried out by the archaeological contractor **prior** to the commencement of fieldwork.

2. Site Location & Description

Grid Reference: SE 2563 1891

2.1 Thornhill Moated Site is located at the north side of Thornhill Rectory Park. It is bounded to the north by Hall Lane, to the east by Thornhill Hall Farm, to the west by The Old Rectory Nursing Home and to the south by Thornhill Rectory Park. The moat currently contains a lot of silt and debris which is to be cleared as part of on-going enhancement works to the moated site.

2.3 The site is located within Kirklees District and historically, the Township of Thornhill.

2.3 The watching brief will be maintained during all de-silting works.

3. Background

3.1 Kirklees Council has a rolling programme of Conservation Area Enhancement Schemes. As part of this programme it was decided that the Thornhill Conservation Area would benefit greatly from enhancement works. More specifically, it was decided that Thornhill Rectory Park, which includes the scheduled site of Thornhill Moated Site (SAM no 13289), should be a priority for enhancement.

3.2. It is hoped that a comprehensive enhancement scheme for the moated site would provide an attractive focal point for the park. The enhancement works, once completed, should promote public access to the moated site, and a series of interpretation panels should provide historical and archaeological information to visitors.

3.3 The Council hopes to be able to fund over the next few years, with external funding being sought wherever possible, a range of physical works at the moated site which includes a replacement footbridge over the moat, moat de-silting, access and footpath improvements, graffiti removal and conservation work to the remains of the hall and tree management works on the island and moat edges

3.4 This specification is for a watching brief during works to de-silt the moat.

3.5 This specification has been prepared at the request of Debbie Bates of Kirklees Metropolitan Council (debbie.bates@kirklees.gov.uk 01484 221625).

4. Archaeological Interest

4.1 Thornhill Hall Moat occupies the northeast corner of Thornhill Rectory Park in the Thornhill area of Dewsbury. In addition to the moat and central island, the monument contains a number of related features. These include a remnant of an earlier open-field system, the site of the formal gardens of the 17th century hall and the site of its Bowling Green. Deposits relating to ancillary and agricultural buildings survive outside this scheduling to the east.

4.2 The moated site itself consists of a trapezoidal island measuring c.70m by 60m at its widest point and surrounded by a partially water-filled ditch varying between 5m and 30m wide and up to c.4m deep. A series of partial excavations were carried out between 1964 and 1972 when the remains of two houses on slightly different alignments were discovered. The earlier was a large 13th century timber-framed hall with clay bonded foundation walls. The later was a stone-built building of H-plan which showed signs of being reconstructed in c.1600 when it was given a paved floor, plaster walls and a chimney. The remains of the fireplace and solar, or private apartment, of the later hall are still standing and are Grade II Listed. A site survey carried out in 1964 revealed a bridge abutment on the north side of the island while, on the south side, the remains of a gatehouse were uncovered indicating that there were two bridging points across the moat. Excavation also revealed a wall round the island along the east side and also most of the south side. This wall was demolished in c.1600 and the gate rebuilt with a porter's lodge on the west side. The bridges would have been timber and their remains will probably be preserved in the waterlogged deposits of the ditch along with other organic and environmental material. The moat itself dates to c.1450 and is therefore of similar date to the first stone house but later than the 13th century timber-framed hall.

4.3 The Hall was destroyed during the Civil War. During the Civil War, Captain Thomas Paulden held the hall, a Royalist garrison at the time of the Civil War, on behalf of Lady Jane Savile. In 1648 Colonel Charles Fairfax led a small Parliamentarian Army against the Hall. The total length of resulting siege is unknown, however there is documented communication between Fairfax and Paulden which indicates that Paulden refused a number of requests to surrender. The Parliamentarians cut off the water supply to the hall and drained the moat before Paulden finally agreed to surrender. However, documentary sources state that *'merely by accident the fire from their own party took hold of their powder, blew up part of the house.. and the same flame consumed all the buildings'* (cited in Peel,

1884). The Hall was therefore destroyed not by the parliamentarians, but by an accidental explosion.

4.4 The moat also post-dates an earlier field-system which may be contemporary with the 13th century hall or even earlier. The remains of this can be seen to the south of the moat where traces of ridge and furrow cultivation survive as faint linear earthworks lying at right-angles to the moat and clearly truncated by it. Also to the south side are the issues which feed the moat while a drain lies midway along the west side. Immediately to the north is the site of the 17th century bowling green noted on Saxton's map of c.1600 while, to the west, lies an area recorded by Saxton as 'New Orchard'. Orchard was a term often used of formal gardens as well as fruit orchards, and three terraces running parallel with and respecting the west flank of the moat have been interpreted as the formal gardens of the later hall.

4.5 In September 2012 an auger survey was carried out of the moat by The Environmental Archaeology Consultancy in an attempt to establish the likely depths of archaeological deposits. Six core samples were taken from locations around the moat. The results of the survey suggest that recent silt deposits are present down to 1m below the water line. On the western side of the moat, a potential blast deposit containing coal was radiocarbon dated to between AD 1620 and 1660 which is consistent with the 1648 explosion. This deposit was encountered at c.1.3m below the water level. The 'floor' of the moat was found to be mudstone or siltstone, but one section on the eastern side of the moat appeared to be floored in rubble. This was encountered at 1.9m below the water level. The moat varies in depth from less than 2m to c.3m, with the shallowest part being the narrow western section which has been revetted in stone. The recommendations made following the survey suggest that de silting should be carried out to a maximum of 1.1m below the water level in the western moat and the western sections of the north and south moats. A maximum depth of 1.5m below the water level would be suitable for the remainder.

5. Aim of the Watching Brief

5.1 The aim of the watching brief is to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features, deposits or finds which are disturbed or exposed as a result of de-silting works in the area of interest.

5.3 This work will mitigate the destruction of buried archaeological remains through 'preservation by record'.

6. General Instructions

6.1 Health and Safety

6.1.1 The archaeologist on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. In this case, where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard should also be taken of any reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose. This work may require the preparation of a Risk Assessment of the site, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations. The West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service and its officers cannot be held responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur to

outside contractors engaged to undertake this watching brief while attempting to conform to this specification. Any Health and Safety issues which may hinder compliance with this specification should be discussed with WYAAS and English Heritage at the earliest possible opportunity (see section 12.2).

6.2 Confirmation of Adherence to Specification

6.2.1 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor must confirm adherence to this specification in writing to WYAAS and English Heritage, or state (with reasons) any proposals to vary the specification. Unauthorised variations are made at the sole risk of the contractor (see para. 12.2 below). Modifications presented in the form of a re-written specification/project design **will not** be considered by WYAAS or English Heritage.

6.3 Confirmation of Timetable and Contractors' Qualifications

6.3.1 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor **must** provide WYAAS **in writing** with:

- a projected timetable for the site work
- details of the staff structure and numbers
- names and CVs of key project members (the project manager, site supervisor, any proposed specialists, sub-contractors *etc.*)

6.3.2 All project staff provided by the archaeological contractor must be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles. The timetable should be adequate to allow the work to be undertaken to the appropriate professional standard, subject to the ultimate judgement of WYAAS and English Heritage.

6.4 Notification and Monitoring

6.4.1 The watching brief will be monitored as necessary and practicable by WYAAS and English Heritage in its role as curator of the county's archaeology. WYAAS and English Heritage should be provided with **four weeks notice** of the intention to start the watching brief. A copy of the archaeological contractor's risk assessment of the site should accompany the notification.

6.4.2 The museums officer named in paragraph 11.1 should be notified in writing of the commencement of fieldwork at the same time as WYAAS.

6.4.3 Neil Redfern at English Heritage should also be notified (Tel: 01904 601897; email: Neil.Redfern@english-heritage.org.uk)

7.1 Fieldwork Methodology

7.1.1 An archaeologist should be present on site **during all de-silting works**. English Heritage have stated that the de-silting will be carried out from the outside of the moat by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The archaeologist will monitor the machine (particularly the depth of excavation/de-silting), record the work as it progresses, protect any in-situ archaeological remains uncovered and monitor the spoil heap. It is suggested that a mark be placed on the arm of the machine so that the operator and archaeologist can tell the depth at which the moat is being de-silted (see para 4.5). Should artefacts or structures of archaeological significance be

discovered while work is in progress, the work should halt and English Heritage and WYAAS should be contacted.

7.1.2 English Heritage have also specified that the de-silting works must be carried out in dry weather to avoid damage by machines to the scheduled monument and that heavy plant must not be operated on the island. Deposits must be left undisturbed on either side of the moat to provide a buffer zone which will prevent potential damage to retaining walls and the clay lining. The wet silt removed from the moat should be dumped and spread to drain and dry in a temporary storage area to the southwest of the moat, the archaeologist is to be given access to this area to search the silt for archaeological remains.

7.1.3 Any in situ features/deposits of archaeological interest should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, scale drawings and written descriptions sufficient to permit the preparation of a report. Section drawings (at a minimum scale of 1:20) **must** include heights O.D. Plans (at a minimum scale of 1:50) **must** include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features.

7.1.4 The actual areas of works (even if no archaeological remains are present) should be recorded on a suitable base map/development plan and the stratigraphic sequence and the depth of the excavations will be briefly recorded. If archaeological remains are identified, their location is to be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on an up-to-date 1:1250 O.S. map base.

7.1.5 Excavated silt should be searched as practicable for finds. All finds, except 20th century material, should be collected and retained for processing.

7.1.6 Except where otherwise requested, black and white photography using orthodox monochrome chemical development should be used. Film should be no faster than ISO400. Slower films should be used where possible as their smaller grain size yields higher definition images. Technical Pan (ISO 25), Pan-F (ISO50), FP4 (ISO125) and HP5 (ISO400) are recommended. The use of dye-based films such as Ilford XP2 and Kodak T40CN is unacceptable due to poor archiving qualities. Black and white photography should be supplemented by colour photography; this should be in transparency format (i.e. slides or digital photography as an acceptable alternative, see paragraph 7.1.9 below).

7.1.7 Digital photography: as an alternative for colour slide photography, good quality digital photography may be supplied, using cameras with a minimum resolution of 4 megapixels. Note that conventional black and white print photography is still required and constitutes the permanent record. Digital images will only be acceptable as an alternative to colour slide photography if each image is supplied in three file formats (as a RAW data file, a DNG file and as a JPEG file). The contractor must include metadata embedded in the DNG file. The metadata must include the following: the commonly used name for the site being photographed, the relevant centred OS grid coordinates for the site to at least six figures, the relevant township name, the date of photograph, the subject of the photograph, the direction of shot and the name of the organisation taking the photograph. **Any digital images are to be supplied to WYAAS on gold CDs by the archaeological contractor accompanying the hard copy of the report.**

7.2 Use of Metal Detectors on Site

7.2.1 Spoil heaps are to be scanned for both ferrous and non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making this discrimination, operated by an experienced metal detector user (if necessary, operating under the supervision of the contracting archaeologist). Modern artefacts are to be noted but not retained (19th-century material and earlier should be retained.)

7.2.2 If a non-professional archaeologist is to be used to carry out the metal-detecting, a formal agreement of their position as a sub-contractor working under direction must be agreed in advance of their use on site. This formal agreement will apply whether they are paid or not. To avoid financial claims under the Treasure Act a suggested wording for this formal agreement with the metal detectorist is: "In the process of working on the archaeological investigation at [*location of site*] between the dates of [*insert dates*], [*name of person contributing to project*] is working under direction or permission of [*name of archaeological organisation*] and hereby waives all rights to rewards for objects discovered that could otherwise be payable under the Treasure Act 1996."

8. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

8.1 Should there be, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant more detailed recording than possible within the terms of this specification, then the archaeological contractor is to urgently contact WYAAS and English Heritage with the relevant information to enable the matter to be resolved with the developer.

8.2 The terms of the Treasure Act, 1996, as amended, must be followed with regard to any finds, which might fall within its purview. Any such finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the 'Code of Practice'. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

9. Post-excavation Analysis and Reporting

9.1 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples shall be processed and all finds shall be cleaned, identified, analysed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. Finds of 20th century date should be quantified and summarily described, but can then be discarded if appropriate. All finds of 19th century or earlier date should be retained and archived.

9.2 A fully indexed field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and fully labelled photographs/slides. Standards for archive compilation and transfer should conform to those outlined in *Archaeological Archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum, 2007). Photographic prints should be mounted in appropriate archivally-stable sleeves. Labelling should be on the *back* of the print in

pencil giving film and frame number only and on applied printed labels on the front of the appropriate photographic sleeve which should include:

- film and frame number
- date recorded and photographer's name
- name and address of site
- national grid reference
- specific subject of photograph.

A quantified index to the field archive should form an appendix to the report. The original archive is to accompany the deposition of any finds, providing the landowner agrees to the deposition of finds in a publicly accessible archive (see Section 10 below). In the absence of this agreement the field archive (less finds) is to be deposited in the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record.

9.3 A fully illustrated report should be produced, which should include background information on the need for the project, a description of the methodology employed, and a full description and interpretation of the results, placing them in a local and regional, and if appropriate, national context. It is not envisaged that the report is likely to be published, but it should be produced with sufficient care and attention to detail to be of academic use to future researchers.

9.4 Any digital prints in the report must be made on paper and with inks which are certified against fading or other deterioration for a period of 75 years or more when used in combination. If digital printing is employed, **the contractor must** supply details of the paper/inks used in writing to the WYAAS, with supporting documentation indicating their archival stability/durability.

9.5 Location plans should be produced at a scale which enables easy site identification and which depicts the full extent of the areas covered by the watching brief (a scale of 1:50,000 is not regarded as appropriate unless accompanied by a more detailed plan or plans). Plans should be at an appropriate scale showing: areas excavated and the identified (and, where possible, predicted) archaeological features/deposits. Trench and feature plans **must** include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features. Section drawings **must** include O.D heights and be cross-referenced to an appropriate plan.

9.6 All artefacts and environmental material will be analysed by a qualified and experienced specialist. Artefact analysis is to include the production of a descriptive catalogue. Finds critical for dating and interpretation should be illustrated.

9.7 Details of the style and format of the report are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but should include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive, details of the current and intended location of the archive and, as an appendix, a copy of this specification.

10. Report Submission and Deposition with the HER

10.1 **The archaeological contractor will supply a hard copy of the report to the client and another hard copy (plus a digital copy on a gold disk) directly to the WYAAS within a period of one month following completion of fieldwork**, unless a revised date has been agreed in writing with WYAAS. A hard copy should also be sent to Neil Redfern at English Heritage (English Heritage, 37 Tanner Row, York YO1

6WP). A copy of the final report (in .pdf format) shall also be supplied to English Heritage's Science Advisor (Andy Hammon, English Heritage, 37 Tanner Row, York YO1 6WP). Any comments made by WYAAS in response to the submission of an unsatisfactory report will be taken into account and will result in the reissue of a suitably edited report to all parties, within a timescale which has been agreed with WYAAS.

10.2 The report will be supplied on the understanding that it will be added to the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record. and will become publicly accessible once deposited with the WYAAS unless confidentiality is explicitly requested, in which case it will become publicly accessible six months after deposition.

10.3 Copyright - Please note that by depositing this report, the contractor gives permission for the material presented within the document to be used by the WYAAS, in perpetuity, although The Contractor 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). The permission will allow the WYAAS to reproduce material, including for non-commercial use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.

10.4 The West Yorkshire HER supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Contractors are advised to contact the West Yorkshire HER officer prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, the West Yorkshire HER may place the information on a web-site. Please ensure that you and your client agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to the case officer at the West Yorkshire HER.

10.5 The attached summary sheet should be completed and submitted to the WYAAS for inclusion in the summary of archaeological work in West Yorkshire published on WYAAS' website.

11. Archive Deposition

11.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological contractor must contact the relevant District museum archaeological curator in writing (copied to WYAAS) to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive. In this case the contact is: The Tolson Memorial Museum, Ravensknowle Park, Wakefield Road Huddersfield HD5 8DJ; tel 01484 223830.

11.2 It is the policy of the Tolson Memorial Museum to accept complete excavation archives, including primary site records and research archives and finds, from all excavations carried out in the District, which it serves.

11.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to endeavour to obtain consent of the landowner, in writing, to the deposition of finds with the Tolson Memorial Museum.

11.4 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet the Tolson Memorial Museum's requirements with regard to the preparation of fieldwork archives for deposition.

12. General Considerations

12.1 Authorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

12.1.1 If, on first visiting the site or at any time during the course of the recording exercise, it appears in the archaeologist's professional judgement that:

- i) a part or the whole of the site is not amenable to recording as detailed above, and/or
- ii) an alternative approach may be more appropriate or likely to produce more informative results,

then it is expected that the archaeologist will contact WYAAS as a matter of urgency in order that the matter can be resolved in liaison with the developer and the Local Planning Authority.

12.2 Unauthorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

12.2.1 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that they have obtained English Heritage and WYAAS's consent in writing to any variation of the specification prior to the commencement of on-site work or (where applicable) prior to the finalisation of the tender. Unauthorised variations will be in breach of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended).

12.3 Technical Queries

12.3.1 Similarly, any technical queries arising from the specification detailed above, should be addressed to WYAAS without delay.

12.4 Valid Period of Specification

12.4.1 This specification is valid for a period of one year from date of issue. After that time it may need to be revised to take into account new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

Rebecca Remmer
Senior Archaeologist

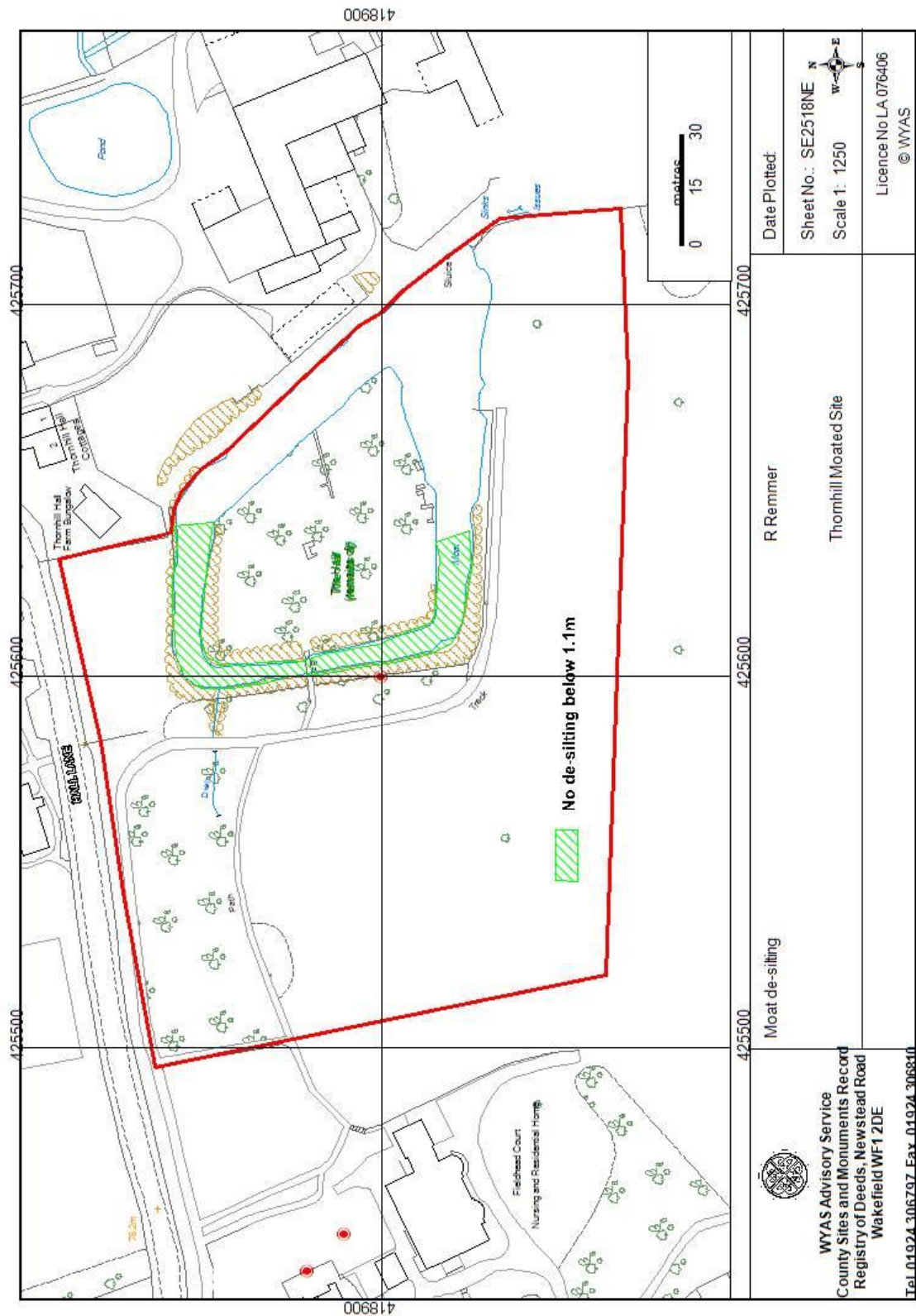
April 2013

West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service
West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record
Registry of Deeds
Newstead Road
Wakefield
WF1 2DE

Telephone: (01924) 305992
Fax: (01924) 306810
E-mail: rremmer@wyjs.org.uk

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Appendix 2: Inventory of primary archive

File/Box No	Description	Quantity
File no.1	Daily site recording form	20
	Context register	1
	Context cards	1
	Finds and samples record (form B)	1
	Digital photograph record sheets	3
	Photograph record sheet	2
	Small finds register	1
	Drawing register	1
	Permatrace sheets	6

Appendix 3: Concordance of contexts

Area	Context	Description	Finds
A	1000	Grey-black silt	Metal finds
B	1000	Grey-black silt	
C	1000	Grey-black silt	Masonry
D	1000	Grey-black silt	Masonry, metal finds
E	1000	Grey-black silt	Masonry
F	1000	Grey-black silt	Masonry
G	1000	Grey-black silt	Masonry, metal finds
H	1000	Grey-black silt	Masonry, metal finds, pottery
I	1000	Grey-black silt	
J	1000	Grey-black silt	
K	1000	Grey-black silt	Masonry
L	1000	Grey-black silt	Masonry
M	1000	Grey-black silt	
N	1000	Grey-black silt	
O	1000	Grey-black silt	
P	1000	Grey-black silt	

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