



WYAS
**Archaeological
Services**

Manor House Farm
Micklefield
West Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Report no. 3001
August 2017

Client: BWB Consulting Ltd



Manor House Farm, Micklefield

West Yorkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

Summary

An evaluation was carried out at Manor House Farm comprising four 15m trenches. Despite lying in an area of known archaeological potential, no evidence was found to suggest any remains of archaeological significance existed on the site. One trench exposed a pit containing a dog burial, along with 19th-century ceramic material. The remaining trenches produced evidence for significant disturbance relating to the construction and recent demolition of agricultural structures associated with the farmhouse.

Report Information

Client: BWB Consulting Ltd
Address: Whitehall Waterfront, 2 Riverside Way, Leeds, LS1 4EH
Report Type: Archaeological Evaluation
Location: Micklefield
County: West Yorkshire
Grid Reference: SE 44459 33324
Period(s) of activity represented: Post-medieval/modern
Report Number: 3001
Project Number: 6759
Site Code: MHO17
Planning Application No.: 13/02271/OT
Museum Accession No.: TBC
Date of fieldwork: July 2017
Date of report: August 2017
Project Management: Jane Richardson PhD MCIFA
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Report: Matt Wells
Illustrations: Matt Wells
Photography: Matt Wells
Specialists: Zoe Horn (clay pipe and modern pottery)
Jane Richardson (animal bone)

Authorisation for
distribution: _____



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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) were commissioned by Mr Jim MacQueen of BWB Consulting, acting on behalf their client Mandale Group, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land on the site of Manor House Farm, Micklefield, West Yorkshire, in advance of a proposed residential development. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012), a specification produced by BWB Consulting (Appendix 1), and by employing standards laid down by Historic England (2006; 2008) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014). The evaluation was carried out on 10th July 2017.

Site location and topography and land-use

The site is located on the south-eastern edge of Micklefield, east of the Great North Road (Fig. 1). To the north is a lane beyond which are agricultural fields. To the south are agricultural fields and to the east is the A1 Motorway. The site is centred on National Grid Reference SE 44459 33324 and lies between 50m and 55m above Ordnance Datum. The site comprises a roughly rectangular parcel of land, within which were various agricultural buildings, albeit demolished immediately prior to the evaluation. At the western extent of the site is Manor House Farm which was extant at the time of the evaluation.

Soils and geology

The solid geology across the site consists of Dolostone of the Cadeby Formation - sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 251 to 271 million years ago in the Permian Period, formed in shallow carbonate seas (British Geological Survey 2016). The soils are classified in the Aberford association, described as shallow, locally brashy, well-drained calcareous soils over limestone (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following background is taken from the specification (Appendix 1).

The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential, with extensive cropmarks having been surveyed in the surrounding landscape. Where excavated, these have been dated to between the later prehistoric and Roman period. To the east of the site, beyond the A1, these comprise nucleated enclosures which respect or are respected by a trackway. In addition to this, prehistoric remains, including fifteen four-post structures, were found along the A1(M) Corridor near Micklefield. Also recorded is an Iron Age or Romano-British boundary which was used to form the township boundary between Ledston and Micklefield from the Norman period onwards.

Accounts suggest that Micklefield had its origins in 620 AD prior to which it lay within the British kingdom of Elmet. It is listed in the Royal Charter of 963 AD and the name is derived from the Old English 'Micelfield' meaning great field. It has been suggested that the road which runs through the village was a former trade route pre-dating the Roman period

although accounts suggest that this was replaced by the Roman ridge road which now forms the western boundary of the village. By 1741, the road through the village became the Great North Road turnpike.

The 1850 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map shows Manor House within the western part of the site. Shown to be associated with this is a barn and two outbuildings of various sizes. Depicted immediately to the south of these ancillary structures are three plots of land which may have been an orchard and kitchen gardens. By the time the 1908 Ordnance Survey map was produced, the buildings are shown as one connected structure with a central courtyard.

3 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the trenching was to gain an understanding of the medieval and earlier origins of the site. The general objectives were to:

- to assess the potential for other archaeological deposits and/or features to occur;
- to determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present;
- to determine the extent to which the later 19th and 20th-century development has impacted the site; and
- to inform the scope of archaeological mitigation works, where necessary.

4 Methodology

Excavation of the trenches was carried out using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. Soil was removed in level spits of no more than 0.2m until either the top of the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural was reached. The resulting surface was inspected for archaeological remains. The two discrete features encountered were 50% sampled in accordance with the specification.

A full written, drawn and photographic (35mm monochrome and digital) record of all material revealed during the course of the work was made. The trench locations were set out using GPS survey equipment with hand drawn trench plans and sections produced at a suitable scale and tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. All sections, plans and elevations included spot-heights related to Ordnance Datum in metres as correct to two decimal places.

All artefacts recovered were retained and removed from the site for assessment, with soil samples taken of deposits, where appropriate, in order to identify and recover carbonised and waterlogged remains, vertebrate remains, molluscs and small artefactual material.

An inventory of the primary archive is presented in Appendix 2, and a concordance of contexts by trench is presented in Appendix 3. ASWYAS currently hold the site archive in a stable and secure location, but it will be deposited with the local museum for long-term storage in due course.

All excavation was undertaken in line with the CIfA guidelines Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014), the Historic England MoRPHE PPN3: Archaeological Excavation (2008) and in compliance with ASWYAS's own methodologies (ASWYAS 2011).

5 Results

Trench locations are shown in Fig. 2 and the results of each trench are recorded in Appendix 3. A description of each trench in which archaeology was encountered is given below, with further details about the depths and descriptions of individual deposits provided in Appendix 3. Trenches devoid of archaeology (Trenches 1-2; Plates 1-2) are not discussed further but their details are tabulated in Appendix 3.

Farm structures and associated driveways, which had covered much of the site, had recently been demolished leaving a thin spread of loose demolition material. Trenches 1-3 were excavated through this layer, onto the natural geology. The geology consists of weathered limestone bedrock, into which the archaeological features were cut. Any overlying soil, which presumably had existed, had been cleared, leaving only a small area of undisturbed ground, over which Trench 4 was placed. At the time of the evaluation, a site compound had been established partially covering the proposed location of Trench 1. As a result, this trench was split into two; one placed either side of the compound. Some limited ground reduction had taken place in the south-western limits of the site in order to create a ramped access from the road, impacting on the proposed location of Trench 3. This trench was also moved in order to sample an undisturbed area of the site.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Plates 3-4)

Trench 3 was moved a short distance to the north-west from its planned location to avoid the ramped access to site. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.05m-0.10m through modern demolition material (301). One feature was observed cutting the bedrock. A small pit or post-hole (303) measured 0.37m long, 0.28m wide and 0.11m deep and had a sub-rectangular shape, steep sides and a flat base. It was backfilled with a mix of limestone, brick and slate fragments (302), suggesting a modern date. The feature is likely to relate to the recently demolished farm.

Trench 4 (Fig. 4; Plates 5-6)

Trench 4 was excavated in an area which was comparatively undisturbed, with historic mapping suggesting it lay within open ground beyond the farm buildings. Much of the trench was excavated through a dark blackish-grey sandy-silt topsoil (400) measuring between 0.20 and 0.40m in depth, onto natural geology (409). One cut feature was observed. Pit 408 measured 0.91m long, 0.63m wide and 0.21m deep, with near vertical sides, a flat base and a sub-rectangular shape. It was filled by a series of deposits (401-407) consisting of orangey and greyish-brown sandy-silts and redeposited limestone, suggesting backfilling of the pit from the western side. The uppermost fill (401) contained finds of a post-medieval or modern date: a clay pipe stem and a sherd of white-glazed pottery. The lowest fill (407) contained a large number animal bones packed into the western end, representing a dog burial, and a single sherd of grey stoneware pottery.

6 Artefact Record

Pottery and clay pipe by Zoe Horn

An assemblage comprising three sherds of pottery and one fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered from two deposits contained within pit 408. These are catalogued below.

The finds are of early modern manufacture with nothing earlier than the mid-18th century. The assemblage has no archaeological potential due to its modernity and no further work is recommended. The material can be discarded.

- One clay tobacco pipe stem fragment. Mid-18th century onwards, due to relatively narrow stem bore. *Trench 4, pit 408, fill 401*
- One sherd of modern pottery, either porcelain or china with a cream glaze and a brown line design. *Trench 4, pit 408, fill 401*
- Two sherds of grey stoneware pottery, hard material with no inclusions, too small to be diagnostic. *Trench 4, pit 408, fill 407*

7 Environmental Record

Environmental samples

A sample was taken from pit 408, but given the modern pottery, this was not processed further. It is recommended for discard.

Animal bone by Jane Richardson

Approximately 75 bones representing the majority of a dog skeleton were recovered from fill 407 of pit 408. The animal was an adult, but there is very little wear on the teeth indicating

that it had died prematurely. Given the early modern date of associated finds, these bones are recommended for discard.

8 Discussion

The evaluation was successful in investigating the potential for archaeological features or deposits to survive on the site. Trenches 1-3 were in heavily disturbed ground, having been the site of several agricultural buildings and associated driveways. Trench 2 contained a deeper deposit of demolition material, almost certainly relating to the recent demolition of these structures. In Trench 3, one feature was identified cutting into the bedrock. This probably was related to the agricultural structures that once stood here and is not considered to be archaeologically significant. In contrast, Trench 4 was excavated in an area that was relatively undisturbed by either the construction or the demolition and clearing of the agricultural buildings. The pottery and clay pipe recovered from the only feature identified within the trench indicate a relatively recent date. The presence of a dog skeleton suggests that this pit was excavated specifically for the animal's disposal.

All of the features and deposits identified are consistent with activity associated with Manor House Farm and its outbuildings.

9 Conclusions

The evaluation at Manor House Farm produced evidence for post-medieval and modern activity relating directly to the farm and its now demolished outbuildings. Despite lying in an area of known archaeological potential, no evidence was found to suggest any remains of archaeological significance exist on the site.

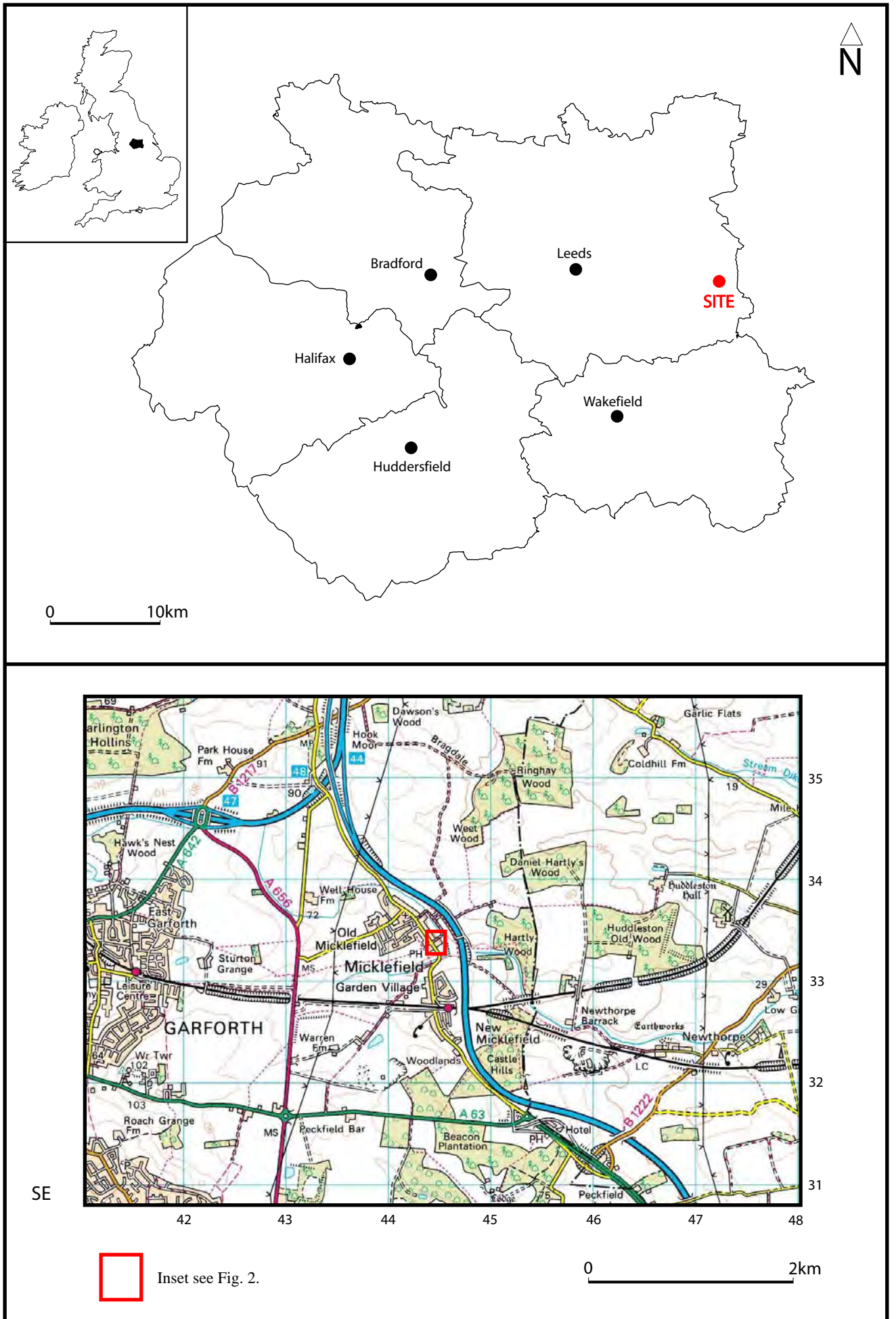


Fig. 1. Site location

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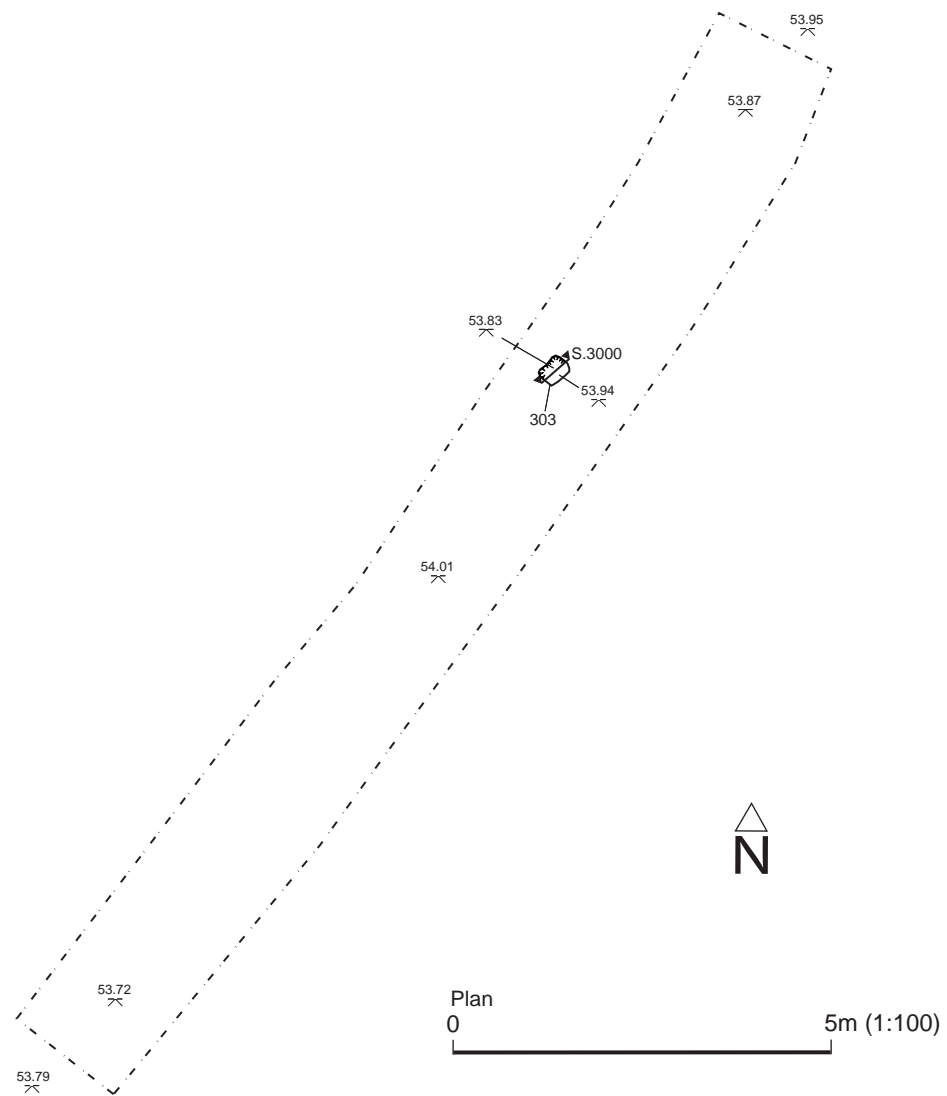
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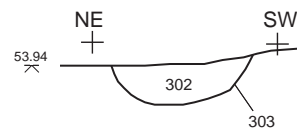
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Fig.2. Site plan showing location of trenches and excavated features (1:500 @ A4)

0 20m



S.3000



Section



Fig. 3. Trench 3 plan and section

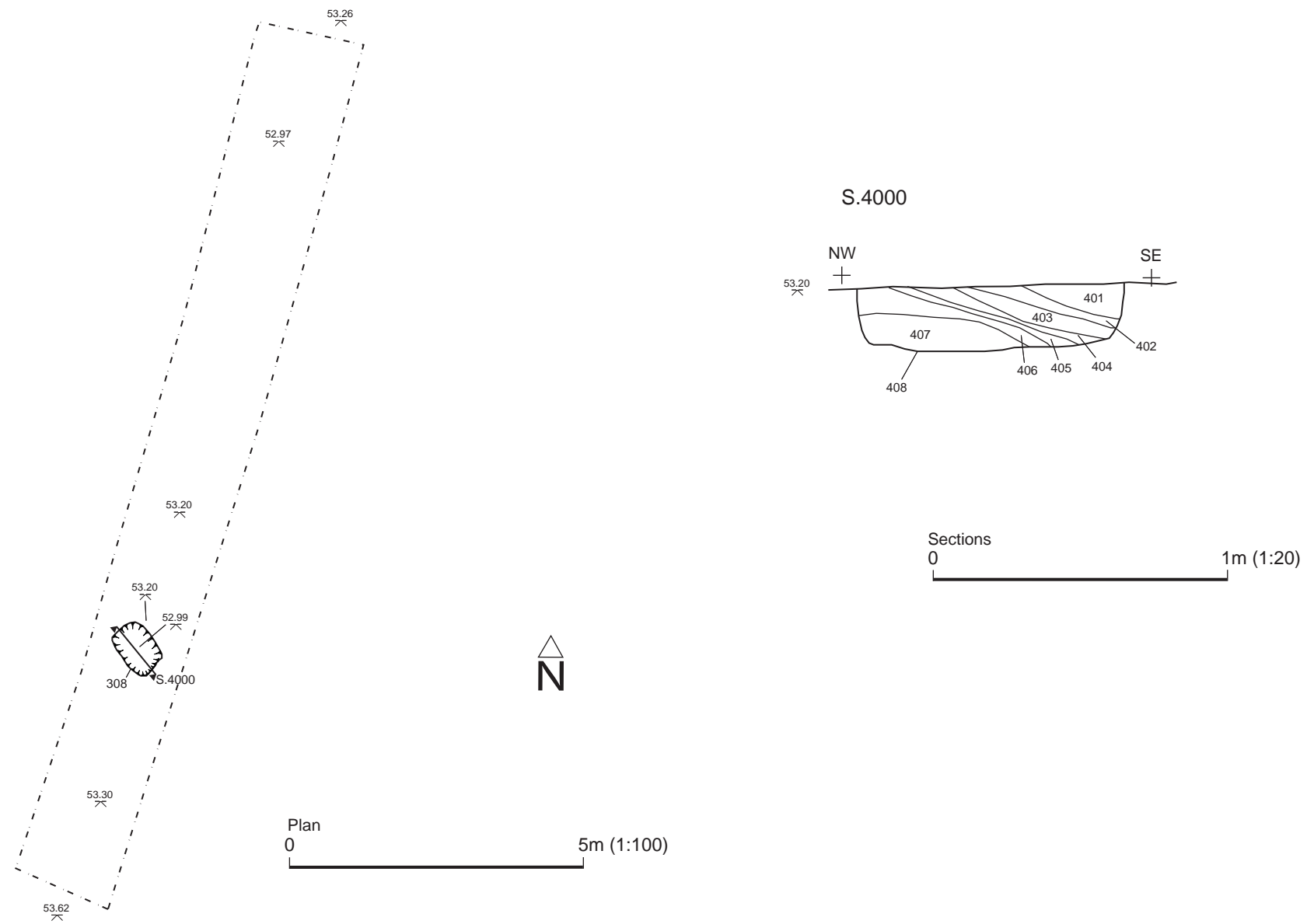


Fig. 4. Trench 4 plan and section



Plate 1. General view of Trench 1A, looking north



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking south-west



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking south-west



Plate 4. Pit or post-hole 303, looking south



Plate 5. Trench 4, looking north



Plate 6. Pit 408, looking north-east

Appendix 1: Specification

Appendix 2: Inventory of primary archive

Phase	File/Box No	Description	Quantity
Evaluation	File no.1	Trench record sheets	4
		Digital photograph record sheet	1
		Context cards	10
		Permatrace sheets	1

Appendix 3: Trench tables

Trench 1

General Description				Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 1 had to be split into two sections as the site compound covered part of the planned location of the trench. Trench 1A was excavated through around 0.10m of demolition material and no cut features were observed. Trench 1B was excavated through c.0.10m of demolition material and around 0.10m of mid-orangey-brown sandy-clay subsoil in the centre of the trench. No archaeology was observed.				Average Depth (m)	0.10
				Width (m)	2.00
				Length (m)	1A – 6.10 1B – 8.90
Contexts					
Context	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
100	Layer	-	-	0.10	Demolition material and disturbed limestone bedrock
101	Layer	-	-	0.10	Subsoil – mid-orangey-brown sandy-clay
102	Layer	-	-	-	Natural – weathered limestone bedrock

Trench 2

General Description				Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 2 was excavated through c. 0.10m of demolition material. At the north-eastern end a deeper deposit of similar demolition material lay in a 0.30m deep hollow and was excavated by machine.				Average Depth (m)	0.10 – 0.30
				Width (m)	2.00
				Length (m)	15.00
Contexts					
Context	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
200	Layer	-	-	0.30	Demolition material, mostly lying in hollow 7.50m wide at north-eastern end of the trench
201	Layer	-	-	-	Natural – weathered limestone bedrock

Trench 3

General Description		Orientation		SW-NE	
Trench 3 was moved a short distance to the north-west from its planned location as this area had already been reduced significantly to create a ramped access to site. The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.05m-0.10m through modern demolition material. One feature was observed cutting the bedrock. Small pit or post-hole 303 was backfilled by a mix of limestone brick and slate fragments (302), suggesting a modern date. The feature is likely to relate to recently demolished farm structures and is not archaeologically significant.		Average Depth (m)		0.10m	
		Width (m)		2.00	
		Length (m)		15.00	
Contexts					
Context	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description
301	Layer	-	-	0.05 – 0.10	Demolition material and disturbed limestone bedrock
302	Fill	0.37	0.28	0.11	Backfill of 303
303	Cut	0.37	0.28	0.11	Cut of small pit or post-hole. Sub-rectangular shape, steep sides and a flat base.
304	Layer	-	-	-	Natural – weathered limestone bedrock

Trench 4

General Description					Orientation	N-S
Trench 4 was excavated in an area which was comparatively undisturbed by the construction and demolition of farm structures. Much of the trench was excavated through a dark blackish-grey sandy-silt topsoil onto natural geology. The topsoil measured 0.20m deep at the southern end and increased to 0.40m near the northern end. Pit 408 was filled by a series of deposits consisting of orangey and greyish-brown sandy-silts and redeposited limestone, suggesting backfilling of the pit from the western side.					Average Depth (m)	0.20 – 0.40
					Width (m)	2.00
					Length (m)	15.00
Contexts						
Context	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	
400	Layer	-	-	0.20	Topsoil – Dark blackish-grey sandy-silt	
401	Fill	-	-	0.12	Backfill of 408 – Dark brown silty-sand	
402	Fill	-	-	0.04	Backfill of 408 – Redeposited limestone lens	
403	Fill	-	-	0.06	Backfill of 408 – Dark orangey-brown sandy-silt	
404	Fill	-	-	0.05	Backfill of 408 – Dark brown silty-sand	
405	Fill	-	-	0.04	Backfill of 408 – Redeposited limestone lens	
406	Fill	-	-	0.09	Backfill of 408 – Dark orangey-brown sandy-silt	
407	Fill	-	-	0.12	Backfill of 408 – Dark brown sandy-silt	
408	Cut	0.91	0.63	0.21	Cut of pit –Sub-rectangular shape, near vertical sides with a flat base	
409	Layer	-	-	-	Natural – weathered limestone bedrock	

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