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**Hesley Hall  
Tickhill  
South Yorkshire**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*August 2006*

*Report No. 1567*

CLIENT

The Hesley Group

**Hesley Hall**  
***Tickhill***  
**South Yorkshire**

***Archaeological Evaluation***

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***Summary***

*An archaeological evaluation at Hesley Hall School near Tickhill was undertaken in advance of the construction of new residences as part of the development of a village complex. The investigation did not reveal any archaeological features other than those associated with the present hall.*

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Building Link Design on behalf of their clients The Hesley Group to conduct an archaeological evaluation within an area of the development of a village complex (planning application number 99/83/0277/P/FUL).
- 1.2 The site lies 4km to the north-east of Tickhill and to the west of the B6463 at grid reference SK 6168 9561 (Fig. 1). The area of development lies to the west of Hesley Hall (Fig. 2).
- 1.3 The underlying geology of the area is Bunter sandstone (British Geological Survey 1969) with well-drained coarse loamy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).
- 1.4 The evaluation took place from 25th to the 26th July 2006.

## **2. Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 The area of development lies within an area of cropmarks identified as a possible Iron Age/ Romano-British settlement. The features that relate to this possible settlement were shown by aerial photographic rectification to run towards and possibly into the proposed development site.
- 2.2 The site of Hesley Hall was also suggested to be the site of a deserted medieval village by Magilton (1977), although no evidence to support or disprove this has been revealed.
- 2.3 Previous investigations by ASWYAS have not revealed any archaeological remains other than those associated with the present hall (Rose 2005).

## **3. Method**

- 3.1 The evaluation trenches were excavated by a 360° mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision in level spits until the first archaeological horizon or natural ground was encountered.
- 3.2 The resultant surface was then inspected for archaeological remains with further cleaning being conducted by hand. Excavation of features was conducted in a stratigraphic manner in accordance with ASWYAS standard method (2005). A full drawn, written and photographic record was made of each trench, even where no archaeological remains were found.
- 3.3 The site archive contains all the information gathered during the investigations and is indexed in Appendix I. An inventory of contexts is listed in Appendix II.

## **4. Results**

- 4.1 A total of two trenches were excavated as part of the evaluation of the development area (Fig. 2). Both were excavated in a walled garden to the west of the hall within the proposed foundations of a courtyard-style development (Fig. 2).

- 4.2 Trench 1 was excavated on an east to west alignment towards the southern limits of the courtyard (Fig. 3). Within this trench, a linear feature (103) measuring 0.93m in width and 0.26m in depth was visible running approximately east to west (Fig. 4). This feature contained a single fill that was very similar to the overlying subsoil and included early modern pottery, animal bone and an iron nail. It probably represents a garden feature relating to the walled garden.
- 4.3 Trench 2 was excavated on a north-south alignment across the western limits of the development. At the southern end of this trench, a deposit (204) 0.35m deep was visible in section (Fig. 4). This deposit was very similar to the overlying subsoil and contained a single sherd of 17th to 18th-century pottery. It is thought that this deposit relates to the area's recent use as a garden. No other features or deposits were visible in this trench.

## 5. **Artefact Record**

### **The pottery** by C. Cumperpatch

- 5.1 The pottery assemblage was examined by the author and details of the material are summarised in the catalogue below.

#### **Catalogue**

##### *Trench 1: fill 102*

- One fragment of roof tile (11g); undated;
- One sherd of Brown Glazed Coarseware (2g); brown glazed internally, partially brown glazed externally; 18th to 19th century;
- One sherd of Unglazed Red Earthenware (2g); possibly a flower pot, 19th century;
- Three sherds (6g), joining, forming the rim of a flowerpot, 19th to early 20th century.

##### *Trench 2: fill 202*

- One sherd of Slipware (2g), later 17th to 18th century; clear glaze internally and externally on a bright orange body with white slip linear decoration externally.

- 5.2 It is difficult to offer a useful interpretation of such a small group of material. The sherd of Slipware from Trench 2 is clearly the earliest item in the assemblage and suggests activity on or close to the site in the 17th or early to mid 18th century. The material from Trench 1 resembles much of what has been recorded from the walled garden at Brodsworth Hall (author's observation) and presumably relates to the important contribution that horticulture made to the domestic economy of halls and larger country houses during the principal period of their existence. Little detailed study has been undertaken on such assemblages from South Yorkshire and so there is no existing framework of interpretation into which to place this assemblage.

## **6. *Discussion and Conclusion***

- 6.1 The remains seen within the evaluation trenches were associated with activities relating to the hall. Local knowledge indicates that the area of the walled garden was deeply ploughed and dug over in the first half of the 20th century. This disturbance may have removed any evidence for earlier activity in the area.
- 6.2 There was no evidence from the archaeological investigations to suggest that known cropmarks in the vicinity extended into the development area, neither was there any evidence to show the location of a possible deserted medieval village.

***Bibliography***

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British Geological Survey, 1969, Doncaster. England and Wales Sheet 88. Soil Edition. 1 Inch Series

Magilton, J., 1977, *The Doncaster District; an Archaeological Survey*

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## ***Acknowledgements***

### **Project management**

Jane Richardson PhD

### **Report**

Marina Rose BSc

Andrew Walsh BSc PIFA

### **Graphics/illustrations**

Marina Rose

Andrew Walsh

### **Fieldwork**

Andrew Walsh

Dan Lee BSc



## ***Appendix I***

### ***Inventory of primary archive***

<b>File no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
1	Trench record sheet	2
1	Context register	1
1	Context cards (100-103, 200-202)	7
1	Drawing register	1
1	Small permatrace sheet	1
1	Photograph record sheet (Film nos 7756 and 7757)	2
1	Black and white contact sheet (Film no. 7757)	1
1	Black and white negatives (Film no. 7757)	1
1	Colour transparencies (Film no. 7756)	1

## ***Appendix II***

### ***Inventory of contexts***

<b>Context</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	1	Topsoil
101	1	Subsoil
102	1	Fill of 103
103	1	Cut of east-west linear
200	2	Topsoil
201	2	Subsoil
202	2	Deposit

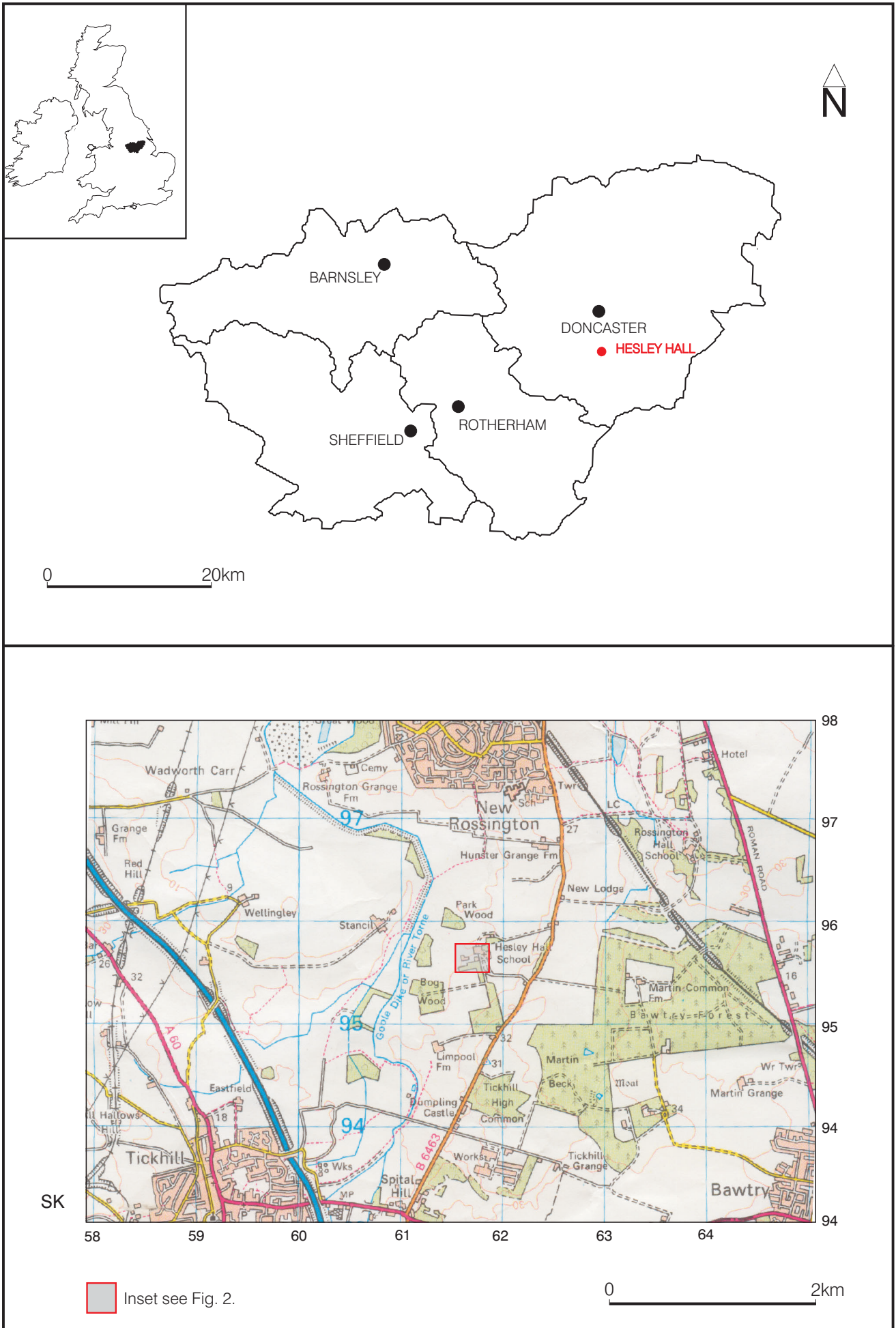


Fig. 1. Site location

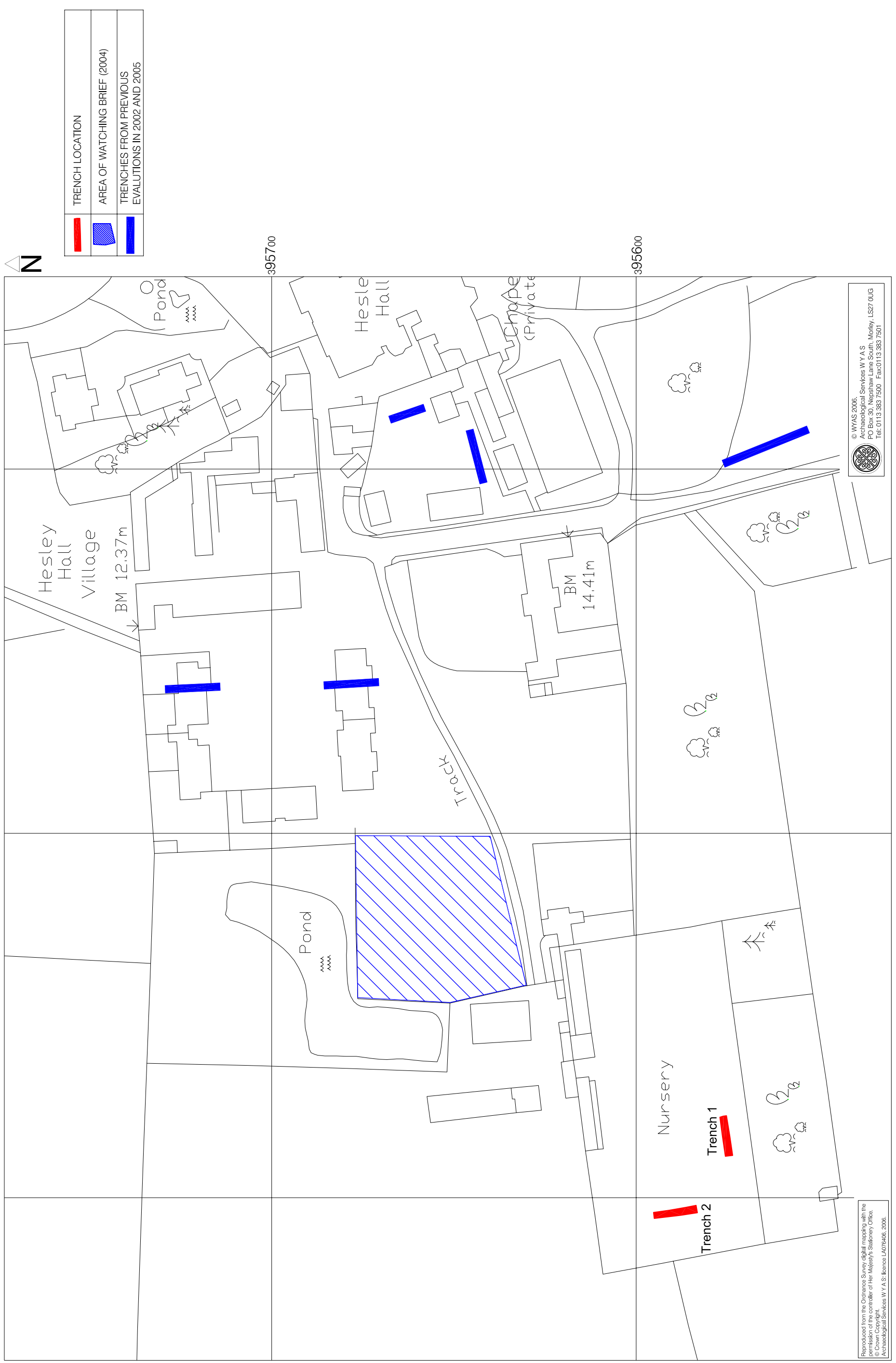
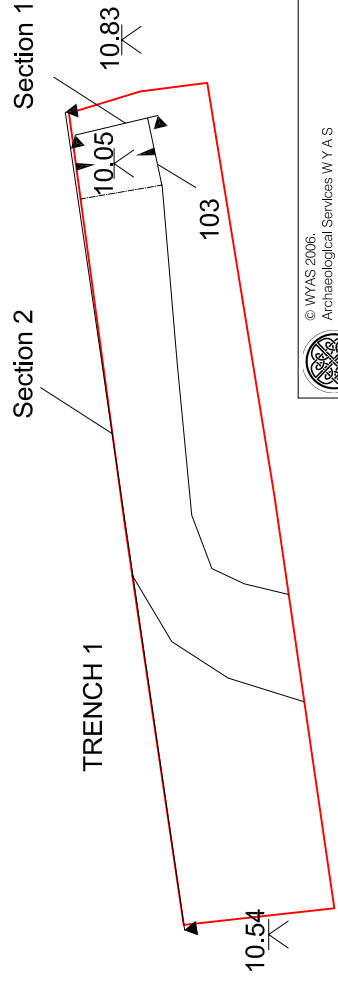
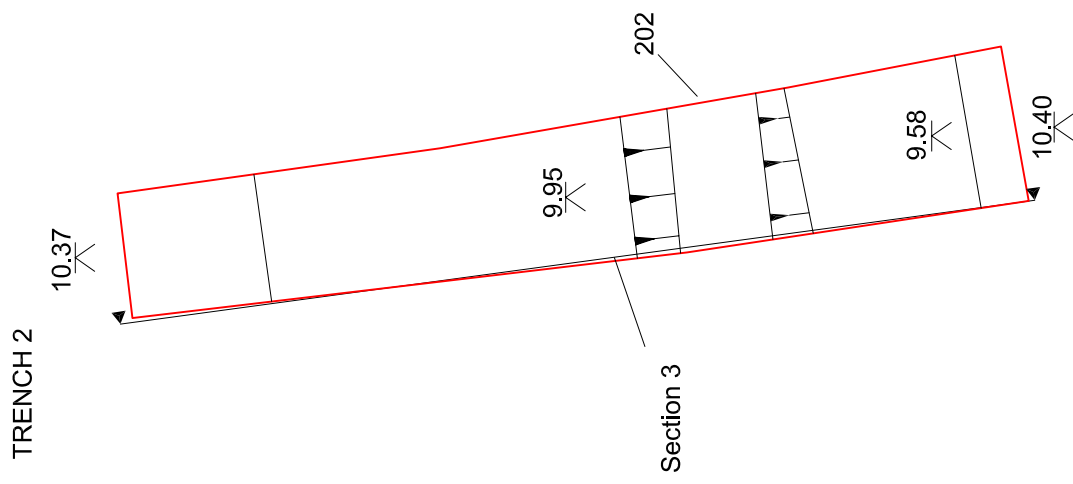


Fig. 2. Site location showing trench positions and areas subject to previous investigation

395600



	TRENCH LOCATION
	DRAWN SECTION (SHOWING DIRECTION) SEE FIG. 4
	SPOT HEIGHT



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Fig. 3. Features seen in Trenches 1 and 2

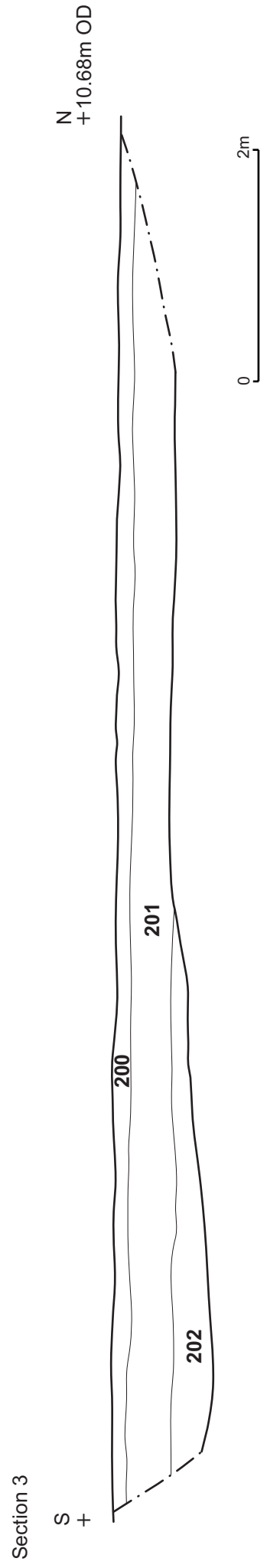
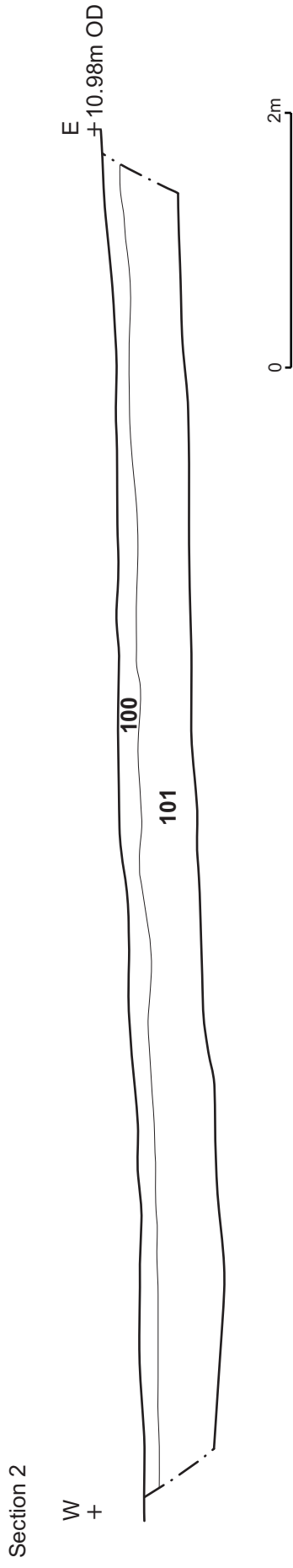
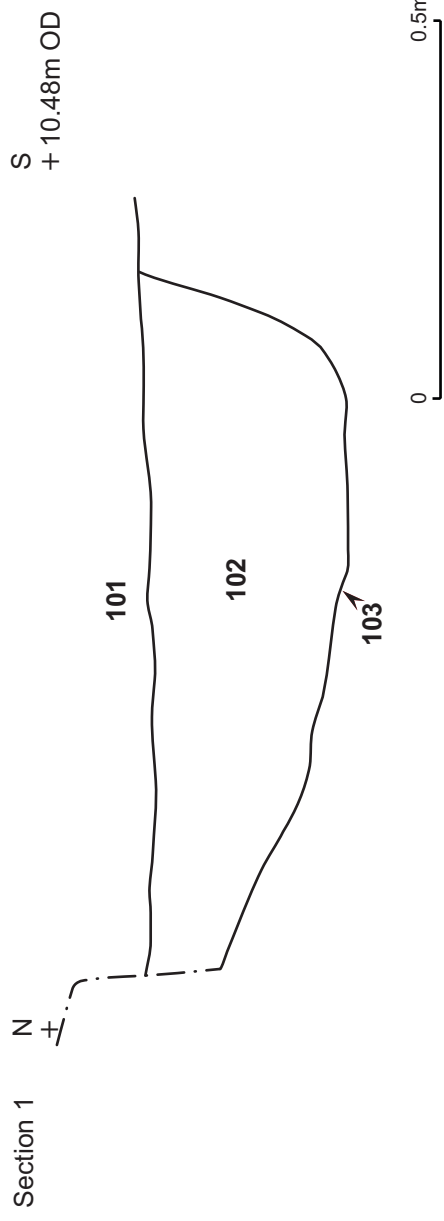


Fig. 4. Sections of Feature 103, Trench 1 and Trench 2