ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES WYAS

Harewood Whin
Rufforth
York

Archaeological Evaluation

Report No. 1742

November 2007

Golder Associates (UK) Limited

Harewood Whin, Rufforth
York

Archaeological Evaluation

Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out at the site of the proposed Harewood Whin Green Waste Composting Facility, York. The work followed an earlier geophysical (magnetometer) survey, which suggested low archaeological potential for the site. Eighteen trial trenches were excavated revealing an extensive number of furrows and field drains, confirming the interpretation of the geophysical survey. Two linear features were identified as the possible remains of late 18th-century hedge boundaries and an undated negative feature may be contemporaneous.

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Report Information

Client:	Golder Associates (UK) Limited
Address:	Golder House, Tadcaster Enterprise Park, Station Road, North Yorkshire, LS24 9JF
Report Type:	Archaeological Evaluation
Location:	Harewood Whin, Rufforth
County:	York
Grid Reference:	SE 543 514
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Report Number:	1742
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Project Management:	Dave Berg BA
Fieldwork supervisor:	Andrew Walsh BSc PIFA
Report:	Andrew Walsh
Illustrations:	Andrew Walsh
Photography:	-
Research:	-
Specialists:	-

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Acknowledgements

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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Antony Brown of Golder Associates (UK) Limited on behalf of Yorwaste Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at the site of the proposed Harewood Whin Green Waste Composting Facility. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 1st and 9th November 2007 and was monitored by Antony Brown and John Oxley, Curatorial Archaeologist, City of York HER.

Site Location and Topography

The proposed development area is located approximately 1.2 km east of the village of Rufforth, and 0.2 km south of the Harewood Whin Integrated Waste Management Facility Visitor Centre (Fig. 1). The site, centred on NGR SE 543 514, is bounded by a track to the north, Foss Dyke to the east, and the B1224 to the south. To the west is open farmland. The site is largely flat and situated approximately 15 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

Soils, Geology and Land-use

The underlying geology of the site is New Sherwood Sandstone overlain by superficial glacial lake deposits of silt and clay (British Geological Survey 1987). The soils are mapped as the Foggathorpe 2 association and described as stoneless clays and fine loams, permeable and seasonally waterlogged (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Archaeological evidence in the immediate vicinity of the site is limited (Brown 2007) and historical and cartographic evidence would suggest the area remains largely unaltered since the time of the 18th-century Enclosure Act, apart from the loss of a few field boundaries.

The area to the northeast of the site was subject to a geophysical survey prior to the extension of the Harewood Whin Landfill site (Stratascan 2000) and subsequent evaluation trenching targeting geophysical anomalies (RPS Consultants 2000). Only modern agricultural features were identified. An archaeological watching brief undertaken in 2004 during an expansion of the landfill site revealed, in addition to post-medieval land drains, two pits, one of which contained a number of sherds of Late Iron Age pottery (Northern Archaeological Associates 2004).

A geophysical survey carried out during July and August 2007 by ASWYAS, as part of this proposed development, revealed numerous geophysical anomalies, most of which were interpreted as deriving from the former agricultural practise of ridge and furrow ploughing, post-medieval field drains or isolated ferrous material (Harrison and Gidman 2007).

3 Aims and Objectives

The following objectives are outlined in the Archaeological Specification (Brown 2007):

- to determine presence/absence, nature, depth, extent, date and stratigraphic complexity of all archaeological deposits or features (of any date) that might be affected by the proposed Harewood Whin Green Waste Composting Facility
- to achieve "preservation by record" through the identification, excavation, recording, assessment, analysis, publication and archiving of the archaeological resource in those areas which will be impacted upon by the proposed Harewood Whin Green Waste Composting Facility, and
- to contribute positively to national and regional heritage through the dissemination of the results of the archaeological investigations.

The site-specific objectives were to confirm the results of the geophysical survey, record the presence of any archaeological features or deposits associated with geophysical anomalies and to test for features or deposits not identified by the geophysical survey.

4 Methodology

The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken in accordance with the 'Archaeological Specification' produced by Golder Associates (UK) Limited (Brown 2007) using established site recording methodologies (ASWYAS 2007). Eighteen trenches measuring 40 m by 2 m were proposed, covering in square metres approximately 2.5% of the site. The initial trench locations (Fig. 2) and evaluation rationale (Table 1) were provided by Golder Associates (UK) Limited. Because of nature of the linear anomalies being targeted and the low archaeological potential of the site, it was considered sufficient to position trenches using a Garmin Geko 201 GPS unit.

Table 1. Trench rationale

Trench	Rationale
A	To investigate ferrous anomaly adjacent to the well
B	To investigate the north-west to south-east trends which may represent the remains of the trackway or road depicted upon the 1795 Rufforth Enclosure Map
C	To investigate a number of ferrous anomalies towards the south-west corner of the evaluation area
D	To investigate the eastern end of an east to west orientated linear anomaly and a ferrous anomaly

Trench	Rationale
E	To investigate three ferrous anomalies and characterise the furrows in the western field
F	To investigate two ferrous anomalies
G	To target a ferrous anomaly and to characterise the furrows in the western field
H	To characterise the furrows in the eastern field and target a ferrous anomaly
I	To investigate a ferrous anomaly
J	To target two ferrous anomalies
K	To target a large ferrous anomaly and to sample two north to south linears
L	To sample the two north to south linears
M	To target two ferrous anomalies and to sample the two north to south linears
N	To investigate the relationship between the two north to south linears
O	To investigate the relationship between two linears and to target a ferrous anomaly
P	To characterise the possible band of alluvium adjacent to the Foss
Q	To characterise the possible relict field boundary at the east of the site
R	To characterise the possible relict field boundary at the east of the site and to target a ferrous anomaly.

Following on-site discussions with Antony Brown and John Oxley , the following trenches were relocated in order to avoid soil stripping below an electric power line running across the southeast corner of the site: Trench J was moved 5 m west, Trench K was moved 15 m south, and Trench P was re-aligned and shortened to 28 m (the large geophysical anomaly in Trench K is the site of a wooden electricity pole supporting this power line). Additionally, Trench D was extended 2.5 m south to fully investigate a possible archaeological feature (Fig. 2).

The trial trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.2 m toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil and subsoil were removed in level spits and machine excavation stopped at natural deposits or the first archaeological feature or layer (Plate 1).

All written and photographic records were made in accordance with ASWYAS standard methods (ASWYAS 2007). Each trench was recorded using a ‘trench record sheet’ and photographed using black and white, and colour 35mm negative film. Digital photographs were taken to supplement the record. The full archive is currently held by ASWYAS and it is anticipated that it will be deposited at York Museum, with the permission of the land owner, at an appropriate time agreed with the museum. The full contents of the site archive are indexed in Appendix 1.

5 Results

A total of eighteen trial trenches were excavated at Harewood Whin (Fig. 2). The results of each trench are summarised in Table 2.

The north-east to south-west linear trends, targeted by Trenches A, D and E, in the area to the west of the drain dividing the development area (see Fig 2), were identified as the remnants of ridge and furrow. The north-west to south-east linear trends targeted by Trench B were not visible as negative features, although a slight discolouration in the soil in this area may have been the result of differential land use, indicated by the presence of a green lane or track portrayed on the 1795 enclosure map (Brown *pers. comm.,* Fig. 3). No features were identified at the southern area of Trench C, where the geophysical survey had detected an area of magnetic disturbance. A possible feature was identified at the southern end of Trench D and the trench was extended 2.5 m to facilitate recording and interpretation. Excavation revealed a linear feature up to 0.32 m deep but very irregular in profile (Fig. 4, Plate 2). This corresponds to a field boundary identified on the enclosure map of 1795. The east to west linear feature targeted by this trench was identified as a land drain. A possible tree throw was also identified in Trench D.

The east-west linear trends, identified in the eastern area, were identified as the remnants of ridge and furrow, with the occasional field drain on the same orientation (Trenches F-R). A 0.18 m deep irregular feature, suggestive of a former field boundary and possible field entrance, was identified in Trench F running on a north-west to south-east alignment (Figs 2, 5). The north-south linear trend in the centre of the eastern area was identified as a land drain in Trenches O, N, M, L and K (Plate 3). The north-south anomaly targeted by Trenches Q and R was also identified as a field drain (Fig. 2). The north-south anomaly targeted by Trench P was identified as a possible palaeo-channel, although a land drain was also visible on a similar alignment (Fig. 2).

Table 2. Summary of trial trench results

Trial Trench	Dimensions	Average Depth	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Depth	Natural	Comments
A	40m by 2m	0.32m	0.26m	0.06m	orangey clay silt	4x furrows
B	40m by 2m	0.35m	0.30m	0.05m	orangey clay silt	1x land drain
C	40m by 2m	0.30m	0.24m	0.06m	orangey clay silt	1x land drain
D	42.5m by 2m	0.40m	0.32m	0.08m	orangey clay silt	extended south by 2.5m 1x ?field boundary, 2x furrows, 2x land drain, 1x tree throw

Trial Trench	Dimensions	Average Depth	Topsoil Depth	Subsoil Depth	Natural	Comments
E	40m by 2m	0.38m	0.30m	0.08m	orangey clay silt	2x land drain, 1x furrow
F	40m by 2m	0.30m	0.25m	0.05m	orangey brown clay silt	1x ?field boundary cut by 1x land drain
G	40m by 2m	0.35m	0.30m	0.05m	orangey clay silt	6x furrows
H	40m by 2m	0.30m	0.20m	0.10m	orangey clay silt	3x furrows
I	40m by 2m	0.35m	0.28m	0.07m	orangey clay silt	7x furrows
J	40m by 2m	0.30m	0.20m	0.10m	orangey brown clay silt	moved 5m west 1x land drain
K	40m by 2m	0.30m	0.20m	0.10m	orangey brown clay silt	moved 15m south 1x land drain
L	40m by 2m	0.30m	0.20m	0.10m	orangey brown clay silt	1x land drains, 1x furrow
M	40m by 2m	0.30m	0.20m	0.10m	orangey brown clay silt	4x land drains, 2x furrows
N	40m by 2m	0.30m	0.20m	0.10m	orangey clay silt	5x land drains
O	40m by 2m	0.30m	0.20m	0.10m	orangey yellow clay silt	1x land drain
P	28m by 2m	0.34m	0.25m	0.09m	orangey brown clay silt	2x land drains, 2x furrows, 1x ?palaeo-channel
Q	40m by 2m	0.34m	0.25m	0.09m	orangey brown clay silt	1x furrow
R	40m by 2m	0.32m	0.27m	0.05m	orangey brown clay silt	2x land drains

6 Conclusions

Eighteen trial trenches were excavated at Harewood Whin, by Archaeological Services WYAS in advance of a proposed development. The evaluation confirmed the interpretation of an earlier geophysical survey revealing an extensive number of post-medieval and modern agricultural features, including ridge and furrow and land drains. Two possible former hedge boundaries and a possible tree throw were also identified. No further archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were identified during the course of the evaluation.

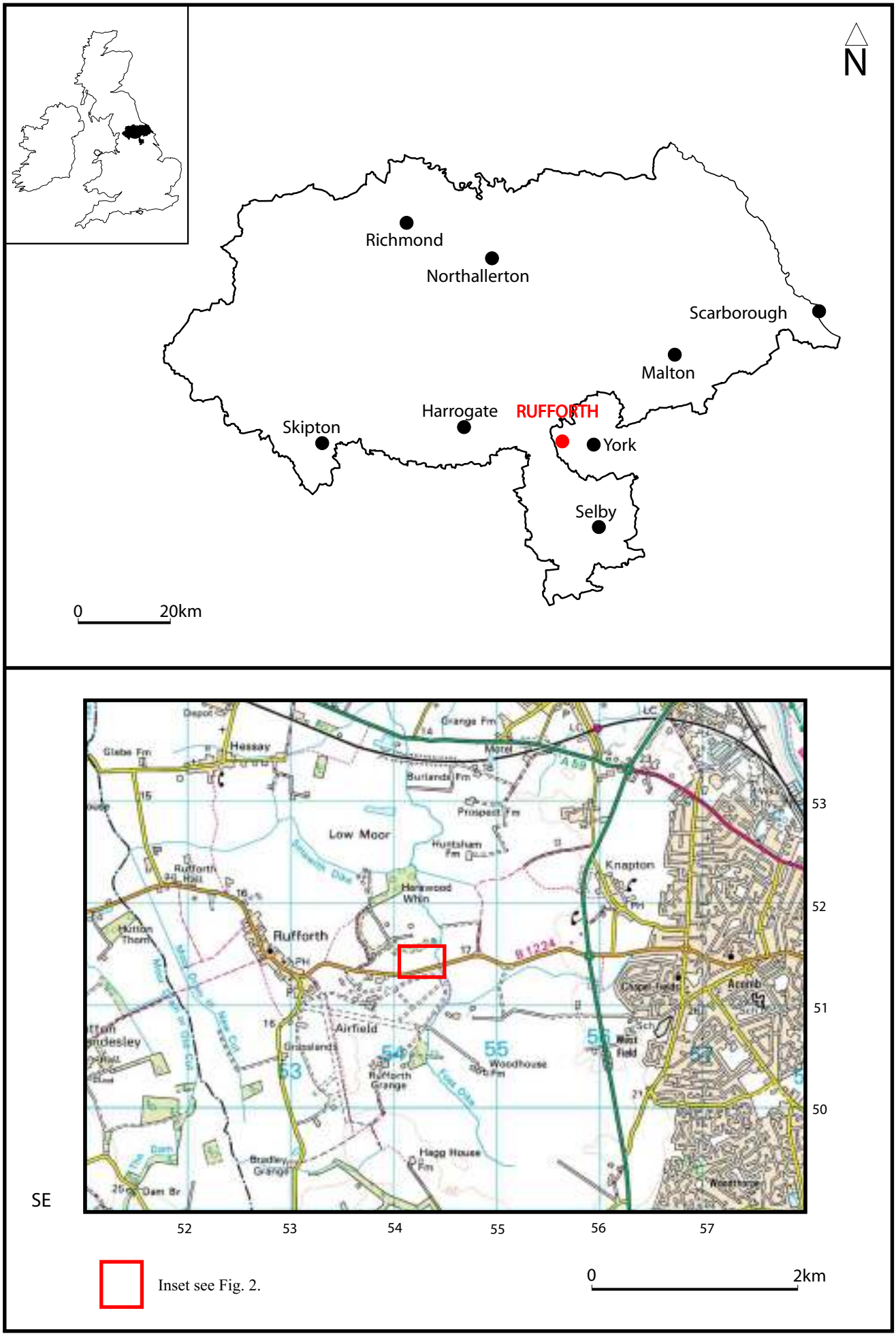

Fig. 1. Site location

	TRENCH LOCATION
	PROPOSED TRENCH LOCATION (IF NOT EXCAVATED)

GEOPHYSICS DATA		
TYPE OF ANOMALY		INTERPRETATION
•	DIPOLAR ISOLATED	FERROUS MATERIAL
	MAGNETIC DISTURBANCE	FERROUS MATERIAL
	LINEAR TREND	AGRICULTURAL
	LINEAR TREND	RIDGE AND FURROW
	LINEAR TREND	GEOLOGICAL BOUNDARY?
	LINEAR TREND	ARCHAEOLOGY? / AGRICULTURAL

N

NOT IDENTIFIED

FORMER FIELD BOUNDARY

LAND DRAIN

?PALEO-CHANNEL/ LAND DRAIN

LAND DRAIN

NOT IDENTIFIED

LAND DRAIN

FORMER FIELD BOUNDARY

NOT IDENTIFIED

Drain

The Foss

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R

BM 16.7

Stone
BM 16.35m

16.5m

Stone

4514

4542 00

4544 00

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0 50m

Fig. 2. Site location show interpretation of geophysics data, proposed and actual trench locations and results (1:1000 @ A3)

Fig. 3. Site location as depicted on the Rufforth Enclosure map of 1795

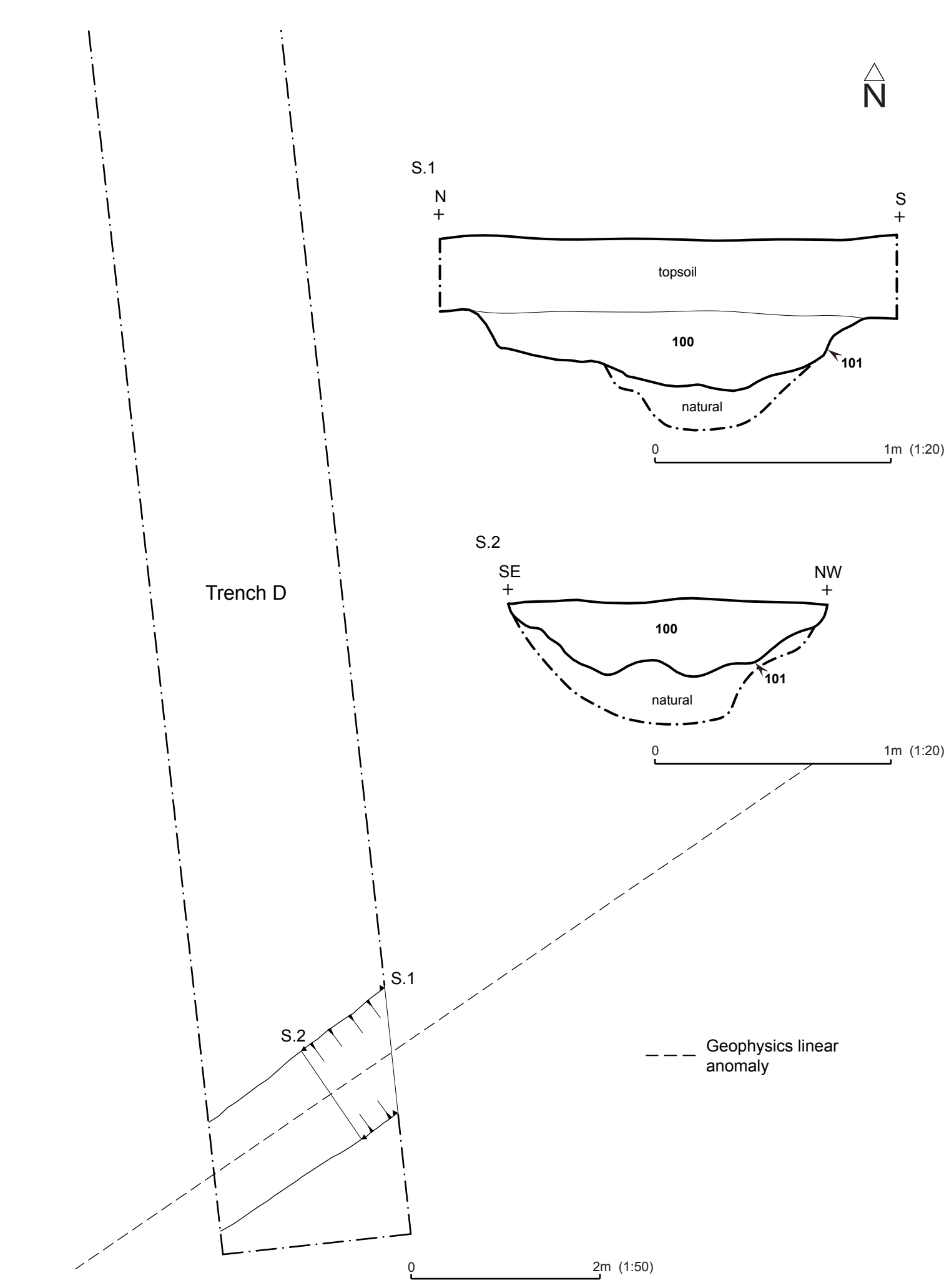

Fig. 4. Trench D, plan and sections

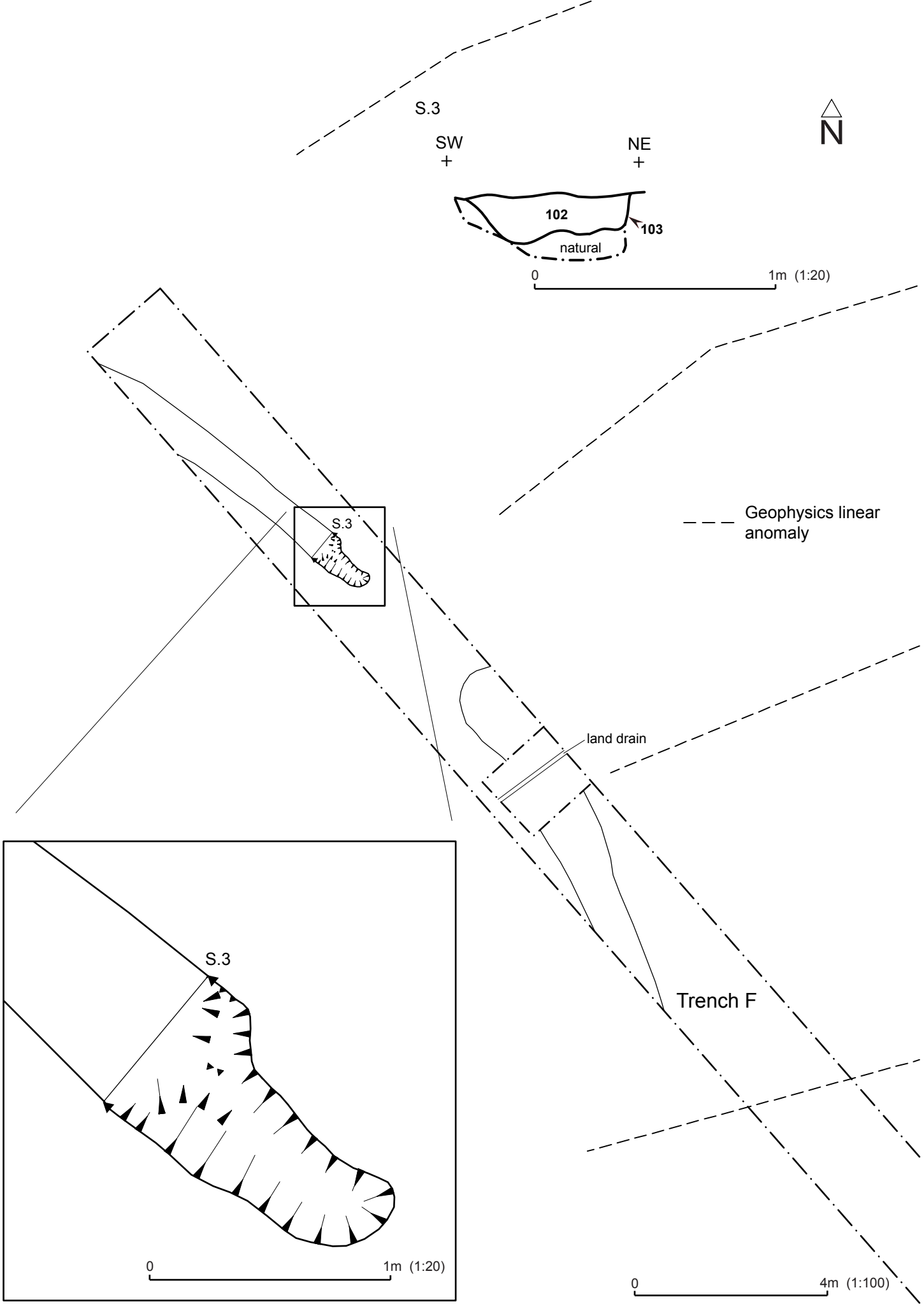

Fig. 5. Trench F, plans and section

Plate 1. Excavation of Trench J, looking northwest

Plate 2. Former field boundary identified in Trench D, looking northeast

Plate 3. Land drain excavated in Trench M, looking south

Appendix 1: Inventory of primary archive

File/Box No	Description	Quantity
File no.1	Trench record sheets	19
	Daily recording sheets	7
	Photograph record sheets	4
	Black and white contact sheets (Film nos 8261, 8263)	2
	Black and white negatives (Film nos 8261, 8263)	2
	Colour transparencies (Film nos 8260, 8262)	2
	Digital photograph record sheets	3
	Digital photograph CD	1

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